

# TOP END ROCK

AN ALTERNATIVE  
CLIMBING GUIDE

Summer 2006-2007

Edited By Stuart Anderson



This is a highly restricted publication.  
Contains explicit descriptions and  
pictures of Topend climbing. Open and  
climb with care!

# **TOP END ROCK**

## **AN ALTERNATIVE CLIMBING GUIDE**

Summer 2006-2007



Justin Trevorrow on Stay Low (17) Umbrawarra Gorge

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Chris Hart pulling the crux of Vodka and  
Orange (14) Hayes Creek



## ROCK CLIMBING CAN BE HIGH A RISK ACTIVITY

Rock climbing is a potentially dangerous sport. The onus is on you the climber to be responsible for your own actions and decisions at all times whilst climbing and descending, and to assume full responsibility for your climbing safety. If you don't know what you are doing climbing wise, please get some qualified instruction first. Then maybe you won't go out and maim/kill yourself, and probably stuff things up for everybody else when "they" ban climbing.

A few of the routes described herein have not had their grades or descriptions checked out, and some of them have only had one ascent. In some areas the rock is can be of dubious quality, and many routes have loose blocks either on them or frequently at their summit.

Natural protection is usually adequate, and is required on most climbs, even those that have some bolts. Climbs that can be done in sport style have been described as such, however the vast majority of routes described either use completely natural protection or a mixture of bolts and natural protection.

This guide assumes that users have a reasonable level of climbing ability, have received training or instruction from a skilled rock climbing instructor, will use appropriate equipment properly and have concern for your own personal safety and that of others.

CLIMBING IS HOT WORK UP HERE... drink lots of water! You can generally drink water at Umbrawarra Gorge and Robin Falls, you will need to cart water with you at Hayes Creek.



Chinups on lead... an established tradition for seconds anyway.  
King of The World (15) Umbrawarra Gorge.

# INTRODUCTION

This guide is re-edited and updated version of the 'First Collectors Edition, June 1997' that was written by Mike Ashton. There has long been input into this version from many climbers both living in and passing through the Top End. A big thanks especially to Chris, Kelly, Steve, Jus, Kiwi, Jules, Julie and Col for their assistance in helping me put together the latest incarnation of this guidebook.

*QQ "The Guide is definitive. Reality is frequently inaccurate" (Douglas Adams in 'The Restaurant at the End of the Universe')*

Climbing in the Northern Territory can be done all year round; however climbing during the wet season can be a little uncomfortable due to the heat, humidity and unpredictable downpours. During the Dry season you can be assured of clear skies almost every day. When climbing in the Top End, as in any other area of Australia, taking water with you is a must.

Please take care in all climbing areas not to disturb the flora and fauna. Remember that the seedling you remove from the rock today may have grown into a brilliant anchor point in the future.

## BITES STINGS AND RASHES

The Top End Scrub has one of the highest populations of venomous snakes, scorpions and spiders anywhere in Australia. Hayes Creek has been a research habitat for Death Adders. So remember to look wear you step, wear sturdy footwear for approaches and avoid lifting rocks, lest you disturb what lurks beneath.

The approach walk to Hayes Creek may also require light long sleeved shirt and pants as many people get an allergic reaction to brushing against a plant(s) inhabiting the area. People who are either sensible... or highly sensitive have found this to prevent the onset of the very itchy and persistent "Hayes Creek Rash".



Northern Death Adder  
(*A. praelongus*)



King Brown Snake  
(*Pseudechis australis*)

# ABBREVIATIONS

A few abbreviations have been used in the descriptions of the climbs.

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| BR          | Bolt Runner   |
| BB          | Bolt Belay  |
| FLA         | First Lead Ascent   |
| FRA         | First Recognized/ Recorded Ascent<br>(when first ascension details unknown) |
| FH          | Fixed Hanger  |
| SLCD        | Spring Loaded Camming Device  |
| (S) (M) (T) | Sport Route, Mixed Route, Trad Route  |

Other Abbreviations are usually names of adjoining climbs.

All climbs were lead by the first named person unless otherwise indicated. Some climbs may have been climbed previously to the date published. I apologize in advance to any climbers who feel that the date and names of first climbers published are incorrect. Starring of climbs is also pretty subjective, opinions may vary... one persons choss monster is another's classic... (maybe).

To make room for the large number of new climbs added in this edition all climbs listed in this guide have been lead in either sport or traditional style. This guide does not generally include either top roped climbs or boulder problems. A large number of both of these exist in all areas, with a bouldering supplement to this guide being a possible next project.

Should you require any further information regarding climbing in the Top End, please contact The Rock Gym in Doctors Gully (08 8941 0747), Trek and Travel (08 8927 6562) or myself ([dihedral@bigpond.com](mailto:dihedral@bigpond.com) or <http://dihedral.bigblog.com.au>). Typos, edits and new climbs can be submitted directly to the editor at this email address.

StuartAnderson

# HAYES CREEK

Hayes Creek is located on the Stuart Highway approximately 170kms south of Darwin. Access to the climbing area is from the Camp Ground, which is in the flat area below the pub. Drive through the gates to the left of the pub (when facing the pub) and down the hill, park on the far side of the campground - next to the track that leads to the creek. The pub is at this point in time for sale and sadly provides neither fuel, food or amenities. Camping therefore is fully self supply everything. Hopefully this will change by next edition. The creek has permanent water and is a great place to swim.

## Access

Head down the dirt track that leads from the campground. Cross the creek and up past the large mango tree. Follow the unmarked and sometimes well trodden path that follows the creek up into the valley. The Left Hand side climbs are further along than the Right Hand Side climbs. The walk in takes approximately 20 minutes.

## The Rock

Most routes are composed of sandstone (Depot Creek Formation), and are relatively clean, but there are some loose blocks both on and above the climbs. You will need to scramble up a very loose scree slope to get to the base of the climbs. Take care when moving around above and below the climbs as the loose blocks have been known to move when provoked.

## Grading

The routes range in grade from easy to moderate and routes vary from slabs and faces to overhangs and cracks.

## Spider Gully

A new area of sports climbs has been established by Colin Reece and Matthias Kerkman. A Range of great bolted routes graded 13-24 are found this small gully 500m downstream from the creek crossing mentioned above. A comprehensive guidesheet for this area is available separately.



Panorama of the Hayes Creek(Right Hand Side) cliffline.

# Hayes Creek Environs

Left Hand Side Cliffs

Right Hand Side Cliffs

Unstable Scree Slope

ESCARPMENT COUNTRY

Small Cliff, poor rock

Walking Route

Large chossy Cliff 50m high visible from the road

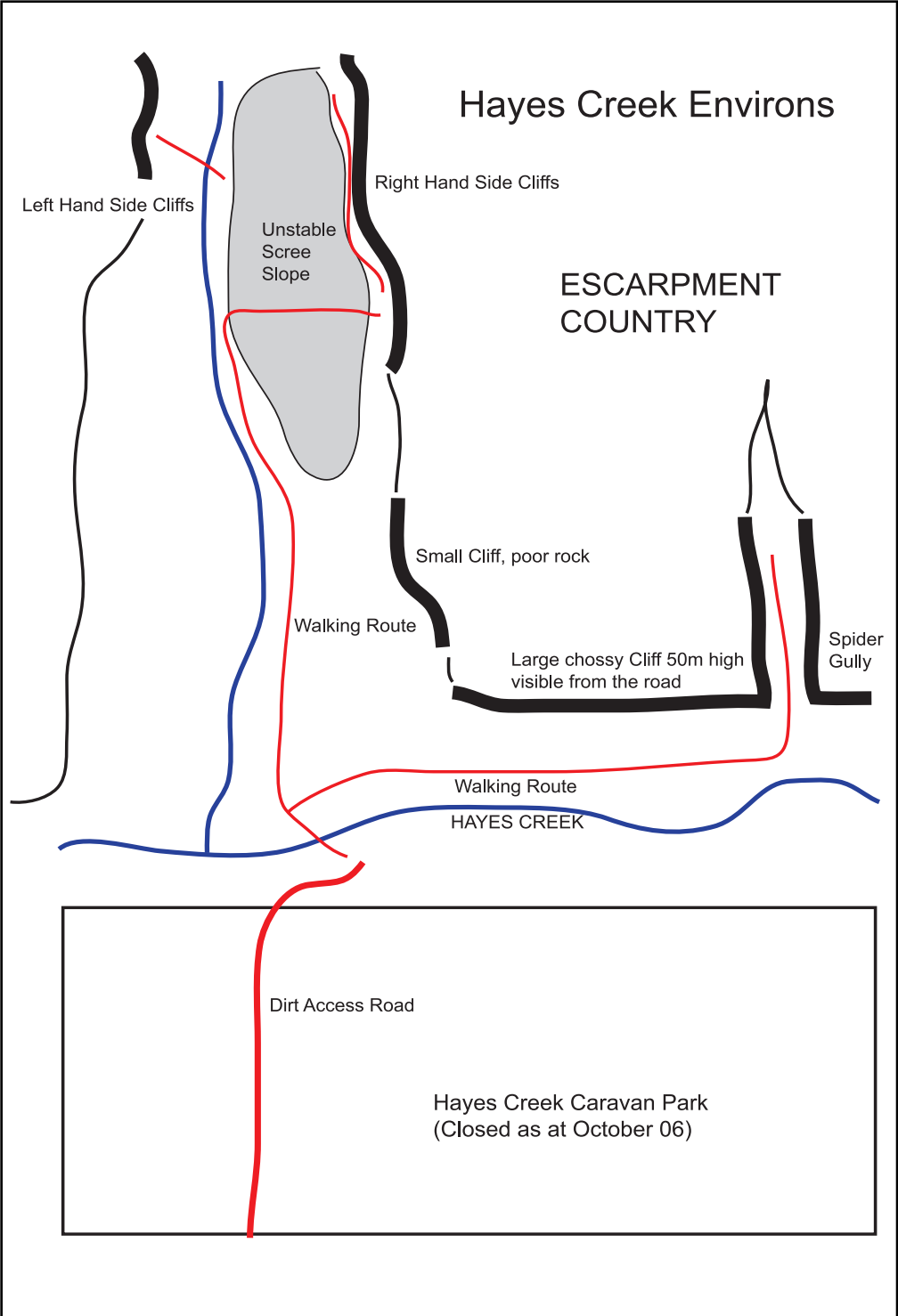
Spider Gully

Walking Route

HAYES CREEK

Dirt Access Road

Hayes Creek Caravan Park  
(Closed as at October 06)





# RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE VALLEY

This is the first area that you walk past as you wander down the valley. Areas are described from right to left, the way they are approached from the caravan park. Within each area, climbs are described left to right or right to left depending on the access. Sounds logical huh?

## **One Bolt Wonder**

**5m 14(M)**

First wall on RHS of gorge, 3/4 of the way along. Small face with lateral seam and single bolt above. Climb starts directly under the bolt for 14, or start on RHS of bolt for 12/13. Climb straight up. 1BR

*FRA: John Fattore, Richard Lawrence, Dianne Harding, Nile, Kristen 11/95*

## **THE APARTMENTS**

A couple of hundred metres downstream (i.e. before you get to...) of The Sanctuary are a group of small outcrops with a few worthwhile crack lines. The left hand outcrop is somewhat bigger than the other one.

Near the centre of the left hand outcrop is a recessed grey wall with a bulging orange wall to its right and a lovely corner where the two walls meet. The following four climbs start on a boulder platform below the recessed wall.

## **Saving Face**

**15m 9(T)**

Actually starts L and 5m below the boulder platform. Trend R up the wall and short cracks to the ledge and top.

*FLA: Paul Francis, Mike Ashton 20/9/97*

## **Life, the Universe and Everything**

**10m 9(T)**

Up the short narrow chimney, then up to the ledge and up the slightly overhanging wall on the right. Beware loose blocks on top.

*FLA: Mike Ashton, Sybille Brautigam, Steve Simmons, Jenny Ashton 20/6/98*

## **So Long and Thanks For All the Fish**

**10m 8(T)**

Start a metre or so L of the obvious corner on the right of the recessed wall. Up and slightly L via the square-cut notch at the top.

*FLA: Mike Ashton, Paul Francis 20/9/97*

## **Mine All Mine**

**10m 8(T)**

The pretty corner on the right of the recessed wall. Pity there isn't a hundred metres of it!

*FLA: Mike Ashton, Paul Francis 20/9/97*

## THE NURSERY

The easy angled black wall with several horizontal breaks and a series of cracks and pillars on the right hand side. You probably wandered across underneath it on your way up to the Sanctuary, awed by its might and majesty. Climbs are described from left to right , starting at the grotty chimney.

### **Cyclone Rachel** **22m 13(T)\***

Starts impressively, but then fizzles out. Right of the chimney is a white wall with a thin crack up the middle. Start below this, then break through the overhang, and so on to glory.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart, Steve Simmons, Mike Ashton 31/3/97*

### **Fair Weather Sailor** **21m 9(T)\***

Is there no end to these mega-classics? The broken crack and corner system up the LHS of the black wall. Left across the short wall at the clean corner, then stay right of the arête to the top.

*FRA: Mike Ashton, Jenny Ashton, Chris Hart 30/3/97*

### **Gentle Breeze** **20m 8(T)\*\*\***

Obvious laid back black wall with numerous horizontal breaks. Climb straight up just about anywhere, following lines of good holds and mega pro (small SLCDs). A “sustained grade 8”, good for beginners.

*FRA: Allan Caldwell, John Fattore 8/95*

### **Weather Vain:** **25m, 13(T)\***

For lovers of contrivance... Variant linkup route in the nursery combining 3 existing routes. Start up Cyclone Rachel & through the small rooflet, move across and up the Gentle Breeze slab. Finish up Zephyr. Belay of top block.

*FRA: Stuart Anderson, Melanie Morrow Dry Season 04*

### **Storm in a Teacup** **20m 6(T)\*\***

The obvious large right slanting crack system right of Gentle Breeze. Up the crack, stepping left below the roof to belay.

*FRA: Mike Ashton, Jenny Ashton, Paul Francis 15/3/97*

### **Gone with the Wind** **18m 9(T)\***

Start at the left slanting crack 3m right of *Storm in a Teacup*. Follow the crack towards *Storm in a Teacup*, but take the face and short flake immediately right of the deep V crack when the two lines merge. Belay as for *Storm in a Teacup*.

*FRA: Mike Ashton, Jenny Ashton, Paul Francis 15/3/97*

## **Zephyr**

**21m 10(T)**

Start on the rib immediately right of *Gone with the Wind*. Follow the vague line up and right towards the large fig tree. Up the precarious blocks above staying left of the arête. Belay on top - down climb into the gully to find suitable anchors, then scramble back up.

*FRA: Paul Francis, Jenny Ashton, Mike Ashton 15/3/97*

## **Low Pressure System**

**15m 10(T)\***

Up right of *Zephyr* is a deep crack with a small roof about 2.5m above the ground. Bridge delicately past the roof, then follow the crack more easily to the large fig tree. Good cam placements.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart, Mike Ashton 22/3/97*

## **Windsome, Loosesome**

**15m 9(T)**

The crack immediately right of *Low Pressure System*, passing right of the tree.

*FRA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer 23/3/97*

## **Cool Change**

**17m 9(T)**

I wish! It's the arête a couple of metres right of *Windsome, Loosesome*, but starting at ground level (about 5m lower). Up the indistinct line just right of the rib, then step left and up the front of the last bit.

*FRA: Paul Francis, Mike Ashton 19/4/97*

## **Turbulent Waters**

**18m 10(T)**

Start around the RHS of the last pillar right of the Nursery, a few metres right of *Cool Change* and just left of the walk down. Wander up to summit.

*FRA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer 30/3/97*

## **THE SANCTUARY**

This is where most people walk up to the climbing area. It's the steep narrow gully on the right hand side of the Sports Plus Outcrop, and has shady bits all day. A good place for slack attacks and hangover recoveries.

## **Where Dick Goes Down**

**10m 19(M)\*\***

First line on the LHS of the Sanctuary, named for Richard's impressive first descent, and remains today as somewhat of a testpiece. Overhanging start with open corner above. If you want to cheat, stick clip the fixed hanger, then grunt, groan and hernia your way to a rest at 5m. Beware of patch of manky water affected choss at mid height. Easily up corner. 1BR

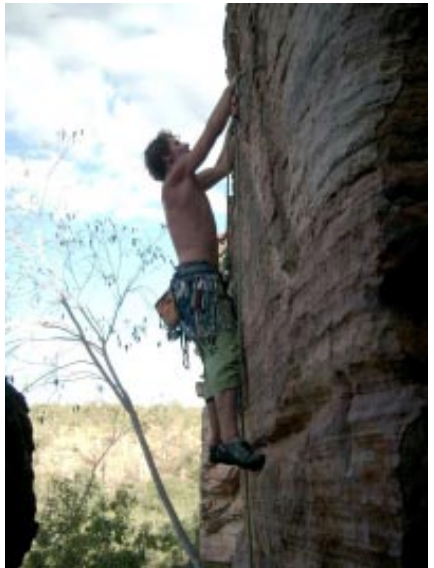
*FRA: Richard Lawrence, John Fattore, Julian Fattore, David Witter, Dave Shepherd 5/*



- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Pot Belly (14)         | 6) Storm In A Teacup (6) |
| 2) Gobby Jug(19)          | 7) Gone With The Wind(9) |
| 3) Cyclone Rachel (13)    | 8) Zephyr(10)            |
| 4) Fairweather Sailor (9) |                          |
| 5) Gentle Breeze (8)      |                          |



Katrina Anderson on Gentle Breeze (8)



The editor on Gobby Jug (19)

**Bavarian Bumburner** **9m 18(T)**  
Named after the Ashton's' delicious lunch on the day of the FRA. The crack 2m right of Where Dick Goes Down.  
*FRA: Chris Hart/Steve Simmons (swapped lead), Steve Beyer, Mike Ashton 3/3/97.*

**The** **12m 22(M)\*\***  
Thin sharp face to the right of BB. Straight up face past 1 FH to prominent ledge. Interesting finish up RH arête of top block. 1BR  
*FRA: David Shepherd c1997*

**Sweet and Sour** **8m 15(T)**  
The line of awesome power 5m right of BB, which had repulsed revolted at least two aspirants before finally succumbing. Take a couple of big cams.  
*FRA: Steve Simmons, Mike Ashton, Steve Beyer, Jenny Ashton, Chris Hart and Uncle Tom Cobley and all 31/3/97*

**Mountain Moon** **7m 14(T)\***  
The finger width crack one move right of SS. Short and sweet. Since immortalized by Arullan's 8 gear placements in 2 metres!  
*FRA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart 23/3/97*

**Wide Open Spaces** **15m 7(T)**  
The first impressive offering by this up and coming pair of talented young superstars. A further move right of MM is a wider broken crack which is chimney width initially. Grovel up it to the pile of boulders, and continue up the right hand line above if you can be bothered. Sounds delightful.  
*FRA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer 23/3/97*

At the back of the Sanctuary, right of the boulder-filled gully there is a broken wall with several wide crack lines up it.

**Safe Haven** **18m 10(T)\*\***  
The best looking line hereabouts. Follow the left hand line steeply at first. The angle then eases before the final vertical section. Well protected.  
*FRA: Mike Ashton, Jenny Ashton, Steve Beyer 22/3/97*

**Blood 'n' Bone** **16m 9(T)**  
Start half a move right of SH. Easily up into the chimney, then grovel through the slot leaving behind as little skin as possible. A No. 4 Camelot (or similar humungous SLCD) at the back of the slot protects it nicely. Don't even breathe on the horrendously loose horizontal flake!  
*FRA: Mike Ashton, Jenny Ashton, Steve Beyer 30/3/97*

**Rambler** 25m 12(T)\*

Another impressive lead, glorious in its concept, by a master first ascensionist (or so he tells me). Up the front of the buttress on the RHS of the Sanctuary entrance, opposite Where Dick Goes Down. Go up the short corner on the right of the summit roof. Grade 15 if you go straight up the initial unprotected overhang.

*FRA: Paul Francis, Jenny Ashton, Mike Ashton 29/3/97*

**Rambler Direct (a.k.a Bush Boots Anxiety)** 25m 16(T)

Up the initial unprotected overhang and straight up through the top overhang. First Ascent of *Rambler Direct* completed in Hiking Boots (hence it's alternative name).

*FLA: Kevin Pettley, Jenni Purdie 12/7/98*

**Smart Arse Cheeky Little Cow** 25m 14(T)\*\*

Face between Rambler and Coupla More Hectapascals. Start from small tree up onto largish vegetated ledge, then up through lovely short slabby face and over small roof to top. Watch the loose block just before toe top. A good climb.

*FRA: Steve Beyer*

**Coupla More Hectapascals** 22m 12(T)

Corner to the right of Rambler.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Kevin Pettley 5/97*

The next few climbs are on a wall about 10m right of the Sanctuary. The bolts on *Gobby Jug* are prominent landmarks.

**Pot Belly** 20m 13(T)\*

Starts left of Ficus. Climb straight up left of Ficus, traverse right below bulge, up and over to finish.

*FRA: Allan Caldwell, John Fattore 8/95*

**Pot Belly RH Variant** 20m 13(T)

Start right of fig tree - up and right.

**Gobby Jug** 20m 19(M)\*\*\*

Smooth red face just right of *Pot Belly*. Delicate and finery moves straight up the face past 3 FH's. Easier through bulge to top (SLCD's). 3BR, 1 fixed SLCD.

*FRA: John Fattore, Dave Witter, Dave Shepherd 10/96*



- 1) Black Alien From Outer Space (20)
- 2) Where Gnomes Roam (14)
- 3) Sports Plus (21)
- 4) Gatorade (16)
- 5) Vodka and Orange (14)



Canberra import Mike Kobier negotiating Sports Plus (21)



## SPORTS PLUS / VODKA BUTTRESS

The prominent buttress on the LHS of the Sanctuary. Climbs are described right to left starting by the Sanctuary. Did I say no top rope climbs... well maybe a couple.

### Dingo Direct

25m 23(M)\*\*\*

Start at the immediate left of Where Dick Goes Down, up to the immediate right and over the overhang. No use of Where Dick Goes Down or right of it. Will have 3 stars when Jus gets round to leading it. Unfortunately Jus & Briony left for tassie leaving it for Doug Hockley to lead in fine style, ground up placing all gear on lead.

*FTRA: Justin Trevorrow July 99*

*FLA: Doug Hockley August 2006*

### Port Special

25m 18(TR)\*\*

Stunning climb, a bolt or a large set of nuts (not the wired kind) and a small brain will see it led one day. Start on the right hand side of the front buttress, right of the obvious corner. Up the face trending right, then up the wall just left of Where Dick Goes Down.

*FTRA: Dave Witter et al.*

### Port Special Direct variant \*\*

Go straight up the left side of Dingo Direct instead of weaving across the corner. Then finish on the face.

*FTRA: Kelly Hansen 8/99*

### Vodka and Orange

25m 14(T)\*\*

Up the exposed face and overhang that faces the valley on the front of the buttress. Good number 7 nut placement above and slightly right of the first roof section. This climb has some loose blocks, but a very good climb nonetheless.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Narelle Netherway*

### Gatorade

20m 16(T)\*\*

The obvious crack line through the roof and up the face on the RHS of the face of the buttress (just left around the corner from VO) just left of the arête. Can be awkward and perhaps a sandbag at the grade. Well protected and interesting climbing.

*FRA: Dave Shepherd, Steve Beyer*

### Sports Plus

20m 21(S)\*\*\*

Great climb with a nice technical crux. Starts under the small roof around LHS of the outcrop, just right of the corner. Up to the roof (solo or small cams). Clip the FH and straight up past 3 more FH's and small wire/SLCD placements. 4BR, 1BB.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore 10/96*

**Where Gnomes Roam****23m 14(T)\*\***

The buttress wall tapering to a pillar just left of and at right angles to *Sports Plus*. Up the buttress to ledge, launch straight up following good holds and pro (large cams). Tricky down climb off back, care and or protection is recommended.

*FRA: John Fattore, Julian Fattore, Julie Weston, Dianne Fattore 8/95*

**Where Elves Dare****16m 16(T)**

The apparently easy variant cause it is not what Steve intended when he started off the climb. Climb chimney with prominent overhung crack on right hand side behind Gnomes Roam. Exit from chimney through bulge.

*FLA : Steve Beyer, Chris Hart 3/97*

**Kiwi's Black Labrador****18m 14(T)**

On the left side of GR. Start on ledge about 3 metres up from the bottom, and up the lovely juggy arete to the top.

*FRA: Neale Taylor (Kiwi) (no second due to tropical downpour) 98*

**Black Alien from Outer Space****10m 20(T)\*\***

Thin and improbable looking face with very scarce protection 10m upslope from KBL. Bouldery start leading to crimp face moves to ledge. Easier but poorly protected finish. Do not attempt without a black alien or SLCD of similar diminutive stature.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer, Kelly Hansen*

**Where Top-rope Belays****20m 14(T)**

Crack to the left of BAOS. Straight up obvious line

*FRA: Dave Witter et al.*

**Close Shave****25m 11(T)**

The next corner left of WTB. Carefully up the groove past some Friend pockets to the ledge. Then follow the crack above and right on better rock. Watch out for paper wasp nests and bats.

*FRA: Mike Ashton, Paul Francis 19/4/97*

**Descent Routes from this area:**

*All roads lead to the back of the Sanctuary. For routes on the left hand side (Mountain Moon- Close Shave) there is a downclimb just right of MM. Care needs to be taken when crossing the thin blade of rock from the direction of V&O. Climbs on the right hand side (Safe Haven-Gobby Jugs) use cave descent on right hand side of sanctuary near the large tree. You can also walk around the back and round past the climbs in the Nursery.*

There are some less well travelled and unclimbed possibilities between CS and the Leaning Tower... For lovers of adventure and squirmy chimneys only.

## THE LEANING TOWER OF PIZZA

About 150m further up the valley is a small isolated pinnacle which sports a handful of routes. The descent system seems to be that you toss a rope down both sides of the pinnacle, anchor one end on the ground, and abseil down the opposite side. Simul-rap is also possible.

### **Profanity** 12m 14(T)

Wander up the front of the pinnacle

*FRA: John Fattore and co.*

### **Finger Lickin' Crack** 8m 12(T)

Start from the high platform round the back and wander up to the top.

*FRA: John Fattore and co.*

### **Finger Lickin' Crack variant** 10m 17(T)

Start from the low platform.

*FRA: John Fattore and co.*

The next routes climb further 20m to the left of the Leaning Tower and climb the highest part of the wall. The area is made conspicuous by the large white guano stain and prominent Ficus growing out of the wall near the top. This Tree is an excellent anchor for hanging belays and **can be rappelled from for descents**.

### **Don't Panic** 25m 13(T)\*\*\*

This climb takes the obvious and dominant line on this wall. Follows the long left leaning crack. Take small and medium cams. Add a grade for the Ode finish at the Fig Tree. Excellent adventure route.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart 5/97*

### **An Ode to a Green Piece of Putty I found in my Armpit on a Midsummer's Morning** 25m 15(T)\*\*

Start at the shallow corner to rooflet, step right then up, crossing DP then finishing straight up through the face, to the big fig tree to top out at the right of Don't Panic. Belay and rappel off the fig tree.

*FRA: Chris Hart, Dave Shepherd*

### **Descent Routes in this Area:**

*Rappel off the Fig Tree on the above climbs , or a long walk off in either direction.*



- 1) The Freezer (17)
- 2) Two Wraps around The Fridge 2nd Pitch (14)
- 3) Blue Sling (14)
- 4) Dirty Mother (13)

**Two Wraps Round the Fridge LH Variant      35m    17(T)\***

Climb starts approximately 3m right of DP. 1) Up the overhanging wall (crux) to easy ramp and detached block. Belay from the block. 2) Up the face directly above the block, veering left to finish at the fig tree. Rappel off fig tree.

*FRA: John Fattore, Dave Witter 2/96 (1997)*

**Two Wraps Round the Fridge RH variant      35m    14(T)\***

Starts further 3m right of the overhanging start. Up easily to the ramp and block to belay. Second Pitch as for LH Variant

*FRA: Unknown Ascensionist 2/96 (1997)*

**The Freezer      12m    17(T)\***

Another variant First Pitch for TWRTF. Start at the over hung crackline 2m right of the right hand variant of TWRTF. Move up short pumpy crack for around 6m, step left then easily up to belay on top of large block. Second pitch as per TWRTF.

*FRA: Stuart Anderson, Chris Hart.*

**Blue Sling (a.k.a Sick Boys)      25m    14(T)\*\***

Obvious large crack 4m right of the Freezer. Up Easily at first followed by graceful but exposed moves at mid height. Squirm or bridge the easy off width finish. Large SLCDs!!

*FRA: Oreina Orrantia, Steve Beyer*

**Dirty Mother      25m    14(T)**

Horrid looking crack immediately right of Blue Sling. Apparently better than it looks. Named after a notorious night at the pub.

*FRA: Anthony Whitten, Annie 31/10/99*

**Nookery of Nuts      20m    13(T)\***

Starts 10 or so metres right of DM. Cheeky start leads to small ledge, followed by easy climbing to distinctive grey elephant hide section aat 2/3 height. This is the aforementioned "Nookery" of nut placements. Finishes to the left of yet another fig tree. Quite an enjoyable outing in all.

*FRA: Chris Hart, Kiwi 26/4/99*

**Echo Vandal      25m (T) 15(T)\***

Heading past Ode and DP to the left you will see a distinctive wall that starts with smooth orange rock and changes to a sea of chicken heads at around 4m Line travels up the middle of this face. This climb doesn't see many ascents due to the dubious appearance of some of the rock, however it really should... interesting climbing to the last move.

*FRA: Unknown ascensionist*

The next few climbs are some of the best in the area. The rock here is solid and there is a nice shady tree just underneath Who Dunit. Green Ants abound in the tree... picnicking climbers be warned!

### **Who Dunit?**

**30m 18(M)\*\*\***

Further up the creek is an impressive orange wall with a line of 5 fixed hangers up the middle of it. Big moves on big holds, can be pumpy if you don't find the rests... Beware of the caves! There's a parasitic fig doing it's Spanish Inquisition thing to a poor defenseless tree nearby. 5BR

*FRA: John Fattore, Dave Witter 12/4/97*

### **I Dunit**

**25m 16(T)\*\*\***

Beautiful and obvious line left of WD. Start in the square cut corner at ground level, up onto the ledge and follow the crack up until under the roof. Intimidating and exposed exit moves under the roof.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Oreina Orrantia*

### **Absolutely Ashley:**

**22m 20(T)\***

Starts 1m left of Who Dunit, then continue up orange wall to small ledge at the base of the corner crack on I Did It. The route continues up wall to the left of the large corner crack on ID.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Chris Hart, Levi Farrand*

### **Princess Chelsea:**

**12m 19(T)**

Start on the right of Whipping Boy's deep Chimney. Follow small crack system up to roof. Strenuous moves on small holds around roof. Finish on same ledge as AA.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Chris Hart, Justin Trevorrow.*

### **Whipping Boy**

**20m 17(T)\***

Start up the line of weakness on the back wall of the dark chimney to the right of Big Spender. Tough moves to small ledge above chimney. Finish up obvious v shaped corner. Deduct a grade if you stem in the chimney

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor*

### **The Square Root of -x**

**25m 16(T)\***

Start up Whipping Boy, to small ledge, traverse from here completely across "Testosterone wall", taking the line of least resistance. Finish up the end of Mr. Giggles.

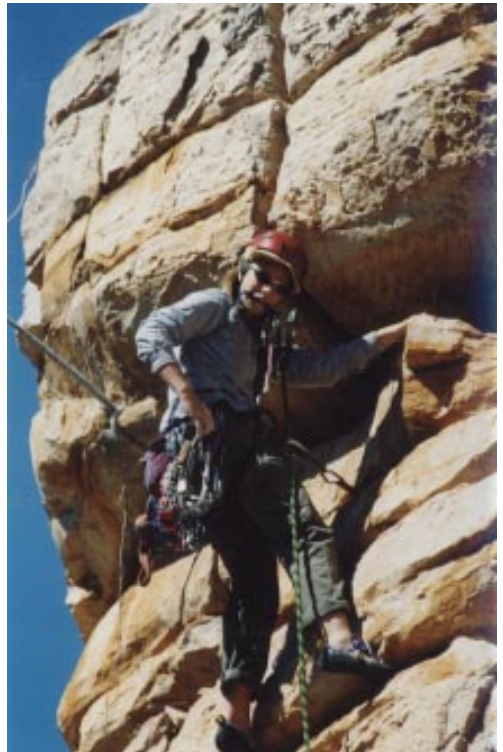
*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Justin Trevorrow*



- 1) I Dunit (15)
- 2) Who Dunit (18)



- 1) Route 2 (16)
- 2) Route 1 (12)
- 3) Dont Scratch (16)
- 4) Panel Van Thang (12)
- 5) Dr Huff and Puff (22)
- 6) Mr Giggles (21)
- 7) Square Route -x (16)



Kelly Hansen about to commit to the crux of Marraigeand Commitment(14)



**Big Spender****18m 23(T)\***

Pumpy and strenuous start under the steepest part of Testosterone Wall, 3m to the right of Mr. Giggles. Finishes straight up on easier ground.

*FLA: Chris Hart 99*

**Mr. Giggles****18m 21(T)\*\***

Face immediately right of obvious arête and chimney. Climb up arête onto block. From block head right onto face and straight up, move left sticking close to arête and past overhang to top. First piece of pro slung from horizontal crack to 4m above ground. Will be three star when we get a bolt Col!

*FLA: Chris Hart 99*

**Mr Giggles Direct****18m 23(T)\*\***

*Excellent (and Dynamic) direct start to above climb added by Doug on a recent visit.*

*FRA: Douglas Hockley*

**Dr Huff and Puff****20m 22(T)\*\***

Climb the steeply overhung arête to the left of Mr. Giggles. Strong and unlikely moves lead to more delicate climbing. First piece of pro slung from horizontal crack to 4m above ground.

*FLA: Chris Hart 99*

**Panel Van Thang****18m 13(T)**

Climb slabby rounded corner which is the left face of the chimney to top.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Justin Trevorrow 08/99*

**Don't Scratch****18m 16(T)\*\***

Start in frequently sandy "V" shaped corner at base. Go straight up and stay on face through some thinner stuff to reachy and committed move at the top. Quite a satisfying, if underrated climb.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Justin Trevorrow*

**Route 1****8m 12(T)**

Begin 7 metres right of Route 2. Easily up to stance, layback to hold on left, then straight up the dirty vegetated crack. Fairly unpleasant really.

*FRA: John Fattore, Dianne Fattore 12/4/97*

**Route 2****14m 16(T)\*\***

Really fun climb just right of MAC is a face with a fig tree (how unusual!). Start in layback crack left of R1, step right and through small stepped roof onto face past fig tree. Finish up crack system and over another small rooflet. The summit is a very popular urination point for the local wallaby population.

*FRA: John Fattore, Dianne Fattore 12/4/97*



- 1) Marriage and Commitment (14)
- 2) Route 2 (16)
- 3) Route 1 (12)



The editor (again...) on Who Dunit (18)

**Marriage and Commitment****14m 14(T)\***

The last reasonably high outcrop on the RHS of the gorge - look for the small bulging overhang at about 10m with no. 1 SLCD crack. Start around to the left of the overhang in corner crack. Up the ledge, step right onto face, up to the bulge. Breathe deeply and walk down the aisle. The D minor of Hayes Creek.

*FRA: John Fattore, Dianne Fattore, Dave Witter 2/96*

To reach the next three climbs walk a further 20-30m on from Marriage and Commitment. A fine looking seam up a creamy slab with a prominent gully on its left are the main landmarks.

**Green Ant Crack****12m 16(T)**

I don't know anyone who has tried this prehistoric nightmare, but Steve assured me it has been climbed. The large trench that is half strangled by a fig tree to the right of the the GAG wall.

*FRA: Steve Beyer*

**Green Ant Gully****14m 17(M)\*\*\***

Perhaps Kiwi's finest moment at Hayes Creek. Follows shallow seam up beautiful creamy coloured slab 30m left of MAC. Past small roof and up to single BR at about halfway. Thin and balancy moves on crimps to ledge level, then haul those jugs to glory. A Really satisfying climb, which curiously has very few Green ants (unlike some other climbs). Obvious descent gully to the left. 1BR

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor*

**Chris's Arête****10m 19/20(T)**

Sharp overhanging arête on left hand margin of GAG wall

*FLA: Chris Hart*

**Kiwi's Overhang****6m 18(T)\***

Looking just to left of GAG you will see a very prominent roof with ripply sandstone underneath. One strong move straight over and that's it. Nice cams under roof. Short but by all accounts quite stiff for the grade.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor*

## **Heart Starter**

**8m 13(T)**

Walk around the bottom of Kiwi's overhang to end of main RHS wall, scramble up the scree slope. Start easily up to horizontal seams and vertical cracks. Continue up. So named after Justin dislodged very large loose block which was subsequently removed from the top of the climb

*FLA: JustinTrevorrow, Michael Kobier*

## **Descent Routes In this Area:**

*An exposed and fairly dangerous downclimb exists in the gully between Route 2 and Marraige and Commitment. Rappel off the Fig Tree atop Who Dunit, down another gully is also possible. There is a convenient walk off gully on the left of Green Ant Gully.*

## **UPPER RIGHT HAND SIDE**

Above the lower storey of cliffs there is an upper terrace with some shorter routes. This area can be accessed by climbing any of the other climbs from Don't Panic to Green Ant Gully. You can also walk up the Green Ant Gully decent gully to the top and then head right. The following two climbs are about 70m along from there.

### **Hob Nail boots:**

**12m 14(T)\***

Initial moves on nice creamy coloured face have a bouldery feel. Move past small horizontal break to ledge. Finish up hanging corner with slightly awkward exit.

*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Neale "Kiwi" Taylor*

### **Escape from the Cave:**

**10m 14(T)\***

Start is from elevated block 5m left of HNB. Up obvious vertical crack line to prominent cave. Do not enter this cave if possible! Exposed moves out and around small roof.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Stuart Anderson*

## **LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE VALLEY**

This area is a fair way down the valley. You'll walk past almost all the climbs on the right hand side of the valley before you get to these climbs. The best way to access this area is to follow the creek up on its RHS to a point past the line of Green Ant Gully. At this point the creek is now a swamp. Wade like drunken dinosaurs directly across the swamp to the crag.

During the Wet Season, there is a waterfall in this area. Climbs are described from left to right as well as I could manage from the descriptions. The first four climbs can be accessed from a small terrace up and to the left of the amphitheatre. Take mosquito repellent.

### **Thin Tidings**

**11m 19(M)\*\*\***

The delicate face above the tiny roof between two cracks. Climb straight up through the right end of the roof, keeping out of Butt Crack (right). Once through the roof move left onto the face, still keeping away from Butt Crack and the arête to left. 3BR

*FLA: John Fattore, Julian Fattore, Richard Lawrence*

### **Butt Crack**

**21m 16(T)\***

Vertical crack line just to the right of TT's tiny roof. Follow crack straight up 11m to ledge, scramble up small chimney to finish. Quite a good climb really, that often gets bypassed.

*FRA: John Fattore, Richard Lawrence 11/95*

### **Riding the Rim**

**21m 13(T)**

Immediately on the right hand side of Butt Crack. Follow Pillar to top.

*FRA: Kelly Hansen, Andrea McGlade 09/99*

### **Close Me Down**

**21m(T) 12(T)**

7m right of RTR and around corner. Follow crack from below belay block to top

*FLA: Nicole Partington, Chris Hart*

### ***Descent Routes in this Area:***

*Walk/ climb off the tback of the top block and continue backwards to easy walk skirting the left side of the crag.*

The next 5 climbs are in the amphitheatre area where there is a waterfall in the wet season. The black face of the waterfall is Briar Patch, to its left is Rocky Road.



Douglas Hockley sampling some NT rock on No Man's Land (19)

**Ramsay Street****18m 15(T)\*\***

Begin on ledge 5m right of ground force. Mantelshelf to small ledge then up lovely left leaning orange face. Easy jugs to belay near not quite shady enough figtree.

*FLA: Steve Beyer, Beth Martin*

**Backyard Blitz:****16m 10(T)**

Starting 2m right of ground force, bash your way up arête next to large root system to grassy ledge (The aforementioned backyard). Steep moves on jugs to belay on top block.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Karina, Owen Schebella*

**No Mans Land****12m 19(M)\*\*\***

To many this is the best climb in the valley. Certainly Jules and Jules's finest moment here. Climbs the distinctive blackened 3rd wall on the RHS of the crag past the Amphitheatre and waterfall. Slightly overhanging face set back into cliff. Start below and left of first BR. Up and right to first BR, up past 2 more BR's, left and up to finish on ledge. So named after it repelled all male attempts pre Julie's ascent claiming it as one for the ladies. A slippery proposition on a hot build up day. 4BR, 1BB

*FRA: Julie Weston, Julian Fattore, Nile 10/95*

**Door Mat****11m 15(T)**

Crack line 5 m right of No Mans Land. Tricky start on face below beginning of crack, follow crack up to ledge. Crack starts thin and gets wider and easier with height.

*FRA: Richard Lawrence, John Fattore 10/95*

**Bath Mat****5m 13(T)**

Corner crack right and out from No Mans Land. Follow corner crack up, not stepping onto obvious ledge, finish on platform.

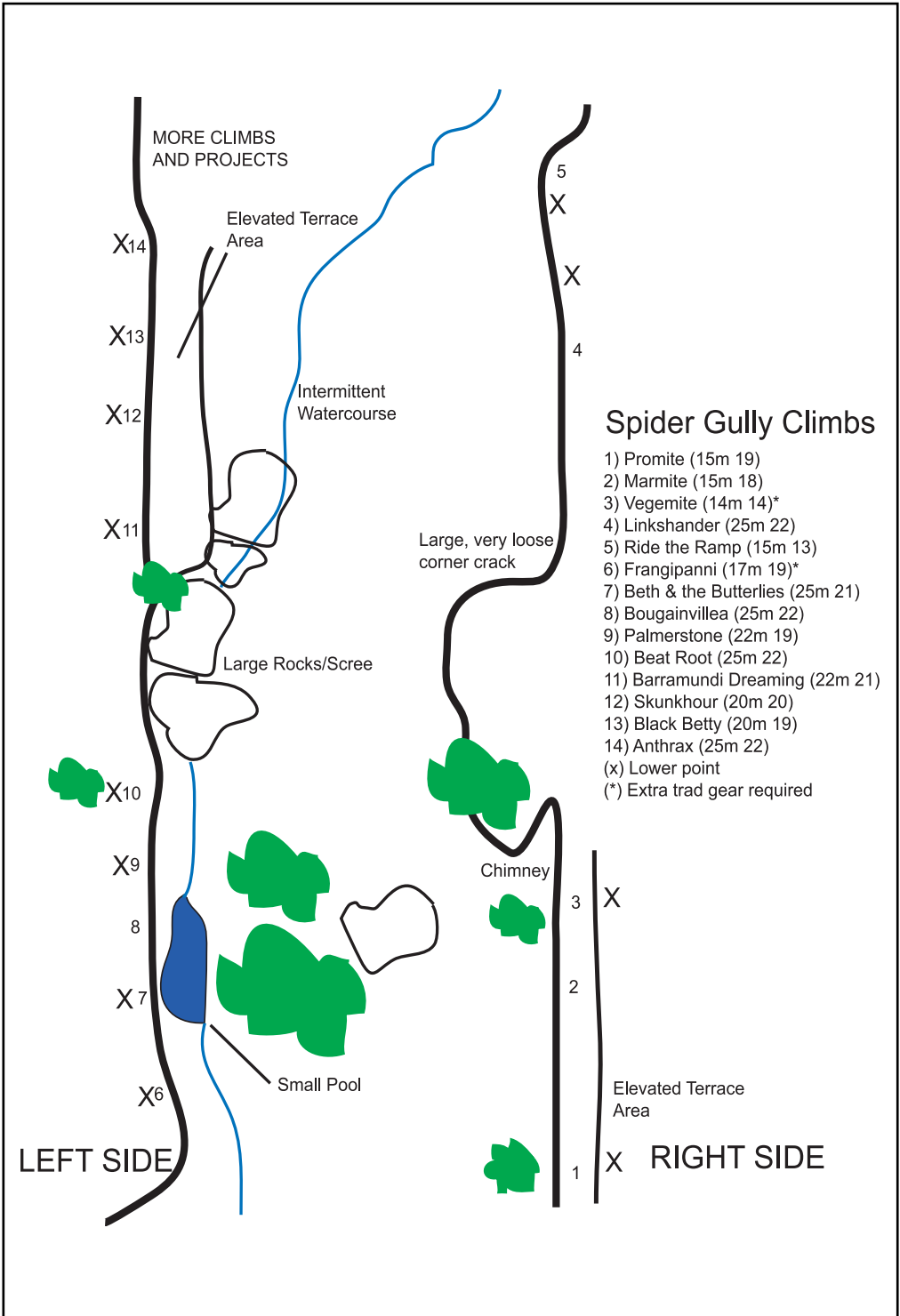
*FRA: Richard Lawrence, Marcus Bailey 10/95*

**SPIDER GULLY**

Spider Gully has been the scene of much frantic development in the past 18 months, with the development of some fine steep and sustained sport climbing.

An overview map of Spider Gully follows on the next page for the purpose of completeness to this guide. As mentioned previously a very complete guidesheet has recently been compiled by Mathias Kerkmann. All routes listed here have been established by Colin Reece and Matthias, although some first lead ascents were done by various people.

The geology of this area is different rock to other areas of Hayes Creek. Loose rock is more common in this area. A helmet and careful inspection of holds whilst climbing is recommended. As this area is relatively new it is likely this will improve over time



# ROBIN FALLS

## Access

Approximately 18kms along the Old Stuart Highway (Dorat Road, Douglas Daly loop road) you will find a small climbing area near at Robin Falls. The Old Stuart Highway turnoff is just past the Adelaide River Bridge, 120 kms south of Darwin. Park in the Robin Falls car park and head down the track that leads to the falls. The majority of the climbing is on the right hand side of the track approximately 2/3 of the way in toward the falls (see topo).

This area is a popular tourist spot and normally has water for most parts of the year. Good place to cool off after climbing. Water here is drinkable.

## The Rock

Rock in this area is a younger (in geological terms) sandstone than the Depot Creek formation. It is generally of good quality, with small holds and good friction. Loose and sharp pieces abound at the top and bases of some of the climbs. The base of the longer slab climbs has an area of sharp angular choss on approach.

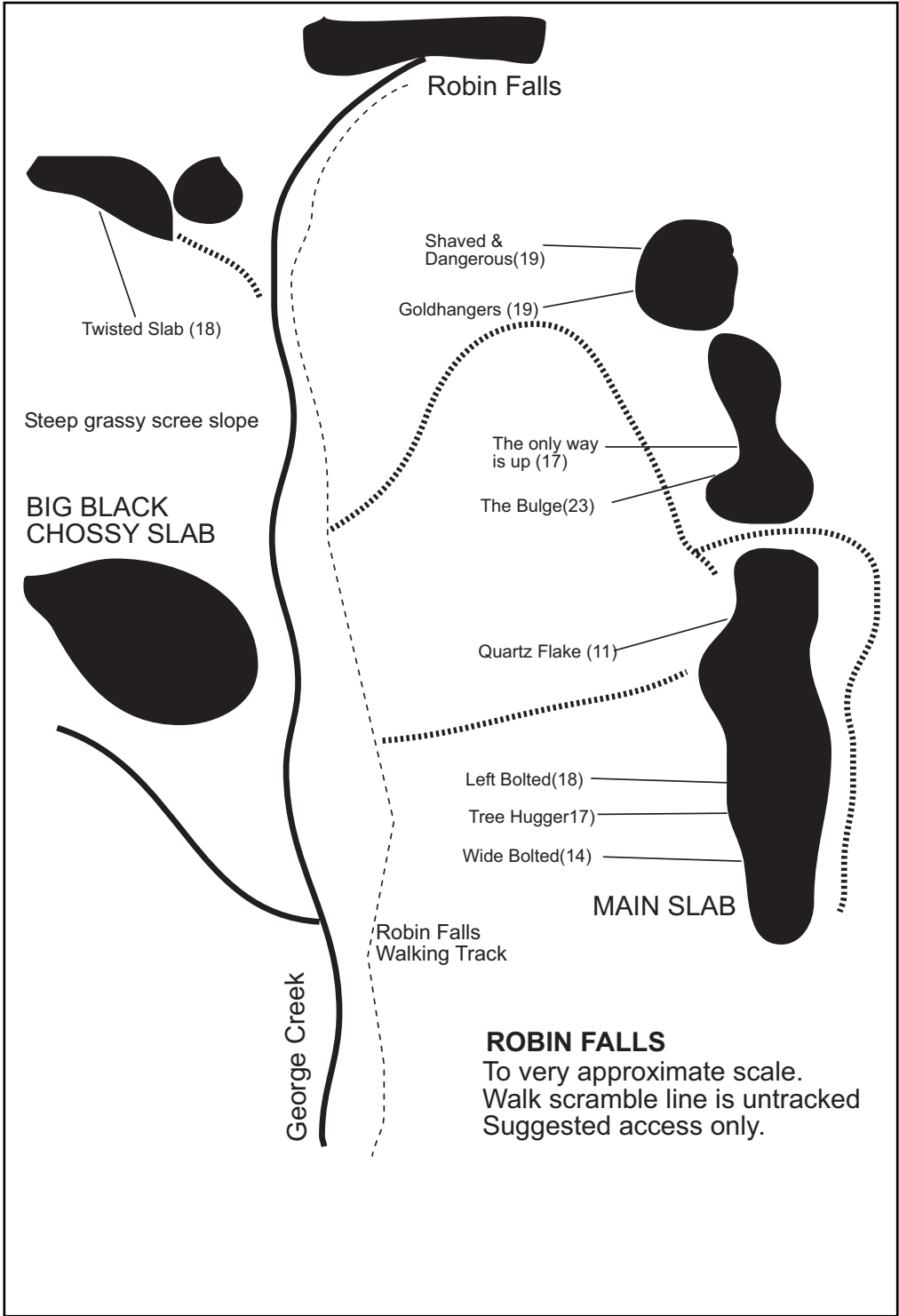
Traditional climbing has been done here although protection where it exists is only just adequate. The majority of the worthwhile routes are bolted sports climbs, with chain lower offs or double ring bolts.

## Grading

There are several bolted routes on both the sides of the valley where the ridge line intersects with the creek. Look for the bolts. As with most of the climbing in this area, the grading has not been verified. Take grades as a guide only.







Robin Falls

Twisted Slab (18)

Steep grassy scree slope

**BIG BLACK CHOSSY SLAB**

Shaved & Dangerous(19)

Goldhangers (19)

The only way is up (17)

The Bulge(23)

Quartz Flake (11)

Left Bolted(18)

Tree Hugger17

Wide Bolted(14)

**MAIN SLAB**

George Creek

Robin Falls Walking Track

**ROBIN FALLS**

To very approximate scale.  
Walk scramble line is untracked  
Suggested access only.

## RIGHT HAND SIDE

Walk in along the Robin Falls access trail until you come to another valley that converges on the left hand side and a large pointy boulder beside the track. Looking up to your right you will see a line of climbable looking rock. Scramble up the slope and look for bolts.

### **Goldhangers**

**8m 19(S)\*\***

The lowest climb on the far left is easy seen by it.s neighbour Shaved and Dangerous, the prominent square cut roof crack. Goldhangers takes the right hand slabby face with the thin seam up it.s centre. Start up the crack then step right onto slabby face. Off balance moves up and left past 3 shiny gold FH. Easily up from horizontal crack. 3BR, Chain lower off.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

### **Shaved and Dangerous**

**8m 20 (T)**

Very awkward and strenuous, pretty stiff for the grade with reasonably adequate protection. Obvious imposing corner/roof crack, with small tree growing out of the crack at 2/3 height.

*FLA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

### **The Bulge**

**7m 23(S)\***

Scramble right and up from Goldhangers to row of ringbolts. Starts pleasantly enough to first BR, interesting move left to base of super thin bulging wall with vertical crack to the left. Was reputedly easier before Justin broke the key hold. Route follows bolt line strenuously without using the crack on the LHS. 4BR, 2RBB.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

### **The Only Way is Up**

**8m 17(M)\*\***

Starts up TB to crack on the LHS of said climb. Straight up the crack. Possibly one of the most underclimbed and under-rated climbs here.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Andrew 6/98*

### **School Teacher (AKA Quartz Flake)**

**20m 11(S)\***

Keep moving up and right you will come to a black slab, with a scramble up gully on the left. Cheeky start to easy ground and 1st BR. Thought provoking crux at 2nd BR to gain quartz flake. Easily up. Great and popular first lead. 6BR, Chain lower off.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*



Chris Hart tackles the crux moves on Tree Hugger (17) The two other bolted lines on the mainslab are visible on the right and left.

The next 3 routes are on the longer and steeper black slab to the right of Quartz Flake. Look for bolts, overhang before the top and small tree growing from prominent crack at the top. All 3 climbs share a common belay point.

A great afternoon can be had by climbing past the crux on Quartz flake to a 2BB as a first pitch, a small and very exposed second pitch Canteen Lady Linkup (grade 9) takes you to another belay ledge below the main slab. From here you can do all three main slab routes.

### **Deputy Head (AKA Left bolted)**

**25m 18(S)\***

Start easily up through choss to base of slab with 1FH just over lip. Pull up onto face and follow left line of bolts reasonably easily to obvious, tenuous and off balance crux move to large flake. Easily up to left side of overhang, traverse right to finish. 6BR, either 2RBB or chain lower off. Known to spank.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

### **Tree Hugger**

**25m 16(S)\*\*\***

Probably the best route here, taking the central line of bolts. Start as for LB, then straight up on small but adequate holds to BR on overhanging face to the right. Tricky and technical moves onto upper face, squeeze underneath tree without using it and finish in small alcove. Named for the vast number of people who have aspired to the crux move and ended up clinging to the tree like it was the last one on earth. 7BR, chain lower off.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

### **Social Worker (AKA Wide Bolted Line)**

**25m 14(S)\*\***

Really enjoyable outing that takes easiest line on this part of the slab along right hand line of bolts. Start as for TH, traverse right in super exposed position then up. Interesting move over small overhang gains face and crack (seconds beware of nasty pendulum here!!) to the right of large crack and tree. 6BR, 2RB lower off.

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

## **LEFT HAND SIDE**

When you are climbing anywhere on the right hand side, take some time to look across the valley. You will see many other slabby faces, most unbolted and unclimbed. Look for bolts glistening in the afternoon sun. Bash your way up through the spinifex to get there.

### **Twister (AKA Twisted Slab)**

**15m 18(S)\*\***

Twisted and seemingly featureless slab has a tricky start. Easily recognizable by white quartz veins on rock near the top. 4BR

*FRA: Dave Witter, John Fattore, Julian Fattore*

# UMBRAWARRA GORGE

## Access

Umbrawarra Gorge is located approximately 270km south of Darwin. The access road is 3km past the Pine Creek Township southern turn off. The gorge is approximately 22km down this road. During the wet season this road is often closed due to the deep flood ways, and washouts. Be prepared to spend up to a week shut in the gorge campground, if climbing here during the wet season.

There is a camp ground with BBQ's and a long drop toilet. There is no tap water. Camp fees are in the form of a honesty box. The fee is \$3.50 per person per night.

Umbrawarra Gorge is an Aboriginal owned site and is managed on their behalf by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. You will require a permit to climb Umbrawarra Gorge, which can be obtained from the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, Litchfield Park on phone (08) 89 760 282. This permit only allows you to climb the walls in the first two pools, and currently requires for a member of the climbing party to have instructional qualifications. Umbrawarra Gorge is a sacred site - there are burial grounds and other significant sites throughout the gorge. If these are destroyed or damaged in any way, then climbing here will be stopped completely.

## The Rock

Superb water washed, fine grained red/ orange Sandstone, similar to the depot Creek Formations seen in other locations. Most of the rock is all very solid due to the passage of water over it, however loose blocks and "dinner plates" are common at the top of some climbs.

## Grading

The routes range in grade from easy to relatively hard and routes. There is a variety of climbing including delicate faces, corners and cracks. Like other locations, grades are given as a guide only. Exact first ascent details on some routes are unknown.



The inimitable Kiwi starting out on This Monkey's Gone To Heaven (16)



- 1) King of the World (15)
- 2) Bats and Balls (16)
- 3) Clowns Corner (16)
- 4) Purpledickular (19)
- 5) What a Wall (14)

- 6) Oranges and Lemons (17)
- 7) Kiwi's Big White Arse (17)
- 8) Crack with Tree (18)
- 9) Watch Her Face (19)
- 10) Unnamed Corner (16)



Some really sexy people not doing much climbing (easter 03)...

## THE FIRST POOL

### **Ankle Anxiety** 12m 23(T)\*\*

Large crack running through the roof over the first pool. Start on the raised platform to the left of the main crack, traverse right on lateral seam, mantle the ledge, up face to the roof, out and up following the crack though roof.

*FRA: Gavin Jensen, Ginnette Harrison 3/93*

### **Ode to Python** 9m 21(M)\*\*

Start from same platform as Ankle Anxiety. Right and up past the 2 BR's to ledge, left and up to finish. Carrot bolts on this climb are not considered safe and probably will not get replaced due to their location within a National Park. 2CB

*FRA: Gavin Jensen, Ginnette Harrison, John Holcroft*

### **Clown's Corner** 13m 11(T)\*\*

A popular introduction to the area. Obvious and awesome corner crack leading to tree, right and around corner from *Ankle Anxiety*. Follow corner crack straight up, step onto the right hand ledge to finish. Big holds and great pro.

*FRA: John Holcroft solo 10/89*

### **Bats and Balls** 10m 16(T)\*

Wall immediately left of CC. Pick your way delicately up. Small cams and wires help, as do double ropes. Finish up the crack directly below the abseil tree. Great climb.

*FRA: Chris Cannard, Steve Weiss, John Holcroft 10/89*

### **King of the World** 15m 15(T)\*\*

Climb starts 3m left of BAB and climbs left edge of that face past (not through!!) large roof to small tree, traverse left under tree to ledge on the nose of the roof. Finish at the fig tree. Some fragile "dinner plates" at the top, beware. Second by tradition does a chin up off the nose!!!

*FRA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Craig 8/00*

### **Purpledickular** 13m 19(T)\*\*

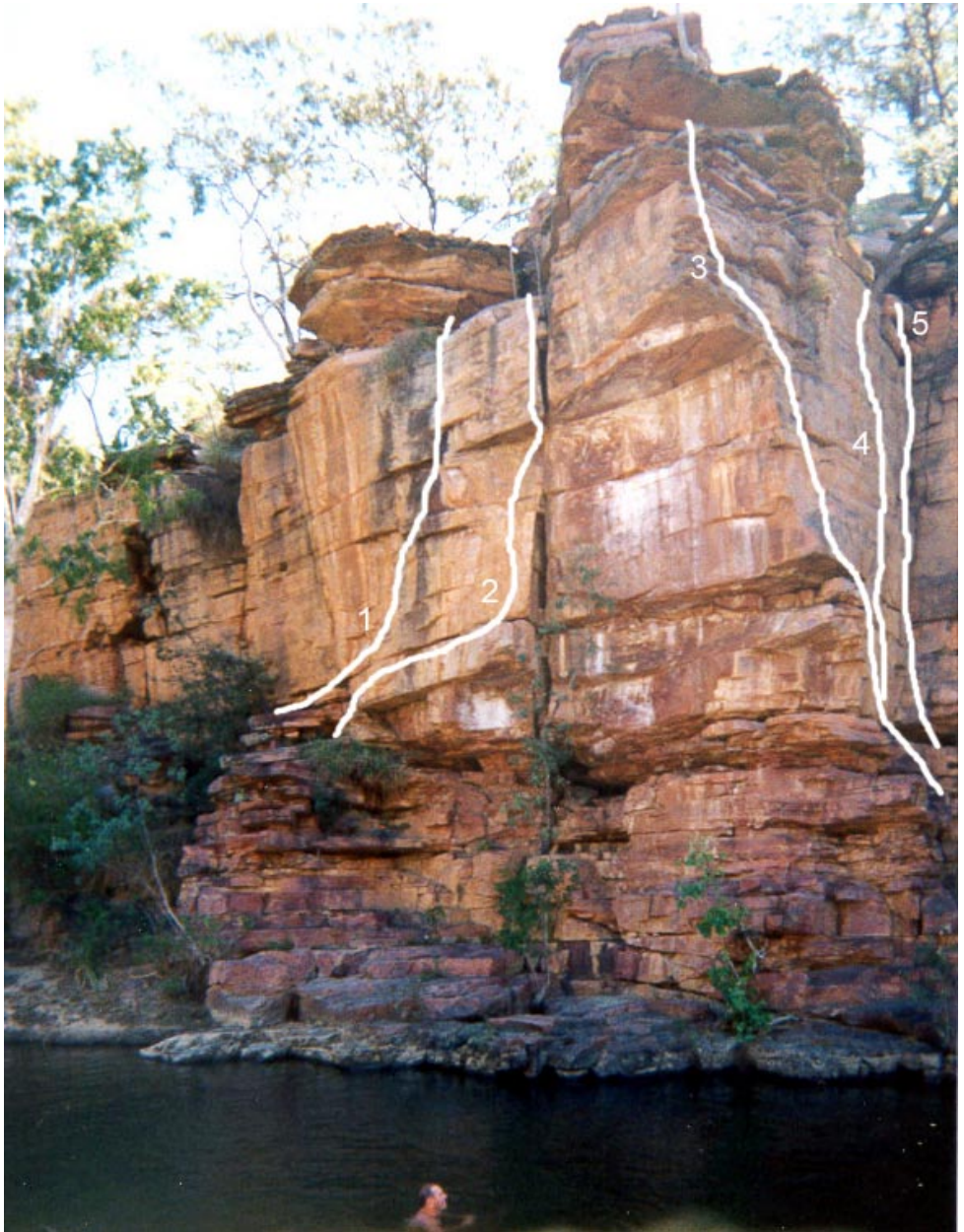
Thin crack right of CC. Start left of crack through small overhang then straight up fine crack. Excellent and balancy climbing spoilt only by the poorly protected and slightly chossy finish.

*FRA: Dave Shepherd*

### **Whatawall** 16m 14(T)\*\*

5m right of P lies an obvious crack starting through a juggy overhang. Crack leads to mantelshelf and small left facing corner. Interesting and pleasant climbing.

*FRA: Chris Cannard, John Holcroft 11/89*



- 1) Ode To Python (21)
- 2) Ankle Anxiety (23)
- 3) King of the World (15)
- 4) Bats and Balls (16)
- 5) Clowns Corner (11)



### **Oranges and Lemons**

**16m 18(T)\*\*\***

The next climb right of W tackles the overhang that leads to the prominent grey slabby wall. Very pumpy start with exciting move onto main wall. Easier but poorly protected finish up slabby wall past mantelshelf.

*FRA: John Holcroft, Chris Cannard 10/89*

### **Kiwi's Big White Arse**

**16m 17(T)\***

Essentially a variant route of OAL , starting similarly but finishes up the right hand arête.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Kelly Hansen Easter 03*

### **Crack with Tree**

**14m 18(T)**

Starting point approximately 3m right of OAL. Slightly overhanging start then follow crack straight up to tree in top of crack, step right and finish straight up face. By all accounts... quite stiff at the grade!

*FRA: Dave Shepherd, Michael Brand*

### **Watch Her Face**

**15m 19(T)\*\***

About 7m right of UN1, you will find an overhanging wall with a few somewhat fragile looking undercling flakes. Up this obvious line of weakness, on poor protection to first piece of worthwhile gear in good horizontal crack. Stretchy move over small rooflet to pumpy but reasonably well protected conclusion.

*FRA: Dave Shepherd, Chris Hart*

### **Cats Corner**

**13m 16(T)\*\***

Start up V shaped corner just right of W. Follow obvious line, with delicate protection at 2/3 height. Under-rated and underclimbed!

*FRA: Unknown Ascensionist*



Steve Skov about to tackle the gymnastic crux of Watch Her Face (19)

## THE ENCLOSURE (SECOND POOL LEFT HAND SIDE)

An enclosed corner at the beginning of the second pool on the left hand side of the gorge. Obvious slabby face bounded by two crack systems leading to rather ominous looking roof. A Nice shady spot for morning climbing. Climbs listed are L to R.

### Stay Low

20m 17(T)\*\*\*

LH crack in the Enclosure wall. Scary unprotected start! Follow the LH crack up to the stance below the roof, traverse left onto the face and up through the 'V' crack in the roof. Definitely one of the best routes here.

*FLA: Tim Benfield*

### Little Bitch

20m 19(T)\*\*

Centre of the Enclosure wall. Climb straight up the face just right of the *Stay Low* crack, not using the crack at all. A popular old top rope project, which has seen many painned ascents before Mr. Hart's somewhat visionary effort (go son!) Finishes directly through the centre of the roof. Twin Ropes!!!

*FLA: Chris Hart*

### This Monkey's Gone To Heaven

20m 16\*\*\*

Takes the obvious lower left arcing crack to ledge then up through the crack in the roof. Some delicate edging, fiddly protection and solid underclinging here.

*FRA: Dave Shepherd*

### Enclosure Exposure

20m 15\*\*

Takes the upper left leaning crack in the RHS of the Enclosure, up and onto the ledge, right and up through the crack in the roof. Different moves, better protection, same finish... but distinctly easier than TMGTH.

*FLA: John Holcroft, Tim Benfield, Chris Cannard*

### Violet Crumble

20m 14

Starts innocently enough, changing to a fairly strenuous outing. Travels up the V shaped chimney on the RHS of the Enclosure. Take care in the top of this climb where some of the rock has all the quality of the aforementioned chocolate bar. Fairly stiff for the grade.

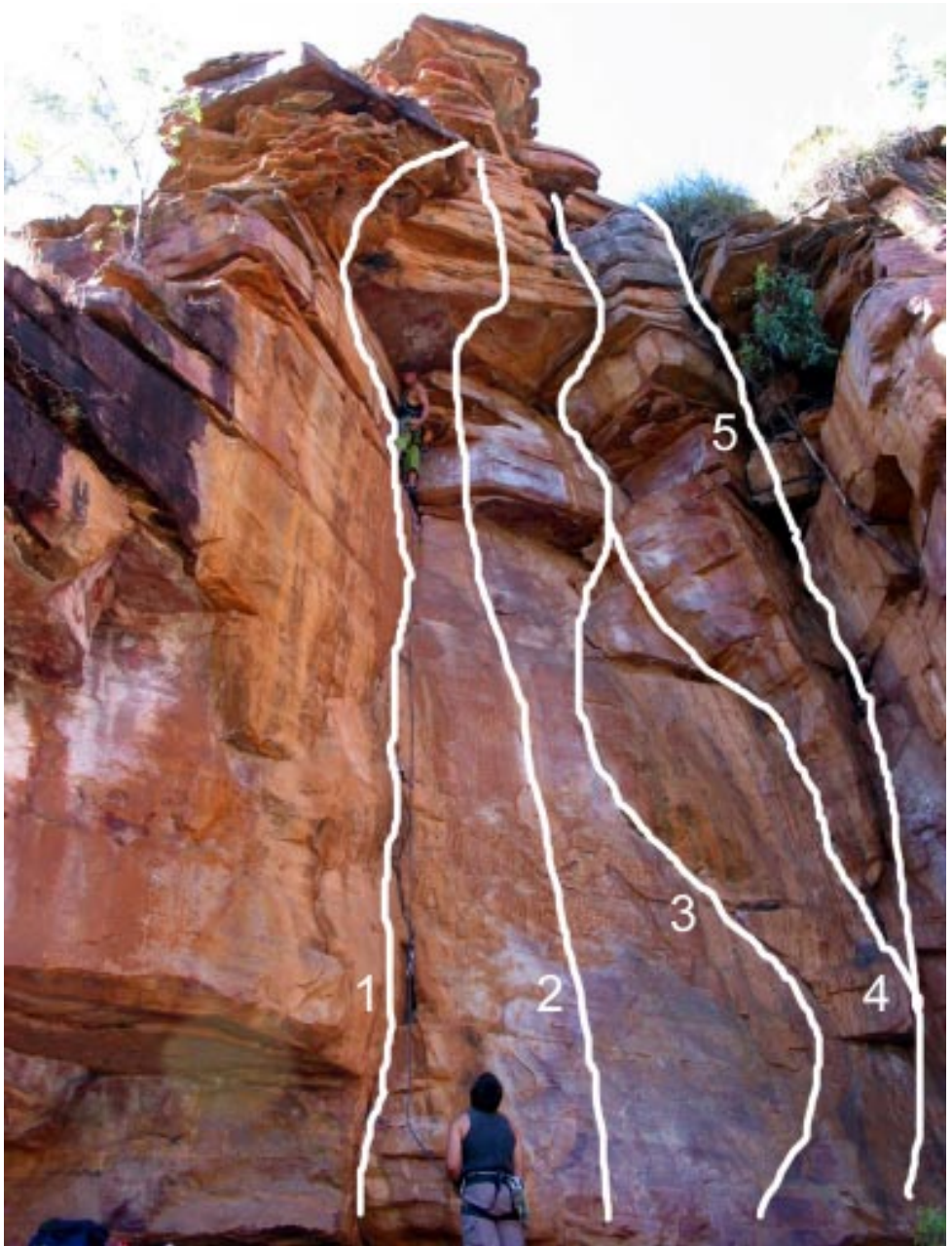
*FRA: Justin Trevorrow*

### Fish Bones

14m 16\*

On the block immediately right of the enclosure. Thin crack goes straight up the block. Fairly easy up crack to large horizontal and marginal large SLCD. Traverse left and up with pretty committing move. Mantle exit to ledge.

*FLA: Gavin Jensen, John Holcroft, Ginnette Harrison*



- 1) Stay Low (18)
- 2) Little Bitch (19)
- 3) This Monkey's Gone To Heaven(17)
- 4)Enclosure Exposure (15)
- 5) Violet Crumble(14)

## **The Grand Traverse**

**20m 17\*\***

Spectacular and exposed! Start at the tree above the corner climb mentioned above. Follow the horizontal crack out to above the climb in the centre of wall of the second pool (mentioned below). Down climb to the large ledge. Belay from here. Escape is to toss a weighted chalk bag across the pool, down climb to a safe height to jump into the pool.

*FLA: Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Steve Beyer 8/00*

## **Double or Nothing**

**15m 17\*\***

Possibly the most underclimbed, and underrated climb hereabouts, this climb starts at the far end of the second pool near a large paperbark tree. Quirky start leads to great climbing up double crack system with delicate moves at half height. Finish up v shaped corner.

*FRA: David Shepherd*

## **MISCELLANEOUS (SECOND POOL RIGHT HAND SIDE)**

Looking across the gorge from DoN you will see a single buttress to the right, there is one climb on this.

## **Fuck That**

**15m 15\***

Harder than it looks!!! Start at slabby face near rocky gully, climb face through a dicky mantle and a series of small overhanging sections. Finish up arete.

*FRA: Stuart Anderson, Kristen Elms*

To the left of FT, down the gorge you will see a beautiful and overhanging red apparently featureless wall. This is King Brown wall. It has three routes recorded on it.

## **King Brown**

**13m 22\*\*\***

Gnarly looking line through a series of pockets in the centre of the wall to a sloping and nasty crux. This line was reportedly climbed earlier by some visiting crew from WA, few details recorded of this ascent.

*F Documented A: Douglas Hockley, Stuart Anderson*

## **King Brown Arete:**

**16m 17\***

Starting at the end of the overhung red face, stepping left at 6m to gain arete. Exciting and exposed climbing.

*FRA: Unknown Ascensionists*

## **80 Second Minute:**

**5m 18**

Very short, poorly protected and gymnastic mini route at the far right end of the wall. Loose rock at top, not really worth doing.

*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Katherine Clarke*

## THE CINEMA (SECOND POOL RIGHT HAND SIDE)

The following climbs are marginal as to whether they are inside or outside the permit zone, as they are essentially on the lower side of the second pool. They were climbed long before the permit system was introduced and are some of the best climbs in the area.

The Cinema is conspicuous by the large offwidth crack/chimney that is vegetated at its base. To its left are a series of steep and spectacular roofs and overhangs. To its right is a slightly overhung orange wall with very prominent horizontal breaks. Climbs are from left to right.

### **Basque Separatist**

**20m 19M1**

Final completion of old route Never ending Story (18) by Chris Cannard. Climb up and through some steep terrain past old decayed sling, and aid for 1 move through feature-less roof.

*FRA: Colin Reece, Stuart Anderson 2005*

### **Sheeplovers Bane:**

**5m 20+**

Much loved except by lovers of sheep. The really obvious mantelshelf near the base of NES. Really just a boulder problem, however it is usually topoped due to the dangerous landing.

*FRA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart, Anthea Oorloff and a cast of others except Kiwi*



Unidentified climber negotiating the crux of Basque Bastard (19)

**Basque Bastard****22m 19\*\*\***

Starts on top of the obvious mantelshelf ledge (Sheeplovers Bane), move right through over some small roofs to striking red vertical face traverse left on pockets and small SLCD placements. Clench your cheeks and do very gymnastic and exposed move left around corner. Up to under large roof crack (beware of loose blocks in the cave). Blast through roof crack to jugs and glory. Has probably been climbed earlier but exact FA details unknown.

*FLA: Documented A: Nick Engels, Levi Farrand (2003)*

**Basque Bitch****20m 23\*\*\***

Starts as for BB to red pocketed wall. Straight up this and through roof from here. Strenuous!

*FLA: Oreina Orrantia*

**Jurassic Park****20m 14\*\*\***

Old style classic, could possibly be Umbrawarra Gorge's answer to Agamemnon. Entertaining and well protected adventure up chimney mentioned above.

*FLA: Chris Cannard, Vicki Bonwick, John Holcroft, Steve Weiss*

**Camelot****20m 15\*\***

A bushwalk start, leads to line directly up the orange wall to the right of JP through a series of horizontal breaks. Named for the 2 fixed cams left there (they have been subsequently removed). Not technically difficult, but pumpy and pretty solid for the grade.

*FLA: John Holcroft, Chris Cannard, Vicki Bonwick*

# GILMOUR RIVER Southern Catchment

## The Rock

The entire area is littered with Sandstone pinnacles to around 15m in height. It is 4WD access only. Rock is variable, some areas being excellent and other areas too soft and crumbly to climb. Its exact location cannot be given as access to this area remains contentious. If you want to climb here get to know some locals and keep your trap shut.

## Grading

The majority of the routes here are bolted sports routes/ or mixed routes. There some good trad climbs, mainly crack lines; however as some patches of rock can be quite soft great care needs to be taken with protection. The routes range in grade from moderate to quite hard, with excellent potential for very difficult projects possible.

## FREEBIRD PINNACLE

The Freebird pinnacle is around 15m from the carpark on the right.

### Freebird

9m 22S)\*\*\*

Old top rope problem. Kelly Hansen holds the honor of having first top rope ascent of this little beastie. Up crack to lip then crimp hard onto very thin face. Tenuous and balancy moves under right leaning Flake to thank f\*#K jug. 2BR, 3BB.

FLA: *Stuart Anderson, Colin Reece 2003*

### Steve's Crack

9m 12(T)

Nice looking obvious line up back of the Freebird Pinnacle. Watch the loose rock. 2BB

FLA: *Steve Beyer, Neale "Kiwi" Taylor 2002*

### The Climb Formerly Known As

7m 13

Short hanging corner just to the right of Freebird. Committing moves up into the corner lead to an easy finish.

FLA: *Neale "Kiwi" Taylor, Chris Hart circa 1999*



Steve Beyer strains to maintain balance on Freebird (22)

## SNAKE CRAG

Snake Crag is the first obviously bolted pinnacle up hill after crossing dry creek bed.

### Death Adder

11m 18(S)\*

Carpark facing wall. Nice route on starting on reddish rock, staying away from left hand arête. Up line of weakness move slightly to the right then left across face through mono to large flake. Finish up right side of blade. 3BR, 2BB

FLA: *Stuart Anderson, Steve Beyer 2003*

### Antivenom

11m 18(S)\*

Starts as for Death Adder, follow right hand arête of this pinnacle. Very balancy moves through middle then easy finish on slightly softer rock. 3BR, 2BB.

FLA: *Chris Hart, Kelly Hansen 2003*

### Royal Darwin Chospital

10m 13(T)

Starts in poorly protected corner just left of Death Adder on nice rock, degenerates into very sandy, chossy and poorly protected tubular groove to top. Very scary for the grade. 2BB

FLA: *Stuart Anderson, Colin Reece 2003*

### Carpet Python

9m 14(M)\*\*

Very nice meandering left facing traverse, Start up large crack to the left of the RDC, then continue along seam onto slabby face, continue left to last BR then easily up. 3BR, 2BB

FLA: *Malcolm Warfield, Colin Reece 2003*

### Children's Python

5m 7(M)

Easiest line straight up the CP face, on really nice rock. 2BR, 2BB

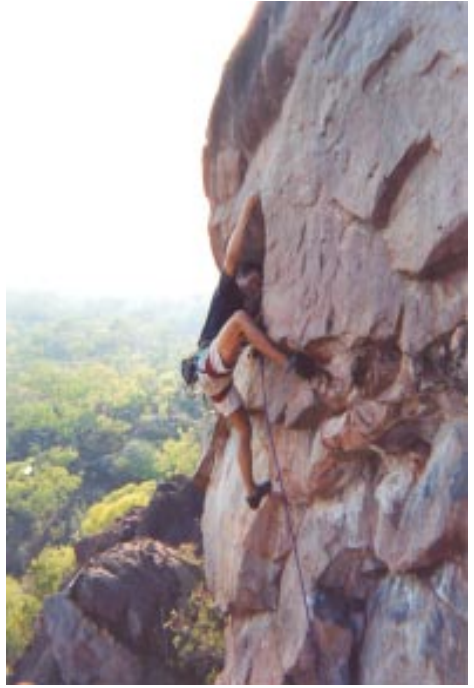
FLA: *Steve Beyer, Beth Martin 2003*

The next smaller pinnacle up the hill has a short but worthwhile trad route done by Chris Hart and Paul Bennett up a short corner system. Graded approximately 16ish from reports.

Colin Reece  
checks out a new  
project just left of  
his and Paula  
Medway's sports  
testpiece  
Gondwana  
Dreaming (20)







Top Left: Dingo and Dr Dave on Freebird (22)  
Top Right: Geoff McQueen climbs Gunc (19)  
Bottom Left: A perseverant Peter Silverberg  
topropeing Beautiful Day (21)  
Bottom Right: Doug Hockley top roping a project  
on Pendulum Pillar

## **HARD ROCK PINNACLE**

Continue up slope past some smaller pinnacles until you reach an impressive pillar with a prominent roof with crack system to it and a right facing horizontal crack underneath it.

### **Hard Rock and Faye**

**13m 15(T)\*\***

The dominant line up the front wall of this pillar. Start up vertical crack to roof, traverse right and out from under roof using horizontal crack. Finish up flaring crack on RHS of pinnacle. Some loose rock on this one! 2BB

FLA: Steve Beyer, Chris Hart, Justin Trevorrow and Faye circa 1999

### **Gondwana Dreaming**

**13m 20(S)\*\*\***

Immaculate and graceful bolted line just left of HRF. Slabby start leads to excellent face climbing, with a tricky bulge guarding the finish. 6BR

FLA: Colin Reece, Paula Medway 2004

### **Spotty**

**12m 10(T)**

Obviously named after a dog, as this somewhat obvious left curving crack on the back of the pinnacle stands out like the proverbial dogs balls. Follows obvious line, step off onto easy ledge for a rest at any time. 2BB

FLA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer circa 1999

### **Gunk**

**8m (19)(M)\*\***

Just right of HRF around the corner is a very sunny little wall. This somewhat testy little number follows the flake on the right side of the wall up to a prominent horizontal. Delicate bulgy moves to BR.

FLA: Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003

## **PENDULUM PILLAR**

Approximately 6 metres past Hard Rock pinnacle you will come to the tallest pinnacle in the area. Its front face is overhung and has a ledge at halfway and a prominent line of weakness across it at approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  height. There are quite a lot of projects on this pillar, with the following four are on the left hand face which starts with the overhanging reddish sandy rock. This face is easily discerned by its unusual and prominent right leaning arête. The descent route is a delicate downclimb off the back of the pinnacle.

### **Unnamed 1**

**15m 10(M)\***

Starting on the left face of this pillar negotiate awkward move to small ledge and BR. Traverse left towards left arête of this rather unusual looking slabby wall, then up past 2BR. 3BR, 2BB

FLA: Colin Reece, Malcolm Warfield 2003

## **Unnamed 2**

**15m 16(M)\*\***

Start as for UN1, step left to BR then straight up middle of wall easily to a very satisfying and well protected technical finish. Excellent exposure, be sure to take some very small nuts for good measure. 2BR, 2BB

*FLA: Colin Reece, Malcolm Warfield 2003*

## **Arnhem Direct**

**15m 20(M)\*\***

Start as for UN1 and 2. From ledge follow poorly protected and unusual right leaning arête to a very welcome BR. Very Delicate and technical finish. 2BR, 2BB

*FLA: Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2003*

## **Arnhem Highway**

**25m 17 (M)\***

A great route, which could be greater without the rope drag. Climb UN2 lo ledge, gain right leaning arête, and pull right onto front face of the pinnacle using a prominent horizontal break. Delicate move right and up to top of pillar 4 BR, 2BB

A harder companion route exists traversing this same pinnacle left-right graded approximately 19. The front overhanging face of this pinnacle has been the scene of much frantic top roping.

## **THE BATCAVE**

From Pendulum Pillar scramble left until you find a pinnacle with a two tiered, steep overhang system. On the top tier there are two very prominent crack climbs, a right sweeping line and a somewhat ferocious and as yet unclimbed vertical fist sized crackline. The lower understory has some very hard looking potential projects on it. This area is a shady haven on hot days. Easy walk off descents exist on the right side of the batcave and the left side of the top of the buttress.

## **All Guns Blazing**

**10m 17(T)\***

Beautiful big right facing crack that eats big SLCDs. Start on block (or with a jump!) and head right using strange move onto pedestal where crack starts to thin. Up from there.

*FLA: Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003*

## **Unnamed (again)**

**10m 14 (T)\***

Starts on the understory below AGAB, climb the steepish but juggy wall, till you reach an interesting and technical move on a flaring crack. You are now in the Batcave (again). Looking up from here is a short and steep looking jam crack. This is the as yet unfreed second pitch of this climb.... It is there for the taking.

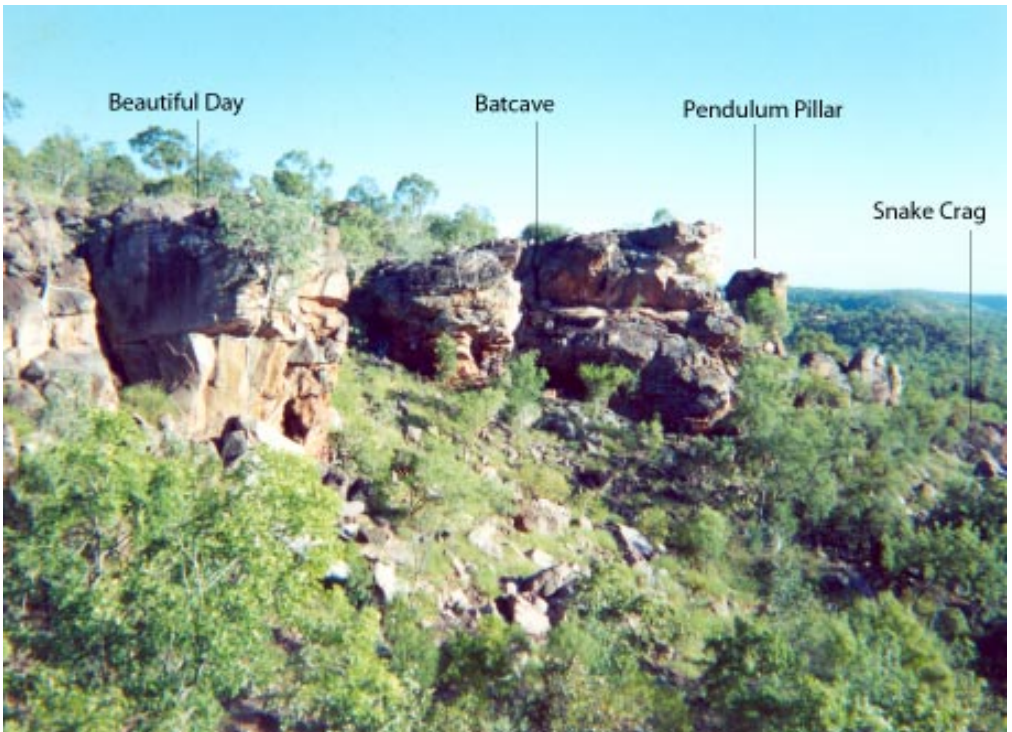
*FLA: Colin Reece 2003*

*The understory to the left of this climb below has quite a few very steep top rope projects.*

**Squeeze problem:**

**Ungradeable 16m (solo)**

A caving style squeeze route exists inside this buttress, shady and cool and really nice if you are into that kind of thing (wallaby faeces, spider webs and abraded skin). It travels the full height of the buttress. In the cave below, chimney up and squeeze through gap to exit on the batcave. Step left and continue groveling, to body jam width. *FRA (Solo) Stuart Anderson, although likely bat and gecko reseachers, pre arrival aboriginals and most species of local python and spider are likely to have beaten me to it.*



North facing view of the Gilmour River South Crag

## HOWLING AT THE SUN WALL

Keep heading towards your left from the lower tier of the Batcave until you find a row of buttresses. There are climbs on these but beware as some of the rock is of a dubious nature. At the end of this row you will find an interesting looking pocketed wall. At its end there is a large detached boulder leaning against the wall. Under this boulder is a shady lunchtime hang. There are a couple of dangerously chossy looking crack climbs just right of the pocketed wall.

### Howling at the Sun

12m 18(T)\*\*

Start on right hand side of the wall, up easily to horizontal break and first piece of protection. Traverse left to prominent v shaped groove. Follow this up. A great if wandering climb, that requires careful attention when placing natural gear. Twin ropes could also make this easier.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer Circa 1998*

### Krusty the Climb

12m 14 (T)

Worthless, loose and dangerous pile of steaming crap right and around corner from HATS.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Steve Beyer Circa 1998*

## BEAUTIFUL DAY WALL

Moving left from HATS, either climb up behind the large boulder, or walk around its left hand side to a point beneath another fig tree that is strangulating a large crack beneath the roof. A large featureless slabby wall extends left which has nearly been top roped cleanly.

### Beautiful Day:

11m 21(M)\*\*\*

The finest offering in this area to date, on some lovely hard rock Layback immaculate flake to a stance under prominent roof, and BR. Pull around the roof on some nice crimps. Straight up from there. Possibly a soft touch at the grade. 2BR

*FLA: Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003*

*Direct start possible on BD*

### The Root Route

11m 16(T)

Start as for BD, then through roof using a combination of roots and fistjams. Finish up wall to the right of BD.

*FLA: Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2003*

*There are no fixed anchors at the top of both Howling at the Sun wall or Beautiful day wall. You will need natural protection to establish anchors for these climbs.*

## DEMON PINNACLE

Keep following the rim of the valley around to the left. At the base of a buttress with a very prominent orange wall and a large fig tree atop, you will find two cracks.

**Demon** 8m 20(T)

Stepish and tricky right hand crack line.

8m, 20

FLA: *Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003*

**Mail Order Bride:** 8m 18(T)

Poorly protected and pumps you hard. Left crack line

FLA: *Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003*

## FAT PIZZA WALL

Access is either by continuing left from Demon Pinnacle, or by following the dry creek bed from the car park area back up the hill. At the end of the creek bed scramble upslope and you will see a small yellowish, orange wall. A bent over Milkwood tree sits at its base.

**Habib** 6m 9\*

Short sweet and cruisy. Great first beginners trad lead up easy angled crack at far right hand end of the wall. Can be a little dirty and dusty. 2BB

FLA: *Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2003*

**Sleek the Elite** 7m 19\*\*\*

Short Sharp and really pumpy. Tough start of the deck, traverse left across face to difficult second clip. Finishes on easier ground up groove and small headwall. 3BR, 2BB

FLA: *Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2003*

**Pauli** 7m 16

Starts nicely below large crack to the left of STE. Rapidly turns into a desperate, awkward squirming horror story.

FLA: *Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2003*

**Bobo** 7m 17 (T)

Contrived and very sparsely protected line between Habib and sleek. Exists really only to run the shop and cook the Pizzas.

FLA: *Can't remember, but someone did...*

BEAUTIFUL DAY

HOWLING AT THE SUN

BATCAVE

PENDULUM

DEMON

HARD ROCK

FAT PIZZA

SNAKE

BLADE ROCK

SMUGGLER'S CAVE

Seasonal watercourse

FREEBIRD

Bee's Dick Boulder

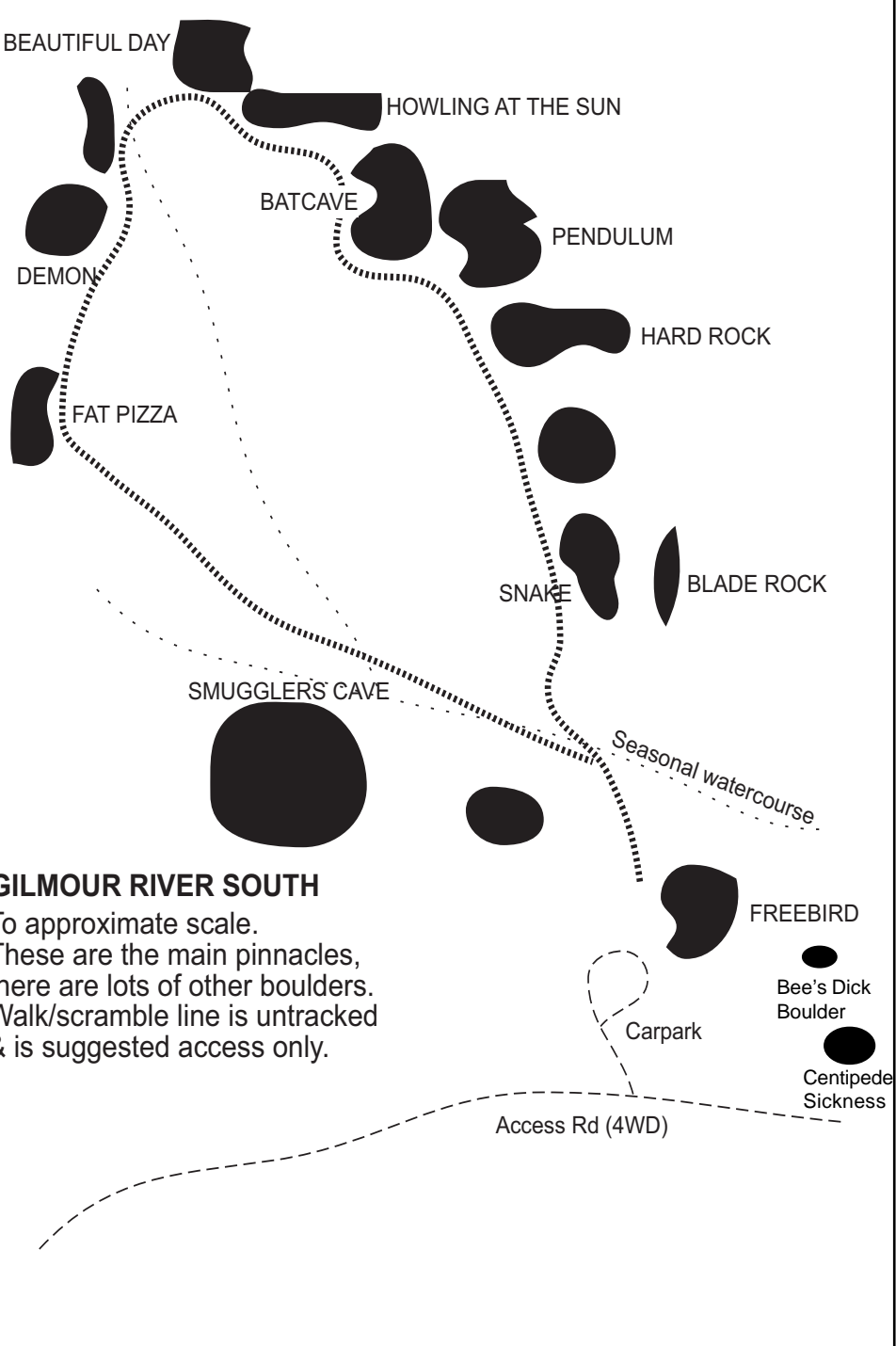
Carpark

Centipede Sickness

Access Rd (4WD)

### GILMOUR RIVER SOUTH

To approximate scale.  
These are the main pinnacles,  
there are lots of other boulders.  
Walk/scramble line is untracked  
& is suggested access only.



## **E CRAG**

The most distant crag in this area, You will stumble across it if you keep wandering left from Fat Pizza Wall along the scree and spinifex slope. One of the larger pinnacles in this area.

### **Engineering Ethics:**

**12m 20**

The yellowish north facing wall has about 6BR up it. The line starts near a small crack at the bottom, and wanders left of the wide crack a little through 5BR.

*FLA: Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2003*

Just left of Crag E, on the eastern facing pint of this buttress are two more climbs both are trad lines. The right hand one takes the thin looking face and cracks on beautiful rock and is graded approximately 18. The left hand route takes the obvious and very sexy square cut corner. It looks about grade 15/16. There are no first ascent details recorded that I know of other than that they have been done very early in the development of this area.

## **GILMOUR RIVER Northern Catchment**

### **The Rock**

The entire area is littered with Sandstone pinnacles to around 12m in height. It is 4WD access only approximately 4km from the southern area. The carrying of recovery gear and good knowledge of 4WD techniques is well advised. Rock is on average better than the southern area, and the topography is flatter making for better access, due to the number of pinnacles here giving accurate text descriptions of their location in relation to each other is difficult, refer to topo.

This area was originally a bouldering location, and still abounds with really good problems. The number of climbed routes here is much higher than listed, I have included only the better ones and/or ones that I know myself, if you need to ask more ask a local.

### **Grading**

The majority of the routes here are bolted sports routes/ or mixed routes. There some good trad climbs, mainly crack lines; however as some patches of rock can be quite soft great care needs to be taken with protection. The routes range in grade from moderate to quite hard, with excellent potential for very difficult projects possible.

Once again the exact location cannot be given as access to this area remains contentious..



## **PIN MAJOR**

From the carpark/ campsite up on a small rise you will see a large pinnacle. Walk up to it, on its southernish side there is an immaculate face with a bolted line up it. To the right of this is a great looking hand crack. Descent is via rap chains above the crack.

### **Guten Arven:**

**11m 22 (S)\*\*\***

Fine and delicate wall climbing up the smooth face mentioned above. This route would definitely be one of the best routes in the region, and if you chose only one to do here it should be this one. 4BR 2BB

*FLA: Nick Engels, Colin Reece 2004*

### **Nice Crack:**

**11m 17 (M)\***

Just to the right of GA is an obvious crack leaning slightly left. Climb up past 1CB to gain crack, crack to ledge and finish up small hanging corner. 1CB 2BB

*FLA: Colin Reece, Nick Engels 2004*

### **Offwidth Crack:**

**11m 15 (T)**

The disgusting looking off width on softish rock to the right of NC.

*FLA: Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2004*

### **Guten Morgen:**

**11m 20(S)\*\*\***

Another beautiful line, this time on the opposite side of the pinnacle. Start at the wide crack and step right onto the face traversing right towards the prominent nose. Straight up on immaculate rock to ledge. Finish more steeply on larger holds. 4BR 2BB

*FLA: Nick Engels, Colin Reece 2004*

### **Large Crack:**

**11m 11(T)\***

Good easy lead, follows the very obvious line of least resistance up the crackline and onwards

*FLA: Colin Reece (probably solo) 2003*

There are two bolted mini routes just to the left of this on some nice slopers, graded 16/17. The short pinnacle to the right:



The view atop Pin Major



- 1) Guten Arven(22)
- 2) Nice Crack (17)
- 3) Offwidth Crack (15)

## CAMPING ROCK AND SURROUNDS

About 150m left of Pin Major facing the cars you will see a prominent horizontally flat rock that makes a good campsite, behind it is a short slabby wall with a shallow crack system up it this is strangely enough Slabby Crack. There are lots of good boulder problems and short trad routes around here.

**Slabby crack:** **6m 13(T)**

Up the abovementioned crack system, on small wires and cams.

*FLA: Vanessa, Adrian Hoel 2004*

**Guten Tag (Pencil Crack)** **7m 18 (T)\*\***

Search around to the left and behind SC and you will find this little gem, it would carry many stars if there was even 25m of it, none the less it packs considerable tension into its 7m. It is the obvious pencil width crack up to a small corner.

*FLA: Nick Engels, Colin Reece 2004*

**Diagonal Line of Bolts** **10m 17(S)\*\*\***

From the camping rock left to two tallish pinnacles close together, with a shady and rock filled gully between. On the inside wall of the left pinnacle you will find this climb. A rising right leaning traverse, that begins thin and delicate, steepening on larger holds at the top. Somewhat of a testpiece for the grade. 4BR, 2BB *FLA: Colin Reece, Nick Engels and Geoff McQueen 2004*

## TWIN TOWERS AREA

It is difficult to describe their exact location in words, but they are in an approximately northerly direction from the cars (see topo). This area is dominated by two large towers of similar size and stature, separated by a shady gap of around 2m. (Could be anywhere here based on that description) Look for bolts!! The left tower has 4 bolted routes on its inside wall and 2 partially bolted routes on its overhanging back wall. The right tower has a single bolted route up the middle of its inside face.

**Hizbolah** **9m 20(S)\*\***

The first line of bolts on the left pinnacle through a small and somewhat thin bulge, then more easily up 3BR, 2BB

*FLA: Bill Begg, Colin Reece 2004*

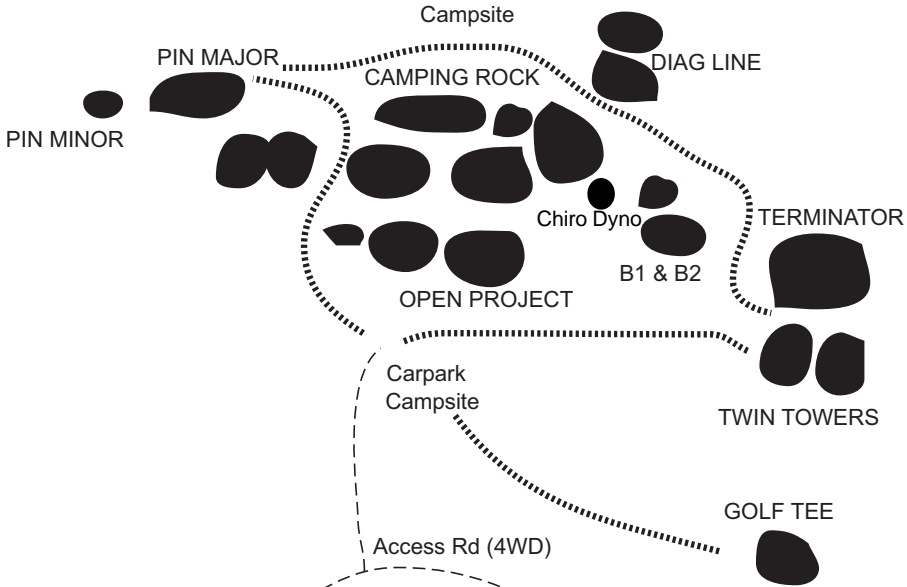
**Al Colada** **10m 17(S)\*\***

The second line of bolts on the left pinnacle, through small rooflet and onto headwall. 3BR, 2BB

*FLA: Bill Begg, Colin Reece 2004*

There are two further bolted lines right of these, one of which requires some natural pro. Exact first ascent details unknown at the time of writing, however they are good routes and likely to be Col's. Opportunities for rising traverses between the first two routes also exist at similar grades.

HILLTOP



**GILMOUR RIVER NORTH**  
To approximate scale.  
These are the main pinnacles,  
there are lots of other boulders.  
Walk/scramble line is untracked  
& is suggested access only.

Access Rd (4WD)

Campsite

Upper Gilmour River (permanent water)

**11/9**

**11m 22(M)\*\*\***

Climbs the centre of right pinnacle's inside. An awesome little climb beginning with a single natural gear placement then through two BR. Thin and technical. 2BR, 2BB  
*FLA: Chris Hart 2004*

### **Looking For Waterfalls**

**12m 13(T)**

Beginning in a crack, wanders up the back of the right pinnacle through a small bulge.

*FLA: Colin Reece, Stephanie Marsic 2004*

## **GILMOUR RIVER Western Catchment**

### **The Rock**

Another nice clustering of pinnacles up to 16m in height. It is 4WD access only approximately 15-20 km from the southern area. The carrying of recovery gear and good knowledge of 4WD techniques is well advised. This is a remote crag that has only seen a handful of visits, there is fantastic potential and like the northern area is another great bouldering location. I have listed the routes I know of only.

Yet again the exact location cannot be given as access to this area remains contentious.

### **Grading**

All routes here are trad climbs, mainly crack lines; however as some patches of rock can be quite soft great care needs to be taken with protection. These climbs have seen very few ascents and grades are best estimates only.

## **KING PIN AREA**

The dominant feature of this area is a pillar approximately 18-20m in height. The back side of this pinnacle has some impressive roofs. This pinnacle is called King Pin. The usual assortment of other random pillars abound.

### **Unnamed:**

**18m 13(T)**

Facing the pinnacle from the front take a line just right of the left hand arête.

*FLA: Colin Reece, Geoff McQueen 2004*

### **Unnamed Direct:**

**18m 15(T)**

Same as above but slightly harder variant finish on small pro up headwall.

*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Kath the "Mudskipper" Clarke, Adrian Hoel 2004*

### **Anonymous:**

**18m 13(T)**

Follow the crack line through an overlap at the far right of the pinnacle.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Kelly Hansen 2004*

## HARVEY CRUMPET AREA

Looking about 45 degrees to the left of King Pin you will see a clustering of rocks with one squat and largish pinnacle, It has quite a bit of vegetation around its base. Directly in this line of sight you will see an immaculate corner system, that starts on poorish rock (the crumpet) but rapidly gets much better. This climb is Harvey Crumpet.

**Harvey Crumpet:** **11m 14 (T)\*\***

As mentioned above, starts on softish rock this climb develops into one of the best (if a little short) corners you could want to climb. Some committed lay backing with a convenient rest at mid height. Does it get any better??

*FLA: Chris Hart, Kelly Hansen*

**Short Film Festival:** **8m 17 (T)\*\***

Directly on the other side of the pinnacle from Harvey Crumpet is a fine line that takes a shallow right facing seam. This climb is easily identified by wildly undercut area just to the right. Follow the seam up onto the slabby wall then delicately up.

*FLA: Chris Hart, Kelly Hansen 2004*

## ARC DE TRIUMPH AREA

As the name suggests the dominant pinnacle in this area resembles the real thing, it has a whopping great hole cut in it. To find it walk 90 degrees right of King Pin for about 200m. It is hard to miss. Much of the rock on this pinnacle is very soft except for the route described below.

**Arc De Triumph:** **14m 16(T)\*\*\***

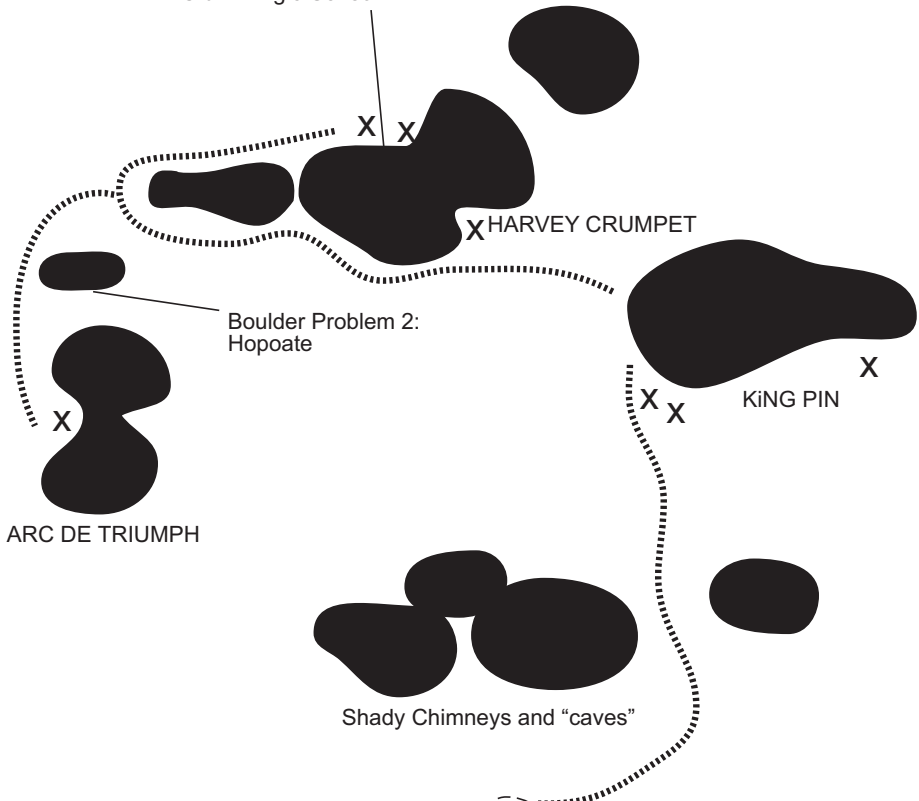
An outstanding and very engaging climb on the back side of the pillar. Climb the right side to until you can tenuously bridge the gap between. Follow the steep crack up to the roof, then traverse right under the roof to ledge. Finish easily up from here. Watch rope drag.

*FLA: Geoff McQueen, Colin Reece 2004*



This area takes in a prime Olive Python habitat.

Boulder Problem 1:  
Crank Angle Sensor



Boulder Problem 2:  
Hopoate

X HARVEY CRUMPET

X KING PIN

ARC DE TRIUMPH

Shady Chimneys and "caves"

### GILMOUR RIVER WEST

Not to scale.

These are the main pinnacles,  
there are lots of other boulders.  
Walk/scramble line is untracked  
& is suggested access only.  
X= Known climbs as described

Carpark  
Campsite

Access Rd (4WD)

# BUTTERFLY GORGE

## The Rock

Another newish frontier, with excellent potential for climbing. Access is via a somewhat unreliable 4WD track from Douglas Daly Hot springs. The road is about 16km, and leads to a small carpark. A small and very pretty walk beside the Douglas River leads to some scrambling and climbing leading to a beach near a huge pool. The National park signs in fact indicate that some rock climbing is necessary, so why not be super safe and carry ropes.

The rock itself is similar to that in Hayes or Umbrawarra, that is Dept Creek Sandstone. The real beauty of this place is not really the climbing but the remoteness and it's beautiful swimming holes. Freshwater crocodiles do inhabit this area, especially in the large pool. To access all climbing areas except the token pole requires waterproofing your climbing gear and swimming about 150m across the main pool.

## Grading

All routes here are trad climbs, mainly crack lines; however as some patches of rock can be quite soft great care needs to be taken with protection. These climbs have seen very few ascents and grades are best estimates only.

## THE TOKEN POLE

Like its much celebrated, almost namesake the Totem Pole, this pillar that rises out of the first pool makes for some very spectacular climbing up its one route: Another Free Route. Escaping this pinnacle requires either a very brave and stupid leap across to the mainland or a very delicate downclimb, wide step across then up climb. It is the obvious pillar on the left side.

### Another Free Route

22m 19(T)\*\*\*

From the platform just at water level climb the from face of this pillar through technical, dicky and barely protected move at 1/3 height. Steadily up to the rooflet and through the left side near small tree. Traverse slightly right and finish up.

*FLA: David Shepherd 2000ish*

## THE MIDDLE LEFT

After swimming across the first pool, you will pass through a narrow channel with a pillar on your right and spectacular walls on the left(Gates of Mordor) Continue up onto a rocky slope ahead and look to your left. A beautiful wall with a number of crack systems there. I have only heard of one climb that was done here.

### Sea of Choss

17 18m (T)

Sounds like a sea of whingeing to me, it is the crack with some chockstones in it. Looks like fine rock, if a little unprotected at the start.

*FLA: Julian Fattore and Co 2000ish*



## THE MIDDLE LEFT

Looking across to your right you will see a large wall again with much potential with a shady gully on its right (see topo). A nice looking buttress is right of this gully.

### **Ithaca**

**28m 15(T)\*\*\***

Lovely and long route (for the top end) following the obvious crack system on this buttress. This climb offers very varied climbing and is a great adventure route. At the time of writing it still has only seen a single ascent. An easy walk off to the right and down the gully completes a very satisfying outing.

*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Paula Medway 2004*

### **Cyclops**

**16m 13(T)\*\***

Another nice climb that broaches the slightly bulging buttress to the right of the gully. Looks thinnish for a 13 Mr Hart!

*FLA: Chris Hart, Kelly Hansen 2004*

*After climbing either of these you will find yourself drawn to swim for most of the rest of the day in the upper pools.*

## THE BACK AREA

Beyond the last pools you will come to some high walls on both the right and left sides of the gorge. Only the right side has been climbed as these walls are less broken looking. A very large pinnacle dominates this area, this is the end point for the climb Cro Magnon.

### **Cro Magnon**

**25m 14(T)\*\*\***

Beautiful route similar in many ways to Ithaca in its first sections, but finishes uniquely up a narrow pillar to a somewhat small but comfy belay. Climb follows prominent crack system up the front of the buttress.

*FLA: Stuart Anderson, Adrian Hoel 2004*

### **Papyrus Tigrum (Paper Tiger)**

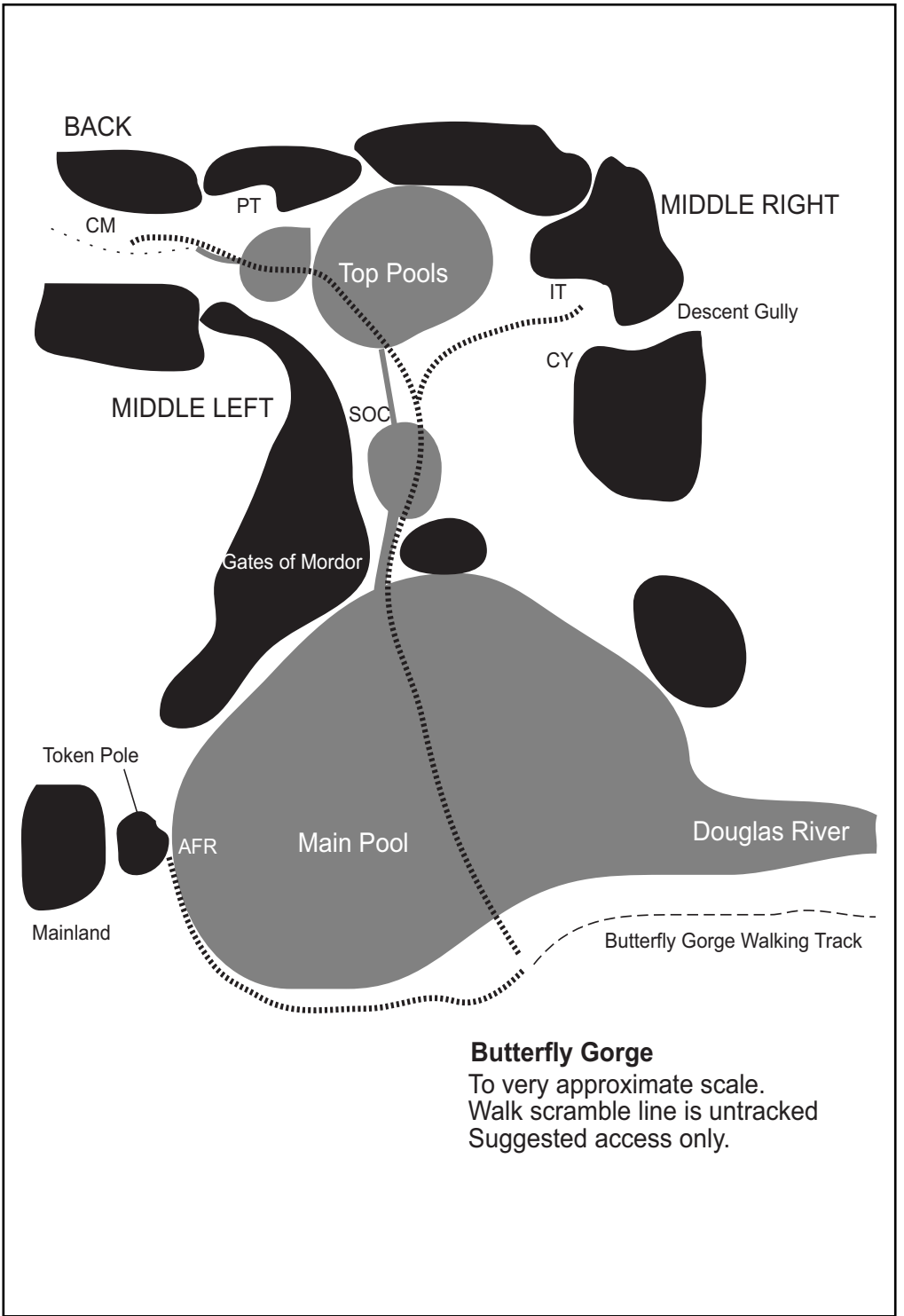
**20m 14(T)\*\*\***

Obvious left facing right angle corner about 15m right of Cro Magnon. Chimney the first section then step out and stem as the crack narrows. One of the cleanest and nicest chimneys around.

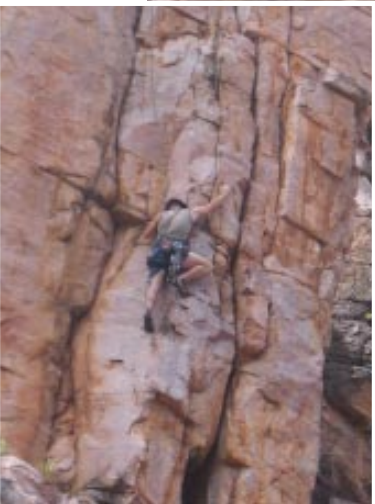
*FLA: Adrian Hoel & Vanessa D. Pony 2004*

*There is an open project just left of PT that holds a fixed wire, is probably about 19 if you are a crack maestro. Follows the fine crack up to vee.*

*And yes it is time for another swim and then the long swim back...*



**Butterfly Gorge**  
 To very approximate scale.  
 Walk scramble line is untracked  
 Suggested access only.



First ascent of Cro  
Magnon14/15 by  
Stuart Anderson &  
Adrian Hoel

Butterfly Gorge  
SWIMMING!!

# A Few Bouldering Locations

## Speedies:

**Location:** Coomalie Region

**Access:** Private Land, must have permission of local indigenous land owner, and be accompanied by locals who know the area and land care rules.

**Rock:** Limestone(esque) extinct stromatolite formations up to 10m high. Very sharp rock.

**Problems:** Slabs, cracks overhangs and thin faces.

**Take:** Lots of water, sunscreen, finger tape



## Daly River Road:

**Location:** Daly River Road, Adelaide River

**Access:** Private pastoral land, boulders 100m from the road in light scrub just after the crossing of the Adelaide River. No formalised access has been negotiated. Afternoon or mornings best.

**Rock:** Limestone formations up to 6m high. Some rock is is very sharp, although waterwashed and red sections are smoother.

**Problems:** Innumerable on bizzare shapes, and holds. Some great pockets!

**Take:** Lots of water, sunscreen, finger tape



## Goanna Park:

**Location:** Arnhem Highway

**Access:** Goanna park is a recreational facility utilised by Junior Police Rangers, and operated by Doug Harris. He operates a campground and adventure camp facilities for youth. Permission must be sought from him (Tel:0409 950444 ) and waiver forms signed. Family camping costs \$20 and there is a pool to swim and a billabong for canoeing.

**Rock:** This is one of many areas with a high concentration of large Granite Tors to 8m in the region. A belt of this country runs to Edith Falls. Granite is coarse grained, giving excellent friction, but has some loose flaky onionskinning.

**Problems:** Slabs, slabs with mantles, cracks, cracks up slabs and delicate faces. Some nice climbing here too (see pic).

**Take:** water, sunscreen , cash.



## Gilmour River:

**Access:** Contentious

**Rock:** Depot Creek Sandstone.

**Problems:** Slabs, cracks, overhangs and thin faces and some caves for both climbing and relaxing away from the heat.

**Take:** Lots of water, food for the day, 4WD, a friendly and discrete local.



## A Few Good Problems:

Here are a “bees dick” of the many thousand possibilities in this area. See Topos.

### SOUTH

#### Bee's Dick Boulder:

- 1) RHS-LHS thin 60 deg overhang traverse from sit start.
- 2) Centre to topout through overhang and interesting sloping finish.

#### Centipede Sickness:

Awesome and obvious overhanging left leaning finger crack to sharp mantle from sitting start. Poor landing.

#### Jevil's Jumble:

- 1) Backside of craglet starting from under cave, laydown start, on nice undercling around roof on pockets to easier top out.
- 2) Same as above, except traverse right for 6m on overhung wall after clearing the roof. Very challenging and pumpy problem.



### NORTH

#### Torture Chamber:

- 1) Overhung problem sit starting on wierd mushroom shaped jug, through pockets to a slopy top out.
- 2) Sitting start line left of mushroom is much more powerful on smaller holds

#### Chiro Dyno:(North Catchment)

Up juggy red wall, visible from the carpark to obvious holds, leap for the top. Scene of an infamous case of dual attention deficit disorder by Chris' spotters for the day.

### WEST

#### Crank Angle Sensor:

Very steep low level traverse near Short film Festival. Starting on left hand side from sit start.

#### The Hopoate:

Overhung and technical start move onto thin slabby finish. Watch snapping holds, bent chalk bag biners and sore coccyx bones.

# Your Approximately 3 Star Topend Tick List

## Hayes Creek

- Gentle Breeze (8)\*\*\*
- Gobby Jug (19)\*\*\*
- The (22)\*\*
- Port Special (18)\*\*
- Vodka and Orange (14)\*\*
- Gatorade (16)\*\*
- Sports Plus (21)\*\*
- Dont Panic (13)\*\*\*
- Who Durnit (18)\*\*\*
- Il Durnit (16)\*\*
- Mr Giggles (21)\*\*
- Route 2 (16)\*\*
- Green Ant Gully (16)\*\*\*
- Thin Tidings (19)\*\*\*
- No Man's Land (19)\*\*\*

## Robin Falls

- Gold Hangers (18)\*\*
- Tree Hugger (17)\*\*\*
- The Only Way is Up (17)\*\*

## Umbrawarra Gorge

- Clowns Corner (11)\*\*\*
- Ode To Python (21)\*\*
- Ankle Anxiety (23)\*\*
- Oranges and Lemons (18)\*\*\*
- Stay Low (17)\*\*\*
- Monkey Gone To Heaven (17)\*\*\*
- King Brown (22)\*\*
- Camelot (15)\*\*
- Jurassic Park (14)\*\*\*
- Basque Bastard (19)\*\*\*
- Basque Bitch (22)\*\*\*

## Gilmour River Area

- FreeBird (22)\*\*\*
- Carpet Python (14)\*\*
- Hard Rock & Faye (15)\*\*
- Gondwana Dreaming (20)\*\*\*
- Beautiful Day (21)\*\*\*
- Sleek the Elite (19)\*\*\*
- Guten Arven (22)\*\*\*
- Guten Morgen (20)\*\*\*
- Guten Tag (18)\*\*
- Diagonal Line of Bolts (17)\*\*\*
- 11/9 (22)\*\*\*
- Hizbolah (20)\*\*
- Al Colada (17)\*\*
- Harvey Crumpet(14)\*\*
- Short Film Festival (17)\*\*
- Arc De Triumph (16)\*\*\*

## Butterfly Gorge

- Another Free Route (19)\*\*\*
- Ithaca (15)\*\*\*
- Cro Magnon (14)\*\*\*
- Papyrus Tigrum (13)\*\*\*
- Cyclops (13)\*\*

**Special Thanks:**

Neale "Kiwi" Taylor  
Justin "Dingo" Trevorrow  
Steve Beyer  
Dave Shepherd  
Chris Hart  
Colin Reece  
Chris & Andrew Martin  
**For showing me  
the ropes.**

