

Yellow Wall

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Introduction

Yellow wall and the other cliffs on the eastern side of Gara Gorge have some of the best lines in New England. The granite on this side of the gorge is much steeper and seems to be much more juggy and featured than the characteristic 'Slabs' of Moonbi and the Eastern side of the gorge. The cracks are still there (and many of them still await first ascents) but the potential for steep bolted walls is astounding, many of them multi-pitch. With an eye for a line and willingness to do a little bit of cleaning you could have your name scrawled across the pages of the next guide. Get to it!

History

Climbing at Yellow Wall was part of the beginning of a new era for climbing in Armidale. It was the beginning of the discovery of many steep granite cliffs in Gara Gorge. Prior to this time, climbing was, except for the slabs of Mt. Yarrowyck, limited to waterfall faces and their adjoining cliffs.

In April 1975, Al Stephens and Trevor Gynther walked down the Gara River, below the Blue Hole, looking for new cliffs based on information given to Al, by talented young local climber Bob Killip, that there were big cliffs in the area. The pair found and climbed a route on nearby Nettle Buttress, 'Serenity' (17). On the long walk home that same day they decided to check out

the large wall glowing in the sun on the opposite side of the gorge. This, of course, was Yellow Wall. The potential of the wall was obvious. Later, easier access was found by driving across farm land. This led to Yellow Wall's popularity.

The scene at that time consisted of Bob Killip, Rob Dixon, Brian Birchall, Jill Kellman, Phil Prior and Al Stephens. Everyone was eager to get into the new routes. However, initially new routes came painfully slowly. Eventually all the above climbers were involved in new climbs, but the best of that year was Bob Killip's 'Gnome Tree' (19). Bob initially graded the climb (20), Armidale's first 20!

Next year, 1976, Bob invited Kim Carrigan and Gooney to Armidale to confirm the grade. To Bob's horror and disgust, Kim thought that it was about 18! Today it's considered a soft touch 19. On the same day as the infamous down-grading, Rob Dixon and Al Stephens aided 'Pin-Up', destined to become one of the hardest free crack lines in the area. By far the best route during 1976 was 'The Push' (19) by Richard Curtis.

During 1977 there were many repeats but no new climbs put up.

Eager to find the perfect cliff, the locals in 1978 started to explore further down the gorge on the eastern side. Pineapple Rough, Colony Wall and Pinnacle Ridge emerged, but only a number of new routes were put up at each of these areas. Joe Friend moved to Armidale and was primarily responsible for this enthusiastic exploration. Two examples of his enthusiasm are 'Portable Rip-Off' (19) at Yellow Wall, done in sand-shoes, and the long multi-pitch route 'Moments in Never' (17) at Grey Wall. Birchall and Prior did among other things, the beautiful off-width 'Aristocrack' (18) on Pinnacle Ridge. Killip teamed up with popular (?) Queensland climber Robert

(Squeak) Stazewski to do the prominent ramp on Colony Wall, 'Menagerie' (12).

Geoff Francis, UNEMC's quartermaster and safety officer, did a couple of short new ones with Stephens at Pineapple Rough in 1979. Apart from these, no other new routes were attempted that year.

1980 was also very quiet. Except for Ed Sharpe's 'Far Canal' (16), which has since crawled back into the mank due to poor patronage, the only other route was Austin Legler's 'Humble Pie' (18), which has repulsed many aspiring leaders and forced them to eat it.

1981 produced two classics; 'Arms Race' by Birchall (later freed by Mark Colyvan) and 'Teddy Bears Picnic' by Paul Bayne (also freed by Colyvan).

Note: I have used a star system to indicate the routes of better quality. This does not mean that all the other routes at each cliff are leprous piles of mank, nothing would be further from the truth. The system is very simple, in fact, you'd have to be a bloody moron not to understand it. If you don't agree with my opinion of what's a good climb.....tuff luck!

1982 was, at the time of writing, the year of greatest activity, with 13 new routes at Yellow Wall and 5 at Colony Wall. Many are great climbs such as John (Jack) Lattanzio's 'Men of Good Fortune' (20), Bayne's 'Magnifascent' (23), Lattanzio's 'Crucifix' (22), Paul (Animal) Colyvan's 'Switchblade' (21) and Stephens and Bayne's multi-pitch epic 'Golden Handshake' (23). Without doubt the greatest achievement during 1982 was Bayne's first free ascent of the old Dixon/Stephens aid route 'Pin-Up' which went at 25. His fingers still resembled #1 rocks several days later. Since then 'Pin-Up' has only had one repeat. This was by visiting New Zealander Simon Vallings.

1983 was a return to the quiet times with only four new routes. One of these, 'Sundance' (24) by Chris Dale (an extremely tall English climber), has seen more 'notable failures' than ascents.

Curtis and visiting Victorian Kevin Lindorff were responsible for the only new routes done in 1984; 'Rough Justice' (19) and 'Enfant Terrible' (21), a bold bolted arete.

From this time to 1989 there were no new routes done. Late December Tim (Tadpole) Ball squirmed into town, knowingly stole 'Evil Angels' (24), a wall route cleaned and bolted by Al Stephens, slumped his way up 'Santa Claws' (25MO), then went back to Brisbane.

1991 produced 'Trad Jazz' (17) by Lattanzio and 'Backwards to the Future' (17) by Curtis, both at Pineapple Rough. In April the same year Curtis surprised everyone, and probably himself, by safely completing the very loose 'Shattered' (18) at Yellow Wall, without injury to himself or his second.

1993 was Yellow Walls revival. Six new routes went up that year, five of them being bolted walls. Gordon Low was responsible for three of these beauties; 'Zussamen' (16), 'Social Misfit' (19) and the short but very sweet 'Saracen' (22). Also of note is Chris Fiddymment's short instant classic 'Wee Dangler' (15), this years only crack climb.

Only one new route has emerged so far in 1994, 'Foetal Attraction' (22) by Stephens. But don't be fooled into thinking the pool of new routes has just

about dried up. Far from it. Low, Curtis, Oddie, Colyvan, Stephens and Ben Christian all have projects planned at the cliffs on the eastern side of the gorge. Pineapple Rough and Colony Wall have recently yielded several new crack climbs to Curtis and John (Bill) Oddie. Hopefully, details of these will be in the next edition of the guide. The potential for bolted wall routes at all these cliffs has unknown limits. So if you like cracks, roofs, slabs, walls or the prospect of a virgin cliff, then the eastern side of the gorge awaits your presence.

Although development appears to be quite slow in these areas in some years, climbers during these times were in fact climbing and developing other areas on the western side of the gorge (Dome Wall, Persian Carpets etc.), Moonbi (currently closed to all climbing), Ebor and Mt. Kaputar.

Allan Stephens (March 1994)

Editor's Note: Due to the size of the area covered in this guidebook and period of time people have been climbing here before the guidebook was done, some routes may have been omitted. If you find any climbs that aren't in the guide let us know so we can fix it up. Also, I would like to say thanks to Al Stephens and Mark Colyvan for doing the history and for helping get information on some of the climbs. Without that help the guide wouldn't have been worth printing.

Send all new routes to the climbs recorder; Al. Stephens 150 Jessie St. Armidale. 2350

WARNING

Rock climbing is an inherently dangerous sport requiring experience and good judgment to be carried out safely. This guide is only meant as an aid in finding climbs and a basic indication of grades. The author accepts no responsibility for any mishap involving persons using this guide.

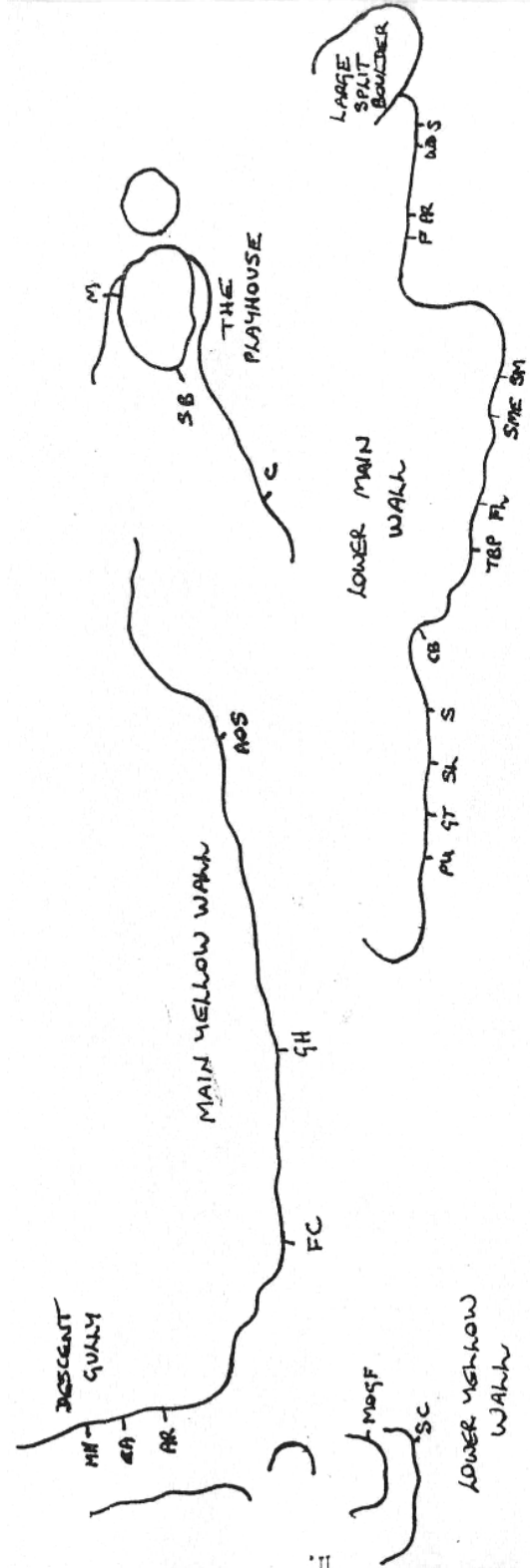
Access: Access to all cliffs described in this guide is through the property "Silverton". Local knowledge is always useful to get to the cliffs in the area. If you haven't been there before it's advisable to give Al. Stephens a call and find out the details (ph. (02) 6772 5543).

To get to Silverton take the Grafton road for about 20km out of Armidale. The turn-off to Silverton is signposted (before Cooney Ck.). Take the gravel road to Silverton and stop in and ask if you can go through their property (make sure it's at a decent time; they dislike being woken up at ridiculous hours as much as you do -show some respect). From Silverton get back onto the road and keep on going, through two gates (make sure you leave them the way they were), then turn down a faint car track behind a dam and along the gully until it goes across an open flat and up onto a rise next to a clump of boulders. Park here.

Yellow Wall

The Descent gully

From the car park on the hill walk to the large clump of boulders on the gorge rim. Pick the easiest path through the boulders (don't jump the fence, it upsets the farmers) and you should come out on the other side of the fence on a faint track. Walk south along this track, along the rim of the gorge, for 30 meters or so until the track turns down-hill. This is the Descent Gully. All the routes here are on the left side of the gully (facing downhill) and described from left to right.



17..... ★ Mike Hunt..... 15m

The first route in the descent gully. Mike's brothers York and Eric were there too! Start: The wall 3m left of 'Humble Pie'.

Up the wall, past 3 BR's. Third bolt is a difficult clip - makes it that little more exciting. Belay on ledge (medium friends and wires) and walk off right, or... continue up hand-crack to top (grd. 18)

B.Christian
A.Stephens (27/6/93)

18..... Humble Pie28m

Rather awkward and strenuous. Start: The first obvious crack in the descent gully.

Awkward fist jamming to top.

A.Legler
E.Sharp
G.Pritchard (Dec. 80)

24..... ★★ Evil Angels..... 25m

Conceived, cleaned and bolted by Al. Stephens only to be knowingly stolen by Tadpole and co. on a climbing trip down from Brisbane.

Start: About 5m right of 'Humble Pie'.

Up past 4 B.R.'s to a ledge, then up past 2 more B.R.'s to the top.

T.Ball
D.Hockley (23/12/89)

21..... ★ Arms Race20m

Gentle start, but gets nice and pumpy towards the top.

Start: Rightward trending corner crack immediately right of 'Evil Angels'

Diagonally right, taking care of rock and protection, to base of vertical crack. Up crack, step right and on to top (crux).

Note: On the first ascent the line went directly up the vertical crack, involving a sequence of moves about grade 22/23.

F.A.(one rest where crack blanks out)
B.Birchall
R.Clark
E.Sharp (Dec. 81) F.F.A M. Colyvan
A.Stephens (10/1/82)

22..... Foetal Attraction20m

Start: 3m right of 'Arms Race'. A short slabby wall then join up the cracks through two small roofs (2 B.R.'s, #1.5 friend and wires on route).

Crank up slabby wall (crux) past two B.R.'s, then up through two small roofs trending right to final vertical seam. Up seam and finish as for last moves of 'Arms Race'.

A.Stephens (19/3/94)

Lower Yellow Wall

To get to the Lower Yellow Wall turn right at the bottom of the descent gully. The cliff is split into three tiers. On the upper buttress routes are described from left to right.

19..... Resurgence..... 30m

Destined to be a classic.

Start: The obvious wall/crack route, on the terrace, that exits through the roof.

Straight up the wall, crack to roof and through the roof to the top.

B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio (Jul. 82)

19..... Rough Justice 20m

Start: The corner left of 'Men of Good Fortune'.

Straight up corner to top.

R.Curtis
B.Birchall (May 84)

20..... Men of Good Fortune 10m

Exciting!

Start: 10m right of 'Resurgence' on the main terrace. The flake up an overhanging arete. Up flake, then move right and up cracks to top.

J.Lattanzio
M.Peck
B.Birchall (Jul. 82)
(and a stick)

On the lower tier of Lower Yellow Wall are a number of short routes, these are described from right to left.

17..... Physical Jerk..... 8m

Start: The second crack at the right end of the lower tier.

Up crack to top.

B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio
M.Peck (Jul. 82)

16..... Lolita 8m

Start: 4m left of 'Physical Jerk'. I.Up crack to top.

M.Peck
B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio (Jul. 82)

16..... Bugaboo..... 8m

Start: The crack just left of 'Lolita'. Up crack to top.

B.Birchall
M.Peck
J.Lattanzio (Jul. 82)

13..... Mumbo Jumbo 8m

Start: crack just right of the small roof. Up crack to top.

B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio (Jul. 82)

17..... Curfew..... 8m

Start: The crack below the small roof.

Up off-width and around roof to top.

J.Lattanzio
B.Birchall (Jul. 82)

25MO Santa Claws 15m

Start: Towards the right hand end of the lower tier.

Left hand crack line to seam, past one bolt on slab to tree belay. A couple of aid rests were used.

T.Ball
D.Hockley (24/12/89)

Main Yellow Wall

The Main Yellow Wall starts at the bottom left-hand side of the descent gully and continues along to include the main 'Yellow' face, then runs up behind 'Lower Yellow Wall' to the ridge that

becomes the 'Playhouse' pinnacle. The routes are described from left to right.

16..... Far Canal25m

Start: 30m left of the main 'Yellow' face on a broken section of the cliff.

Traverse right under small overhang onto tree. Up tree then back onto rock to go through roof, then up twin cracks to exit right onto ledge, through fig trees and up easy corner to belay on large tree.

E.Sharp
P.Evans (Aug. 80)

23..... ★ Golden Handshake57m

For many years the 'Last Great Problem'.

Start: 3m left of the large off-width at the left end of the Yellow face.

14m Up a short finger crack (4m) to edge then right to straggle up corner crack in body ' V to the top of the block.

9m Delicately up the open corner (cruxy) to the large ledge (half-way). 3 B.R.'s.

8m Boulder problem start the easy finger crack to ledge below the small roof.

26m Up crack to roof, around roof (crux) then continue up lay-back to small ledge, tiptoe left then continue to top.

A.Stephens (pitches 1, 2 and 3)
P.Bayne (pitch 4)
A.Adams (Sept. 82)

17..... Stupid Fools and Fucking Idiots
..... 75m

Start: As for 'Agent Orange Sunset'

25m Up crack for a couple of meters then move left into obvious traverse line. Continue traverse until large ledge at base of rightwards trending ramp.

25m Follow ramp to roof. Move left onto huge ledge with solitary gum-tree.

25m Up wall to horizontal crack, have a breather, then continue up rightwards trending line to top.

B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio (Jul. 83)

17 Serendipity50m

A chance find.

Start: As for A.O.S.

25m Up crack and wall of A.O.S. (5m), then traverse left to the diagonal crack. Continue up crack and flake to a tree on a large ledge.

25m As for pitch 3 of S.F & F.I.

A.Stephens
M.Colyvan (30/7/83)

20..... ★ Agent Orange Sunset..... 50m

"What's this rash that comes and goes, Can you tell me what it means? God help me; I was only nineteen." - Tadpole

A classic line (both the climb and the song).

Start: At the far right-hand end of the Main wall; at the top of the gully about 60m right of the 'Golden Handshake'.

35m A block and a short wall then a short chimney lead to the main crack. Up the bulging crack (crux) to the bush, past the bush and belay below the roof in the telephone box.

15m Pull up over the roof and step right along sloping ledge, up corner past one B.R. then scramble to top.

G.Croft
A.Stephens (Jul. 83)

Lower Main Wall

To get to the Lower Main Wall, follow the Main wall to the entrance of the gully that goes to 'Agent Orange Sunset', but, instead of going up the gully turn downhill and continue left until the next cliff-line is found. This is the Lower Main Wall. Routes are described from left to right.

12..... Neato Peachy Keen 18m

Does not go to top.

Start: Below a half-height diagonal crack.

Up to hanging block, left and up groove to ledge, then right up diagonal crack to belay. Abseil off or down-climb to the left.

A.Stephens
J.Kelman (Jun. 75)

18..... Risky Shift.....20 m

The first pitch is rather dangerous with some loose rock on it. Take care with your placements.

Start: On the ledge up-hill and 15m left of 'Pin Up'. The thick flake; done in two pitches to reduce rope drag.

10m (crux) Up crack and past flake and right to belay.

10m Up corner crack to overlap and up right-hand crack to top. Abseil off.

B.Birchall
J.Lattanzio (April 82)

25..... Pin Up25m

Hard and gnarly. One of New Englands hardest crack lines.

Originally all aid by R. Dixon and A. Stephens in 1976. M. Colyvan and G. Croft freed it up to the ledge in '81 and P. Bayne and A. Stephens freed the remainder in July 1982.

Start: 5m left of 'Gnome Tree', the left of two cracks.

Follow intermittent crack and shallow comer to ledge then take the superb, sharp finger crack to the top.

F.A. R. Dixon
A.Stephens (1976) F.F.A. P. Bayne
A.Stephens (Jul. 82)

23.... ★★★ Magnifascent25m

Tricky, sustained and simply superb. Start: The crack/seam immediately right of 'Pin Up'. Follow the crack to the ledge then on to top.

P.Bayne
A.Stephens
(Yoyoed) (Oct. 82)

17..... ★ Debbie Detour..... 30m

Start: The crack about 8m right of 'Magnifascent'.

Up the crack to overhanging section, then detour left up slab and crack to bush belay.

B.Killip
J.Kelman
B.Birchall (Jun. 75)

19..... ★ Gnome Tree..... 30m

Loudly marked 'D.D.D.' (Originally named 'Debbie Detour Direct').

Start: As for 'Debbie Detour'.

Straight up the line, ignoring the detour, and on to the Gnome tree.

B.Killip
(S.U.T.F.) (Jun. 75)

19..... Shadv Ladv..... 25m

Start; Corner off-width just right of 'Gnome Tree'.

Strenuously up off-width to awkward exit onto ledge.

B.Killip
(S.U.T.F.)(Jun.76)

24..... ★ Sundance..... 20m

Sustained and varied climbing up a steep wall. This climb has a reputation for not having many repeat ascents - not for want of people to try it!

Start: 8m right of 'Shady Lady'.

Up thin seam trending left to rightward trending crack, some exciting moves up to leftward groove past one B.R. to top.

C.Dale (U.K.)
J.Lattanzio
R.Curtis(Jun. 83)

21..... Enfant Terrible..... 15m

A dangerous lead. Start: The arete right of 'Sundance'. Up the arete via a B.R.. Some cute moves.

K.Lindorff
M.Wust
R.Curtis (25/5/84)

14..... Chequer Board..... 27m

Start: The slabby lay-away corner 10m up and across right from 'Enfant Terrible'.

20m Up lay-away line, then on up chimney to large ledge.

7m Around right, then up chimney (this pitch is contrived and rarely repeated).

P.Prior
A.Stephens
B.Killip (May 75)

?..... Soeleo Games (Caving Problem)

Why have I put a caving problem in a climber's guide? ... Because I wrote the guide and can put anything I want in it!!

Start: In the back of the Chimney on the first pitch of 'Chequer Board'. Instead of staying on the outside of the chimney, go right to the back, through a series of increasingly smaller squeezes until you pop out on the belay ledge for C.B.- not a good idea if your claustrophobic or a bit on the fat side.

16..... Zussamen..... 15m

A rather deceptive climb. Well worth doing! Start: As for 'Chequer Board'. The slab below the flake crack.

Haul up onto the arete/slab, then easily past two B.R.'s. From here step up delicately past the third B.R. to belay on the ledge. Abseil off or finish up C.B.

G.Low
S.Ireland
C.Fiddymment
B.Cork (23/10/93)

22..... ★★ Teddv Bears Picnic.....30m

*"If you go out on the rock today,
you're sure to get a surprise"*

Hard and sustained climbing.

Start: The cracks about 20m right of 'Zussamen'.

Follow overhanging cracks to top.

F.A. P. Bayne
M.Colyvan(4/9/81)
F.F.A. M. Colyvan (28/9/81)

22..... ★ Fuzzv Logic.....20m

A wall lay-back and jam crack..... it's got it all. Take small wires, #'s 1, 1.5 &2 friends and 3 bolt plates.

Start: 3m right of Teddy Bears Picnic'.

Crank the wall (B.R.), then strenuous lay-back (wires and 2 B.R.'s) leads to a short jam-crack. Clip the chains and abseil off.

A.Stephens
G.Low (4/9/93)

19..... ★ The Push30m

A Curtis testpiece.

Start: As for 'Dynamic Bureaucrat'.

Awkward to roof, then strenuously through roof to top.

R. Curtis
J.Killip (Mar. 76)

17..... ★ Dynamic Bureaucrat.....28m

Start: 5m right of 'Teddy Bears Picnic', below the overhanging crack (The Push). Up comer to ledge, traverse right along ledge to thin flake. Up flake, through the small roof and open corner to top.

A.Stephens
R.Dixon (Jul. 75)

17..... Sunday Morning Energy.....28m

A fine climb for a sunny Sunday morning (most parties do the direct start) Start: 10m right of 'Dynamic Bureaucrat'. Awkwardly onto ledge, then up a tricky corner followed by superb climbing to top.

R.Dixon
A.Stephens (Jul. 75)

19..... SME direct start.....3m

A bouldery direct start to S.M.E.

Start: Directly up from where climb is marked, then as for rest of S.M.E.

G. Croft
E.Sharp
M.Colyvan(28/9/81)

19..... * Social Misfit20m

Excellent wall and slab climbing leads to a set of chains. 4 B.R.'s on route.

Start: 4m right of S.M.E.

Gently up a steep wall (crux) past a B.R., then swing up onto the flake and haul up the next wall (2 B.R.'s) on beautiful jugs, then up the final slab (B.R.) to chains.

G.Low
(S.U.T.F.) (27/8/93)

16..... Social Misfit (variant start)

Start: The crack 1m left of 'Social Misfit'.

Up the crack the step right to the flake and up as for S.M.

S.Whitten
CFiddymment (26/9/93)

9..... 45 k.p.m. (Don't speed)24m

Start: The large flake/block left from 'Fugitive'. Up outside or inside block, left around corner, up block to free.

J.Kelman
C.May
B.Birchall (Jul. 75)

18..... ★ Fugitive 15m

Start: 30m right and uphill of 'Social Misfit'. The left of two cracks. Up to tree belay.

M.Colyvan
G.Croft(25/8/81)

19..... Portable Rip-off20m

Nasty on the hands.

Start: The crack immediately right of 'Fugitive'.

Pull up to rest below obvious leftward trending crack. Up crack and step left to exit at top.

J. Friend
B.Birchall
R.Thomas
R.McClymont (1978)

18..... Shattered 15m

A Death-trap, full of loose, crumbly rock.

Start: The left-hand crack in the chossy alcove immediately right of 'Portable Rip-off. Awkwardly up hanging channel and up crack, keeping to the left.

R. Curtis
J.Lattanzio (6/4/91)

15..... ★ Wee Dangler 15m

A real gem, with a secret jug to dangle off and pose for photos.

Start: Corner crack 10m right of 'Portable Rip-off.

Jam and bridge up crack to belay off gum-tree further back.

C.Fiddymment
G.Low (3/10/93)

22..... ★★ Saracen 15m

Just brilliant. Thin and technical face climbing.

Start: The thin flake and wall 2m right of 'Wee Dangler'.

Up the thin flake past the first B.R.. Clip the second B.R. and step out right onto the wall, then move up to clip the third B.R. off a good stance. Step slightly left and haul on up to the top. Belay as for 'Wee Dangler'.

F.A. (some rests)

G.Low

C.Fiddymment (23/10/93) F.F.A. G. Low

A.Stephens (27/11/93)

The Playhouse

To get to the Playhouse from the car park start as for the Descent Gully, but, instead of turning down the gully continue along the ridge top for approximately 250 m until a pinnacle on the end of the ridge is reached. This is the Playhouse. Another way of reaching this cliff is by walking up the gully below the Main Wall, past Agent Orange Sunset, then south along the ridge for about 40m.

17..... Mullet 12m

Start: From the descent track, traverse along the ledge, through some fig tree branches, on the left side of the main bluff. Up hand-crack to top.

M.Peck

Animal (Jun. 82)

21..... ★ Switchblade..... 10m

On a lower terrace right of the main block. Start: The thin crack corner. Up crack to top.

F.A. P. (Animal) Colyvan

G.Pritchard

B.Birchall

J.Lattanzio (April 82) F.F.A. M. Colyvan

Animal (31/5/82)

22..... ★ Crucifix..... 10m

Start: On the lower rock terrace below 'Switchblade'. Abseil over or scramble up from 'Saracen'. At the extreme left-hand end of the rock face, left of two overhanging cracks that can be seen high up on your right.

Up wall and curving crack to horizontal, then up sharp crack to top.

F.A. (21MO)

J.Lattanzio

M.Peck (May 82)

(some yoyoing)

J.Lattanzio

M.Colyvan(31/5/82)

17..... All for Perks..... 55m

Start: About 30m left of 'Inception'.

20m Up corner then left to small chimney and up onto ledge.

35m Bridge and jam up crack to top.

J.Friend

G.Francis (Jul. 78)

20..... Scallywag..... 13m

Start: Right of 'All for Perks' on small cliff below main nose of cliff. Follow leftward leaning crack to large ledge/terrace.

J.Lattanzio
R.Curtis(1989)

16..... Inception 25m

Start: Layback corner just to the right of the lowest part of the cliff.

Up crack, right onto ledge then up onto wall. Left into off-width and up to large ledge. Scramble off to left.

J.Friend
G.Francis (M. 78)

Colony Wall

Colony wall, the large cliff directly opposite Sweethearts Buttress is hard to find, and apart from a few visits in the past is relatively undeveloped. To get there you must walk in, as this area is also under the jurisdiction of the owners of Applegrove who, as mentioned before, don't take kindly to climbers on their property. Park at Yellow wall and walk along the gorge rim past 'Pineapple Rough' until the bulk of 'Colony Wall' can be seen. Due to the walk in this cliff has had few visits.

Descent: Just left of the monster overhang and the top of the Stazewski-Killip ramp is a vegetated ramp leading down leftwards (facing the cliff); this provides access to the lower parts of the left-hand end of Colony Wall.

13..... Colonial Daze..... 25m

Enjoyable, on clean rock.

Start: The first good line down the rocky descent ramp.

Mixed jamming and bridging off the verticle.

J.Friend (solo) (19/12/81)

14..... Holv Dollar 30m

There's a man-hole atop the chimney!

Start: Short recessed offwidth with black/grey granite at it's back -left of 'Colonial Daze'.

Chimney style to where cracks in the right wall provide sound holds. Up to chock stones and man-hole - swing out and around to either right or left hand deep crack finishes (.5m apart).

J.Friend (solo) (19/12/81)

20..... Mutilation Murderer 15m

Start: On the left side of the descent gully. Obvious fist crack.

Up crack to horizontal break, left, the up crack to top.

F.A. (19MO)
M.Peck
(S.D.N.F.) F.F.A. M. Colyvan
B.Birch'all
G.Croft
R.Stazewski (Jun. 82)

On the Main Cliff;

Pineapple Rough

Access to Pineapple Rough is difficult now as the owners of 'Applegrove' are rather pensive about having climbers going through their property. Getting to the cliff now involves walking in along the gorge rim from the car-park at Yellow Wall. Instead of turning down the

descent gully for Yellow Wall keep walking along the gorge rim for approximately 2 kilometers, Pineapple rough is the first large buttress after Yellow Wall. Access to the climbs is from the northern descent gully (grid ref. 867-127). Routes start at the bottom of the descent gully and are described from left to right.

12..... Cleaver20m

Start: At the left hand end of the bluff to the left of the northern descent gully.

Up corner into off-width, past loose block then through vines to ledge. Abseil off or scramble to top.

A.Stephens
G.Francis (May 79)

13..... Gobbler23m

Start: 15m right of 'Cleaver'.

Up flared chimney, then scramble over blocks (10m), right onto large sloping ledge and up to top.

G.Francis
A.Stephens (May 79)

17..... Trad Jazz40m

Start: At the bottom of the descent gully at the left end of the cliff. Scramble up to ledge left of big chimney with tree.

20m Up crack corner to, traverse right to chimney, up this to ledge and tree belay.

20m From tree scramble right up cracked wall to obvious crack. Up crack to top.

J.Lattanzio
R.Curtis
(alt. leads) (Jan. 91)

13..... Intersection20m

Start: about 30m right of the northern descent gully, two chimneys intersect at right angles.

Up chimney intersection, then up the thin crack, traverse right across slabs to tree. Abseil off or scramble to top.

G.Francis
A.Stephens (May 79)

17..... Backwards to the Future70m

Start: Horizontal recess some meters right of 'Intersection'.

30m Traverse rightwards out of recess to below corner. Awkwardly up into corner and up to roof, exit left up crack to slab. Traverse left around arete to good ledge.

10m Traverse left to off-width. Up this to scrubby ledge.

30m Climb up through tree, step left then up to ledge on arete. Up trending left to jams below bulging wall. Traverse left until it is possible to climb a corner which leads to a large flake. Up this to top.

R.Curtis
J.Lattanzio
C.Halligan (Jan. 91)

16..... Look Sharp..... 16m

A short line on good sharp rock.

Start: Left of a large 'Bomb Bay' chimney, left of 'All for Perks'.

9m Up onto ledge, traverse left then up under roof and traverse back right, move up the crack to a large sloping ledge.

7m (crux) Move to the right of the ledge, swing around and up an open corner. Exit left at top to a large tree. Abseil off.

A.Stephens
R.Clarke (Jun. 80)

The Asylum

We're not to sure where this cliff is, but we think it is at the upper right hand end of Colony Wall. Routes are from left to right. If you find it, let us know. Good luck!

16..... Bent20m

Start: At base of short corner crack that leads right to obvious flake.

Up corner crack to horizontal break, right to flake. Follow flake to corner crack, up crack to exit through small roof.

P.Tattersall
B.Birchall (July 82)

19..... Little Hands..... 10m

A little beuty.

Start: At the base of a short very clean corner crack. Up crack to top.

P.Tattersall
B.Birchall (July 82)

16..... Queer Street20m

It's looser than it looks.

Start: The big orange corner above that of 'Bent'. Follow corner through loose rock and small roof to top.

P.Tattersall
B.Birchall (July 82)

On a cliff across the gully to the far right of the Asylum is;

16..... Galvanic Response35m

From the viewpoint block, walk right, down gully, then left along ledge and up to chimney.

Start: The crack in the right wall of the chimney.

30m Up crack, through hole then follow crack through roofs to sentry box.

5m Step right then up to ledge, step left then up crack to top.

J.Lattanzio
B.Birchall (alt. leads) (June 82)

The Grev Wall

Again, access is a problem here due to access through Applegrove being denied. To get there now you have to walk in along the gorge rim to the descent gully on the right (Grid. ref. 875-108).

13..... Come What May33m

Start: About three-quarters of the way to the top on the left-hand side of the Grey wall (in the descent gully) under orange outcrops, there is, on the right, a fine line which starts in a tree alcove. Layback start and easily to ledge. Up short off-width to enjoyable roof. Over roof to top.

J.Friend
B.Birchall (Dec. 78)

17..... The Goon Show 65m

You'll even meet spike on the second pitch, but don't expect to laugh!

Start: At the left-hand end of the main cliff, scramble up to large ledge at base of two fine corner crack systems. The Goon Show' takes the right line.

30m Avoid orange rock by traversing right to base of off-width, chimney cracks. Up twin cracks on right to ledge with large tree.

15m Follow fine layback flake into corner: follow crack on right through bulge (crux) to base of fine corner. Spike is perched rather humorously on the right! Up corner, with care, onto ledge underneath huge roof.

20m Easily up huge ramp to top (as for 'Menagerie').

B.Birchall
J.Friend (Alternate leads) (Dec. 81)

20..... Unfinished Chiselling..... 60m

Start: As for 'The Goon Show', on the left side of the main wall.

30m As for pitch 1. of 'The Goon Show'.

30m Up curving layback, onto block and belay. Abseil off.

L.Shepard
M.Gallagher .
E.Leis (May 82)

12..... Menagerie 65m

Start: At base of obvious diagonal ramp (right to left across face); right of 'The Goon Show'. &3. Follow ramp to top.

B.Killip
R.Stazewski (mid 70's)

18..... Avoiding the Main Issue25m

Start: At the bottom of the main wall, down and right to the right of 'The Goon Show'. A left hand corner crack. Scramble up to small trees and ledge to start. Up corner to ledge, trend left, over a bulge then traverse left to fig tree. Down climb to the ground.

A.Stephens
G.Croft
T.Ball (Jun. 82)

19..... Facial Discrimination 225m

Mixed and varied climbing up the centre of the main face.

Start: From the descent gully, go right to the bottom of the main wall. The clean layaway crack.

20m Up crack to join large crack on right, continue up to tree belay.

10m Walk right to tree and up thin crack below "cats tongue block" to ledge on right.

20m Up vegetated chimney/gully, right of belay, and continue through fig tree to belay.

25m Traverse left along treed ledge to belay below two converging cracks with a large block wedged at the top.

15m Up right hand crack, under block to belay atop block.

25m (crux). Up to base of off-width, then up thin left crack up to ledge and ramp to belay under small roof/cave.

- 10m Up through roof and follow crack left to large ledge and tree belay. 50m - Leftwards up ramp, over blocks and continue to start of rock ramp then right to good ledge.
- 30m Move right and around corner to intermittent crack system. Follow this to obvious ledge.
- 10m Follow ledge left and up dirty slab to base of off-width immediately left of huge orange roof, then left to tree belay.
- 15m Up small corner and crack trending left to diagonal crack and under-cling and roof to top.

J.Lattanzio
B.Birchall
(alt. leads) (May 82)

17..... Moments in Never 180m

An exposed climb (and enjoyable if you like sparse protection), which ranks with 'Action' (Dangars Falls).

Start: Roughly in the middle of the wall, there is a leaning pillar with a left hand crack.

Further to the right of the pillar is a ramp leading to a tree. Start here.

25m From tree, easily at first, then more difficult, to a good belay in obvious crack on left hand side of a small flake.

30m Move left and up, past thin crack (which affords some protection) to belay.

30m Left again and up thin, slightly vegetated crack to belay on grassy ledge under small roof.

30m Move left from ledge (placing protection high to protect traverse) to crack. Carefully up crack to belay below crack lines above.

35m Up initial crack and right to thin crack splitting small roof. Step out left under roof and up to small trees. Continue up to uncomfortable belay under tiny cracked corner.

30m Diagonally left under roof (heading towards huge roof at extreme left), around smaller roof and up to top.

J.Friend
B.Birchall
(alt. leads) (Dec. 78)

Pinnacle Ridge

Pinnacle Ridge is located on the downstream side of, and can be seen from, the Grey Wall. The ridge has five pinnacles (referred to from the top of the ridge). Access to the climbs is via the descent gully on the downstream end of

the ridge or by scrambling along the ridge itself. Only 4 routes are recorded in this area - one each for the first 4 pinnacles.

1st Pinnacle

16..... 1st Pinnacle Finger Salad ... 10m

Start: The fine crack that rises up from the slab on the shorter western face. Up finger crack to ledge, then left and over block to top.

B.Birchall
P.Prior (Dec. 78)

2nd Pinnacle

Located 20m down and right of the 1st pinnacle.

17..... Bucolic Stupour..... 25m

Start: At the the base of the crack line that leads to to the obvious chimney up higher on the main face.

Up right-hand flake, then left to bulging crack. Over crack to ledge then chimney to top.

B.Birchall
P.Prior (Dec. 78)

3rd Pinnacle

The 3rd pinnacle is the smallest of the pinnacles and is located 20m further along the ridge from the 2nd pinnacle.

16..... Mir..... 8m

Start: Obvious overhanging crack on the western face of the pinnacle. Straight up crack to top.

P.Prior
B.Birchall (Dec. 78)

4th Pinnacle

Further down the ridge.

18/19 Aristocrack 57m

The aristocrat of New England cracks. An airy hand traverse to relieve the boredom.

Start: The beautiful clean crack that splits the main face.

20m Up chimney, then crack to main ledge.

25m (crux). Short chimney into main off-width which splits the face. Up off-width until crack runs out. Hand traverse left into corner and belay.

12m Up chimney, through tree, then to top.

B.Birchall
G.Francis
(alt. leads) (Dec. 78)

