

Runout

A photograph of a person climbing a rock face, serving as the background for the magazine cover. The climber is wearing a white t-shirt, dark shorts, and a helmet, and is secured by a rope and gear. The rock face is light-colored and textured, with some vegetation visible on the left side.

**November
2004
Issue 2**

www.canberraclimbing.com

**Editorial
Presidents Forward
Social Activities
Bouldering Resources
Ozy-Ozy-Ozy
Soul Searching
Easy Grit
New Routes
Australian National Alpine Club
Access
The Right Stuff
Cho Oyu Advance Base Camp
Bouldering Sculpture
Adventure and Silliness
Gear Deals
Membership Application**

Runout

Newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association Inc.

November 2004 Issue 2

Special Thanks

Thanks to all the people who have help in the production and supplied material for the use in Issue 2 of Runout. Peter Cocker, Justin Ryan, Gemma Woldendorp, Adam Steer, Gavin Oliver, Zac Zaharias, Dave MacGregor, Geordie Webb, Eric Krista, Steve Halpin and Mary Ann Kulh.

Contributions

RUNOUT is the official newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association Inc. (CCA).

Please feel free to submit any material concerning the Canberra region climbing community. New route descriptions, access issues, updates to the Canberra Granite Guide, trip reports and tall tails of discovery are all welcome.

Editorial Contact details

Snail Mail

Canberra Climbers Association
Runout Newsletter
PO Box 972,
Dickson, ACT, 2602

Web Site

www.canberraclimbing.com

Email

Dave Cameron
ddavec@ozemail.com.au

Advertising in RUNOUT is free, but at the discretion of the CCA and subject to renewal for each issue. CCA takes no responsibility for the content of the advertisements or any other material published in RUNOUT.

Disclaimer

Rock climbing is dangerous. The information contained in this newsletter is drawn from many sources and is sure to contain errors. The CCA and Editor accept no responsibility for the consequences of inaccuracies contained within.

Copyright

Copyright © 2004 Canberra Climbers' Association Inc.

Cover Photo

Mel Lawrence on Right Here Right Now (25) Hollywood.

Runout

Newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association Inc.

November 2004 Issue 2

Editorial

That young whipper-snapper Chis Webb is cranking harder than ever. Reaching the chains on Attack Mode in early June brings the grade of 34 to Norwa. To appreciate Chris's achievement and the level of difficulty of this climb you only have to look at some of the previous aspirants including – Rob LeBretton, Garth Miller, Klem Loskot and Fred Nicole.

Chris attacked the climb with 6 days of effort spread over a couple of months. Somewhere between 36 and 54 attempts were made before success was achieved. The ascent created a minor storm in a tea cup amongst the lurkers on Chockstone.Org when Chris renamed the climb to White Ladder.

Rob LeBretton's ascent of Attack Mode was also not without controversy, with a few questioning an ascent that stopped at a lower off biner well before the chains. A few of our southerly more traditional neighbours even suggested that those northern sport climbers just wanted to have a 32 like them.

The renaming of climbs is not entirely without precedent, only time will tell which name will stick.

Dave Cameron
ddavec@ozemail.com.au

Committee Members

President	- Zac Zaharias	Zaharias@webone.com.au	Ph. 02 62 572 208 (h)
Vice President	- Armando Corvini	armando@cyberone.com.au	Ph. 0419 693 493
Secretary	- Lex Vaccarella	Lex.Vaccarella@finance.gov.au	Ph. 02 62 411 540 (h)
Treasurer	- Steve Halpin	shalpin72@yahoo.com.au	Ph. 02 62 442 788
Public Officer	- Justin Ryan	justinryan@mail.com	Ph. 0439 421 290
Social rep	- Jamie Valdivia	Jamie.Valdivia@act.gov.au	Ph. 6207 0039 (b)
RUNOUT Editor	- Dave Cameron	ddavec@ozemail.com.au	Ph. 0438 413 926
Web Master	- Chris Warner	chriswarner@mail.com	Ph. 0402 844 695

President's Forward

What a year 2004 has turned out to be for the CCA. Just reflecting back on the achievements of the Club with such a short history is very satisfying. Membership is growing and now sits at 98, just short of a century. As you scan the pages of this newsletter, it is tremendous to see that members are getting out there and climbing, not only on the local crags, but overseas in the UK, Italy, US, NZ and the Himalayas.

Access issues will continue to focus the Club's attention. Whilst we had success early in the year with the reopening of all climbing areas within Namadgi National Park, we continue to face new threats. A mid year foray by Rick Carey, Matt Rogerson and myself to Pulpit Rock in Ben Boyd National Park and the close encounter with the Ranger threatening to issue a caution, only highlights the ongoing problem that needs to be tackled head on with all land owners.

The Club made a comprehensive submission on the Kosciusko National Park Draft Plan of Management with respect to potential access and bolting constraints at Blue Lake and Mt Morgan. An ally in this respect has been the Sydney Rockclimbing Club's (SRC) access committee headed up by Kevin Westren. The synergies between the two Clubs are already apparent in the quality of the submissions. It is worth your while looking at the web-site set up by the SRC called CAIRN at <http://www.climbingaccess.info> to keep you abreast.

This year has also seen a successful slide and social program with a broad range of speakers and topics taking us from a Patagonian tooth fish adventure on Heard Island to the steep rock faces of Fitzroy in Patagonia, and adventures in Bolivia and Tibet. The highlights were the Doug Scott lecture in July and the screening of Touching the Void. These last two activities were successful fundraisers for the Club's re-bolting program, netting close to a \$1000. Next year, there is a good chance that we may have Chris Bonnington make a rare appearance.

Justin Ryan has made a good start to the Club's bolting policy and this will be circulated shortly for member comment. Next year will see our energies directed towards the re-bolting program, track maintenance issues and ongoing access concerns.

Thank you all for your energy and enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas social get together at the Kingston Hotel, Wednesday 8 Dec from 7.30 pm.

Enough of me and some quotes below to contemplate -

"I simply could not find the words to express the utter desolation of the experience."
Joe Simpson

"All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible."
TE Lawrence "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom".

Merry Christmas and safe climbing in the New Year.

Zac Zaharias
Zaharias@webone.com.au

Social Activities

GENERAL MEETING 17 NOV 2004

The final meeting for the year will be at the City YMCA, Allara St Civic on Wed 17 Nov from 7.30 PM. Following a brief meeting, Zac Zaharias will be showing slides from his recent expedition to Cho Oyu 8201m in Tibet. This trip included Canberra climbers Chris Warner and Nic Bendeli.

CCA WEBSITE NOTICE BOARD

The CCA website at www.canberraclimbing.com now has a Notice Board where you can post notices to do things like arrange lifts to Nowra or the Blueies, sell gear, share info, look for climbing partners, local or OS trips etc. Yes we know about the invisible text when editing posts and are working to fix it, if you are desperate to post then cut and paste you text from Notepad so you can see it.

Bouldering Resources

A great resource for boulderers in addition to the Canberra Climbing Website can be found at www.geocities.com/canberragranite. This site has photos, topos, guides and spray concerning the ethics of chipping, everything the un-roped climber could want.

Poking around the web has revealed an interesting perspective on the origins of bouldering at <http://www.johngill.net> including details of the early Australian scene by Ted Cais. I found the site very interesting and worth putting up with John Gill's interesting choice of colour.

Ozy-Ozy-Ozy Oi-Oi-Oi by Gemma Woldendorp

Ozymandias, Mt Buffalo, Victoria – Natasha Sebire, Chris Fitzgerald and Gemma Woldendorp tackle the direct route over three days in December 2003.

Worms and Water

Sitting under a tarp in the rain Tash, Chris and I were mesmerized by a gigantic earthworm making its way slowly up the wet rock at the base of Ozymandias. "The first solo earthworm ascent of Ozymandias!" – except that a small rivulet of water swept the worm back to the bottom again. We felt a bit like that earthworm – not slimy, blind or legless, but wet, back at the bottom of Ozy after being washed off. We were probably a little blind too when it came to the weather report, as in our enthusiasm, 'clearing' meant 'clear' to us not 'rainy but eventually clearing at some point over the three days'. Chris cocooned himself in his leaky bivy bag again, unaware that the water Natasha and I so carefully redirected out from under our inadequate shelter, was damming up against him.

Cathedral of Dissapointment



Before the rain set in Chris had climbed the first pitch free, and after the rain eased he and Tash had done the first aid pitch. But having lost days to the rain and the weather still dodgy, we lugged all our gear back up the Southside track. We sampled a little bit of the Mt Buffalo's free-climbing at the Cathedral and then regrettably returned to Canberra. Of course the moment we were heading home, discussion was already directed to when we could return.

View of the Cathedral, which has a fantastic variety of moderate grade free climbs.

Photo David Cameron

The Weather Window Opens



It came sooner than expected, only a couple of weeks later so we could “squeeze it in before Christmas”. We felt a bit more confident about getting up second time around – the forecast was for a window of fine weather over the three days; we’d reduced the weight of our gear a little (encouraged by lugging it down and up the Southside track); and I had a pair of jumars (something I didn’t have on the first attempt which had me slightly concerned!). We’d also fitted in a bit more gear hauling practice, and setting up of the belay ledge (in a tree in the backyard mind you!). So when we were back at the base of the massive 270m North Wall in sunny weather we were raring to go, although I must admit I was a little nervous – before we’d tried Ozy our combined aiding experience consisted of an accent each of ‘Vertigo’ at Tower Rocks by Tash and I and Chris had done a skyhook traverse of his house. As we were doing the direct route of Ozymandias, we knew there was no turning back after the roofs. But we figured if we could get up the first three of Ozy’s 10 pitches, the rest would be fine since the third pitch is the crux.

Ozymandias, The Line

Photo Gemma Woldendorp

First Pitch

Since Tash and Chris had been on the first pitch of aid on our rainy attempt, they let me have the honors. It was rather pleasant and the pin scars took small nuts and RPs well. The third pitch was a little trickier and Tash had trouble at the crux, popping a few placements in the process. However Chris managed to get past it with an ‘inventive’ (to put it mildly) nut placement – Tash and I were expecting the piece to pop suddenly as we watched him bounce on it in his etriers. But it held and after a short forth pitch we were on Big Grassy bivy ledge 110m up the climb, at the end of the first day. We fixed the ropes and rapped back down to relative horizontality and our camp at the base.

Tash at the top of the 'Magnificent Corner' of pitch 7, under the overhang of the second roof.

Photo Gemma Woldendorp



Runout

Newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association Inc.

November 2004 Issue 2

Jammin' and Chuggin' on Big Grassy

The objective of our second day was to climb a few pitches above Big Grassy ledge and fix ropes, and sleep on the ledge. We jumared the 110m to the ledge and set about to bring up our two haul bags. A few meters up they jammed in some shrubs on the first pitch and no amount of jiggling and lowering could free them. There was nothing for it but to rap back down and free the pigs. Chris with his puppy-dog enthusiasm volunteered. He was probably the best person for the job as after he'd freed them and Tash and I could haul, he jumared back up the rope with such speed he looked like a little locomotive chugging away.

Gemma cleaning pitch 3

Photo Natasha Sebire



Skyhooks, Hoons and Squishiness

With all our gear on the ledge, I lead off on the next pitch – small nuts again, a bit of free climbing up a small unprotected ledge, then up to where the original route takes the left side of a big block, and the direct route goes right. I aided under this block on good nuts and up the thin corner crack with a final skyhook move to reach the bolt belay. Fixing the rope, I rapped back down to the ledge where Chris took the next lead. His pitch continued up the corner and came out onto the face at the top of the block to the bolt belay below the roofs. By this time it was already late in the afternoon – our hauling episode has cost us some valuable time that day. However Tash was keen to tackle the roof, and as I was ensconced on Big Grassy, I could comfortably view the action above. I watched as she left the relative comfort of the wall to step out in her etriers and dangle from under the roof. Getting over the lip looked tricky, but once over it, she pretty much hooned up the nice crack of the 'magnificent corner'. The belay was just under the next big roof, but that was enough for one day, it was starting to get dark. Tash and Chris rapped back down to join me at the ledge where we cooked dinner and settled in for a squishy night.

Chris leading off on pitch 8 which traverses around the big overhang.

Photo Natasha Sebire



Cussin, Cruisin and Fat Cracks

It was still dark when we woke as we wanted to get an early start. Big Grassy was a magic spot to watch the sun come up – the massive granite wall glowing orange all around us as the sun peered from behind the distant hills. By the time we were jugging up the ropes to our high point, the sun already seemed too warm. With us and our haul bags at our high point, Tash and I settled ourselves on the portable belay ledge while Chris lead off on pitch eight. It was an awesome position for the belay and we had plenty of time to take in our surroundings, as leading on aid is never fast.

Chris traversed out from under the big roof, around the corner and then out of sight following the crack that was more like an off-width. Tash drew the straw for cleaning this pitch (the short straw in this case because it was a bummer to clean as I later found out from all her cursing) and I got to jumar the haul line hanging directly out from the overhang. It was amazing hanging out there far from the wall with nothing between me and the ground 200m below. Slowly spinning around, I really got to appreciate our position and the perspective looking back down the entire route was fantastic. After the big roof it wasn't possible to see much of the route below as the wall kicked back slightly from vertical. We felt like we were on the home stretch now. The last pitch was kind of different – leaving off from a ledge, it involved a large crack which took our couple of biggest cams most of the way up and was then too wide for anything we had. Chris leap-frogged the big cams and at the widest part of the crack used the strategically placed 'Reserved' sign. The sign is a block of wood kept at the ledge and works as a chock so a big cam can be used. It worked well too!

Technical Ecstasy

We emerged at Wilkinson's Lookout at 4pm and let out whoops of joy that echoed across the gorge. Shouldering our gear we walked around the top of the gorge back to our car just as a resonating clap of thunder rattled the air. It seemed like an appropriate end to our climb. We were knackered but ecstatic at having got up.

Ecstasy!!!!

Photo Rocky Granite





Post Script

Chris got the aid bug pretty seriously after our climb of Ozymandias. He went back a month later with and did the direct route again, leading all the pitches. Still not satisfied, he went back almost before the dust had time to settle on Big Grassy and did the original route in a day with another mad aid-climbing friend (fiend). He has also aided on Dogface in the Blue Mountains a couple of times, and just recently returned from a trip to Yosemite where he and Nathan (Kookie) completed a hard A4 route on El Capitan over 10 days. His collection of skyhooks, bashies, rurps, fifi hooks and other weird and wonderful aid-climbing gadgetry is growing at an alarming rate.

**Chris at the belay at the top of pitch 6, just below the first roof.
Big Grassy can be seen in the corner of the crack system two pitches below.**

Photo Natasha Sebire

Soul Searching On The Edge Of An Unexplored Universe by Adam Steer

The story of a first ascent...

...it was more than a climb - it was an experience. After a winter's climbing in Nowra with Dave Cameron, the big route bugs were starting to bite, and with Booroomba off the map it looked like slim pickings. Dave had heard rumours of cliffs at Tuross falls, in the Wadbilliga National Park just East of Cooma. So, being relatively new to the game, keen and impressionable I came along to check it out. Our first look at the area was pretty exciting - Tuross falls is just a great neighborhood for relaxing, camping, arse-sliding into rock pools...

Down by the waterfall itself, we stood in awe - two walls immediately caught our eyes - one on the same wall as the falls, and another pinnacle directly across the gorge from the falls. That day, we explored upriver from the falls a bit, and climbed a lovely little slab next to a rock pool - great for the 35C day. We vowed to come back, and we did - Dave leading the sensational crackline/hairball traverse that was pitch one of 'Can't hear you', and getting out via an awkward climb/abseil to retrieve packs from a slab at the top.

...and then next week - it was my turn - the arête/slab across from the waterfall. It looked like a fantastic line - a thin crack leading right to a ledge, then left to the arête and up to a ledge, traversing right and up, finishing up a spunky looking crack. Three pitches, 90m.

Stepping off the ground was fine - slow and steady, moving lemur-like across some fine, if a little dusty granite. All the gear needed gardening, and the crack was a little thinner than expected - but I felt confident, so it was a dig/insert two RP'S, and then one for measure if it fitted, then move on, repeat, move on, repeat. The gear was thin, but it felt relatively solid at that point, and I was looking forward to a great rest on the big ledge just a few moves away.

And then I got there...



Adam Steer leading the 1st pitch of Brown Underpants Arête a grade 18 90m

Photo David Cameron

Closer inspection revealed that the ledge of my luxurious rest was a flake about 60cm square, 5-10cm thick and separated from the wall by about 3-4 cm everywhere except the bottom edge- F@\$k, F@\$king, f@\$k f@\$k. If they weren't my words, it's exactly what I thought, and in reality, it was an omen of things to come...

Soul Searching On The Edge Of An Unexplored Universe *continued*

Delicately moving around the flake [luckily the edge it left on the wall was good - just don't touch the flake itself!], a small ledge system led right - so I took it, placing gear way out wide. Those of ionic finger strength and no fear could probably head straight up from there, but alas, I'm not one of those climbers. A traverse back left, over the dodgy block seemed the best option so off I went, dreading the rope drag to come.

After several thousand deep breaths, it was time to tackle the arête. Plugging in as much gear as I could, I took off. Initially, fine - until I came to a corner that seemed like the best way up, but had three problems. I had to find some gear and swap to a secondary rope, since I was now a long way over rough rock from my way-out traverse gear, everything I grabbed fell off, bombing Dave and scaring the shit out of me - the way in was a grunty pull over what seemed like a void. Another pants check, deep breaths, and hueeergh! I was in, balanced on a freshly-created footer and wedged up against the only solid looking rock in the place.

A few more moves found happiness in the form of fantastic gear, fantastic holds and a sigh of relief. But the story doesn't quite end there - there was still a sting in the tail.

Moving past my place of safety after unpacking the dacks, I thought I was home and hosed since the ledge we had spotted was in sight. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite as solid as it looked. Gaining the ledge, Dave had to run for his life as more cannonballs bombed down. This time I got to see some of them fall shattering on impact 40m below. Then, as I flicked the rope over a lump in the ledge, the lump disappeared - a rock the size of a chair deciding it couldn't hold on any longer. Everything was creaking, I was - again - pale with fear, Dave had taken to belaying a long way out of the line, and I was hoping both ropes would survive...

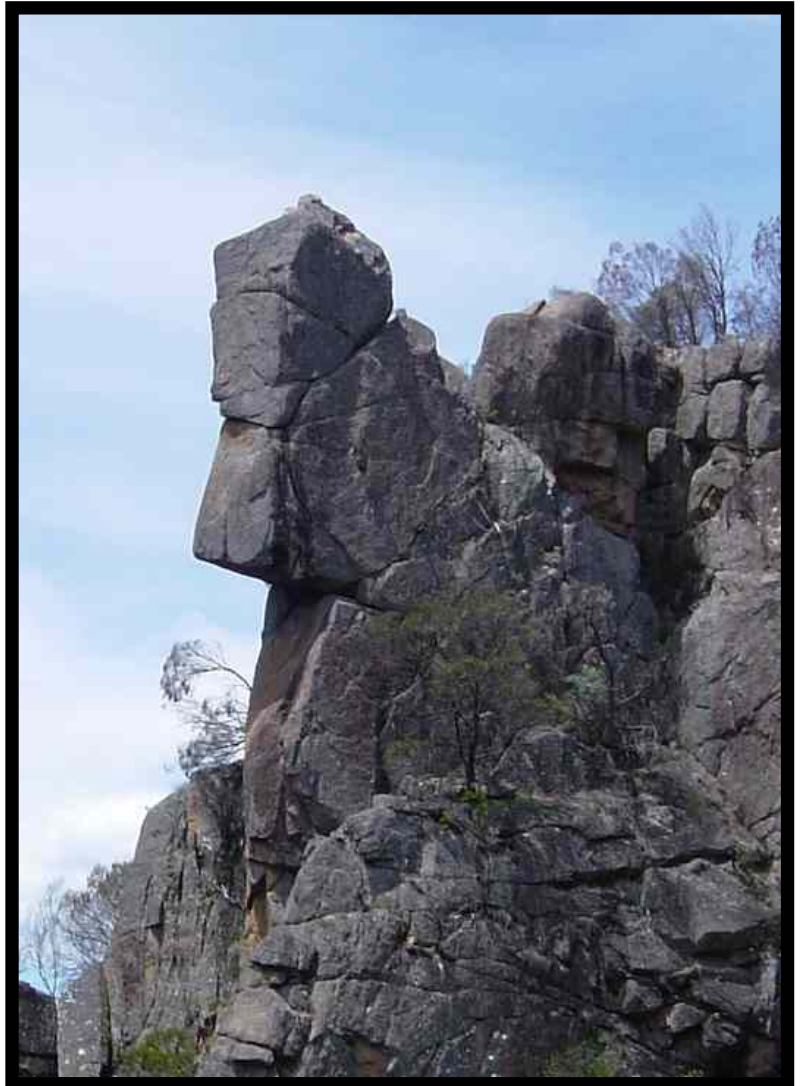
Moving along our ledge of dashed hope, everything creaked unnervingly. The tree we had spotted as a good anchor was rotten, so the ledge was a no-hoper. Finally, I found a place to set a belay that looked like the blocks holding my gear were going to take a bit of a push to fall off, so I plugged myself in and started hauling the two ropes. An interesting belay technique ensued as Dave climbed up on both ropes, the first of which was clipped to about halfway, the other just dragging. My fingers lost some skin right there... trying to keep Dave comfortable whilst hauling another rope over a winding path of high-friction rock. As Dave finally approached he looked like he'd had an interesting time too - spooked - as I directed him around the belay ledge 'uh... don't stand there, it makes the whole ledge move. Don't stand there either... just sort of shimmy around until you get to that big, of not solid, block over there'.

We decided that getting the hell out of where we were was the best thing to do, and I was more than happy to stay plugged in as Dave moved up and around a ledge to the right, looking for that magic crack line that led to the top. Ominously, a mist started to descend into the valley, dropping the light and making it difficult to tell what stage of the day we were at. By now, I was feeling pretty philosophical about the whole thing - watching the clouds, keeping one eye on the blocks around me, making sure my weight was on the gear in that exactly right direction. After a while he popped back again - 'I found a way, but the weather's dodgy - lets go home'. I agreed, wholeheartedly. Dave had traversed around some rock that got better, to the start of the crack line out. But we would have topped out in the dark, in the rain on the wrong side of a river, so we decided to sacrifice some gear to the Bega batholith and abseil off. We gingerly retreated, trying to not bounce too much.

Soul Searching On The Edge Of An Unexplored Universe **continued**

Solid ground was a treat, and I paid my respects to the scariest ascent I've ever made before we left. I felt lucky to escape... and bush-bashing back in the dark seemed like a minor effort in comparison. If there's a next time, I know the climb won't be the same - I won't have to dig out placements for gear, and a significant amount of loose rock is already gone. I might've been hallucinating, the scary moving rock at the belay, in a state of near panic. I won't know until I go back, but that might not be for a while...

Well, maybe not to the climb - but Tuross? It's well worth the visit for camping, canyoning or just piss-farting around. And - whenever I go to Tuross just for a wander, I can look at the pinnacle across from the waterfall and have my own little shiver that only Dave and I will understand - for now.



The 3rd pitch heads up behind the tree and finishes up the notch. The wild direct finish up the overhanging block is on the books for completion later this year.

Photo David Cameron

Easy Grit

Steve & Mary Ann's UK Tour By Steve Halpin

One of the great things about climbing while traveling is that you only ever do classic routes. Such was our experience while spending three months living in Somerset.

Early on, during a weekend trip in the Peak district I managed a few routes at Curba and found "easy grit" is very different to the poorly protected test pieces the local stars slap their way up in the videos. Grit outcrops tend to be short but the routes are quite sustained and apparently solid for the grade. This is what the locals told me anyway. I still don't fully understand the UK grading system and my gut feel is most Poms don't as well.

Back in Taunton we joined a local walking group and discovered a few of their members went climbing on Tuesday evenings. This was a fantastic way to check out the local limestone crags such as Avon Gorge and Chudleigh. The best route we did here was Inkerman Groove VS (15) which is a bit like Tombstone Wall without the mantel. Cyclops Slab HVS (14) was memorable for completely different reasons. Topping out in a bramble field I quickly realized the borrowed 30m gym rope I was using would not reach the belay trees up the slope. With both the incoming tide and approaching darkness threatening my second I ended up employing my first ever body belay ... a leg jammed in rabbit hole. Let's just say I had to buy him many pints before he would tie in with me again.

Next on the agenda was a weekend trip to Cornwall. Crags such as Sennen Cove and Bosigran have easy access, few tidal problems and are famous for high quality easy climbs. Demo Route and Doorpost (both HS 14) definitely fit this description. We were so impressed with the South West granite we spent the following weekend on the Tors of Dartmoor in neighboring Devon. Although the area is better known for its bouldering the larger outcrops like Dewerstone and Haytor offer excellent roped climbing. I can thoroughly recommend Climbers Club Direct HVS (17) and Aviation E1 (18).

No self-respecting climber would visit the UK without making the effort to get to Snowdonia. Hence we eagerly accepted an invitation for a weekend at Llanberis. This proved to be a magnificent area. The rhyolite cliffs lining the valley host an abundance of classics. My favourite was Flying Buttress VD (10), which is very similar to Tiptoe Ridge at Araps but with more pinnacles. We made the obligatory trip up Cenataph Corner E1 (19). Perhaps the most famous climb in Britain this route offers sustained grade 16 bridging most of the way until a very polished crux near the top. At first glance it looks like it is going to be 22. Needless to say I retreated back to the very rusty piton for a rest. Another piece of gear helped me regain my composure and once you commit the crux isn't that hard after all. Mary Ann just walked up it ... she can have the sharp end next time.

Our final weekend trip was to Lundy, a small granite island at the mouth of the Bristol Channel. For a trad climber this would have to be close to the perfect venue. Like Araps it has great rock and a variety of classics throughout the grades. The atmosphere matches anything Point Perp could throw at you and it is likely to be as crowded as a Wolgan crag midweek (seals and puffins excepted). Furthermore the Marisco Tavern is only 2 minutes walk from the campground and has good value food and real ale.

A special mention must go to The Devil's Slide HS (12), a well protected slab that rises 120m out of the Atlantic. Amongst others we enjoyed Albion and Roadrunner (both VS 15), Shamrock HVS (16), and Double Diamond HVS (17). My plummet off Ice E2 (21) was a memorable finale to a fantastic weekend. I can't wait to go back and I already have a hit list that will take a month to get through. At the top of the list is Controlled Burning (E3). If ever a line will inspire you to lose 10kg and learn how to jamb this would be it.

New Routes

Dwarf Crag

A small crag has been recently been made available to the masses. It currently has three traditional routes graded between 9 and 16 and a number of boulder problems. Dwarf by name and Dwarf by nature, there is not a lot of scope for further development. So if you have an hour or two spare when heading cross town make a detour via Coppins Crossing. Park in the car park, step through the hole in the gate and follow the obvious track downstream for 10 minutes. A laminated plastic guide is located under a rock at the base of the biggest block.

A couple easy boulder problems are located on a block 10m to the right of the main crag :-

1. Lay off the right hand arête and head straight up.
2. Lay off the right hand arête, get a knee bar in and cross through to crimps and head up on jugs.

A V2-V3 problem is located on the pointy block immediately to the left of the main crag. There are a couple of large boulders on the top of the cliff with some reasonable problems with nasty landings. Bouncing down the gully into the blackberries would be a very unpleasant experience if you survived the initial 7m drop.

If the climbing and bouldering doesn't suite your style, drop a line into the Molongolo and try your luck, a bunch of 30cm long fish were seen when getting some water for a brew.

Blue Outcrop

Another small crag has been found downstream from Angle Crossing. There are a number of short 5-7m traditionally protected routes on a Blue coloured wall. Grades range from 9-21. With a bit of imagination top roping of the routes is possible.

To get there head to Angle Crossing from Coppins Crossing and turn right at the Wee Jasper turnoff. Continue a few hundred metres up the hill past the forester's house and park in the turning bay on the right hand side of the road. Step through the hole in the gate and follow the dirt road for 10 minutes. When the crag becomes visible, trend right of the road and follow the dry creek bed to the base of the outcrop.

It is only worth a look if you are in the area, I wouldn't bother to make a special trip.

The Platform

A couple of 15m trad routes around grade 18-20 are located below and to the right of the viewing platform off Stockdill Drive near the Lower Molongolo water treatment works. The approach to the climbs is steep, loose and the rock is friable in places. An Abseil descent is probably the safest option.

Australian National Alpine Club by Eric Krista

Recently a meeting was held in Melbourne to discuss the possible reformation of the Australian Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club or formation of an Australian National Alpine Club. A summary of the meeting outcome is presented below.

Dear All,

This e-mail is directed to everyone who responded to the initial NZAC, VCC e-mail, or is a member of AMIN, so you know the outcome of the Melbourne meeting to discuss the establishment of a Melbourne / Australian Section of NZAC.

Going Forward:

1. The Melbourne participants saw it best to join with NZAC. The initial aim will be to have regular social meetings with a steering committee with the aim of increasing numbers to establish a Melbourne section. It is considered that the membership base would need to increase before a formal Melbourne Section be created. In relation to a wider organisation within Australia it was considered it was best to focus on a local front as the main benefit of a local section was to share experiences, where possible find climbing partners and establish links before you step in the mountains.
2. The next Melbourne meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th of November, 7.30 pm, The Retreat Hotel, 226 Nicholson St. Abbotsford, meet downstairs and we will then move upstairs by 8.00, as the Meeting Room is free of charge, the Hotel prefers if you order a meal and have some drinks. Please put in your diaries now, at the time bring along a friend and get them to join the NZAC, more information and joining details can be found on NZAC by going to their website : <http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/>
3. The Aussie Mountaineers Message board was recommended as the collective point to pass messages / thoughts to expand the Melbourne NZAC Section to avoid everyone's e-mail boxes from being clogged up, you can find it by going to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aussiemountaineers>

Key points:

1. A big thank you to the 18 Alpinists who attended the meeting (Note that the specific intent of practically all participants was the establishment of a Mountaineering / Alpine / Club / Section, not a combined rock climbing club as there was considered to be enough rock climbing clubs in Melbourne and Australia).
2. NZAC Membership and the establishment of a Melbourne Section was seen as the most desired outcome.
3. NZAC Membership will offer: Use of Huts in NZ, Insurance, UIAA Membership, Reciprocal rights to other international Clubs, Yearly Journal, possible access to the NZAC Expedition fund, Newsletters, Administrative support in establishing a section, in the future as the section develops local trips and discounts.
4. The local Social aspect was seen as the key to the long term viability of the Section. Comments included having it at a Pub / Hotel, start later, not the last Thursday of the month as it clashes with VCC meetings.
5. The need to have a steering group and dedicated leadership, monthly meetings initially focused on setting up a framework that will succeed and set some milestones - such as getting membership to over 100 in Melbourne with an active committee.

Australian National Alpine Club continued

6. Insurance was seen as a very important issue and imperative for a Mountaineering Club / Section. We need to ensure that Australian based members (that is their address is in Australia) are covered by the NZAC insurance overseas not just in NZ.
7. Realisation that affiliations to existing Rock Climbing clubs doesn't offer the NZAC much and is likely not to succeed in the long term.
8. Eric Krista to be the initial prime contact point and e-mail address collector to help initiate the establishment of a Section in Melbourne.
9. An Australian wide climbing club like the proposed ACA was seen as good in theory but currently did not offer and would not be able for a long time, to offer Australian mountaineers anything equivalent to NZAC.
10. The continuation of AMIN was not heavily discussed.
11. The Aussie Mountaineers Message board <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aussiemountaineers> is the best way for a discussion forum, is a good way for Australian based mountaineers beyond city boundaries to contact each other to seek climbing partners, sell equipment, as well as provide information sharing within the boundaries of using an internet media.

Regards,

Eric Krista

You can contact Eric at ekrista@nortelnetworks.com

Access

Point Perpendicular

FRIDAY, 25 JUNE 2004

PERMANENT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR BEECROFT WEAPONS RANGE

A permanent environmental management arrangement to protect the unique environmental and heritage values of the Beecroft Weapons Range will be put in place from July 1, 2004.

Defence Minister Robert Hill said Defence will soon be exclusively responsible for the environmental management of the range, instead of renewing environmental management services on an annual ad hoc basis with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH).

Senator Hill said the new permanent arrangement under Defence would also result in greater certainty for staff employed at the range. "Defence is entrusted with the environmental management of significant heritage, environmental and cultural sites throughout Australia," Senator Hill said. "Defence's environmental work has matured in recent years to the extent that Defence now has the capacity and expertise to undertake critical environmental management work at an important site like Beecroft."

Member for Gilmore Joanna Gash said the Department of Environment and Heritage was to be commended for the environmental management of the range since 1992. "I am pleased that the existing environmental management program will continue under Defence's management," Ms Gash said. "The permanent arrangement means that existing employees that currently carry out the environmental work at Beecroft will be offered to stay on at the range as employees of Defence."

Beecroft Weapons Range is a key Navy training range used for a variety of purposes such as ship to shore gunnery practice. Beecroft is one of the few Defence training areas that provides for some degree of public access when not being used for Defence purposes.

Beecroft has significant environmental, cultural and heritage values and is a popular destination for camping and fishing and is used by the local indigenous community.

Further information regarding Defence's environmental management program can be found at www.defence.gov.au/environment

Ginninderra Falls

Ginninderra Falls is closed till further notice, please don't jump the fence and annoy the owner and jeopardize any future access.

The Right Stuff - Integral Crack 35 Years On by David Cameron

"We have examined where we are strong and where we are not, where we may succeed and where we may not. Now is the time to take longer strides."

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth."

— President. John F. Kennedy, May 25, 1961

Honeysuckle Creek

You may wonder what on earth the space race has to do with climbing at Booroomba and Integral Crack?

As part of supporting the Apollo Space Program, NASA commissioned three antennas, spaced equally around the world. They were to be located in the United States, Spain and Australia.

The Australian Apollo station was a 14 acre radio-quiet location surrounded by granite peaks at an elevation of 1118 metres. The location 32km south-west of Canberra at Honeysuckle Creek was close enough to Canberra for staff to commute and isolated enough to be shielded from man-made radio noise.

Surrounded by rugged bush land and located 10km from the last all weather roads, Honeysuckle was arguably the most peaceful if not remote setting for any NASA tracking station.

Apollo Road

Access to Booroomba in the late 1950's and early 1960's was only contemplated by the single minded, strong willed bush walkers and climbers. John Armstrong and a few others bush bashed from the last farmhouse up the valley and climbed a few routes.

The situation began to change with the construction of the tracking station in February 1965. A temporary dirt road was built on the northern side of the valley starting just after the flat portion of the valley. Access to the tracking station on this road could be epic. Washouts, boulders and mud made for an exciting trip, with a fleet of four wheel drive trucks used to ferry equipment and people up the track. A 3 hour trip from Canberra to the station was normal with some enterprising people fitting chains to cars with disastrous results when they parted company with the road and slide down into the valley. The improved access resulted in bushwalkers and climbers frequenting Booroomba on a more regular basis.

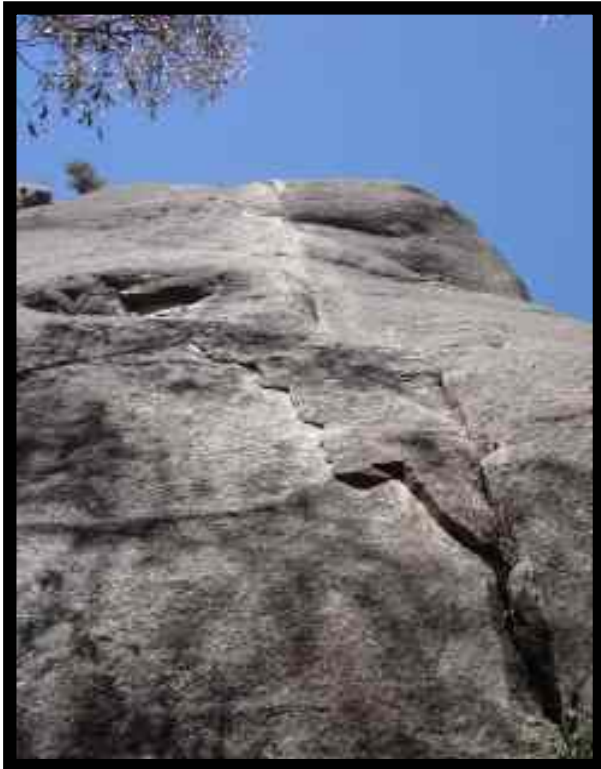
The Right Stuff continued

Loose Boulders

Construction of the Apollo Road as we know it today on the southern side of the valley began later in 1965, opening for use on Monday August 7, 1967. Access was now possible by the general public with minimal fuss. The new sealed road still had some dangers associated with its use! Mobs of cattle, sheep and kangaroos, boulders falling on cars and road slippage were and still are common occurrences.



Integral Crack

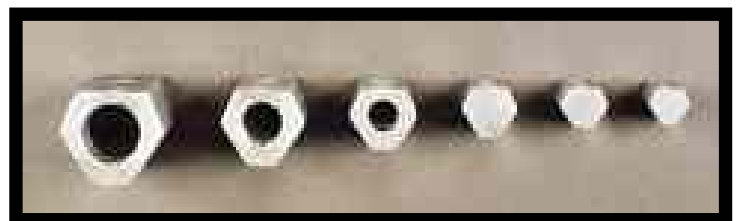


Around this time the exploration of the Booroomba outcrop accelerated with the naming of the various buttresses and descent gullies. Climbing was largely limited to crack lines and the easier slabs. One line on the South Buttress stood out from the rest, it wasn't quite a crack, nor a face and a bit too steep for a slab, it was an 'Integral Crack'.

Integral Crack 48m 19
FFA Peter Cocker & Peter Aitchison
11 July 1969
Photo David Cameron

New Technology

The old ethic of 'The leader must not fall' was slowly changing with the confidence being obtained in the modern climbing equipment, PA and EB climbing shoes, hexagonal chocks, braided perlon ropes and the Whillans harness.



Hexagonal chocks of the era (Hexies).

The Right Stuff continued

First Ascent

Climbers had eyed the Integral Crack line for a few years, Peter Aitchison and Peter Cocker where both strong climbers leading to grades similar as being done in Arapiles at the time. Peter Aitchison had just received some real climbing shoes and between they had a small number of hexagonal chocks. On the 11th July 1969 Peter Aitchison was not too enthused with leading the crack. Peter Cocker launched up the line in Dunlop Volley sandshoes to show him how easy it really was, setting up a 'dodgy' belay of hexes in one of the horizontal breaks. Aitchison came up and started to lead, taking a fall gaining the edge of the flake about two thirds of the way up. Undeterred he continued onwards, topping out without resort to aid, a fantastic achievement for the era when pulling on the gear was still common. A few weeks later, Honeysuckle Creek was to play an important role in relaying the news that man had reached the Moon.

35 Years On



In June 2004 almost 35 years to the month, Peter Cocker stood at the base of Integral Crack with the aim of leading the line ground up, something he had never envisaged after the first ascent, let alone 35 years later.

With his trusty belayer Armando, Peter lead Integral in one 48 metre pitch, using wired nuts for protection. The Dunlop Volleys were replaced with a more modern climbing shoe.

Peter Cocker (R) and Armando Corvini (L), gear up for a historic repeat of Integral Crack.

Photo David Cameron

The Right Stuff continued

Post Script

35 years on Integral Crack is a superb testament to the abilities of the two Peters. Integral Crack is a sustained outing even with the advent of modern climbing equipment, a few sports climbers have had a moment or two when using the wiggly stuff.

Next time you are walking up the track to climb at Booroomba, just think about how a strange convergence of fate between Mans' desires to test the limits of possibility in space exploration and the rock climbers' desire to test the limits of their ability came together in the month of July 1969.

Peter Cocker still lives in the Canberra region and climbs regularly at Booroomba. Peter Aitchison moved overseas soon after, with many first ascents in Canada and the United States to his name.



The view of the South Butte from near Eagle Rocks is now possible in the aftermath of the January 2003 bushfires. Integral Crack follows the lighter streak up the centre of the butte, left of the more obvious Jacks Crack

Photo David Cameron

Cho Oyu Advance Base Camp by Zac Zaharias

Zac Zaharias reports from Cho Oyu Advance Base Camp – 4 October 2004.



Spindrift rising from the summit of Cho Oyu

Following our carry and sleep to Camp 2 on 25 Sep we returned to Advance Base Camp for a well earned rest on 26 Sep. The plan was to have three full days rest before making a summit push. During our descent from Camp 2, many of the commercial groups were making successful summit bids with a huge wave of people going for the top. This included Russell Brices's team camped next door to ours. Mark Ingliss from that team (dubbed 'no legs') made it to the top with cameraman Mark Whetu.

On the evening of 28 Sep, whilst having a few quiet whiskies with Russell Brice, his NZ guides and 'no legs', Russell showed me a 7 day forecast which put our projected summit day of 3 Oct in the middle of a serious weather change and front coming through. So that night we discussed it amongst the team and decided to leave the next day and pick up a day by pushing directly to Camp 2 from ABC as suggested by Russell.

On 29 Sep we left for Camp 1, a trip that took some of us just over 3 hours now that we were acclimatized and carrying light loads. We rested up for a few hours but as Chris wasn't feeling well, Mick and I headed up to towards Camp 2 leaving at 4pm and arriving at Camp 2 at 9pm.

On 30 Sep the weather was holding. Mick and I waited for George and Chris, but by 1pm having not arrived we made the difficult decision to head up to Camp 3. Often in these situations you need to maintain the momentum and snatch a summit while you can. After climbing 100 metres out of Camp 2, Mick couldn't continue so I grabbed the tent and camping gear and made the trip to Camp 3 at 7500m on my own. I arrived at last light and set up the single skin Bibler tent.

Cho Oyu Advance Base Camp continued

I didn't sleep well, but from 1 am I was up and brewing up to get as much food and fluids into me as possible. I left Camp 3 at 3.40 am with the temperature at -20C. There were four other climbers above me from other teams and bit by bit I climbed the fixed rope through the rock band. At the top of the rope at 7800m first light appeared with magnificent views across Tibet, parts of Nepal and to Shishapangma over 80km away - the highest mountain visible.

The route from here was straight forward, but basically a slog. By 10.15 am I reached the edge of the summit plateau at 8100m. Another hour and a quarter along a gentle rise saw me arrive at the true summit at 8201 metres. I passed some Danes and an American who had reached the top ahead of me along their way down. The views were stunning, particularly across to Everest. I stayed half an hour on the top, enjoying the 'warm rays' of the sun (fully dressed in my down suit).

On the descent I ran into another American on his way to the top so I asked him to take a photo of me. I was back at Camp 3 by 3pm with the weather closing in and snowing lightly.

Chris, George and Mick arrived an hour later at Camp 3. They set up camp and the following morning only Chris was strong enough to make an attempt with the weather holding. Chris left at 3.30 am and was back by 8.30 am, having turned back at the edge of the summit plateau due to the extreme cold and fear of frostbite. A great effort for his first time in the Himalayas.

Later that morning we packed up Camp 3 descending to Camp 2. After a break we headed down to Camp 1. Descending off a mountain with a huge load (around 30kg) I find is often the most physically and mentally demanding thing to do - more so than the summit climb itself. It becomes a mind over matter game with intense concentration required so you don't make mistakes.

Chris and I left a few hours after George and Mick at 3.30pm. The rappel off the serac became a major challenge with a knot in the abseil rope half way over the vertical wall. Luckily we were both prepared and overcame the obstacle. Finally, to our relief we arrived to the safety of Camp 1 at 7pm after a very long three days.

The next day was straightforward with our kitchen staff coming up to help clear Camp 1. During the walk towards ABC along the moraine we could see what looked like a shanty camp set up. The jokes started until we realized it was Nic Bendeli. He had set up a tea shop for us, a gesture very much appreciated. Within 20 minutes there must have been 20 Tibetan porters all queuing up for a drink. The most hilarious scene was a Tibetan trying to pour a kg of Tang into a 1 litre water bottle full of water.

By 3pm we were all safely back at ABC. No more lugging loads, no more headaches, sleepless nights, breathlessness and dodgy food. Overall, a great trip, everybody got on well and everybody achieved their own personal height record. A shame more didn't get to the top but that is the luck of the mountains. But most important of all, it was done without sherpas, without supplementary oxygen, without a Mounting Instruction and without a Risk Assessment. Just four men (plus Nic), a mountain and their dreams.

Some great images of the Cho Oyu region can be viewed at www.project-himalaya.com

Bouldering Sculpture

Dear CCA folks,

I am writing to let you know about an exciting new proposal that is being initiated by several members of the ANUMC. We are going to put in a submission to the Sports and Recreation Association (at the ANU) for funding to construct an outdoor bouldering sculpture somewhere on the ANU campus.

The main reasons for initiating this project are:

- The increasing interest in bouldering in the ACT
- The expense of bouldering at the Mitchell Facility
- The inconvenience of being unable to train at the ANU whenever there are exams on
The lack of steep terrain on the national library 'bouldering wall' (however, this is still a wonderful asset to the Canberra climbing community)
- The lack of a centrally located, sanctioned bouldering facility in Canberra
- The number of people who boulder at the National Library 'Bouldering wall' is quite large and reflects the large number of potential users of a centrally located, purpose built training wall
- If built well, this facility could be used by people of all ages and sizes (including kids! - has anyone else noticed the lack of play equipment for children OR childish adults on campus?)
- A visually attractive, interactive sculpture would be a great promotional tool for the ANUMC, SRA, ANU and the Canberra climbing community at large.

There are several advantages to an outside (versus indoor) facility:

- Never closed
- **Absolutely free for everyone to use** (there is simply no need for a community built wall to turn a profit)
- Not affected by user clashes (eg. what happens inside the ANU gym all the time with basketball, volley ball, etc and the indoor climbing walls).
- If it is designated as play/recreation equipment (and built to code) there should be less major public liability issues.
- Well built outdoor walls need far less maintenance because they are frequently washed by exposure to the elements.
- SRA could take a totally 'hands off approach' to administration and ongoing maintenance of the facility

Of course, it would have to be built and designed properly and be weather proof. I have attached a few photographs of the kind of thing that we think would be ideal. This boulder was built by a Canadian company earlier this year (www.edgewalls.com). With the assistance of the Canberra climbing community, on various aspects of this project, we should be able to create a high quality, enduring facility for a reasonable cost (this being the main limiting factor - as always). The current idea is to build between one and three boulders that are along the lines of the sculpture in the attached PDF. Estimates of the cost of building one such boulder are in the range \$10, 000 to \$20, 000. The realization of this project is probably going to require funding from sources other than the SRA. However, I suspect that as interest in the project grows it will become easier to source these extra monies.

The first step we are taking is to let various interested parties know about the project. So please let your members know that this is happening.

Bouldering Sculpture continued

We will probably send around a survey and/or petition in the next few weeks to help demonstrate the amount of interest in the climbing community.

If anyone is interested in being involved with the project (or has and comments or suggestions) please contact me (61257134), Andrew Scott ajscott@rsc.anu.edu.au or Andrew Butterfield andrew.butterfield@anu.edu.au

I think this will be a really positive project to get involved in.

Sincerely,
Geordie Webb



NZAC Melbourne Chapter

Outcomes of Second Melbourne Meeting to lay the foundations for the establishment of a Melbourne Section of NZAC - 17 Nov 2004, details provided by Eric Krista

The outcome of the meeting is that we will have two key steering groups with Eric Krista as the defacto chairperson until we formally vote on positions.

The two Steering groups will be :

Events (Social / Steering Group Meetings, Trips) Steering group

Prime Contact Point:

Russell Bowey (Russell.Bowey@eng.monash.edu.au), supported by Mike Curtain & Dale Thistlewaite.
Aim to organise Social meeting topics open to the general public, Steering Group meetings, set trip dates, get presenters / leaders identified.

Membership & Promotion (Growing Members, Member discounts & Communication) Steering group

Prime Contact Point:

Martin Jackson (dmartinjackson@optusnet.com.au), supported by Peter Gamble & Alan Dorin. Aim to be responsible for membership recruitment & retention, member discounts as well as promotion.

There will be a few more steering group meetings but with the intention to make February's general meeting a major launch date to more publicly promote the establishment of a NZAC section in Melbourne.

The following two web sites may be useful for Australasian mountaineers:-

<http://www.alpineclub.org.nz/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aussiemountaineers>

Adventure and Silliness

Geordie Webb is doing a presentation of his climbing this summer in Russia, France, Spain and Thailand.

In his words: "The power point presentation will comprise photographs from Russian fieldwork, mountain climbing and sport climbing in France (Ceuse, Verdon Gorge, Gorge du Tarn, Chaos de Targassonne), Spain (Siurana, Montsant, Mallorca), and Thailand (Krabi)."

The presentation is free and open to anyone interested, hope to see you there.

7.30 pm, Manning Clark Theatre 5 (ANU), Wed 1st December.

The ANU Mountaineering Club presents...

**Adventures
and Silliness
in Europe
Slide Night –
Russia, France,
Spain and Thailand**



**Wednesday,
1st December
'04**

**Manning
Clark Centre
Theatre 5**

Presented by ANUMC member Gordon Webb

**Free to ANUMC members. Queries: Annabel,
0404 020 549**

Gear Deals

The Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing Centre at Mitchell is offering discounts on entry and climbing gear to card carrying CCA members.

Beal Stinger II Ropes



Discount price of \$195 and super CCA member special of \$180 – available in Orange/Black and Purple/Black.

Diameter	9.4mm
Impact force	8.2kn
Weight	57g/m
Falls	6 UIAA
Length	50m

The Beal Stinger II Climbing Rope is Beal's lightest single rope and its versatility makes it equally at home on big walls or hard sport climbs. Its light weight won't bog you down on long pitches and its smooth-running construction makes for easier clipping.

Bufo Weapon

Normally \$160 discounted to \$130 and super CCA member special of \$120 – Larger sizes only.

Bufo V-Machine

Normally \$149 discounted to \$120 and super CCA member special of \$110 – Larger sizes only.

Bufo Spiders

Normally \$149 discounted to \$130 and super CCA member special of \$120 – Small sizes only.

Rock Pillar Gym

Discounted to \$100 and super CCA member special of \$95 – Size 42½ only.

Chalk Bags

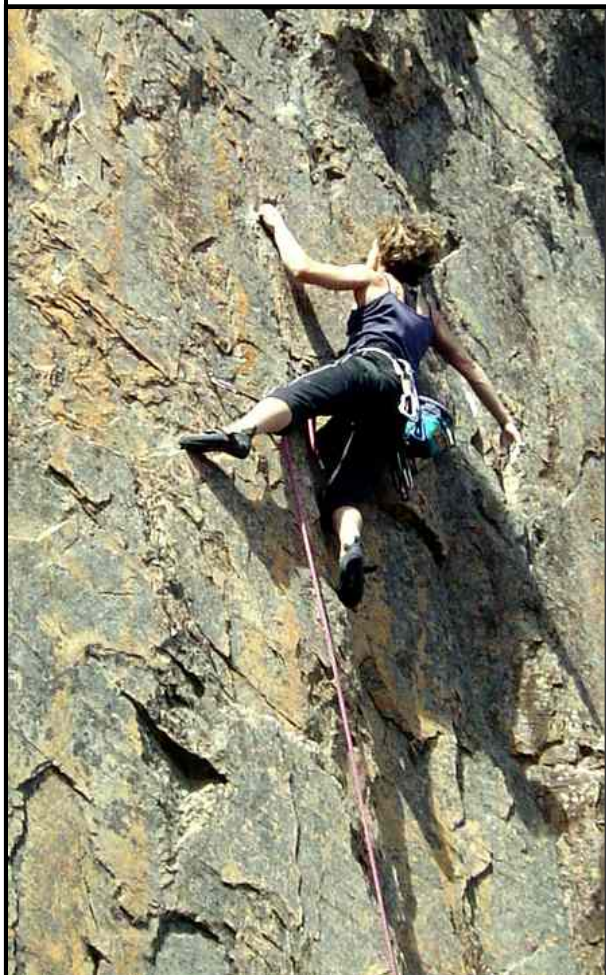
Medium size chalk bags discounted to \$25 and super CCA member special of an additional 10% off.
Large size chalk bags discounted to \$30 and super CCA member special of an additional 10% off.

Ring Gordon up on 02 62624863 and talk turkey. He can order from most suppliers and give good discounts on most things.

Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing
38-40 Essington Street.
Mitchell, ACT, 2911.
Ph: 02 62624863

Membership Application

CCA Membership Application



The Canberra Climbers Association (CCA) aims to promote climbing in the ACT through education of members and the general public. Fostering a sense of community through social activities and to maintain access to climbing areas in the ACT region.

For further information contact:

Zac Zaharias 02 62 572208 email: zaharias@webone.com.au

Lex Vaccarella 02 62 411540 email: Lex.Vaccarella@finance.gov.au

Or visit our website at www.canberraclimbing.com

First Name :

Surname :

Address :

Post Code :

Phone (h)

(w)

(m)

email :

Application forms can be sent with a cheque or money order for \$15 payable to:

Canberra Climbers Association Inc.
PO Box 972,
Dickson, ACT,
2602.

Isabel Perez, Laidback International 23, Mount Coree