THE ROCK-CLIMBS OF N.S.W.

...iled by members of the Sydney Roc

I think now there is a statement here that I would like to be deleted. (P42) 16/2/2006

CONTENTS

PROLUGUE

If not blessed with unquestionably sound rock there is at least, in New South Wales, an abundance. Literally hundreds of miles of cliffs and crags to delight the fingers of any climber are easily accessible by car or train to anyone living in the eastern half of the state. However, the cragsman, newly arrived from the granites of Europe and Gt. Britain cannot be blamed for suppressing a shudder when first he comes into contact with our softer rocks with their often cheese-like inconsistency. But, as this guide book testifies, these sandstone cliffs can provide climbers worthy of the name, with routes to test all degrees of skill and ingenuity with the widest possible diversity of problems and a lifetime of safe, enjoyable climbing.

The outgrowth of organised climbing in New South Wales since itsconception 12 years ago, from its brash start to the present era of great face climbs has been an evolvement of experience and technique gained by climbers throughout the length and breadth of Australia. This guide book, in many ways, contains the maturest fruit of this experience. The newcomer and the novice should therefore take notice of Mr. Allen's recommendations following many painstaking exercises and experiments on safe anchoring and belaying on sandstone cliffs.

Bryden Allen is also to be congratulated on his tenacity and perseverence in prising from reluctant memories details of climbs. Climbers of old (and they are not much better today) are notoriously reluctant to put on paper a record of their deeds and adventures with result that many fine routes have been lost. For all that, here for the first time in such a comprehensive form, are recorded the majority of routes and areas. I am sure that if nothing else, this guide will direct the newcomer to safe climbs within his or her limits and point the "old hand" towards new and virgin rock.

Russ Kippax

(Founder and Life-Member
of S.R.C.)

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The first known climbing in N.S.W. seems to have been done by "The Katoomba Suicide Club" on the sandstone cliffs around Katoomba. The club consisted mainly of Dr. Eric Dark and some local policemen. In 1934 they had a trip to the Warrumbungles when Dr. Dark and some companions made the first ascents of Belougeries Spire and Tonduron. (Dr. Dark still lives in Katoomba and likes seeing climbers.)

In the early thirties interest in climbing grew in the Sydney Bushies. In 1935 a combined trip was had with the Suicide Club to the Bungles during which Dot Butler (née English) and Dr. Dark made the celebrated first ascent of Crater Bluff. (They set the top on fire by accident).

After this trip a special rockclimbing section was formed in the S.B.W. and this group was active in the years just before the war. Perhaps their leading lights were Dot English, Dave Stead, Tim Coffey and Marie Byles. Their first ascents in the Katoomba area were Carlons Head (accomplished by some extraordinary combined tactics) and Arethusa Canyon. They were known as the "Tigers". Farther afield they made the first ascents of Pigeon House, Big Rick and Little Rick. Climbing was also done in Bungonia, Wolgan Valley from Annie Rowans clearing and in the Grose, near Faulcons Bridge. Climbing naturally was still only a part of bush-walking.

After the war the start of pure Rockclimbing was marked by the formation of the Sydney Rockclimbing Club in 1951. The group was formed mainly from a break away section in the Rucksac club. (The same group that competed in the incredibly long, hard, marathon bush-walk races of that time.) Although with practically no experience or equipment some remarkable climbs were put up that are still held in awe today. West Wall of the 3 Sisters, Malaita point, Narrow-neck Bluff and a year later the face of King George are a few. As years passed equipment began to filter through from England. In 1953 a new peak in technical climbing was reached with the leading of "The Mantleshelf" by Dave Roots. The complete traverse of the Breadknife was done in 1956.

Nevertheless after this tremendous initial outburst the club had begun to stagnate merely repeating the original climbs. However 1958 saw the formation of the Rhum Dhu group with the

purpose of (i) disbanding of all forms of organisation (ii) drinking and (iii) the opening up of new climbing areas. Their efforts at disorganisation nearly split the S.R.C. but their exploratory zeal opened up Medlow Bath, Cahill's Lookout (i.e. the Rhum Dhu area), Sublime Point and extended climbing in the Wolgan and the Fortress. Many of their climbs have not been recorded. Their climbing finished up with a trip to England in 1961. Their most ferocious climbs were perhaps Whisky Gully, and Diagonal Route on Crater, both led by Peter Hardy. Two of their many inveterate drinkers were Dougy Litdifield and Eric Paris.

In 1960 the use of expansion bolts in the form of "terriers" was investigated by Russ Kippax and Dave Roots. This led to a new peak in climbing with the ascent of Boars Head in 1961. Strong feeling was expressed at the original use of artificial means but it appears they are here to stay though not in the original form.

Other climbing groups have formed in N.S.W. in recent years though not on the whole as fanatical. The Sydney University Mountaineering Club was formed in 1960 and initially started the Narrow-Neck Area. They have always been closely associated with S.R.C. and at the moment little new climbing is done independantly. The Canberra Walking and Touring has an active climbing section at the moment with a large number of overseas climbers and has started the climbing on Corree. The University of Armidale has a mountaineering club who potter around in the Bungles and Naradwars from whom we hear little.

The guide book should speak for itself about present day climbing. We still have our periods of sloth and our periods of activity.

STANDARDS

The standards used are the usual English gradings. To a newcomer to climbing they will be meaningless but he should not take on anything more than "Diff.". A word of warning to English climbers is that when the nature of our rock is considered our gradings are higher than in England. Thus a severe climb here corresponds more or less to a V.S. in England. This is the opinion of at least four experienced climbers from England. Other grades perhaps differ less.

The following list of climbs define to an extent our grading system. In order to grade a climb, therefore, it should be compared with one of the following (not as you or yourself happen to find it hard or easy.)

Moderate	This is scarcely a climb, perhaps Milky Way.
Mild	Tourist traverse of the sisters. Tonduron.
Difficult	Orion, Dr..Dark's Chimney, Tourist route on 1st Sister.
Hard	Tourist route (Crater), Guoicko Piton.
Mild	South arete. (Breadknife)
V.Diff.	Kippax's Crack. Shandy, En Passant.
Hard	Rhum Cognac (direct), Southern Cross.
Mild	Grande Central Route, Cave Climb, West Wall, Jack Murphy's Climb.
Severe	North arete (Breadknife), Knights Move, Fuddy-Duddy, Tal, Mantleshelf, Cornerstone Rib.
Hard	Chess Board, Nicodemus, Out and Beyond.
Mild	Whisky Gully, Diagonal Route (Crater), North face route (Crater).
V.Severe	Fuddy Cracks.
Hard	Lieben

In grading a climb heavy consideration is given to how well the hard moves are protected by runners and belays. The quality of the rock is important and the length of the climb, as this increases the seriousness of the climb.

Grading is a very difficult and personal matter especially on the first ascent. It is hoped the above grades are fairly correct but other grades may be way out. Please send in comments.

Numbers and letters have been used by some people to grade pitches. They go more-or-less by stages from 2a as Diff. to 5a as mild severe or severe.

SAFETY

There have been three fatal accidents in the S.R.C. since it began as well as other fatal accidents among climbing bush-walkers. This is a high rate considering the smallness of our club, partly due perhaps to the rottenness of our rock. In one or two cases however they might have been prevented if some elementary laws of safety had been obeyed. A system of instruction has been worked out in our club but as yet not enforced. Perhaps it is unnecessary for a small club. New members of S.R.C. are blessed with leaders to teach them and those people who are more or less self-taught and not in touch with a climbing club should do some careful reading of the recommended books at the back and then some practise.

One thing, however, which has been rather ignored is doing practise belaying. For a full understanding of the techniques of belaying this is quite essential. The full importance of a good stance, a well positioned belay, gloves, allowing the rope to slide, becomes very apparent after holding only 50lbs after a 15' fall.

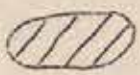
It is not in the scope of this book to go into the details except in the case of those items specially related to N.S.W. This mainly concerns equipment which shall be dealt with in a chapter of its own. The contacts for Search and Rescue (and Cliff Rescue section) are given at the back.

THE GUIDE BOOK

This guide-book leaves a lot to be desired. Only a few of the climbs were written up properly originally and most were battered out of people's memories who had done the climb 2 or 3 years before. I myself have climbed in Australia for little over a year. I have only done what a little time and people's failing memories would allow me to do. "I'm sorry."

Normal conventions are used. Right and left are always taken to mean while facing the cliff. The word "gully" is used very generally and sometimes only refers to a small recess. A corner can refer either to a gully or a nose. Pitch lengths are very approximate. The names beneath the climb are the people to have done the first ascent.

In diagrams,

- - - - -	means	route
X	"	belay
v v v v v	"	bushes
 or ////	"	scrub
φ	"	tree
	"	yellow (overhung)

This guide book, which should be considered as a pilot edition, is a private publication. Further new climbs, descriptions of forgotten climbs and errors will be produced in supplement form every 6 months for perhaps 2 years. Then with all errors corrected and my egotistical outbursts surpressed the great Sydney Rock-Climbing Club might take this guide-book to its bosom and produce a comprehensive, accurate and well printed Guide Book to N.S.W.

Charles Ivin wrote the guide to Bungonia. Josta Lynga of the Canberra Walking and Touring Club has done the guide to Mt. Corree.

Please, please, please send all corrections and comments (new and old climb descriptions) to me or Charles Ivin (trips recorder).

Bryden Allen

24, July, 1963.

Chapter 2. EQUIPMENT

This chapter is intended to tell people about equipment especially related to climbing in N.S.W.

To begin with.

To begin with all a person need have is some old clothes and sandshoes. A novice will always climb with an experienced person with ropes, carabines etc. However as time goes by and in particular as soon as he starts to lead he will need:-

Waistline.

Most people use about 25' of 5/8" nylon rope tied 6 or 7 times around their waist; tied at the ends with a fishermans knot. However in the case of a falling leader it is found that the rope slides across the waistline of the second. This to an extent is a good thing as it saves strain on the seconds back which in Australian conditions might only be protected by a thin shirt. It is better therefore to use 25' of 3/4" hemp rope wrapped 7 times around. If one end is spliced into a loop a double sheet bend can be tied more quickly and with more safety than a fishermans knot. 3/4" hemp can be obtained from Paddy's.

Carabiners, Slings and Ropes.

Stubai carabiners can be bought at Paddy's. Alloy carabines can be bought from Pierre Allain for 8 N.F. Slings must be made by oneself. The type with eye splices at each end is in great favour with me. Anyone wishing to buy BS3104 nylon rope should discuss this with one of the senior members of the club. There have been two accidents in the club in which the rope has been cut (one fatal). This may be due to the extremely abrasive effect of sandstone on nylon. A BS3104 No. 4 is the minimum requirement and I personally favour climbing with 2 No. 3's (other great advantages in abseiling etc.)

Gloves and Footwear

Seconds should wear gloves for belaying. The burning of one's hands may be so severe that it might leave the second incapable of further action in case of a fall. There are cases when the second's rope burns are worse than the leader's injuries. Leather gardening gloves are fine, obtained from any hardwear stor

Most people climb in tight sandshoes and a few in boots. Both are adequate. The best footwear however is a special climbing boot referred to as a "P.A."

This may be obtained from Pierre Allain
29 Rue St. Sulpice
St. Germain Paris 6e

at a cost of 45 N.F. (=£4.5.0 approx.). Apparently Pierre cannot read English.

Klettershus are also good but are more edpensive in Australia and wear out quicker.

Pitons.

Paddy usually has an adequate selection of pitons. However pitons in sandstone are very weak. Very few tests have actually been done on pitons in sandstone but the few I have done show that only the very best long pitons pulling against the wall of the rock can be trusted completely. Channel pitons are particularly useful for sandstone as often the edge can cut into the rock itself.

(Expansion) Bolts.

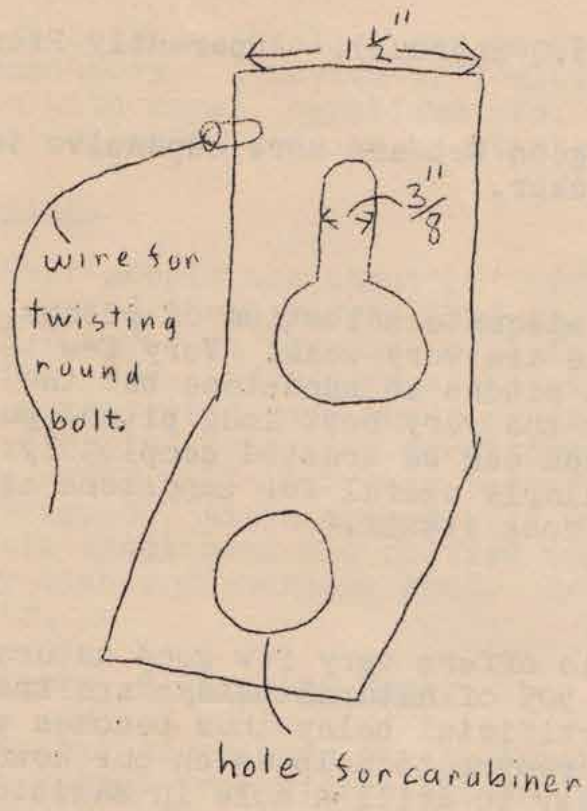
Sandstone on the whole offers very few good natural belays. In fact at least 50% of natural belays are trees. The use of some sort of artificial belay thus becomes very foremost in our minds. Moreover to help us on our cowardly course it is remarkably easy to drill a hole in sandstone. Forgetting the morals of the issue we will therefore discuss the strength of the various expansion bolts.

The first forms of expansion bolts tried were those used commonly in the building industry. Terriers, rawls, dryvins and loxins of which the terriers were easier to use and quicker to put in. Without adequate tests of strength, Terriers were used by Roots and Kippax on Terrier I, Fuddy Duddy and Tooth and Nail. People doing these climbs should be armed with forged 3/8" eye bolts.

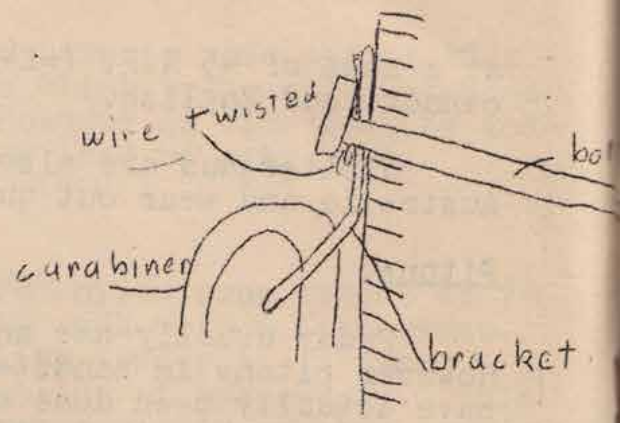
In tests however they were found defficient in a number of ways. The eyebolts broke under strains under 1500 lbs. In bad rock the drilled hole was too big, and the Terrier itself sometimes broke in half. Modifications made it better. It took too long to drill the hole for the other forms.

It was found that a simple 3½" x 3/8" bolt knocked into a 5/16" hole was strongest of all (over 2000 lbs). One could attach oneself either by a rope or better by a metal plate described below.

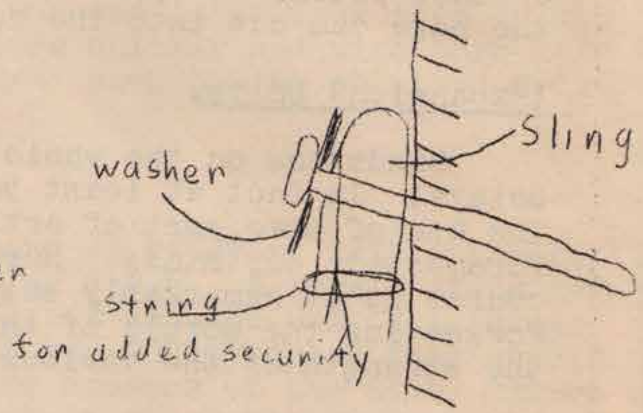
The bracket



Its use



Use of bolt with sling



The use of metal brackets has only just been introduced but it means that to use a bolt put in for use with a bracket you must have a bracket. In contrast any sling could use the previous form with the washer. Sometimes a 3" bolt is adequate but is not recommended. In good rock a 3/8" bolt will not go to its full depth. For this it is necessary to have a selection of filed bolts (i.e. the sides have been filed down.) A twist drill (bought at McPhersons etc.) is usually used to drill the hole. It normally takes about 5 minutes to drill the hole and a reasonably large hammer helps. One must twist at every stroke.

There are many technical details connected with the above and the method does not appear to be used anywhere else in the world. If you do intend to use it you should see me. High tensile bolts have also been used but without a great increase in strength. AS YET the only climbs with bracket type bolts are, Chess Board, the Hallelulia Climb, the beginning to Echo Point and an off route bolt on King George. As the bolt goes in further with the bracket the 3" bolt is often used.

Expansion bolts can only be used on Sandstone as it takes t o long to drill the hole in other rock.

It is hoped that all bolts will be described in the guide book so that the climber can be sure he is using a 3½" bolt.

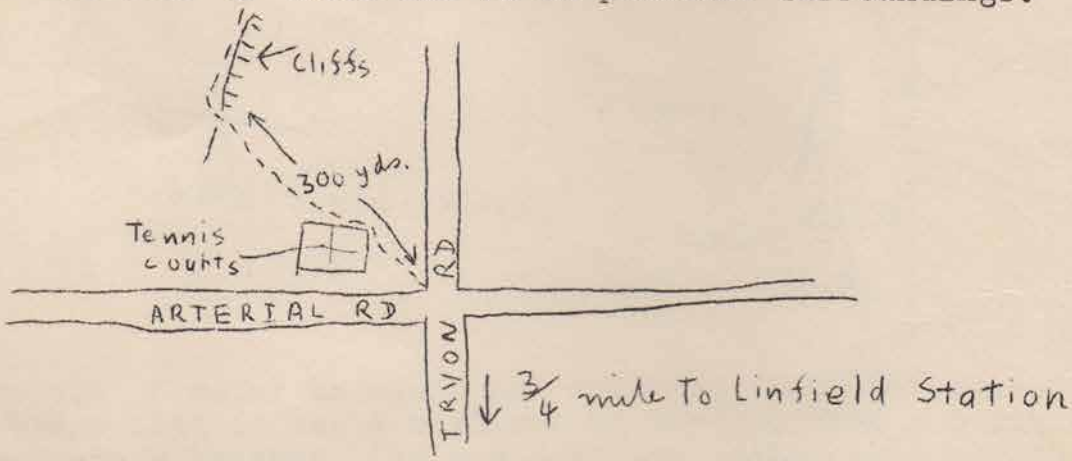
A careful study of the book "Belaying the Leader" should be made before a different form is used. The best method of testing the relative strength of bolts is to use a 10' scaffolding bar as a lever on 2 bolts placed 6" apart.

Chapter 3 PRACTICE CLIMBING NEAR SYDNEY

The practice climbing around Sydney is a bit unsatisfactory. Glenbrook and Lindfield are very good but there should be more. There are plenty of cliffs on the North Shore but very few seem to be suitable for practice. On the South side nothing except chunderous sea-cliffs. One tends to get cheesed off with Glenbrook pretty soon. People dote upon their own particular outcrop but no others have found universal acclaim. We would be glad if people could bring to notice any outcrop that is genuinely of Lindfield or Glenbrook standard.

3.1. LINDFIELD

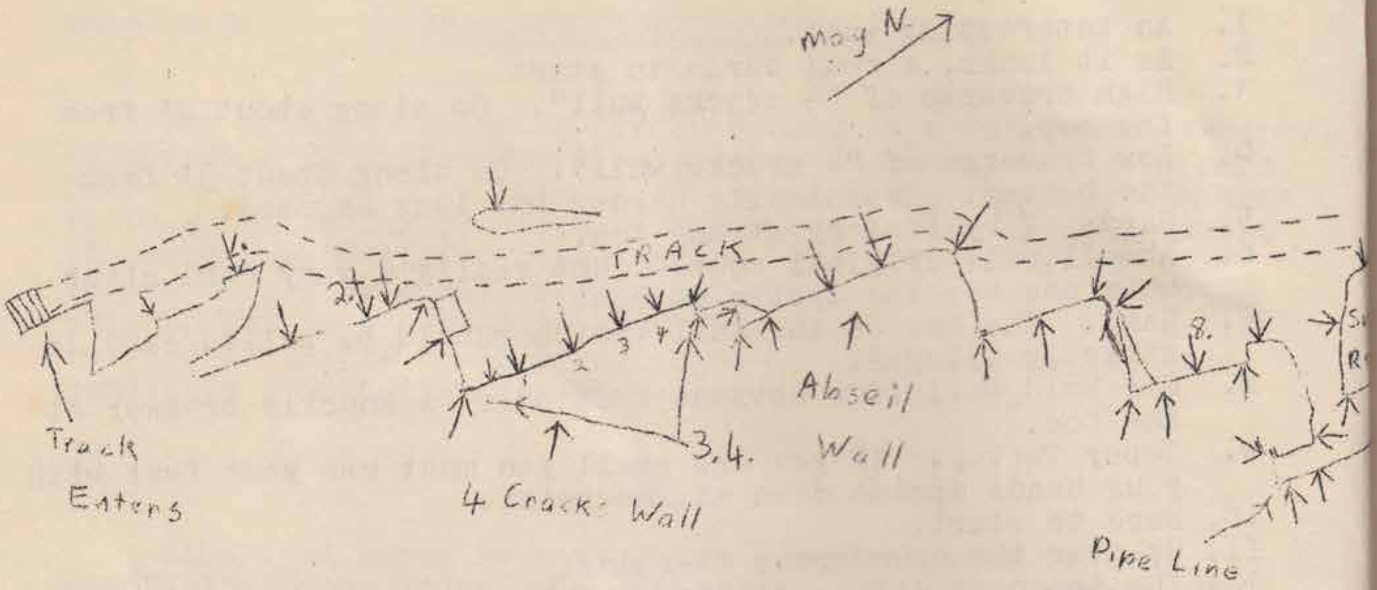
Lindfield seems to have first been opened up by the Lindfield Senior Troop. In 1961 they published a couple of sheets on the subject, pointing out most of the lines of weakness. It was visited by the Sydney Rockies for the first time in 1962 since which most of the harder routes have fallen. The outcrop although on the average only about 20' high offers a tremendous amount of climbing (about 1500 feet in all) is easily accessible by train and is in pleasant surroundings.

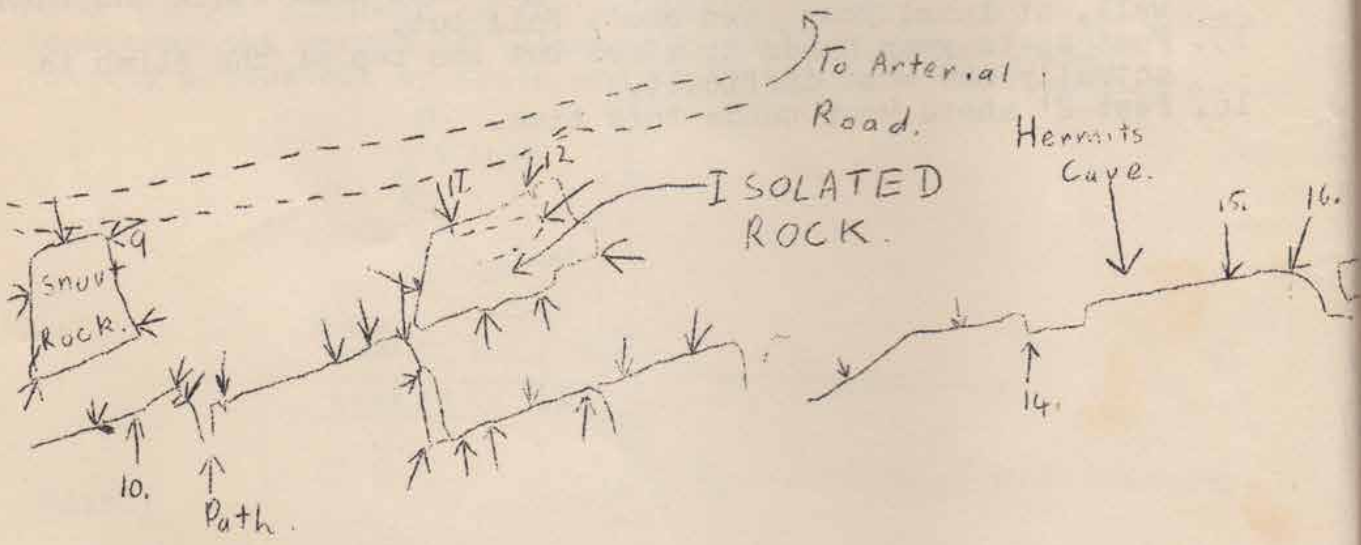


Climbs

All the climbs are marked by arrows and we only mention those of particular interest. Most of the climbs are done solo although it is disconcerting if one is climbing near ones limit. Only 3 of the climbs have not been done solo, namely the overhang on isolated rock and 2 of the 3 climbs on abseil wall. Doubtless some tiger will, but he should know that there have been two broken legs collected at Lindfield.

1. An interesting wall.
2. As it looks, a real curse to start.
3. High traverse of "4 cracks wall". Go along about 2' from the top.
4. Low traverse of "4 cracks wall". Go along about 3' from the bottom. Technically harder but less exposed.
5. Hard. Very fingery at the top.
6. Abseil wall original route. Not really a very hard climb when one has the system correct.
7. Hard. The use of the nail (which should be pulled out) is strictly illegal.
8. One hold wall (for obvious reasons). A knuckle breaker at the top.
9. Topsy Turvey. If you are small you must use your feet with your hands upside down at one point.
10. Hard to start.
11. Up over the chunderous overhang.
12. The innocent little chimney can be a real blighter when you are tired.
13. No hands to the top.
14. Hangman. One has a tendency to get ones head stuck and then, well, at least your head can't fall out.
15. Feet up to your hands to start but the top of the climb is actually the most difficult.
16. Feet 2' above your hands this time.


Mag N.
TRACK
2.
3
4
3.4.
8.
Abseil
Wall
Track
Enters
4 Crack Wall
Pipe Line


To Arterial
Road.
Hermits
Cave.
11
12
ISOLATED
ROCK.
9
Snout
Rock.
15.
16.
14.
10.
Path.

Scale 1" to 30'

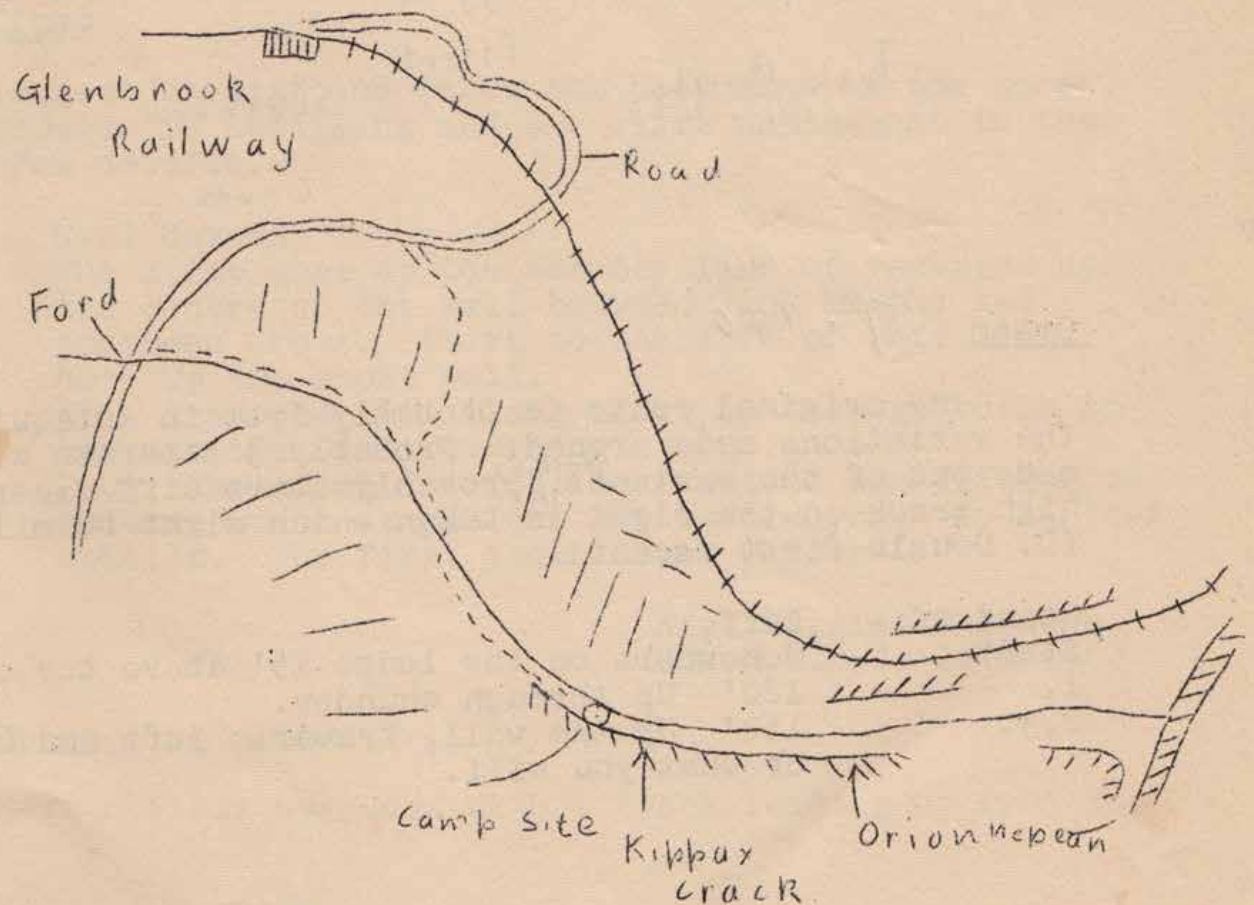
Chapter 3.2. GLENBROOK

Glenbrook gorge being the closest large rock climbing area to Sydney has been popular with both bushwalking and rockclimbing clubs for many years. Closeness to a station and a pleasant stream and campsite add to its advantages. However the cliffs are rather broken and the rock is bad in places.

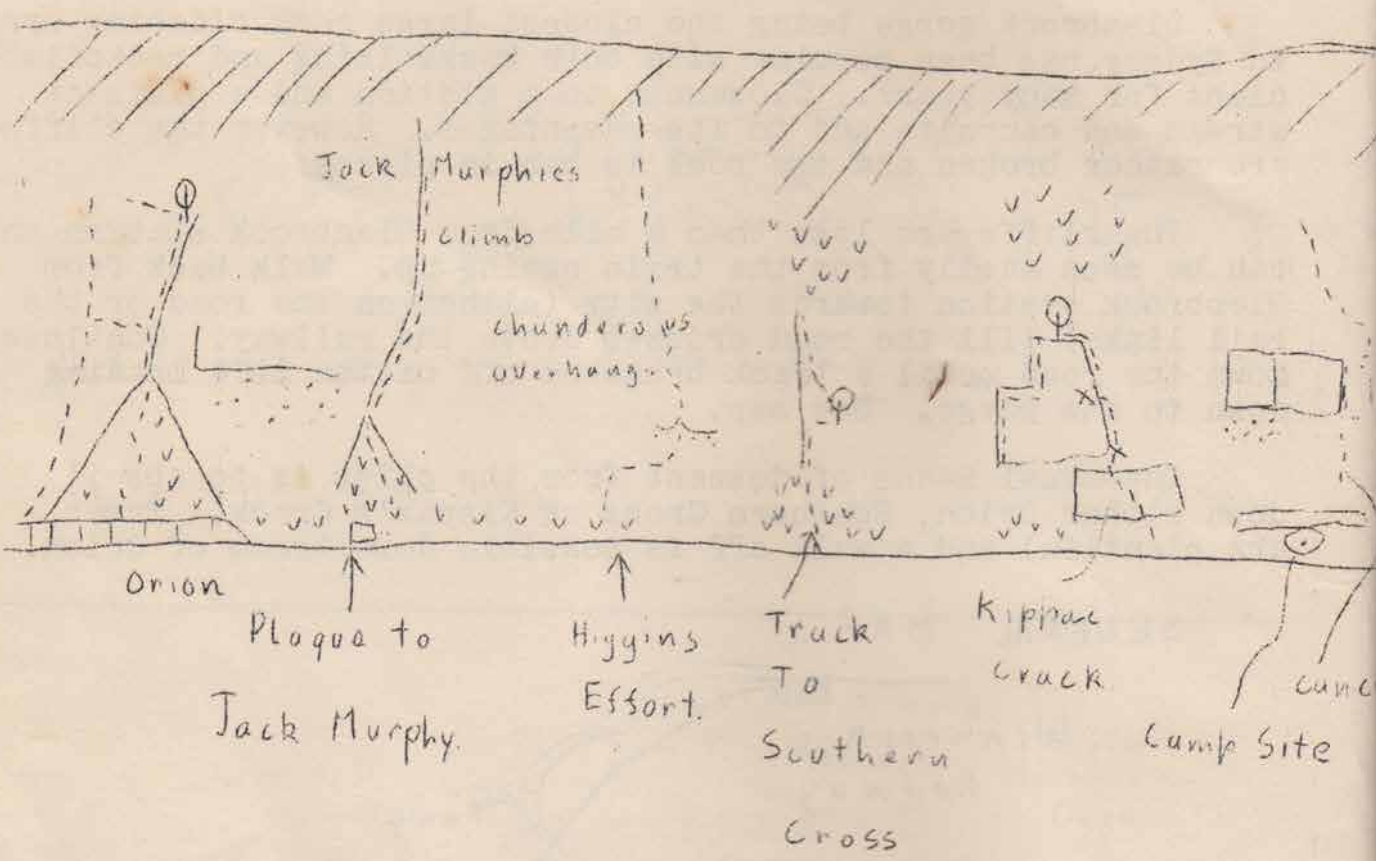
The cliffs are less than a mile from Glenbrook station and can be seen easily from the train coming up. Walk back from Glenbrook station towards the city (either on the road or the rail links) till the road crosses above the railway. Continue down the road until a track branches off on the left leading down to the gorge. See map.

The usual means of descent from the climb is to abseil down either Orion, Southern Cross or Kippax's Crack. Trees are plentiful and a walk off is possible downstream of Orion.

GENERAL MAP.



Front elevation of cliff.



Orion 7 · 140'

The original route is probably lost in antiquity and all the variations made around. Probably 3 separate climbs could be made out of the variants, nothing probably above diff. except if the high crack on the right is taken which might be mild severe. (D. Dougle first ascent).

Standard:-	Diff.
Start:-	Somewhere on the ledge 15' above the creek.
1.	120' Up through chunder.
2,3.	150' Up the wall, traverse left and up the nose, or what you will.

Jack Murphy's Climb 12 200' +

Probably the best climb in the gorge. Up good cracks. The belays are bad and it could do with some bolts.

Standard:- Mild Severe.
Start:- The next obvious line of weakness after Orion. Directly above the plague to Jack Murphy. Up through scrub for 150' till a crack is reached.
1. 50' Up in the corner, chimney to the right to a belay beneath the next wall.
2. 40' The next crack is the crux. Both in the corner and the crack ahead are of equal difficulty. An easier route can be found perhaps further to the right.
3. 90' Easily up till some trees for belays.
4. A final crack can be avoided by going out to the left. Harder than the rest.

Dave Roots and Thomas McIntee

Higgins Effort

The longest hardest and takes the best line in the gorge. The rock however is appalling and the climb unpleasant in the extreme. Few details.

Standard:- Hard Severe
Start:- The climb goes up the scrubby line of recesses up the centre of the wall between Jack Murphy and Southern Cross. Start to the left of this line.
1. 40' Up the short wall.
2. 50' Traverse left along ledge up through scrub to beneath the first overhang.
200' The climb now goes up a set of appalling rock recesses such as you can see before you. No further details. The first ascent took 7 hours.

Rick Higgins & others
U.N.S.W.B.C. late 1962

Southern Cross 10 100' +

The next obvious weakness with a track leading up from the creek.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.

1. 80' Up the corner till an overhanging crack above with a piece of pipe as a belay below.
2. 30' Up (the crux) and out on the right to a big tree belay.
3. 50' Up on the left of the tree is easier, up till a tree belay. Scrambling remains.

Heroic climb

Behind Kippax's Crack 13 + M1

A short climb behind Kippax.

Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- Up the chimney behind the block which the 2nd and 3rd pitches of Kippax's Crack go up on the other side.
1. 40' Up the crack using piton runners.
2. 60' Traverse right then up easily.

Disputed Chimney 9 M3 100'

K. Western & others

Kippax Crack 10 140'

The obvious layback crack seen from the camp site. A very popular climb.

Standard:- V. Diff. 50' traverse right to a ledge (Tree belay) walk scramble left
1. 120' Up the small wall to a belay around a chock stone directly below the crack. This can be avoided by a traverse in from the left.
2. 40' Up the crack with difficulty avoiding the loose looking boulder at the top. Piton or bolt belays.
3. 50' Continue up. (The crack on the left has been climbed. Hairy but there is a good bolt belay). Scrambling or what you will remains.

Kippax and Dave Rostrum

Cancer. 14 60'

A short technically difficult climb on the broken rock above the camp site.

Standard:- Severe.
Start:- Scramble directly up from the camp site. To the right of an imposing wall.
1. 30' Climb with difficulty up the broken crack till a ledge is reached on the right. Belay.
2. 30' Up easily on the right. Scrambling remains or a walk round to the top of Kippax Crack.

Dave Roots and B.Allen

Milky Way

Broken climbing farther to the right still. A waste of time but good practice slabs for beginners with easy and hard variants as one wishes.

THE REST
(practise climbing)

Wahroonga Rocks

A place often used for Search and Rescue practises. The cliff line is fairly high and vertical (70' in places) but the rock is bad. To get there go along Cliff Avenue as far as possible. Take the track bearing left for 200 yards and push through scrub and you arrive at the top.

St. Ives

Cliffs which John Davis thinks worth visiting. Go along Warrimoo Road till it peters out into a dirt track in Kuringai Chase. Continue and where it stops, follow the track to the junction of the two creeks. The cliffs are opposite.

Commodore Heights

These cliffs are very popular with Eric Field and Alan Buck but it seems difficult to justify a 12 mile drive for some 60' cliffs. They are difficult to find but there is pleasant swimming nearby if you don't.

Take the road out to Commodore Heights and turn off to the left along a short dirt track just before the road begins to turn east near its end. The cliffs will be found as you bush bash towards the sea.

Lower Gosse

Longer cliffs but scrubby and broken. Just below where Mona Vale Lookout looks into a swimming pool in the Gosse.

There are some chunderous sea cliffs at North Bondi and "Rosa Gully" but not worth visiting. There are also some quarries in Undercliffe but are no good for climbing on though possible for abseiling or rescue practise.

Chapter 4 THE GROSE VALLEY

The Grose Valley offers the best climbing in the Blue Mountains, probably the best till the Bungles are reached.

The climbing potential is fantastic and there are still miles of 500' cliff which have not been touched at all. People claim that access in a weekend is difficult (with long day's climbing necessary) which to a certain extent is true but is by no means insurmountable.

The cost of a taxi to the end of Perrys is 16/- and can be ordered without deposit for Sunday night. The driver will even wait if he sees torch lights coming up Perry's. About 1, 1½ hours should be allowed for descent and ascent with packs to Blue Gum. Tents are necessary. The descent and ascent down Govetts to Junction rock takes longer. One should be well acquainted with the time of departure of the last train.

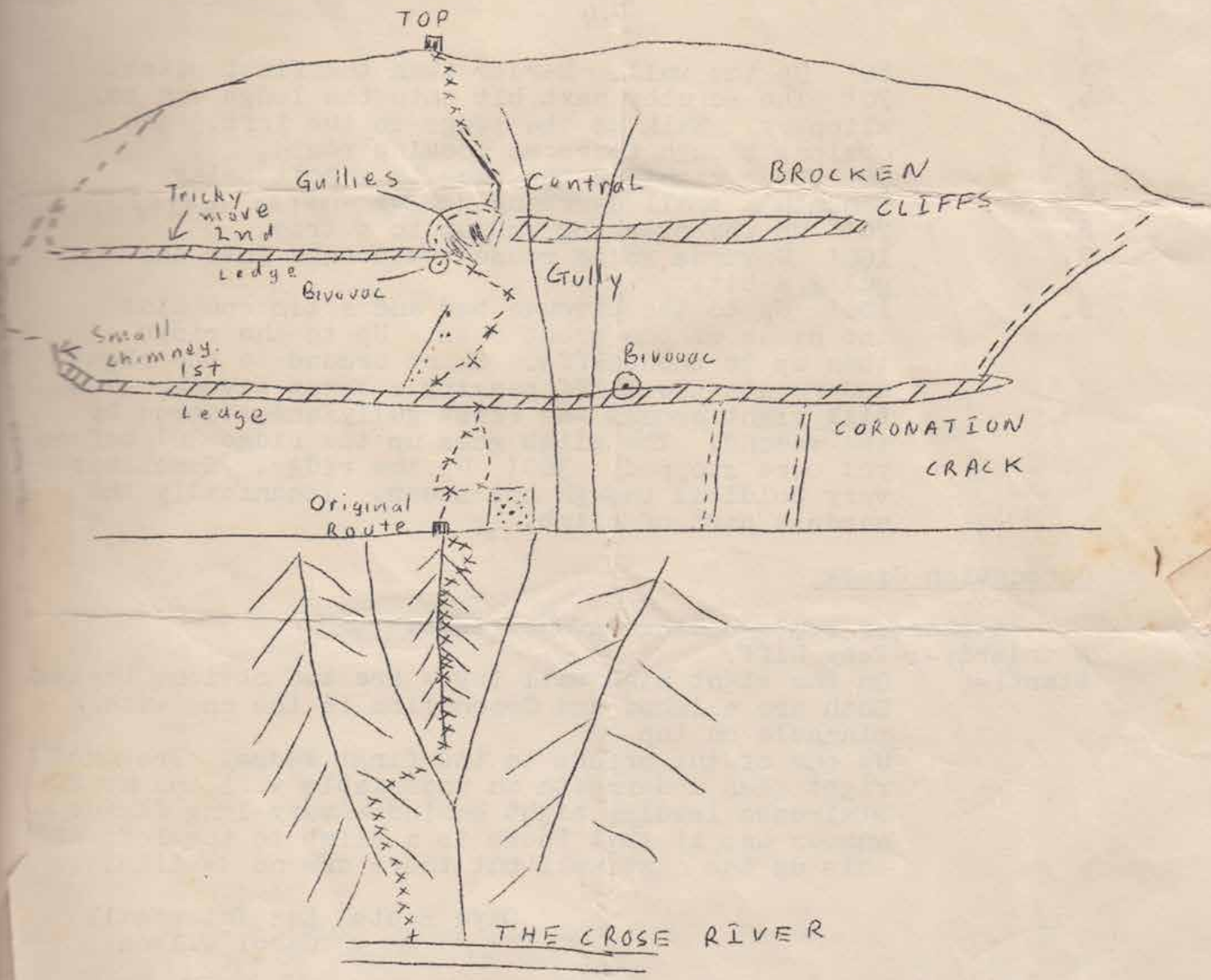
4.1. KING GEORGE

The highest total cliff line in the Blue Mountains though it is broken into 3 ledges. A magnificent face and climb on it begins to take the form of a mountaineering expedition.

First climbed in 2 days by the original route by Russ Kippax, Dave Roots, Enn Truupold and Owen Llewellyn a year or so after the forming of the club.

Since then the original has been done many times often in 2 days and often not including the last pitches. Shorter easier routes have been done to the right. The seriousness of the climb is cut down by the fact that escape is possible at the top on both ledges.

The true start for the climb is Blue Gum which is accessible by Pierces.pass (as one's equipment must be left at the top). There is however a slothful habit of walking down to the halfway ledge and then abseiling to the bottom. Some subhuman creatures don't even go to the bottom. Their sins shall be remembered. The scrub bash up from Blue Gum can be hell if the correct route is not taken. There are bivouac caves on both ledges. There is a road going to a picnic ground just behind the summit.



Original Route

BLUE GUM → 1½ miles.

Standard:- rSevere

Start:- Up as shown in diagram about 1½ miles up from Blue Gum. A distinctive large block about 15' high next to the face marks the start of the climb.

1. 80' Straight up to tree. Easier than it looks fortunately.

2. 80' Up to the left then right (ii) or traverse to the right. The way to the right is supposed to be easier. Traverse to the nose then fine climbing up the nose.

3. 80' Up the wall. Harder than the first pitch.
4. 70' The scrubby next bit onto the ledge can be slippery. Walk up the ledge to the left. The obvious though fearsome looking route.
5. 90' Bear right up the face to a bolt belay beneath a small overhang. (On the right of ledge)
6. 70' Up the overhang and up to a tree.
7. 100' Upwards going round the corner into the gully a bit.
8. 100' Up to the bivouac bed and a tin contains the names of the great ones. Up to the ridge then up to the cliffs. Skirt around to the right underneath the cliff passing a beaut bivouac site till right around the first gully and stopped by the second. The climb goes up the ridge 30' before you were stopped. 300' Up the ridge. Sometimes very holdless though not steep. Technically the hardest part of climb.

Coronation Crack

A shorter route ending on the right.

Standard:- Very Diff.

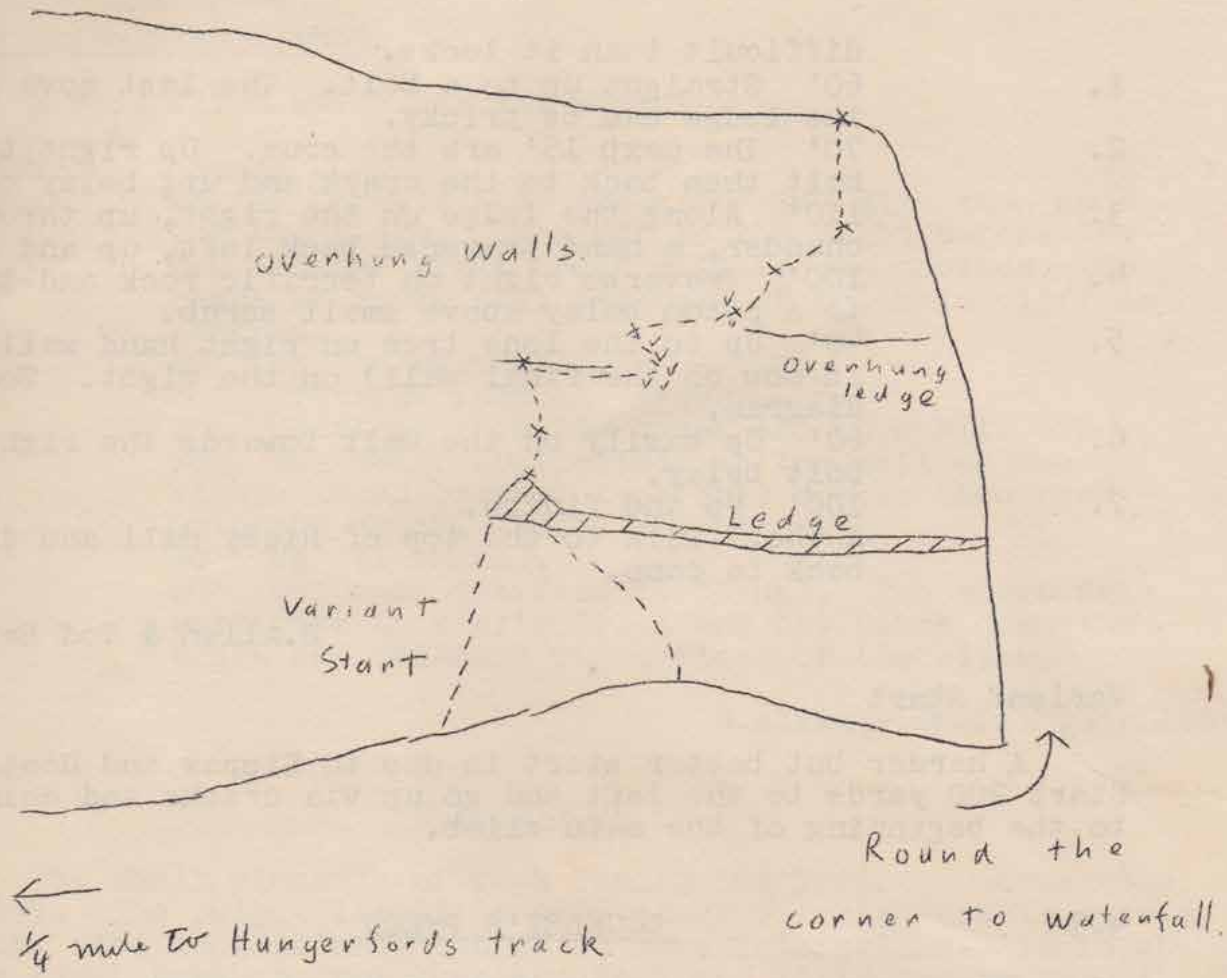
Start:- On the right hand wall there are two obvious breaks. Both are climbed and Coronation is the one with a pinnacle on top.
Up one of the cracks to the first ledge. Traverse right then underneath an undeniable wall and up a staircase leading right behind a very long flake. Rumour has it that there is a climb to the left of this up the next wall but there are no details.

Dave Roots Les Tattersall
Carol Wilson

4.2. PIERCE'S PASS

The cliff to the east of Pierce's Pass (Page's Pass). Only one climb has been done and the best face (further to the east still) is still to be climbed. When more climbs have been done a name should be given to the cliff face.

The face has the advantage of easy access and a clean finish. Possible as a day trip by car if an early start is made.



Proteus

A long climb in an unknown area. There are several bushes and patches of chunder in the first sections of the climb but a magnificent finish makes up for it. (700').

Standard:- Hard Severe
Start:- Down Hungerfords track and leave it to follow the bottom of the cliffs (i.e. towards King George). The climb is the first obvious break (about 1/4 mile along) up in a slight ampitheatre (before one gets around the corner which leads to the waterfall). The climb takes the obvious line which is up scrubby sections starting from the right going left till one comes face to face with the real climb . The first section of this preliminary climb is more

difficult than it looks.

1. 60' Straight up to a bolt. The last move onto the ledge can be tricky.
2. 70' The next 15' are the crux. Up right to the bolt then back to the crack and up; belay on left.
3. 110' Along the ledge on the right, up through chunder, a hand traverse back left, up and belay.
4. 100' Traverse right on terrific rock and then up to a piton belay above small scrub.
5. 40' Up to the lone tree on right hand wall (one is now on the final wall) on the right. See diagram.
6. 60' Up easily on the wall towards the right to a bolt belay.
7. 100' Up and finish.

A short walk to the top of Rigby Hill and the track back to camp.

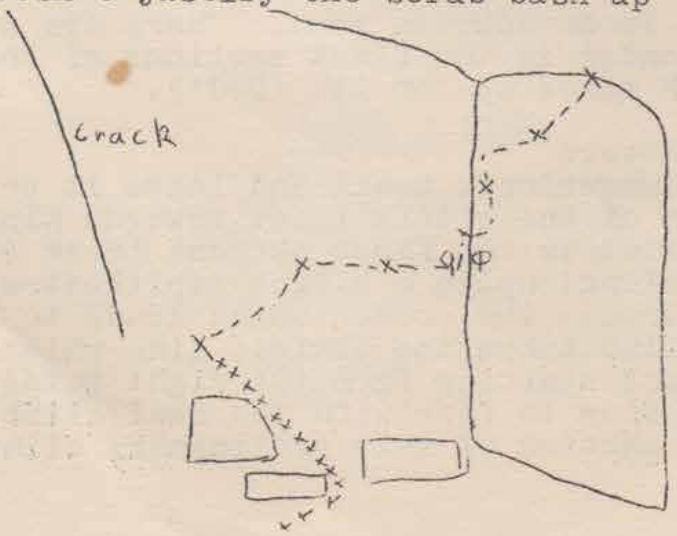
B.Allen & Ted Battey

Variant Start

A harder but better start is due to Kippax and Roots. Start 200 yards to the left and go up via cracks and chimneys to the beginning of the main climb.

4.3 LOCKLEY'S PYLON

There are some practice slabs near the track which Col Putt is rather attached to but the main face is at least a mile around facing the Fortress. However only one climb has been done and the face wasn't as long as we had expected. It probably doesn't justify the scrub bash up to it.



"The Hallelulia Climb"

A good climb which has its moments.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Up the Govetts Leap creek for 3/4 mile then up the big ridge. Turn off to the right before the top and the great crack will become obvious. Up ramps of scrub till the base of the main cliff is reached.

1. 80' Up the easy wall.
2. 80' Traverse into the trees.
3. 70' Continue into the crack and up a bit.
4. 70' The crux. Delicately up the wall on the right. Good bracket type bolt runner then back into the crack. Belay.
5. 40' Up (I think).
6. 60' Out onto the face (I think). The scrub free walk over Lockley's Pylon and the dance down the track are the main attractions of the climb.

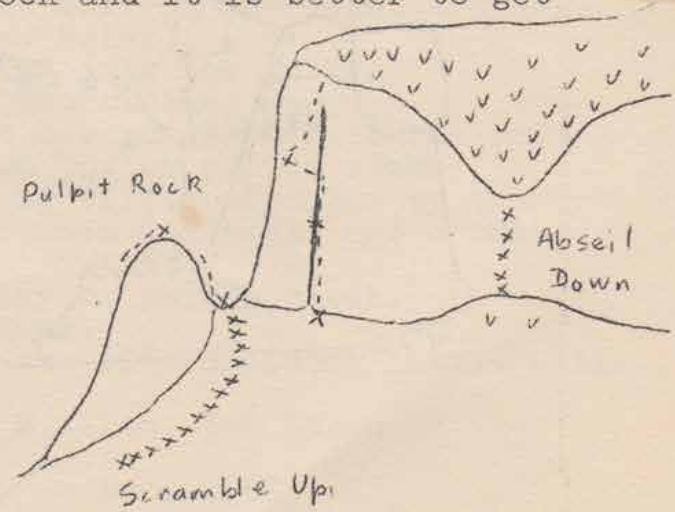
B.Allen, P.Draffin, May 1963

4.4 PULPIT ROCK

The small pinnacle of rock facing the Fortress across the valley. The pulpit itself is only about 50' high and is an easy climb. The long chimney behind is more interesting. It is a long scrub bash up from Junction Rock and it is better to get there by road along the top.

Pulpit Rock itself.

Standard:- Diff.
Start:- Nearest the main cliff and move up on the face nearest Govetts Leap. A good runner on a block, keep moving to the right and so to the top.



The Crack Behind.

Standard:- V. diff.

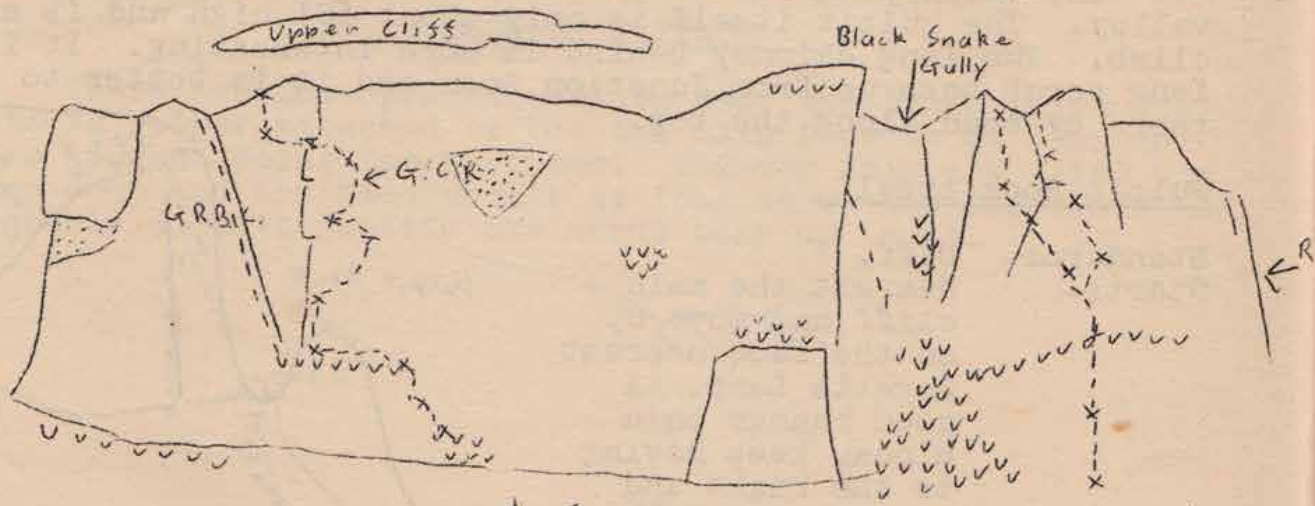
1. 100' Up in the chimney tossing down the hand holds as one goes.
2. 60' Up then out to the left.
3. 50' Up to the top and the lookout.

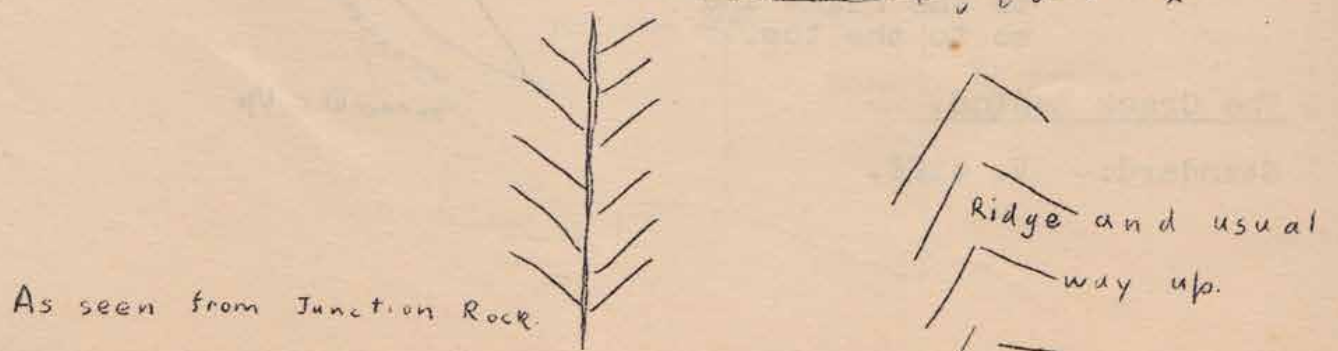
C.Ivan and T.Battey 1961

4.5 THE FORTRESS

This great face was visited as early as 1953 but wasn't climbed till a later date by Peter Melhuish and others (details forgotten). However, systematic climbing wasn't begun till the Rhum Dhu began in 1958. Since then the Fortress has perhaps received more climbing attention than anywhere else in the Grose. From Junction Rock the mighty 500' walls seem impregnable but closer investigation shows several weaknesses. Probably 6 or 7 distinct climbs have been done on the Fortress, most of which have been forgotten or insufficient details of the start can be given.

Coming down presents a problem. Black Snake Gully is the obvious place to come down but is far from easy to find from the top. Careful note of the way down should be made before starting and preferably the initial climb should be Black Snake Gully or nearby. In dry weather there is no water at the top. Four abseils are necessary in Black Snake Gully so one should be returning by at least 2 o'clock in the afternoon.





Great Rum Beer Chimney

The great chimney leading left on the left hand side of the face.

Standard:- V. Diff.

Details have been lost in antiquity. Follow your nose.

Doug Litchfield & others 1959

Grand Central Route

A magnificent climb up the centre of the face of great variety.

Standard:- Mild Severe

Start:- There is some scrambling at the start and the climb is by no means easy to find . The diagram gives the rough area and it is a fairly obvious line of weakness. It is best approached high on the right.

1. 20' Start in the corner with short wall on the left. Up the wall (tricky if wet) then around to the left, piton belay.
2. 30' Up the crack ahead and out into scrub.
3. 120' Up through scrub a walk around to the left along a sandy overhung ledge.
4. 80' Belay (piton) below a vertical corner with a rectangular block blocking the start. Up over the block then up the corner and then the right hand face.
5. 110' Up the magnificent wall on the right traversing to the middle. Tree belay.
6. 20' Farther up then back into the gully.
7. 90' Up the gully till one strikes bush. Push on and just before one sneaks off to the left there is a bolt belay on top of yellow rock.
8. 70' Traverse left and up till confronted by a short yellow wall, up (easier than it looks) and a bolt belay on top.
9. Walk left 100 feet, belay on yellow block.
10. 60' Sneak up the overhang.
11. Walk up the grass then the 10' remaining little wall.

B.Allen, Ian Logan

Dec. 1962

Most of the climbs have been done in the Black Snake Gully area. The sketch map shows a route of Dave Tanner and Andy O'Neil and another to the right of Kevin Western and Dave Phillips of which further details cannot be remembered (V.Diff).

Considerably further round to the right is another climb of K. Western and Marcia Montague again nothing further can be described (V.Diff). A climb of Charley Ivans probably goes up to the left of Black Snake Gully. Legend has it that Black Snake Gully is climbed but the walls seem pretty sheer. Climbs called Abstinence and En Passant are also reported in the same area but nobody has a clue where they are. (Old Rhum Dhu climbs).

One climb which remains to be done which looks of great merit is a mighty vertical chimney to the left and behind the main left buttress as seen from Junction Rock.

4.6 Other Climbing in the Grosse

This remains to be done. The face between Lockeys and Mt. Hay looks magnificent. Bushwalkers go up the gully to the right of King George and also to the left of Govett's Leap. Neither needs a rope. They also while away the time abseiling down various canyons. The practise climbing in the lower Grosse comes under practise climbing near Sydney and in any case it is lousy. The climbing higher up near Mt. Victoria needs investigating.

Chapter 5 AROUND KATOOMBA

The majority of climbing has in fact been done in the vicinity of Katoomba. This is not just because of the natural slothfulness of climbers but because some of the cliffs around Katoomba are quite high.

5.1 MEDLOW BATH

The two climbs done have not been repeated. The only other party to visit the area said the climbing was lousy and chickened out.

Pure Spirit

Standard:- Severe

Start:- Descend track from the Lookout and where the path forks into two directions, continue along south path through cave, via steps. Pure Spirit is the first start seen as the track levels out.

1. An obvious layback crack (with a slight bulge at the middle) contained between a large vertical wall on the right and a large block on the left. Ascent mainly by jamming. Good belay. (Strenuous)

2. Climb on to right hand wall and ascend by a 45 degree traverse over red, scalloped sandstone to pulpit on nose. Traverse delicately along nose until the angle relents slightly, then up to a ledge with a roof. A small, senescent tree exists as a belay, with a rickety piton half inserted into a small crack.
(Exposed; but Litchfield adds further: A direct traverse was attempted to the right from the 1st belay. This is fierce, to say the least, and other than falling off, this route doesn't appear to hold any future. The pitch described brings one to the ledge much more safely - which isn't saying much!)

3. The roof of the ledge presents an uncompromising overhang. Therefore traverse the ledge to the right, and climb down into gully. Good belay.

4. Climb the gully by backing and footing out from underneath the overhanging chockstone.
Scramble easily off to the right, or straight ahead.

Peter Hardie, Doug Litchfield

Gin Sling

Standard:- Severe

Start:- Continue along the track from Pure Spirit, until a long deep chimney is reached.

1. Back up long chimney, and wrestle with tree half-way up. Continue climbing, or traverse, either way delicately, out of chimney. Continue to left above chimney, and climb "dirty nose". (Exposed). At least 120 feet of rope is required between second and leader.

2. Up grassy ledge to corner with long block-like ridge between containing walls. A tricky start, then up until stopped by roof. An awkward step out to left, then along to a large tree belay. Now a very large grassy ledge is reached with large trees. This is crossed, rising up to the right, to a very bushy ledge, and scrambled up until an "L" shaped corner.

3. The wall to the left is taken, and gives a long pitch.

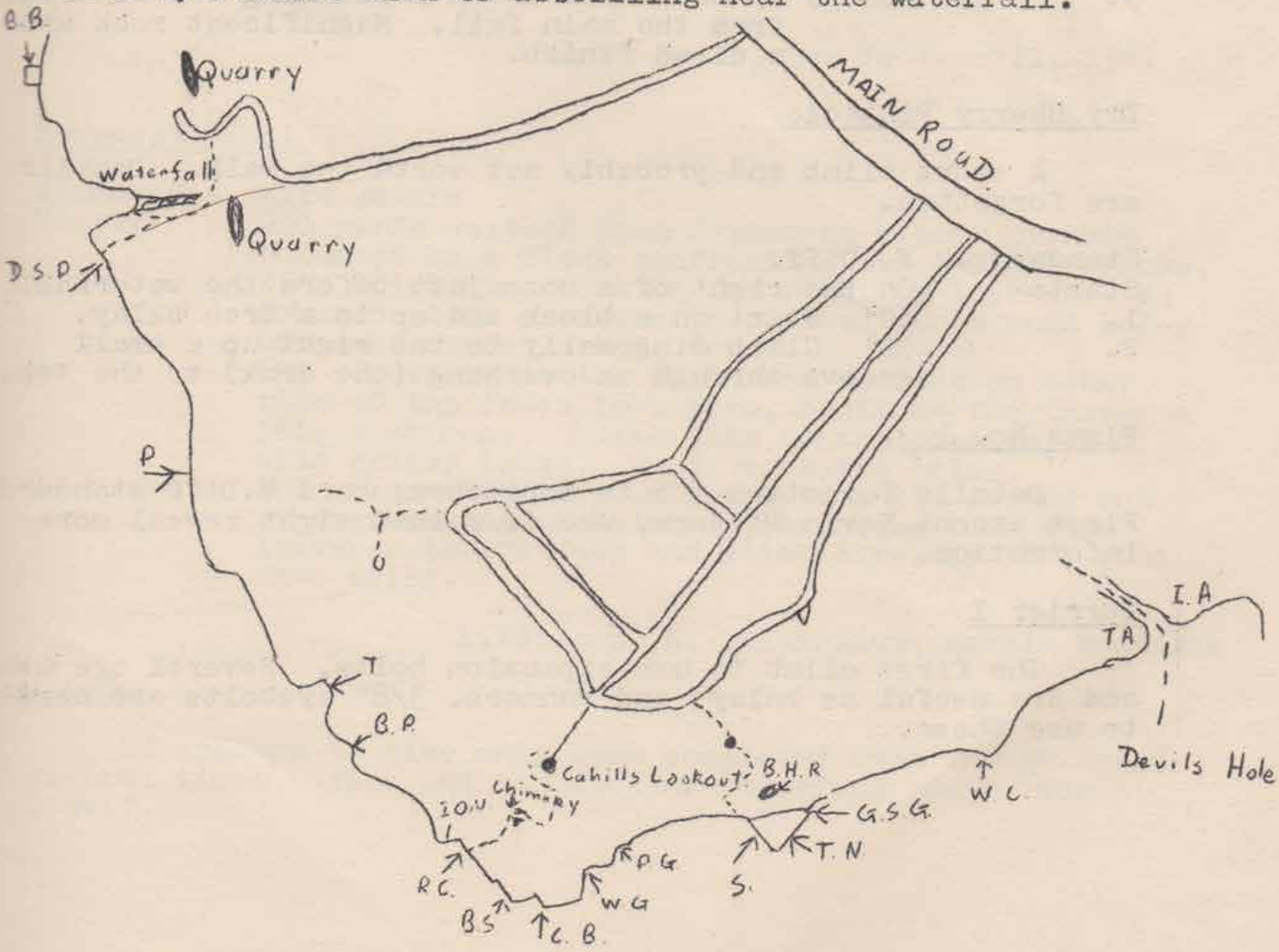
Peter Hardie, Doug Litchfield.

5.2

THE RHUM DHU AREA

This is the line of cliff extending from Nellies Glen to Narrow Neck. As the name indicates, this is the area the Rhum Dhu mainly concentrated on. The cliff line is quite high in places but is chopped into a strange wilderness at the top. Climbs are by no means easy to describe even if somebody does remember them.

The ways down are not obvious. The main way down for the central area is via Rhum Cognac. Out to Cahill's Lookout, go down to the right and at about 50 yards down traverse back underneath it through a cave and a squeeze hole. Down the gully then right again through a chimney and it is necessary to chimney down for 10' on the other side. Wander down the scrubby rock with care and you will find yourself at the top of Rhum Cognac marked by a bollard to Skinny John. Abseil down 100' or 2 x 60'. This brings you into the centre of the area. The east end can be served by Devils Hole and the north by Nellies Glen or abseilling near the waterfall.



Burgundy Buttress

A good climb with a fine finish. One of the first climbs in the area and originally took several weekends of cogitation.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Quickest approach is by abseilling down near the waterfall. However it is difficult to find the climb then. If approached via Nellies Glen the climb stands out as the crack between a wall and a detached buttress (obvious). Walk down the track then scramble up.
1. 40' A very tricky start up the wall. Originally done by lassoing a tree. Has been climbed free however using a bolt as a runner. Layback cracks are other possibilities further to the right.
2. 60' Up)
3. 60' Up) Some scrub and rotten rock.
4. 40')
5. 50') Up the final crack separating the buttress from the main fall. Magnificent rock and a clean finish.

Dry Sherry Pinnacle

A short climb and probably not worth the walk. Details are forgotten.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- On the right of a nose just before the waterfall.
1. 50' Start on a block and up to a tree belay.
2. 70' Climb diagonally to the right up a small groove through an overhang (the crux) to the top.

Pimms No. 1

Details forgotten. 5 to 6 pitches; hard V.Diff standard. First ascent Kevin Western, who if pushed might reveal more information.

Terrier I

The first climb to use expansion bolts. Several are used and are useful as belays and runners. 3/8" eyebolts are needed to use these.

Standard:- Severe (using the placed terriers)
Start:- An obvious chimney near the top of the face marks the climb. From directly below scramble up about 80'.

1. 100' (4B) Start up a rather wide chimney which stops 50' up and forms a crack filled with vegetation. Follow up crack for about 6'-10', then a traverse right (upwards) about 20' out thence an obvious traverse up and back to crack left. Belay off strong gum.
2. Scramble up, climb up small gully then scramble up to near face of huge chimney.
3. 100' (5A) Up the chimney (terriers as runner) into crack. A little cave serves as a rest point. Up the crack then into chimney. A good belay 10' inside.
4. 60' (3B) Chimney up small cave. Expansion bolt belay 10' from roof.
5. 30' (3B) Chimney to outside of crack, onto right hand wall. Traverse left to tree belay.

Dave Roots, Les Tattersall, 1961

Barrossa Pearl

Standard:- Mild severe
Start:- 200 yards west of Rhum Cognac at a rock pyramid balanced on a block confronting two layback cracks.

1. 35' Climb the crack on the right by layback. An awkward start overhung in places. Good rock belay but needs some looking for.
2. 60' Traverse to the right and descend on other side of the ledge to a tree, continue the traverse into a chimney. Climb this to ampitheatre on a wide grassy ledge. Good vegetable belay.
3. 60' Ascend chimney on the left until forced out by overhanging mantelshelf, overcome this then traverse to the face and climb directly to a good tree belay.

K.Western, R. Cunningham, Marcia Montague.

I.O.U.

It appears to have only been completed once though tried several times. This and the look of the climb speak for itself.

Standard:- Hard Severe
The climb goes up the overhanging crack 30' to the left of Rhum Cognac. Then up to the top ledge (i.e. ledge with the bollard.) It is thought that the climb continues further up the rotten rock to make it quite a long climb. Further details are lost.

Eric Paris's finest hour.

Rhum Cognac

An historic climb as its first ascent on 11th May, 1958 by Peter Hardie, Ken Cooke and Doug Litchfield marked the formation of the Rhum Dhu.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- In the corner which you abseil to.
1. 40' Up to tree.
2. 60' Straight up then slightly to the right is the harder variant. Further traverses well to the right make it easier.
The climb can be continued as:
3. 30' Climb directly up "V" gully in corner to a cave (starting where the right hand variants end). Tree belay.
4. 30' Continue up on the left to foot of chimney.
5. 20' Battle up chimney.
6. Climb directly up the edge of the left hand pinnacle to the top. Easy climbing.

Gin and Tonic

The chimney type gully is to the right of the Rhum Cognac slab. Standard is diff. and is only really a variant.

F. Field, G. Hoar,
R. Cunningham

Baby Sham

Consists of a long lead with no runners.
Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- On the face and rib 15 yards to the right of "Gin & Tonic", i.e., 40 yards to the right of "Rhum Cognac".
1. 70' Easily up the first section.

2. 110' There is now a small ramp leading to the right for about 20'. Go halfway up this then sneak up the overhang. Continue up the face which does not relax till the top is reached.

B. Allen, T. Western June 1962.

Cocktail Buttress

A fine position and was a very popular climb. Details hazy.

Standard:- V. Diff (rotten rock and exposure at the top.)
Start:- The climb goes up the obvious buttress. Start on the left hand side.
1.2. Up on the left hand side via cracks, chimneys and scrub to a ledge beneath a slight overhang.
3.4. One can continue on up the left without any interest. The climb goes up the overhang then traverse up the main face to the right, piton belay or runner. Continue onto the right hand edge up and finish.

Whisky Gully

Each of the four pitches provide a battle of a new and exciting kind. A very enjoyable climb which is yet to be seconded.

Standard:- Mild very severe. Technically very hard but little exposure.
Start:- The innocent looking gully just after "Cocktail Buttress". Start on the right hand side.
1. 30' Even this is not trivial.
2. 50' Walk left a bit. Up a slight layback, do battle with a tree and up. Walk up and there is a bolt belay on a block beneath the next pitch.
3. 25' Up via the right.
4. 40' Layback up the crack directly above and then pull in with difficulty into a chimneying position. Up and finish.

Peter Hardy (rest of party unable to follow.)

Peacock Gully

Standard:- Severe
Start:- The next gully after Whisky Gully. Start on the nose to the right of Whisky Gully.

1. 50' Rising traverse around the nose onto boulder then transfer into crack and chimney up until bulge is reached. Transfer to right wall and climb to wide ledge and tree belay.
2. 60' Walk along scrub-covered ledge until faced with appalling wet mossy wall. Ascend arete to right using human footholds, to leave ground. Climb to small bush and crack. A horrible, delicate traverse to the left is followed by a desperate lunge to a grassy ledge.
3. 40' Up easy face to broad ledge. Follow this till faced with a short wall, up to a tree belay.
4. 100' Easily to the top.

Peter Higgs (the rest did not follow)

Shandy

An easy though spectacular looking face. The climb as yet lacks a true finish.

Standard:- V. Diff
Start:- The climb goes up the first half of the western face of the Boars Head Massif. Scramble up and start about 20' from the crack in the corner.
1. 100' One can go almost anywere on the magnificent holds. It is usual to go up to the right and belay in a little cave.
2. 80' Up, left and back to the corner. Alternatively one can go up the corner all the way. The way off is now the ledge to the left. Continue on however for another good pitch.
3. 40' Delicately up the right crack. Then up to where Green Salad Gully also finishes. 25/- worth of equipment is invested in a way up on the left hand wall but hasn't gone yet. The chimney above as well has received some attention. Abseil down again to get off.

Tooth & Nail (i.e. Boars Head).

The glamour climb of the area. A spectacular looking face and its first ascent (after several free attempts) was the first to use extensive artificial aids. 3/8" eyebolts are needed.

Standard:- Hard severe or even less as it stands now. A much more difficult proposition originally.

Start:- Scramble round to the right hand edge of the face and up Green Salad Gully to beneath a little overhang beneath which the climb traverses onto the face.

1. 90' Traverse left onto the face. (bolt runner on the corner) and up. Terriers help as runners when it gets too thin. Continue on up till a pulpit type stone is reached. (Ignore the sling hanging in the middle of the face, the remains of an unsuccessful attempt.)

2. 30' Up artificially the rotten vertical crack above then left to an artificial belay.

3. 20' Continue left to a little ledge with a bush.

4. 70' Up (tricky) then to the right and off to finish an airy and exhilarating climb.

First ascent. Russ Kippax and Dave Roots, 1961.

Green Salad Gully.

A pleasant walk through interesting scenery.

Standard:- Diff.
The large deep gully on the right of and behind Boars Head. Climb up gully. The one pitch consists of a short awkward chimney. At the top abseil down as in Shandy. An easy way to the top.

D. Litchfield & R . Cunningham.

Whisky Chaser

Details are forgotten.

Standard:- V. Diff.

Start:- The climb goes up the next prominent buttress east of Boars Head.
Climb to top of buttress (2 pitches) then left round corner into re-entrant corner. Climb crack to ledge, walk up sloping ledge to obvious chimney and up.

Temperance Arete

Details of this climb have mostly been forgotten. The climb consists of the arete on the west side of Devils Hole.

It does not start from the bottom.

K.Western, D.Litchfield,Cooke.

Described here is a variation.

From belay at top of "V" chimney.
Walk along ridge until nose of arete is reached thence to the left of this into amphitheatre.

Climb easy rock corner to broad ledge. Rock belay.

Walk around ledge then up deeply grassed slope to the end of a low rock ledge. Abundance of tree belays.

Climb ledge then traverse to the right until a small gully is reached, climb this, with runner on tree, to tree belay.

Traverse further right till ledge disappears. Up tricky overhang on large flaky holds thence traverse further right and up on to broad scrub covered ledge. Choice of good belays.

Scramble to top and walk off via Devil's Hole.

Hepworth & Cunningham.

Intemperance Arete

Standard:- Diff.

Start:- On the other side of Devil's Hole. Down Devil's Hole to slightly below chockstone then traverse along obvious ledge under right hand wall. Continue around nose until reaching a short wall with a pinnacle abutting cliff-face above.

1. Climb easily up a short wall then up a crack between the pinnacle and the cliff face to a large ledge and a large belay on pinnacle top.
2. Climb the left hand edge of the wall overlooking Devil's Hole to a good belay.
3. Climb a tricky scoop thence easily up nose to belay.
4. Up wall then traverse to the left under an overhang to continue up wall above. Good belay.

K .Western,K.Cooke,D.Litchfield

This climb commemorated the 21st ascent by members of the Rhum Dhu.

Ancient documents mention a Half Pint between Whisky Chaser and Temperance Arete. Nothing else is known.

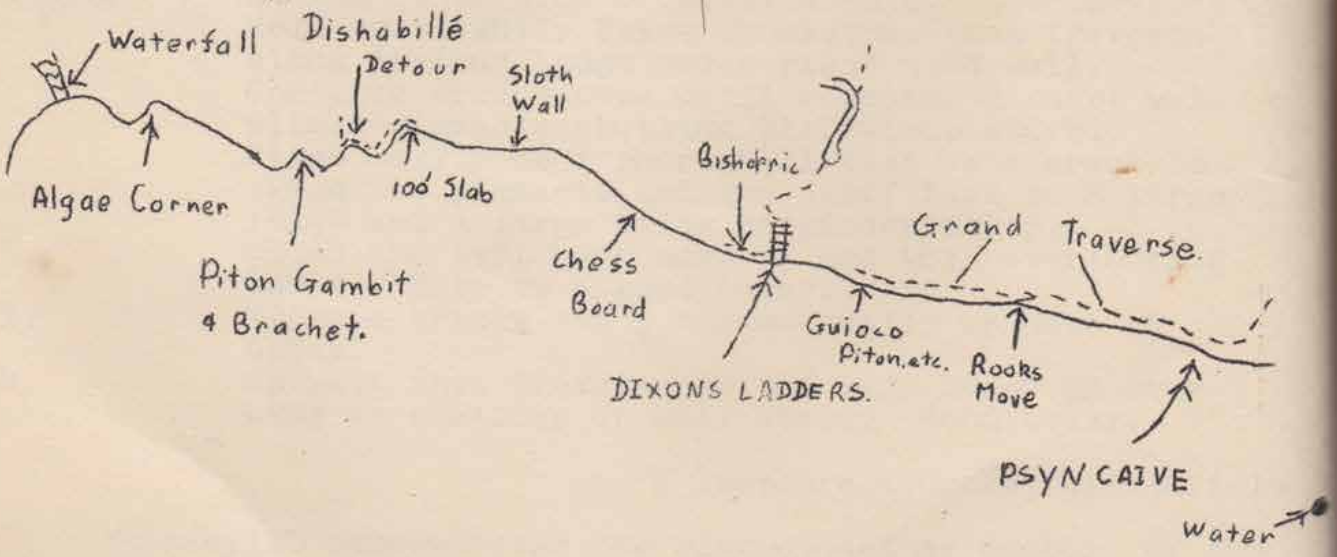
5.3 NARROW-NECK

Narrow-Neck is without doubt the most thoroughly climbed area in the Blue Mountains. Perhaps due to the easy access and large bivouac cave with a good water supply. The rock is fairly good for sandstone but the cliff line is not high. There are only a few climbs over 300' in length.

The climbing area is on the west side from the waterfall near Devil's Hole to Diamond Spray. The height of the cliff line would not justify the more difficult access to areas beyond "Corral Swamp". The rock on the East face is lousy. Descent is via Dixons Ladders. Work is in progress at the moment on a pipe line and scaffolding bars make ascent and descent with a large pack awkward. There is usually a rope and pulley present for lowering packs. There are sometimes notices saying "Keep Out". The cave is 300 yards south. Fire wood is not overplentiful now.

The climbs in this area are well known and most are marked at the bottom with a small white square. The guide to this area was to have been written by Kevin Western but he felt he didn't have enough time to do it justice. As it is this is written in a hurry and might miss detail which is actually well known. In a few months time Kevin will produce a guide to Narrow-Neck so accurate and perfect as will put this guide to shame?

The climbs.



Algue Corner

A short climb which was done artificially. Details forgotten.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- As shown in diagram. Scramble up obvious gully up to obvious overhung corner.
1.2.3. 100'? Climb up then out left into the next corner and up. (artificial in places).

Kitchener and T. Westren

Piton Gambit

The original climb of the area and still is a fine straightforward climb with good belays of even difficulty.

Standard:- Mild V. Diff.
Start:- As in diagram and the name is chipped into the rock below.
1. 40' Up a tricky little overhang then right up the ramp to tree belay.
2. 30' Continue up then traverse left to a belay on a platform directly above the starting point.
3. 40' Up wall above block then right to bush platform.
4. 40' (i) Up onto the wall
or (ii) Straight up to corner and up dirty chimney.
5. 15' Up final short corner to top of main cliff.

Cooke, Litchfield, Cartwright, 1959.

Piton Gambit Bracket

Details forgotten.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- Same as the first pitch of Piton Gambit. Traverse left and continue traversing left round the nose into the next corner. Up in the corner then another traverse left then up.

Kitchener, T. Westren.

Deshabillée Detour

A rock climber sometimes sees some amusing sights from his unusual vantage points.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- As for 100' slabs (or a variant start of the same) to below the 100' slab.
2. 30' Traverse left around nose to piton belay.
3. 40' Further left and up in corner (crux) and left to belay ledge.
4. 30' Follow obvious line up through scoop to tree belay. Scramble off.

K. Westren, C. Regan 25/4/63

100' Slab

A popular climb with a tricky first pitch. Other starts are available becoming progressively easier as one goes to the left.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- 15' to right of corner
1. 30' Climb wall and negotiate small mantleshelf (the crux) and up totree belay on wide ledge. Walk left to corner.
2. 100' Climb up obvious fault. Tree runner or belay halfway up.
3. 10' Scramble up in corner to walk off ledge.

K. Westren and A. Bailey.

Sloth Wall

A short pleasant climb with a technical move.

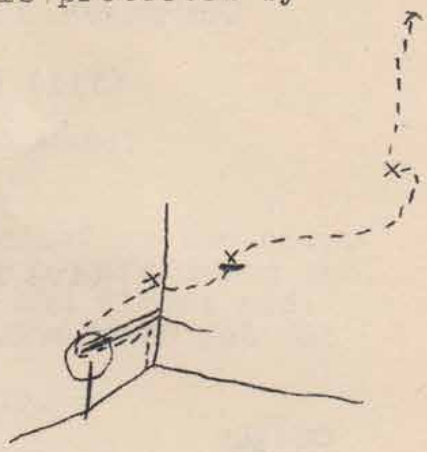
Standard:- Mild severe.
Start:- 100 yards south of "100' Slab" on a short wall 10' to the right of a crack-type chimney.
1. 20' Up short wall. Bush belay.
2. 80' Up then traverse as far as possible along the ledge to the left. Pull up with difficulty and then a bolt belay.
3. 100' Up the wall.

B. Allen and T. Batty 1963

Chess Board

An interestihg climb.

Standard:- Hard severe (till the hard move is protected by a decent belay).
Start:- In the corner beneath overhangs.
1. 60' Up in the corner then wriggle round on the ledge to the tree. The tree helps ascent of the wall. Piton belay back in the corner.
2. 20' Continue to the right. The crux is getting onto the next stance. Bracket type bolt belay.
3. 110' Continue right then up.
4. 100' Up.



Ted Batty and F. Kitchener.

Bishopric

Details hazy and there are two finishes.

Standard:- Hard diff.
Start:- From the ledge above the ladders on the North side, 2/3 of the way up the cliff.
1.2.3.? 200'? Traverse left.
4.5.? 100'? Up the wall.

K. Westren and Peter Draffyn.

Giuoco Piton

One of the standard beginners' climbs with many variant endings. The first ledge provides an excellent point for practise belaying on wet days.

Standard:- Hard Diff. (Gamma and Kappa are slightly harder).
Start:- The crack above a horizontal pole with an overhang above.
1. 20' Onto the pole and up the crack. A piton helps;artificial belay on top. Walk left along ledge, bolt belay.

2. 35' Traverse left round nose and up to obvious ledge on left.

3. (i) Alpha. 30' Up leftwards to platform and so to scrub.

(ii) Beta 45' Up on the right near corner, through slot.
5' Climb through crack or climb wall.

(iii) Gamma 45' Climb to 30' level on Beta, right and belay in gully.
25' Right into cave. Thread belay inside.
10' Right and upwards, mantleshelf to finish.

(iv) Kappa 45' As for Gamma.
20' Up gully then on left wall.

K. Westren solo (alpha & beta)

Omega

Not quite the same as the other variants

Standard:- Severe & A2
Start:- As in Giuoco Piton for first pitch.
2. 40' Artificially up the overhang and the crack above. Hand traverse right then a piton belay on the nose. A bolt above the hand traverse protects the second.
3. 40' Up the overhang then right to a block belay.
4. 60' Up the gully on the right.

B.Allen, Doug. Cox, John Davis 1962.

Grand Traverse

A classic long traverse with some novel moves.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- From the cave described in Giuoco Piton, gamma variant.
1. 70' Drop down a little and traverse right into a corner, the rock is rotten and vertical but with plenty of holds.
2. 50' Continue traverse to the right and step down at the end into a corner (sometimes wet and slippery).
3. 35' The bum traverse (i.e. traverse along the low ledge on one's seat.)

4.5.6. 250' Cross the wall as one will and finish on the right up a gully. A free abseil is also possible to the cave.

T. Batty and K. Westren.

Rook's Move

A tricky first pitch but there is little else.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- A break in the overhang 100 yards before the cave.
1. 60' Struggle up for 15'. Traverse left using the peculiar plate piton as a runner and direct aid. Up into a small ledge which is awkward to get out of.
2.3. 120'? Up the scrubby rotten gully.

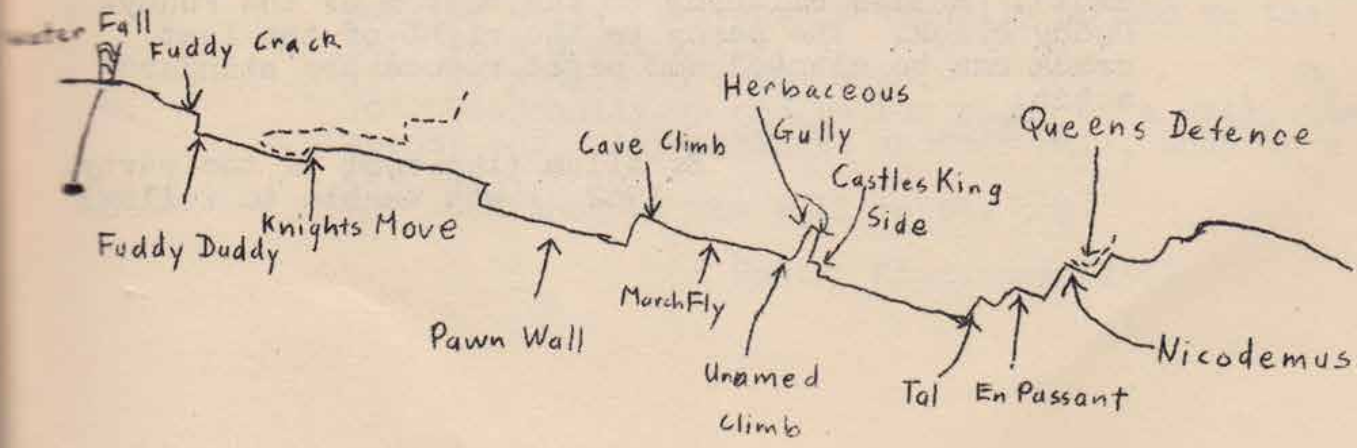
T. Batty and others.

Echo Junior

A purely artificial vertical climb done in practise for Echo Point.

60' Up the yellow wall 50' before the cave going left at the top and so onto grand traverse.

People have amused themselves in various ways during wet days in the Psyncaive. Those of us with worse masochistic tendencies than the rest have gone 2/3 of the way out under the overhang. At this stage even our madness dried up.



Fuddy-Duddy

A classic climb. 2 eyebolts are needed for runners.

Standard:- Severe.
Start: On the beginning of the buttress just past the obvious Fuddy-Duddy crack.
1. 110' Up the wall then left round the nose at the top into the corner. A bolt and other belays. This should and can be broken into smaller pitches.
2. 100' Up the crack and ferns using eyebolts for runners to beneath the loose blocks. Piton or eye-bolt runner or belay. Left out onto the face and up on small good holds. A layback continuing up the crack is more difficult.
3. 70' Up the small gully then to the chimney behind. Chockstone belay.
4. 60' Struggle up the chimney which is a bit narrow.

Russ Kippax, Dave Roots, 1960

Fuddy Crack

A more direct start of an extremely vicious nature.

Standard:- Very severe.
Start:- The conspicuous chimney-type-crack below and 20' to the left of the main Fuddy-Duddy crack which it joins. (not to be confused with the herbacious corner directly below).
1. 110' 20' Up the first crack to a terrier runner. 30' battle up the next crack which is somewhat exhausting. Piton runner but it would be better to belay. Layback up, continue layback left underneath the overhang crack and layback up again in a very weak state (the crux). Easier climbing to the bottom of the Fuddy-Duddy crack. The scoop to the right of the last crack can be climbed and might reduce the standard a bit.

B. Allen (the rest of the party
1962 was unable to follow)

Knight's Move

A fine climb. One of the first ascents of the area. Its large number of traverses make it quite long. The original route took a higher and harder line in the second pitch.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- In the corner to the right of the buttress on which Fuddy-Duddy starts.
1. 100' Up and immediately left around the corner. Left 30' up and right to belay in thick bushes immediately above the start.
2. 115' Right along the ledge then diagonally right up onto the nose. A not very obvious thread belay in a chiselled out crack further up on the nose.
3. 100' Down and traverse 20' along the ledge right onto the next face. Up a few feet and a very good bolt runner. Continue up on very vertical rock (the crux) to scrubby ledge.
4. 30' Surmount the overhang on rotten rock. Walk right till clear of overhang above.
5. 50' Up to the top.

K. Westren, D. Pearce.

Various attempts have been made to go up below the second belay in Knight's Move. So far unsuccessfully but their ironmongery can still be seen.

Pawn's Wall

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- 40' left of "Cave Route" - marked by a small cairn.
1. 20' Up above cairn to piton belay.
2. 45' Traverse left 20' then up 6' of slightly overhanging wall. Traverse diagonally up and to the left to a small gully.
3. 15' To a tree covered ledge.
4. 70' Diagonally up and to the right on a wall, then across the gully again to another wall, then up a few feet.
5. 70' Continue up the wall to the top.

Batty, Kitchener, 1962

Cave Climb

Interesting and varied.

Standard:- Mild severe.
Start:- In the corner after the next buttress after "Knight's Move".
1. 70' A tree helps one onto the yellow wall. A delicate balance move soon follows. Move right at the top to tree leaving perhaps a piton runner to protect the second.
2. 80' Up the crack and into the cave to chockstone belay.
3. 80' Up in the cave and out (some long stretches). A bolt runner then continue up to the top.

Batty, Boyd, Westren, Smith.

March Fly

Eyebolts are necessary.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- In the middle of the wall after cave climb.
1. 30' Straight up to ledge.
2. 40' 2 eyebolts are necessary as direct aid to the obvious tree above.
3. 50' Traverse right to tree belay.
4. 70' Fairly easily up chimney and out.

Dave & Noelie Roots, H. Cotton.

Un-named Climb

A good training climb again with a tricky first pitch.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- In corner left of herbacious gully.
1. 15' Muscle up to ledge with cairn then (climbing on cairn might be necessary) pull up (crux) to small ledge and piton belay on right.
2. 30' Climb up into scrub, left into corner and up. Thread belay.
3. 15' Up and left round corner to wide ledge.
4. 40' Traverse left off ledge and easy wall to belay.
5. 70' Continue up wall.

K. Westren and E. Field.

Other Variant

Standard:- V. Diff but harder than previous route.
Start:- First pitch of Un-named Climb.
2. 20' Up into scrub and right into tree belay in corner.
3. 25' Up in corner. Walk up and left to tree belay beneath chimney.
4. 10' Up narrow chimney (tight).
5. 40' Traverse left on obvious ledge, up 4' at piton runner and further left to wide ledge.
6. 50' Join the last pitch of Un-named Climb.

Herbacious Gully

Quite a good descent route but not a pleasant climb. At least 2 exits at the back.

Start:- Up the 7' wide gully with the large chockstone above. Scramble or climb up to here and then up into the back of the gully. Two routes at least now offer themselves.

Southern Exit

Standard:- V. Diff.
1.2. 80' Up the obvious line on the southern wall.

K. Westren solo.

Northern Exit

Up the rib and crack on the left. Details lost.

Roger McDonald and others.

Castles King's Side

Not an inspiring climb.

Standard:- Mild V. Diff.
Start:- In the chimney to the right of "Herbacious Gully".
1. 20' Up the chimney to tree belay.
2. 30' Up on the right on small holds to the next ledge.
3. 70' Traverse right around the corner onto the face. Continue traverse then up at will.

4. 20' A short little wall with a mantleshelf to finish.

R. McDonald, R. Buchanan, 1960

Herbacious Traverse

A traverse mainly on ledges from the chockstone in Herbacious Gully to Tal. Only one good pitch just after crossing Castle King's Side.

K. Westren and others.

Tal

The crux is a beautiful airy traverse into the unknown.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Below the spectacular crack but leads left onto the rib.
1. 40' Up short wall and crack to good bolt belay before the main layback crack.
2. 70' Leftwards then, and up on the corner. Delicate and airy. A good tree belay around the corner.
3. 70' Easily up to bush belay.
4. 20' The corner is deceptively rotten. Walk right a little to a slight break in the initial overhang of the final wall above some bushes.
5. 100' Battle up the first bit preferably at speed or else one gets tired.

B. Allen, T. Batty, 1962.

En Passant

A very enjoyable and popular climb.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- As in diagram. An obvious crack in the middle of the face.
1. 30' Up and to the right to gum tree runner. Left and up to obvious tree belay.
2. 70' To right of belay and up series of interesting cracks finishing with short layback to good tree belay.
3. 40' Up, traverse right to nose and up to belay ledge. Walk up along ledge to overhanging corner

above well-worn "Black Boy".
4. 70' Up the small overhang then right around nose onto the main wall and so to the top.

Boyd, McDonald, K. Westren.

Nicodemus

An awe-inspiring corner capped by an overhang. A clean climb on good rock.

Standard:- Hard severe (2 bolts used for direct aid).
Start:- The corner before "Queens Defense"
1. 70' Wander up easily to right past tree.
2. 40' Further right, up the obvious crack leading left. Piton belay.
3. 40' Continue left up the crack. Bolt belay.
4. 30' Tricky start and direct aid on a piton might be necessary. Belay on a bolt beneath the overhang.
5. 70' The crux. Straight up the overhang with a good bolt runner. Loose rock on the top gives the climb its grading. Onto the ledge on the left with the help of a bolt (tricky mantleshelf). Traverse left and fairly easily up.

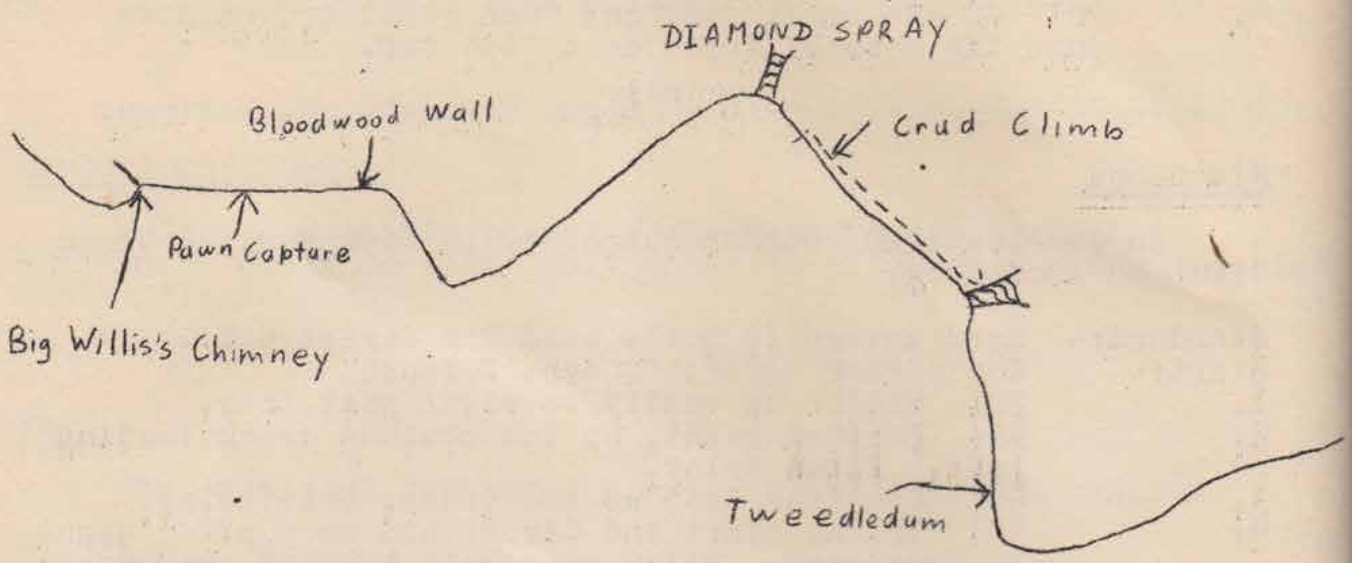
B. Allen, T. Batty. 1963

Queens Defense

Two interesting pitches.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- A few feet to the right of "Nicodemus".
1. 100' Traverse right easily, round the nose, drop a few feet and continue traversing into the corner.
2. 15' Up the overhang using 2 pitons for direct aid. A scramble off to the left or a short wall on the right.

T. Batty, K. Westren



Big Willis's Chimney

A classic chimney struggle.

Standard:- Diff.
Start:- In a corner is a large deep chimney which cuts leftwards behind a buttress.
1. 30' Scramble up miscellaneous rock into the base of the chimney.
2. 100' Into the back of the chimney, up 35' traverse left 10' then out into sunlight.

There are a number of small problems on the small upper cliff line. Easiest to go left.

Barry Willis and D. Pearce.

Pawn Capture

Details unobtained. Possibly the earliest ascent of the area. This climb is of standard Diff and not long.

Doug Litchfield, Evan Field.

Bloodwood Wall

Just another short climb.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- At a cairn on a wall to the right of a corner. Start 10' up in the corner using a bloodwood tree as a belay.
1. 30' Traverse upwards to right to minute bloodwood tree and then with delicate use of this tree up to belay.
2. 40' Continue up wall, then broken climbing.
3.4. 50' Two short pitches up the final wall.

K. Westren, E. Field.

Crud Climb

A quite worthless climb.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- Right of Diamond Spray
1. 40' Climb up in corner and belay beneath overhang. Scramble left then scramble up onto the main ledge. Traverse right along this ledge almost to the next waterfall (300 yards), then up a short grassy gully.

K. Westren, Brandis & Tanner, Logan.

Tweedledum

A pleasant wall and holds the honour of being the furthest climb out in the Narrow-Neck region. A "Tweedledee" remains to be done on the wall to the left.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- The climb goes up the big conspicuous grey wall on the next point after Diamond Spray facing north. Some scrambling to the bottom from the point on the right (in the first ascent). Start towards the left hand side.
1. 50' Up onto the wall and belay on a knob on the left.
2. 80' Up towards the right. Bush belay.
3. 40' Up to the top.

B. Allen & F. Kitchener, 1962

SUBLIME POINT

This was originally a climbing area of the Rhum Dhu. Since then it has been forgotten and most of the climbs have been refound in recent months. The total cliff line is very high. The top half provides the best climbing and this is divided into two as the halfway ledge is broken by a land slide half way along. The area past this has only been climbed on in the last month. There are some magnificent walls and chimneys especially on the far side.

It is usual to camp near the hut at the top where there is water. The hut is used in wet weather. There is no water below. It is a walk down the point to the climbs. Turn off the lookout track before the bridge, follow the track down, through a hole and bear right down a dirt slope when half way down. The ledge from which the climbs start is known as "Red Ledge". On the great black wall the climbs intermingle freely.
(See diagram)

Pawn's Leap 7 90' +

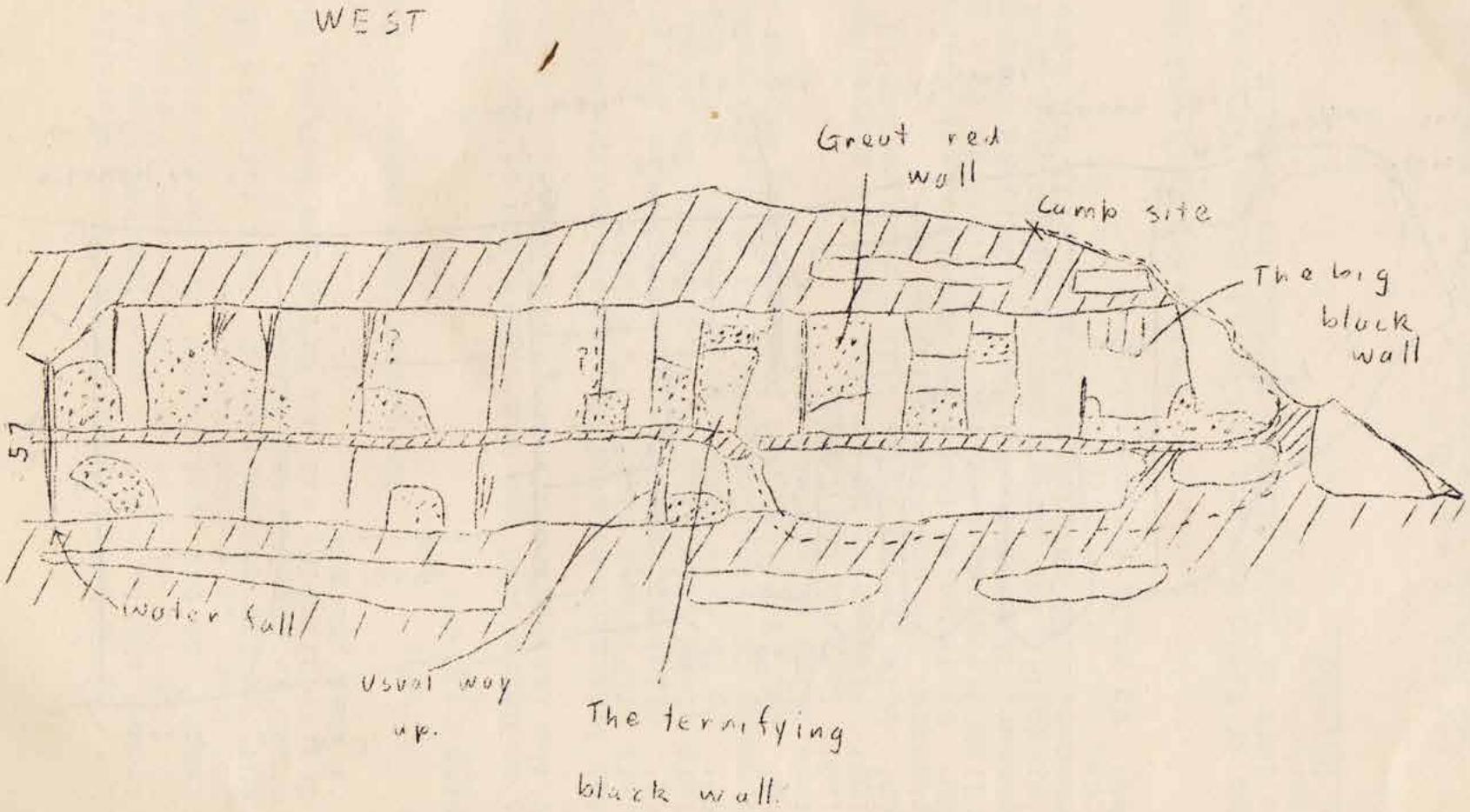
An excellent hangover climb or an afternoon's relaxation. An old unrepeated and ungraded climb of the Rhum Dhu.

Start:- On the lower right hand corner of the big black slab just before "Red Ledge".
1. 50' Up above belay close to dirt slope. Tree belay.
2. 40' Continue easily directly up.
3. 50' Overcome overhang slightly to the left. Up till dirt ledge. Traverse left around corner thence up. Keep climbing and scrambling up.

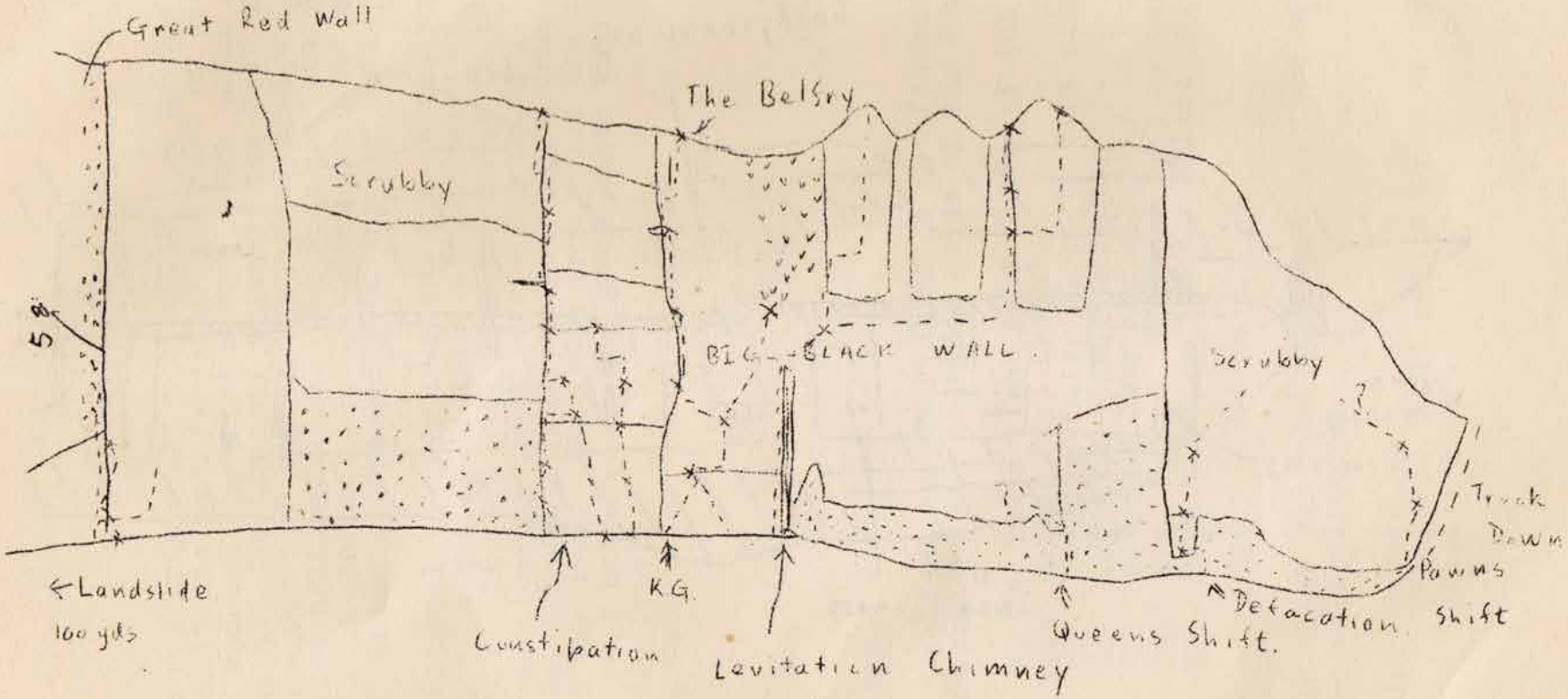
Defacation. 15 130' +

This climb was done by mistake instead of Queens Shift. Some thin wall climbing.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- The first small recess under an overhang after "Pawn's Leap".


WEST
Great red wall
Camp site
The big black wall
57
Water fall
Usual way up.
The terrifying black wall.

The Upper South Cliff Face



1. 40' Up on rotten rock for 20' then traverse left. Around the corner to a good bracket-type bolt belay.
2. 30' Up the wall to the large cave (vertical). Ignore the bad bolt (where one person chickened out) but there is a good block belay.
3. 60' Up the overhang on the left and onto the wall which is exposed and thin. Easier climbing can now bring you back to the track or what you will.

Cowstacks 12 + M4

Ted Batty, John Moore 20.7.63

Queen's Shift 9 500'

Again an unrepeated and ungraded climb of the Rhum Dhu, except for the last pitches which are V. Diff.

Start:- The left hand side of the square gully 100' to the left of "Pawn's Leap". "I think".
1. 60' Climb up into the horizontal cave and proceed left along this till it is possible to stand.
2. 50' Up to cave with a good runner. Onto the face then up to a smaller cave with good rock runner.
3. 60' Up. Vertical and there is some exposure. Good tree belay on a broad ledge.
4. 120' Left on big ledge.
5. 100' Pleasantly up to the right to a good tree belay.
6. 60' Walk up the ledge till a rock corner 15' high is reached. Up and tree belay at top.
7. 80' Up ledge to the right to the first rock gully. Climb direct up to large flakes and up to a good runner, then proceed into a letter-box chimney impossible for larger people and so to a good tree runner. The outside is less painful but more dangerous.
8. 40' Up small chimney above.

Cooke, Hepworth and Cunningham.

A climb of Kevin Western and David Phipps, goes underneath and to the left of this climb I think. No details.

Lead Jebbeler 17 270'

Levitation Chimney 10 240'

Filthy.

Standard:- The top is very Diff.
The obvious chimney just before the black wall.

1. Dig upwards till ledge is reached.
2. Overcome the overhang then choose what you will.

Kadumba Gambit (i.e.The Big Black Wall) 5 200' +

A fine easy wall with plenty of runners. Good for beginners except when wet. It looks scrubby from below but is better when you get on it.

Standard:- Diff.
Start:- On the left hand side.
1. 70' Up slightly towards the right.
2. 80' Continue where you will in the same line. Some small overhangs to be overcome.
3. 60' Straight up to scrub and a scramble off. Scramble up and then to the right to finish beneath the bridge. There are a variety of finishes up the 3 buttresses on the right. Most are of about V. Diff standard (one finish is described in Queen's Shift).

The Belfry 9 280'

A fine chimney climb.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- The first 2 pitches can be the same as Kadumba Gambit. A different start is further to the left.
3. 50' On leaving Kadumba Gambit ascent vegetable ledge to the left. Tree belay.
4. 30' Into the bottom of the chimney and belay.
5. 60' Back up the chimney (strenuous). Tree belay.
6. 30' Continue up. Tree belay in cave.
7. 40' Climb into crack on the right. Wriggle into crack and thrust upwards. Tree belay.
8. Continue up worn out chimney.

The Iliad 16 260' Cooke, Gwen Burkinshaw, Cunningham.

Odyssey Walls 14 190'

Some fine wall climbing on small holds.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Up the middle of the wall to the right of Constipation.
1. 40' Up the wall. Tree belay.

2. 60' Easier up the wall, scrub belay.
3. 40' A piton protects one just before the overhang. Up the overhang and up to the next ledge.
4. 70' Up 20', traverse left on a small ledge then up to the big ledge (fairly thin all the way). Traverse easily now into "Constipation" or the "Belfry".

Chris Regan and Bob Ryan.

Constipation Chimney 11 300'

Probably the finest climb in the area.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- Either up the big black wall or up the small wall on the side of the black wall. Either way 2 pitches bring one onto the first ledge a few yards to the right of the corner.
3. 40' Diagonally up to the left to the next ledge.
4. 90' Traverse left into the corner then up to the big ledge.
5. 60' Up the chimney (the crux) belay in a cave on the left.
6. 50' Continue up to the top. Ignore the scrubby way up on the left.
7. 40' Up the wall on the right.
8. 40' Traverse left then finish up the final chimney.

Refound by Dave Tanner and others.

An artificial climb is proceeding up the right hand corner of the great red wall. It is hoped to traverse left across the middle. A climb has been started from this corner and gone onto the black wall on the right a few feet up but is yet to be finished.

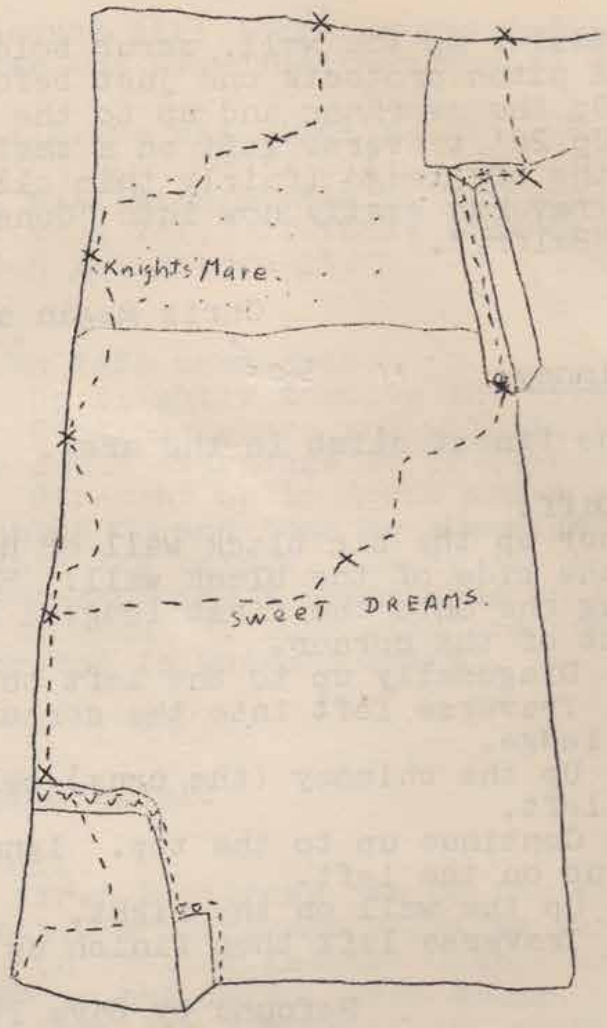
The red ledge is now cut by a land-slide and to get to the rest of the face one must continue downwards at the beginning of the red ledge till below the lower cliff line. Wander along at the bottom past the land-slide.

The obvious way up is perhaps the right hand side of the scrubby gully immediately after the land-slide. It is not quite as trivial as it looks (200' mild severe).

A better way seems to be 200 yards further on around the next buttress. Again a scrubby gully with a short 10' wall to begin with (mild diff and a rope is often dispensed with.)

Thunder alp 15 M4 266
Avon 13 M4 266
Hell Bell 16 190

Colosseum 14 220'
Eclipse 17 390
Orbiter 14 590



Sweet Dreams

Goes up the magnificent black wall immediately after the land-slide. Takes an easier and safer line than the original Knights - mare but one is still aware of some tremendous drops.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- On the right hand side of the very large block. See diagram.
1. 80' Up the short wall trusting some horrible rock. Onto the ledge then battle up the chimney. Good tree belay.
2. 90' Up the obvious crack (as in Knights-mare). Lousy rock. A block belay or, much better, a bracket-type bolt belay.
3. 100' Doddle across the wall to a lousy bolt belay before some small bushes.

4. 90' Up to the trees. An extremely good piton runner (which is still there) halfway up. Look back in conceit at having so easily crossed that terrifying looking wall.
5. 110' Up the gully. Technically the hardest part of the climb and a bolt runner might help. At the top a piton runner then traverse right to tree belay.
6. 60' Fairly easily up the rotten overhang above to the top.

Ted Batty, Bryden Allen, 21.7.63

Knight's Mare

A long exposed ferocious climb up the left hand side of the immense black wall.

Standard:- Hard severe.
Start:- It starts at the left hand bottom corner of the obvious large block.
1. 70' Climb short wall (10') to wide ledge and traverse 30' (piton runner) to right then 30' vertical wall. Tree belay on big ledge.
2. 90' Ascend obvious crack to large block (or bolt) belay. The rock is rotten at first but gets worse.
3. 110' Continue up crack and onto Black Wall. Piton runner in crack (20') and on wall (80'). Bolt belay on grassy ledge.
4. 100' Climb 30' up wall to bolt runner then directly above for further 60' to rotten tree runner. Traverse 10' to left to cave and bolt belay.
5. 70' Chimney on to block above cave and traverse right to ledge and free runner. Wistful thinking on wall above takes you to 6" ledge and bolt belay.
6. 60' Traverse right with feeling and rotten rock to tree belay.
7. 90' Continue traverse to right to tree runner and escape up obvious gully above runner.

Dave Tanner, Chris Regan, 13.7.63

Achilles Crack

Second pitch beautiful but the rest only mediocre.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- 200 yards to the left of the easy way onto the ledge and is not easy to find. Large Broken Black Wall

with obvious crack leading to top of cliff line.

1. 70' Up small wall, through scrub to bottom of crack. Tree belay.
2. 80' Climb up wall to the top of chimney with roof. Peg runner advisable before crux ahead. Move out under roof of chimney and into crack above. Finish up crack to tree belay.
3. 70' Move out over nose behind tree belay onto wall. Climb the wall above to rock belay. Rock rotten - handle with care.
4. 100' Climb crack above and using wall and gully - finish on scrub ledge.
5. 70' Small cliff line above provides interest.

Peter Fynan, Dave Tanner, Chris Regan, Ken Horne

6.7.63

Garbage Gully

Not much of a climb.

Standard:- Diff.
Start:- Approx. 400 yards left of "Achilles". Starts at left corner of block past stream. Free climb to top of block and large tree belay.

1. 90' Hand traverse for 15' across to stream and scramble up through stream and round to right hand wall and tree belay.
2. 90' Traverse 30' right to wall. Climb wall above and back to crack on left to tree belay.
3. 90' Continue crack above to gully and block belay, top of gully.

Dave Tanner, Bob Ryan 18.7.63.

5.5 THE 3 SISTERS

The unusual nature of the 3 sisters has lured climbers to its area since earliest times. As a climbing area however it is not really very good although West Wall and the Skyline Traverse are worthy climbs. All three sisters have been slept on, the top of the second is quite sporting. To save confusion the 1st sister is the nearest.

Tourist Traverse

An easy way to the third sister. From Honeymoon Point drop 5' and walk round the first sister on the eastern side. The dirt needs clearing away. Down and up onto the second. Traverse slightly higher on the eastern side, down and up onto the 3rd sister.

Gully (or Tourist route) on 1st Sister

The obvious way up the first sister (diff.). From Honeymoon Point go right a few feet up, left along the ledge then up the short chimney. Belay then up the next chimney. There is an eyebolt for abseilling off on.

Mantleshelf

A short technical climb with plenty of exposure. It also gives the "Yaks" a thrill.

Standard:- Severe
80' From Honeymoon Point right and up and mantleshelf into the corner. (if a 3/8" eyebolt is carried a terrier runner may be used.) Up the corner using holds mainly on the right hand wall. Variants to the left and right exist and are a bit harder.

Dave Roots 1953.

Skyline Traverse

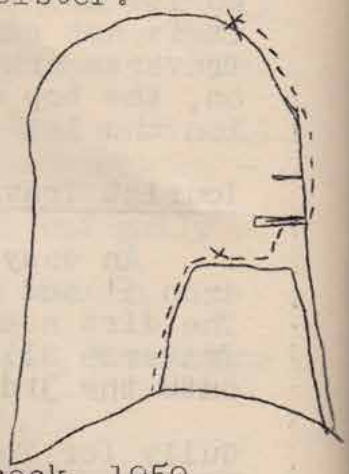
A worthy expedition, "The south face of the 3rd sister" provides the difficulties.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- From the most southerly point of the track scramble up to the South Face.

South Face:- 2 pitches of perhaps V. diff standard up the South West wall. Straight up the wall of total length 170'. Continue along the ridge scrambling and climbing over a couple of bumps before the main south face of the 3rd sister.

South Face of 3rd sister.

1. 40' Climb on to the small buttress in front of the third sister via the chimney between it and the 3rd sister on the west side or by its west side face.
2. 90' Climb into a slot then out onto the eastern face and so to near the top. The rock is appalling.
3. Easy climbing brings you to the top.

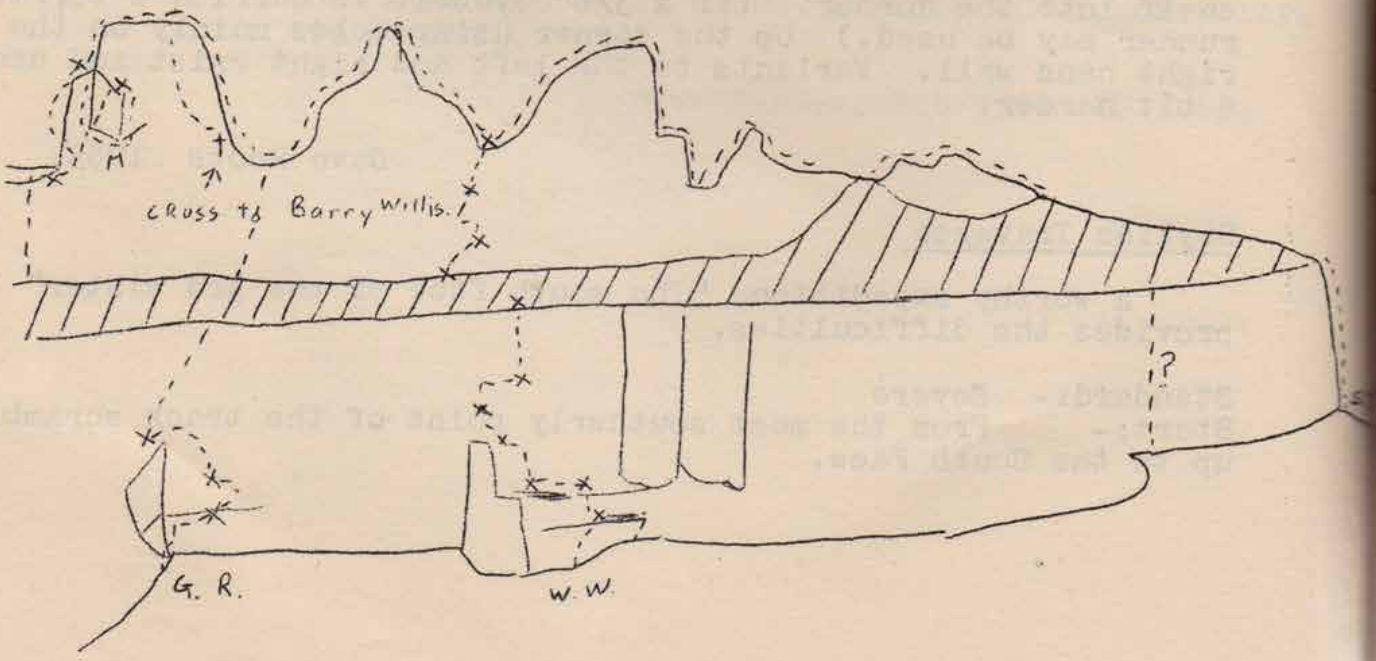


John Adcock, 1959

Scramble up and down the second sister.

From the cross to Barry Willis three V. Diff pitches bring you onto the first sister. There is a terrier with eyebolt in just down from the top of the 1st sister from which you can abseil onto the bridge.

Except for the South Face of 3rd sister - this climb as described was made first by Kippax, Nev. Wilson, Ken McLeod, Dave Rostrun in 1950.



West Wall

A fine, long and very popular climb. The pitches are short, on the whole, with scrambling in between.

Standard:- Mild severe

Start:- The start is not easy to find. The climb takes the line of weakness in the middle of the west face. Various people recognise it by dead trees and blocks of rocks but nothing is obvious. Follow your nose and you can be sure if on route by the second pitch.

1.(i) 40' Up crack to ledge then traverse slightly right.

(ii) 40' Up going right behind a big flake then a slight wall. A slightly further traverse for this variant this time left.

2. 20' Up the crack in the corner. Very good holds as the crack is hollow inside. Walk left to Lassitude Gully.

3. 30' Up the nose to the left which is very rotten. Good belay on a tree root at the top.

4. 70' Proceed up to the left to the beginning of a gully.

5. 40' Up then when it gets vertical hand traverse out to the right. Up to a good fir tree belay.

6. 50' Straight up to the main ledge.

You can now finish between 1st and 2nd or below Honeymoon Point. The climb would then only be V. Diff.

For a fine finish wander up to directly below the join of the 2nd and 3rd sisters.

7. 30' Up a slab, then a slight overhang. Belay from either a rock or a tree or preferably both.

8. 70' Up then out onto the wall on the left. Up (the crux) delicately then push through scrub to belay.

9. 70' Up the chimney above to finish between 2nd and 3rd sisters.

Russ Kippax, Dave Rostrun, 1951

Garden Route

An unrepeated scungy route. Nothing to recommend it.

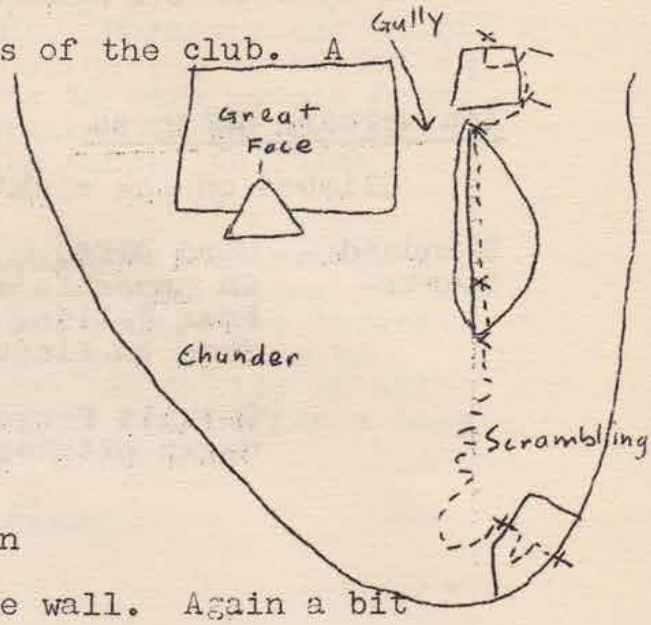
Standard:-	V. Diff.
Start:-	At the left hand end of the face just to the right of an overhanging wall.
1.	60' 4A Up on dirty rock then proceed to the right up rubble to a gum tree belay.
2.	40' 3A To the right then up crack in slab and back to the left.
3.	70' 4A Up the rotten crack traverse and mantle-shelf. Everything exceedingly rotten.
	Three easier climbing and scrambling pitches bring you to the halfway ledge. Up then to gully leading up to between the 1st and 2nd sisters.
7.	120' 3A Up slab on the right then back to gully till stopped by chockstone. Avoid this by traversing right.
8.,9.	Continue scrambling up to finish between 1st and 2nd sisters.

Charles Ivin, Alan Meeks, 1960

5.6 THE REST NEAR KATOOMBA

Malaita Point

One of the oldest and finest climbs of the club. A magnificent finish.



Standard:- Severe
Start:- Down the scenic railway then around the track. The climb starts near the end of the point but slightly to the 3 sisters side.

1. 40' Up the little wall traversing first left then right. A bit technical to start. Wander round to the left and easy climbing or scrambling leads to the main right hand ridge. 250'
2. 50' Up the first bit of the wall. Again a bit technical.
3. 90' Up on bad rock, a bolt runner.
4. 80' You now face an unclimbable wall. However on the wall around to the right are holds galore. Up there and traverse back across the front wall to finish. Very photogenic.

First Ascent: Russ Kippax and Jim Hollaway, 1951.

The crack rising from the pinnacle up the great face has been looked at. It will be very hard indeed.

Narrow Neck Bluff.

It is rumoured that this was the usual exit for a colony of miners who worked on Mt. Solitary at the turn of the century. Presumably they had a fixed rope.

Standard:- V. Diff.

The climb commences on the east face after numerous practise slabs and small faces on the gemdames along the ruined castle ridge. Follow the narrow ledges first in a northerly direction and ascending to the second ledge or cave when the first ledge runs out. Wriggling then in a southerly direction till the point

is reached. A runner helps. There is a stance about 8' above the second ledge on the point and the rest of the climb is not technically difficult although exposed. The crux is the exit of the cave to the point.

Nev. Wilson and others, 1951

Anniversary Buttress

Climbed on the club's 9th anniversary.

Standard:- Hard Diff.
Start:- On opposite side of Nellies Glen to Burgundy Buttress. From Nellies Glen track to left around foot of cliff face to first obvious buttress through thick scrub.

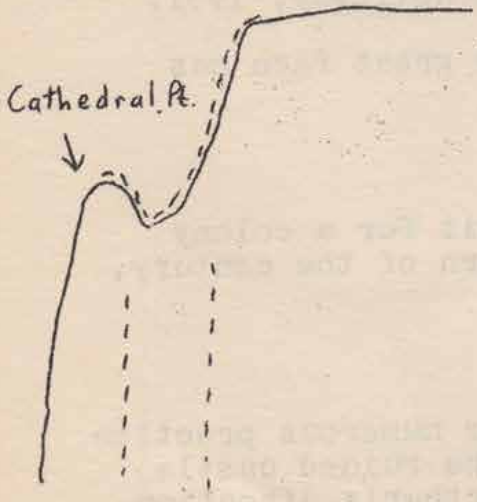
Details forgotten. Lower parts very scrubby but upper pitches provide some interesting problems.

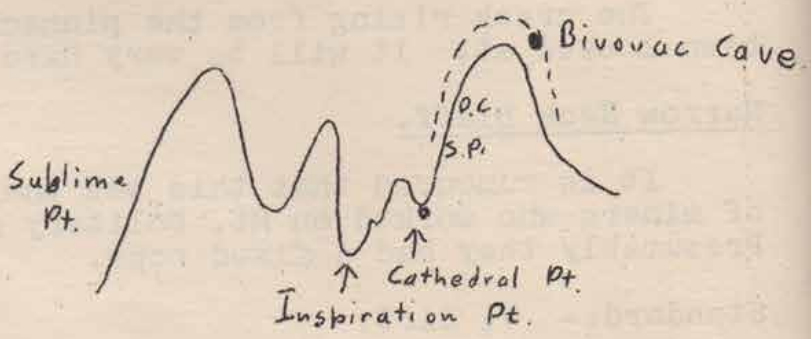
Russ Kippax, Peter Hardie

1960

Inspiration Point

The climb is actually on Cathederal Point (I think) which is a minor point to the east with an obvious point. The climb has been the subject of several weekends attention and has yet to be done from the bottom to the top.



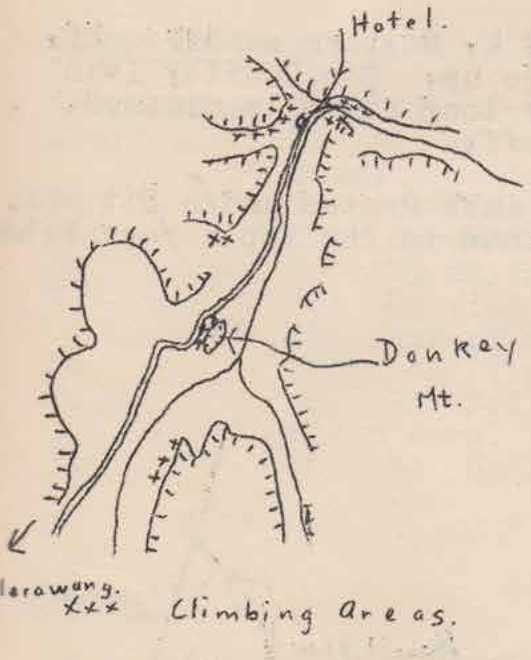


Chapter 6 THE WOLGAN VALLEY

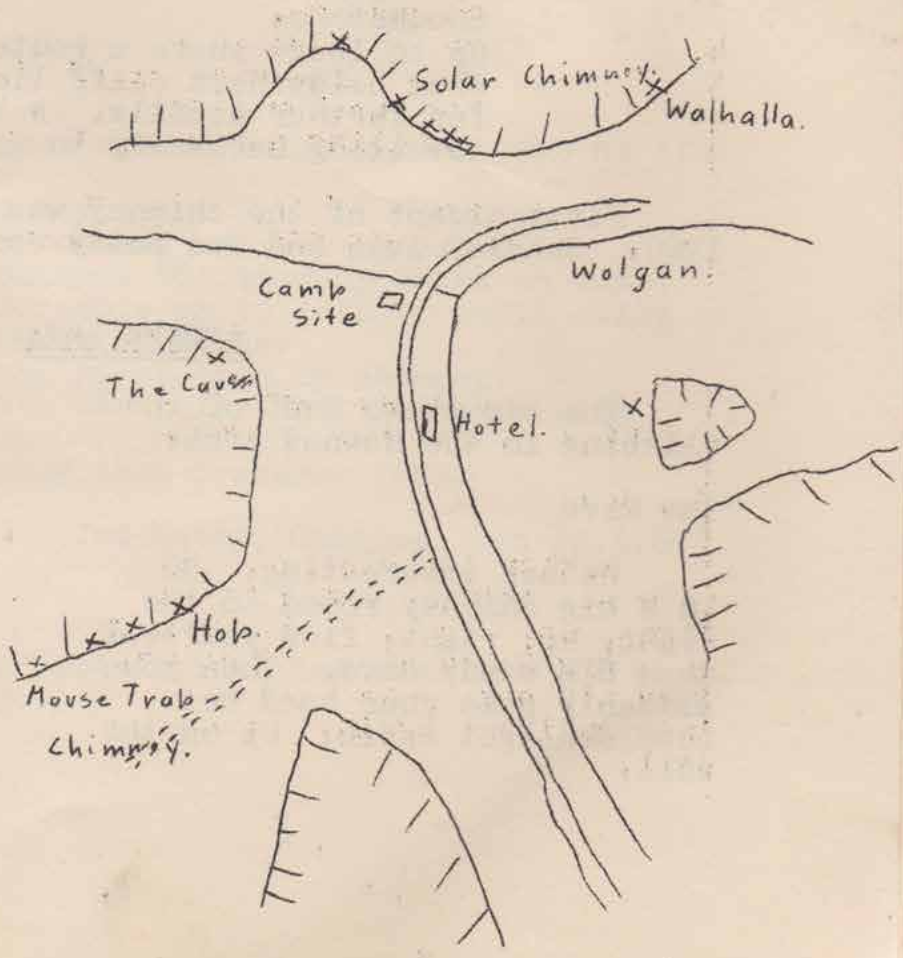
The Wolgan is a place where climbers go without any intention of repeating anyone elses climb. Moreover one could probably climb there for 100 years without having to repeat a climb. The guide therefore merely serves to warn people from climbing in an area because it's been climbed in before and recording the climbs of those people vain enough to think their efforts worthy of note.

The Wolgan has many attractions besides its climbing. A sporting drive in, magnificent views, beautiful camping and an ancient pub with practically no other customers. The investigation of old ruins and orchards provide good excuses to avoid climbing. The cliffs which surround the valley on all sides are not really high (rarely above 300') but offer a mass of climbing. Only a few areas have been touched.

General Map.



Newnes Area.



Cliff Opposite to where the road comes in & Donkey Mountain.

The original area of climbing started in about 1954 after finding that this valley was better than the Capertee. Records lost in antiquity. The height of the cliff faces are more-or-less the same through out but the Newnes area has gained in popularity owing to the attractions of a pub and more pleasant camping and scenery.

The Rootes Chimney

A climb up one of the longer cliff faces, broken halfway.

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- Just before the last creek crossing to Newnes (i.e. 2 miles from Newnes). Go up a jeep track then follow up to cliff line. Go past a huge dislodged rock a few hundred feet from the cliff line and the climb is the obvious chimney.

1. 60' 3B Up crack then to base of chimney.
2. 80' 3A Up chimney to chockstone.
3. 80' 3B Up through a squeeze, out and over a large chockstone.
4. Up to ledge where a route of K. Western wanders off.
5 From below next cliff line go up. See Charley Ivan for further details. A very long climb is claimed. Abseiling necessary to get off.

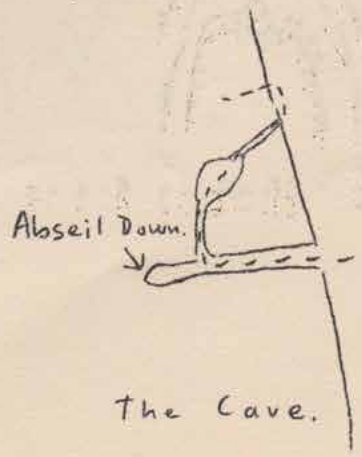
First ascent of the chimney was by Dave Rootes and a bit mob, 1960. Charley Ivan and Ted Batty continued to the top a year later.

NEWNES AREA

The map shows most of the climbing in the Newnes area.

The Cave

Rather interesting. Go in a big chimney round to the right, up, right, find yourself in a big sandy cave. Then you suddenly poke your head out into sunlight again. Up on the wall.



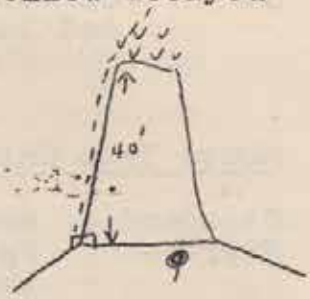
The climb onto the peak on the other side of the river is little more than a scramble.

Two climbs both without much merit have been done on the cliff just above the road above the creek.

Hop

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Start at foot of large monolith type block which sits in obtuse corner. Small Causorina tree at base of right hand crack which is in yellow decayed rock.

1. 80' Up crack with care then up a bit of scrub.
2. 100' Left from belay then back to sandy cave before layback crack. Up then onto left hand face and so to ledge. Up right hand wall. Grab a tree and then up final crack (tricky).



E. Batty, K. Western.

Solqr Chimney

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- At left of buttress with a large yellow cave at its base.

1. 70' Obvious chimney.
2. 60' Scramble up to next chimney on right.
3. 90' Up narrow chimney 40' then up crack on left.
4. 50' Up slab. Scramble up to left to small gully at the back of which is a chimney.
5. 100' 4A Traverse right then up chimney.
6. 90' 3A Left into far gully up till level with first cave.
7. 60' 4A Up chimney then traverse left.

Ted Batty, Charles Ivin 22.1.61.

Walhalla

A fine climb. Paul Griffiths was killed when he fell leading the pitch above the ledge.

Standard:- V. Diff.

Start:- The climb goes up the weakness just to the right of the big black face known as "old baldy". There is a three-way break in the cliff.

1. 120' Go 10' up the left hand break, traverse to the right to the middle fault, up this and over loose rock till a solid rock wall is reached. Belay.
2. Up the easy chimney to the left. Walk up to the base of the next cliff line then left (200 yards) to a patch of rotten rock.
3. Up this and up to the base of a big chimney.
4. Proceed up the chimney to a chockstone belay.
5. Up to the finish. The chimney is a classic, deep and long.

F. Kitchener, A. Bailey, 1962.

Mouse Trap Chimney

Standard:- Severe

Start:- Up the track as for Hop. At the gate go through then right up to the cliff line. Follow to the left for 300 yards till a sharp right angled overhang is reached. This is the base of the climb.

1.2. The first two pitches are straight forward chimneying with a chockstone halfway.

3. 25' From a small cave go up. Vertical and exposed climbing.

F.Kitchener, A. Bailey, 1962

Probably done by D. Roots before.

There are at least two more routes done in this area to the right of Mouse Trap chimney.

Chapter 7

BUNGONIA GORGE

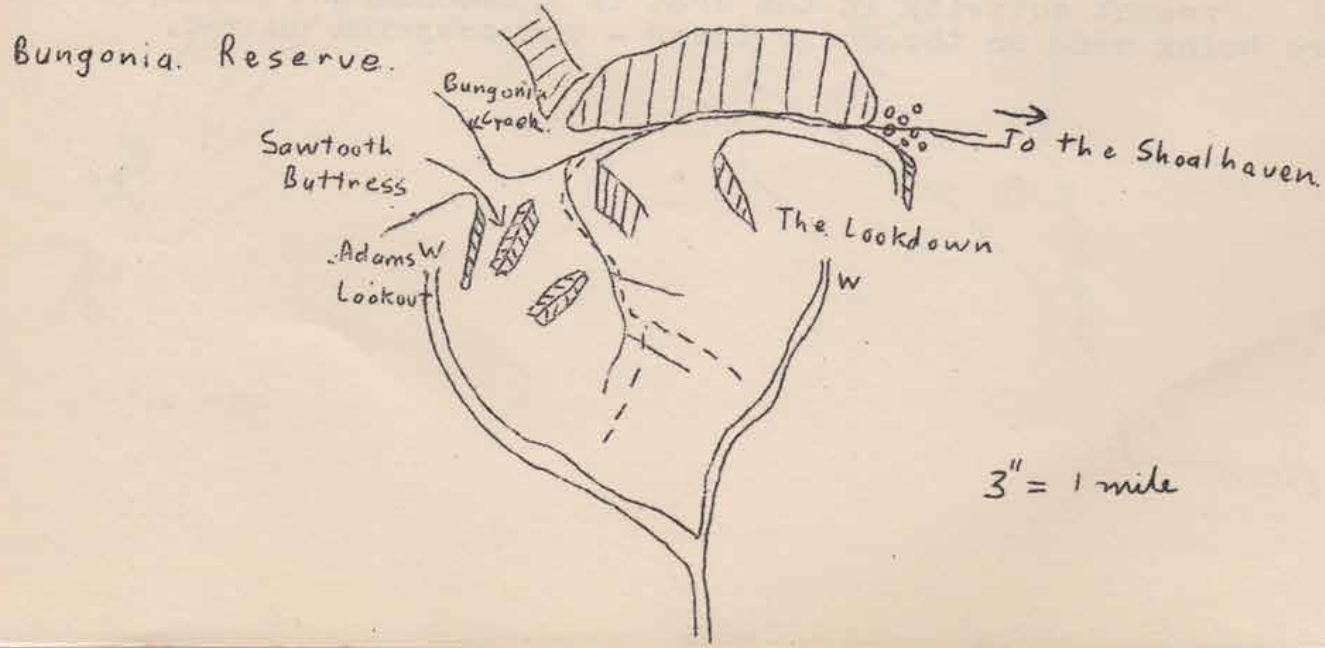
This climbing area is situated on a small limestone pocket, 20 miles south from Marulan and 134 miles south-west from Sydney. It is an undulating tableland, heavily dissested by the 1000 feet deep Bungonia creek. All climbing is done either on the southern ridges dropping steeply at right angles to the gorge or on the Bungonia creek faces. Campsites are most conveniently placed at the water tanks at Bungonia Lookdown or better, at Adam's Lookout. More pleasant sites on Bungonia creek are not used by climbers because it is simpler to get to the bottom early in the morning. Then, after finishing the climb one is both at the summit and camp. Caves of the "pot-hole" type are handy and numerous.

Historical

Bushwalkers were the first to open up the steep access routes from the creek bed to the heights. More adventurous types, like Russ Kippax; amongst others; did some early exploratory work but the first recorded climbs were made in 1960.

The birth place of the club was actually on the downstream end of the main south face of the gorge. When you climb on the lousy broken scungy rock there you will realise just how mad they were.

Don Dougal, Fritz Schaunberg, Kevin Western and others put up climbs on the southern wall, just downstream from the gorge face proper. The rotten state of the gorge walls caused climbers to look at the ridges nearby. A climb on Folly ridge (unrecorded) was followed by intensive work on Sawtooth Ridge in Winter 1960.



Climbs

Mt. Frome approx. 1200 feet, mild severe climbed directly opposite Sawtooth Ridge in 12.6.60 by Don Baxter, Bob Montgomery and Jim.

Sawtooth Buttress - a distinctive block about 500 feet high at the base of the ridge.

(i) West Face - about 250 feet, V. diff, centre of face climbed 28.5.60 by Don Baxter, Charles Ivin and Bob Montgomery.

(ii) North West Corner - about 450 feet, V. diff., starts N.W. corner - rises diagonally left onto North Face and up gully. Climbed 12.6.60 by Charles Ivin, Jack Higgs and Ron Carnelli. (Variation up slab on West face onto other route climbed 25.6.60 by Don Baxter, Charles Ivin and Bob Montgomery.

(iii) North Face - 500 feet V. diff - starts right hand side thence up to middle - onto line of weakness bearing diagonally to left. (2 routes) climbed 23.7.60 by Don Baxter and Bob Montgomery; Charles Ivin and partner.

The 60 feet Slabs - a higher portion of Sawtooth Ridge. Many interesting problems of varying difficulty climbed by above climbers, Kevin Western and members of S.R.C.

Sawtooth Bluff - outcrop of rocks at top of ridge up to 150 feet high with a number of climbs of any difficulty. Details of these climbs are not included for lack of space and information. All, however, are obvious and the main climbs on Sawtooth do not exceed V. diff.

Present activity in the area is spasmodic and attempts are being made on the gorge faces - unsuccessful as yet.

Chapter 8

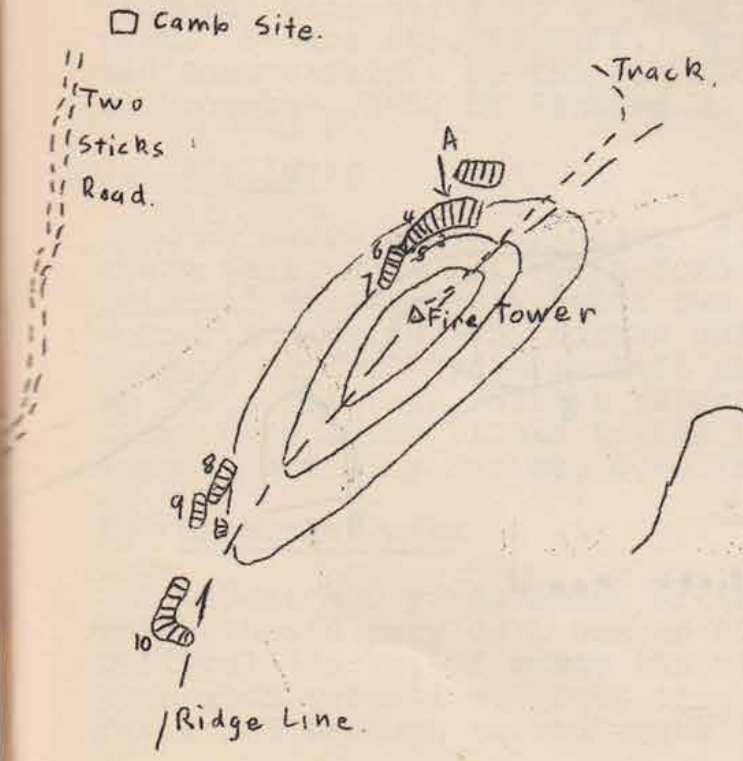
MT. CORREE

Mt. Corree is situated on the border between ACT and N.S.W., about 30 miles by road from Canberra. Access from Picadilly Circus, where road to Mt. Franklin branches off the Brindabella road. A track going north ("Two Sticks Road") is followed for four miles, and a sign shows the climbing track, which leads to top from north. Altitude is 4663 feet, rock is rhyolite. For climbing, the rock is mostly firm and sound, and a multitude of climbs can be made on the cliff line running along the western side of the ridge.

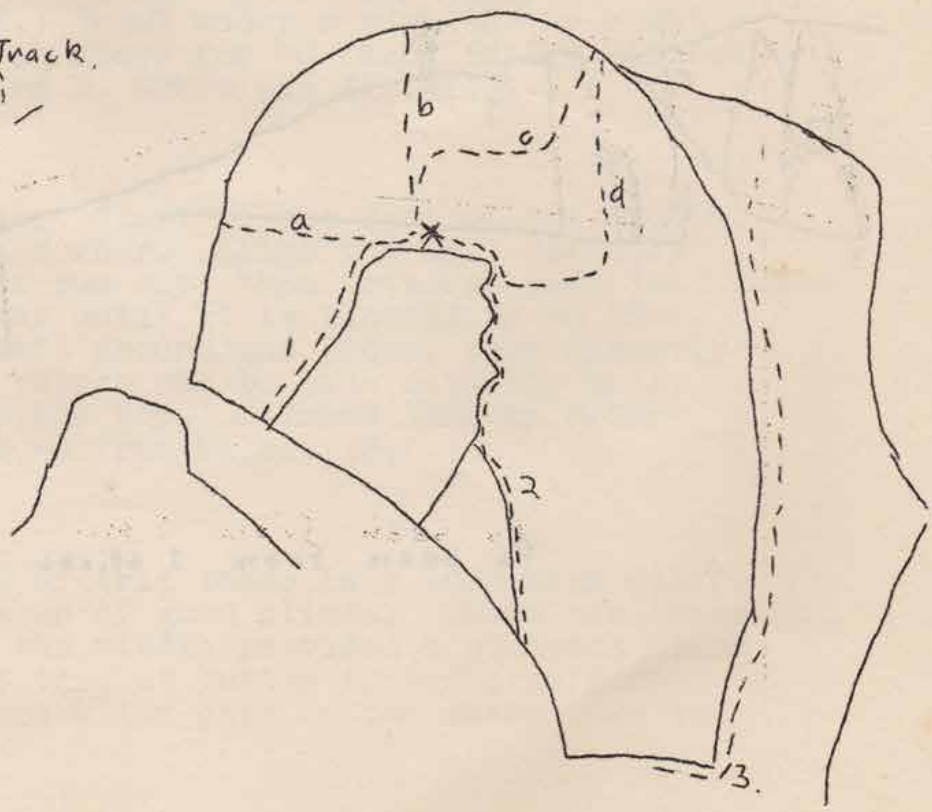
The height of the climbs does not really justify a trip all the way from Sydney but there seems quite an abundance of girls in the Canberra Walking and Touring Club.

The following guide has been written by Gosta Lynga and there might be a change in standards. N.L. stands for "not led". The climbs are those known till February, 1963.

General Map



The First Face (A)



1. Dance Macabre

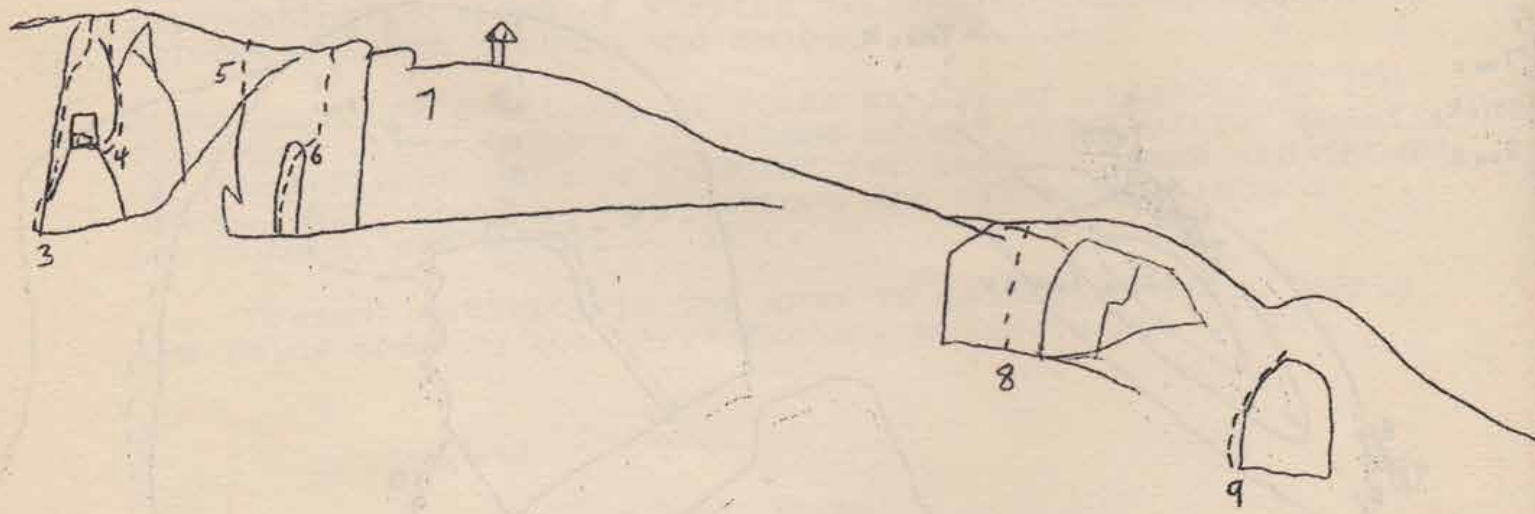
As shown in diagram. Easily up to first stance.

(a) To the left 20' (diff.)
(b) Straight up (hard V. Diff.)
(c) To the right then up (V. Diff.)
(d) Traverse down, stretch right to far right hand hold, swing, then up. (Severe).

2. St. Vitus Dance (N.L.)

The right side of the outcrop presents a much more difficult task.

The first 20 feet are over rather steep flakes up to corner, the next 15 feet are along partly overhanging rock with very few holds. The climb was done artificially by Karl Erett (1962) but later also free by Bryden Allen (1962). It should be mentioned that an important handhold is no longer in place.



As seen from 2 sticks road.

3. The Twist

The Twist is the chimney finishing the north face. The route is up a crack into chimney with rock fall, behind a chock stone and continues with partly chimney climbing up to the last, difficult passage (The Twist). This can also be by-passed on steep rock to right. First climbed by Karl Erett and Tony Fortey (1962). V.Diff.

4. A 15 feet training climb (Diff.) goes up the south side of protruding nose from directly below upright finger. Sound rock with many holds.

5. Thirty yards south of climb (4), a corner can be climbed at top of scrambling gully. Height 20 feet (N.L.) (Martin Grace and Paul Gottlieb, 1962). An interesting variation is to use the crack just outside to the left. Climbed by Gosta Lynga and Karl Erett 1962 (V.Diff.)

6. Anglo-Australian

60 yards South of the nose. Start immediately below a small tree about 12 feet up slightly to the left of the rib. Fight the tree and continue up the rib for 40 feet. Then traverse diagonally up to the right up a dirty scoop for 25 feet. Stance etc. (V.diff.) Crawl under a bush to the right and then straight up the rib above for 40 feet. (N.L.) Climbed in December, 1962 by Rickard D. Sykes and Jim Wiley.

7. Llyllwrig

80 yards South of nose. Start at the foot of the smooth, steep wall, just left of a corner. Climb the wall directly on small holds, until holds run out, then traverse left into corner and bridge the corner until it is blocked by an overhanging block. Traverse left around the block, then directly up for a few feet until a return can be made onto the wall. Climb over loose blocks to the top. Climbed 1962 by Peter Hancock and Tony Fortey, both from Wales. (N.L.).

8. Skorstensrumba

About 400 yards South of trig there is a 100' high cliff, which should provide a number of good climbs. There are three vertical cracks, of which the middle provides a pleasant climb with good variation. Pass tree at bottom to left, go past first and through second crack (or pass on the steep face to

the left). Pass through a chimney with chock stone on top; second, more narrow chimney can be by-passed on face to right or on corner far to the right. Martin Grace and Gosta Lynga 5.1.63 (N.L.)

9. On the next cliff to the south somewhat shorter but still quite good climbs can be done. The northern corner is such a climb. Start with overhang 15 yards south of corner (9a) or for easier variation just left of corner. In both cases go up crack close to corner, traverse right at chock stone after about 20 feet and continue up face or crack. It is possible to leave the climb at chock stone and scramble up left of this. 9a Paul Gottlieb; 9b David Prosser, Gosta Lynga, Peter Hancock 1962 (N.L.)

10. Johnny's Swing

Around the southern end there are probably a few good climbs, even if rock is not as sound as elsewhere on the mountain. Several overhangs pose intriguing problems. Climb starts 15 yards left SW corner, goes up 15 feet, traverses right 6 yards, up 6 feet, round corner under overhang and follows ledge. Climbed 1962 by Gosta Lynga, Karl Erett and John Wanless (V.Diff.)

11. Swenglish

Starts thirty yards South of climb No. 8 and ends just South of this climb. This is the southernmost of the three vertical cracks in the 100 feet high cliff. Start left of crack, go up 20 feet towards tower of loose rocks. Running belay underneath this tower. Pass it to the left and continue on firm holds up to short chimney with some loose stones. From top of this go right to good belay stance. (60 feet). Pass through bush and go up crack or face to left on small, good holds ending with a long layback from the crack. Two shorter pitches finish the climb, the last with an overhang, which can be passed to left. There are possibilities to go off the last, more difficult parts on ledges to left. Grade (s). Climbed 26.1.63 by Gosta Linga, Martin Grace (alternating leads) and Ray Fairfield. Length of climb 100 feet.

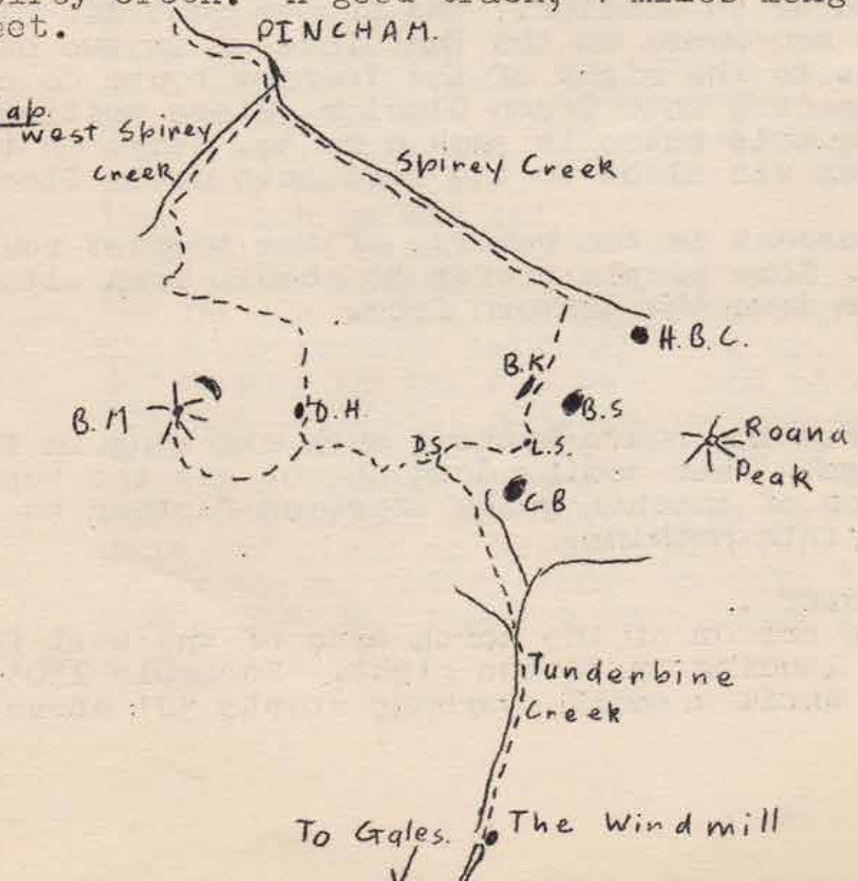
Chapter 9 THE WARRUMBUNGLES

The "Bungles" provide the best rock-climbing in the state, perhaps on the mainland of Australia. The West Face of Crater would be about 1000 feet high and the N.E. rib of Belougeries 1,100. They put any of the faces in Great Britain to shame.

The peaks are volcanic in origin and the rock is tracrite. This is probably the reason for their unusual shapes. The rock varies from place to place. It is never completely safe and sometimes pretty bad. Unlike sandstone it is a strong hard rock but it might be cracked behind. It takes a while to get used to. Belays are a problem. There a few natural belays, expansion bolts cannot be used and the rock does not take pitons well. There are few cracks and those that there are, are often filled with dirt. Hence the long run-outs.

The best place to camp is Dows hut. So far there has always been plenty of water in the tank. It is supposed to cost 5/- a night for the hut but so far this has never been paid. In a wet season there is enough water to camp below Crater. Gales windmill is a suitable place to camp if climbing on Tonduron. Harley base camp below Belougeries is also sometimes used. The usual walk in is from Camp Pincham up West Spirey Creek. A good track, 4 miles long ascending 1400 feet.

General Map



B.M. Bluff Mt.
D.H. Dows Hut
B.K Bread Knike
C.B Crater Bluff.
L.T. Lukes Throne.
D.S. Dagga Saddle.
B.S. Belougeries Spire.
H.B.C. Hurley's Base Camp.

1" to mile abbrox.

Miles Dumphy's map to the Warrumbungles is excellent.

Dr. Dark made the first ascent of Belougeries and Tonduron with members of the Katoomba Suicide Club in 1934. Then in 1935 he made the first ascent of Crater with Dot Butler (then English). For those that feel like flashing around the 5 pinnacles, The Bread Knive, Crater Bluff, Belougeries, The Needle and Tonduron have been climbed in a day, 6.30 am to 5.30pm. One other point - if arrival and departure at Pincham is done in the hours of darkness parking fees may be avoided.

There are bound to be furious arguments as to who did first ascents. We await all claims and a coming supplement might be a bit more accurate.

91

CRATER BLUFF

Crater seems to offer the best climbing in the Bungles. The rock is better than that on Belougeries. It has a somewhat strange formation as a deep crater runs from the middle out onto the south face and is usually referred to as "Green Glacier". The easiest method of ascent and descent that we know of is up and down here. However there is a rumour that there is a walk up or at least only a scramble somewhere. Certainly goats incapable of doing any of the following climbs have been seen on Green Glacier. The answer must lie either in an easy route somewhere on the East face or in two other lines of weakness to the right of the Tourist route described below and also leading into Green Glacier (Since writing the above I have been told there is such a route. Start on the S.W. corner and move up via slabs to the left into Green Glacier.)

The usual descent is the reverse of the tourist route described below. Some people prefer to abseil down either Diagonal Route or down the Eastern face.

Tourist Route

A very interesting route without much climbing in fascinating surroundings. When coming down do not get the top confused with the top of another gully starting further to the east and leading into nothing.

Standard: Hard diff .
Start: On the bottom of the north side of the west face are ramps leading up to the right. Scramble 150' up these until a small overhang starts 30' above you.

Belay on good tree.

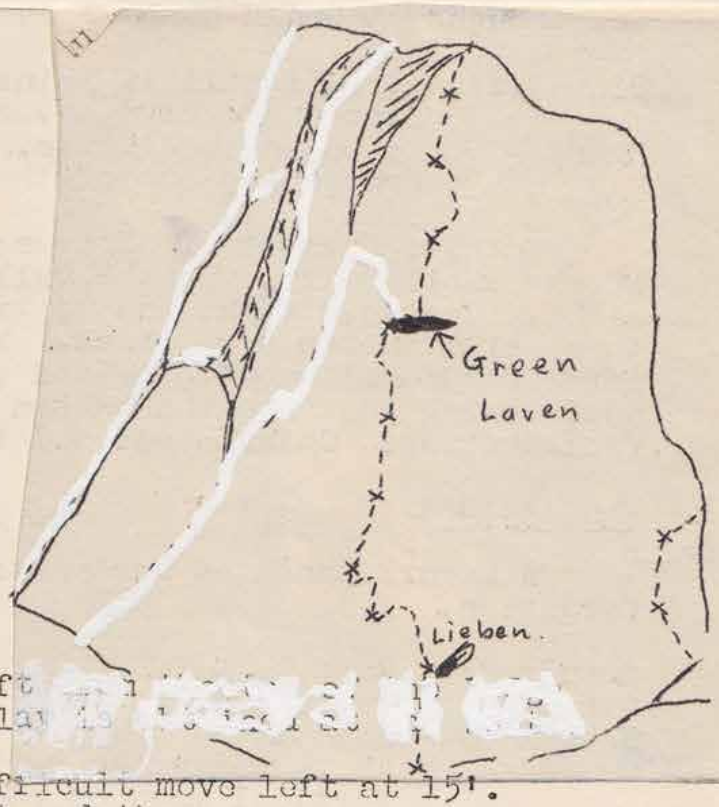
1. 50' Up the slight overhang then up on rotten rock to a belay around a big pillar type rock.
2. 60'. Up the chimney behind, onto the face then up to a tree from which one normally abseils down.

Walk now to the right down and up then up some grass and to the right to the beginning of Green Glacier. A couple of easy pitches will then bring you onto the grass and ferns and it is a walk up to the top.

Dr. Dark, Dot English 1935

Lieben

The hardest climb in N.S.W. possibly in Australia. Takes a magnificent line up this great face but there is still room for a better and harder climb further to the right.



Standard: Hard V.S.

Start: Slightly to the right of the middle of the face.

1. 80' Climb a short wall onto the top of a shrubby ledge in the middle of this face. This can probably be avoided.
2. 130' Climb up and left [illegible] till a good block bela[illegible] of a white steak.
3. 80' Up and then a difficult move left at 15'. Slightly further left and then up.
4. 80' Easily up the rib to a good piton belay.
5. 80' The vertical, shallow, rotten corner is now the crux of the climb. Best climbed by bridging. Facing outwards perhaps.
6. 110' The slight overhang above is extremely strenuous and gives no resting places. Easier rock then leads to the grassy ledge we call "Green Haven" and rest. The sun reaches this ledge at 11.5 am.

7. 110' Up the obvious line of weakness from the centre of the ledge. It is not quite as easy as it looks and one should stick to the left under the overhang. Best also if the pitch is broken in two.

8,9,10 Easier rock to the top.

Bryden Allen, Ted Batty, 1962

Variant to the left.

The name of this climb awaits the party who push forth a true finish up on high. So far one party has looked at it and thought it would go but have retreated just the same.

Standard:- V. Diff till it joins Lieben. The top pitches of Lieben are hard severe.

Start:- As shown in diagram. To the left of a small gully protruding out of the main gully.

Details forgotten. Traverse up and right to the bottom of the small gully. Up the gully a short way then out to the right. Continue right and up till a gully type corner. Up there till on top of a block. You are now. Above and to the left of "Green Haven". A hard vertical move on rotten rock would bring you into the bottom of the conspicuous gully coming from the top. Chicken out and traverse into "Green Haven".

Vintage Rib

A maghificent and unrepeated early ascent. Details forgotten.

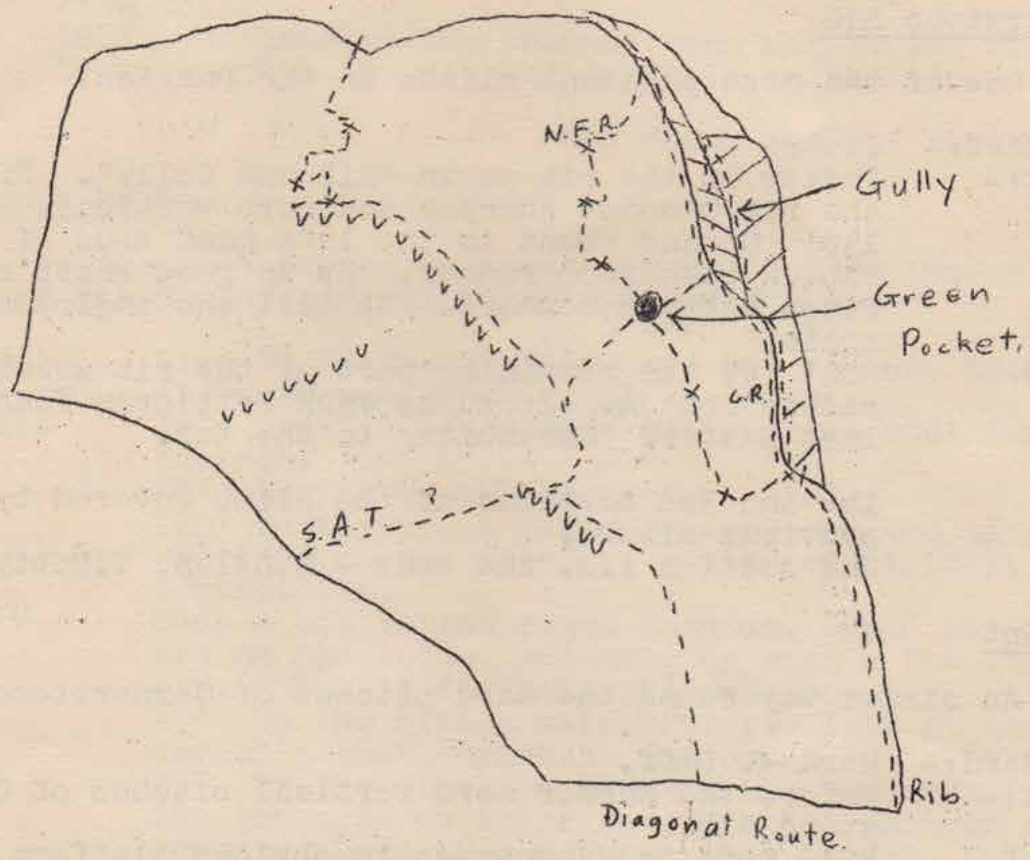
Standard:- Hard V. Diff .

Start:- Up the rib as usual then into the gully on the right.

Up the right hand rib till one has made a "hard vertical move on rotten rock". From there traverse left across gloriously exposed slab onto equally exposed rib. Last pitches up exposed face to left or could scramble up gully to right.

Russ Kippax, Bill Peascod 1954

North Face



Rib and Gully

A good climb of great variety.

Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- The obvious rib as shown in diagram.
1,2,3 250' Potter up the rib, till the gully starts on the right down up and into it.
4. 120' 5A Start up slab to the left of the left gully to a piton 40' up. Up underneath the overhang to the right to another ring piton. Tricky into the gully and up to a small bush belay.

5. 100' 3B Chimney up to a huge rock wedged in gully.
6. 100' 4A Up. The chimney becomes more narrow and vertical.
7. 30' 4A Lassoing a tree may help with next bit. Scrambling remains to the top.

Cornerstone Rib

One of the most pleasant climbs in the Bungles.

Standard:- Severe
Start:- Potter up the rib as in "Rib and Gully". From here the rib becomes sharper and more vertical.
4,5 130' Up and round to the left hand side of the rib. A good knob runner. Up on good sharp holds. Piton belay somewhere. Up till the angle eases again.
6,7,8 200' Up the remaining part of the rib which looks rather rotten. It is as Jack Pettigrew found out last Easter. Scrambling to the top.

1st and 3rd sections of the climb covered by previous climbs.
2nd section i.e. the crux - B.Allen, T.Batty, 1962

Variant

An easier way round the hard pitches of Cornerstone Rib.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- Before the harder more vertical pitches of Cornerstone Rib.
1. 40' Left and downwards to obvious platform.
2. 100' Up gutter to left of starting platform.
3. 90' Continue upwards to the "Green Pocket". Then as usual.

K. & T. Western, 1962.

North Face Route

Hairy but it doesn't really go anywhere.

Standard:- Mild Very Severe
Start:- Up to the "Green Pocket" how you will.
1. 20' Up to the lousy little piton on the left.
2. 30' Daintily to the left slightly. Let a wave

of good wholesome fear loosen up the old joints for a few seconds, then up. A leftward layback type movement. Belay.

3. 70' Traverse slightly down and right about 15' up a nose and into a shallow chimney which leads to a fig tree belay.

4. 100' Continue up the chimney then out to the right. Traverse onto the rib and scramble to the top.

Ron Malor and Ted Batty.

Diagonal Route

For the most part a pleasant climb. The 8' traverse at the top has caused several parties to turn back.

Standard:- Mild V. S. Technically hard but you are protected above so the grade might be less.

Start:- In a little corner type gully about 200' left of the rib.

1. 40' Easily up the corner.

2. 120' Easily up, a piton runner? and the slight overhang on the right is a bit more tricky. Scramble up.

3.to 7 Back a bit to the right then up. Up a bit and you are on the ledge, scramble up with a few chimneys etc. until it flattens off and stops.

8. 30' Up the little wall traverse left at the top across a small crevasse and belay.

9. 35' Up the block on the right. The crux is now the traverse on the right. Protect oneself with runners above then forward into battle. Bush belay.

10. 110' Finish to the top.

Peter Hardy, Jeff Field.

An easier finish is mentioned by the records at the top by a party of the Armidale Mountaineering Club. At the end of the pitch before the hard pitch continue further left and up almost on the East face.

St. Andrew Traverse

Standard:- Mild Severe

Start:- As in diagram an obvious line of weakness to start.

1. 100' Scramble up and to the right.

2. 115' Up a 9' wall and continue the traverse using 2 runners.
3. 85' Aim towards the pocket.
4. 30' Around a tricky nose and a 12' wall and you are in the pocket.
5. 90' Traverse across the rib and 50' up it.
6. 50' Still at a 45 degree traverse the wall that goes into the gully. Belay halfway. Possibly the crux as an important handhold sounds hollow.
7. 70' Up then traverse to the top of the gully. Scrambling remains.

John Davis, Jack Pettigrew.

The climb described before was originally done as described to the green pocket and then finished up the top part of the rib.

Ron Malor and others.

Eastern Route

A way which does not require much climbing to the top. Details forgotten.

Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- The climb goes up to the right of the big gully on the eastern side.
200' Scrambling on the right hand side of the gully. From here it is now possible to go to the left over the top of the gully and from a narrow ridge you can look down into "Green Glacier". An abseil will take you down. This would give a route without rock climbing to the top.
100' Up the wall on the right. Rather broken. The ridge at the top of this leads to the top.

Peter Hardy, Ron Malor

This is presumably where one abseils down the east face.

9.2. BELOUGERIES SPIRE

The climbing on Belougeries is beginning to take a completed look. I myself can't see there being many new long climbs to be done for a while. The standard of the rock is not very good so it does not seem worthwhile putting up many variants.

The usual way off is down the abseil gully on the west face. One 120' or 2x60' abseils will take you down. Care must be taken about falling rock. After the abseil scramble down through scrub for another 200', then around to the south. Up and get off between the pinnacle and the south face.

There is some confusion as to which is Dr. Dark's chimney. After much consultation with ancient climbers I have decided that the chimney on the south face is Dr. Dark's chimney and I call the big gully on the west face "Abseil Gully" (not Dr. Dark's chimney as some people do.

Dr. Dark's Chimney

The original (I think) and easiest way onto the spire. An obvious route.

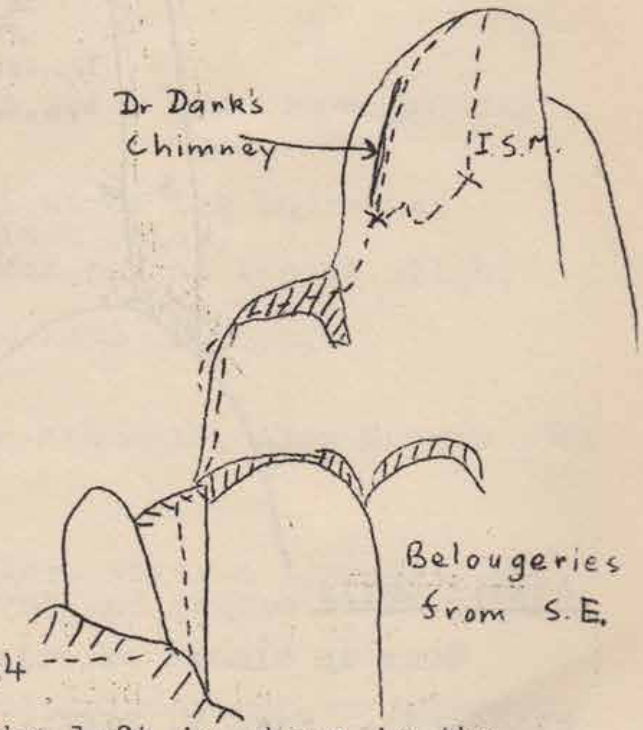
Standard:- Diff.

Start:- Circle round the pinnacle in front via the east then scramble up a chimney then onto the ledge that leads around to the west face.

1,2,3. Up to the right here and climb the easy wall. Through the scrub then easily up to the chimney.

4. 90' Up the chimney with plenty of trees for runners.

Dr. Dark and others 1934



A different start further to the left is shown in the diagram of the west face.

If the Spirit Moveth

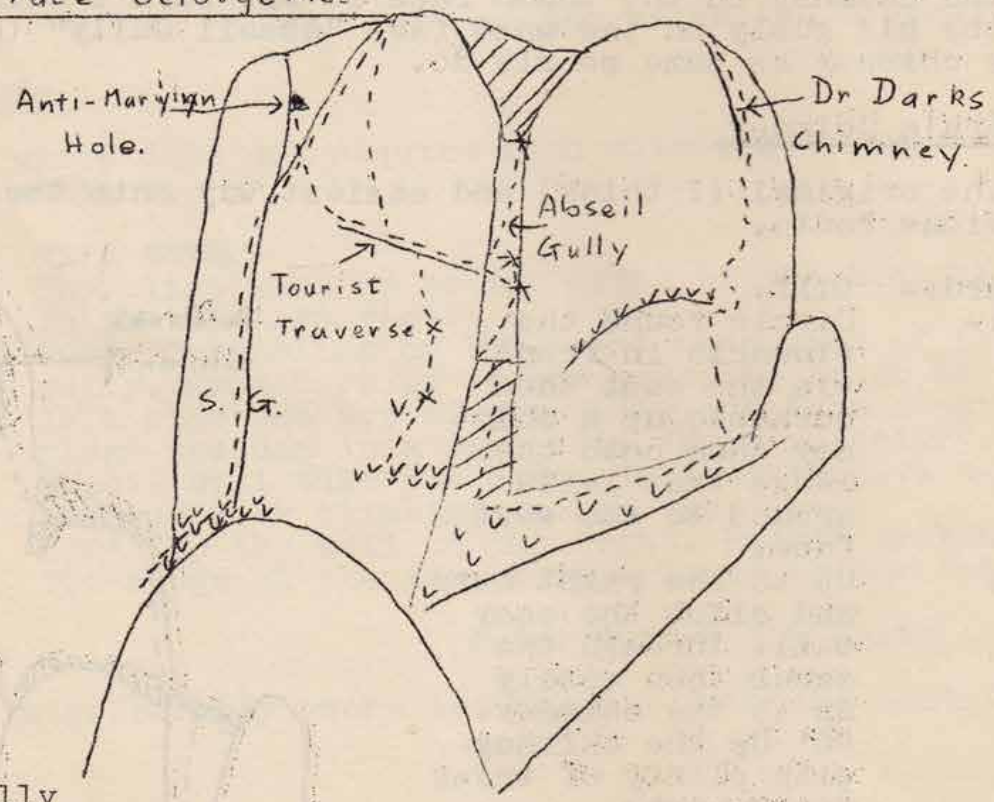
Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- Up as usual to the bottom of Dr. Dark's chimney.
4. 110' From base of chimney descend 6-10' and traverse around to the nose across a severe nose and up 6'. A piton runner would be appreciated by the second. Keep traversing at about 45 degrees to the base of the rib. Piton belay.
5. 90' Easily up the rib.

It would probably be easier to go to the right onto the rib immediately leaving the scrubby ledge.

John Davis and Jack Pettigrew

1962

West Face Belougeries



Abseil Gully

Goes up almost exactly where you abseil down.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- Scramble up till climbing becomes necessary.

1. 60' From the left hand side of the gully go up belay on a tree on the right hand side.
2. 15' Up the crack above. Small tree belay.
3. 70' Traverse left 15'. The little overhang requires some cogitation. Up, good tree runner, then finish up the right hand side of the gully.

Tourist Traverse

One of the easiest ways to the top.

Standard:- Hard Diff.
Start:- Up Abseil Gully for 50'.

You now traverse left along the obvious big ledge, a variety of finishes are possible depending on how soon you go up and leave the ledge. No finish is probably harder then V. Diff.

If you continue right along then you arrive in a far chimney which contains the famous "Anti-Marilyn" squeeze hole.

It is not really tight though Marilyn presumably couldn't do it.

Vertigo

A good short climb up vertical walls uniformly graded.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.
Start:- As in diagram to the right of big buttress.
1. 120' Straight up to piton belay.
2. 50' Straight up to black-boy at top of slight overhang.
3. 70' Straight up to big knob of rock.
10' To the ledge.

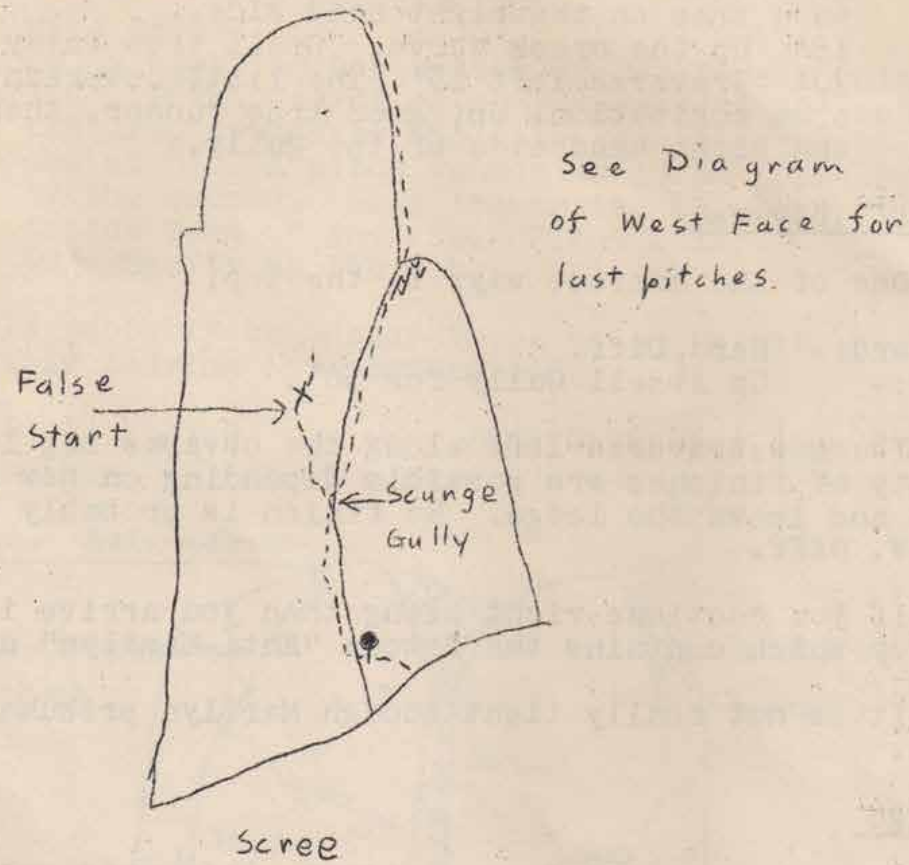
Roger McDonald, Alex Hromus 1961

Skunge Gully

The longest climb in the Bungles. Takes a fine line up the north face but is marred by scrub and rotten rock. Not a pleasant climb.

Standard:- Mild severe if the final chimney can be squeezed.
Hard " if not. (The chimney is too thin for B. Allen)

North Face Belougeries

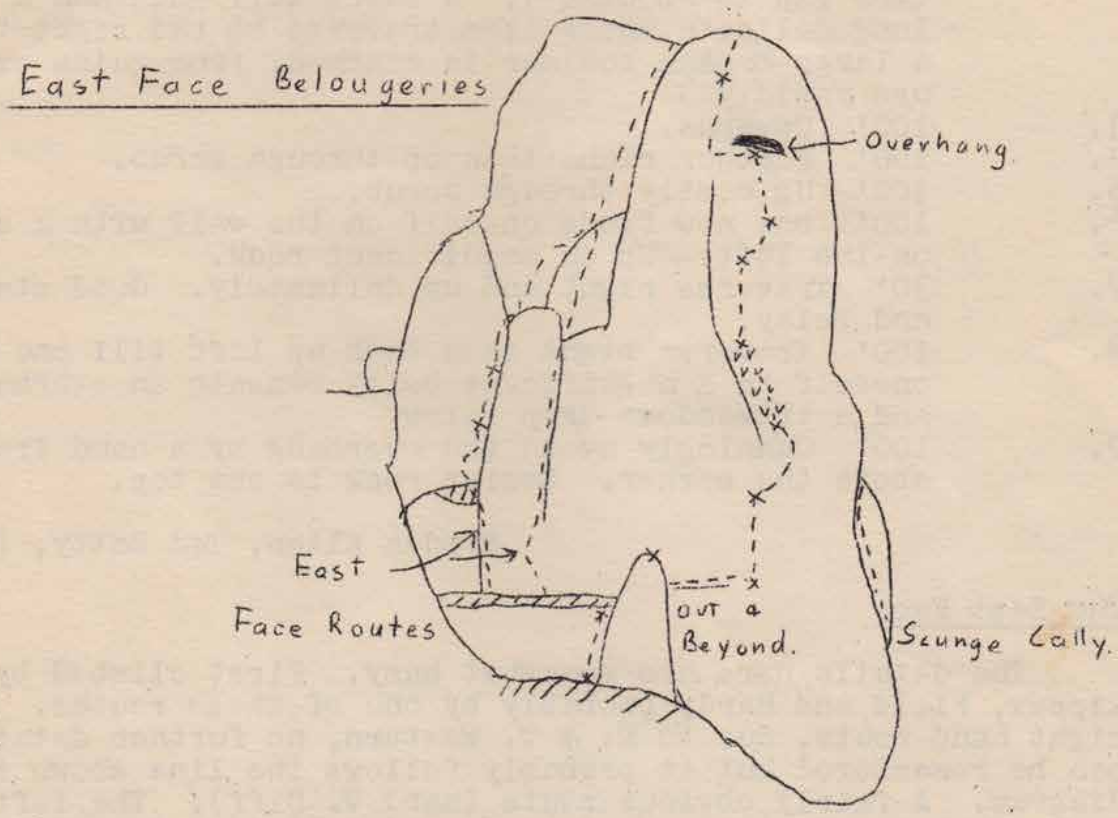


Start:- Above the scrub in the centre of the north face up the scrubby gully come chimney leading slightly right. The obvious route.

1. 40' Up to the large Morton Bay figs.
2. 110' A delicate start then up through scrub.
3. 50' Move right towards the right rib and belay before it in the corner.
4. 80' Up to a large platform without belay on the rib.
5. 30' Up left to a good piton belay.
6. 80' Continue up. Good tree belay.
7. 60' To stretch to the gully and up.
8. 80' Up with some rotten rock.
9. 90' Up, one soon comes to bush.
10. 80' A bush bash to the conspicuous chimney.
11. 80' Up to a good belay below the obvious difficulty. (chock-stone belay.)
12. 50' Either up in the chimney (mild severe) or dangerously on the outside (hard severe) up through rotten rock to a stance belay.

13. 90' Up then easily out onto the right.
14. 80' Up the pleasant little walls.
15. 70' An easy walk finishes at the top.

B. Allen & T. Batty, 1963



Out and Beyond

A climb which goes very much into the unknown. A novel start and an exhilarating finish make a magnificent climb.

Standard:- Hard Severe
Start:- On the north-east face of "Belougeries Spire". Start from a prominent pinnacle on the east face and then traverse towards the north.
1. 80' Climb onto the bridge between the pinnacle and the face via a short wall south of the pinnacle.

This includes a vicious fight with scrub in a delicate position. However, this whole pitch may be avoided by a long traverse along a scrubby ledge.

2. 120' This next pitch is rather novel. The second belays on top of the pinnacle to give the leader greater protection. The leader then allows himself to fall from halfway up the pinnacle onto the face. (The gap is about 6'). A short wall and then a long delicate and rotten traverse to the right till a large broken boulder is reached. (One gains exposure rapidly.)

3. 100' Upwards.

4. 100' Further right then up through scrub.

5. 100' Up mostly through scrub.

6. 100' One new finds oneself on the wall with a corner on the left. Up on magnificent rock.

7. 30' Traverse right and up delicately. Good stance and belay.

8. 100' Traverse right then back up left till one finds oneself on a magnificent belay beneath an overhang and a tremendous drop below.

9. 100' Cunningly avoid the overhang by a hand traverse above the corner. Easier rock to the top.

Bryden Allen, Ted Batty, 1962

The East Face

The details here are somewhat hazy. First climbed by Kippax, Field and Hardy probably by one of these routes. The right hand route, due to K. & T. Western, no further details can be remembered but it probably follows the line shown in diagram. A fairly obvious route (hard V. Diff). The left hand climb due to Ivin, Montgomery and Griffiths is described in detail in the following. Both are fine worthy climbs of a good length.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.

Start:- At the S.E. corner.

1. 100' 4B Follow up a vertical chimney 40' then out on the right till stopped by an overhang. Awkwardly back into the chimney and squeeze up.

2. 60' 1B Scramble left to the base of small corner.

3. 90' 4A Up to small ledge then up rotten rock to overhang. Traverse left around nose then up to tree trunks as belay.

4. 100' 2B Scramble around and up right into gully bearing right.

5. 90' 2B Climb buttress on the right to tree belay.
6. 120' 3B Traverse left 10' into gully thence up until (50') a traverse out right onto a large slab is possible. Up on the right to a gully sloping left.
7. 110' 4A Up the gully then back right to piton belay.
8. 90' 3B Up to left then back to right to strong tree belay.
9. 90' 2B Up to the summit ridge.

9.3.

THE BREADKNIFE

At either end of the Breadknife there is a big sign, "No climbing on the Breadknife, £50 fine". This poses problems. There are also several rangers present to enforce it.

At the height of the tourist season it is fair enough as the track goes right underneath it and there is a lot of loose rock on top. If you write to the rangers before hand (address at the back in the references) they have said they will allow climbing for certain periods while rangers stand at either end warding off tourists.

There are a lot of loose blocks on top but the rock is fundamentally good. The two faces of the breadknife together with the "North face of Tonduron" and "Bluff Mountain face" are perhaps our four outstanding remaining challenges.

The abseil off is down the south arete (70'). A large hemp sling (about 10') should be taken as the previous ones are probably rotten.

South Aréte

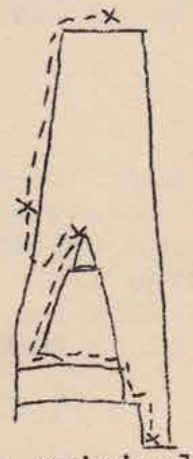
The original and easiest way up.

Standard:- Mild V. Diff.

Start:- From the eastern side get onto the Breadknife near the sign. Scramble along to the obvious beginning. Piton belay on the eastern side.

1. 40' Two little walls to mantleshelf then walk around to the western edge. Up and belay on the pinnacle.

2. 70' Down a bit round the corner onto the western face. To the left is a piton runner and continue going slightly left to the ridge.
Scramble along to the first summit. Leave a fixed rope to climb down and up the slight niche that comes before the second summit which is the top.



Russ Kippax, Bill Peascod (1954). The original ascent.

The North Arête

A fine climb and one of the old standards of the club. The completion by abseiling down the south arete makes the traverse of the Breadknife of course. Details hazy at the moment but there should be a good account somewhere.

Standard:- Severe
Sta On the left hand side might be easier to start. Up the rib till stopped by a small overhang chest high with a sloping ledge with few holds on top. Up then continue till stopped by a vertical wall. Traverse delicately onto the east wall and so to the top.

Kippax, Rootes, Field, Hardy.

9.4

THE REST

Bluff Mountain

The great face of Bluff Mountain is one of our great problems. It will be very hard. Two attempts have been made on the main face both times only 2 pitches ascended. Even then although the angle was still reasonable the strata went the wrong way. It overhangs at the top. So far there is only a scrambling route on the right hand side and the following route on the left hand edge.

North West Gully

Standard:- Hard V. Diff.

Start/: The line of a small waterway leading up to the left on the left hand side.

1. 100' 2A Scramble up.
2. 110' 3B Up to a small ledge beneath a small wall in a gully.
3. 80' 4B To the right then up to a crack up to rock belay on left.
4. 100' 4A Up the gully until blocked by a small chimney. Go 5' to the right up then left again to large ledge around corner.
5. 120' 3B Up.
6. 120' 3B Anywhere. Up the slabs is very pleasant. Climb or scramble off.

Charles Ivin, Bob Montgomery, Paul Griffiths.

Bluff Pyramid

The pyramid ¼ of a mile north of Dows Hut. Provide pleasant practise climbing so is often visited the next day after the exhausting drive up as a tune up to Warrumbungle rock. The butter-knife and cliffs near Luke's Throne also provide practise climbing.

The Needle

The needle though small was the last of the pinnacles to fall. This is partly due to its distance and insignificance but also to the fact that the climb on it is not quite so trivial.

The walk there is very pleasant and fairly free of scrub. From Luke's Throne up to Round Peak across Merion Plateau and so to the Needle. So far people have only bothered to go up.

The Climb

A short pleasant climb.

Standard:- Hard V. Diff (Perhaps more).
Start:- On the left hand side of the east face. The obvious route up from a big tree. Scramble up to the tree.
1. 30' Up in the corner to the obvious stance.
2.(i) 100' Up slightly left (tricky) then up more or less on the south rib (some bad rock).
or
(ii) Right onto the rib and up. It might be better for the leader of the second pitch to start on the right hand rib from the bottom (slightly easier then (i) I think).

Members of U.N.E.M.C. 1959.

The best abseil down is from a block 10' down from the top in the middle of the east face (100').

Tonduron

The climbing on Tonduron is not as good as people looking from Crater etc. might fondly imagine. The rock is somewhat different, good but much smoother. The north face which would provide the only really worthy climbing would be about 600' or less. So far only 2 more or less scrambling routes have been done on the west ridge and a southern gully. The steepness and smoothness of the north face make a direct route almost impossible. Routes to the left on the right leading onto east or west ridges are possibilities but less worthy. The east ridge could be climbed.

There is a bit of bush bashing up from Gales Windmill. Abseil or scramble down the way you came up is best.

West Ridge

Little more than a scramble.

Standard:- Mild Diff.
Start:- On the ridge below the rock slabs.
300' Scramble up the rock slabs and grassy ledges.
50' It is probably best to rope up this next more vertical section. Climb around a block and a layback to the right. Up a chimney on the left or more exposed climbing on the right.
200' Easy scrambling or walking follows to the top.

Southern Gully

A similar standard but we have no details. Probably follow the obvious gully on the scrubby south side which reaches the west ridge just before the top.

Namon

The east face of Namon is about 400' high and overhangs at the top. The rock plateau at the top of Namon is well worth visiting. One climb has been done on a semi-rest day.

Plimsole

The rock on the corner slabs is appalling but it gets better towards the top.

Standard:- Mild Severe
Start:- On the left hand side of the face great slabs stretch up towards the top at a much more reasonable angle. The climb goes up on the right hand side of these. The reason for the easy angle soon becomes apparent. If it was 2 degrees steeper it would all fall down.
1. 60' Up from prominent flat rock left 60' to obvious belay.
2. 50' Up using a shoulder jam to belay on top of small pinnacle.
3. 30' Traverse left to tree or more easily by a Duffler-traverse.
4. 80' The crux up on the left rib on bad rock. The rock gets better towards the top.
5. 100' Easy climbing to the right fihishes.

Jack Pettigrew, Alex Rhomus, Dick Owen, Jeff B oyd
1963

Mata Rock

A small rock knob. See Dumphy's map. One short climb.

Sidehold Wall

Standard:- V. Diff.
Start:- On the west face with an easy gully on the right.
1. 30' Left up wall to ledge and tree belay.
2. 40' Up the wall slightly to the right again to a tree belay. Can continue as you wish.

Draffin, O'Hara, Moore , 1963.

West Face, Split Rock

See Dunphy's map. Broken face, an easy angle with some steeper pitches make a good training area. Many routes are possible. Only one seems to have been done.

Standard:- Diff.
Start:- Up through scrub from the Exmouth track. The climb starts up a ramp.
1. 60' Straight up the slab. Walk up to a terrace.
2. 25' Up the wall to the right and traverse right to a small belay ledge.
3. 65' A rising traverse to the right brings one to a shallow high cave.
4. 90' Right and down to ledge.
5. 150' Up the steep slab to tree belay.
6. 60' Slab and a walk to the summit.

Draffin, O'Hara, Moore, 1963

Chapter 10 OTHER CLIMBING IN N.S.W.

There are presumably outcrops and faces where groups of people climb of which we shall never hear. However a few of the other odd places are:

Cox's Granite

Lies somewhere west of Katoomba on the west bank of the Cox. It was visited quite regularly by the S.R.C. at one stage as it is the only granite easily accessible from Sydney. However it is only 90' and at the moment has gone out of fashion.

Kanagra Area

The two obvious chimneys in the conglomerate walls have been climbed. Conglomerate of course is bad rock. There are some good climbs on the face below Kalang Head which were climbed in the early days (1954). About 200' - 300' of exposed slab (excellent hard rock). Details can be obtained from Russ Kippax.

To those who aspire to be well rounded mountaineers Danae Brook offers some lousy rotten climbing but of a true mountaineering nature.

Danae B rook

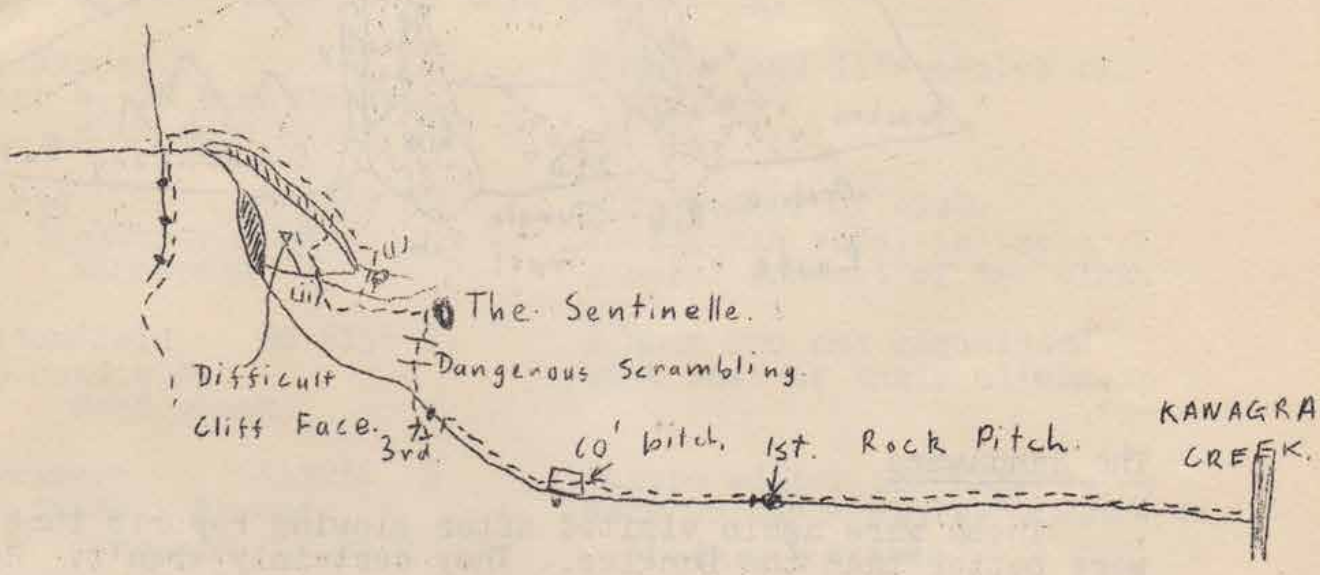
A canyon in strange and fantastic surroundings. The route follows the creek up and then takes the left hand canyon out. Has 6 short rock pitches and 2 longer pitches of which one is severe.

Start:- Out along the walls and then down off Kilpatrick Causeway is probably the easiest way there. Wander up the creek.

1. 20' An easy rock pitch after a pool of water, wander on.
2. 70' This wall is surprisingly easy, wander on.
3. 30' The short wall on the left helps one round the next water fall.
4. Wander up and then up the chunder on the right till the Sentinel is reached. It is safer if some roping up is done here.
5. The crux.
   (i) Either lassoe the tree well to the right of the face and climb onto the ledge above by difficult grass climbing.

(ii) or traverse via a narrow ledge left, high up onto the face and then up. Difficult again.

Follow the ledge right round till one meets the creek again above the water-fall. The canyon now divides into three. Take the left hand one. Three short rock pitches and one is out.



First ascent - Ray Terrems, Barry Dunneet, Dave Lambert, Bryden Allen, Fred Kitchener. Rick Higgins led the second party who took the second route over the crux. (1962).

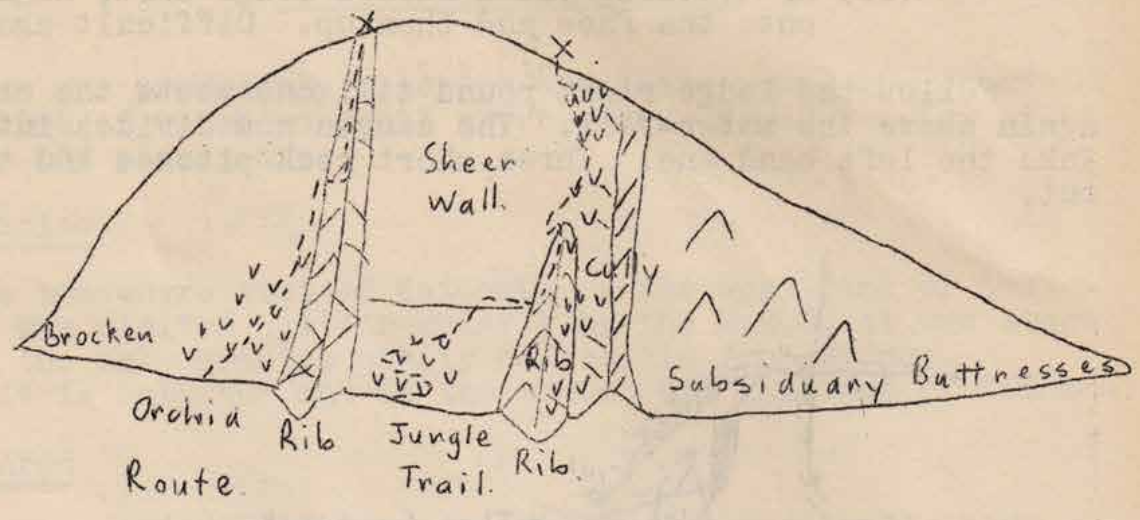
Both the Pigeon House area and Capertree Valley offer sandstone climbing but not better than can be obtained closer at hand. The Capertree Valley was climbed in, in the very early days of the club.

Perpendicular Rock

West of Mittagong near Goodmans Ford. Lead on by glowing reports by bushwalkers the Rockies visited this area in 1961. The following two lousy climbs were the results over the skungy rock. The diagram should be enough. The rock is granite or sorts.

The left route:- Orchid route; severe. Ted Batty & Bob Montgomery.
The right route: Jungle Trail; mild severe. C. Ivin & Paul Griffiths.
The cliff might be 300' high.

Perdendicular Rock.



The Nandawars

These were again visited after glowing reports that they were better than the Bungles. They certainly aren't. However there is probably some good climbing on a slightly smaller scale.

Only one climb was done on this trip. The rock on this occasion proved to be more difficult to climb than it looked. Access is not a simple matter as it is in the Bungles. The University of New England Mountaineering Club might have done more here in which case details may be presented in a supplement.

Kosciusko

B lue lake and the buttress of Tousend looking onto Albenka hut offer some good scrambling on magnificent granite rock. Watsons crags might be longer but the rock is schist. It does not justify the trip but the flowers in Summer might.

Opinions differ violently as to whether there is worthy winter climbing there. Nothing of a high standard has been done there (i.e. including ice at a reasonable angle).

Chapter 11 REFERENCES & CONTACTS

For further details of climbs

If further information is required about climbs one of the following will have done most of the climbs. He might not remember any more than is in this guide book.

Russell Kippax Flat 4, 26 East Crescent McMahon's Point	Founder and life-member of club.
Dave Roots 48 1862 H. 93 Grosvenor Road Wahroonga	Life member of club. Noele, his wife, is the general contact of the club.
Doug Litchfield 80 5198 H. 29 Meadow Cr. Meadowbank	A Rhum Dhu and acquainted with most of their climbs.
Kevin Western 613788 B 44 Tabbett Street Rockdale	Future editor of "Narrow-Neck Guide". Better known as "Father Westren"
Charles Ivin 6429328 B. Flat 1, 3 Nathan Street Coogee	Trips recorder and compiler of Bungonia part of guide.
Bryden Allen MW0522 Ex.714 B. 85a Cambridge Street Stanmore	President 1963-4 and compiler of guide.
John Davis JJ1263 H;731351 B . 30 Macquarie Road Pymble	Secretary 1963-4
Ian Logan 49 2262 H. 58a Ryde Road Pymble	Treasurer 1963-4
Josta Lynga Has returned to Sweden. See member of Canberra Walking and Touring Club.	Compiler of Corree Guide.

Other Climbing Clubs in Australia
or clubs with a climbing section.

Australian Section of N.Z. Alpine Club
C/- Kevin Western 613788 (B)
44 Tabbett Street
Rockdale

Sydney University Mountaineering Club
C/- The Union
Sydney University

Canberra Walking and Touring Club
C/- David Gibson
25 Melbourne Avenue
Forrest
Canberra

Armidale University Mountaineering Club
Armidale University

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
Melbourne University

Victoria Climbing Club
C/- Federation of Victoria
Walking Clubs
Box 815F Elizabeth St. P.O.
Melbourne

University of Queensland Bushwalking Club
University of Queensland

Van Dieman Alpine Club
Box 753H G.P.O.
Hobart

Contacts Abroad

British Mountaineering Council
C/- Alpine Club
74 South Audley St.
London

The journal "Mouhtaineering" may be obtained here at a cost of 2/- sterling and comes out twice a year.

Pierre Allain

29 Rue St. Sulpice
St. Germain
Paris

Produces P.A. Climbing Boots and P.A. alloy containers (45 N.F., 8 N.F.). Letters must be written in French.

Hans Mariacher

Schuhans Mariacher,
Innsbruck
Inrain 21
Tivol

Produces good continental climbing boots.

Brighams

14 Cathedral Street
Manchester 3

Standard English climbing gear.

Odds and Ends

The address to write to to get permission to climb the Breadknife is:

Warrumbungles National Park Trust
C/- Council Chambers
Coonabarabran

The address of Paddy Pallin (the supplier of nearly all our climbing, walking and camping gear) has been assumed.

However in case this guidebook reaches places in the out-and-beyond it is:

Paddy Pallin Pty. Ltd. BM 2685
201 Castlereagh Street
Sydney

The Sydney Rock Climbing Club meets in this building on the top floor every 3rd Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Newcomers are very welcome.

Instructional Books and Films

1. Know the Game, Rock Climbing, 4/6
   - A good cheap introduction.

2. Teach Yourself Mountain Climbing, Godfrey Francis, 11/0
   - Covers the whole field of mountaineering.

3. On Climbing, Charles Evan, 44/-
   - A classic basic text.

4. Belaying the Leader. Out of print.
   - Gives detailed results of tests in dynamic belaying and on the strength of various pirons and expansion bolts. A very important book. Might be borrowed with difficulty from Charles Ivin, Ted Batty (6053511 (B)) or Kevin Western.

5. Nylon Rope and Climbing Safety, Tarbuck, 2/- (British Ropes Sydney agents)
   - A short introduction to nylon ropes.

6. What Kind of Rope. A paper which can be obtained free from Kevin Western.

7. Ron Malor of S.U.M.C. has details of the B.S.3104 standards and the massive initial report on nylon rope. Contains details of experiments of the effect of various acids, sunlight etc. on rope. Very comprehensive.

8. Artificial aids in Mountaineering. O.G. Sutton
   - Comprehensive on this subject.

9. Introduction to Mountaineering
   - An American book still available in shops. Very good illustrations.

Two instructional films are available from the U.K. Information Service.

1. Basic Principles of Rock Climbing. 16mm. Black & White with sound. A Commando affair but a good instructional film.

2. Hazard. 16mm. Colour and sound.
   Some good climbing shots illustrating general safety-first.

Search and Rescue Contacts (of Federation of Bushwalking Clubs)

The two main contacts and organizers are:

Paddy Pallin BM 2685 and Nine Melville JA 1693

Colin Putt is in charge of the Cliff Rescue section but would normally be contacted through Nine Melville. However his phone number is JU 3218.

For further references the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club publication "Equipment for Mountaineering" has most. Obtainable at Paddy's.

FINIS.