



Rock climbing is a dangerous sport

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This guide records the new development that has occurred in the hidden crags within walking distance of the Mt Stapylton Campground, Northern Grampians in Western Victoria. Most of the better routes are steep bolted sport routes which are marked with (S). The rock is coarse with a similar feel to the Blue Mountains and has patches of utter choss. If you are climbing on trad then take extra care as many of these routes have had limited repeats. If you want to clip bolts then this area is a great place to start your Grampians experience. Leave your bolt plates at home - almost everything here is ring-bolted.

To locate these crags from the carpark refer to the map on page 3 of this guide.

Sub area: Sentinel Cave

15-20 minute walk-in
Late afternoon sun
Rain protected

This is a large cave of excellent rock high up in the valley with an easy flat walk-in. This area features short and very steep sport routes on coarse orange rock. A large viewing area makes this a fun place to hang out with a bunch of mates and watch the sun set whilst cranking some of the sweet routes.

From the Mt Stapylton Campground aboriginal shelter carpark walk south east following the east side of a vegetated creek. A few minutes into the walk you will pass an isolated pillar of rock 'Castle Crag' with a few ok trad routes on it. Keep following the creek, walking along nice kangaroo grass and ferns for ten minutes until you can see a red cave above some large walls up and to the left. Try and locate some rock cairns and follow these up gentle hill. Follow left branch of 'creek' up small rock gully on the left side of the cave until you can traverse directly right across exposed rock to get into the cave. A RB is positioned at the end of this traverse to use as an anchor to belay people who may be scared of the traverse. It can also be used to abseil out of the cave when the traverse is wet from rain.

Easier Puzzle 12m 10

Easy trad climbing on big jugs. Start at small corner break 2m left of Half Shark Half Man. Follow break to finish at HSHM anchors FFA Phil Neville, Joe Morgan-Payler, Michael Schedlberger 18.4.03

1) Half Shark Half Man 14m 17 (S)

Nice steep and juggy sport warm-up at the far left end of the cave. Starts halfway across the approach traverse. Up through orange jugs and then grey cracked face. Three RB's and DRB lower off. FFA Joe Morgan-Payler, Stephen Hawkshaw & Neil Monteith 2.3.2003

2) Media Puzzle 16m 23 * (S)

Starts at left end of cave at small rooflet. Good pump workout on nice orange rock. Out left across crux roof past two RB's then up scoops on jugs (2 RB's) to good rest. Step right (#1 cam optional) and thug through steep territory past RB to jugs and

DRB lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith, Joe Morgan-Payler & Jacqui Middleton 5.11.2002

Media Puzzle Special Addition 21m 23 ** (S)

A bonus finish to *Media Puzzle*. From double ringbolts monkey upside down on jugs out right along the horizontal break for 4 m pass 2 bolts then up the chains (crux) to finish. FFA Peter Daish & Damian Hall 15.11.2003

3) Roof of Doom 35m 22

A novelty route across a big roof. Originally attempted on trad - but after Neil pulled a huge block off the lip and whipped upside down it was decided to bolt it. Climb to first bolt on Stepping on Snakes, traverse left across *Army of Ants* to big ledge. Walk left across this to FH and keep going across line (big cams) to roof flake (FH). Out impressive 3m roof and up steep arete past RB to lower off bolts. FFA Neil Monteith, Jacqui Middleton & Joe Morgan-Payler 2.3.2003

Antics 15m 26 ** (S)

An impressive five metre roof climb. Follow *Army of Ants* to first bolt, then traverse left to ledge. Climb left leading roof flakes directly above the ledge past 4 FH's to lip. Back climb to clean. No anchor. FFA Malcolm Matheson & Jacqui Middleton 24.05.2003

4) Army of Ants 15m 26 ** (S)

Start just right of small arete in centre of cave. Tough sport route. Don't wear slip-ons unless you're OK with losing a shoe mid-route! Thin reachy face to start precedes big dynamic moves up steep wall and finish via big scoopy roof 1 FH & 4 RB's. Lower off chain. FFA Rohan Archibald, Neil Monteith & Jacqui Middleton 2.3.2003

5) Stepping on Snakes 14m 23 ** (S)

Classic steep thugging. The second route on the right side of the cave. Mantle onto slab then up very steep horizontals to final roof dyno. Five RB's and double RB lower off. FFA Neil Monteith 16.11.2002

6) Dwarf Pumper 8m 20 (S)

Far right side of cave. A Nowra style pumpfest with a tricky crux. Two RB's up steep orange wall. Single RB lower off at top. FFA Neil Monteith & Joe Morgan-Payler 3.11.2002

Sub area: Sentinel Wall

15-20 minute walk-in
Afternoon sun

On the other side of the access gully from Sentinel Cave is a rock buttress. About 100m left and slightly uphill from the cave is this orange wall with large horizontal pockets. Scramble onto large ledge from the left side to belay the first couple of routes. These are mostly average quality trad routes.

7) Sunsatton 15m 18

Start slightly left of *Fot as Huck*. Up to thread then over bulge to

break. Hand traverse left to obvious jugs and up the juggy face above. FFA Stephen Hawkshaw & Andrew Morrison 19.4.2003

8) Fot as Huck 20m 17

Starts on the left side of the wall just right of grey roofs. Up slightly overhung wall on big incuts and lots of cam placements to juggy finish. FFA Joe Morgan-Payler 16.11.2002

9) Sunraysia 20m 20

Starts about 4m right of *Fot as Huck*. Long reaches and a scary runout in the first ten metres. At the horizontal jam crack traverse slightly left to finish up *Fot as Huck*. FFA Neil Monteith & Joe Morgan-Payler 16.11.2002

Right and slightly downhill from *Sunraysia* is this wall with some obvious crack lines.

10) Know your signals 14m 15

Start 4m right of dirty roof hand crack and right of *Tatiana*. Follow weakness through thin start to under roof. Watch for loose rock. Traverse left 2m and finish at tree belay. FFA Phil Neville, Michael Schedlberger, Joe Morgan-Payler 18.4.03

11) Tatiana 12m 15 *

Start 2m right of central crack on buttress slightly downhill and right from *Sunraysia*. Up through thin start to pockets and past technical finish to tree belay. FFA Michael Schedlberger, Phil Neville, Joe Morgan-Payler 18.4.03

Sub area: The Guardhouse

20 minute walk-in
Afternoon sun

A small gently overhung amphitheater of rock with a couple of good Blue Mountains style sport routes and plenty of potential for new routes. The orange wall is clearly visible on the hillside when driving in from the highway past the olive grove. Walk in as for *Sentinel Cave*. After hopping over a big dead tree about 8 minutes into the walk turn left and follow small creek bed steeply uphill heading for the obvious orange wall high on the hill. Scramble up ledges and small fixed rope to get to base of wall.

12) Little George 12m 22 * (S)

Named after George the baby gecko, that hitched a ride on a backpack all the way to Brunswick... causing havoc at Jac's place for two weeks before being returned to the Grampians! Follows left-trending line of four ringbolts in centre of crag just right of big scoopy hueco in rooflet. Stroll through delicate start just left of first bolt, locate the secret hold, and march your way to glory over steep juggy terrain. Double RB lower off. FFA Jacqui Middleton, Neil Monteith 25.04.2003

13) Ranger Danger 14m 24 * (S)

Weaves around black streak on far right side of crag. Bouldery start (stick clip ring) up slots to easier ground. At halfway head slightly right to hidden RB and crux dyno. Finish up steep jugs. Five RBs and DRB lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith Kent Patterson 14.6.2003

Sub area: Warden Wall

6 minute walk-in
Afternoon sun

Small featured wall on left side of track about 100m past *Castle Crag* on the walk in to *Sentinel Cave*. These are short trad routes on good rock.

14) Crimps of Doom 10m 17

Face round corner and 1m left of *Rohans Route*, a few balancy crimp moves gets you to the top. Joe Morgan-Payler. 25.10.03

15) Rohans Route 10m 17

A hard and bold mantle at the start reaches jugs (crux) and easy hauling to top. Rohan Archibald. Solo. 25.10.03

16) My Bitch Bubba 10m 18

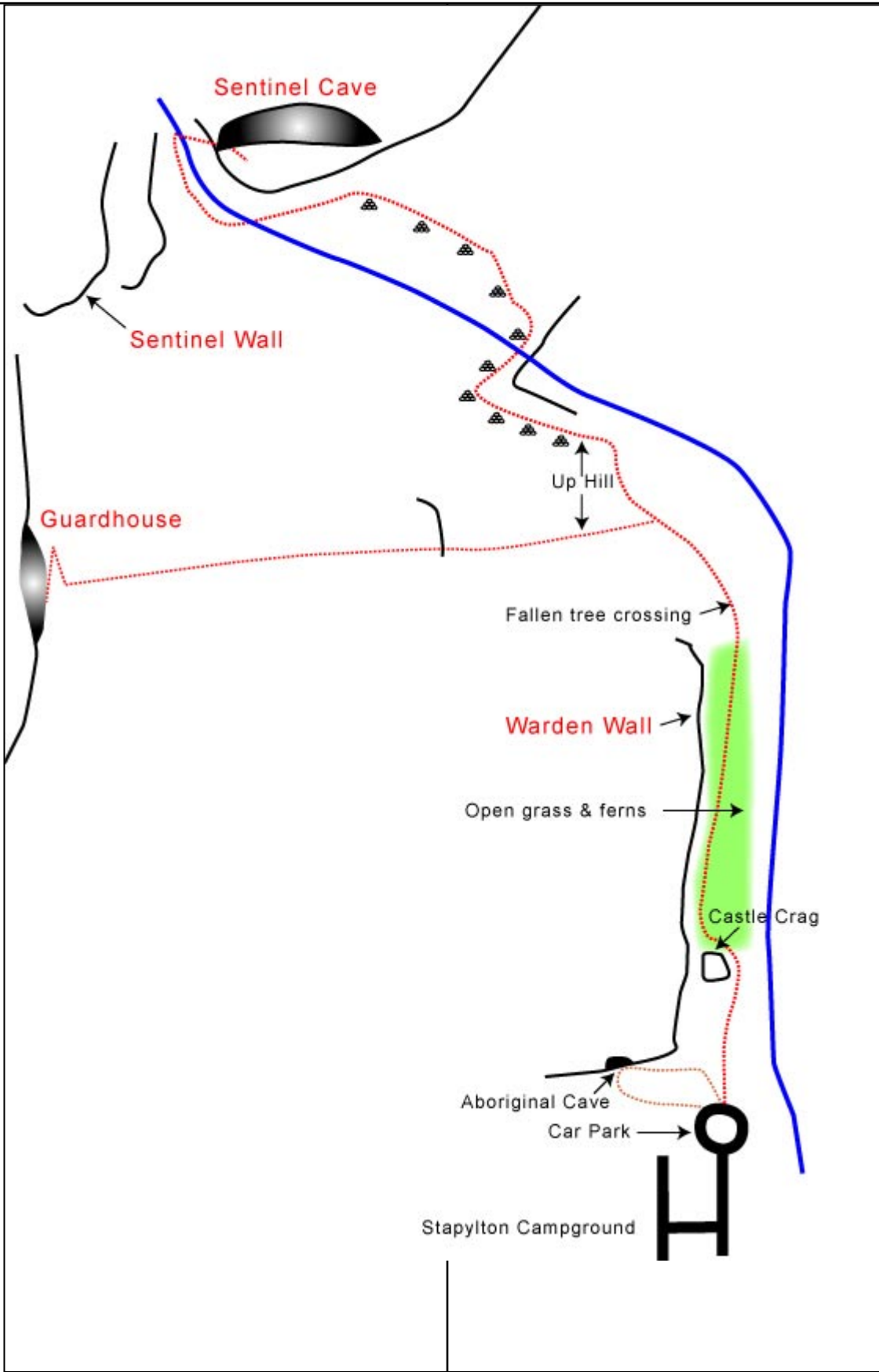
Same start as for *Gormet*, only stepping onto thin face after reaching first block, then following the break on left-hand side of face. Tuan Le. 25.10.03

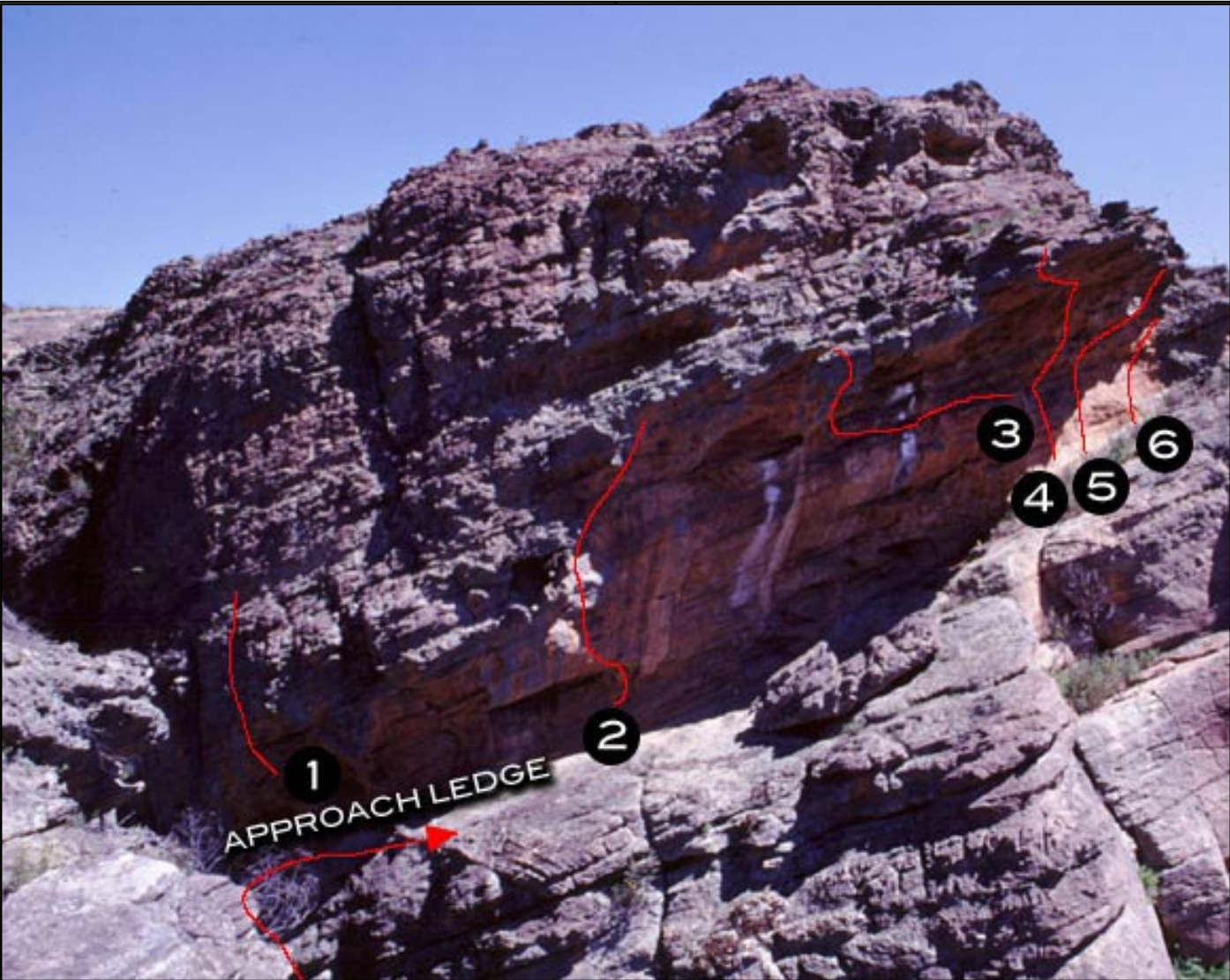
17) Gormet 10m 14

Nice climbing up an attractive line. Follow orange corner to top. Hanh Le. 25.10.03

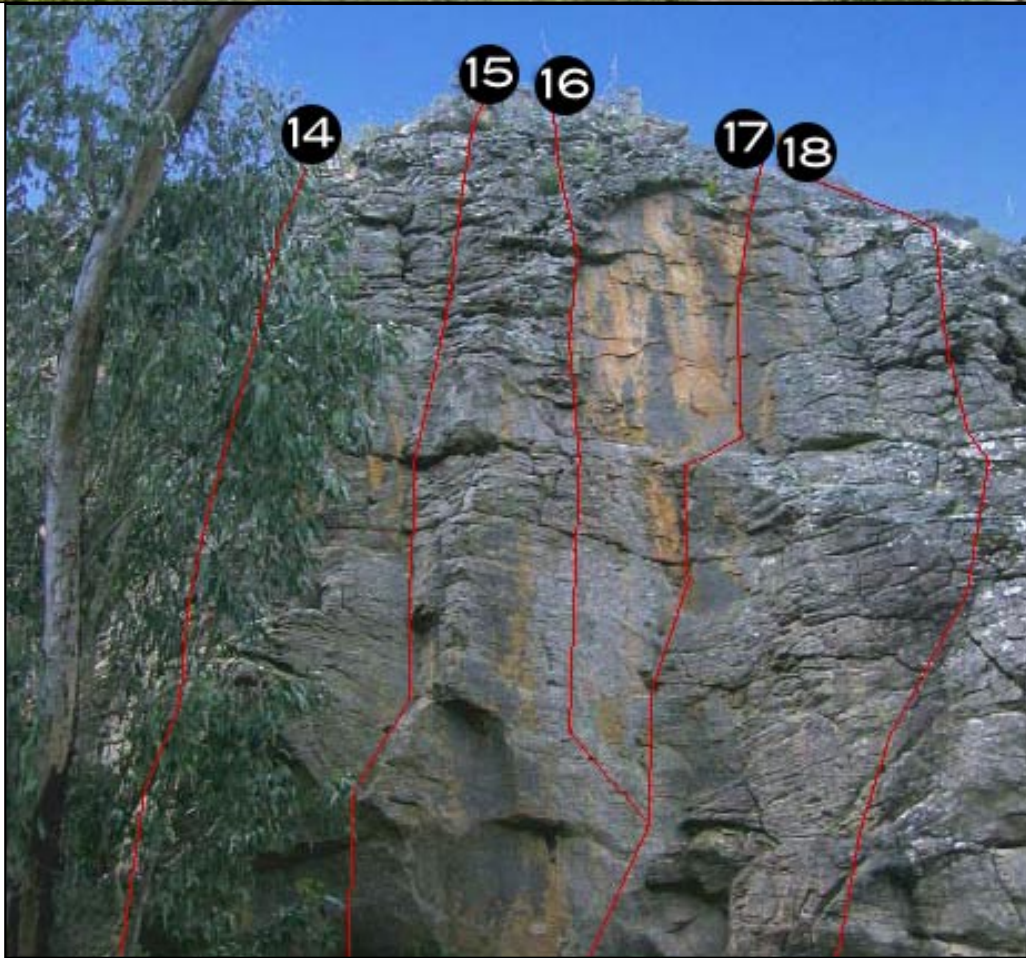
18) Photographers Solo 10m 8

Best access to top as well as an easy down climb.











Jacqui Middleton on Stepping on Snakes (23)