

CLIMBING GUIDE

THE FLATIRON

VICTORIA RANGE / GRAMPIANS / VICTORIA

DECEMBER 2006

FLATIRON 2



<< Malcolm Matheson and Adam Demmert
Malcolm's Roof / Crack 26
^ Steve Chapman first pitch of Incarceration 23**
> Michael O'Reilly first pitch FA of Iron Awe 21*
all photos Rob Booth



The FLATIRON is described in the Vic Ranges Guide...
“There’s masses of rock here but little climbing potential;”
with only one climb recorded in 1986, New Wave Old Hat
20m 14*. Recently over thirty new climbs have been added
to this crag. This massive north facing cliff can be seen
from Adelaide; well maybe Harrop Track.

It is very pleasant here on sunny winter days. The best
climbing is in the mid grades, but its full potential is yet to
be realised. The cliff is very user friendly with good reliable
natural protection and there are lower off anchors at the
end of many climbs. All bolting has been done at current
best practice.

See page 6 for access information.

1. Iron Awe 50m 21 *

Named by, and stolen from Rob. The amazing LH rising
traverse starting at ground level 15m from the start of the cliff
and finishing at the DBB above Extreme Ironing! Take all of your
cams, and some of your mate's! It is yet to receive a continuous
ascent. The grade of pitch 2 is the subject of some debate in
the range of 20-22

- 1) 20m 21 Climb the well protected rising diagonal crack/ledge
system awkwardly to the DBB above Black Iron.
- 2) 24m 21 Traverse left along break to Incarceration DBB.
Eats cams up to #3.
- 3) 6m 14 Keep traversing left across from Incarceration
to the DBB of Extreme Ironing!

Pitch 1: Michael O'Reilly, Rob Booth January 06

Pitch 2: Will Monks, Kevin Lindorff June 05

Pitch 3: Steve Chapman, Rob Booth April 05

2. Swarf 9m 23

Up right hand crack 15m left of the start of Iron Awe.
Traverse left to DBB lower off.

Steve Chapman, Rob Booth May 05

3. Black Iron 8m 20

Nice climbing. Power up the black streak to the DBB.

The unclimbed second pitch looks quite a test piece.....HB?

Rob Booth, Steve Chapman May 05

4. Iron Lady 15m 19

Starts 5m left of Black Iron. Up the right leaning crack system
over the technical bulge and up to the break. Traverse to DBB
above Black Iron.

Rob Booth, Steve Chapman, Tuesday Phelan May 05

Editor Jillian Gara <jillgara@optushome.com.au>
with Michael O'Reilly, Rob Booth + Steve Chapman

5. Permanently Creased 14m 24 **

Sustained and technical climbing on Arapiles type rock. Starts 3m left of Iron Lady. Climb the creases past a FH to the DBB. Take small and medium wires and small cams.
 Michael O'Reilly, Rob Booth, Steve Chapman 23 Oct 05

6. Incarceration 45m 23 M2 **

Follows the major line of the cliff. Straight up the lovely orange corner 12m left of Permanently Creased on perfect Grampians rock. Originally led in one long pitch. The second pitch has three or four aids (No.1 and 2RPs) to a big bucket, and then sustained free climbing to the top.

There is a DBB at the end of the first pitch.

Pitch1: 16m **23** Pitch 2: 29m **M2**

FA Glenn Tempest, Michael Hampton 4 Nov 93

7. Extreme Ironing! 18m 25 *

Starts 4m left of Incarceration at the yellow streak. Climb the easy flake and clip the bolt. Rock up with difficulty, using the small gaston, and climb up to the fingerlocks and technical layback. Go into the nice jams and up to the jugs. Finish easily up the wide trench to the DBB.

Note: Since Michael O'Reilly snapped the crux hold off, this route is one or two grades harder.

Steve Chapman, Rob Booth May 05

8. Sand Iron 18m 23

Starts at the cracks about 3m left of Extreme Ironing! Climb this sandy crack system directly to the horizontal undercling and fingertip layback of Ironside (crux). Finish as for Iron Side to the DBB.

FTRA Rob Booth, Steve Chapman May 05

9. Iron Side 18m 23 **

Just keeps getting harder. Starts 4m left of Extreme Ironing! After the easy start, climb the weakness & crack system on the left of the arête to the mantle and stance just before clipping the bolt. Don't pump out too much holding the horizontal undercling before stepping right to position yourself for the fingertip layback (crux). Finish up to the DBB as for Extreme Ironing!

Steve Chapman, Rob Booth, Kaz Anwin May 05

10. New Wave Old Hat 18m 14 *

The original climb on the cliff. Starts just left of Iron Side. Climb the major hand crack and corner above the ledge, belay below the ledge. Walk to the lower tree at the edge of the cliff and rap.

Neil Barr, Peter Treby, Peter Allan, Kieran Sell Feb 86

20m left of New Wave Old Hat are 3 short cracks capped by a roof.

11. Pet Willow 15m 15

The right hand crack starting off a rock cairn. Finish left to sling lower off above Iron Filings.

Jevon Hardware, Maria Lastra May 05

12. Iron Filings 15m 19 *

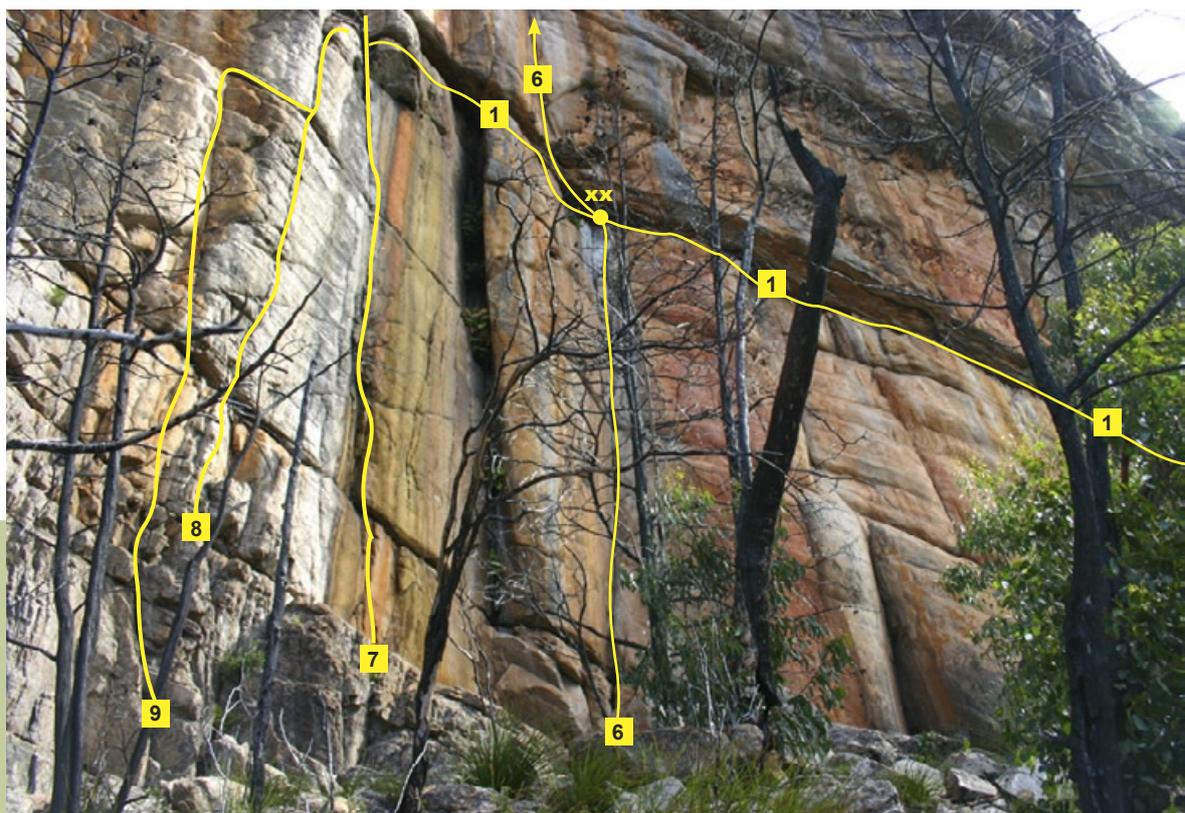
Good old style climbing. The middle of three cracks to sling lower off.

Robin Holmes, Steven Wilson April 05

13. Angle Iron 15m 20

Nice climb for gym bunnies. The left corner crack. Then carefully step right at blocky section. Then up to lower off as for Iron Filings.

Steven Wilson, Robin Holmes April 05



- 1. Iron Awe 50m 21*
- 6. Incarceration 45m 23 M2**
- 7. Extreme Ironing! 18m 25*
- 8. Sand Iron 18m 23
- 9. Iron Side 18m 23**

14. Pumping Iron 28m 22 *

1) 16m **20** Start 3m left of Angle Iron at the toe of the buttress heading up right edge of grey buttress. At steepening step right to follow thin crack through bulge. Up left then carefully up through finger like rocks to belay on ledge (bolt + wire).

2) 12m **22** Small wires/RP's to get started. Blast up strenuous crack with bomber gear. Hanging belay on left (large wires).

Descent: Either scramble/slide down wide sloping ledge to the rap anchor for New Wave Old Hat, or top out and walk off the back of the cliff to descend down the western end of cliff.

Robin Holmes, Steven Wilson, Tuesday Phelan (Pitch 1 only)
May 05

The next 8 routes can access the DBB and rap anchors above Iron Lung.

15. Robbed 16m 12

May have been climbed by Glen Tempest and party but not recorded. The wide juggy crack 9m left of Angle Iron and 2m right of Jaffle Iron with quite a hard start.

Robin Holmes and Tuesday Phelan May 05

16. Jaffle Iron 15m 14 *

Better than it looks! Up corner 2m left of Robbed, over bulge and left onto ledge. Walk left to rap point.

Rob Booth, Ross Timms, Tuesday Phelan May 05

17. Iron Age 18m 22

The corner with a steep start, 7m left of Jaffle Iron. The grade allows for fiddly protection through the crux. The blank section at 4m is avoided by moving left, then rejoining the line, to a ledge at 8m. Traverse left 5m to finish up The Weight. A better finish would be directly up over the improbable orange bulges from the middle of the traverse.

Kevin Lindorff, Will Monks June 05

18. The Weight 18m 16 *

Starts 4m left of Iron Age. There is a corner becoming three rounded cracks. Climb the right wall of corner, following the right crack to terrace.

Michael Hampton, Peter Woodfield May 91

19. Iron Lung 15m 19 *

Starts as for The Weight. Climb the easy orange corner to the middle crack and directly up to the top and rap anchors.

Rob Booth, Ross Timms May 05

20. Irony 16m 21 *

Up Iron Lung for approximately 6m and left below bulge and up the left hand crack.

Steven Wilson, Tuesday Phelan May 05

21. Rust Never Sleeps 22 *

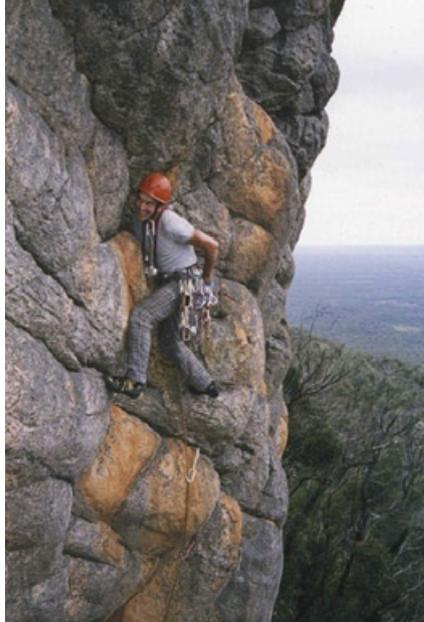
Starts 2m left of Iron Lung. Climb the technical crack till it ends. Clip the fixed hanger and climb up and diagonally right on spaced holds to finish up Irony.

Steve Chapman, Michael O'Reilly, Rob Booth April 06

22. Turkish Bath 25m 25

Starts 4m left of Rust Never Sleeps. Climb the flake, step right and then motor up the grey streak leftwards through the bulges.

FTRA Glenn Tempest Dec 92



^ Steven Wilson FA of Irony 21*
photo Steve Chapman
^ Steve Chapman FA Rust Never
Sleeps 22 * photo Ben Wright

From Turkish Bath continue along down and around for 40m, with a bit of scrambling, and then up to a red clumpy pocketed wall with two sports routes.

23. Robin's Project One

24. Robin's Project Two

Continue along the red wall to where it turns grey.

25. Against The Tide 70m 16

Starts either at the weakness and flake, or at the dogleg crack 4m left of the weakness, below the large grey corner.

1) 35m **16** Climb the weakness, or the dogleg crack, and head up to the large grey corner. Climb the corner and move right to belay beneath the chimney.

2) 35m **12** Climb the classic chimney up to the ledge, past a large chockstone and crack. A final scramble through the rear of the cave leads to the top of the cliff. Walk off the back of the cliff to descend down the western end of cliff.

Pitch 1: Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman 11 June 05

Pitch 2: Alastair Hudson, Mark Gould, Laura Gould,

Robin Holmes 12 June 05

FLATIRON 5

26. Big Drum Small World 30m 18

Weakness and crack 10m left of Against The Tide. Up, step left through smooth section, back right to line and up. Scramble off and descend carefully to the left.

Michael Hampton, Geoff Butcher 10 June 06

27. Malcolm's Roof/Crack 20m 26 *

Climbs the weakness through the roof and prow at the highest part of the wall, above and to the right of Against The Tide. Access the start by climbing Against The Tide (16) and moving right along the sloping ledge/chimney to belay at the lowest point. The route starts out the left/larger crack.

Great climbing across the well protected crack (#4 Camelot approx. 0.5m before the lip; other gear possible). At the lip traverse right on slopers (crux) for about 1m and then go up (a little runout). Eases once on the headwall. Belay in the corner and then scramble to the top.

Malcolm Matheson, Adam Demmert June 05

Description was provided by Adam Demmert.

THE FLATIRON - SOUTHSIDE

Follow The Flat Iron access description in The Victoria Range guide (p70), except follow the cliff (south side) right until you get to the gully, then turn left and go up into saddle over looking the next creek valley (GR 104664).

32. Lost in Deep Space 20m 14

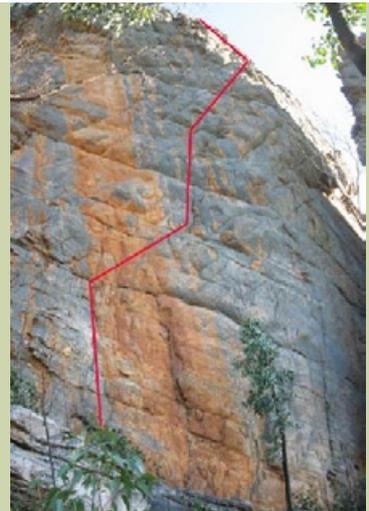
Start about 30m north of saddle at orange left facing corner. Caimed. Steeply up corner to overhang. Step right then back left to large sloping ledge. Move left along ledge to shallow right leading diagonal cracks and up.

Glen Donohue, James McIntosh 18 Feb 05

33. Beyond Gravity 40m 12

Start about 50m left and around the corner from Lost in Deep Space halfway up the large sloping terrace. Up wall, passing the left hand end of the orange overhang at half height.

James McIntosh, Glen Donohue 18 Feb 05



< Tuesday Phelan leading Against The Tide 16

photo Ben Wright

v Malcolm Matheson finishing his Roof/Crack 26 *

photo Rob Booth

> Topo of Summit Fever by Jono Schmidt.

This route is on the left hand Pinnacle.

PINNACLES

THE PINNACLES

The Pinnacles are two north facing orange buttresses split by a large trench, approximately 200m further along the cliff (past the large treed descent gully). They are marked on the photo on page 6. Access is best via the base of the cliff, not along the cliffline past the red wall. Or keep walking left uphill along the base from Against the Tide for about 100m, and scramble down and across a gully to reach two 25m tall square-top pinnacles with more good rock.

28. The Bottom Inspectors 25m 21 *

A cheeky climb with pushy right-wing tendencies. The first weakness. Balancy, but well protected. Up through first bulge. Hard moves up and step right. After second bulge follow grey groove just left of arete (where the climbs been pushing you to all along).

Michael Hampton, Edwin Young 14 June 91

29. Rump Ranger 25m 18 *

A really tasty excursion up a wall of buckets n' bums.

Climb the second weakness 4m left of The Bottom Inspectors. Follow the steep flakes up and right-wards to an exiting traverse, with a final big 'heave-ho' to pull over the top.

Edwin Young, Michael Hampton 14 June 91

Descent: A couple of manky slings on a bollard at the upper/ east end of the pinnacle which need replacing or adding to by who ever is there next.

30. Summit Fever 25m 20 *

Excellent steep climbing on quality rock on left hand pinnacle. Climb the line of least resistance 6m left of the arete and then traverse up and right with no protection (crux) and follow the obvious right leading diagonal line to the arete and the top. Scramble off the back of the wall. *Photo topo above.*

FFA Jono Schmidt & James Pfrunder 12 June 05

31. Project

At the back of this pinnacle there is an unfinished bolted project (3 FHs).

! Do not climb this route as it still needs more bolts.

ACCESS

Follow the Waterworks Track from the gate at Glenelg River Road for 5.4km to the carpark at the end (1km past the Slander Gully/Curiosity Crag turn off on Waterworks Track). The back of the top of The Flatiron is visible from Waterworks Track as you drive to the carpark.

Cross the creek at the weir and head north up the right hand side of the grassy/rocky gully following tape and rock cairns. Cross the gully and head steeply up the hill following the tape and cairns to the old 4WD track and the saddle. Turn right up hill (heading east) along the old track for about 100 metres to the cairns that mark the end of the track. From the end of this old vehicular track you can see the top of the back of The Flatiron. Then veer left following the contour, cairns and tape along a steep gully. Cross the gully and then head up the hill following the rough track and cairns. At the top of the hill, follow cairns and tape around to the base of the cliff, on the north side of this spur.

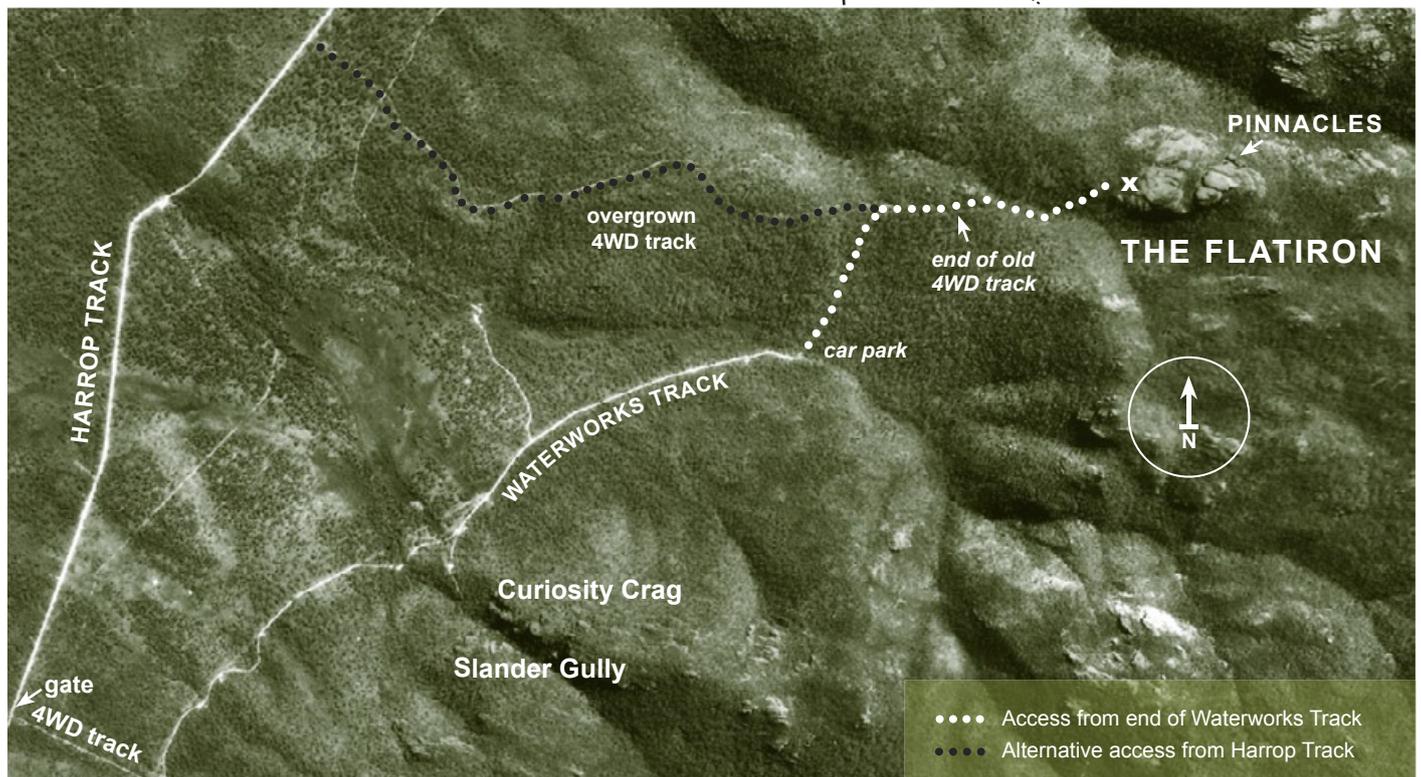
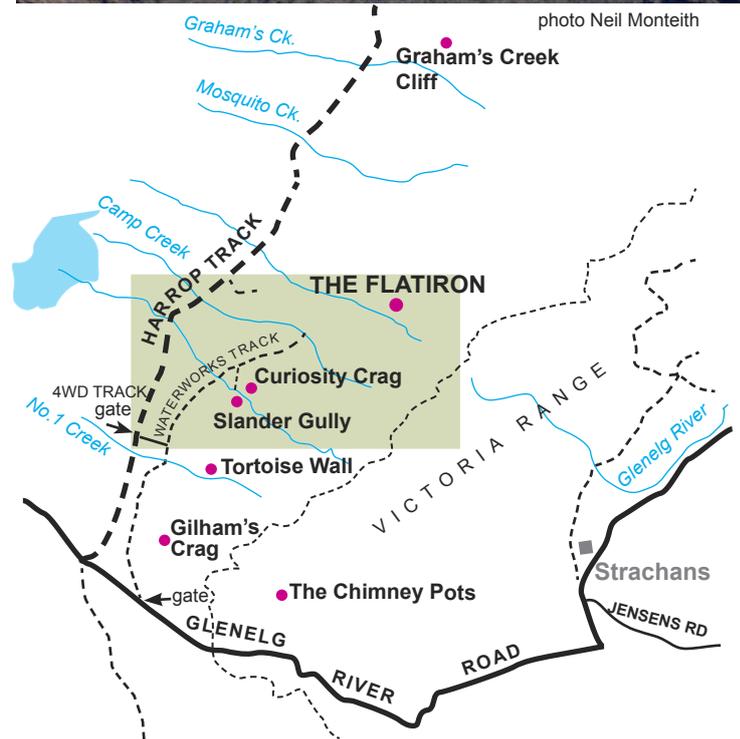
Walking time is approximately 30 to 35 minutes.

If the gate is closed...

Alternative access from Vic Range Guide [1986 K.Loughran]. The old 4WD track runs off Harrop Track 3.5km south of Graham's Creek (0.5km north of Camp Creek). Follow the (overgrown) track up the range (ridge/spur) until it gradually disappears in a small saddle. Cairns mark the end of the track, from here you can see the top of the back of The Flatiron. Veer left following the contour, cairns and tape along a steep gully. Cross the gully and then head up the hill following the rough track and cairns. At the top of the hill, follow cairns and tape around to the base of the cliff, on the north side of this spur.



photo Neil Monteith



- Access from end of Waterworks Track
- Alternative access from Harrop Track

photo Josef Goding