

The Mt Difficult Range Update

An On-Line Update Guide

James McIntosh

The Mount Difficult Range Update

WARNING

Most of the information provided in this Update has not been checked for correctness. It has been taken from various sources including Argus, Rock Magazine, and Neil Monteith's web site.

There is no warranty that this information is correct. Most of the routes below have had only one ascent. The grades have not been confirmed. There may be loose rock. The usual warning applies.

YOU CLIMB AT YOUR OWN RISK

INTRODUCTION TO THE UPDATE

This update is a supplement to *The Mount Difficult Range* climbing guide published by the Victorian Climbing Club in July 1999. This update is useless without a copy of the original book so go and buy one if you don't have one.

This update provides all know significant corrections and new routes up the date below:

16/July/2005

If you do any new routes, or become aware of any errors in the existing guide or update, then please advise the VCC. This can be done in any of the following ways:

Email the VCC at info@vicclimb.org.au
Post to VCC, PO Box 1725P, Melbourne Vic 3001
Phone James McIntosh on (03) 9762 8309

Then we will add your information to the update.

HOW TO USE THIS UPDATE

The information in this update appears under the same headings as appear in the contents page of the original guide. Page numbers relate to the original guide.

Information on new cliffs appears under a heading, which is the name of the cliff. For new cliffs, there are half page numbers to indicate where the cliff would have been if it was in the original guide. (eg The End of The Earth is labelled at page 112.5, if it was in the original guide, it would be located just after Upper Centurion Wall which is on page 112).

When you visit a cliff, check for its name in the headings in this update to see if there is any new information.

Now, on with the Update.....

The Mount Difficult Range Update

CORRECTIONS

HISTORY

P 14. The second pitch of *Coup De Grace* was by Chip Chase and Richard Evans, not by Simon Mentz as implied in the original guide.

MOUNT DIFFICULT CLIFF

P55. Whipped Cream is only 65m long, not 75m.

THE ROCKWALL

P80 The photo is incorrectly captioned. It should read "Gordon Talbett on BFC in the Middle of the Road during its first ascent. Photo by Campbell Mercer".

P 84. The Heeling first ascent was by Glen Donohue, Wayne Maher 29.11.98

HEATHERLIE HEIGHTS

P125. Access. There's now a cairn at the start of the walk in. It's actually 700m north of Heatherlie Quarry and 13.0 km from Delley's Bridge. Walk straight up towards the cliff through medium scrub then continue up broken slabs aiming for orange wall at right hand end of cliff (Together Alone). The time from car (20 minutes) in the original guide is probably an understatement. Some subsequent visitors took about 45 minutes to get there. (On the day of the original visit, the first ascensionists were taking a day off from "family camping responsibilities" and were consequently trying to fit two days' climbing into one. This resulted in a degree of haste during the initial approach).

THE PROMISED LAND

P 134 Chris Baxter has advised that *Puff The Magic Dragon* starts 30m down right of *Loose End*, not 10 m right, and its second pitch is only 15 m.

THE HEAVANS

P141 *Tight Purple Satin Dress* is apparently worth two stars.

LUNAR CRAGS

P145. The comment in the original guide that Lunar Crag has "mainly bolt protected face climbs" has been interpreted by some to mean that it is a sport crag. It's not a sport crag. Take your rack. *Private Universe* in particular is a bit run-out. When you walk up to the upper cliff as described in the original guide, you will end up at the *Apollo* pillar.

THE WATCHTOWER

P157. *Negative Gearing* and *Singing Cowboy Blues* are in the wrong order in the original guide.

The Mount Difficult Range Update

NEW ROUTES

CARTERS COL

P36 Head Banger 30m 18

Up wall 4 metres right of *The B. Desh Memorial Buttress* and immediately right of a substantial conifer. Pull through overhang two metres right of the pale slab at 7 metres, on *BDMB*, and up to distinctive left facing flake. Up right to climb right wall of *BDMB*'s final corner. Move right up ramp near the top to avoid a loose block. Chris Baxter, Geoff Gledhill. 11.6.00

EPAMINONDAS BUTTRESS

Monkey Man Variant 25m 16

Take some large cams. 3a. 25m. "As for described route through bottomless chimney." (This does not make sense as the standard route does not go up a chimney; it probably means the chimney straight above the second pitch.) Head toward the back of the chimney, then turn around to face outwards, then rising bridging traverse. Exit onto left wall (facing out) then up to top. Michael Giacometti, John Maher. 05.03

MOUNT DIFFICULT CLIFF

P53 *Dead Calm 30m 21

30-50m past river on main track (about 5-600m past the 2 above lines) on LH side of prominent steep buttress. 5 x 110mm M10 "FIXE" G316 Dual expansion bolts (With "FIXE" Hangers) and one glue (Ramset HAC10) in ring bolt lead right through steep moves until you reach the easier face above (lots of natural pro). DBB/rings lower off Approx 25m to ground Joe Goding, Graham Holden 03/11/01

** He Who Walks Through Shallow Water 20m 21

Dedicated to Wade Stevens. Start 150m left of *Hard Day's Night* at an attractive looking orange & black wall above a white arrow on the walking track. A short corner leads to steep moves (2 FH & #1 cam) past bulge to sustained face moves on good holds to double ring belay / lower-off at ledge. Joe Goding. 9.01

*Gale Force 24m 21

Shares the start of *He who walks through shallow water* until #9 nut, then traverses left past steep thin moves past 3rd FH into scoop. Up and left out of this to easier ground and DBB. Move right on large ledge to Abseil station. Not as sustained as "He who walks through shallow water". Joe Goding, Simon Pateman 24/11/01

Top Access 30m (approx) 18 (approx)

From DBB/Chains (of *He who walks through Shallow Water*) move (approx 6-8m) left along large ledge to obvious crack around 2-3m from far LH end. up this with difficulty to very easy ground above. DBB/Chains same set-up as lower chains except these ones are installed with double expansion 110mm M10 G316 Stainless "FIXE" bolts.

P59 Sweet Thing 45m 14

Climbs fragile face between *Beeline* and *Bumble Variant*. Climb wall almost anywhere until roof, which is taken at the obvious notch. Continue directly past blank bit to a good ledge. Abseil off horn. James Falla, Debbie Sweet, Jon Bassindale.12.99

Some Choss Heap 65m 15

Loose and poorly protected route up the proud arête right of Queen Bee. Pitches of 25m, 25m 15m. Start up Guillotine then move left onto the face. Back right at around 25 to 30m to belay in corner. Horizontally left onto arête proper, straight up to ledge. Bail here to avoid further complications. Traverse down and across to major ledge, rap from tree on Queen Bee. Joe Goding, Steve Hamilton (alt) 6.10.02

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BARR'S BUTTRESS

P74 La Belle Époque 37m 20

The great line of the crag. It's the major V corner referred to in the access notes in the guide. 1. 25m (crux) Up corner to ceiling then traverse right to arête. 2. 12m Arête. Chris Baxter, David Gairns (alt) 17.5.01

Décolletage 30m 20

Steep exciting climbing with two cruxes. Overhanging seam 10m right of *La Belle Époque* and just left of the right arête of the main buttress of the cliff, then veer up left to overhangs. Exit up left through these via alcove. There is loose rock on the exit. Chris Baxter, Mike Stone 9.6.01

THE ROCKWALL

A Strayed Black Cat 25m 15

Start as for *Black Feral Cat Goes Underground*. Stay on the left wall, though the orange scoop, and step left around overhang. Pete Holmes, Christian Doblin 11.3.01

The Next Train To Ballarat 39m 16

Terrible rock. Climb the arête between *Black Feral Cat Goes Underground* and *Dream Weaver*, starting just right of *BFCGU*, and finishing at the top of *Dream Weaver*. Geoff Gledhill, Chris Baxter, Mike Stone 10.6.01

DRAMA WALL

Full Metal Underpants 25m 17

Takes the front of the main buttress. Start in cave 4m up right of *Exit Stage Left*. 1. 20m (crux) Go up and right onto the front of the buttress. Up left over bulge then easily up to stance. 2. 5m Up. Kieran Loughran, Chris Baxter (alt) 25.7.99

Fin de Siecle 35m 19

Major wide corner right of *Full Metal Underpants*. It's a great line, but most of us don't own the gear needed to lead it. Take multiple Big Bros, and medium Friends and wires (or a top-rope). If you've got the gear, and still want to do the climb, proceed as follows: 1. 15m Up easily to foot of line. Right facing flake to bushy ledges. Up to foot of main corner. 2. 20m (crux) Up, you shouldn't get lost. Kieran Loughran, Chris Baxter (alt) 14.8.99

P 99.5 BRIGGS BLUFF BACK WALL

An extension of the Briggs Bluff cliff facing north west. Mostly a sea of choss, but there are a few roof lines in amongst it. gr 294059. Easy (long) approach by the track past Beehive Falls.

Autumn Waking 20m 14

Start at the left side of the let most of four caves. Pull onto wall, up to head wall, up right along its base to chossy chimney. Up flake in left wall. James & Melanie McIntosh 1/5/04.

BRIGGS BLUFF

This much-maligned cliff turned out to be a forgotten treasure. A good rediscovery by Mike. It's a long walk in but well worth it. The new routes are all at the right end of the cliff. They are best approached by skirting around from the Beehive Falls track above Drama Wall. This takes about 1¼ hour. Routes described from right to left. Start by finding Silk Road.

Samarkand 20m 18

About 30m down right of *Silk Road* is a short corner with FH. Up past FH (crux) to ledge, then straight up middle of wall to DBB/rap station. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 26.9.01

Samarkand Variant 16

From ledge above crux, follow curved corner on left. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 27.9.01

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**Silk Road 35m 19

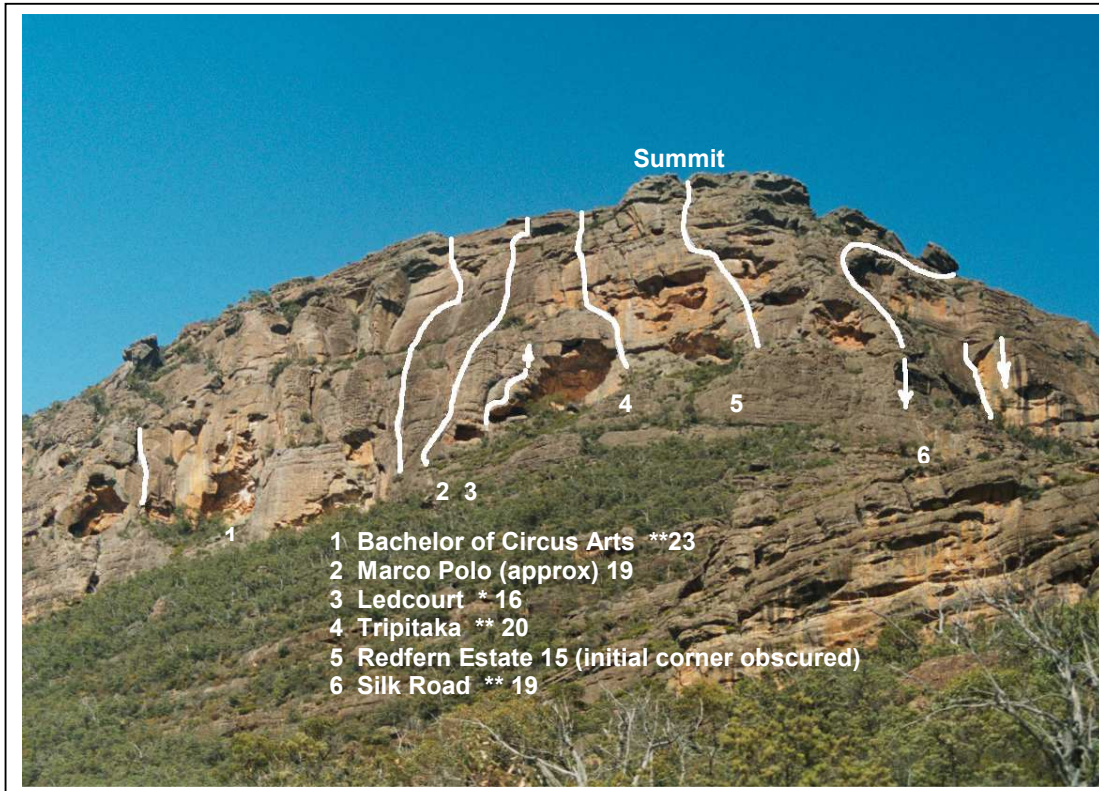
Reminiscent of *The Blimp* at Bundaleer. To the right of the main Briggs Bluff face, the cliff curves around to face north west (overlooking Rose Gap), and diminishes in height. About 70m right of the bend is a major corner with a yellow wall on the right and a grey wall (undercut by cave) on the left. There is a 3m roof about 2/3 of the way up the corner. Step into the corner from the left, up and around roof, being careful of rope drag, then exit right on a ledge. Either scramble up right on jugs, or abseil 25m from tree (2m long sling needed). Mike Wust, Jeremy Boreham, James McIntosh, Norm Booth. 15.4.01

*Slik Road 35m 21

Steep slab. Start as for Silk Road. Take a couple of cams around #1.5 - #2 for horizontal break between 3rd and 4th FH. Up Silk Road a few metres, then traverse left along break past 2FH. At 2nd FH, head straight up past another 3FH to DBB/rap station. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 27.9.01

Consolation Prize 60m 12

Pleasant ramble. 1.35m Climb the narrow, smooth rib left of the first cave left of the northern spur (right of Redfern Estate). 2. 25m Juggy buttress. Scramble to summit. Stu Dobbie, James McIntosh (alt) 8/5/04.



Briggs Bluff Topo

Redfern Estate 95m 15

Reasonable climbing but the rock is only fair. Start 120m left of *Silk Road* and 10m right of a cave. (This is about 50m left of where the cliff direction turns from north west facing to north east facing). Look for a small grey corner that starts about 20m above the ground and a cairn. 1. 35m Up wall for 18m then move left to below corner. Up corner to large ledge. 2. 30m Up left to left end of large roof. Traverse left along horizontal chimney and ledge to a small vertical chimney. Up chimney. 3. 30m Up crack system through bulge then easily to top. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh (alt) 6/5/01

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** Tripitaka 85m 20

Excellent climbing with a thrilling roof on the third pitch. The poor rock on the start could be avoided by traversing in from the cave. Start 60m left *Redfern Estate* and 15m right of a huge cave. Look for small twin recessed corners starting at 15m and a cairn on the ground. 1. 35m Up seam to break, move right then up the left hand corner. 2. 20m The line above the tree. Belay under the big roof. 3. 30m (crux) Through the roof then up easily. James McIntosh, Glen Donohue (alt) 5/5/01

The Way Of All Flesh 100m 24

Left of *Tripitaka* is an enormous wind eroded cave. Start at the left edge of this cave. 1. 18m Up seam/crack (crux) to right-leading roof flake. Follow this to an awkward exit on to small stance. 2. 27m (12) Up easily above, tending slightly right, to belay from gum tree on big ledge. 3. 40m (14) Up short right leading ramp, then atmospherically back left along cramped ledge until possible to step on to slab above. Up this (spaced protection) to belay off large flat boulder on big scrubby ledge. 4. 15m (18) Boulder problem start through overhang then step up left around roof and follow horizontal break in side wall of roof out right to prow (enjoyably exposed), and so to summit. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. (alts) 28.9.01

*Ledcourt 95m 16

Very good face climbing but a bit run-out on the second pitch. Take lots of small and medium cams. Start roughly 10m left of *The Way of All Flesh*, just left of the next cave down. (Note that *Marco Polo* is about 30m further left). 1. 45m Step left onto juggy rib then up the left hand line on the steep face above the cave. Belay at tree. 2. 35m Straight up black wall then take the flake through the pale bulge. Wander up the wall above. (Run-out though there are some runners up left). 3. 15m (Crux) Boulder through the roof then move right and finish about 2m left of the corner. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh (alt) 6/5/01

**Bachelor of Circus Arts 35m 23

Stunning thin crack. Start about 100m left of *Marco Polo* at the left side of a major bay / cave system that you have to scramble up into. (I suspect that *In Loo* is probably the line at the right side of this bay). BCA is the thin crack in the small but very attractive right facing smooth wall. After awkward off-finger jams turn the small triangular roof on the right side and head easily left to small tree. Up easy chimney above for ten metres to ledge and rap tree. Take right branch where it divides. Gareth Llewellyn, James McIntosh, Neil Monteath. 21.4.02

LOWER CENTURION WALL

Neil Monteath's web site at www.neilshaulbag.com is the best source of info for Centurion Walls, the routes have been included here for completeness.

P105 Progressive Happy House 15m 18

Start up *Push It Upstairs* but head diagonally right on jugs to obvious vertical transition. Up with little pro to dirty top. Brings lots of cams. Neil Monteith, Jono Shmidt, Nick McKinnon 25.6.00

*Push It Upstairs 15m 23

Sandbag one move wonder. Starts 20m right of the fireplace in the cave at the right end of the cliff. Move up on big horizontals for 7m. Traverse left for 3m and up to another good slot. Dyno crux then up wall to belay tree. Nick McKinnon & Neil Monteith 1.5.99

*** Psychotic Episode 15m 26

The best line of the cliff, 10m left of *Push It Upstairs*. Flakes leading up overhung orange buttress. Four rings leads to double ring lower-off. Nick McKinnon. 29.7.00

** Stone Temptress 20m 21

Start up *Kublai Khan* for four metres then begin the never ending overhung hand-traverse right on superb stone to end at *Psychotic Episode's* ring bolts. Bring every cam you own up to size 4, and lots of slings. Add a few grades if you pump out easily! Neil Monteith 5.11.00

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P106 ** Killer Wolf 15m 21

Best warm-up of the cliff. Into small cave right of *Lexicon* (FH), big roof flake (cams) to small rest and FH. Head left on jugs past ring bolt then straight up to double rings. Direct straight up from second FH is still a project (26+). Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith & Adam Demmert 4.6.00

Anti-Christ Superstar 25m 25/26

Start about 10m right of *Killer Wolf* below a larger scoop in the rock. Up broken wall past BR to scoop. Follow five rings left across steep wall (crux) to break. Shuffle right along this (two rings) to a rest in slot. Straight up a few moves to twin pocket jugs then right (ignoring high ring) to break and good cam slot. Up again on pockets to jugs and pumpy conclusion past ring to twin ring lower-off. Extend runners to avoid rope drag. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 2.9.01

Devil's Hair Cut 25m 25/26

Absorbing and powerful sport climbing up nice orange rock. Climb Compressor Route to 5th RB, step left under block (RB) and fire up wall above (3 RBs) to DRB lower-off. Neil Monteith 7.9.03

*Compressor Route 23m 27

Start as for *Anti-Christ Superstar* but take direct finish up the headwall. Up ACSS to rest at half-height. Up and left to pocket then straight up to chains. Nick McKinnon. 17/8/02

P109* Afterworld 20m 23

An easier variant finish to *Left Hand Black*. Climb LHB to third FH then traverse right past another FH to break in roof. Over this on jugs (FH), then up orange corner and final steep wall to rap anchor. Wires and medium cams protect the upper half. Neil Monteith & Aaron Jones. March 00

A good bouldering wall exists between *Sandpit* and *Left Hand Black*. Tom Briggs, Neil Monteith and Gareth Llewelin established the obvious problems on 5th December 1998. Additional V6 problem up 'penis' feature was added by Adam Demmert on 3.6.00

P111** Winged Corpse 13m 25/26

Wild overhung climbing through cave left of *Ton Steine Scherben*. Batman to first FH then funkness leads up flakes and pockets to double rings. Four bolts in all. Neil Monteith & Cameron Fairburn 22.4.00

UPPER CENTURION WALL

P112 Desert Crack 20m A2

On the far right side of the chossy cave is a very obvious overhanging finger crack. Aid this using cams to size #1 and some birdbeaks for the top. Might go free at grade 25? Rap off sling. Neil Monteith (solo) 26.11.00

P112.5 THE END OF THE EARTH

This is the small attractive looking cliff above the left end of Briggs Bluff, which is obvious from the Halls Gap – Mt Zero Road just north of Deep Creek. Best approach is to walk directly up hill from the Halls Gap Mt Zero Road from the corner 600m north of Deep Creek. This will take you up a broad gully to the ridge top. Follow the ridge north to the cliff. About 1 hour's walk.

Air Kissing 20m 17

The crack splitting the middle of the cliff, where the grey and red walls meet. This was reached by scrambling down from the top around the left side of the cliff. Chris Baxter, David Gairns 23.10.99

P122.4 THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT

North facing cliffs with good rock. The orange outcrops visible 500m south-west from the Halls Gap – Mt Zero Road where it crosses Deep Creek. (1.6km from Delley's Bridge and 8.6 km from the Rose Gap Junction). Walk south west from the creek crossing to the first worthwhile cliff. The main face has big roofs. Just right of its right arête is a narrow wall with a flared crack leading to a left leading ramp (*Rain of Terror*). To reach the upper cliff, scramble up slab. The upper cliff is longer and slants up left.

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Rain of Terror 37m 16

1. 25m (crux) Scramble 5m up easy slab just right of right wall of lower cliff. Step left into foot of crack. Up crack to ramp then up ramp to cave. 2. 12m Easily left up ramp. Chris Baxter, David Gairns (alt) 26.5.01

The Happy Warrior 25m 12

On the upper cliff, about 65m left of *Rain of Terror* and one metre left of an arête is a prominent crack followed by a bulge after the crack peters out. Chris Baxter, David Gairns 26.5.01

Mellow Fellow 20m 6

Left facing flake-crack 30m right of The Happy Warrior. (There is a descent gully between these routes). David Gairns, Chris Baxter. 26.5.01

P122.7 WILDEBEEST

A major new area high in the range. There are a number of cliffs in the area that warrant attention. Most of the good stuff has a sunny aspect, making it a good place to climb in cool weather.

Access is long but easy. From the Halls Gap - Zumsteins Road, take the turn off to Lake Wartook picnic area / Mackenzie Falls and follow the road to Lake Wartook. From the end of the sealed road at the Wartook picnic area, follow the Mt. Difficult Road for 8.4 km to the eastern end of the Long Point Fireline. Walk along this for 4 km to a junction, then take the uphill branch for about 5 minutes until it ends at a camp site. About 20m short of the campsite, a walking track heads uphill for about one kilometre to a junction on the ridge top. Take the left branch for 50 m then scrub bash 100m due east to the cliff top. *No Gnus is Good Gnus is underneath*. To reach it, descend the first gully north of the main gully until a large ledge is reached (the last 3m to the ledge is awkward). Follow the ledge around south to a nice corner.

No Gnus is Good News 30m 16

Good climbing with excellent protection, but beware of loose blocks at the start and finish. Climb the right facing corner to a stance below a small roof. Bridge around the roof (crux, dangerous blocks on left) and finish up easy slab. Kieran Loughran, Norm Booth, 6.01

Jungle Drums Talk 30m 20

The major Blimp-like corner at the upper rim of the valley, about 100m south of the creek. Norm Booth, Keith Lockwood. 10.7.01

The next two routes are about a kilometre from the previous ones. From the track junction above Wildebeest, follow the main track NW for 500m to an orange stone fireplace. Scrub bash north down into a gully then down the gully to the top of the cliff (10 min from track). The climbing is on the portion of the cliff to your right (facing out), and the best descent is at the far end.

Cliff faces NW GR 304037

Détente 18m 19

Start 5m right of the cave nearest the left end of the cliff (cairn). Up face for 12m to where it blanks out. Move left past loose looking flake, then up seam. Chris Baxter, James McIntosh 10.2.02.

Gossip Column 18m 19

About 150m right of *Détente* and just right of a chimney corner is a thin left facing dihedral corner. Up this and straight through the bulge. James McIntosh and his good friend Chris Baxter alt 10.2.02 (done with a rest and a leader change below the bulge).

P123 SPLIT PINNACLE

Lou-Ellen the Great 20m 15

Walk left for 40m below the broken crag which continues from the left edge of the ain pinnacle, to a right-facing corner with large boulder at base, just right of prominent overhangs. From the top of boulder, get into corner and climb it. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 7.6.02

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P124 **NO MANS LAND**

This cliff can no longer be regarded as "Another minor crag" as stated in the guide.

Recent visitors have taken 30 minutes to walk in rather than 20 minutes as stated in the original guide.

The Silent Miaow 35m 15

Right facing black corner with steep start at left end of the worthwhile section of cliff. Finish up jugs to abseil tree. Chris Baxter, Kieran Loughran 15.12.02

Take a Letter, Maria 35m 18

Thin crack with steep start, then easy line up right arête of SM, finish up jugs to tree and abseil. Chris Baxter, Kieran Loughran 24.2.02

Farewell, Freddie 35m 16

Major black right facing corner 10m right of *The Silent Miaow*. Corner to roof. Exit dramatically up left, then easily up and left to tree on SM. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, Peter Woolford. 24.2.02

Going Over to Susan's House 45m 16

Steep stuff. Major line starting 13m down right of FF and 14m left of *Easy Options*. Take care with the rock. Line to ledge, then on more steeply in the same line. Finally go up easily until you can traverse horizontally left to the tree on SM. Peter Woolford, Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 24.2.02

The Song of The Lamb 57m 19

Major line 2m left of *Easy Options*. Lichenous rock "will clean up with traffic" (if it gets any). Take one each of Camelot #4 and #5. 1. 20m (crux) Up thin crack until it steepens. Right and up seam to distinctive offwidth though steepest section. Belay at small stance 5m higher. 2. 12m Continue up line to small stance in black right facing corner. 3. 25. Up corner on right for 4m, then up its right arête to ledge. Go 2m right, then up arête. Chris Baxter, Kieran Loughran 15.12.01

The Girl Of My Dreams 50m 15

Major crack 30m right of *Easy Options* (cairn). 1. 25m (crux) Crack to ledge with tree. 2. 25m Up right on black wall to line. Follow this, moving right around final overhang. Geoff Gledhill, Chris Baxter. 18.11.01

Dream On 50m 15

Megaline. Starts at a cairn 80m right of *The Girl of My Dreams*. 1. 30m (crux) Up line with small eucalypt at 3m, up to distinctive black and yellow overhang at 25m. Belay on ledge just above. 2. 20m Continue up line, starting with bulge. Chris Baxter, Geoff Gledhill (alt) 18.11.01

P 130.5 **WARTOOK WALL** GR 317981

A long but mostly broken cliff set back from the main escarpment. Take the Mt Difficult road for 3.5 km north from Boroka Lookout. (Be sure to measure the distance because the cliff is not visible from the road). Walk up the steep slope to the west to reach the cliff after 10 minutes.

Baptism of Fire 40m 20

Pushy start, dirty upper section. Take a #4 Camelot. The only real climbing prospect appears to be a steep, clean. Continuous orange & grey buttress about 150m left of the right end of the escarpment. BF is on this, and is marked by a cairn. Easily to ledge at 5m. Bridge off tree onto overhanging wall. Up and slightly R to below roof. Right below this, then up right facing corner at its right end, then crack above. Chris Baxter, Kieran Loughran. 6.1.02

HEATHERLIE HEIGHTS

P 126 Natimukian for a Day 55m 13

Good first pitch. Start at the toe of the black slab about 15m right of *Blue Sky Mining*. 1. 30m Up slab and crack in orange overhang to bushy ledge. 2. 25m Up shallow corner on right side of grey wall to bushy ledge. Step right from ledge and up wall above. Mike Wust, Lesley Roberts. 12.6.00

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Freestone 19

FFA Wade Stevens, Peter Mills. 24.9.00

THE PROMISED LAND

P 134 Bread Line 35m 16

1. 20m Up offwidth crack 10m right of *Loose End*, then slab to overlap. Traverse right and join *Puff The Magic Dragon* just below its belay. 2. 15m Continue up *Puff The Magic Dragon*. Chris Baxter, David Gairns (alt) 20.11.88

P139 A Perfect Day to Drop The Bomb 50m 18

A bit indirect but has some interesting climbing. About 40m right of Journalistic Licence is an easy angled recessed bay with orange and black striped rock on the left wall and a steep head wall. 1. 30m (crux) Up the easy corner forming the left edge of the bay for about 15m until two metres below the horizontal break and orange bulge in the corner. Step out left and up the wall to below the large chimney/groove in the roof. Traverse right under this to the arête, up this to the bushy ledge. Move the belay 15m right. 2. 20m The crack line through the centre of the steep orange and black striped rock then left to large tree (abseil). Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox (alt) 27.10.02

P 144.5 **PINE WALL** Gr 337963?

The second cliff south of The Promised Land. Take the track 900m south of the Mt Difficult Plantation west (as for Lunar Walls) to where it meets the north/south track. From the intersection, walk up and left for 15 minutes to the cliff. Descend at right end.

Lost Jonnie 60m

At the left end of the cliff there is a section high up with a couple of square cut corners and walls (most visible as you walk up to the cliff). Below these is an orange roof line above slabby rock. Start below the lowest part of these roofs. 1. 40m. Easy line on left then up slab to the roof, follow roof line up and left to ledge, left on this to tree. 3. 10m. Arête behind tree at back of ledge, finishing rightward. Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong. 12.06.04

Pine Trap 40m 12

Huge right facing corner below ceiling near right end of cliff. 1. 15m (crux) Up easy blocks, then short wall to ledge at foot of corner. 2. 25m Corner to just below roof. Traverse right. Up. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton (alt). 30.6.02

LUNAR WALLS

Warning

Watch out for a hanging loose flake at the top of a gully as you walk up to the crag.

P 146 Falun Gong 20m 18/19

Diagonal crack in right wall of gully 4 metres left of *Lunar Lander*. Chris Baxter, Geoff Gledhill 25.11.00

Capricorn One 25m 12

Marginal protection on the slab makes for engaging climbing. Between *Lunar Lander* and *Zero Gravity* is a low angled slab. Start in the centre of this on a ledge below two cracks forming a V. Climb cracks to a narrow ledge then slab (crux) to another narrow ledge. Follow the flake then up slightly right to a larger ledge with tree. Descend by walking off the ledge to the right. David Jupp, Matthew Jones. 6.11.00

P 152.2 **LICHEN LAND** GR 339952

Yep, another little Baxter cliff in the eastern range. Access and grid reference from Rock magazine, they don't quite seem to add up to me, but you will probably find the cliff if you look for it. Follow the Halls Gap road north from Red Gum Lease Track for 4.2 km to a four wheel drive track on the left. Follow this SW for 800m until it intersects with a major four wheel drive track running N-S. Turn right (north) for 600m until below cliff with diagonals visible on its SSE face. Walk 250m uphill to lower cliff, then sirt this on left and scramble up to upper cliff. Cliff faces SSE. Walking time ten minutes.

The Mount Difficult Range Update

Cyclone Zoe 40m 19

A relatively serious and dirty undertaking up a prominent line. On the lower section of the upper cliff are two prominent diagonal lines. CZ takes the right hand one. 1. 25m (crux) From cave below line, climb wall to horizontal break. Right in this to diagonal crack. Up this to ledge with tree. 2. 15m Escape moss, off widths, overhangs and soft rock above by going up right on easy ramp! Steve Hamilton, Chris Baxter (alt) 4.1.03

Waugh Hero 17m 14

Clean and pleasant face, cairned. Climbed on the day that Steve Waugh completed the innings of his record-equalling test century. There is a clean and attractive face below CZ. WH Climbs the blunt right arête of this. Chris Baxter, Steve Hamilton, 4.1.03

P152.3 **GOAT CRAG** GR 340950

Follow the Halls Gap—Mt Zero road N from Red Gum Lease Track for 4.2 km to a four-wheel-drive track on the left. Turn on to this and follow it SW for 800 m to T intersection. Turn right and continue north for 150 m. Walk steeply uphill for 200 m. Cliff faces NE. Walking time ten minutes.

Claw's Beer Parties 60 m 15 There is only one line of any real merit on the cliff, up the middle. Sustained, with lichen and some loose rock. 1) 20 m Up line, past a steep section, to overlap with horizontal breaks just below and above it. Step R to ledge. 2) 20 m Step back left. Over overlap. Right round overhang above, then up and left (poor rock) to exit through hole to good ledge. 3) 20 m Straight up line above. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton (alt) 15-11-03

P152.4 **MIRAGE ROCK**

Not to be confused with Mirage Wall. The location of this crag is something of a mystery. The original access description from Rock Magazine says "From Plantation Campsite, drive 1.9 km south on Halls Gap - Mt Zero Road. Turn right (west) on rough vehicle track, and follow it for 900m to a T intersection. Turn left (south), drive for 200m and park. Walk uphill to west to left end of cliff. Cliff faces north - east. Walking time 10 minutes. Gr 346936". But the access description leads to a different grid reference, about 339948, which is about a kilometre from the original grid reference. Would anyone who finds the crag please tell Chris Baxter and James McIntosh, we'd both like to know where it is.

Lost and Found 20m 18

Sustained and balancy face climbing. Narrow, grey buttress at right end of cliff distinguished by rounded horizontal breaks. Climb just right of left arete. Abseil from tree on ledge above buttress. Chris Baxter, Kieran Loughran.

P152.5 **HARDENBERGIA ROCKS** GR 344932

Another of Chris Baxter's new cliffs, probably previously visited during the search for Mirage Rock. From an intersection on the Halls Gap - Mt Zero Road 2.1 km north of Red Gum Lease Track, take vehicle track west for 400m then turn right and follow vehicle track north for 1.5 km. Walk uphill west through light scrub for 450m (15 minutes) to the cliff.

Pressure Cooker 20m 18

Excellent face climbing at right end of outcrop. Cairned. Start up shallow, 3 metre, right facing corner. Finish direct over the overhang. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter. 21/9/02

A Leading Role in a Cage 20m 15

Right one of a pair of major cracks facing north-east on buttress 80m left of *Pressure Cooker*. Cairned. Blocky crack to short chimney. Crack above overhang. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 21/9/02

The Mount Difficult Range Update

A Walk-on Part in the War 20m 15

Crack immediately left of *LRC*. Up left wall to rest below overhang. Up right into crack then up. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 21/9/02

Stiff Little Fingers 20m 20

More excellent face climbing, up from the toe of the buttress eight metres left of *WPW*. Pro is fiddly to place. Cairned. Shallow grooves to rest, then easier up middle of buttress. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter. 21/9/02

Suspect Device 18m 18/19

More nice face climbing. The upper half is a bit hard to protect. Takes the left side of the wall around left of *Stiff Little Fingers*, starting behind the prominent small pinnacle left of *SLF*. Follow the series of cracks about two metres tight of the arête, then the scooped face above and slightly left (#1 flexible Friend towards the top). Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 18.1.03

P 152.7 **GANG-GANG ROCKS** GR 343926

From an intersection on the Halls Gap – Mt Zero Road 2.1 km north of Red Gum Lease Track, take vehicle track west for 400m then turn right and follow vehicle track north for 1km. Walk uphill west through light scrub for 450m (10 minutes) to the cliff. A pair of creeks broaches the escarpment at the right end of the cliff. Both routes are cairned.

Birds of a Feather 20m 21

Thin face climbing with very fiddly small wires on the crux. Excellent. Start from block eight metres left of *The Sarcophagus*. Up layaways on left side of rib to just below horizontal 'break'. Step right and climb steeply up right side to rest. Left to middle of buttress & up. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 22/9/02

The Sarcophagus 20m 16

Exciting stuff. Clean, undercut crack at the right end of the south-east facing red wall near the left end of the outcrops. Some dubious rock. Up to roof, right on obvious break, then up three metre crack to terrace with blocks. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 22/9/02

A Legend in His Own Lunchtime 15m 18

Good climbing requiring a forceful approach. Up right side of slabby, NE facing wall 40m right of *TS* to overhang. Pull up onto steep wall above. Go left then up. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton 14.12.02

P 153 **BREAKFAST ROOM BUTTRESS** GR 343929

You guessed it. Another Baxter cliff. Tall but mediocre buttresses with easy access. From a point on the Halls Gap – Mt Zero Road 2.9 km north of Red Gum Lease Track, walk west for 500m through light scrub to the north/south vehicle track. (Alternatively you can get to this point by 4WD from the south). Continue uphill for a further 5 minutes to the cliff. Find Marmalade at the right end of the cliff.

Magic Bird 15m 17

Very good. Cairned arete 70m left of *Chow Pie*. Take care with with loose flakes at 6m. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, Zoe Foulser 5.1.03

Chow Pie 15m 16

Arête on buttress starting 20m down left of *Rhino*. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 15.12.02

Rhino 18m 18

Sustained; recommended. Above and just left of *The Garden of Tears* is a pinnacle. This is the prominent seam on the east face just left of arete. Abseil descent. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 15.12.03

Oh to Be in England 16m 17

Another excellent climb on superb rock. Start on arete 3m right of *Rhino*. Up and slightly right to finish up seam just right of arete. Up and slightly right to finish up seam just right of arete. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton, Zoe Foulser 5.1.03

The Mount Difficult Range Update

Bimbo Bender 40m 16

Behind top of buttress with next three routes, and 12m right of *OBE* is a major wall. 1. 12m (crux) Pronounced left leaning crack on left side of wall. Exit up right over big blocks (take care) to scrubby ledge. 2. 15m Bottomless corner above, then on to left arete. Up this on a fine position on good holds. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton (alt), Zoe Foulser 14.12.02

The Garden of Tears 25m 19

Major buttress 70m left of *Marmalade* with a substantial tree at half height (landmark). Needs care with pro above tree. Crack in the middle of the face to horizontal break. Right to tree. Up and left to next break. Finish up left side of headwall. Belayed descent from pinnacle. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton 15.12/03

Contemplating the 35th Floor 30m 17

Superb climbing that will clean up with traffic, if it gets any. Shallow groove in arete 5m right of *GT*, then easier line to overhang. Step left and go up steeply just left of main overhang. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, Zoe Foulser 14.12.02

Dixie's Girl 20m 18

Dynamic start. On north face of buttress with previous two climbs, starting from scrubby ledge up right of *CTF*. Reach over overhang from just right of short fused corner and swing left to easier ground. Up line to where it curves right near the top, then straight up. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 15.12.02

Above The Law 50m 14

Attractive rib leading to the highest point of the cliff. Up right of the buttress with *The Garden of Tears et al* is a huge landmark red roof/cave. Climb the crack starting below and just left of this. Where it thins to incipient and curves left at 18m, step left, then go straight up middle of buttress. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton 25.4.03

Marmalade 20m 15/16

Start just left of toe of the narrow buttress reaching furthest downhill at the right end of the cliff. Up and right to crest of rib. Up it (easing). Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter. 29/6/02

Our Auld Man 20m 12

Major line up and right of *Marmalade* on right wall of the same rib. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton. 29/6/02

Wattle Knighthood 20m 16

Lovely seam and face 2m right of *Our Auld Man*. Finish direct up middle of face. Chris Baxter OAM, Stephen Hamilton. 29/6/02

Greasy Spoon 20m 16

Attractive face climbing up right of *WK*. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 25.4.03

The Chattering Classes 40m 18

Good climbing, could easily be done in one pitch. Major crack at right end of cliff, on the last worthwhile rock, about 20m right of *GS*. Scramble up to below corner-crack. 1. 15m (crux) Corner-crack to ledge on left, then bulging seam to break. Step left to belay. 2. 25m Step back right and continue up line, steeply in places. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton (alt) 25.4.03

Eggs Benedict 40m 18

Good climbing up the sizeable face around the arête right of *The Chattering Classes*. Crack, then sustained face directly above, finishing more easily through a couple of bulges. Phil Armstrong, Chris Armstrong 9.05.04

P153.3 CURRAJONG ROCKS GR 344928

Currajong Rocks is a surprisingly extensive series of pinnacles and buttresses of compact, brown sandstone lurking under forest. Some climbs will "clean up with traffic".

The Mount Difficult Range Update

Follow the Halls Gap-Mt Zero road N from the Red Gum Lease Track for 2.1 km to where it is crossed by a vehicle track. Turn left (West) on this and follow it for 400 m to an intersection. Turn right (North) for 200 m. (Two-wheel-drive to here.)

Walk uphill (W) through open forest for 450 m. All climbs are cairned. They are described from left to right, first on the lower cliff, then the upper. Cliffs faces East. Walking time ten minutes to lower cliff, 15 minutes to upper cliff. GR 344928

Karvezide 15m 20

One-move wonder, but a hard one. At left end of best section of lower cliff is a pinnacle with a cave behind it on right. Easily up left arête of pinnacle to shallow, brushed groove on left. Finish up this. Abseil descent. David Gairns, Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton 17-11-02

Sunshine Sam 20m 18

Sustained and good. Line through bulges up front of pinnacle, starting from right. Abseil descent. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, David Gairns 17-11-02

Bogan Buster 16m 19

Sustained. Crack in middle of wall right of pinnacle. Chris Baxter, David Gairns, Stephen Hamilton 17-11-02

Sweeping Statement 14m 17

Delicate finish. Slabby, NE-facing wall 10 m right of Bogan Buster, starting from small pointed boulder. Chris Baxter, David Gairns, Stephen Hamilton 16-11-02

Clean Sweep 10m 15

Brushed slab 10m up right of SS, at right end of lower cliff. Chris Baxter, David Gairns, Stephen Hamilton 17-11-02

Light of Day 20 m 19

Excellent, steep climb up front of pinnacle at left end of upper cliff. Start in corner behind conifer. Go up right to foot of crack. Steeply up this and easier line above. Belay for descent. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, David Gairns 16-11-02

Gone For All Money 20m 14

Right of LD is a broad descent gully. Right of this is a face with three cracks. Climb middle one until it peters out. Step right, then up. Chris Baxter, David Gairns, Stephen Hamilton 16-11-02

High Season 25m 17

Prominent line with some doubtful rock at right end of upper cliff. Left-facing diagonal to cave. Step left to undercut crack then up. Abseil off. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter, David Gairns 21-7-02

P153.5 **FORREST ROCK** GR 346909

In spite of very easy access, this series of quite tall buttresses is unlikely to become popular. From Delleys Bridge, drive 3 km north along the Halls gap – Mt Zero Road to the first of two vehicle tracks heading up left from a right hand curve in the road. Drive about 600m up this (passable by 2wd with care) to a 4wd track which heads of left. Walk south along this for 300m then head up the hill to the cliff. (About 5 min drive and 8 min walk from Halls Gap).

Don't Wet The Car 65m 15

Climbs the tallest buttress of the cliff, which is at the left end of the main face. 1. 45m Up bulging crack just right of the foot of the buttress, then easily up the major line until you can move left on to the front of the buttress. Climb middle of buttress to top of pinnacle. 2. 20m Step right across top of chimney, right on ledge to easy line, up this then up left. Chris Baxter, Ian Forrest. 22/7/01

The Mount Difficult Range Update

Don't Wet Yourself 35m 15

Near the right end of the cliff are two deep chimney-clefts. Scramble up L past large conifer to sloping grassy terrace just left of left cleft. Follow right leading crack up slabby left wall of cleft to ceiling. An exposed pull up right gains the chimney. Up. David Gairns, Chris Baxter. 4.8.01

THE WATCHTOWER

Total Recoil 24

Start 3m right of *Couldn't Stand The Weather*. Up to 2nd FH. Step down then up right to Purple Haze's corner. Hard moves left to 3rd FH then up. Some small wires. Steve Wilson, Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. 2002. Bolted direct line in open.

Total Recoil Direct 26

Straight up wall past 3 FHs and small wire placements to double rings. Steve Wilson 01.05

Fiddleback 22m 14

Middle of pillar right of *Happy Jack*. Stephen Hamilton, Zoe Foulser, Tony Maasakkers 25.5.03

Where the Beelze Meets the Nerd 19m 15

Up *Beelzebub* for 8m, then left under roof and up wall between *Beelzebub* and *Nerd's Day Out*. Stephen Hamilton, Zoe Foulser, Tony Maasakkers 25.5.03

Wilbur 20m 23

Starts as for *Mr. Ed* but continues directly up line and through the overhang on crimps. Steve Chapman, Brian Gray. April 2000

Purple Haze Right Hand Variant 25m 24

In true Hendrix tradition, this is actually a left hand upside down variant. After the initial start, balance 2m right to reach the corner. Get into the groove and boogie to the top. Steve Chapman. Jan 2000

Welcome To The Machine Direct Finish 12m 16

Probably a repeat of *The Things I Used to Do*. Up pitch 2 of *Welcome To The Machine* to the bulge, pull directly through this an up. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 31.07.04

Shake for Me 20 m 16

Good climbing. Start up small corner on left side of face 6 m left of *All Along the Watchtower*, starting from same ledge. Finish by climbing just on left side of arête. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 24-4-04

A Lonely Death on the Burma Railway 30 m 19 Dedicated to WFG Armit. "Outstanding line; superb rock". Climb water-polished groove down and just right of *All Along the Watchtower* to prominent, overhanging V-crack splitting the cliff. Climb this to ledge. Finish up easier crack (it's not a chimney as described in the guidebook) above (as for pitch two of *Voodoo Chile*). Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton 25-4-04

Some Corner of a Foreign Field 30 m 17

"Sensational Arapilesian climbing on beautiful rock". 1) 20 m (crux) Seam from tiny cave 1 m above ground and 1.5 m right of *Voodoo Chile*. When this peters out, climb direct up grey face to steep, orange rock. Up this to prominent grey groove, then ledge. 2) 10 m Climb headwall midway between crack on left (VC) and small grey flake on Pump Up the Volume. Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton (alt) 25-4-04

Minutes to Midnight 30 m 19 Although struggling to maintain its independence, involves good, steep climbing. 1) 20 m (crux) Start as for PUV. At 5 m veer up left to overhanging headwall 1.5 m right of VC (and left of SCFF). Up to ledge. 2) 10 m right on ledge and up to pinnacle on *The Things I Used to Do*. Straight up overhang above. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter (alt), Pia Larque 9-5-04

The Things I Used to Do 27 m 18

More good climbing. 1) 17 m (crux) Steep yellow seam 1.5 m left of *Welcome to the Machine*. Easier groove above to rooflet. Up left side of this to small stance on top, below undercut headwall. 2) 10 m Pull up and right on to headwall. Up. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter (alt) 25-4-04

The Mount Difficult Range Update

Gone But Not Forgotten 20 m 15

Scramble up steep gully immediately right of *Welcome to the Machine* to belay on treed terrace. Traverse left to undercut, yellow corner-crack. Up line, which dog-legs right at top. (Last 4 m as for WM.) Chris Baxter, Stephen Hamilton, Pia Larque 8-5-04

James McIntosh

16/July/2005