

# WHITE ROCKS



## BASIC INFORMATION

Description:	Varied climbing on cracks, slabs and walls
Location:	Overlooking the Queanbeyan River
Access:	Doeberl Place, Karabar or Wickerslack Lane
Orientation:	East
Rock:	Limestone, sloping at 75 degrees
Height:	15 metres
Climbing:	Top roping and trad climbing
Child Friendly:	>8 years, all children must be supervised
Number of Climbs:	17
Grades:	6-19
Co-ordinates	Lat: -35.381825° Long: 149.247483°



## White Rocks

It's small, but what a gem! Close to town, overlooking the river, good rock, easy gear placement and moderately graded climbs. A wonderful crag to learn the basics of traditional climbing and very popular with scouts, school groups, families and adventure seekers. Many people have had their first experience of abseiling and outdoor rock climbing at this easily accessible crag.

Originally called Wickerslack Crag No 1 Buttress this limestone crag fell out of favour when climbers started exploring the granite boulders and crags in the Brindabellas in the 70's. But in the 90's it made a comeback with a new name, White Rocks, and easier access from Barracks Flat Drive. These days you will find someone there most weekends, climbing or abseiling, and often after work during the day light saving months.

**White Rocks is probably the most well used crag in the region.**

In the early 2000's the YMCA arranged for six sets of double ring bolts to be placed at the top of the crag, making it easier to set up suitable anchors for top roping and with the added benefit of reducing damage to trees that had previously been used for this purpose.

**Please use quick draws on the ring bolts to minimise wear and tear to the hardware.**

With one exception, that being the anchors for Cave Crack, the ring bolts can be reached, with a bit of a stretch, from the top of the crag.

The names of routes, where they went, and first ascent details have been lost in time. A climbing guide (wiki guide) is available on [www.thecrag.com](http://www.thecrag.com) website but the route photos are not clear and some of the names are boring. We have taken the liberty of naming routes and including variations that are often climbed. At this crag it is easy to step between routes.

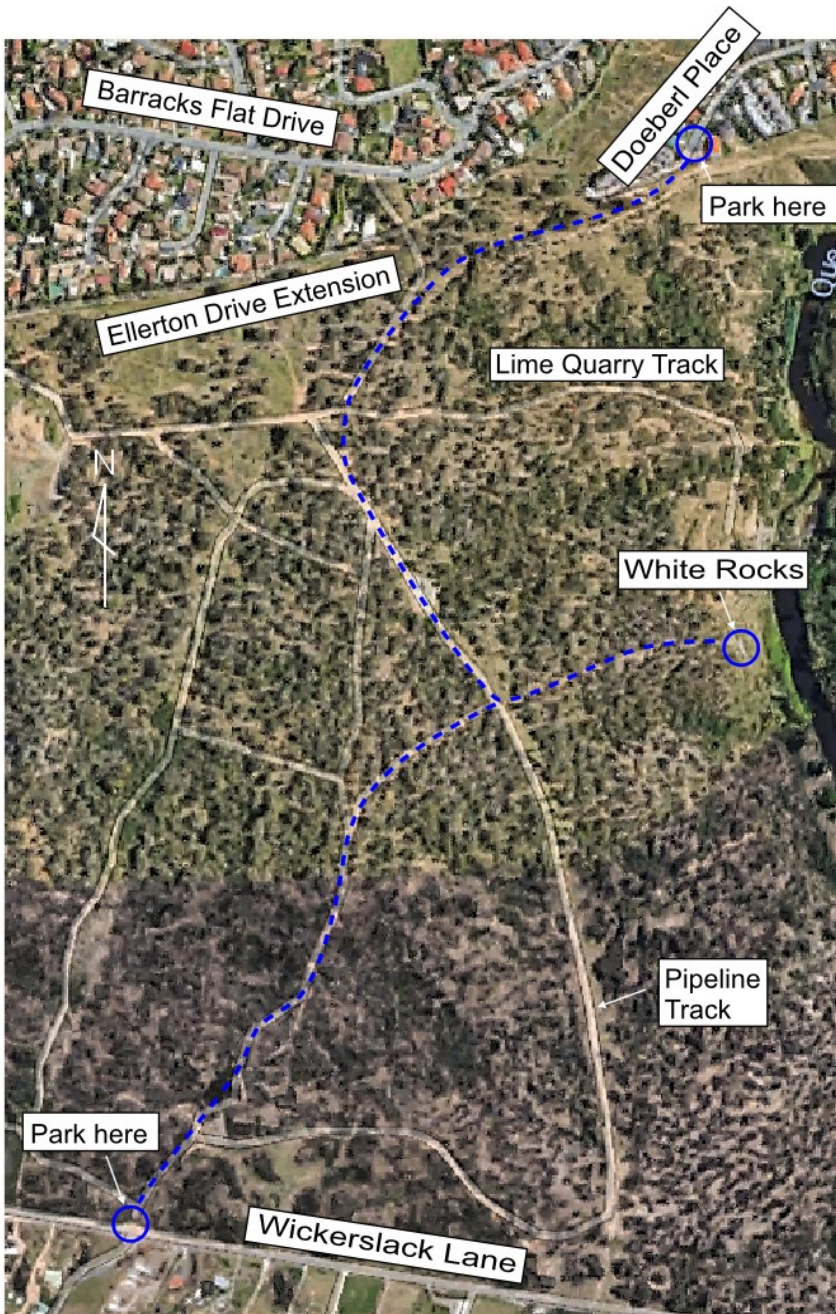
Even though there are a few bolts on some climbs this is a trad crag and if you plan on leading any of the routes you will need a standard trad rack.

Remember, you are totally responsible for your safety at the crag.

There is nothing in this guide that changes your responsibility to make a level headed assessment of the difficulty and risk of the chosen route.

You alone know your capabilities as a climber.

## White Rocks



Background aerial photo from GOOGLE

## ACCESS

Access to the crag has changed. The construction of Ellerton Drive Extension, which is a bypass for Queanbeyan's shopping precinct, has had an impact on access to the crag. The new road links Ellerton Drive, on the north side of the Queanbeyan, to Cooma Road at the intersection with Edward Land Parkway, on the South side of Queanbeyan. The new road is scheduled to be open in two years' time (2020).

**Access during Construction—Doeberl Place** Lat: -53.376630°, Long: 149.247032°

1. Drive down Barracks Flat Drive for about two kilometres then turn right into Doeberl Place and park in the cul-de-sac.
2. Climb over the gate and walk south-west along a rough vehicle track to a gravel road (Lime Quarry Track).
3. Cross the road, avoid the logs beside the track, keep walking south to join another gravel road beside the Googong Water Main. (Pipeline Track)
4. Walk south-east beside the water main past the small pumping station then up a small rise, turn left and follow a rough walking track to the crag
5. Time to walk from the car to the crag is about 25 minutes.

**Access during Construction—Wickerslack Lane** Lat: -53.387249°, Long: 149.239765°

1. Drive down Wickerslack Lane for about 0.5 kilometres and park in the layby on the left. (opposite approx. address 44 Wickerslack Lane)
2. Walk north-east along a trail bike/BMX track which swings right (downhill) to the Pipeline Track.
3. Cross the Pipeline Track and follow a rough walking track to the crag.
4. Time to walk from the car to the crag is about 25 minutes.

*The bushland south of the Ellerton Drive Extension between the Googong River and Cooma Rd is known as the Gale Precinct. It's the only crown land traversed by the new road and an important recreational area for the residents of the Barracks Flat Subdivision who walk or ride mountain bikes on the many trails that criss-cross the precinct. During community consultation about the new road, access was raised and residents concerns about safe pedestrian crossing points and access were dismissed by the Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council who replied that "the Gale Precinct is Crown Land under a Native Title Claim" and "council will not actively encourage the public to enter these bushlands".*

***A disappointing response***

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### **Sally, 9, 13m, trad anchors**

The obvious crack at the left end of the crag. Start up **Inky** and move left into the crack near the white rock. Pleasant climbing up the crack with one hard move.

### **Inky, 15, 13m, ring bolt anchors**

Start at **Bee Line**. Climb the blocks on the left then straight up the slab between **Sally** and **Bee Line** placing runners in **Bee Line** when needed. Above the small overhang move right to the ring bolts anchors. The white rock looks like a Pac Man monster, hence the name.

### **Bee Line, 14, 13m, ring bolt anchors**

**Bee Line** is the next crack left of **Cave Crack**. Watch out for the bees in the horizontal crack right of the Pac Man monster. Climb the crack and surmount the small overhang (crux), usually on the left. The bee hive is small, and the bees returned earlier this year (2018) after an absence of two years.

### **Blinky, 14, 13m, ring bolt anchors**

Start about 1m right of **Bee Line** and climb the slab going right of the bush

then climb around the right side of the small overhang and move left to the ring bolts anchors. Poorly protected and best as a top rope problem. A companion route to **Inky**.

### **Cave Crack, 13, 13m, ring bolt anchors**

The next crack about 3m left of **Spondonical**. Climb the crack to the bolt anchors. A good exercise in bridging.

### **Slab Variation, 19, 15m, ring bolt anchors**

Slabs on limestone are often slippery and this is no exception. Start about 1m left of **Spondonical**. This climb joins the regular slab route at the second bolt. You will need a cam in the horizontal crack to protect the crux, but this may not be enough to avoid a ground fall, probably best as a top rope problem.

### **The Slab, 18, 15m, ring bolt anchors**

Start about 1m left of **Spondonical**. Up the slab passing three bolts to the ring bolt anchors on the abseil ledge. The crux is at the first bolt and the difficulty is trying to avoid using the crack. Take a few wires and cams to supplement the bolt runners.

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### **Spondonical, 10, 17m, ring bolt anchors**

Climbs the crack below the abseil ledge and about 5m left of **Crossover**. Climb the right veering crack to the ring bolt anchors. The abseil or lower off from the ledge is 15m.

### **Crossover, 12, 17m, ring bolt anchors**

Start on the right side of the small tower and about 2m left of **Intro**, Steep and fingery climbing up cracks and corners to cross **Intro** at about half height at the base of the wide right facing corner. Then climb flakes and edges to an awkward and committing step right into the groove below the ring bolt anchors. Climb the groove to the anchors.

A variation for **Crossover** is to finish up **Intro**.

### **Intro, 9, 17m, ring bolt anchors**

The most popular climb at White Rocks. Start about 3m left of the gully. Climb cracks and ledges to the wide right facing corner at about half height. Ascend the corner to the ring bolt anchors.

A variation for **Intro** is to finish up **Crossover**.

### **Pulse, 12, 9m, ring bolt anchors**

Scramble up the gully below the roof for about 9m then ascend the steep left hand corner exiting left under the roof to join **Crossover** at the committing step into the groove.

### **The Roof, 18, 12m, ring bolt anchors**

It's strenuous hanging under the roof but it's only one move to surmount the overhang. Surprisingly the bolt is above the crux, hard to clip and useless. A lower bolt has been chopped so obviously this climb has generated a bit of passion, probably best to leave it as a top rope test piece.

Scramble up the gully for 6m then climb the slippery yellow slab on the right to below the roof. Make the move over the roof then follow the crack left and up to the ring bolt anchors.

There are two alternatives to tackle the roof:

1. The less strenuous version. Start up **Baby Arete** then step left onto the yellow slab below the roof to finish the climb.
2. The also strenuous version. Up the gully then climb the wall left of the yellow slab, swinging onto the yellow slab to join the route beneath the overhang.

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The rock right of the gully is not as high, rarely climbed, and this section of the crag is a bit scrubby. Also, the anchors are some distance from the top of the crag. However, the number and variety of cracks make this an excellent place to learn and practice placing and removing traditional climbing gear and building anchors. The rock is climbable and with further cleaning a few more routes will probably be found. Here is some to get you started.

### **Baby Arete, 6, 18m, trad anchors (trees) or 'The Roof' ring bolts**

Start about 2m right of the gully. Climb the arete generally on the right side.

### **Peroxide Power, 14, 13m, trad anchors (trees)**

Start about 4m right of **Baby Arete** at the twin shallow cracks. Climb the steep wall. Technical and sustained for 10m.

### **Lemonade, 12, 11m, trad anchors (trees)**

Start about 3m right of **Peroxide Power**. Climb the shallow chimney, then cracks and groves.

### **Soda Pop, 12, 11m, trad anchors (trees)**

Start about 2m right of **Lemonade**. Climb the left facing corner for a couple of metres then step left (to avoid the bush) into the wide crack to complete



Logan Ganas from Melrose High top rope belaying from the start of **Intro**

the climb. Obviously, there is room for a direct start.

### **Far Right, 10, 8m, trad anchors (trees)**

Start about 4m right of Soda Pop. Climb cracks and ledges moving left at half height to extend the climb.