

# Central Grampians Comprehensive Guide

(Volume 1)

## Errata and Additions

In the months since the guide was released I have been made aware of only a small number of errors, but also some new routes and suggested background.

This insert is to be provided with new book sales.

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## Book Binding

A small number of guides had problems where the binding glue broke apart. Please contact your retailer for a replacement if you experience this.

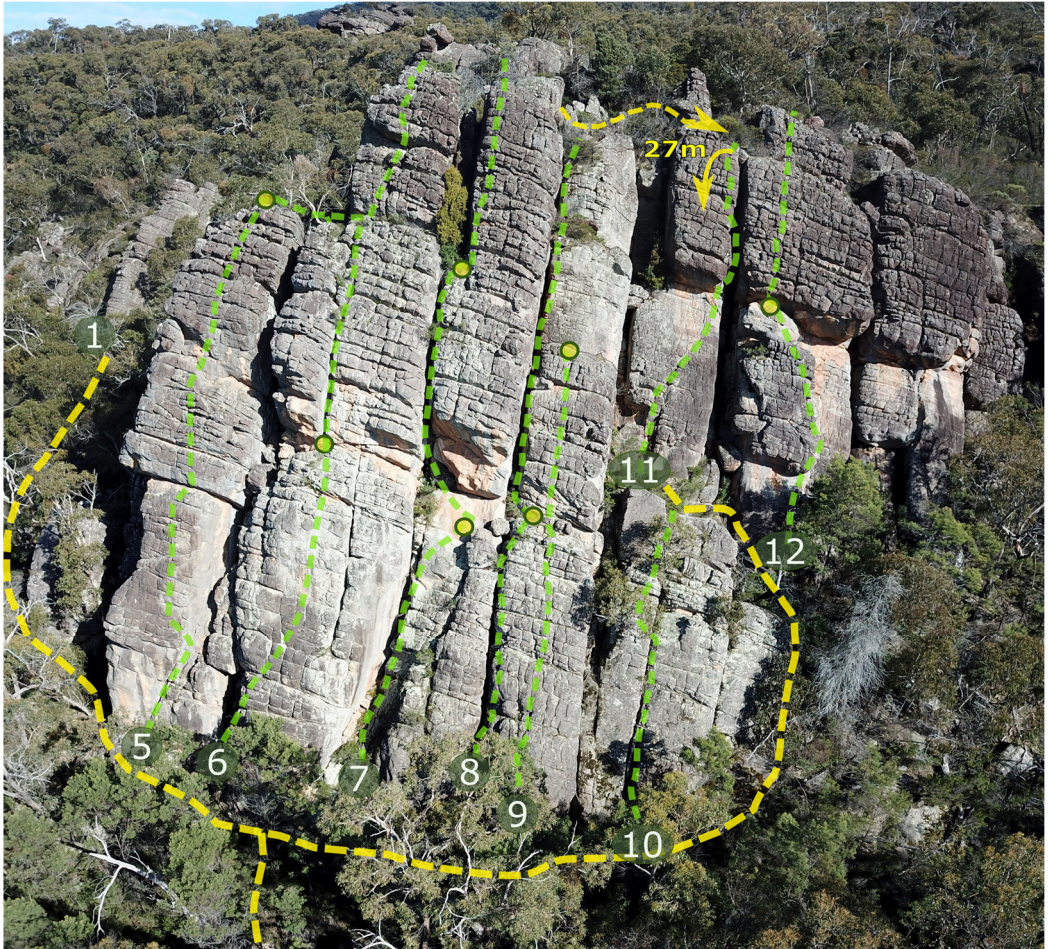
## Crag Finder p11

The number of sports routes at Little Joe Hill was omitted. There were 12.

## Forrest Rock p45

The topo (page 45) shows route #5 (*Don't Wet The Car*) going up to an orange patch of rock at 2/3 height (belay not shown) but it's clear from the

description the route goes further left than shown, onto the top of the pinnacle to belay then stepping across onto the upper face. It also shows a detour on the top section, which has been straightened out in recent ascents. An updated topo is shown below.



The original topo omitted route #9 (*Barbara Windsor*) which goes up the middle of the buttress right of #8. This is obvious enough, but what isn't apparent is that there's a major 'break' in the buttress at about 3/4 height where the route ends – from the topo photo it appears to go all the way to the top. The route can also be climbed in one pitch. The scramble down the back (chimney) gets you to the start of route #11.

*Rumpo Kid* (route #10) tackles the deep crack but the last 5m is fairly mossy – this can be avoided by detouring left onto the face with good holds. If the route as a whole were cleaner this might deserve a star. The topo was incorrect as it shows it going up the buttress, but it follows the crack to the left (of the topo line).

*Don't Wet Yourself* was overgraded at 15 despite one intimidating move – now downgraded to 14. I'd give it less, but it'd be considered sandbagging. It also finishes up the left-hand buttress after the initial section of chimney (see updated topo). A rap station (chain+ring) has been added to the top of *Don't Wet Yourself*. 27m to the ground near the start of that route. This is easily accessed from the other routes that go to the top of the main buttresses – the route across is cairned.

## Blazed Rock p75

After a second and third opinion, the start of *Punch Drunk* (17) is considered pretty stiff for the grade, it wasn't just me having a bad day. Give it 18 or 19.

*Grumpy* (13) has had some repeats since the book was issued, is not thrutchy, doesn't need large cams and deserves 2 stars!

A new route published in Argus – November 2020:

### \*Team America 36m 14

Surprisingly good climbing on mostly buckets. Start-up *Not Out*, and then follow the ramp/traverse line on the L wall. There is a horn of rock to sling a couple of moves out. Up, just R of short L-facing corner. L a bit and finish up juggy wall.

Michael Hampton, Geoff Butcher 27.12.14

## Mackey's Peak p93

Through some research by Glenn Tempest, photographic evidence was discovered of an

ascent of *Manolete* way back in 1909, predating the earliest recorded climb in the Grampians by nearly 50 years! The photo was titled 'Gorilla Head' and it is suggested the route is called this in future as an acknowledgement. The names of the FA party are unknown.

## Elephant's Hide p117

*Protected Species* (21) is very runout with just three carrots, but they are in the right places and the climbing is perhaps only technically 18. Go scare yourself.

## Weathered Wall p170

One new route:

### Tempest 37m 19

Start mid-way between *Squall Line* and *Hurricane* and climb up. Gets very thin and then steep at the end on good jugs. Hywel Rowlands, Peter Upton 15.2.20

## Wurzelgummage Walls p182

The "unnamed project" on the wall left of *Elizabeth Regina* has been done at grade 22, but still lacks a name. FRA Will Gregson (19.1.22). *Downwind of Agnes* needs about 33m of rope length required to lead it, not 25m as stated. The rap length is still 28m. I hope no-one else believed it took more rope to get down than to get up.

### (new) \*In The Limelight 18m 21

The band of steep orange rock capped by a roof between Corratec and Colonel Bloodstock (ref p183) is now named *Showtime Wall* and has one route. At its right end there is a steep intermittent crack that has a R-facing stepped roof above. Up the crack (good pro) to a rest on the right. Launch out L along the roof on flakes, pull up on fragile holds and up to belay. Abseil from slings. Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara 2.01.20

*Burnt By The Sun* has had two bolts added in the lower section, so is now all 'sport', assuming you don't mind the easy runout between bolts 1&2. Some other new routes:

### Scatterbrook 35m 20

Up arete L of Middy Sun, which is a bit better than it looks, finishing direct up through overhang /

groove. Not as much pro at the crux as you'd like. Goshen Watts, Bernie Mishkinis 19/01/22

### **Evanescent 25m 19**

A bit contrived. Up just R of arete (left arete of Transient), crossing into that route at the 3rd BR. Finish up short overhang and slab above. Can be done all on trad, although pro is a bit spaced at the bottom. Goshen Watts, Bernie Mishkinis 19/01/22

### **Frazil 30m 22**

Start 25 metres right of Corratec at overhanging orange corner with bright white quartzite pebble at 2 metres on right side of corner. Up well protected corner to ledge take a step to the left and up through roof to small tree. From second ledge take left side of buttress through big crack to top, some loose rock. Hywel Rowlands & Ben Wright, Nov 2020

### **Spanner Water 28m 20**

Start just to the left of Burnt By The Shade. Climb to the right side of major scoop and step left into line above. Follow cracking line and holds until they run out and step left under rap chains to finish. Nov 2020 First ascent: Hywel Rowlands & David Singleton

### **Boronia Peak**

This had no routes on it, but inspired Geoff Gledhill to put up the following:

#### **Evening Sun 50m 6**

👉 A delightful climb with beautiful finger curling jugs all the way. Start in the middle of the compact slab between the north end of the cliff and the first buttress on the right. Geoff Gledhill (solo) 26.1.20

#### **Lookout Point Wall p192**

FA for *Highland Dancer* should be: Stephen Hamilton, Zoe Foulser.

### **The Guardians p216**

A number of new routes were published in *Argus*, November 2020. The following climbs are located

on the small outcrop in front of *Akimbo* at the left end of the main wall.

#### **I'm Going to the Blade! 18m 16**

The L-most crack. No pockets on this one. Michael Hampton, Peter Bovino 29.2.20

#### **Snooze You Lose 17m 17**

The next crack to the R has a tricky start, but generous pockets up top. Peter Bovino, Michael Hampton, Jenna Harris 29.2.20

#### **Can't Shake a Poop 16m 15**

Second crack in from R. Peter Bovino, Michael Hampton, Jenna Harris 29.2.20

#### **Dirty Birthday Surprise 16m 15**

R-most crack, finishing in notch. Peter Bovino, Jenna Harris, Michael Hampton 29.2.20

In addition another new route was added late 2021:

#### **\*\*Dress Rehearsal ?m 18/19**

1) Up Separation Anxiety to the bolt then heads up and right to the vee corner onto the juggy face (care of the rock) to reach Chicanery's belay. P2) 19 Up and left to gain the fantastically airy left diagonal crack that slashed the headwall between [SA](#) and C. Tim 'Bigot' and Mark Rewi (alt), 18.11.21

### **The Labour Ward p228**

*Ill Noma Della Rosa* is more like 5m right of *The Perambulator* rather than 8m as stated.

### **Musbury Crags p233**

I'm guilty of two oversights here: the first is under-selling the crag, which has an easy approach, excellent rock and some nice middle-grade routes. Access via Boulder Rock is preferred; avoids private property and is only perhaps 2-3 minutes longer. *Face Dancers (12)*, *Classic Corner (14)* and *Land Rights for Gay Whales (17)* all deserve a star. There's growing consensus some of the routes here are tough for the grade; L.R.F.G.W. would probably get 18 elsewhere.

The second oversight is the descent from the Left Buttress; I assumed it was possible to scramble off the top but that wasn't a practical option. Some

have rapped off a sling, but there is now a chain+ring (21m) at the top of *Classic Corner*.

In addition there's one new route:

### **Craig's Corner 17m 15**

Up *Cosy Corner* for 8m until you reach a steeper corner above to your left. Up this past a FH, then continue up the front of the buttress more easily.

Craig Orgill, Paula Toal, Steve Toal 28.12.20

### **The Radiator p248**

I've found someone else who agrees that *Feel The Heat* is tough for 20. Maybe 21.

The topo for *The Only Way Is Up* shows the route heading right into *Dirty Work* prematurely; it continues another 3m up the thin crack.

### **Pastoral Buttress p269**

Martin has bolted two lines left of *Spare Rib*; they share a common start. The line straight up has been ticked at about 23 but not yet named; the LH option is a closed project.

A climb starting up *Spare Rib* and moving R onto the face has been climbed, two bolts, grade 18. M. Jackson, S. Toal 22.5.21 (no name as yet).

*Frock From Hell* has been retrobolted, sparsely, with permission from the FA.

### **Woopydoo Rock p283**

James McIntosh notes a couple of routes that appeared in *Argus* (April 2001) but didn't make it into the guide: *not verified*

### **Norwegian Blue 25m 16**

Start probably as for *Woopy Daze 5T*. A bit run out.

The south west face is bounded on the right by a major arete. Start off blocky gully ramp a couple of metres left of this, and head generally up and left, following intermittent seams. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh 5.5.00

### **Fox Bait 10m 20**

🔍 The unnamed "steep crack, fingers to hands..." described on page 284 is probably *Fox Bait* (20).

James McIntosh 25.3.01

## Rosea Left Side

*The Sloth* (p 296) might be undergraded, some think it harder than other 18's.

*The Stinger* (p 298) was repeated recently with its *Variant* (route 44) and note the following:

The initial corner is mossy and lichenous. Despite appearances it still climbs OK so don't be put off, but would clean up well with a little wire brushing. The upper section of pitch 1 is steep climbing at a moderate grade.

Pitch 2 (the chimney) is steep and tricky and grade 15 (not 13) unless you're a lanky old-school climber. Start up the right wall then bridge across. If you're climbing the *Variant* (see below) you should continue from the top of pitch 2 and climb the first part of pitch 3 to the terrace and belay on the terrace at the base of the steep crack.

The **Variant** had no stars in the original writeup but is terrific. Better described as follows:

### \*\*The Stinger Variant 112m 18

1) 36m (15) as for *Vosaxis/The Stinger*

2) 22m (15) Climb the chimney above (as for *The Stinger*) but then continue up the first 10m of pitch 3 of that route and belay on the terrace at the base of the juggy steep crack.

3) 28m (18) Up the crack until it widens near the top, then head L on a rising flake to a tricky exit. Sensational. Move up easy ground another 6m to belay.

4) 26m (16) Move 3m R to the base of an undercut L-facing corner. Up this, heading L up the steep wall on good holds to avoid a bush. Climb the rib on the L above until it becomes smooth then step R into a V chimney. Bridge up this to below a horizontal break then make a tricky move L back onto the rib and up.

Page 301

The topo on this page has the wrong numbers, it refers to routes 53 (*Here Comes The Bride*) and 54 (*Cry Freedom*), not 54 and 55 as shown.

Geoff Gledhill makes the following observations:  
*Clutching at Straws and Missing in Action do sound like the same climb, which begs the question is Clutching at Straws a climb that starts further to the left. The Chris Baxter guide mentions that CaS starts between the 3rd and 4th hand rail*

*on the Giants Staircase, which is not very helpful now that the hand rails have been removed. Noddy may be able to help, as he was on both first ascents.*

*Commando Climb was written up in the old blue guide (Grandage and Taylor) as being a good way to do the climb, as the original description was so vague that it was impossible to follow.*

## Rosea Right Side

The photo of 'Trish' on *Heretic* is Trish Murphy, from Ireland. I'd misplaced her details, sorry Trish!

Some think *Diane Direct Start* is nearer grade 20 than 18, but not me.

Geoff Gledhill makes the following comments, which I've not had a chance to verify:  
*Have you ever done the Toff Route? I once tried doing the crux pitch as a continuation of Debutante Direct Start, and got shut down, so am not sure if I was trying the correct corner. Heaven and Hell and More Heaven than Hell have different starts. The reason for this is that James McIntosh and I came to different conclusions after reading Chris Baxter's route description of HaH. Assuming James was correct, ES and MHTH start in the weakness just to the right of the great white wall, at the lowest part of the cliff. Sorry for the confusion.*

## Rosea Far Right

*Ku Klux Klan* is reportedly worth a star.

## **Special Protection Areas**

The crags in the book were largely been outside the specified Special Protection Areas which (since March 2019) have been subjected to a ban on climbing.

However the release of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan in December 2021 has changed all of that. Consult online sources for updated information.