

R U N O U T

March
2004
Issue 1

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Special Thanks

Thanks to all the people who supplied me with material for the Reformation Issue of RUNOUT. Special mention goes to Adam Steer and Jeremy Rossiter (Slimer) who helped in compiling this newsletter. Thanks to Gavin Murray for sending the new route details for Area 51 in Mittagong.

Contributions

RUNOUT is the newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association. 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.

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

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.

Cover Photo

Isabel Perez contemplates the crux of Laidback International (23) Mount Coree.

Editorial

Well here it is... **RUNOUT** is back after a long recuperation from a scary lead up one of Booromba's 'well' protected slabs. The reformation of the CCA has been a slow and steady process. Procedures for membership application, banking and other legal formalities have been established. Your membership fees are in good hands...

In order to keep **RUNOUT** up to date, readable and entertaining, I will be soliciting for content from Buffalo Soldiers, Nowra Newbies, Blue Mountaineers and Warrumbunglers, no one will be safe from the Editor's media frenzy extraction system. If you want to be involved on the production of **RUNOUT** contact a committee member who will be sure to point you in the right direction.

Food for thought

The ethics of 21st century climbing

A new line is spotted on the cliff face, the climber has the imagination and inclination to clean and bolt the line. The climber trains hard and works the line for it is very hard indeed. The climber succeeds and becomes the first ascensionist. Another climber also has success using a different sequence claiming the line is not so difficult after all.

Question

Should the climb's difficulty be downgraded in the guidebook with a pencil or should the climb's simplicity be upgraded with a hammer?

Answer

Do or do not do, there is no try. Do it I will?

Yoda Jedi Master

Dave Cameron
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PRESIDENT'S FORWARD

2003 has been a watershed for Canberra climbing. With the devastating bushfires throughout all ACT climbing areas, the Canberra climbing community was galvanised into action like never before. Out of the ashes of the fires we now have a reinvigorated Canberra Climbers Association (CCA). It has been heartening to see climbers of all ages and abilities coming together to voice their concerns about the future of climbing. With this sort of response it is clear that Canberra climbing is strong and healthy.

The objectives of the CCA are to:

- educate climbers and the public about climbing,
- foster our local climbing areas,
- provide social activities for ACT climbers, and
- maintain and ensure access to our crags with the help of local government agencies.

The Committee and the Cliff inspection team have done much work over the last nine months. This positive engagement with ACT Parks has resulted in the reopening of all climbing areas (although Gibraltar will remain closed until the end of march until hazardous trees can be removed).

It is vitally important that the CCA maintains this energy and enthusiasm. We can never take access to climbing areas for granted and without your active support we cannot be an effective voice when dealing with landowners. Other threats are looming, such as the potential for a ban on all rock climbing at Blue Lake in the Kosciusko National Park. Currently our membership stands at 60 but I would like to see this doubled by the end of this year. It is up to all of us to encourage fellow climbers to join.

An exciting program is being put together for this year including slide nights with guest speakers, information evenings, club sessions at the local gym and introductory outdoor climbing for beginners and indoor climbers wishing to try real rock! The near future should see the launch of the CCA website, currently under development by the Secretary, Chris Warner. The website will also include route update information for any fire damaged climbs. Your input is most welcome and any updates should be sent to Chris at chriswarner@mail.com. Current issues being handled by the Committee include fighting the proposed Blue Lake climbing ban and input in to the Draft Plan of Management for Namadgi National Park.

I look forward to working with you to ensure that Canberra climbing maintains its strength, vitality and character.

Zac Zaharias
Zaharias@webone.com.au

Bumpy Boys

Bumpy Boys Chris Webb and Pete Tosen have been climbing extremely well of late. Some of their recent exploits include:

Chris		
Mr Carpet Burn	31/32	Flash
Who's an naughty boy	32	3 rd shot
Attack Mode	32	6 th shot
Search and Destroy	32	3 rd shot
Better than Life	32	3 rd shot
Staring at the Sea	32	3 rd shot
Dungeon Master	31	3 rd shot
Meet the G that killed me	31	FA (Next to Brother in a Body Bag at PC)

Pete	
Point Break	31
Cheese Monster	30
Slip Slop Slap	29
Roof Raider	29
Dude Food	29
Mircowave	29

Well how do these guys do it?

Chris and Pete have been climbing since October 1999 and June 2000 respectively and have the dedication to training, diet only seen in elite athletes. Chris trains 3 days a week with 4-6 hour sessions. Pete trains 4 days a week with 2-4 hour sessions. Their training consists to a large degree of using the 55° bouldering cave in the Mitchell gym for power training, 20 to 30 move circuits for power endurance and laps of the grade 27 roof for endurance.

Chris is doing some extreme undercling training for his next project. Fred Nicole and Klem Loskot had attempts in the past and the grade will go at 33+, see if you can guess what it is?

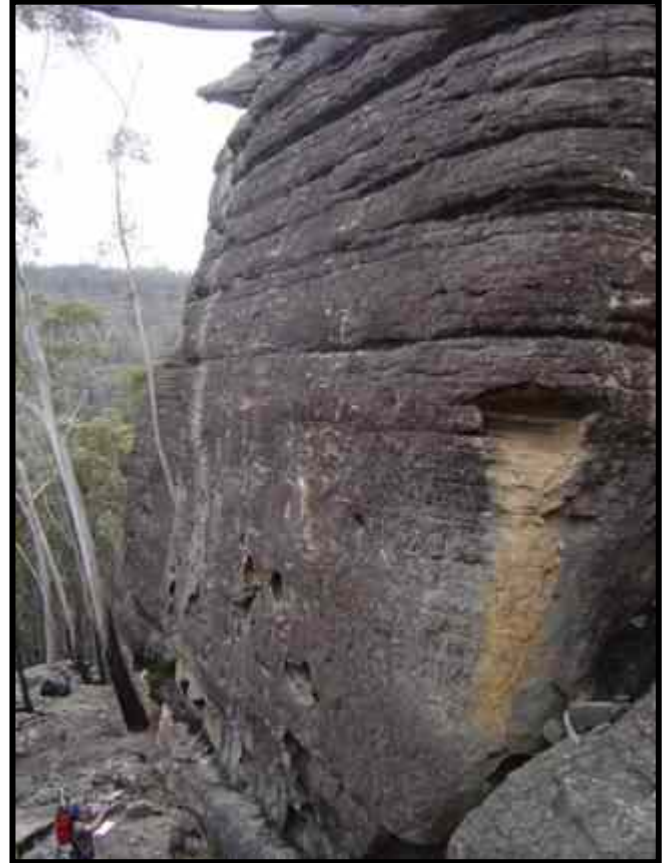
News Flash

Early March Chris flashed Mr Carpet Burn 31/32 and has finally received some recognition for his efforts by way of a sponsorship from Red Chilli. Well done.

Nerriga



**Sandstone Cliffs near the
“Significant Roadside Attraction”**



Austin Power’s Ledge

Pssst... want to climb at a secret new crag. Well not so secret since it was discovered in the early 90's by Brogan Brunt. Since then it has been frequented by Andy Bull, Tony Barten, Tara Sutherland and Richard Watts amongst others. Around 2000-2001, Gav Oliver and Cory Sawyer discovered the area again-again. The Nerriga climbing area is located just within the boundaries of the Morton National Park on the Nerriga to Nowra road. Tread lightly and take all your rubbish out with you. We recommend the area adjacent to the “Significant Roadside Attraction” not be climbed on because of its historical importance as a convict built road and the suicidal nature of belaying on the edge. A more complete guide will be available shortly with topos for The Gym (a steep pocketed wall) and Oh Baby Buttress.

Directions

There are several ways of getting to the climbing area, the easiest and most foolproof is to make your way towards Braidwood. Just before entering Braidwood turn left onto the Nowra road. Zero you speedo here. Pass through Nerriga, cross the Endrick River and head up the escarpment. At 58km you should see the Morton National Park signage on your left. About 1km onwards you will pass underneath some large sandstone cliffs on your left.

Continue under the cliffs until you have to make a sharpish right hand turn. The old road continues straight ahead through a cutting in the rock. Park on the left hand side to avoid the crazy 4WD speed demons.

Camping

If you plan spending a night or two in the area, the best spot to camp is back at the Endrick River. The River has permanent water, great swimming and plenty of shade under the bridge.

Slab Gully



View of Slab Gully

Walk through the gap in the rock, turn right and head up the narrow gully for 4 short climbs. Not much is known about these climbs. They were seen by Gav and Corey in 1997 or 1998 and are known to not to be part of the Andy Bull et al development.

Note: A traditional belay at the top is required.
To descend from these climbs walk off left and scramble back down the gully.

Climbs described right to left facing the cliff.

Yellow 22	15	8m
Up corner crack 10m before gully entrance Dave Cameron Solo November 2003		
☺ Unknown	17	6m
3FHs up Arete, Pretty good. Pre 1997-98.		
Unknown	17	6m
3FHs up slopey crackline Pre 1997-98.		
Unknown	17	6m
4FHs. Steep face to breaks Pre 1997-98.		
Unknown	17	6m
4FHs. Steep face to breaks. Pre 1997-98.		

Sponge Bob Wall (for want of a better name)



Sponge Bob Wall

A further 20m along the cliffline there are two climbs.
Climbs described left to right facing the cliff.

👉 **Unknown** 19 15m
Up the short slab, clip the dodgy FH and back up with a #4 wire in the slot above the bolt. Mantel the ledge and move right several metres. Follow the thin crack up the steep slab. Backup the FH with small wires in the crack and #1 RP in the thin horizontal slot. Run it out to the top. DRB lower off.
Mid 90's ?

Warning: **The 1/4 inch bolts and hangers on this climb are not likely to hold a fall, be careful and back up with wires. Needs rebolting.**

☺☺ **Dust Brothers** 20 15m
Up the short slab, clip FH and pull onto ledge using good crimps. Cruise up the dusty slab using the pebbles whilst passing a few FHs on the way. DRB lower off.
Gav Oliver 2002

A further 100m along the cliff line an inviting looking off-width splits the cliff.

The Off Ramp

18

18m

Wander up the ramp, arrange pro at the base of the off-width. Head on up using all your big stuff, cams, tubes and Big Bros – you will be scared. Good on you boys, climb wide with pride.

Keith Bell & John Wilson 9 November 2003

Austin Power's Ledge

Continue another 100m along the base of the cliff until a large rock platform with a 30m wide and 15m high wall is visible. Scramble up the right hand end.

Pre the 2002 fires in the area, the ground beneath the ledge was chest deep in lush ferns. To encourage regrowth access the platform from the right hand end.

Left to Right descriptions.

Mr. Creosote and the Fat Bastard do Dinner

15

15m

Start as BBATAKTDG, traverse left and up the ramp to the horizontal break. Use small wires in hidden slot to protect move onto ramp. Follow crack up and right to the top. A DBB is hidden around the left of the summit block.

Dave Pitchford & Gary Ewart 9 November 2003

☺☺ Blubber Boy and the Adipose Kid throw down the Gauntlet

15

15m

Start behind large tree, follow the crack up to tree and sling for pro. Reach right onto the face for a jug and head up the right leaning crack line to the top. 3½ cam or large hex required for initial crack.

Dave Pitchford & Gary Ewart 9 November 2003

Shagadelic Fembots

22

15m

Pull onto the steep wall and clip bolt, trend left following 4 more bolts to DBB.

Rick Carey & Dave Cameron October 2003

Where's my Mojo

19

15m

Pull onto the steep wall and clip bolt, trend right following 4 more bolts to DBB.

Rick Carey & Dave Cameron October 2003

☺ Welcome to my Evil Lair

20

15m

Head up wall on good crimps past 5 bolts. Use DBB on WMM

Dave Cameron & Rick Carey October 2003

☺☺☺☺ Frau Farbissina demands discipline

21

15m

You may want to wait until the rest of the bolts go in before you have a go. A couple of thin moves mid height. Use DBB on WMM.

Dave Cameron & Adam Steer October 2003

Move around the right hand end of the wall and scramble up on the large boulder.

☺ Unknown

22

15m

Step across the void onto the wall, crank up the steep wall on crimp pockets clipping a few carrots on the way. Mid 90's ?

☺ Unknown

17

15m

Up corner crack, protect with small wires.

Mid 90's ?

Wig & Pen Slab



The Wig & Pen, does the Kiandra ever fail to satisfy?

Follow the gully along another 50m or so until you see a large broken block. Walk between the block and cliff. The back of the block has a bunch of good top rope climbs and some reasonable bouldering on it.

👉👉👉 Kiandra makes me Fearless

19

20m

Step up onto small ledge and follow the fused crack line up the slab (crux). Protect by hooking nut tool in small pocket at 5m. Move up and right under small rooflet. Traverse back left a few metres and follow crack line to top.
Dave Cameron & Adam Steer 25 October 2003

Dead Rabbit Ledge

Continue along the cliff line another 100m, as the gully closes in, a ledge with a small overhung cave will become visible on your right. Scramble up the ledge at the left hand edge. 3 short steep routes graded around 25 await you, bring a few bolt plates. It is believed Tara Sutherland and Richard Watts put these climbs up.

Cross to the other side of the mostly dry creek bed and follow the cliff line for 1km marveling at scope for plenty of new routes, both trad and sport.

Tuross Falls



The Tuross River plunges 40m into the gorge

Tuross Falls is a new area in terms of climbing and just 2 hours drive from Canberra. The falls are located in the Wadbilliga State Forest. Free camping with fireplaces and picnic tables make weekend expeditions a great proposition. The ranger is also extremely climber friendly.

There is easy to moderate grade canyoning above the falls with excellent swimming at the 'Cascades', a water polished granite slippery slide. Make sure you slide down on the side closest to the access stairs otherwise you will require an arse transplant. Head 200 m upstream from the main falls to do some excellent Hi-ball (10-15m) above water free solos.

Directions

Head to Cooma and turn left onto the Numeralla road just before you reach Cooma. It is easy to miss the first turn off. Don't worry if you get into Cooma as you can turn left near the railway line. Follow the signs to Numeralla and continue on the tarred road until it turns to dirt. After a few hundred metres of dirt make a right hand turn and follow the signs to the Wadbilliga State Forest and the 'Cascades'. The road is well maintained and suitable for the average climb mobile.

Tuross Falls continued

Access

Park your car in the upper car park unless you are planning on camping. Follow the marked walking trail to the falls viewing platform. The 1.7km walk-in is a relatively flat and takes about 30 minutes. About 300m from the car park you pass through a number of boulders, with a few crack lines on them. When you get to the metal viewing platform look towards the 40m falls. On the left you can see a large slab and arête with a huge block perched above the valley, this is **Brown Underpants Arête**. On the right a prominent crack-line capped by roofs is evident, this is **Can't Hear You!**. To access the climbs, walk back along the track until it crosses below and to the left of a slab, look for a rather indistinct track heading towards the falls. Cross the gully and follow the ridge line towards the falls, turn left after about 100m and head down a steep gully for **Can't hear you!** and **Brown Underpants Arête**. You will pass **Can't Hear You!** on your right.

For **Brown Underpants Arête** follow the gully to the river, traverse left until above the lower falls and cross here. Scramble up the left hand side of the cliff and follow the saddle down towards the main falls till at the edge of the arête. Takes 30 minutes of serious bush bashing from the viewing platform, watch out for stinging nettles. The steep wall (5 plus metres overhung in 25m) left of **Brown Underpants Arête** has potential for several hard trad routes, so head on down and beat the crowd to the FA.

Warning

Climbing at Tuross is adventure climbing in the true sense. The climbs described are relatively remote and rescue will be a long time coming and difficult to effect. The noise created by the falls can make communication extremely difficult. The routes described have had few if any repeat ascents, loose/friable rock is present on all of the routes described.

[Wear a helmet and belay well away from the climbing line.](#)



**Brown Underpants Arete
from viewing platform**



**Brown Underpants Arete
from beneath**



Hot Dam Hot 30m 20/21

Tuross Falls continued

👉👉👉😊 **Brown Underpants Arête**

18

90m

P1 40m 18. Head up thin crack line a few metres right of the arête to base of a detached flake, protect with small wires and RPs. Traverse right around flake and move left above the flake to the arête. Head up the base of the bottomless chimney around the corner to the belay ledge.

P2 50m 15. Head right and up from the belay for 10m, traverse 30m along great orange rock. Head up 10m to top. Back clean to P1 belay and rap off the fixed gear.

Adam Steer & David Cameron November 2003

Special Prize a six-pack of beer is on offer to anyone who can tell the FA team what the fixed gear at the P1 belay consists of.



Can't hear you! 75m 20

😊😊 **Can't hear you!**

20

75m

P1. 25m 20. Follow the thin crack-line up the wall for about 15m until the crack disappears (Excellent pro). A gripping traverse left gets you pulse racing (No gear). Follow the edge of the flake up and mantel onto the ledge.

P2. 30m. Walk left, be careful not to dislodge anything onto your belayer.

P3. 20m 16. Head up left leaning slab, avoiding loose blocks on right edge.

Dave Cameron & Adam Steer December 2003

From the top of the falls rock-hop up the river about 100m until you see an undercut 30m slab on the opposite side.

☺☺☺ **Hot Damm Hot**

20/21

30m

Start in the centre of the steep undercut slab. Crank through the bulge (21) or traverse in from left (20) and follow the crack line to the top of the slab. Rap off slings.

Dave Cameron & Adam Steer November 2003

Proof Climbing is Evil

I always knew that this might be the case but could not prove this until now...

Everyone knows that climbing takes time and money, this can be expressed as :-

$$\text{Climbing} = \text{Time} \times \text{Money}$$

Since Time is Money this can be expressed as

$$\text{Climbing} = \text{Money} \times \text{Money}$$

or simplifying

$$\text{Climbing} = \text{Money}^2$$

Now, Money is the root of all evil, so we can say that:

$$\text{Money} = \sqrt{\text{Evil}}$$

And since

$$\text{Climbing} = \text{Money}^2$$

It is true that

$$\text{Climbing} = \sqrt{\text{Evil}}^2$$

Simplifying

$$\text{Climbing} = \text{Evil}$$

New Routes Area 51, Mt Alexandra - Mittagong

Access

Park car in the Mittagong Gym/Swimming Pool carpark. Continue up the hill 20m past the gym until you reach the fire access road. There is a sign calling it the RED Track. Follow this road, down hill as it runs beside the Nattai River (looks more like a creek). After four or five minutes you should see a wooden post painted white on the bottom and red on top on the left side of the fire access road. Walk 108 steps past this and then turn **right** off the road into bush down towards the river. Look for yellow tape on trees and cairns to guide the way. Cross the river easily and walk up steep hill veering **gradually** left as you go. Head up towards the cliffs at the top (about three to five minutes). When you get to the cliff turn left and look for the ring bolts about five to ten metres along cliff. The First climb you come to is Butch. This is a new crag so expect some loose rock for a while.

Climbs are described right to left facing the cliff.

Butch

21

16m

Follow rings up series of roofs to reach large sundeck climb middle of wall following rings (easier climbing up left edge of wall but not as nice). Head up to chain lower off. Lower off slowly to avoid rope wear over edge. Double chain lower off. G. Murray, 2003

51 Equipe

21

17m

Makes 51 a sport climb. Clip bolts on right hand wall to access rings on 51 headwall.

Graduation

17

15 m

Natural pro up a juggy crack. Start up the corner crack of 51 and move right at ledge and finish up obvious crack. Carefully traverse left at top and use 51 lower off. W Midson. 2003

51

21

15m

Head up easy corner with cams and wires to reach first ring bolt. Clip and go up to chain lower off on jugs. 4 RB and natural for bottom. Double chain lower off. G. Murray, 2003

Wagging

20

16m

Climb large rock clip first bolt and step on to wall at juggy overhang head up trending left to gain ledge. Move over slabby bulge to reach arête. Up juggy wall just left of arête clipping rings as you go. Up to double chain lower off. M. Law-Smith, 2003

Truant

16

15m

Nice juggy face climb. Clip first ring difficult move off the ground then cruise to double ring lower off. Five RB. Double ring lower off. S. Vaughan, 2003.

Hookey

16

15m

Up crack on natural gear, not very good by accounts. M. Law-Smith 2003

As for stars? You be the judge. I suggest a warm-up on Truant then Wagging followed by 51 or 51 Equip and Butch. Graduation is also a good natural crack climb with big jugs on steep rock.

Thanks to Gavin Murray for the details on Area 51.

Bouldering

Forget the Mega Choss bouldering near the coal tunnel, continue up to the top of Mt Alexandra and explore the area just behind the lookout. The problems are good and will keep you busy for a few hours. The Mega Choss bouldering cave is more useful for all weather camping with just a ground sheet.

Web Resources

www.chockstone.org

Chockstone is a sponsored, non-commercial web resource for climbers primarily in Victoria. It has a comprehensive set of online guides for most of Victoria including some of the more obscure crags. The best gallery of photos and videos on just about any site, well laid out, easy to browse and most importantly fast.

Tech Tips, Articles, Reviews and an online forum make this my favorite climbing resource.

The forums have a wide user base from weekend warriors to 30+ climbers who by in large are knowledgeable and helpful.

Gear Deals

Gordon Kelly owner of Mitchell Indoor Climbing is offering a discount on entry and climbing gear to card carrying CCA members. CCA members will get student rate entry.

Ropes



Beal Top Gun	\$220.00
Diameter	10.5mm
Impact force	7.2kn
Weight	69g/m
Falls	11 UIAA
Colours	Red or Purple
Length	50m

More Gear Deals

The Beal Top Gun is not only exceptionally durable, it has a high fall rating which makes it a great all-around rope for working routes. This rope can handle the abuse of jugging, hauling and redpoint attempts; yet it handles remarkably well and is very light for its beefy diameter of 10.5mm. This is a brilliant alternative to an 11-mm "fat" rope and is recommended for the climber who spends a healthy amount of time on walls or redpointing difficult sport routes. The Top Gun gives you an extra level of security by passing the UIAA metal edge test: it survives an 80kg weight with a 1.77 factor fall over a .75 metal edge.



Beal Stinger II	\$195.00
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.

Harnesses

Rock Pillar Zeeper	\$110.00
Rock Pillar Swing	\$100.00

Ocin Chalk Bags

Medium	\$22.00
Large	\$25.00

Locking Biners

Kong Steel	\$22.00
Kong Alloy	\$20.00

Note: These Biners are the large type suitable for use belaying – Excellent value at the price.

Ring Gordon up on 0262624863 and talk turkey. He can order from most suppliers and give good discounts on just about anything except 5.10 shoes (can anyone?)

Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing
38-40 Essington Street.
Mitchell, ACT, 2911.
Ph: 0262624863

Membership Application



CANBERRA CLIMBERS' ASSOCIATION



Application forms can be sent with a cheque or money order made payable to
Canberra Climbers Association Inc. PO Box 972 Dickson ACT 2602

Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE \$15

For more information contact:

Zac Zaharias on 62572208 email: zaharias@webone.com.au

Rick Carey on 042943404 email: rick.carey@cit.act.edu.au

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