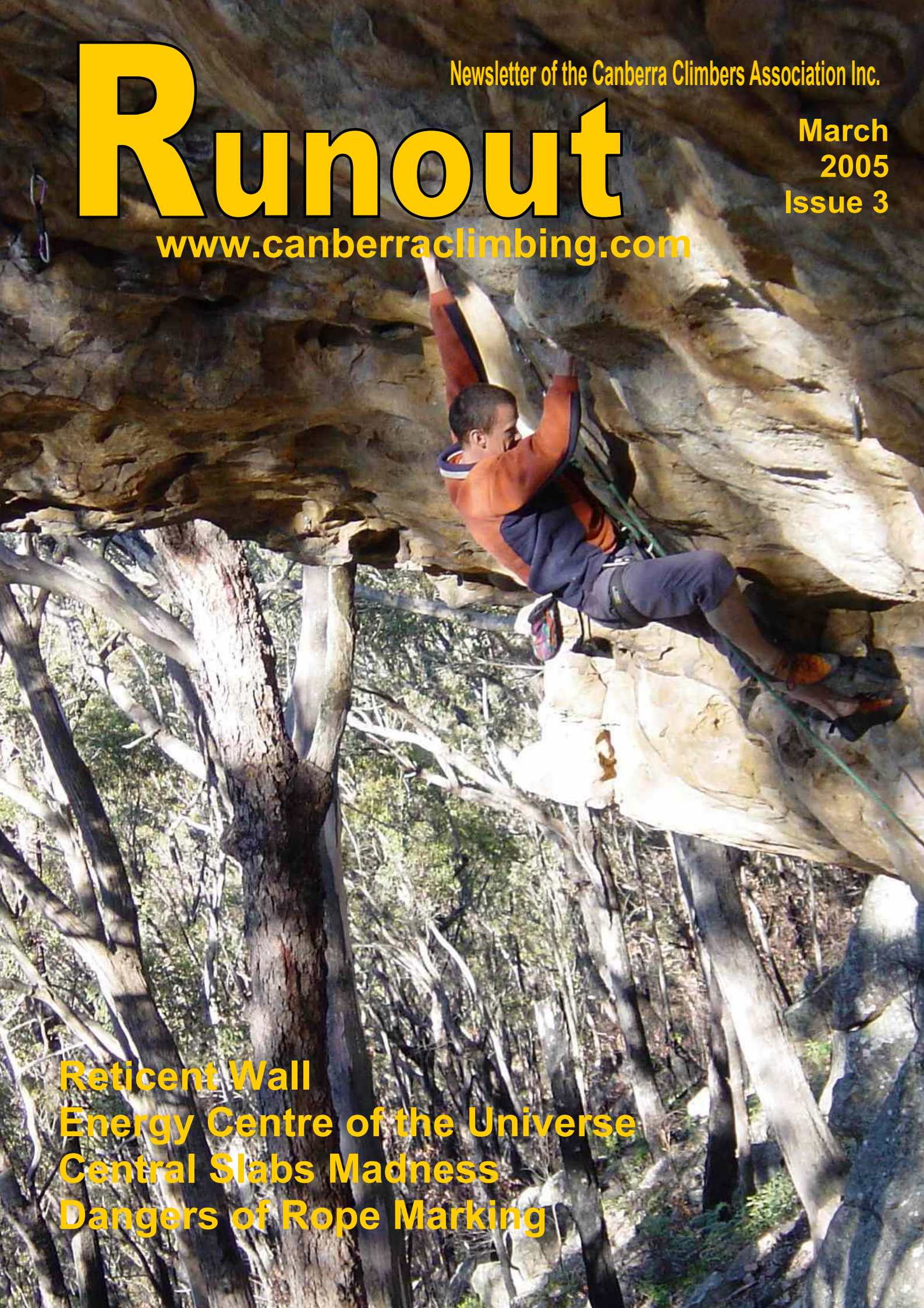


Runout

Newsletter of the Canberra Climbers Association Inc.

March
2005
Issue 3

www.canberraclimbing.com



Reticent Wall
Energy Centre of the Universe
Central Slabs Madness
Dangers of Rope Marking

Special Thanks

Thanks to all the people who have help in the production and supplied material for the use in Issue 3 of Runout, Chris Warner, Chris Fitzgerald, Robert Hales, Gemma Woldendorp, Zac Zaharias. Special thanks to Adam Steer for sorting out the style sheets on the website forum.

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.

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Cover Photo

Rick Carey climbs half his age. 'Cave Route' (25) Mt Alexandra, Mittagong.

Editorial

There always seems to be a major controversy when someone replaces a bolt or piton on a classic climb. Simon Mentz was on the receiving end of some vitriolic remarks when he replaced the 30 year piton at the 2nd belay of Watchtower Crack with a quality triple redundant belay setup. The original piton and opposed RP belay was always dubious when considering the likelihood of a factor two fall directly onto the belay. The CCA has established a Bolting Committee with the aim of replacing the time bombs quietly rusting away on the local crags. The aim is not to rush out and retro-bolt your favorite runout, bold and sparsely protected climb but rather to replace the existing bolts in the style of the first ascent.

The committee has been working on a policy over the last few months, we have looked at a number of other climbing associations views on the matter and reached our own consensus. We value all opinions on the subject, remember if you remain silent you will have no one to blame except yourself.

If you have any information on bolts in bad repair, poor belays, want to help fixing things or rewrite the bolting policy then please contact Justin Ryan, Dave Cameron, Jamie Valdivia or Steve Halpin.

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President's Forward

The third edition of Runout is another bumper production put together by our erstwhile editor. The depth and breadth of climbing being done by our members (and members to be if we can twist their arms to cough up \$15 to join) is truly astonishing and it demonstrates the vibrancy of our climbing community within the ACT and region. This was recently reinforced to me when I spoke with Will Steffen a long time Canberra Climber who is seeking to have his manuscript *Himalayan Dreaming* published. Much of the early development of Australian Himalayan climbing grew out of two clubs in Canberra, barely a few kilometres apart, where the members never met. Hopefully the CCA will be able to assist Will to see this story uncovered. However, there are many other stories to tell, those which will never make the pages of this or any other magazine or book. I am reminded by the saying that "history is what is recorded" and reinforced more recently with Doug Scott's comment that it was only through writing and publishing did many climbers come to the fore of the public's attention in Britain. Climbing is deeply personal but there is room for all of us to not only express our thoughts, emotions and experiences through words, photographs and writing but also to marvel at other people's triumphs and tragedies. Simon Yate's recent lecture tour to Canberra only reinforced to me that there is always another perspective to the Joe Simpson story and it is only through communicating our various perspectives that we become richer in our understanding of our natural world and each other.

At the last CCA Committee Meeting the priorities for 2005 were set. The top priority was to set up a bolting sub-committee of Justin Ryan, David Cameron, Jamie Valdivia and Steve Halpin in order to get the CCA rebolting program started. \$ 1000 was set aside to purchase bolts, drill pieces and other ancillary items. Currently planning is in progress to determine the best size and type of bolt as well as which bolts are to be replaced. Your participation would be most welcome and feel free to contact any of the bolting sub-committee to volunteer your services.

Our first General meeting for 2005 will be on Wednesday 23 March from 7.45 pm at the YMCA Sailing Club, Alexandrina Ave Yarralumla Bay. The sale of the YMCA Civic property has necessitated a change of venue. The guest speaker will be Jonathan Edwards who will be presenting his recent trip and adventures to South America in Dec 2004 - among other things, climbing the South face of Cerro Mercedario. Gordo is busy climbing but hopefully we can tie him into the building long enough so he can present at the May Annual General Meeting.

Finally, membership is our lifeblood and without it we just won't exist. Many members have yet to renew their membership for 2005 and you are urged to do so promptly.

On belay
Zac Zaharias
President
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Reticent Wall A4 Variant by Chris Fitzgerald

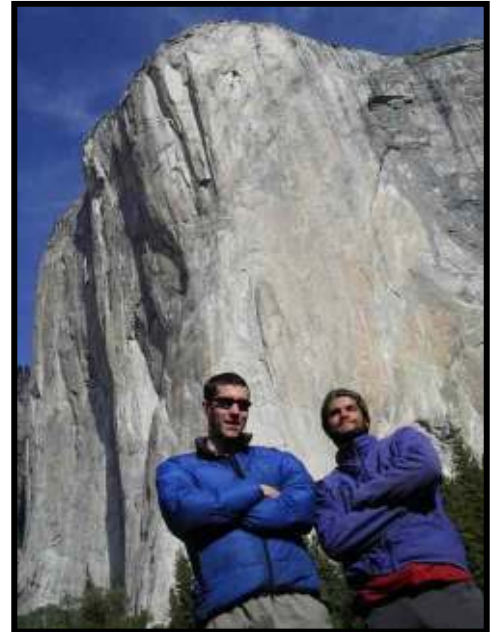
Slap in the Face

On September 12, 2004 I left Australia for the famous Yosemite Valley, California, USA. After a dog-legged flight via Taiwan, I arrived in San Francisco and teamed up with Nathan Kukathas.

A few laps of downtown San Fran later we were finally on our way to the valley, miraculously without the aid of a road map. Arriving late at night we camped in Nathan's van at the base of El Capitan, the big rock by the road.

Waking in morning I opened the curtains and like a slap in the face with a wet fish, there was the towering monolith of El Capitan.

Partners in crime Chris (L) and Nathan (R) assume the pose.
Photo Nathan Kukathas



This is what it will be like...

Only ten months earlier I had stepped into my first set of etriers. A multi day ascent of Ozymandias Direct and subsequent one day ascent of Ozy followed shortly thereafter. At age 19 I was standing in the El Cap meadows, with the big walls of the world coming into focus much sooner than I had expected. I still remember sitting at the top of Ozy for the first time and thinking to myself "this is what it will be like on El Capitan but only four times higher!".

Chris jugs after cleaning the pitch.
Photo Nathan Kukathas

It can't be much Scarier than Dog Face

Nathan and I decided to climb the infamous and seldom repeated "Reticent Wall". "It can't be too much scarier than Dog Face (Blueys) I thought", my hardest success to date!. Reticent Wall has a strange reputation in the valley. Climbers would casually ask us "What route are you getting on?", we would then hesitantly say that we were intending to climb something easy on the North American Wall. Occasionally we revealed our secret, but only to those whom we knew could not be fooled. The abundance of heads, hooks and beaks spoke for themselves, clearly we were trying a hard route. Those in the know or more persistently curious would reply: "you crazy Aussies, that's awesome!!".



You guys are going to die!!!

When buying a few extra pitons in the valley climbing shop the first thing the somewhat ignorant and loud salesman asked was what route we were doing. We revealed our plans in hope of some helpful beta. His instant reply was "Man, you guys are going to die!!!!". With this in mind we decided to jump on it anyway and see if it was really as scary as made out to be.

Chris relaxes below Wino Tower.
Photo Nathan Kukathas

Sporty Spice does Aid

After three days of fixing lines we packed a monstrous haul bag with enough food and water for eight days on the wall (100kg). Our chosen line started up New Dawn. After 7 pitches, we were at the start of Reticent Wall, which extended for another 14 pitches to the top of El Cap. We ended up merging the route with adjacent climb, 'Wall of Early Morning Light', this made for an awesome direct line on the steepest part of El Capitan with a total of 23 pitches.

The route comprised of many A3 pitches and a couple of rope stretching A4 crux pitches. Intensive aid trickery, complex route finding and a test of patience on one belay, during a 17 hour lead just spiced things up!. After seven days on the wall we topped out from the best experience I have ever had on the end of a rope.

Nathan cleans the pitch above Lay Lady Ledge. Shortly after this photo was taken Chris took a big fall off a hook move.
Photo Chris Fitzgerald



Editorial Comment

Reticent Wall is considered one of the hardest technical aid routes to date, the salesman's quip 'Man, you guys are going to die!!!!' has a great deal of truth in it.

Rockclimbing.com describes Reticent Wall as follows:

"Here is a route that contains not **one** but **two Real Live Death Pitches!** This Steve Gerberding and Scott Stowe masterpiece has some of the reachiest rivets on the Captain, and will have you struggling in your top steps just to clip 'em. **Lay Lady Ledge**, from which The Reticent Wall starts, is a brilliant and roomy bivi, big enough even to **unrope!** Above this you will follow six pitches of thin and sustained climbing to reach **Wino Tower**, where you can still find shards of glass from **Warren Harding's wine bottles**. This is a great place to hang out while you get somebody **else** to lead the pitch above. When you finally reach the plush sidewalk-width bivi below the **New Wave A5 pitch**, take a good look at the ledge. If you **goof the crux**, this will be the last thing you see before you **rip the whole pitch** and die 350 feet below.

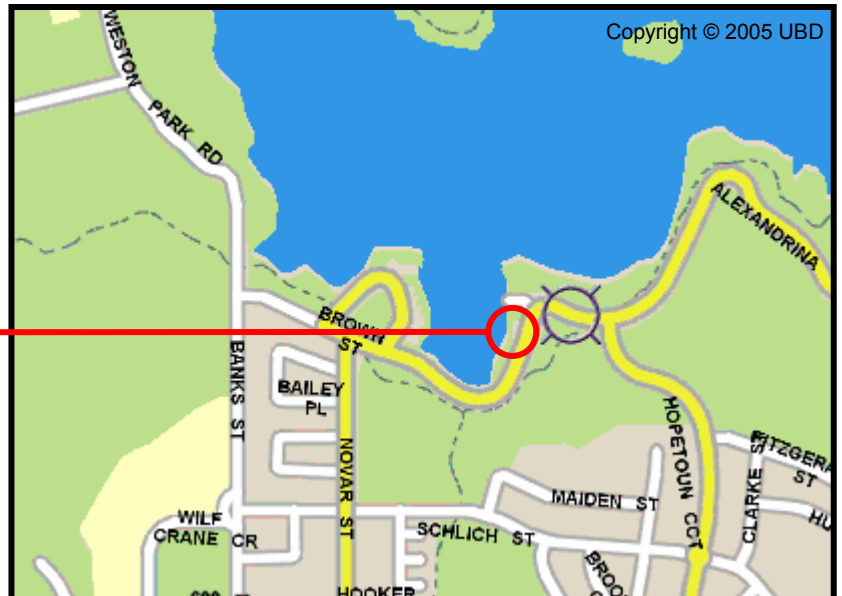
The table below describes the American aid climbing grading system and consequences!

Grade	Consequences
A0	Also known as "French-free", using gear to make progress, but generally no aiders required.
A1	Easy aid: placements straightforward and solid. No risk of any piece pulling out. Aiders generally required. Fast and simple for the hammerless corresponding grade, but not necessarily fast and simple for nailing pitches.
A2	Moderate aid: placements generally solid but possible awkward and strenuous to place. Maybe a tenuous placement or two above good pro with no fall-danger.
A2+	Like A2, but possibly several tenuous placements above good pro. 6-10m fall potential but with little danger of hitting anything. Route finding abilities may be required.
A3	Hard aid: Testing methods required. Involves many tenuous placements in a row. Generally solid placements (which could hold a fall) found within a pitch. Long fall potential up to 20 metres (6-8 placements ripping), but generally safe from serious danger. Usually several hours required to complete a pitch, due to complexity of placements.
A3+	Like A3, but with dangerous fall potential. Tenuous placements (like a marginal tied-off pin or a hook on a fractured edge) after long stretches of body-weight pieces (here body-weight placements are considered for all practical purposes any piece of gear not solid enough to hold a fall). Potential to get hurt if good judgment is not exercised. Time required generally exceeds 3 hours per pitch for experienced aid climbers.
A4	Serious aid: Lots of danger. 20-30 metre fall potentials common, with uncertain landings far below.
A4+	More serious than A4. These leads generally take many hours to complete and require the climber to endure long periods of uncertainty and fear, often requiring a ballet-like efficiency of movement in order not to upset the tenuous integrity of marginal placements.
A5	Extreme aid. Nothing really trustworthy of catching a fall for the entire pitch. Rating should be reserved only for pitches with no bolts or rivets for the entire pitch.
A6	A5 with poor belays that won't hold a fall. The leader pops and the whole team is going to die.

Next Meeting

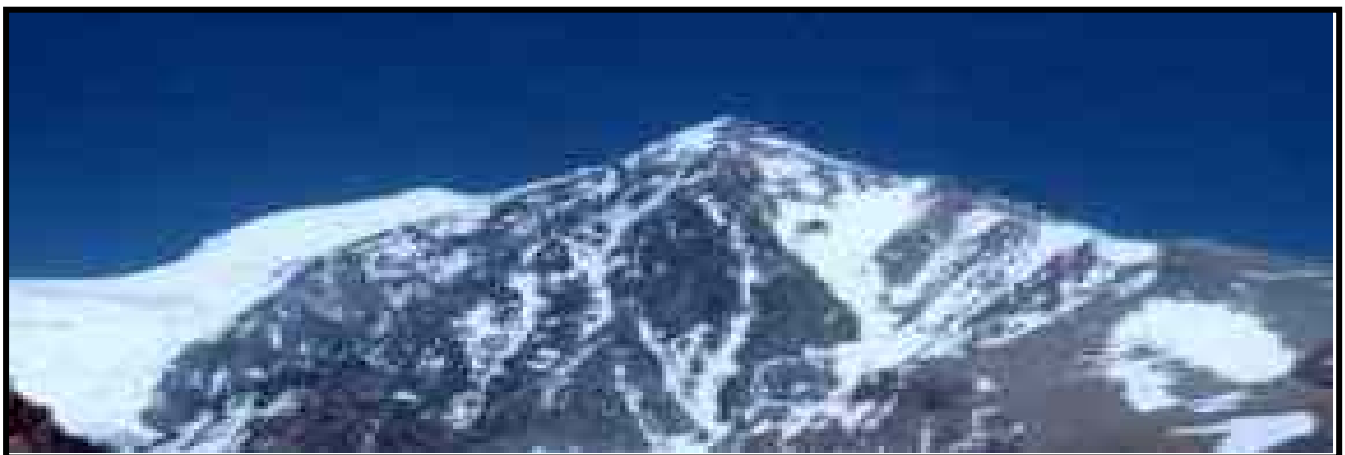
This month CCA meeting will be held 8pm on the 23rd March at the YMCA Sailing Club at Yarralumla Bay. People should arrive from 7.45 pm and the meeting will commence at 8 pm. The meeting room is downstairs as you enter through the front door. Picking fights with the Karate group upstairs is not recommended.

YMCA Sailing Club
Alexandrina Ave, Yarralumla.
(west from the junction with Hopetoun Circuit)
Canberra UBD Map 58 M11
Arrive 7.45 PM. Start 8PM



Guest Speaker

Jonathan Edwards will be guest speaker. He will be presenting on his recent trip and adventures to South America in December 2004, including climbing the South face of Cerro Mercedario.



Cerro Mercedario 6,770m is located in the province of San Juan, Argentina in the "La Ramada" region.

Himalayan Dreaming

About 13 years ago, Canberra Mountaineer Will Steffen produced a manuscript tentatively titled Himalayan Dreaming which has documented the history and development of Australian Himalayan mountaineering. The book is well researched and covers a 70 years span from Australian born George Finch who participated on the 1922 British Everest Expedition through to some of the early attempts on 8000 metre peaks in the 80s and early 90s. There are quite a few interesting facts and stories, for example, much of the early development in the Himalayas came from two Canberra based clubs, only a few kilometres apart, but the members never met. They were the ANU Mountaineering club and the RMC Mountaineering Club (now the Army Alpine Association).

Due to the limited appeal of the book, no publisher was prepared to print without financial support. However, attempts are being made to have the book published and the CCA is currently in discussion with the author to see what support it can provide.

Warning

The left hand chain above Cletus the Slack-Jawed Yokel at Nerriga has a split link under the bolt. Do not use the chains to top-rope or lower off. You can lower using one of the DBBs on the other climbs on Austin Powers Ledge or scramble down behind Toby.

Bumpy Boys

Chris Webb flashed ☺ Some Kind of Bliss 31 at Diamond Falls late last year and has recently moved ☹ to the Blueys. Living closer to the rock should mean some significant new ascents. Some of Chris's recent ascents include:

Alpha Leather	32	Nicotine (2 nd Shot)	32
Demon Flower	30	Some Kind of Bliss (Flash)	31
Brutal Movements	7c	Minnie Ha Ha	7c
Leper (3rd Shot)	31	Space Boy (Switzerland)	31
Point Break (2 nd Shot)	31	Tripe	30
Tutu Sullied Flesh	29	Crenshaw Boulevard	30

Pete Tosen has been cranking hard with and without rope -

Dungeon Master	31	Ogre Thumb (2 nd Shot)	V9
Path of Yin (2 nd Shot)	30	Extreme Cool	V8
Tyranny	29	Sexy Remy	V8
Tripe	30		
Camel Toe	29		

Pete tells me Camel Toe has something to do with Paris Hilton wearing extremely tight clothing, I have no idea what he is talking about.

New Routes

Bittangabee Sea Cliffs North

Underneath Work 21 10m

Undercut start a few metres left of AQPFR. Crank hard and twist lock to small mantle edge. Desperate moves to crimp edges on back wall. Arrange cams under rooflet flake, undercling and find the hidden flake up high. Cruise to the top.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morely. 24 January 2005

Third Time Looser 18 10m

Up edge of the thin central flake. Use 1½ and 2 cams in quartz intrusion at roof for pro. Traverse left to the arête where a hidden thread allows a good rest. Layback up the arête, gear in slots.

Dave Cameron. 24 January 2005

Shits 6:30AM 23 12m

Start as TTL. Crank through roof and up slopes to pocket. A jugular popping mantle leads to a good rest. Run it out to top.

Dave Cameron. 24 January 2005

Yorkshire Girls Draw Blood 17 10m

3 m right of NNA at obvious flakes. A tricky start then straight up flakes, great gear, great fun, very rough treatment for the uninitiated.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morley. 24 January 2005.

Beez Neez 11 14m

South around the corner from Beer Battered Rock is an obvious crack 2m from the arête. A short climb with tricky moves at 4m. Has a nice top out and good protection.

Alan Bainbridge, Mal MacDonnell 23 January 2005

Head 25m North around the corner.

6 Beers before Midnight 11 13m

Mals description to go here, problem is he had 6 Beers before Midnight and can't remember anything.

Jug Haul/Crimp/Slap Dynamically/Layback/Mantle/Smear/Scum up the easy/tricky/difficult start, follow the obvious/not so obvious line/seam/slab/crack/flake of jugs/crimps/slopes/heucos to the crux. Finish as start.

Mal MacDonnell, Alan Bainbridge 23 January 2005

Mark's Not Dead, he's just pining for the Fjords 18 10m

Start 3m right of the arête, head to right up crack a few metres, trend left slinging lumpy jug. Head left to arête using 1 and 1½ cams for protection. Continue up arête.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morley. 23 January 2005

Orange Ruffy 22 10m

Start as for MND. Head straight up from lumpy jug to hidden heuco. Move up and right along thin break then up small pockets to slopy mantle top out. Serious.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morley. 24 January 2005.

Booroomba Central Slabs

No Space Left 21 15m

A more direct finish to Space Wasted, follow the thin crack 3m right of the 3rd belay of Space Wasted and head up the wall above to join existing finish of SW. Protect with small wires.

Dave Cameron February 2005.

Trojan Wall, Orroral Ridge

Onamatapea

18 45m

Start as for Emu Parade on edge of large undercut overlap. A tricky start gains the slab. Head up the easy unprotected slab for 10m and arrange protection in the roof flake with a long runner. Head up a few metres and follow the right edge of the unprotected arête to the horizontal break at 30m. A 0.5 and 1 cam do the trick here. Traverse right a few metres and use a size 3 cam for pro around the corner. Jam your way up the undercut slab.

Dave Cameron and Hatice Sitki. December 2004.

The Belfry, Orroral Ridge

Chris Fitzgerald and Nathan Kukathas (Kookie) have put up a new aid line to the left of Crystal Voyager. Nathan's second accent was A3 R as the crack had cleaned up nicely.

Return of the Etrier

A4 R (M7) 30m

Starts 10m left around the corner from the start to Tracy Anne and Crystal Voyager up the obvious razor thin seam running to the top. The first 10m is fairly overhung using micro cams for the first 3m. The crack then closes to accept small to medium beaks and #1 lost arrows. Climb through the bulge on more beaks and up the vertical wall on more beaks, pin stacks, fixed heads and a few rp's to a slopy mantle on top. Once through the bulge don't zipper any gear as you will bounce off the adjacent car sized boulder at one third height.

Chris Fitzgerald and Nathan (Both lead) Kukathas 1 January 2005.

Snake Rock, Corin Dam Road

Reptilian

25

The route goes straight up the middle of the wall between Snake-in-the-Grass and Red Belly.
Dave McGregor. 25 August 2002.

Spaghetti Creek, Corin Dam Road

Spaghetti Creek is located a few hundred metres up a dry creek bed at the sharp left hand bend after Gibraltar Falls. It is easier to spot coming down the road.

Dollars for a Fast Gun

23 18m

Route goes up the weakness on the arête at the far right of wall.
Chris Warner. September 2004.

For a Few Dollars More

23 18m

Up water smoothed rock at left of wall.
Chris Warner, Sep 2004.

Tora Bora

Tora Bora sits high on the hill on the western side of the road as you enter the Orroral Valley. All of these routes were established in 2002. At the time of writing there were 5 completed routes. The central boulder has three bolted routes, however they have all been affected by the Canberra bushfires of 2003 and are in need of repair.

Routes

The lower boulder reached contains two routes that share the same difficult start.
From L-R these are:

Hei Sei

27

Follow the left hand arête to double rings.
J Ryan, N Wales 2002.

Saloth Sar

22

Follow the right hand arête to share double rings with HS.
N Wales 2002.

Continuing 30m directly up from here is the fire affected central boulder. Continue left past this boulder for another 30m to two large boulders containing four routes. From R-L these are:

I am the black gold of the sun

23

Stick clip or reach high to the first bolt, follow the right hand side of the boulder straight up reaching a slab above, continue slightly left to double rings.
N Wales, Feb 2005.

White fella dreamin' variant traverse

24

Up the left hand side of the boulder, traversing right at about half way to share the double rings with IATBGOTS.
N Wales 2005.

White fella dreamin'

24

Up the left hand side of the boulder following the arête to chain.
N Wales 2003.

The left hand boulder with the large boulder on top contains one route:

Project

J Ryan 2002.

Continue right from the central boulder for 100m to a large boulder on a rock platform. There is currently one route here:

Project

J Ryan 2002.



Mountain Designs in association with the Canberra Climbers Association are offering a very special incentive for climbers to buy some older stock of 50m dynamic ropes.



In addition to a 20% price reduction a further 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the CCA Cliff Care Fund. These donations will be used by the CCA for re-bolting and track maintenance in the Canberra region.

If you are in the market for a new rope, please support Mountain Designs and the CCA Cliff Care Fund.

You will have to hurry as there are only 4 x 10mm and 1 x 11mm ropes left!

Contact Mountain Designs Braddon store on (02) 6247 7488 to place your orders.



Bouldering at the Energy Centre of the Universe

by Gemma Woldendorp

The Dalai Lama called Castle Hill in New Zealand's south island, the "Energy Centre of the Universe". I would have to say it's an amazing place – the atmosphere, the fluidly-shaped boulders scattered over the hills, the snow-capped mountains in the distance – although my impressions were also from a climbing perspective.



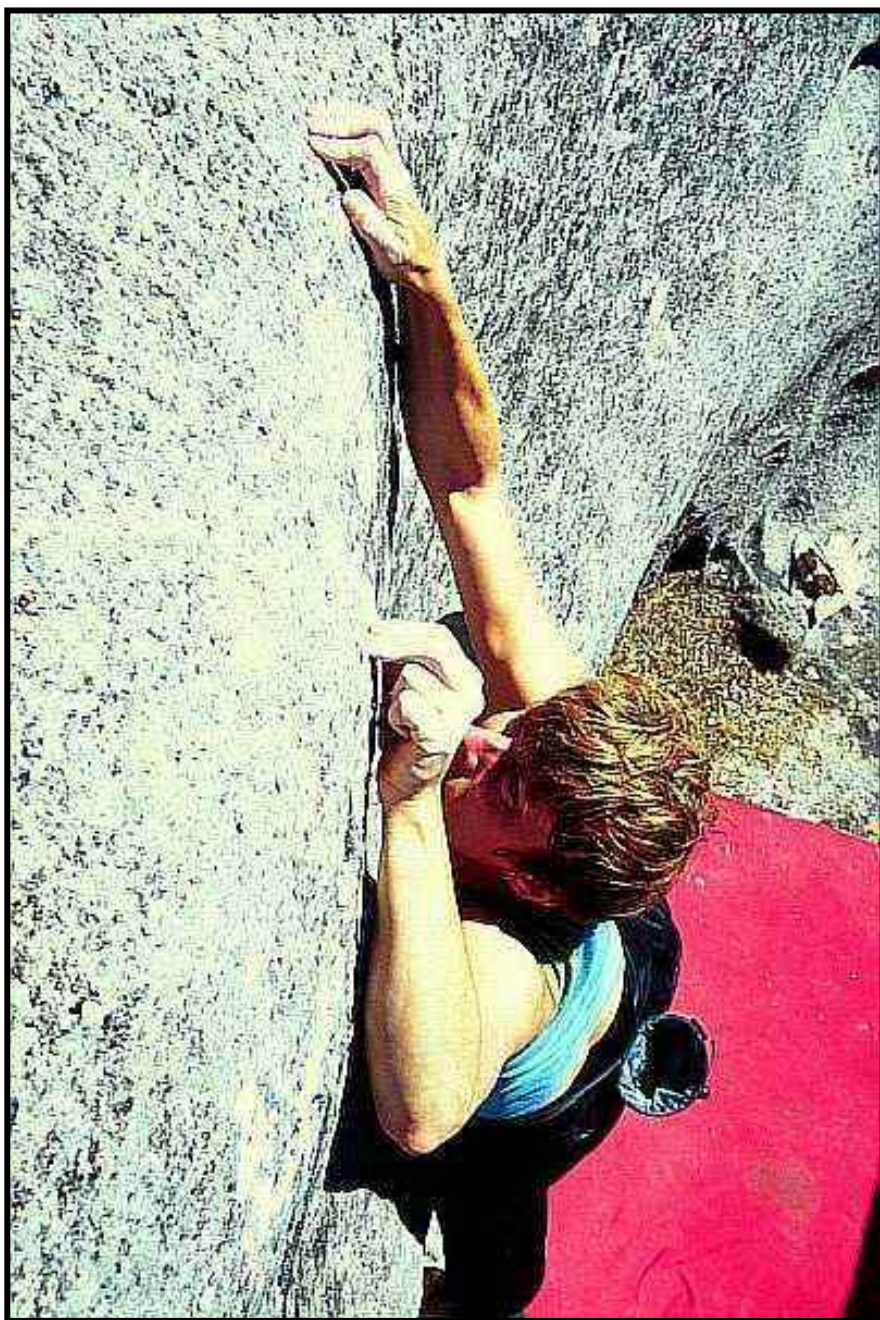
The Castle Hill Boulder Field

Photo Natasha Sebire

Most of my climbing trips to New Zealand have been for the colder, whiter, somewhat bigger climbs, but last spring's trip to the 'land of the long white cloud' saw Natasha and I seeking out rock. Castle Hill was on the top of the list.

On our first stroll around Castle Hill in the Homestead area, we were so excited because of the thousands of boulders. When we started to look at individual boulders and choose some problems to try, we walked past so many lines as they seemed to defy possibility, not fitting our pre-conceived idea of what a nice boulder problem should be. We were beginning to limit what we tried.

The weather was not ideal on the first few days we spent at Castle Hill – sunny skies would become cloudy, then hail and then snow – so we headed off to climb at Payne's Ford for a while where we had fantastic sunny days. When we returned to Castle Hill, it made us realise that what we thought were slopers at Payne's, were like jugs at Castle Hill. Although the weather in this part of the country is a more unstable, we didn't experience much rain overall, and the cooler time of year meant the friction was superb (apparently it can be slimey in summer).



So, after some dismal failures and some surprising successes, we started to get into the Castle Hill mode of bouldering. It's not so much about strength (although good contact strength is necessary for the harder slopers, and the place still has it's fair share of powerful problems), it's more about balance, precision, delicacy and some imaginative moves. Featureless friction moves, reachy pockets of every size, and mantles on slopey, rounded top-outs abound.

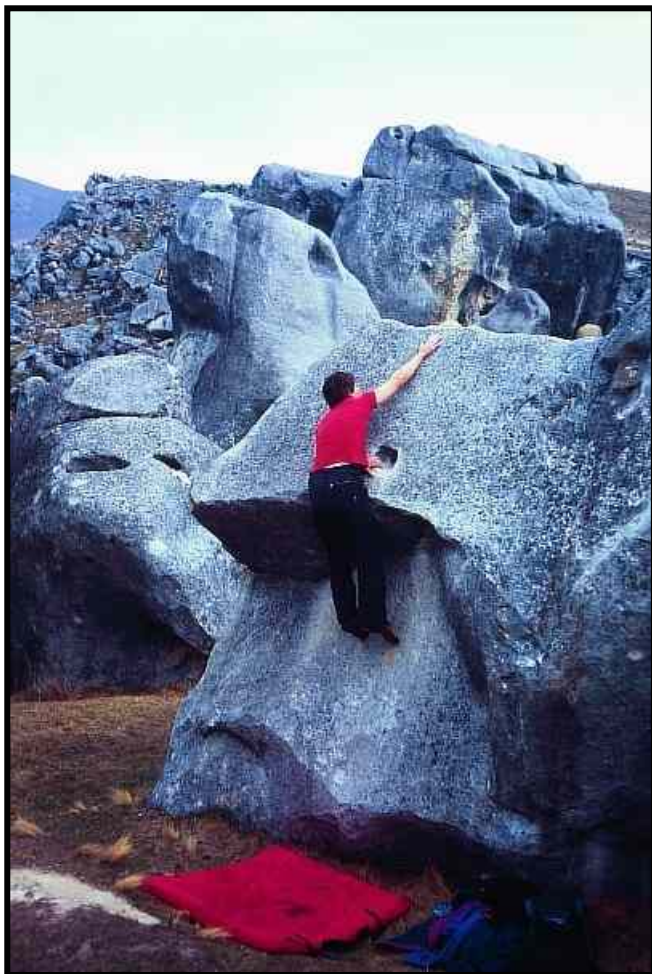
Once you get your head around the Castle Hill style, all manner of weird and unlikely problems are possible. Boulder problems we had previously walked past without much consideration or thought too difficult, suddenly became appealing and achievable. It was a trip of constant discoveries. I would definitely go back to Castle Hill particularly as the more I bouldered there, the better I got at its unique style of bouldering.

Gemma styling up a Castle Hill problem.

Photo Natasha Sebire

Facts

The Castle Hill basin is about 1 hour drive from Christchurch on the way to Arthur's Pass. It comprises several boulder fields – the Homestead area includes Spittle Hill and Quantum Field, which are probably the most popular areas as they are close to the road and on public land, as well as Dark Castle and Wuthering Heights which are on private property and require permission from the land managers before climbing there. These areas alone have over 4000 boulder problems. Further up the road are two other areas of some size, Flock Hill and Dry Valley (also on private property and permission to enter must be sought) near the Cave Stream boulders. Flock Hill was heavily fenced-off when we were there, as a film version of 'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' was being shot there.



The rock is limestone, with very good friction in the colder months of the year. There are thousands of problems, ranging from V0 to V11 and some bolted routes.

There is a bouldering guide available for Spittle Hill; 'South Island Rock' has a good Castle Hill section and there is a guide to Quantum Field, although the last two didn't seem to be available anywhere. However a guidebook is really unnecessary: you end up spending long enough wandering around looking at the rock and getting lead off amongst the maze, without having to spend more time working out what's what.

A crash mat is a good idea as many of the boulders are quite high. Free camping is available at the Craieburn Forest Reserve, but as it's about 10 km up the road from the Homestead, a car is a good idea. It is also possible to stay at the Castle Hill Homestead shearer's house for \$15 per night.

For more info on Castle Hill, check out <http://www.tota.co.nz/castlehill/index.html>

Natasha deadpoints from a funky pocket.

Photo Gemma Woldendorp

Social Activities

Christmas Party 8th December 2004

The CCA Christmas end of year gathering was held at the Kingston Pub. Around 30 people rocked up to the "Kingo". Dress standards varied from skanky climber gear, business suites and diamond necklaces. Christmas gecko tats, tall stories of adventure were exchanged. Suitable quantities of social lubricant and food were consumed. Several participants seemed to be adhering to the Atkins diet with zeal – the amount of cow based protein consumed was staggering.

A good time was had by one and all, fortunately for those involved all photographic evidence has been destroyed.

A small blue collapsible umbrella was left behind, contact the editor if you want it back. I will make good use of it if you don't.

Australia-China Sports and Coach Exchange Federation

Out of the blue the CCA received a phone call from a representative from the Australia China Sports and Coach Exchange Association located in Canberra. She was seeking an invitation to Australia, on behalf of the Sports Bureau of Beijing, for a delegation to visit Canberra in order to examine future business and sporting opportunities relating to climbing. Being a Government body, they need an invitation before they come – that's how it works over there.

The CCA has responded with an invitation, explaining that we don't have money to host them, but would be happy to let them know via briefings and possibly a tour, what opportunities are available within the ACT and environs. The response has been broadened to include the Blue Mountains and Kosciusko regions as it may have greater appeal.

There may be opportunities for business and sporting/cultural activities with China. It is an emerging market and has unlimited climbing potential. If the delegation does visit Australia, there is scope to invite businesses associated with climbing, skiing and trekking in the region to be involved. The Chinese business man Zac guided up Mt Kosciusko in foul conditions in July 2004 with his entourage of 15 co-workers may just be the start of a new market.

Sports Bureau of Beijing
Xian Nong Stadium
Beijing
Post code 100050
CHINA

INVITATION TO THE SPORTS BUREAU OF BEIJING

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Canberra Climbers Association I would like to invite delegates from the Sport Bureau of Beijing to visit Canberra, Australia in order to investigate future opportunities for adventure sports, principally rock-climbing, canyoning, abseiling and cross-country skiing.

Canberra is Australia's capital city and is strategically located within a few hours drive of many world class adventure locations including Booroomba Rocks, Kosciusko National Park and the Blue Mountains National Park. These venues contain high quality multi-pitch climbing on both natural and artificial protection. Booroomba Rocks is also unique in that it contains slab climbing on solid granite rock, mostly requiring good balance and friction techniques with very little natural protection.

Our Association believes that there is much potential for business opportunities and exchanges that could occur between our respective bodies. The Canberra Climbers' Association consists of climbers of all ages and experience and amongst its members has rock climbers and mountaineers who have climbed extensively around the world, including China. Recently the Association hosted British climber Doug Scott who delivered a lecture to over 250 people. As well, our members recently assisted a Chinese mountaineer to climb Mt Kosciusko during winter in order for him to complete the seven summits.

I have attached my biographical details for your information. I look forward to being able to meet your delegates one day.

Yours faithfully,

Zac Zaharias
President
Canberra Climbers' Association
Zaharias@webone.com.au
22 December 2004

Enclosure: Biographical Details: Zac Zaharias President Canberra Climbers' Association

Classic Climbs **The Horn, Mount Buffalo** by David Cameron

It was a surreal feeling standing at the top of The Horn on the 3rd of January 2003. The horizon was blanketed with smoke, the smell and sight of bushfires jolted me into the realization that the jumble of massive boulders I was standing on had been forged by water, wind, ice and fire. The forces of nature were using fire the very next day when the Mount Buffalo National Park was evacuated as fires raged in from the north-west.



The Horn is located at the end of the Mount Buffalo tourist drive past the Tatra Inn and Bogong High Plains. As Alan Bainbridge, Mal MacDonnell and I prepared to abseil to the base of The Pintle we could not help but notice all kinds of electrical junk spread across, jammed between and underneath rocks. It's almost as though the Mothership containing Elvis, Buddy Holly and Harold Holt had crashed, Elvis had definitely left the building that day.

Peroxide Blonde follows the prominent arête right of the white streaking.

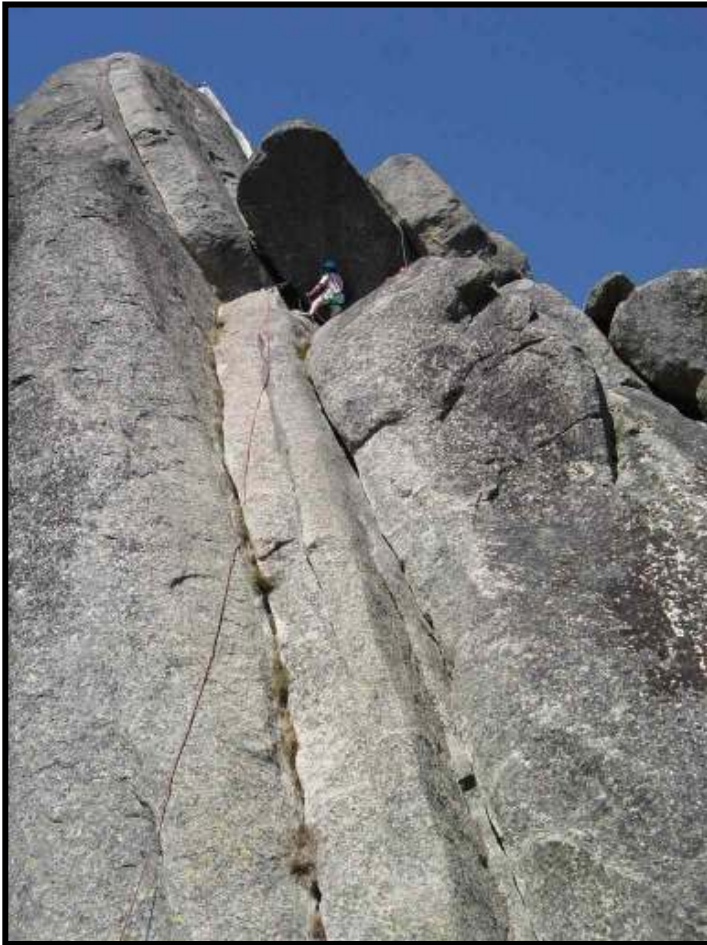
Photo David Cameron

Pristine Alpine Environment

Parks Victoria has thoughtfully provided some convenient low visibility abseil anchors amongst the pristine Alpine environment. Casting a climber's eye on the grade 1 Tourist Traverse revealed that a significant amount of chipping had recently occurred.

Photo David Cameron





*** The Pintle

70m 14

Mal put his gardening skills to good use when following the partially vegetated crack to belay beneath the large protruding pintle.

The Pintle is surmounted using a whole body jamming technique that only a double jointed contortionist could enjoy. Since I was neither double jointed nor a contortionist, I elected to climb the left hand variant up a thin overhanging crack.

This variant is courtesy of those sandbag maestros, Kevin Lindorff and Andrew Collins. It felt to be at least 18 considering the lack of protection towards the top. The creaky nature of the flake spiced up the action somewhat.

Alan Bainbridge sorts abseil ropes below 'The Pintle' block.

Photo Dave Cameron



*** Peroxide Blonde 20m 20

The sharp edged arête is the gob-smacking Peroxide Blonde which is climbed using a series of face smears and funky cross over hands on the arête.

Alan and I climbed Peroxide Blonde as smoke and flames became worryingly visible, Mal was busy recovering his helmet which had mysteriously ended up a couple of hundred metres down the hill.

Alan Bainbridge cruising the last pitch of 'The Pintle',

Photo Dave Cameron

Central Slab Madness by David Cameron

*** Closer In, Central Slabs, Booroomba

Closer In is four pitch (22, 20, 23, 19) 160m climb up the steep Central Slabs of Booroomba Rocks, Namadgee National Park.

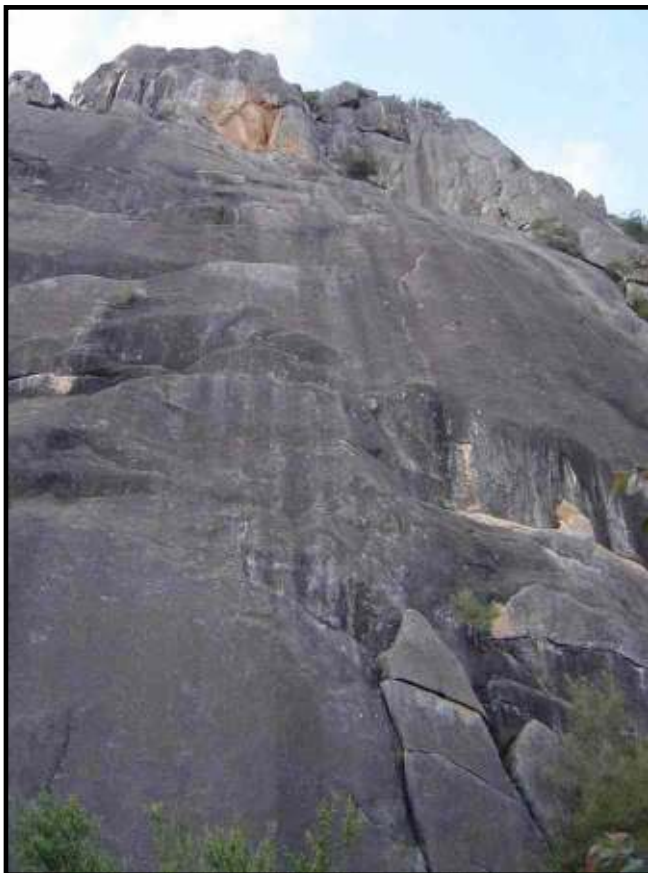
SHIT SCARED!

Over the years I have walked past the central slabs dozens of times, thinking only some deranged climbing guidebook editor with a perverse sense of humor could describe those steep, water polished faces as slabs. I wondered what level of insanity would be required to climb that section of the rock face, I was **shit scared!**

Well, I had plainly lost it when tag team clueless, consisting of Rick Carey, Dave MacGregor and myself geared up at the base of the climb. I was the youngest whipper-snapper in this motley crew and expected Rick or Dave Mac to take the sharp end. I was somewhat surprised when handed the end of the rope, gulp!!!

GULP!, RELAX, LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN

Pitch 1 50m 22 led Dave Cameron



This pitch appears the steepest of the four from the ground, a rope stretching 50 metres in length. The climb starts just around the corner from the North Buttress on a large ledge system. The left hand edge of a semi-detached pinnacle is climbed using hand jams with wired nuts and cams for protection. Horizontal breaks provide for some nice hands free rests.

Gaining the face proper requires a bit of pucker, suck it in and mantle the ledge! A nice shiny bolt is a welcome sight at this point as your last piece of gear is 4 metres down in the last horizontal break on the pinnacle.

Now is the time to have a good shake out and have a few quick breaths as the pitch 1 crux is at hand. Leaning to the right layback up some thin edges, using your left foot to heel hook some good features and your right to scum up on some dodgy smears. Mantel the slight bulge and snap a hand up to a crimper, smear with you feet like you life depends on it. Maybe it does!

Gulp!, Relax, look up, look down and have a hands free rest, time to sort the gear for the flake. Head up the steep slab to the bottom of the flake and place a #3 wire or two. Use a semi-layback technique on the flake, one foot on the face and the other on the edge of the flake to motor on up.

A tricky to clip bolt protects the move off the top of the flake, from here the slab eases back a little. Run out the last 15 metres to a double bolt belay.

Closer In follows the left edge of the triangular shaped pinnacle then blasts 160m straight up, topping out above the orange wall.

Photo Dave Cameron

THIS PITCH IS WHAT BOOROOMBA SLABS ARE ALL ABOUT

Pitch 2 50m 20 led Dave Macgregor



This pitch is what Booroomba Slabs are all about. Sustained foot and hand technique is required for the whole 50 metres. Good lead Dave. Traverse a few metres to the left and head up the edge of a vertical flake, placing a couple of wires for protection. Head straight up past two bolts and make a leftwards rising traverse heading for the next bolt.

The bolt is a good 10 metres left and up. Don't complain that it's run out, originally the next gear was a cam in the overlap another 15 metres up. Head up on excellent flakes to the bulgy overlap, clipping a few bolts on the way. Delicately move over the bulge with few tricky sidesteps to the left and head up right to the double bolt belay.

Alan Bainbridge waves from the 1st pitch belay on Closer In (Who is belaying me?)
Photo Dave Cameron

NO #@\$%'n WAY IS THAT A 23

Pitch 3 25 23 led Rick Carey

This pitch is a bit of a one move wonder but still deserves the grade. Traverse left a few metres and head up the edge of a block, placing wires for protection. At the top of the block clip a bolt and swing right. Use the top of the block for footholds. Clip a bolt from the good edge at the back of the block. Reach up left onto the top of the ramp and find the crimps with your left hand. With a sense of desperation, crank on the crimps and catch a gaston on the left wall. You are now in no man's land, bicycle your way onto the ramp.

Look up to see a series of bolts heading up a very blank wall. Think to yourself, **no #@\$%'n way is that a 23**, before you realise that you are looking at an old Mike Law-Smith project that is even futuristic for today. Head the last few metres up to the double bolt belay at the base of a corner crack.



Ken Moore heading up the steep slabs on pitch 2.

Photo Dave Cameron

I DON'T WANT TO CLIMB NO STINKING CRACK

Pitch 4 35m 19 led by Dave Cameron

A thin corner crack with good finger locks heads up for 6 metres then gradually opens out to blocky jug fest higher up. My attitude in these situations is, and I quote **"I don't want to climb no stinking crack"**. I was overruled and given the rope again, soothing words such as **"It's easy, it's all jugs..."** did not allay my concerns.

Place a few wires from the belay before laybacking a couple of moves. Bridge and place a 2-2.5 cam in a flaring crack, bridge some more. At this point, mutterings from below drew my attention, **'mumble mumble green cam... how good is that..', 'mumble... the foothold is crumbling'**. At this point my handholds were not great and a self-destructing foothold was between me and the ledge. I placed another wire and cam before I could get my foot off the dodgy hold. A couple of awkward moves brought the jugs to hand – bliss, cracks are easy.

CENTRAL SLABS MADNESS

All I can say is 'Closer In' is an absolute blast, fantastic position, exposure, rock and protection. I have now climbed it in excess of 10 times, even a mid-winter, sub-zero foray requiring the holds to be cleaned of snow and ice was perversely satisfying.

Don't be scared of the Central Slabs, get out there and have a go, you won't regret it and will not be able to stop raving about how good it was. **Central Slabs Madness** is a good disease to acquire.

Website Updates

The CCA Forum has had the computer Nerds' cast their magic incantations, "php, cascading style sheets, megahertz", resulting in a much nicer colour scheme being employed, white on white made things just a tad difficult to work with. Bookmark <http://www.canberraclimbing.com/forum> in your Browser.

For those heading to the Blue Mountains or Nowra and looking to share costs, the CCA Forum is the perfect way of simplifying the process. For those more technologically challenged I have provided a **Dummies Guide** to the process.


Dummies Guide

1. Bookmark <http://www.canberraclimbing.com/forum> in your Browser.
2. Click on the Link shown above.

This will take you to the Canberra Climbing Notice Board main page.



Figure 1 Canberra Climbing Notice Board main page

3. Register on the Notice Board by clicking on the Register Link 
4. A page explaining the Registration Agreement Terms will be displayed. Click on one of the agreement options located on the bottom of the page.

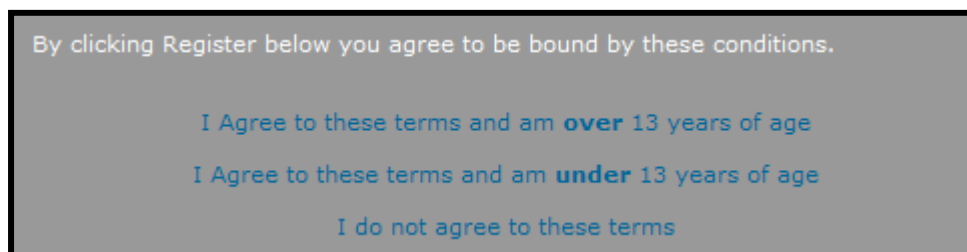


Figure 2 Registration Agreement Terms

Warning: Remember if you violate any of the conditions, your nostril hairs will be individually removed by use of rusty pair of pliers.

5. A Registration page will be displayed. There are only 3 mandatory items required to be entered for you to register, a Username, an email address and a password.
- Username, you can choose any user name you like as long as it has not already in use
 - Email Address, enter your email address so the Notice board can send emails to you.
 - Password, choose a password, anything will do, just remember it.

Registration Information	
Items marked with a * are required unless stated otherwise	
Username: *	<input type="text"/>
Email address: *	<input type="text"/>
Password: *	<input type="password"/>
Confirm password: *	<input type="password"/>

Figure 3 Registration Information

6. Ensure you select Yes to the 'Always Notify me of Replies' option in the Preferences section of the registration form. This will ensure that the Notice board will send an email when someone replies to a topic you have posted in.

Always notify me of replies: Sends an email when someone replies to a topic you have posted in. This can be changed whenever you post	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
---	---

Figure 4 Registration Preferences

7. Click on the Submit button at the bottom of the page to complete your registration.

8. Using your Browser return to the Bookmark you saved in step 1 and click on the Lifts to... Topic on the main page.

The time now is Sat Dec 25, 2004 9:58 am
[canberraclimbing.com Forum Index](#) [View unanswered posts](#)





Forum		Topics	Posts	Last Post
General				
	Notice Board	12	37	Fri Dec 24, 2004 4:14 pm batman → 
Going climbing?				
	lifts to...	2	5	Sun Dec 19, 2004 10:34 am batman → 

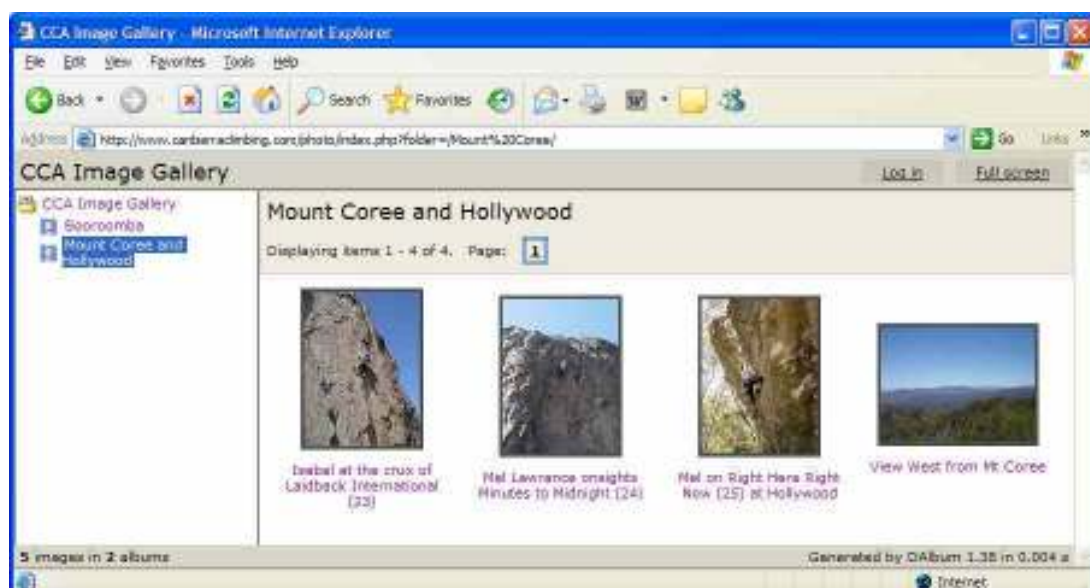
Figure 5 Going Climbing

9. You can now look for someone offering a lift or create a new topic with the details of the date, location, pickup/setdown points, likely cost etc.

The Notice Board will automagically notify you of interested parties by email. How easy was that !!!

Photo Gallery

The website now has a photo gallery. At present photos can only be added by Dave Cameron ddavec@ozemail.com.au. We are working on making it possible for registered CCA members to add photos themselves. Bookmark <http://www.canberraclimbing.com/photo> in your Browser.



Guide Updates

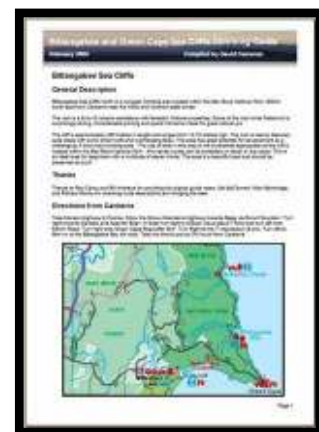
Updated Climbing Guides for Nerriga, Tuross Falls and Bittangabee Sea Cliffs North in PDF format are now available on the web site.



[Nerriga Guide](#)



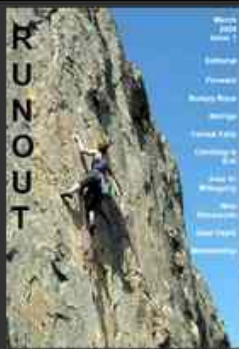
[Tuross Falls Guide](#)



[Bittangabee Sea Cliffs Guide](#)

Runout Back Issues

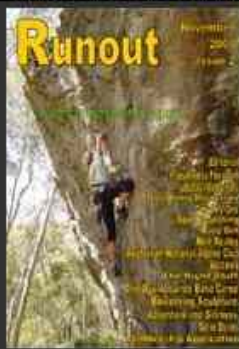
Back issues of Runout are now available on the website at <http://www.canberraclimbing.com/runout>
CCA members get the latest and greatest! Member contributions are welcome - send your stories to [Dave Cameron ddavec@ozemail.com.au](mailto:DaveCameron@ozemail.com.au)



March 2004 [PDF, 516kb]

Contents:

- Editorial
- Forward
- Bumpy Boys
- Nerriga
- Tuross Falls
- Climbing is Evil
- Area 51 Mittagong
- Web Resources
- Gear details
- Membership



November 2003 [You will have to become a member to receive the latest Runout]

Contents:

- Editorial
- Presidents Forward
- Bumpy Boys
- Bouldering Resources
- Ozy-Ozy-Ozy
- Soul Searching
- Easy Grit
- Access
- The Right stuff
- Cho Oyu Advance Base Camp

Mountaineering & Climbing Books



Woodslane, one of Australia's leading book distributors, is the Australian and New Zealand distributor for both Mountaineering Press and Wilderness Press. From January 2005 Woodslane will also be the distributor for Falcon, Lyons and Globe Pequot.

There are some 200 climbing, mountaineering titles currently distributed by Woodslane! For further information see the website www.woodslane.com.au, choose 'Sport and Recreation' and the Mountaineering Category. Woodslane also maintains a monthly email list of new titles, if you are interested send an email to annettesc@woodslane.com.au for details.

For those using snail mail :

Woodslane Pty Ltd
Unit 7/5 Vuko Place
Warriewood NSW 2102
Phone: 61-2-9970 5111
Fax: 61-2-9970 5002
Email: info@woodslane.com.au

V-Thread Anchors courtesy of the American Alpine Club

New techniques can make climbing safer, easier, and more fun, but they also may be abused. One such technique is the V-thread anchor for ice climbing, in which two intersecting holes are drilled in solid ice and a sling is threaded through the holes for a quick, solid, and inexpensive anchor. Problem is: When the ice melts, that sling becomes trash. As more climbers adopt the V-thread for a convenient anchor, land managers are starting to take notice.

Greg Sievers, chair of the Central Rockies Section of the AAC, reports the U.S. Forest Service has expressed concern over the quantity of V-thread slings littering drainages near Cody, Wyoming, home to some of the best ice climbs in the Lower 48. Many climbs sprout multiple V-threads within a few feet of each other, and slings and rap rings have been found hundreds of yards downhill from Cody's ice formations. The Central Rockies Section donated materials for locals to install permanent rappel anchors on the most popular climbs where V-threads have been used. Recently, however, one of these anchors was discovered to have been chopped-a sad fate for an anchor designed to reduce climbers' impact on these wild valleys.

The best climbs and climbers have always used the minimum tools and left the minimum impact on the environment. Ironically, in some cases minimum impact may mean a permanent anchor. As ice climbing grows ever more popular, the use of V-threads should be limited to the purposes for which they were designed: descents where no other option is available or emergency retreats.

Dangers of Rope Marking courtesy of the Alpine Club of Canada

Rumors Abound

There have been rumors that marking climbing ropes with felt tip pens can cause damage. The German Alpine Club tested a Sharpie felt pen (made in USA and sold in Germany), which apparently was advertised for use on climbing ropes. In the tests the ropes were marked and the marked area was placed at the orifice plate in the standard UIAA drop test. Five unmarked samples held 10 - 12 falls, while three marked samples held 6 - 8 falls. This information was published circa 1998 in the Gazette of The Alpine Club of Canada as well as in The American Alpine News.

Questionable Recommendations

This topic re-appeared on the Internet as well as in *Climbing* and *Rock & Ice*. Both magazines recommended the pens as being suitable for use on ropes, whilst anecdotal evidence reported on the Internet centered on the potential for damage. Users of the marking pens were in doubt of the impartiality of the recommendations provided by the mainstream press.

Alarming Findings

Two rope manufacturers (Lanex and Mammut) as well as the German Alpine Club have revisited the issue. Various samples of non-dry and super dry rope were tested using a variety of felt pens. Testing was done seven to 30 days after application. Alarmingly the reduction in UIAA rated falls held was up to 50 %. Super dry ropes generally had less capacity reduction than non-dry, possibly because the saturation of the rope was lower.

The question has to be asked 'Are the rope markers endorsed by rope manufacturer's safe?' One rope manufacturer performed tests using the 'Rope Marker' endorsed by another rope manufacturer with similarly alarming findings.

The manufacturer of the Sharpie pen has stated, "Sanford will not endorse or in any way recommend use of these markers for rope climbing (sic), and will not accept liabilities, which may arise from its use."

The Bottom Line

For a rope, which would be safe under normal circumstances, there will be a significantly increased risk of failure when the marked area is loaded by a fall over an edge.

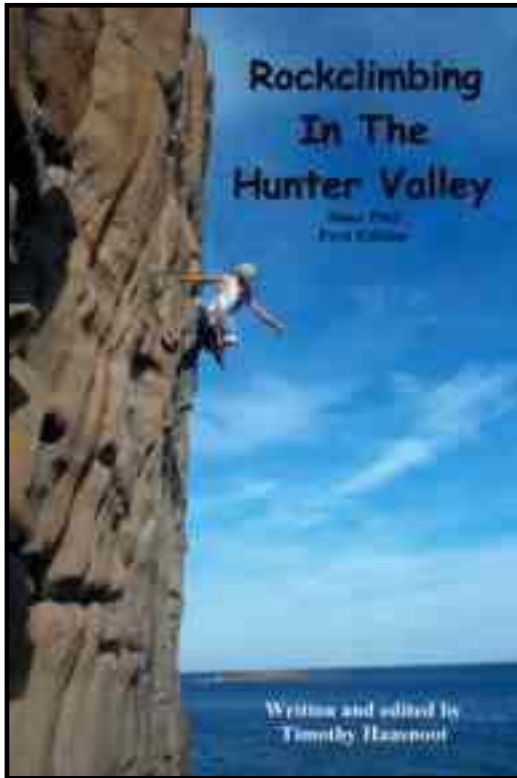
Recommendations

- Never ever mark your rope with any kind of pen – even when approved by the ropes manufacturer.
- It is prudent to recommend that ropes never have any post manufacture marking of any type applied.

Post Script

An outdoor retailer in Canberra has felt tip rope markers 'branded' by well known rope manufacturer for sale. They had no batch numbers, date codes, chemical make-up or recommendations for correct usage detailed on the pens or packaging. I don't know about you, but I will not be marking my ropes with any substance of such uncertain lineage - Ed

Rockclimbing in the Hunter Valley



Climbing in the Hunter Valley region of NSW has occurred from the early 1960's. "Rock Climbing in the Hunter Valley" published by Tim Haasnoot is the first guide available that documents both climbing and bouldering in the region including Newcastle, Port Stephens Sea Cliffs and the Watagans Mountains region. Many scattered areas such as Bulahdelah and Gloucester are also covered.

A large 165 page A5 format book including over 80 photographs cover the history, grading, fixed protection (or lack of), geology, weather, climate and rest day activities. Over 35 detailed topos and maps, 11 pages of indexes including first ascensionist index, graded routes and alphabetical names indexes.

The book has a regular retail price (RRP) of \$34.95 but as a special deal CCA members only can buy the book for only \$25.00. Hurry and place your orders as over 500 copies already sold since publication.

Contact Steven Halpin at shalpin72@yahoo.com.au or ring 02 62 442 788 to order your copy now.

Ecological Impact of Climbing

Robert Hales, Associate Lecturer for the Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management Mount Gravatt Campus of Griffith University is currently conducting research into ecological impacts of climbing. The research has been funded by the CRC for sustainable tourism.

Rob is also climber (been at it for 17 years) and sympathetic to the climbers views but notwithstanding this, his research is aimed at finding solutions for the land managers who need to deal with the impacts of climbing. Rob became aware of the CCA's co-operative work with the Namadgi National Park and considers it can be a successful example of the benefits accruing from such integration of approaches.

For more information, Rob's contact details are :

Telephone	+61 7 387 55787
Fax	+61 7 387 55661
Email	r.hales@griffith.edu.au
www	http://www.gu.edu.au/school/gbs/tlhs/home.html

Interactive Guide to Climbing South America

At last there is a comprehensive, media rich resource for mountaineering in South America. While guidebooks provide excellent text based information they are usually limited visually. With this product you not only read about the climb but also see the climb at each of its important stages.

Your Visual Guide to Mountaineering in South America CD ROM (MSAcD) is produced by Eleva Interactive. This is an exciting visual guide to climbing 32 of the classic peaks of South America. It provides an excellent resource to those contemplating climbing or trekking in the Andes and the Antarctic Peninsula. It is also suitable for people who would like to visualize climbing routes and peaks they have heard about but not plan to climb themselves, such as the fabled Cerro Torre.

Photos and other media like video and sound are able to inspire the true feeling of being out there on a climb. Most of the important information required to ascertain a climb is visual – the terrain type, the line of the climbing route, the crux pitch, the objective dangers, the identification of surrounding peaks and your attraction to the climb in the first place. A CD ROM is capable of presenting more quality photos and other rich media in a better organized manner than a book.

So don't just read about the climb before heading off, actually visualize it to make sure it is really what you want to climb. Visit the product's website today — <http://www.msacd.com/> — and download the free demo or order MSAcd now <http://www.msacd.com/BuyNow.htm>

"Some wonderful photos there. ... it's very inspiring and should get a lot of people up and packing to go to South America."

Lindsay Griffin, Editor, Mountain INFO, High Magazine, UK.

Please note that MSAcd is presented in English. However, because of its overall visual nature, a viewer with a limited understanding of English should still be able to make good use of MSAcd.

CONTACT INFO:

Paul Hudson

Eleva Interactive

PO Box 928, MARRICKVILLE, NSW, 1475, AUSTRALIA

pphudson@MSAcd.com

<http://www.MSAcd.com>

CIRC Gear Deals

Canberra Indoor Rock Climbing has some special deals available to CCA members

Kong large steel screw gate biners	\$23.00
HB small alloy screw gate biners	\$21.00
Large Mad Rock chalk bags	\$30.00
Small Mad Rock chalk bags	\$25.00
3 month gym membership (gear not included)	\$180.00
Bufo and Triop shoes limited sizes 38-43	\$90.00

CIRC is offering a number of climbing courses

Beginners Moves	A course for complete novices. It is aimed at teaching people the correct climbing moves, balance and efficient use of energy. The course runs for four weeks for one and a half hours each week. Cost \$150
Beginners Skills	Four sessions at CIRC and one day outdoors at White Rocks, Queanbeyan. Mondays 6.00-7.30pm. 6-8 people.
Intermediate I	Two days over one weekend. Climb on natural rock to develop your top rope climbing skills, prissiking, setup of anchors for abseiling and vertical climbing. Cost \$210
Intermediate II	Two days over one weekend. Become confident in lead climbing on real rock. Max 8 people. Cost \$240
Safety/Rescue	A five hour course at White Rocks, Queanbeyan. Learn how to rescue and injured climber from a cliff. Maximum 6 people. Cost \$55.

Contact CIRC on 62624863 for more details.

WoodieWorx



Welcome to the world of the woodie, WoodieWorx is selling indoor climbing holds, bolts and t-nuts. The website also has tips on construction of backyard woodies.

THE GREAT 108 PACK

\$625 for 68 bolt on and 40 screw on holds. Includes bolts, screws and Allen key

Special discounts are available to CCA members

Contact

Ken McKeon
8 Trail PI Charnwood ACT, 2615
Ph: 0403 511 463
email: woodieworx@woodieworx.com
web: www.woodieworx.com

Erindale Climbing Wall



The Erindale Climbing Wall is located in the Erindale PCYC (Police Citizens Youth Club), next door to the Erindale shopping centre. Casual climbs cost \$15 or you can join the PCYC as a yearly member for \$20. Once a member, climbing is \$8 per visit.

The wall has varying levels of difficulty and a challenging crack system. There are 10 ropes and at present it is not very busy.

Bookings are advised to avoid the occasional school group, Ph.62961292

Erindale PCYC Climbing Wall, Gratton Court Wanniasa.

Sport Climbing Australia Incorporated

The ACGA and ASCF held meetings on the 17th December 2004 with motions to amalgamate. The motion was carried and the Sport Climbing Australia Association was incorporated.

Full details of SCA Executive, 2005 Competition Calendar, local and international competition results, competition rules and regulations, membership application forms and WorkCover documents relating to the Health and Safety for Artificial Climbing Structures and Operations can be found at www.sportclimbingaustralia.org.au.

For more details contact:

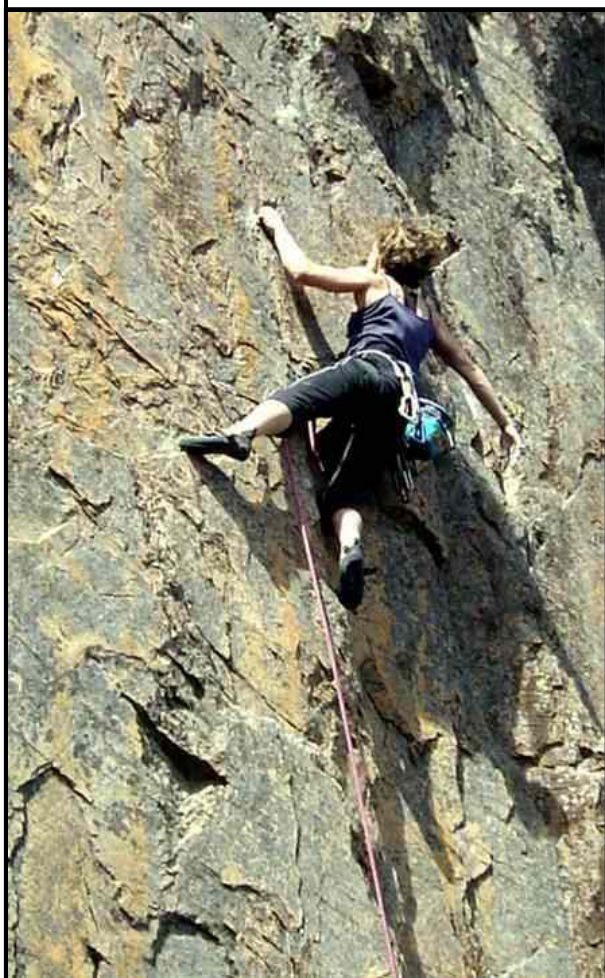
Sport Climbing Australia Incorporated
INC 9883077
Unit 4C 1-7 Unwins Bridge Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044
02 95193325
info@sportclimbingaustralia.org.au

ACT Junior Sportstar

On 25th November 2004 Libby Hall was selected as a category winner for the ACT Junior Sportstar and is eligible as an overall winner. The Awards Dinner held in December recognised the accomplishments and sporting endeavours of young ACT sport participants.

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

The Aftermath



Dave: "Come on and climb, you weak bastard !"
Rick: "But I've just cut your hand off !"
Dave: (pauses): "It's only a mere flesh wound."

Homage to Monty Python and the Black Knight

A sign spotted in the Grampians



I'm sure they fitted last time I went climbing.



Spotted in Mount Buffalo National Park
What a Large Rude Lewd Rock!

