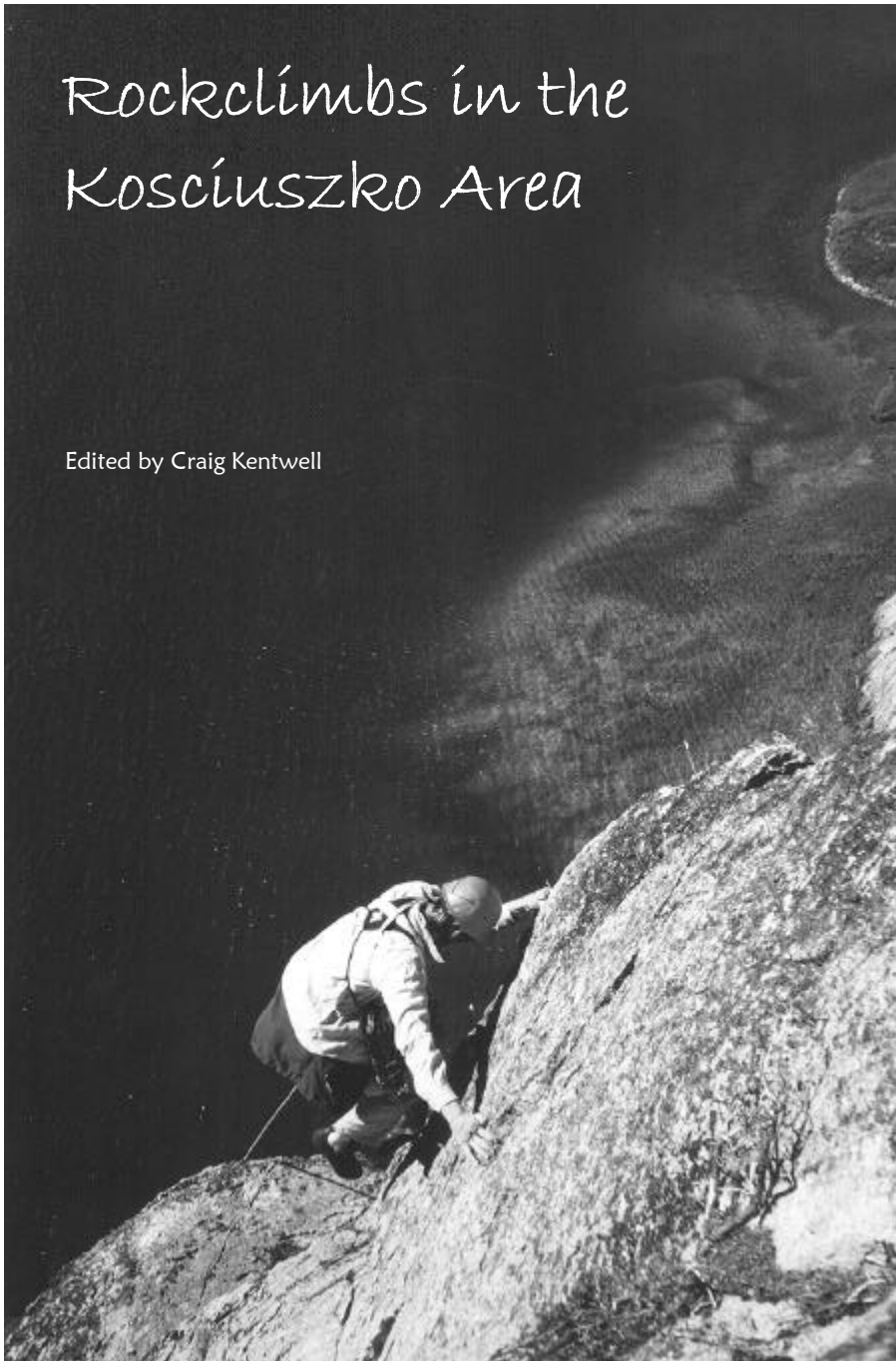


# Rockclimbs in the Kosciuszko Area

Edited by Craig Kentwell





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(Scanned & photos replaced, 2003)

## PREFACE

Blue Lake has a unique place in Australian climbing and it is a great shame that for so long it has been lacking a comprehensive guide. Tony Wood and the A.N.U.M.C. put out the first guide in 1971 and Warrick Williams (and the U.N.S.W.M.C.) released revisions and supplements in 1973 and 1977. What you are about to read is the first attempt at a revision/update in twelve years. Consider yourself lucky that you are reading it at all, for this 'guide' has had an uneasy birth. What should have been a relatively painless publication has been plagued by apathy and non-commitment. Lies have been told, letters have been sent and not answered phone calls have been ignored, route descriptions have been lost (or never recorded) and deciphering twenty year old route descriptions has proved worthy of a degree.

Anyway here it is complete with gaps and descriptions that may lead you into the never-never but what the hell you probably need some adventure in your life.

## CONTENTS

Access.....	2
Winter Climbing.....	4
Blue Lake.....	6
Elephant Buttress.....	6
The Boulder.....	13
Grey Buttress.....	15
The Amphitheatre.....	18
Club Lake.....	18
Mount Clarke.....	19
Mount Townsend.....	19

## ACCESS

The area lies on the Main Range between Mount Kosciuszko and Mount Twynam. Blue lake, Club Lake and Mount Clarke are best reached from Charlotte Pass on the road to Kosciuszko. At the pass the gate is now locked so everyone venturing onto the Main Range must park their cars here. At this point in time you can still mountain-bike to the top of Australia's highest peak, but this may change in the future. From the Pass you may catch glimpses of the crags at Blue Lake, the cirque containing Club Lake and the crags on Mount Clarke.

### BLUE LAKE

To reach Blue Lake follow the gravel path down from the Charlotte Pass to the Snowy River crossing then upwards to regain the height you lost going down to the river. The gravel track is well used so you shouldn't have any problems in finding your way. Track then dips to cross a small stream and at the top of the next rise turns sharply left towards what was once the soil conservation hut. This hut was removed in 1983. From this point you follow the track (no longer gravel) to your right which descends to Blue Lake from Charlotte Pass. This walk should take you about one and a quarter hours, depending on your level of fitness or how heavy your pack is. Some prefer to reach the lake via Hedley Tarn cross-country from the river crossing. Although shorter the going is rougher.

### CLUB LAKE

To reach Club Lake either follow Club lake Creek from the Snowy River crossing or go to the Blue Lake turn-off and then walk in an easterly direction following the contour around to the lake. Club Lake cannot be seen until you are nearly upon it. Time from Charlotte Pass is about one and a half hours.

### MOUNT CLARKE

Mount Clarke can be reached by following Club Lake Creek until almost below it. Time from Charlotte Pass is about thirty minutes.

### MOUNT TOWNSEND

Mount Townsend is situated above Lake Albina. It can be reached either by following the Kosciuszko road past Seaman's Hut and down Rawson's ridge to the ruins of the old Lake Albina lodge, or by continuing up past the Blue lake turn-off up onto the Main Range following the track that runs along the top in an easterly direction. Go down to the pass and the hut ruins. There are numerous buttresses on the eastern side of Mount Townsend.

### CAMPING

Always a sore point in National Parks. At present camping in the catchment area of any of the lakes is prohibited, this leaves two decent areas. The first, and most popular is on Soil Conservation Creek just a few metres upstream from the walk-in track. Secondly, there are a few spots below Hedley Tarn, but take it easy with the water. Remember there is no firewood on the main range so take a stove.

Below is information on minimal impact camping and walking supplied by the National Parks and Wildlife Service specifically for the Blue Lake area.

### MINIMUM IMPACT (NPWS)

The largest native animal in the Kosciuszko alpine zone is about 10cm long and weighs less than a climbing shoe. The vegetation of the alpine zone is not adapted to large, heavy animals such as humans and is highly vulnerable to foot and camping impact and consequent erosion.

Since the end of grazing in alpine areas by sheep and cattle and subsequent large-scale repair of erosion damage by the NSW Soil Conservation Service, the greatest threat to the alpine environment has come from human recreational activity. Alpine recreation has vastly increased in the last decade and can be expected to increase further.

As part of the measures taken by the NPWS to reduce damage, the public is asked not to camp in the catchment basins of any glacial lake. For the Blue Lake/Hedley Tarn connected lake system this includes all land encompassed by the surrounding highest peaks and ridges and draining into either lake.

The boundary of this prescribed area on the north and east runs from the peak of Mt Twynam to the Little Twynam peak then along the ridge of the Crummer Spur. It then turns southwest to meet Blue Lake Creek below the moraine hump damming Hedley Tarn. To the north and west the boundary lies along Twynam west ridge following the line of the old Soil Conservation track. It turns south to join the Main Range Walk half a kilometre west of the Blue Lake track turn-off. From the turn-off it lies along the ridge of Helms moraine then turns south to below the Hedley Tarn moraine.

The most easily accessible camping sites for climbers are in the gully of Carruthers Creek (sometimes called Soil Conservation Creek) which is crossed by the Main Range Walk just before the rise to the Blue Lake turn-off. From this site climbers quickly get onto the main walking track and can take the already impacted track from the lookout platform to the climb face. The site offers good shelter and water. When using this site please set tents as far as possible from the water, camp on the thick snowgrass and avoid walking on the steep, stony areas around it.

Other possible sites are:

- a) the site of the previous Soil Conservation Hut by the Main Range Walk east of Carruthers Peak,
- b) the basin at the headwaters of Strezelecki Creek,
- c) the saddle north of Little Twynam, and
- d) below the moraine damming Hedley Tarn.

Campers using the latter are asked to walk only on the already impacted area between Hedley Tarn and Blue Lake. This track passes through vulnerable bog and wet areas and is already braided and eroded in several places. Please don't increase the braiding by stepping off the track to avoid mud.

From the Soil Conservation Hut site, access to Blue Lake is easy by the main tracks.

Campers using the Strezelecki basin site are asked to take great care when walking between track and campsite. Please avoid using the untracked upper Blue Lake basin

as a short cut. The stony snow patch fieldmark and the bog and fen plant communities of this area are highly vulnerable to impact damage.

When walking between the Twynam track and the Strezelecki sites impact will be lessened if the group spreads out (single file walking creates impact tracks).

Walk only on thick snowgrass meadow and contour (zigzag) up and down slopes. Avoid walking on anything deep, or bright green, stony, gravelly, wet, mossy or spongy.

Campers using the Little Twynam saddle will also minimise tracking impact by following the above guidelines.

Increased impact is evident from the top of the climbs down to lake level. Climbers can help minimise damage by descending to lake level on the sloping rock rather than on vegetation.

Over the last few years a bare track has formed from the lake to the base of the climb face. Where there is no rock to walk on, stay on this track rather than making new ones.

Toilet and urinate as far from water as possible, avoid digging holes – disturbed soil is subject to frost-heave and erodes rapidly. Place tampons, disposable nappies, etc in a strong plastic bag and carry them out with you.

Leave all rocks and stones in place. Moving them (for cairns, stove shelters, etc) exposes bare soil which erodes. If they are moved the newly covered vegetation will die.

And please don't light fires; use a portable cooker.

Most climbers care about their environment. With climbers' cooperation as outlined above, it may be possible to minimise damage to the surrounds of mainland Australia's only carved-out glacial lake.

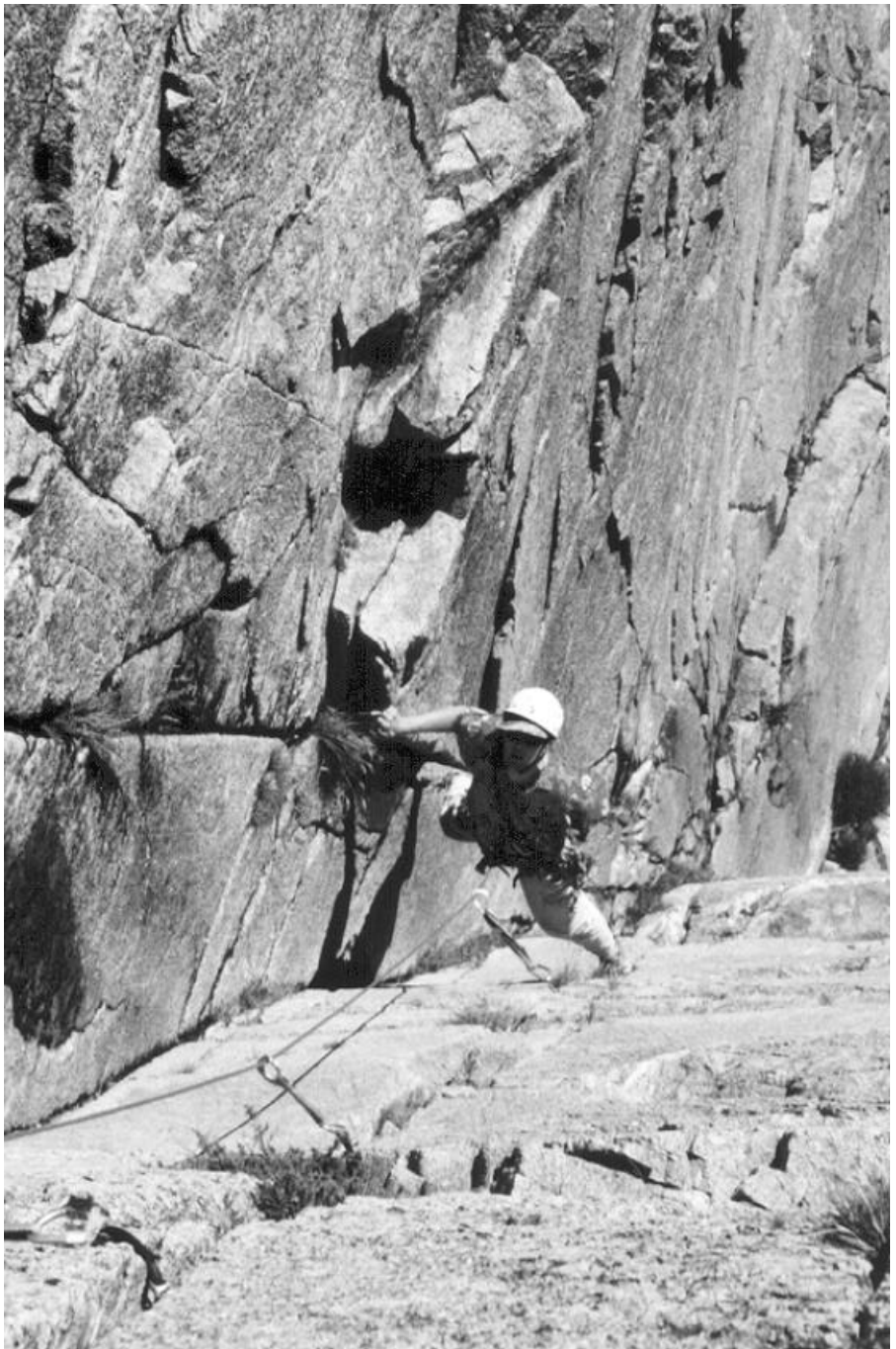
## WINTER CLIMBING

I've avoided using the heading "Ice Climbing" because sometimes it isn't! To say the season is vague is an understatement.

The best time to try for good conditions is late in the season. Generally poor ski seasons mean good ice, as there is lots of water to freeze. Good ski seasons mean lots of snow and easy doddles up the gullies.

Once more Blue Lake is the best place to try with access from Guthega or Charlotte (if the road's open). Watson's Crag can offer some good long routes if conditions permit, and Mt Clarke, Club Lake and Mt Townsend have all produced good routes when conditions are right.

A normal ice rack should be sufficient for most routes.



# BLUE LAKE

By far the best and most popular of the main range crags. From left to right there are three main buttresses: Elephant Buttress, The Boulder and Grey Buttress. To the right of Grey Buttress is a mass of broken cliffs known as the amphitheatre.

There are two large gullies which cut through the cliffs, these are Glissade Gully (between Elephant Buttress and The Boulder) and Stag Gully (between The Boulder and Grey Buttress). Both gullies serve as descent routes.

## ELEPHANT BUTTRESS

This is the largest and most popular buttress and contains most of Blue Lake's classics. The rock is usually dry and of excellent quality with good natural protection. Climbs are described from left to right.

### **FRIGGA 25M 10**

Start at the extreme left of the crag.

1. Up the short wall onto the slab then up a second wall to the tap.

FA: A. Wood, J. Longford. 1970

### **ENTRENCHED 25M 7**

Not a great route. Start at the LH end of the buttress.

1. Take the left-hand slanting groove, just to the right of a short steep face. Climb the groove direct.

### **NECKTIE 120M 14**

A girdle traverse of the cliff – so far only covering the first part of the cliff – awaits completion. Offers some interesting situations. Start as for Entrenched.

1. 20m. Climb the groove as for Entrenched to a good ledge and belay.
2. 13m. The steep wall on the right is climbed on good holds until a swing can be made onto the slab. Traverse delicately right and down 3m crossing a small corner to a good ledge.
3. 14m. Follow ledge to stance on Pad-Nag.
4. 14m. Up onto slab, right to peg on Turdus. Down to good ledge.
5. 17m. Across to a narrow sloping shelf, delicately around corner to ledge.
6. 22m. Around to Dihedral Corner, up corner for 5m then right to ledge.
7. 20m. Up onto sloping platform. Ascend the crack using layaway holds until a lodgement can be made in a small groove. Easily to top.

FA: A. Wood, R. Eckesley, G. Horrocks. 1967

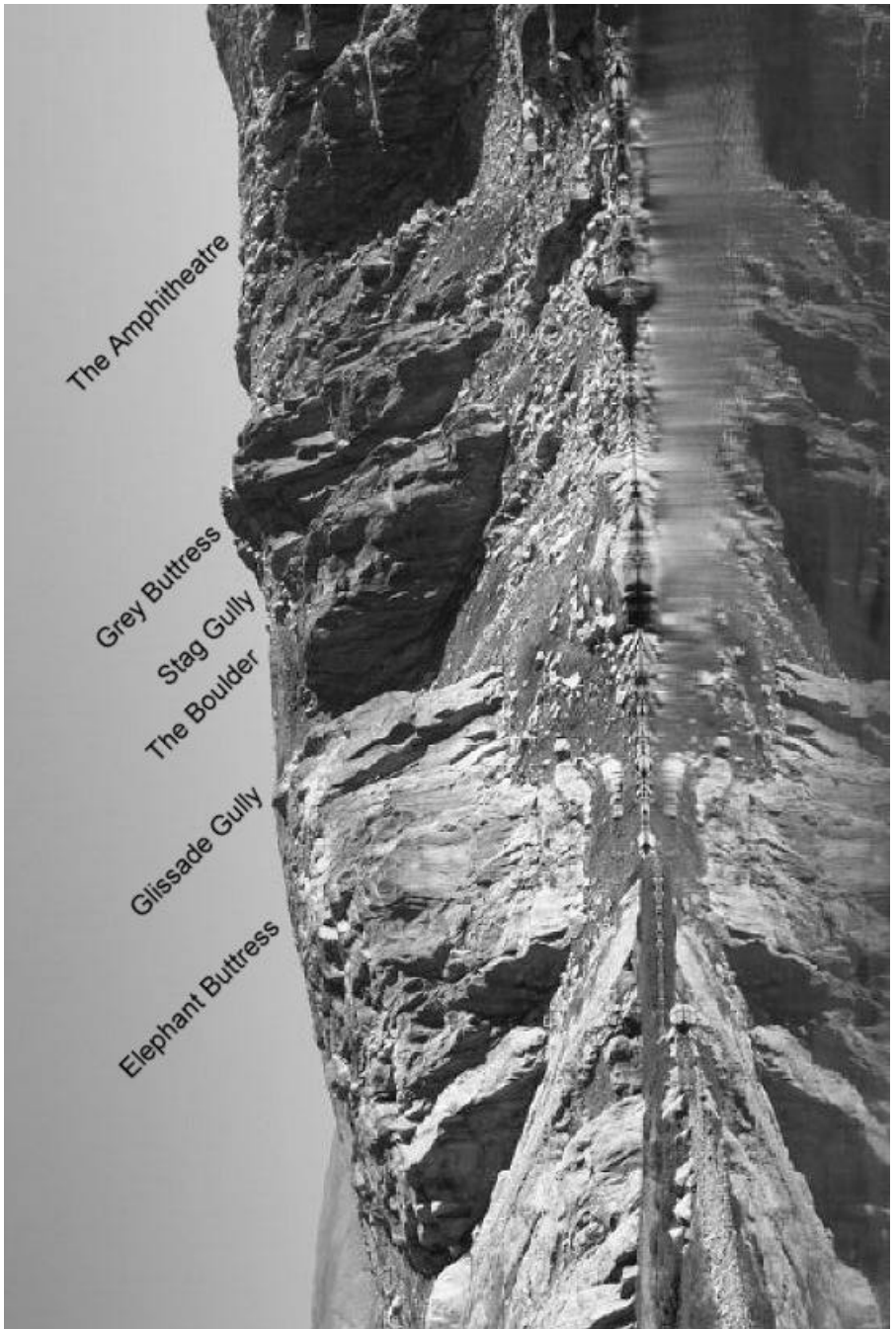
### **GRAPPLER 32M 14**

Sustained, strenuous, technically interesting. Poor pro. Start in the same recess as Entrenched, at the prominent chimney crack on the right.

1. Follow the crack for 16m then through the overhang, continue up the thin crack.

FA: P. Aitchison, N. Anderson, R. Buick. 1968





## **GRAPPLER DIRECT FINISH 15M**

Layback up a crack starting from the ledge at half height.

FA: G. Still. 1988

## **MEDOC 32M 9**

A pleasant easy route. Start at the foot of the buttress 10m right of Grappler.

1. Ascend the corner and through the overhang. After the cave follow the groove left to a ledge then on to the top.

## **PAD-NAG 40M 9**

An easy ramble. Start in the middle of the slabs.

1. Follow the vague line to the left, then up the easy broken slabs to a good ledge on the left of the recessed slab. For the last 20m up easily trending right.

## **TURDUS 32M 8**

Another ancient ramble. Start as for Pad-Nag.

1. As for Pad-Nag but trend right onto rib then up.

## **POOCH WALL 25M 20**

Good steep fun. Start at the base of the buttress below a steep wall.

1. Easily over some slabby stuff then up the railroad-type cracks.

FA: Pete Mills.

## **ZAPHOD BEEBLEBROX 25M 23**

Good Pro. Start 10m right of Pad-Nag.

1. Over some easy stuff then follow the steep central crack.

FA: M. Law-Smith, S. Carson. 1982

## **HEART OF GOLD 25M 20**

Well protected and steep. Start as for Zaphod Beeblebrox.

1. The twin seams right of Z.B.

FA: Mike Law-Smith. 1987

## **GOLDEN EDGE 20M 16**

May be a Chris Baxter route called Tynee Tips. Start at the arete left of Pete's Corner.

1. Follow the arete.

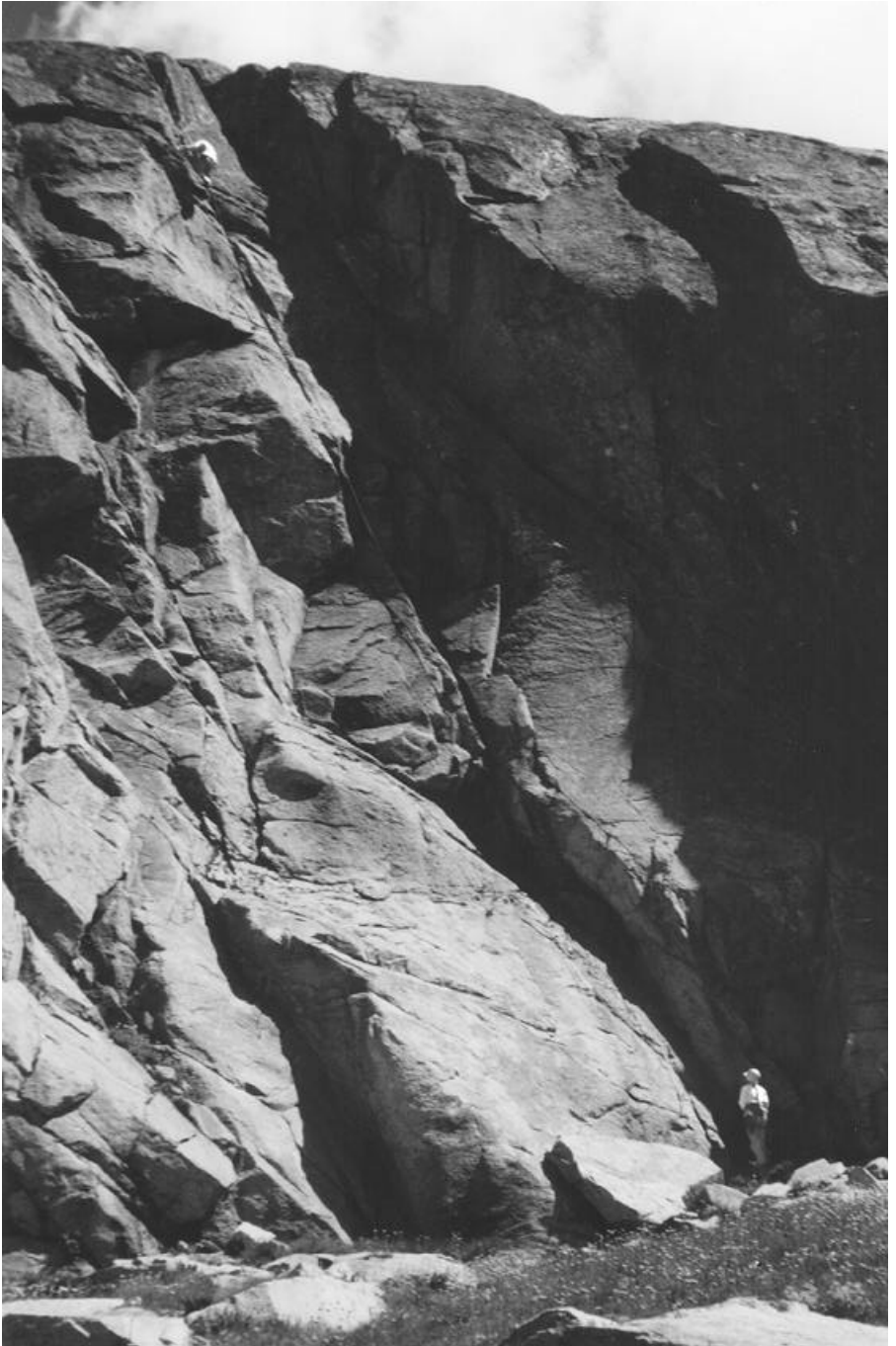
FA: Mike law-Smith, Anne Hastings. 1986

## **PETE'S CORNER 37M 9**

Easy and enjoyable. At the corner crack left of Gherkin.

1. Over the slab to the base of the corner 5m, climb the well protected corner then easily left to the top.

FA: J. O'Halloran, P. Sands. 1966



## **GHERKIN 32M 12**

A sting in the tail. Start 5m left of Dihedral Corner at the crack on the base of the blunt blocky arete.

1. Up over the blocks and ledges moving right at the top to finish.

## **DIHEDRAL CORNER 30M 13**

A well protected, thoroughly enjoyable classic.

1. Up the corner.

## **MINDBENDER 35M 19**

An impressive line with great pro and even better moves. The diagonal crack 5m right of Dihedral Corner.

1. Through the roof and up the crack. Move a step left at the half height ledge, then up and back to the crack and on to the top.

FA: D. Fletcher, R. Lansdowne. 1972

\* A direct start to Mindbender was claimed by C. Baxter and F. Gilfedder at grade 16.

## **MAD DOGS 30M 19**

Another classic. Start 2m right of Mindbender.

1. Up to the triangular flake then follow the cracks keeping left of the small arete. Then follow the obvious groove from the left of the ledge.

FA: D. Hain, C. Larque. 1976

## **CAT IN A CORNER 45M 20**

An exciting overhang. Start in the corner between Mad Dogs and The Exorcist.

1. Up the slab to the corner, then to the roof. Left across to the wall, up to the crack. Up again and across to a ledge, then up and finish as for Mad Dogs.

FA: R. McGregor, S. Anderson, M. Dunstan. 1977

## **THE EXORCIST 50M 18**

Start between Dihedral Corner and Reprieve at the right of the slab in the corner below the block overhang.

1. Up the wall to below the second overhang, through this then straight up the wall and flake to the top.

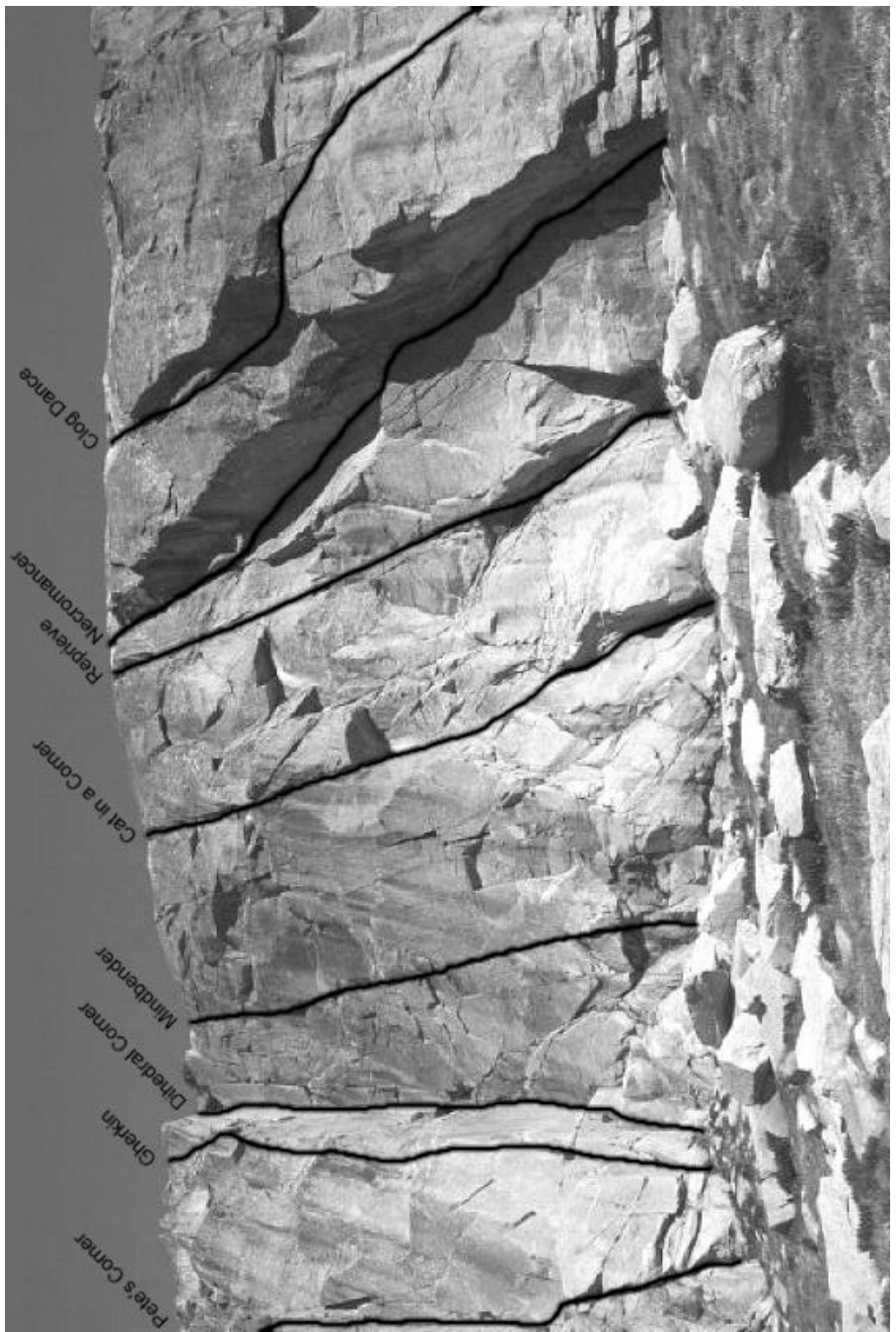
FA: Chris Larque, Dick Curtis. 1975

## **REPRIEVE 35M 16**

An excellent middle grade classic. Strong line and good pro. Start at the left-slanting crack 20m right of Dihedral Corner.

1. Up the slab for a few metres to join the crack then follow it to the top.

FA: J. O'Halloran, G. Highkin. 1956



## **IDLE MAN'S PLEASURE 50M 17/18**

Start at the protruding corner formed by the right wall of Reprieve and the left wall of Necromancer. The route crosses Necromancer and Clog Dance at half height.

1. 20m. Bouldery moves (crux) gain the short slab leading to the obvious rightwards crack-line. Follow this and some wall moves to a large belay ledge on Necromancer.
2. 5m. A short hand traverse breaks horizontally across the steep wall right of Necromancer to gain an obvious belay ledge as for Clog Dance.
3. 25m. Step rightwards around the corner and ascend the steep wall and arete (crux), finishing up the easier slabs above.

FA: P. Daniels, J. Wood, T. Chapman. 1982

## **NECROMANCER 40M 16**

Another good mid-grade route. Start 5m right of Reprieve at an obvious corner.

1. Up through the corner to a good ledge then follow the left slanting crack through to the two overhangs. May be split into two pitches.

FA: Dick Curtis, Chris Larque. 1974

## **CLOG DANCE 40M 17**

There is some confusion as to whether this is Halcyon Days as claimed by Baxter, Gaynor and Penna in 1978. Whoever did it, it's a good route. Start 5m to the right of Necromancer below the wall with horizontal stripes.

1. Follow a crack-line up the nose of the buttress before veering left well around the buttress to finish up the obvious crack-line splitting a short steep wall (and easier groove above) paralleling Necromancer.

## **MAIN STREET JIVE 40M 20**

Start 5m to the right of Clog Dance.

1. Up the arete then swing around to a ledge on the left. Up the right hand end of the ledge to a short hand jam crack. Move right to the obvious cracks then up the ramp to the top.

FA: P. Mills, J. Eiseman. 1977

## **SWING 30M 14M3**

May have been freed, but who knows? Start at the right corner of the buttress at a large corner leading to an overhang.

1. Up the corner through two overhangs then up a crack to a small ledge at 20m. Easy crack to the top.

FA: W. Williams, M. McPhail. 1971

## **TRUNKLINE 50M 18**

May be a free version of a 1969 route called Opus Dei 14M3. Best split into two to avoid rope drag. Start a few metres right of Swing.

1. Up the crack to a pedestal and belay. Follow a small crack to a horizontal break, then around arete to the right. Follow the groove and flakey crack to top.

FA: C. Larque, D. Hain. 1976

### **DODDLE 35M 13**

Loose crack climbing. Start in Glissade Gully below a section of broken rock jutting out from the cliff.

1. Move right over broken rock to belay on a ledge at 20m. Climb either of the two steep cracks behind the ledge.

FA: Left crack: J. O'Halloran, P. Sands. 1966

FA: Right crack: A. Wood. 1967

### **FLY FACTORY 15M 20**

Loose, dirty and scary. Start high up in Glissade Gully at a small ledge.

1. Up a vague overhanging line for a few metres then a wall to finish.

FA: Tony Barten, Mike Peck. 1989

## **THE BOULDER**

This is the middle buttress bounded on the left by Glissade Gully and on the right by Stag Gully. Low down on the wall facing Glissade Gully are a few obvious lines. The left-leaning offwidth has been climbed at grade 22 – details have not been forthcoming but it is presumed that John Fantini made the first ascent. Peter Mills has done a route to the right of the above route somewhere (I think it's All Purpose Monkey 22) and Kim Carrigan has done a climb up one of the lines to the right also. Mike Law-Smith and Paul Daniels added a two-pitch route Golden Razor 22, which starts through a steep wall at the foot of the buttress and blasts straight up. Sorry I can't give more details, but what you ain't got you can't give.

The routes I have got descriptions for are described left to right starting in Glissade Gully.

### **SICKLEBACK 45M 6**

An alpine ramble taking the left-slanting line overlooking Glissade Gully. Start below the broken rocks to the left of the steep smooth section.

1. The general line is obvious, though variants can be taken. May be split into two to avoid rope drag.

FA: A. Wood, P. Aitchison, G. Still. 1962

### **RESURGENCE 65M 14**

A pleasant long route. Start as for Warm Up.

1. Up the short wall then left across the slab to a good ledge.
2. Follow diagonal crack up wall then easier cracks to the top.

FA: P. Aitchison, N. Anderson. 1968

## **WARM UP 65M 15**

Varied and interesting climbing. Start at the short steep wall a little way up the chimney/gully.

1. 32m. Up walls, across slab into corner. Traverse right then up onto another slab. Follow up slab and belay on a large spike in the corner.
2. 33m. Up the crack for a few metres then left across slab into a corner and on to the top.

FA: A. Woods, P. Aitchison, G. Still. 1967

## **CHOCKSTONE CHIMNEY 50M 13**

A rather obvious line. May be wet and loose. Start at the foot of the chimney.

1. Follow the obvious fissure, best to belay somewhere along the way.

FA: P. Aitchison, A. Wood, I. Raine. 1968

## **CUTLASS 60M 10**

Apparently not as good as it looks. Start below a ramp on the right-hand side of the gully under Chockstone Chimney.

1. 22m. Follow the ramp to a ledge and along this to belay on The Slab.
2. 38m. Climb the crack above the belay and continue up the easy corner for 20m then right and up easy cracks to finish.

FA: A. Wood. 1968

## **THE SLAB 70M 7**

A good long easy route. Start at the longest point of the slab. Can be split into two or three pitches.

1. Up slab and right around overhang and left to ledge.
2. Above ledge, move right along flake to the slab, follow cracks to another ledge. Up corner to a ledge then left to another corner and up. Numerous variations have been done.

## **STAG GULLY 50M 6**

More of an access route than anything else. Useful as an easy descent route.

## **TAPDANCE 45M 18**

The exact location in relation to other climbs is vague, but can be found once you get to the cliff. Start at the twin thin seams (train tracks) right of a dark leaning dirty fused corner.

1. 40m. Climb the twin thin seam-cracks to a sloping ledge.
2. 5m. Easily up.

FA: Luke Trihey, Rob Topser, 1982



## GREY BUTTRESS

The third of the major buttresses, bounded on the left by Stag Gully and on the right by the Amphitheatre. Has a couple of well worthwhile routes. The large grassy ledge at two-thirds height is called The Terrace.

### **BLOWIES IN THE SNOWIES 20M 20**

A sustained finger crack. Start 2/3 way up Stag Gully beneath an overhanging arete on the right.

1. Up an easy slab to beneath the obvious crack, through the wide crack then finger jam and layaway upwards.

FA: Tony Barton, Mike Pick, Craig Kentwell. 1988

### **INFANTILE PARALYSIS 22M 22**

Not finished as yet. Peter Mills has climbed the curving finger crack up the wall left of Blue Lake Crack but the top section was left undone.

### **SHORT SLAB 16M 8**

Not really a climb but rather an alternative to Stag Gully. Follows the line on the right of Stag Gully, up a corner formed by the slab to the left of Blue Lake Crack.

### **BLUE LAKE CRACK 57M 14**

A classic line, but doesn't see a lot of sun, so is often wet. Start in Stag Gully where the left wall of the buttress joins the steep slab.

1. Follow the obvious crack line. Can be split at a couple of ledges, one at about 15m and one at 30m.

FA: A. Wood, P. Aitchison. 1968

### **CRISP 20M 14**

Straightforward and well protected. Start 1m right of Blue Lake Crack.

1. Climb the crack on good holds then scramble up to the Terrace.

FA: P. Aitchison, C. Barns. 1968

### **TROJAN WAR 46M 17**

An excellent middle grade route. Start at the flake line low in the gully.

1. 20m. The crack to a good ledge.
2. 26m. Traverse down and right then up to the Terrace.

FA: M. McPhail, W. Williams, P. Giles. 1972

There is a short curving line down right of Trojan War, it has been climbed at grade 22, further details unknown.

## **FLUEY 44M 14**

Not a lot to recommend it. Start below a wall at the base of the chimney on the nose of the buttress.

1. Up the wall then follow the wide crack/chimney to the top.

FA: A. Sargent, R. Eckesley. 1967

## **BUNYIP 50M 14**

Start 7m right of Fluey.

1. Follow cracks to a ledge then right. Down and to the left to a ramp. Move to a short chimney then to the sloping shelf. Follow the groove leftward then up.

FA: A. Wood, I. Raine. 1968

## **DIVISION 50M 12**

Start at the extreme right-hand end of Grey Buttress below a large detached flake in the gully.

1. Up the right side of the flake, around bulge, then up a groove to the top.

FA: P. Aitchison, N. Anderson. 1968

There are four routes which start from the Terrace, from left to right these are:

## **TERRACE ARETE 30M 19**

Great climbing, great position and good protection. Probably first climbed by Mike Law-Smith in mid 1980's. Start at the left-hand end of the Terrace.

1. Up a few metres to a sloping ledge then left to the arete and follow it to the top.

## **WOODEN HORSE 30M 15**

The original finish to Trojan War. Start at the main vertical corner halfway along the Terrace.

1. Follow the crack.

FA: Dick Curtis, Chris Larque. 1975

## **THE PYRE 30M 12**

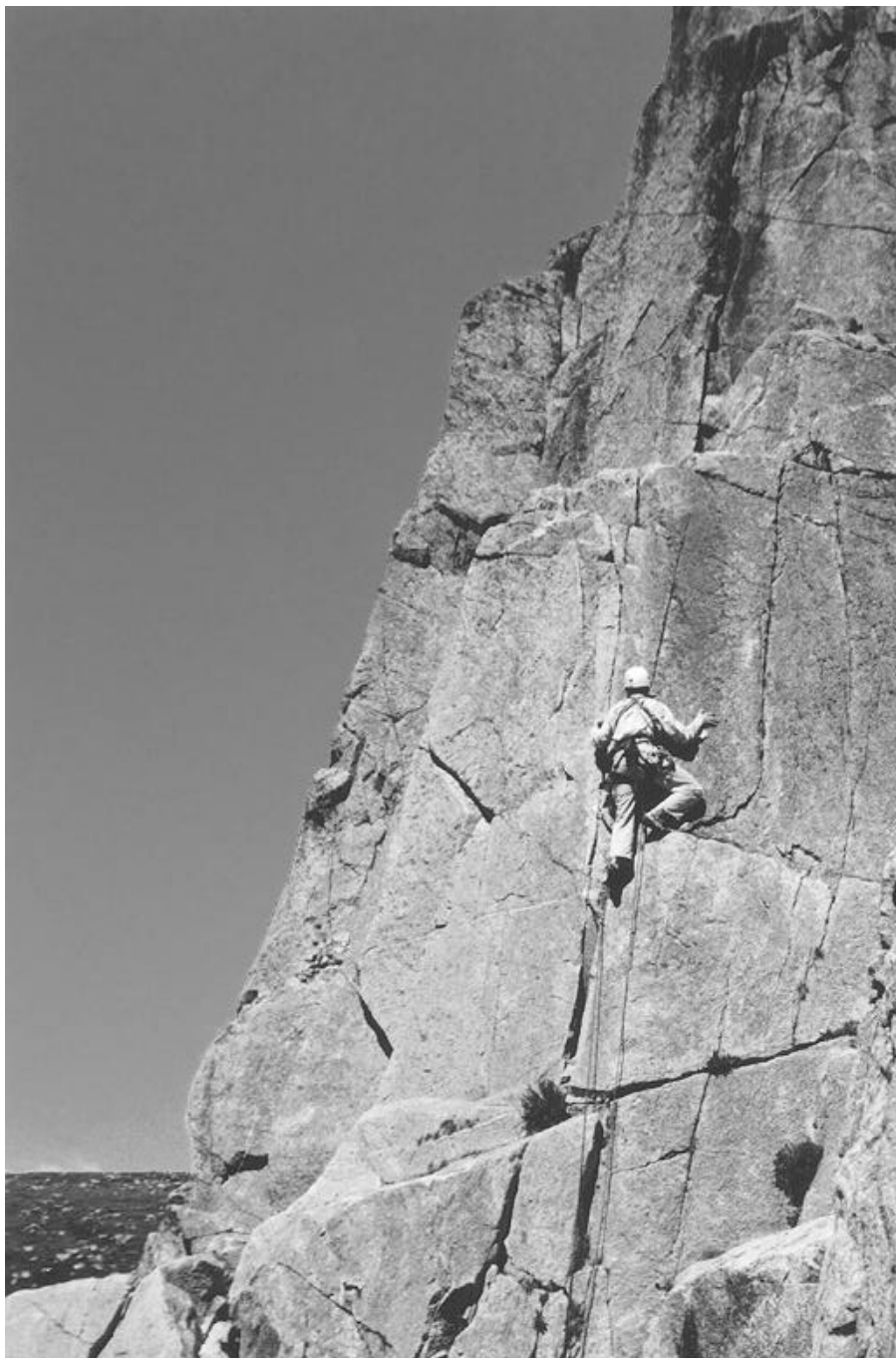
Start at the right-hand end of the Terrace at the bottom of a left-sloping ramp.

1. Up the ramp, then crack. Follow the V-groove left, then left again and up a finger crack to the top.

FA: Chris Larque, Dick Curtis. 1975

## **TERRACE EXIT 30M 6**

An easy ramble up the extreme right of the Terrace.



## THE AMPHITHEATRE

The Amphitheatre is the expanse of rock to the right of Grey Buttriss. It is mostly broken and short and doesn't really have much to offer. Most obvious cracks have been led or soloed. Only three climbs have been recorded.

### **INSPIRATION 45M 12**

A wandery multi-pitch ramble. Start low in the Amphitheatre at a large buttress with a steep face with some cracks on the right.

1. Up cracks to a good ledge then scramble left. Over a short wall to a ramp and up to a corner. Up corner to a shelf, move right to a belay.
2. Wander left up some flakes to the top.

FA: A. Wood, P. Aitchison. 1968

### **TIC TOC 25M M5**

An aid climb for those that have the gear. Start in the corner nearest to the lake to right of Amphitheatre.

1. Five metres to the left of the 'S'-crack go straight up the overhang then to the small roof. Rap from fixed pins.

FA: Phil Georgeff, Peter Hopkins. 1987

### **WHITE HEAT 30M 22**

Start 5m left of Tic Toc.

1. Up the left-hand corner edge. Move right up the crack to the ledge below the grass.

FA: Peter Hopkins. 1987

## CLUB LAKE

A picturesque place, but never destined to become an awe-inspiring summer climbing area. There are numerous outcrops near the lake, making for lots of wandery easy routes. Only two climbs have been recorded (that's enough), both of them are on the large southeast-facing buttress.

### **BOOMERANG 45M 10**

Pleasant climbing in a good situation. Start at base of the arete on the left of the slabs.

1. Follow the left of the arete and cross right after five metres. Up right-hand edge to a small ledge (belay possible), then on to the top.

FA: A. Wood, T. Vollbon. 1967

### **SLAB-DIAGONAL 50M 11**

An easy slab with numerous variants. Start 6m up the gully right of Boomerang, next to a large inverted flake.

1. Up slab tending right to a ledge, up to another ledge and belay at the flake.
2. Move right and up a steep crack to the top.

FA: A. Wood, T. Vollbon. 1967

## MOUNT CLARKE

Not really climbing, more like steep bushwalking! Tony Wood and friends visited the area over two decades ago, climbed a few things then to their credit decided not to record any of their rambles. Two route descriptions have slipped through and are included here for historical completeness.

### **PIONEER SLAB 50M 8**

Start at the left-hand end of the middle section of rock just to the right of a broken area of wet rock.

1. Climb where you like!

### **NIHIL 40M 12**

Start on the right-hand buttress.

1. Up a crack and wall to a V-chimney, then to a roof and left to a ledge. Up cracks to the top.

FA: G. Horrocks, R. Eckesley. 1967

## MOUNT TOWNSEND

Once again a pretty setting but nothing really worthwhile in the way of existing routes. On the Lake Albina side there is a broken buttress about 100m high with a couple of seams running up it. These were climbed by Peter Hopkins in 1987 at grade 20. Only one other route has been recorded in the area.

### **ZIG ZAG 60M 16**

An apt name. Start about 800m downstream from the gauging station at the exit of Lake Albina. Follow a devious line up the centre of the middle buttress.

1. Diagonally right into a corner, up to overhang then up and around nose to belay in corner.
2. Right onto slab then follow a crack left to a grassy niche. Follow cracks and ramps to the top.

FA: A. Wood, T. Vollbon. 1967



## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Cover: Topping out on Pete's Corner (Elephant Buttress), with Blue Lake below.

Page 5: Climber on Dihedral Corner (Elephant Buttress).

Page 7: Overview of Blue Lake climbing areas.

Page 9: Climber on Reprieve (Elephant Buttress).

Page 11: Elephant Buttress topo.

Page 17: Climber on Gherkin (Elephant Buttress).

Back cover: Belaying on The Slab (The Boulder). Blue Lake Crack is in the background.

(Note: photographs in the original guidebook were lost.)

