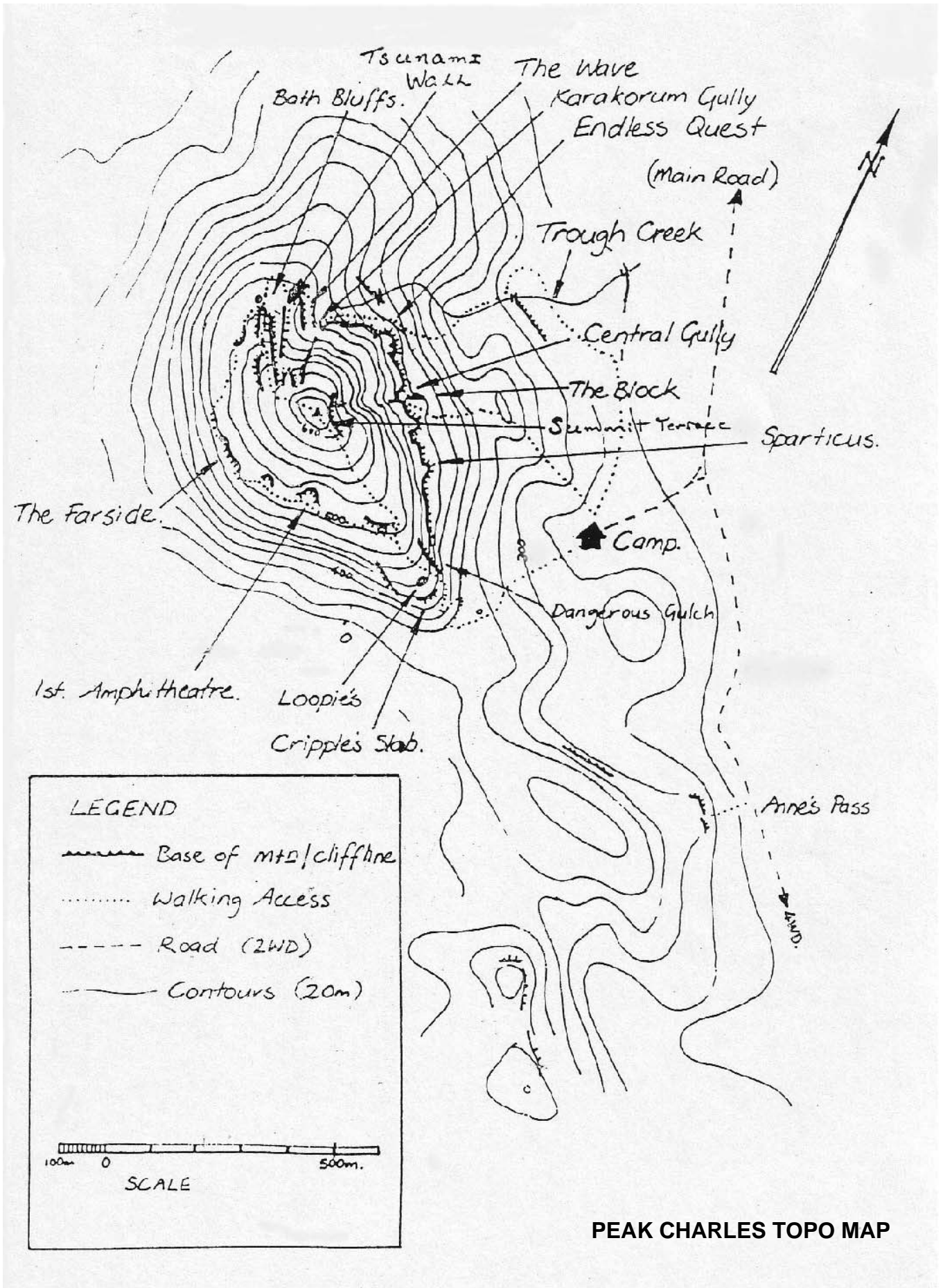




Peak Charles Climbing Guide

Fourth Edition

Ross Weiter
October 2004



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FOURTH EDITION

Peak Charles is an active place, it seems like every time climbers visit the park new routes are established. Since the first edition in 1995, over 50 new routes have been established by local Kalgoorlie climbers. And still there is the potential for hundreds more.

The initial guide by Mick Haffner, Bruce Dowrick and Peter Cleary forms the basis for this one and little has been changed. Paul Weber and Travis Deane, who had previously collated a now-defunct web page for Peak Charles, did a great job adding descriptions for new climbs. A few routes and some photos were then added by Ross Weiter to give those new to Peak Charles a feel for the place and to aid in orientation.

1st edition by Mick Haffner, Bruce Dowrick and Peter Cleary.

2nd edition updated by Paul Weber.

3rd & 4th editions updated by Ross Weiter. All photos by Ross Weiter.

A WARNING ABOUT ROCK CLIMBING

Climbing is a sport where you may be seriously injured or killed. Read this before you use this guide.

This guide is a compilation of often-unverified information gathered from many different climbers. The author(s) and the Climbers Association of Western Australia (CAWA) cannot assure the accuracy of any of the information in this guide, including the route descriptions, the difficulty ratings and the protection ratings. These may be incorrect or misleading as it is impossible for any one author to climb all the routes and confirm all the information. Some routes listed in the guide have had only one ascent and the information has not been verified. Also, difficulty and danger ratings are subjective and depend on the physical characteristics such as height, experience, technical ability, confidence and physical fitness of the climber who supplied the ratings. Additionally, climbers who achieve first ascents sometimes underrate the difficulty or danger of a climbing route to appear heroic or out of fear of being ridiculed if the climb is later down-rated by other climbers.

Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgement with regard to the route location, description, difficulty and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing. Examples of these risks are: falling due to technical difficulty or holds breaking off, falling rock, climbing equipment dropped by other climbers, equipment failure and failure of protection including fixed protection such as bolts.

You should not depend on any information gleaned from this guide for your personal safety. Your safety depends on your own experience, equipment and climbing skill. If you have any doubt as to your ability to safely attempt any route described in this guide, do not attempt it.

The inclusion in this guide of any crag does not imply that any member of the public has a right of access to the crag or the right to climb upon it.

There are no warranties, whether expressed or implied that this guide is accurate, or that the information contained in it is reliable. Your use of this guide indicates your assumption of the risk that it may contain errors and is an acknowledgment of your sole responsibility for your climbing safety.

INTRODUCTION

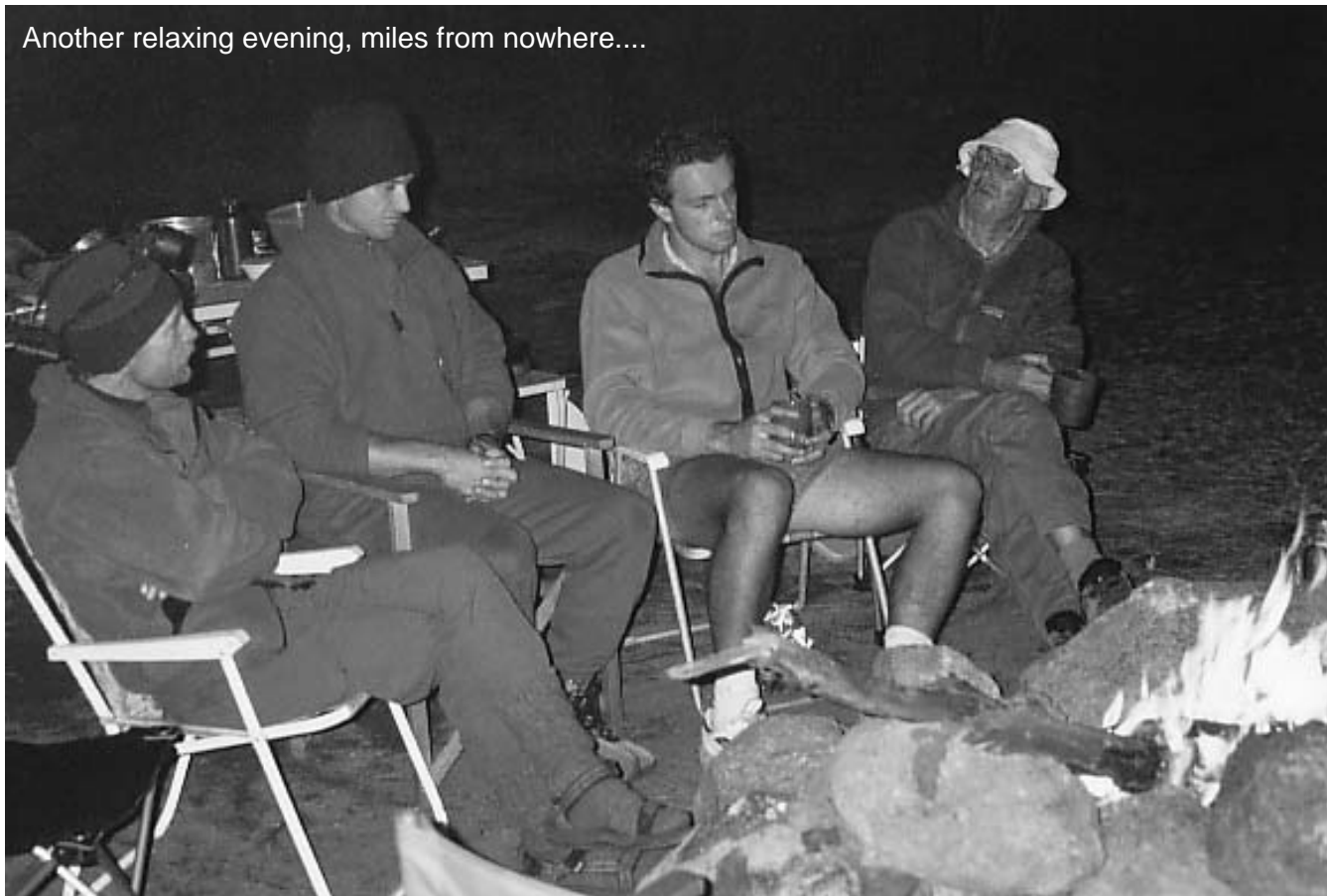
Far from the long queues, foul language, abseiling, self-esteem workshops and convenient shopping, Peak Charles offers a wide assortment of quality routes and unsullied potential in a unique and beautiful environment.

Peak Charles has been there for as long as anyone can remember. Some say God put it there in 5000BC, others suggest it is a trifle older at 2600 million years. The first ascent is unknown.

Various hit and run visits since the 1960's claimed the most obvious lines and since the 1980's there has been prolonged intense development by Goldfields-based climbers.

Peak Charles is a large dome crafted from fine orange granite and contains many smaller faces and gullies where most routes are to be found. The rock tends to be compact and most naturally protected lines have been climbed.

Another relaxing evening, miles from nowhere....



The range of climbs should satisfy most persuasions and ambitions, with longer routes tending to be easier (relatively) and slabbier while sportier routes are usually single pitch.

Many routes have had very few ascents so beware of grades, cryptic descriptions and unfastened bits. The heat of the 1991 bushfire has caused considerable exfoliation at the base of some routes and older bright or galvanised bolts should be treated with suspicion.

For those who have the misfortune not to live in the Goldfields, Peak Charles is probably less accessible than Tajikistan. However, its many and various charms and seclusion make it worth the drive (only 820km from Perth or 2601km from Melbourne).

Going from Perth, there is the longer easy way and the shorter harder way.

The former leads through Coolgardie. There are two turnoffs south of Norseman at 55km and 70km (i.e. 120km north of Esperance) and these good all-weather gravel roads rejoin as the Lake King road some 25km further on. 5km past this junction is the turnoff left to Peak Charles. It is another 20km to the peak along a sandy but good two wheel drive road.

Access from the west via Lake Grace and the Lake King road is less certain and better with a 4WD after rain. There is a 24 hour credit card operated petrol station in Lake King.

The camping area has a five star dunny, plenty of fire wood and not-quite-level spots to park a tent. There is no water available or other facilities provided. Remember, it is a National Park so respect the area; CALM asks that we confine camping to the existing camp area. Vehicles are not common so plan on breaking down: bring tools and spares. Keep in mind that there are no search and rescue facilities so be prepared. Spring and autumn are the best times to climb. Winter can be cold and wet while summer is hot, but there is always somewhere shady to play.

The star system at Peak Charles involves the personal bias of the climbers who put the first edition together and hence is likely to further evolve with time. Some would say that any climbing is good climbing and "a bad day at the crag is better than a good day at work".

The star system at Peak Charles is:

- *** a must do at that grade,
 - ** really worthwhile,
 - * a good diversion,
- no star denotes a climb that is either unrated or mediocre.

In some cases the letter R is added after the grade. This denotes a run-out or serious climb with significant injury potential. The climbs have been described from left to right facing the cliff, starting from the south-east around the peak to end in the west.

Kindly note any new climbs and comments on existing ones and send them to the CAWA website www.climberswa.asn.au. When it is warranted, another updated version can then be easily produced.

ETHICS AND ECOLOGY

Peak Charles is a beautiful place and we want to keep it that way. To make this clear, the author of 2nd edition of this Guide, Paul Weber, includes several stories that may be pertinent.

Some dirt bike riders came out to Peak Charles one day, hard men on hard bikes. One of them took a hard shit right in the middle of the tourist track so all his mates could see how hard he was. A mate of mine's dog ate that shit the next weekend. The dogs breath smelt like shit, the car smelt like shit, and the dog sitting in the back seat thought it was A1.

I went down to Peak Charles one weekend for a bit of climbing. On Sunday afternoon everyone piled into the cars to head home and some piled their rubbish into the fire place. Biodegradable sure, but it will still be there next weekend and the weekend after that.

Have bolt-gun, will bolt. No problem, but natural pro is best if available and please, no bolting where it is visible from the tourist track.

One afternoon friends of mine were climbing in the Snake Pit, when one of the local residents got pissed off with the longer more colourful skinny snakes he charged. Maybe it was an inferiority thing, maybe not. Whatever the case it was a long way to the nearest pub to tell anyone about the snake attack story.

A mate of mine was working a route at Peak Charles and had already named it. It was the already christened Where Angles Smear to Tread and summarised the crux very nicely. A new baby daughter called India put the project on hold until a dingo came forth and stole my mate's baby and we named it A Dingo Stole My India.

There is nothing more stunning than climbing Peak Charles with eagles soaring around you enjoying the air currents as much as you are enjoying the rock. The eagles love Peak Charles how it is; I think it is best that way.

CORRECTION OF ERRORS IN GUIDE "WEST AUSTRALIAN ROCK"

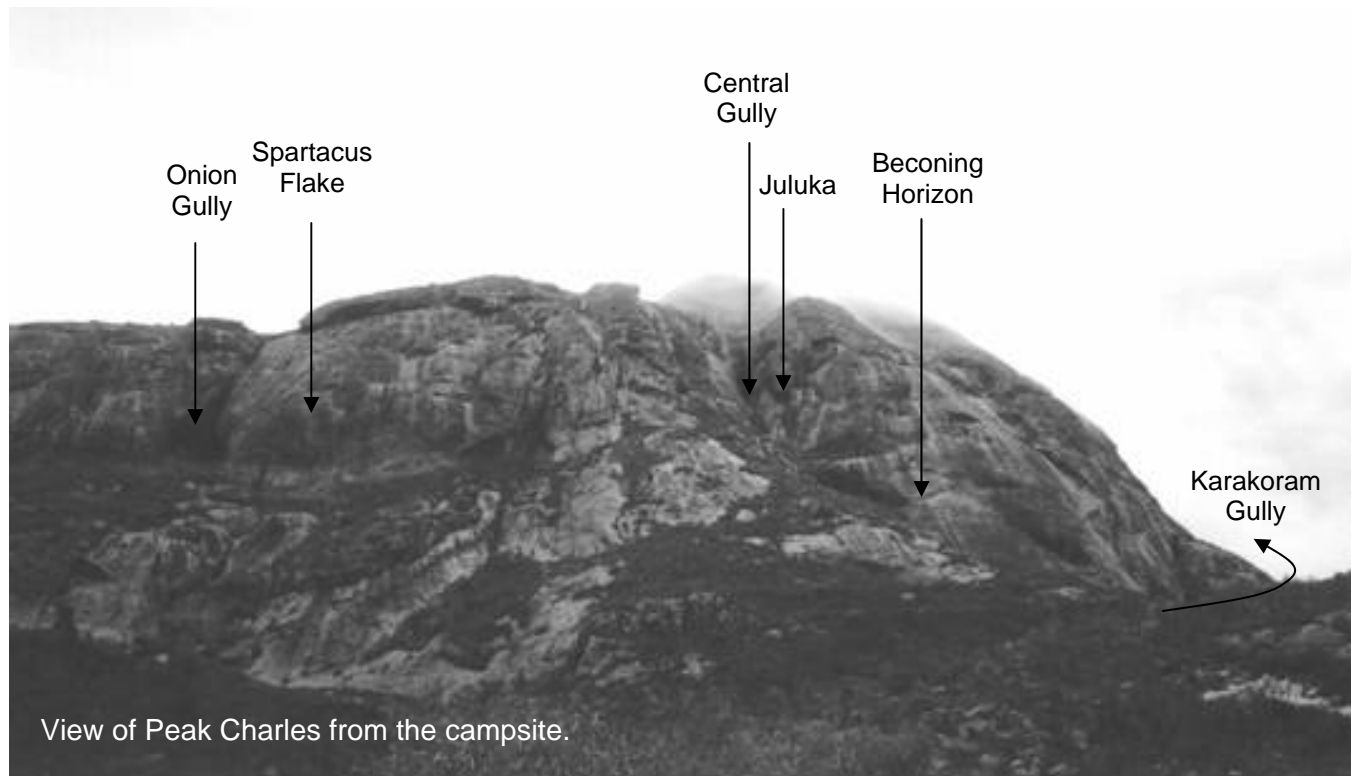
This is a recent guide written by Shane Richardson in April 2002. While filling a much needed gap in the market, it contains many factual errors, several in the Peak Charles section. Some of these are corrected as follows:

1. Left Edge was first climbed by Robin MacArthur and Ronald Master sometime in the 1980s. Friends for Life was first climbed by Ross Weiter and Jon Gregg in March 1997. In the WA Rock guide this is swapped around.
2. The route plotted as Badile is in fact Beckoning Horizon, which is 8 grades harder and a serious lead. Badile starts 10m further L and slightly up.
3. Climb shown as Riders on the Storm is in fact Stormbringer. See photo in this update.
4. All references to R. Masters should be replaced by R. Master. This error was copied from the 1990 CAWA guide, which had Master as Masters everywhere.

APPROACH

The climbs left of Onion Gully are best approached by traversing in right from the tourist track to the summit. For everything else, scramble onto the north-south rocky ridge above the campsite (Camp Ridge). The scramble is not pleasant but the top of the ridge is clear. Walk north for 500 m.

To gain the Central Gully area, descent left to the shallow saddle, then up sparsely vegetated slope/rib directly to Central Gully. To gain the Karakoram Gully area, continue along Camp Ridge for 300 m further north, then pick your way along rocky ramps.



ANNE'S PASS CRAG

One kilometre south of the campsite and 300 metres west of the track is the low lying Anne's Pass Crag. Climbs are described from left to right.

* **Dip in the Gene Pool (17) 10m** M. Haffner 9/91

Climb jam crack which is the most leftward feature of the crag. Better than it looks from ground level.

* **One Crowded Hour (24) 15m** M. Moore 9/91

Start as for Dip in the Gene Pool and then climb the right arching crack line.

* **Shooting from the Lip (21) 15m** M. Haffner 3/93

Direct finish of One Crowded Hour by pulling through the bulge rather than going right.

* **Blue Meanie (23) 15m** M. Haffner, T. Holm 8/96

Start up crack as for Thin Blue Line then break left across undercling to connect with One Crowded Hour.

** **Thin Blue Line (23) 10m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 9/91

The sensuous sinuous short crackline right of One Crowded Hour.

Psycho Surrender (20) 15m M. Haffner, M. Moore 8/91

Jam crack 2m right of Thin Blue Line.

** **Terminal Psychosis (22) 15m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/92

The corner 3m right of Psycho Surrender. Start up this, move left at the overhang, surmount this and move right to finish.

** **Psychotic Reaction (22) 10m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 8/91

Technical corner continuing to the right from Terminal Psychosis.

** **Gold Top (24) 15m** A. Schellens 3/97

The same corner system as for Psychotic Reaction. Traverse right under large roof to exit at right hand end. Crux moves at far right hand end. Pitons placed under roof.

** **Peyote (21) 10m** M. Haffner P. Weber 9/97

Past Gold Top to the right, around the corner on the hanging face is Peyote. Start up gully system in corner and step onto face using pockets. Move onto face protected by a cam in first pocket. Head up face past one bolt to finish.

A broad gully splits the Anne's Pass Crag into two. The last climb on the southern crag is Peyote. The first climb on the northern wall is in a small niche with a ledge below it. It is Maldive at Five.

Maldive at Five (20) 10m M. Haffner, T. Deane, J. Fettes 7/96

Pull right out of niche, climb straight up face.

Mohammed Bali (16) 10m M. Haffner, T. Deane, J Fettes 7/96

From the base of the ramp, climb straight up the face.

She Sells Seychelles (17) 10m M. Haffner, T. Deane, J Fettes 7/96

Climb right trending ramp-like crack to small book end and up the face.

Uzi (14) 10m T Deane, J Fettes 9/96

Climb thin crack first from arete. Traverse horizontal break and progress up arete to finish on left face.

* **Greed Creed (22) 20m** M. Haffner, E. Hart 8/91

I) 10m. (19) Climb lower tier via wall and right trending thin diagonal crack.

II) 10m. (22) Jam roof crack, not for the squeamish.

Kalashnikov (23) 10m M. Haffner, T. Holm 9/96

From the second pitch of Rapid Fire start from the ledge and pull left out of Rapid Fire and layback and jam the exotic finger flake crack.

Rapid Fire (21) 20m M. Haffner, M. Moore 9/91

I) (12) Climb broken crack to ledge and traverse right to base of curving groove.

II) (21) Climb groove.

** **The Boers of Deception (21)** M. Haffner, M. Moore 8/91

Groove/crack round the corner from Rapid Fire.

** **Left Hand Finish (21) 10m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 1/92

Where the original finishes right, move left and climb the thin diagonal line in the leaning headwall.

** **Thank God I'm an Atheist (21) 10m** M. Haffner 9/91

Layback flake at right hand end of crag.

ACCESS TRACK BOULDER

From the campsite there can be seen a large boulder to the right of the access track near the "Mushroom" rock. There are a couple of caves and a tight crack slightly overhanging towards the top.

Smells Like Dead Fish (18) 8m S. Mansfield 7/96

Straight up crackline through slight overhang.

CRIPPLE SLAB

To get to Cripple Slab follow the tourist track until it nearly tops out on the ridge just below the "Scrambling is Dangerous" sign.

* **Physiotherapists' Revenge (9) 18m** P. Cleary, B. Dowrick 4/94

Prominent crack towards left hand side.

* **Para-Olympics (15) 18m** B Dowrick, P. Cleary 4/94

Start as for Physiotherapists Revenge and move right under the small roof and up crack. Exciting move over bulge at top.

* **The Wheelchair Access (19R) 18m** B. Dowrick 4/94

Climb small roof then face climbing on incipient cracks right of Para-Olympics.

Pegleg (13) 18m P. Cleary, B. Dowrick 4/94

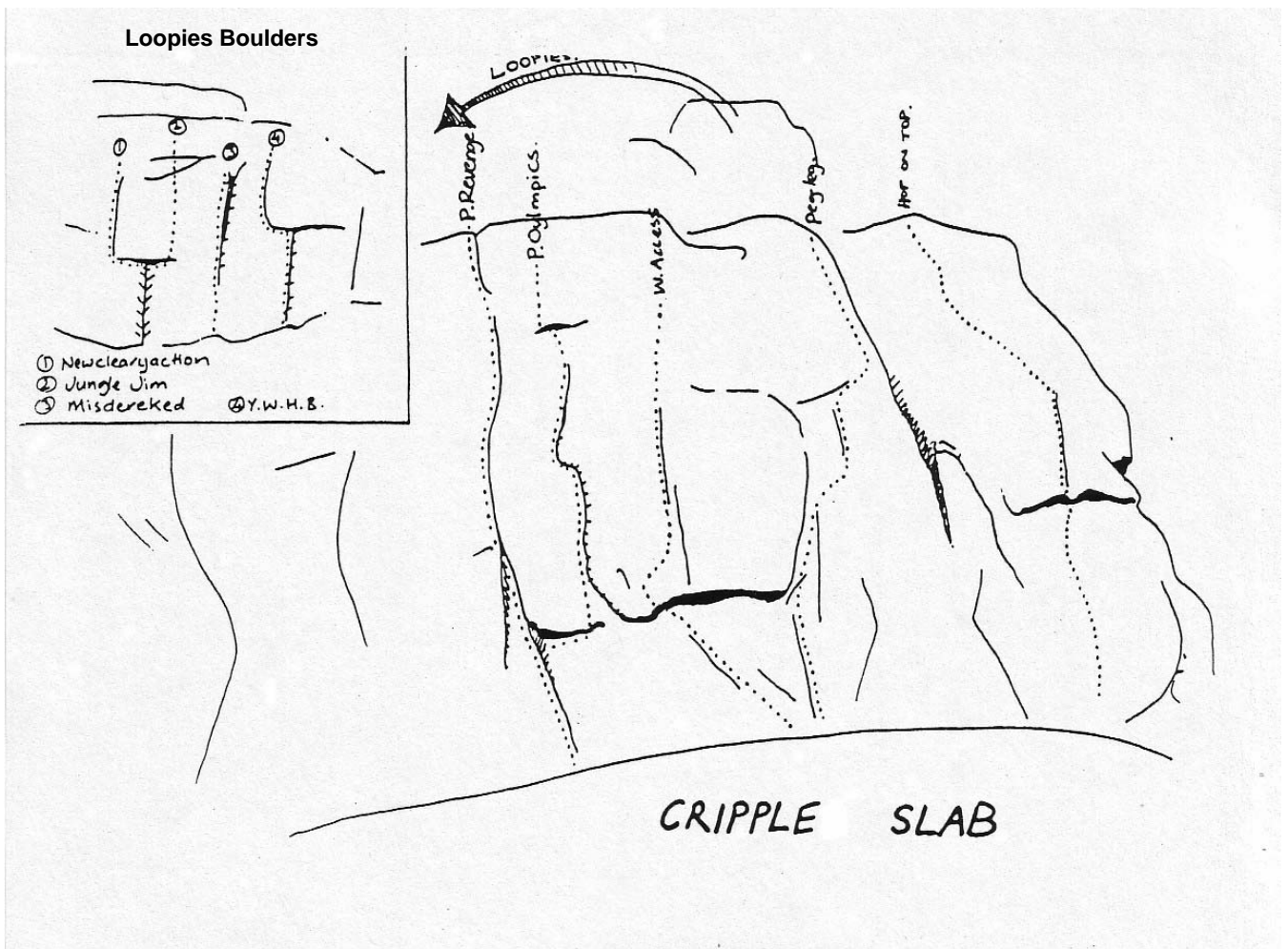
From right of The Wheelchair Access past nose, follow crack and right onto arete and then onto top.

* **Hop to the Top (14R) 15m** B. Dowrick, P. Cleary 4/94

Slab with crack at right hand end.

Bop Till you Drop (15) 25m C. Swain, D Shaw 6/95

At the far end of Cripple Slab is the obvious crack seen from the tourist track (invisible from below).



LOOPIES BOULDERS

Above Cripple Slab and just to the left of the track below the "Danger Steep Scrambling" sign are some short boulder problems. From left to right these are (see diagram above):

Brucellosis (22R) 10m M. Haffner 9/95
Face, overlap and slab left of New Cleary Action.

New Cleary Action (19) 10m B. Dowrick

Jungle Jim (23) 10m B. Dowrick

Misdereked (17) 8m B. Dowrick

Yes, We Haffner Bananas (21) 8m B. Dowrick

Please Sir, Some Moore (17) T. Deane, M. Haffner, J. Fettes 7/96
Right of Yes, We Haffner Bananas. Start in the middle of smooth slabby face, into cave and exiting through highest point of roof.

Above Loopies Boulders, 100 metres up the tourist track before the track hooks to the left to avoid a small cliff is:

A Dingo Stole my India (23) 10m A. Schellens 9/97
Climb 3 metres up vertical crack to the left hand side end of the roof. Traverse under the roof and exit at right hand end.

DANGER GULCH

Continuing up the track 25 metres past the "Danger Steep Scrambling" sign is a gully with an overhanging face which leads down towards the car park. Donna Martin Graduates is on the top end of this wall.

**** Donna Martin Graduates (21) 15m** P. Smale, B. Dowrick 6/94
Follow pocks up and left past bolt then straight up on good holds. Take the finger crack through the small roof above.

CASSIN CRAG

Just above Danger Gulch is a short steep bluff that cuts across the ridge. Two large detached blocks in front of this form a short square corner.

* **Chopper Chicks in Zombie Town (15) 14m** P. Cleary, B. Dowrick

Take corner to belay on top of blocks. There is an old Cassin bolt in situ on top of the wall behind the blocks.

Coffin (14) 14m Unknown

Route up inside of boulders.

SUMMIT TERRACES AND THE SNAKE PIT

Above most of the eastern side climbs is a terrace that skirts the bottom of the summit block. From the tourist track go north past the access ridge to the summit, maintaining height. Immediately on the left is:

** **Controlled Burning (22) 25m** M. Haffner 9/95

Diagonal crack 10 metres north of tourist ridge to summit. Climb diagonal crack and then finish up left cleft.

** **Ring of Fire (25) 10m** C. Jones 10/95

Overhanging flake just right of Controlled Burning (3 bolts).

50 metres down slope from Controlled Burning is a small wall and on the left side of the arete is:

** **Piranha Charmer (21) 10m** M. Haffner, T. Deane 7/96

From the cairn clip the bolt, then proceed up face and right into corner.

100m north of the tourist ridge after sidling around above Central Gully is the area known as the Snake Pit...for obvious reasons.

Sphincter (24) S. Richardson

Jam through the roof and pull into tenuous groove.

Voluptuous (16) 30m D. Moyses, G. Philips, B. Dowrick 4/94

Gain base of crack (crux). Up ledges and slightly right up natural line to top.

Beers, Steers and Queers (17) 25m D. Hales, Peter the Septic Tank 6/96

2 metres right of Voluptuous. Up big pockets and then slabby face.

Beers and Whoring and Lost Wages (21) M. Haffner, T. Deane, J. Fettes 7/96

Seam in concave wall behind Beers, Steers and Queers and Trident. Start from ledge.

Get Thee to a Brewery (20) 15m M. Haffner, P. Weber, T. Holm 12/96

Start as for Trident, traverse 3 metres left and then up headwall. 3 bolts, RP5 and 1.5 friend.

Trident (22) 15m M. Haffner 7/96

3 metres left of Meltdown. 3 bolts and friend 1 and 1.5 in break.

*** **Meltdown (25) 20m** C. Jones 9/95

Sports route 30 metres right of Voluptuous. 4 bolts.

** **The Last Train to Natimuk (23) 20m** K. Lindorff, C. Jones 9/95

Up Unknown for 7m to clip fixed hanger on left wall, then up the superb bulging wall past another 2 fixed hangers.

Unknown? 30m J. Ansell, P. Nidd, S. Digwood 4/90

On the lower level of the summit there are two obvious chimneys. The right one is Summit Lust, the left one of unknown name.

** **Ryobi One Kanobi (16) 25m** J. Macintosh D. Brereton 10/95

Follow the left edge of the wall immediately right of Ravishing. Up past 2 fixed hangers and several SLCD placements.

** **Ravishing (23R) 20m** P. Weber, M. Haffner 12/96

Line between Ryobi One Kanobi and Waves and Caves. 1 bolt and natural pro at break. Runout start. Redpoint using draw on first bolt for safety and easy reach.

** **Waves and Caves (21) 20m** M. Haffner, D. Hales, T. Deane 6/96

Begin up crack as for Summit Lust. Break left onto wall. 1 bolt protects crux through roof.

Summit Lust (11) 20m J. Truscott, P. McKenzie

The obvious chimney right of Waves and Caves and situated at the right hand end of the central face.

* **Summit or Rust (13)** 25m D. Brereton, D. Lange 7/94

Pleasant left facing open corner with small roof-let just to left of Summit Lust.

PEAK CHARLES LEFT HAND END

As seen from the campsite the left hand terrace just below the prominent cave. It has easy access from the tourist track which goes up the southern ridge.

Deidre's Baby (12) 25m D. Shaw, M. Mattiske 9/93

Start at left edge of lowest point of access to cave. Climb corner and onto shelf.

Below cave on the prominent terrace is a series of climbs that give access to the cave.

* **Bogger Wobble (18) 40m** B. Dowrick 4/94

The first crack to the left of Garp. Head up crack, step up left over bulge (crux). Straight up centre of buttress to right of cave.

* **Garp (14) 100m** J. Truscott, P. McKenzie

On the terrace below and right of cave. 5m right of Bogger Wobble.

- I) 25m. Up crack and belay to the left at the top.
- II) 30m. Trend left and up corner to belay on large block
- III) 45m. Straight up slab to finish.

Girls Can't Spit (13) 100m D. Shaw, C. Swain 6/93

Start to the right of Garp.

- I) 35m. (13) traverse right to alcove right of Garp to gain good hold and first pro (CD) then across to bottom of crack from which direct start can be plotted.
- II) 40m. (12) Climb out of belay on face to join right facing corner and up to belay on top of large hanging slab.
- III) 20m. (6) Short scramble to finish in bushes near descent track.

Twilight Steal (14) 100m B. Newell, B. Wills 4/94

The open corner 15 metres right of Girls Can't Spit.

- I) 40m. (14) Small crack below and right of small cave, exit from top crack (crux) up face to left of small gully, belay at top of gully.
- II) 40m. Up easy wall, large groove to right.

One hundred metres right of Garp and to the left of Spartacus Flake is the prominent gully known as Onion Gully.

ONION GULLY

Onion (18) 85m S. McKie, D. Shaw, C. Swain, A. Garvin 4/94

The long onion shaped chimney at the back of Onion Gully.

- I) 14m. (18) From belay at top of grassy gully, climb chimney (crux). Protection in parallel crack to right. Belay on small ledge.
- II) 24m. (14) Ascend chimney. Protection in back (large gear). Belay on small ledge in crack (awkward).
- III) 24m. (13) Chimney upwards to belay under overhang.
- IV) 25m. (11) Climb sloping crack in slabs to finish near tourist track.

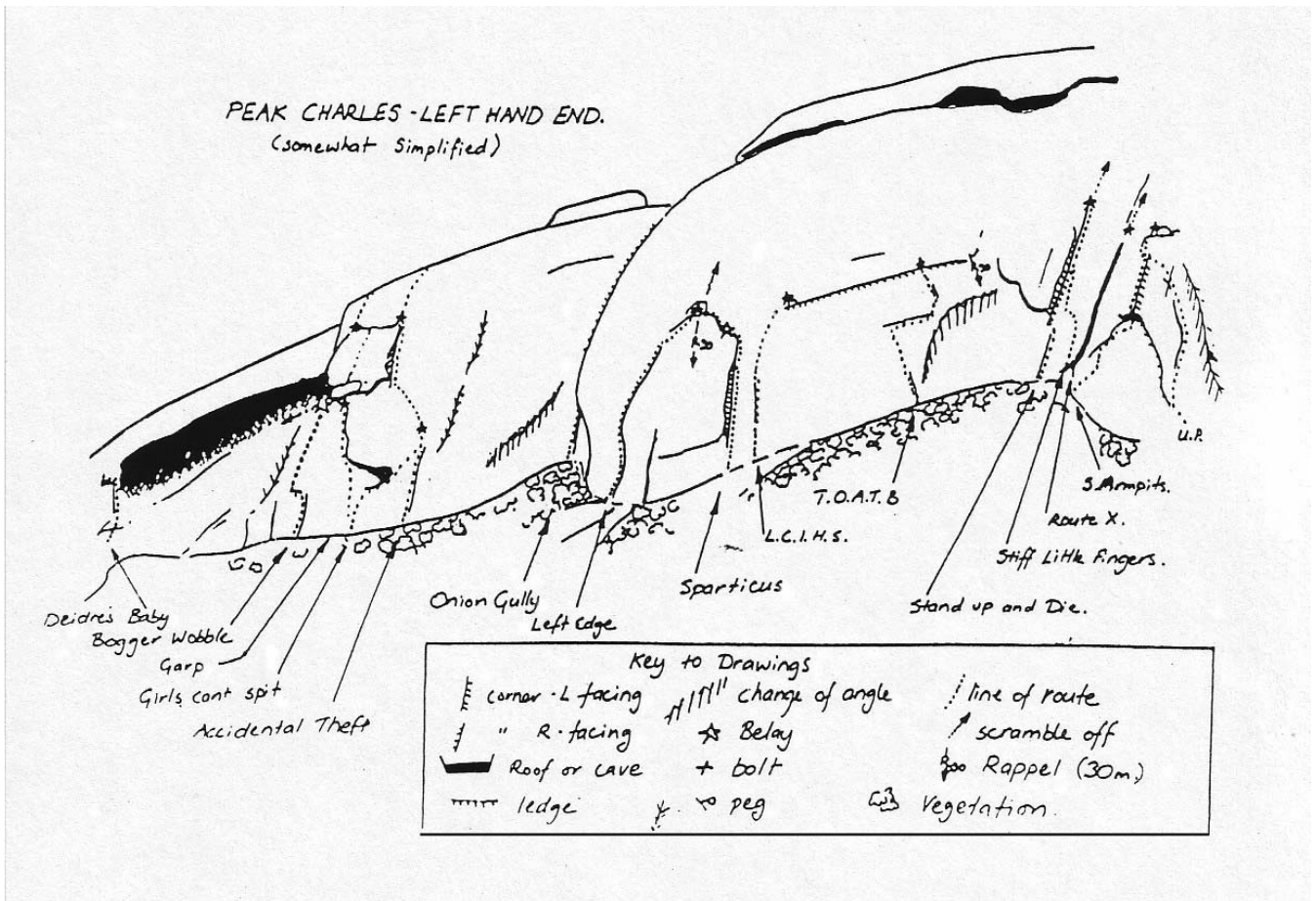
Loopy (18) 94m S. McKie, A. Garvin 10/94

- I) As for Onion
- II) 43m. (18) Bridge start and step right. Follow left diagonal flared crack and water marks to waterfall. Continue 13 metres up gully and belay on small ledge.
- III) 5m. (15) Ascend left to ledge below obvious 5m vertical crack.
- IV) 32m. (16) Climb crack, walk to right hand end of large block and climb 3m crack. Walk to centre of huge block 5 metres high, climb and belay on top.

Shingleback (19) 105m J. Macintosh, D. Brereton 10/95

Starts to the left of the prominent pockets on the north side of Onion Gully leading to finger sized crack in slab 10 metres up the gully from Left Edge.

- I) 15m. (19) Crux. Traverse right across vertical seams to black streak to belay ledge next to large bush.
- II) 45m. (14) Climb finger sized crack to where flake forms brief corner.
- III) 45m. Continue up flake, through bulge, and on to top.



SPARTACUS FLAKE AND SPARTACUS WALL

**** Left Edge (12) 40m** R. MacArthur, R. Master

Starts up the left side of Spartacus Flake.

- I) Up the crack for a full pitch.
- II) A scramble to finish or rappel off (double ropes).

**** Friends for Life (18) 45m** R. Weiter, J. Gregg 3/97

Start 10 metres right of Left Edge at the Spartacus Flake, from the L side of the gully/chimney. Up the short chimney, then exit into crack above (crux) to reach easier ground. Directly up to finish at the same belay as Left Edge and Spartacus. Mid size cams come in handy at crux.

***** Spartacus (18) 45m** P. McKenzie, R. Master

The very obvious right facing corner on the right side of Spartacus Flake. A classic climb. It loses a few stars and you lose bits of flesh if you attempt to offwidth the top rather than climb the face. The climb heads up the corner and moves onto face to avoid the off-width crack. Follow crack to top of flake and (double rope) rappel station.

**** Loves Comes in Hot Spurts (20R) 45m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 2/90

A lonely but brilliant pitch. Start 3m right of Spartacus. Follow the diagonal crack line. Where this peters out move slightly left and up for 5m, then back right and make for the left hand end of the crack system.

Once Were Warriors (18R) 160m K. Lindorff, C. Jones, M. Haffner 10/95

Very bold climb 6 metres right of Love Comes In Hot Spurts by a prominent black streak.

- I) 45m. Small SLCD in right side then run out to seam. Belay at obvious ledge.
- II) 25m. Right 5 m, then up to ledge.
- III) 45m. Up trending right.
- IV) 45m. Trend right to belay on terrace beneath headwall. Exit easily off left.

Further up the ridge and above the Spartacus corner is a prominent orange overhanging wall. On this is:

**** Extra Sensory Conception (20) 20m** M. Haffner 10/95

The leftward leaning crack in the wall.

30 metres right of Spartacus is:

The Old and the Bold (16R) 35m B. Dowrick 10/93

Not much protection but plenty of loose holds, otherwise pleasant face climbing. The climb is at the right end of the wall right of Love Comes in Hot Spurts just before the Stand Up and Die embayment. It heads up past the short thin crack to loose holds leading to horizontal break, traverse right, up to short crack and face above onto ledge. Rappel off from right end of ledge.

One hundred metres right of Spartacus is the Stand Up and Die embayment which contains several routes.

**** Stand Up and Die (23) 45m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/90

The soaring diagonal crack and corner 6m left of the prominent chimney (Route X). Somewhat awkward at the crux but a challenging line.

*** Stiff Little Fingers (23) 45m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/90

4 metres right of Stand Up and Die. Start 2 metres left of the chimney crack. Climb the crack and then slabby climbing diagonally left to gain the fingertip crack which has a white streak at its base. Absorbing climbing gets you to the final section of SUD.

Route X (15) 45m K. Bishoff?

Unclear of first ascensionist. The obvious prominent chimney with a scramble to finish.

*** Smelly Armpits (20R) 40m** B. Dowrick, M. Haffner 10/92

Up slabby wall to right of Route X to top of corner over bulge and into hanging corner, then up to ledge.

*** Uncertainty Principle (23) 50m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 1/90

Takes the sinuous crack system on the right side of the embayment.

I) 25m. (17) Easy slabs to the diagonal crack and climb it to belay where wall steepens.

II) 15m. (23) Launch into the sinuous crack and climb it to a steep hard exit. Belay on ledge.

III) 10m. (20) Undercling the continuation crack and climb the short corner to finish.

THE CENTRAL GULLY

As seen from the campsite, the Central Gully is the major and very obvious gully that divides Peak Charles. Central Gully is divided into two locations which include the Upper Tier (Talisman around to Guano) and The Block and Lower Gully Area. These lower climbs can give access to the upper tier or you can walk around the slope to the south side of the Block to gain access.

The Upper Tier of Central Gully can be split into the South and North sides. To the left (South) of central Gully are:

**** Talisman (23) 10m** M. Haffner 12/94

Fierce steep finger crack 20 metres left of Mogadon.

**** Bad Seed (21) 15m** M. Haffner 11/95

Prominent short corner 10 metres right of Talisman.

*** Boys Next Door (19) 25m** M. Haffner, I. Mullen, A. Bradey 10/94

Prominent gully 10 metres left of Mogadon. Climb 10 metres then take the right arching groove line.

Mogadon (11) 90m R. Master, R. Master Jnr

The obvious chimney 50 metres to the left of Central Gully. There is a prominent roof just to the left of this chimney.

I) 45m. Up the obvious crack then up chimney.

II) 45m. Mainly slabs to finish.

**** The Birthday Party (18) 90m** B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 2/94

I) Start up Mogadon for a few metres then diagonally to blocks on ledge. Straight up flake and pull through small roof (crux). Belay on ledge approximately 8 metres above roof.

II) Follow continuation of crack in buttress till angle eases.

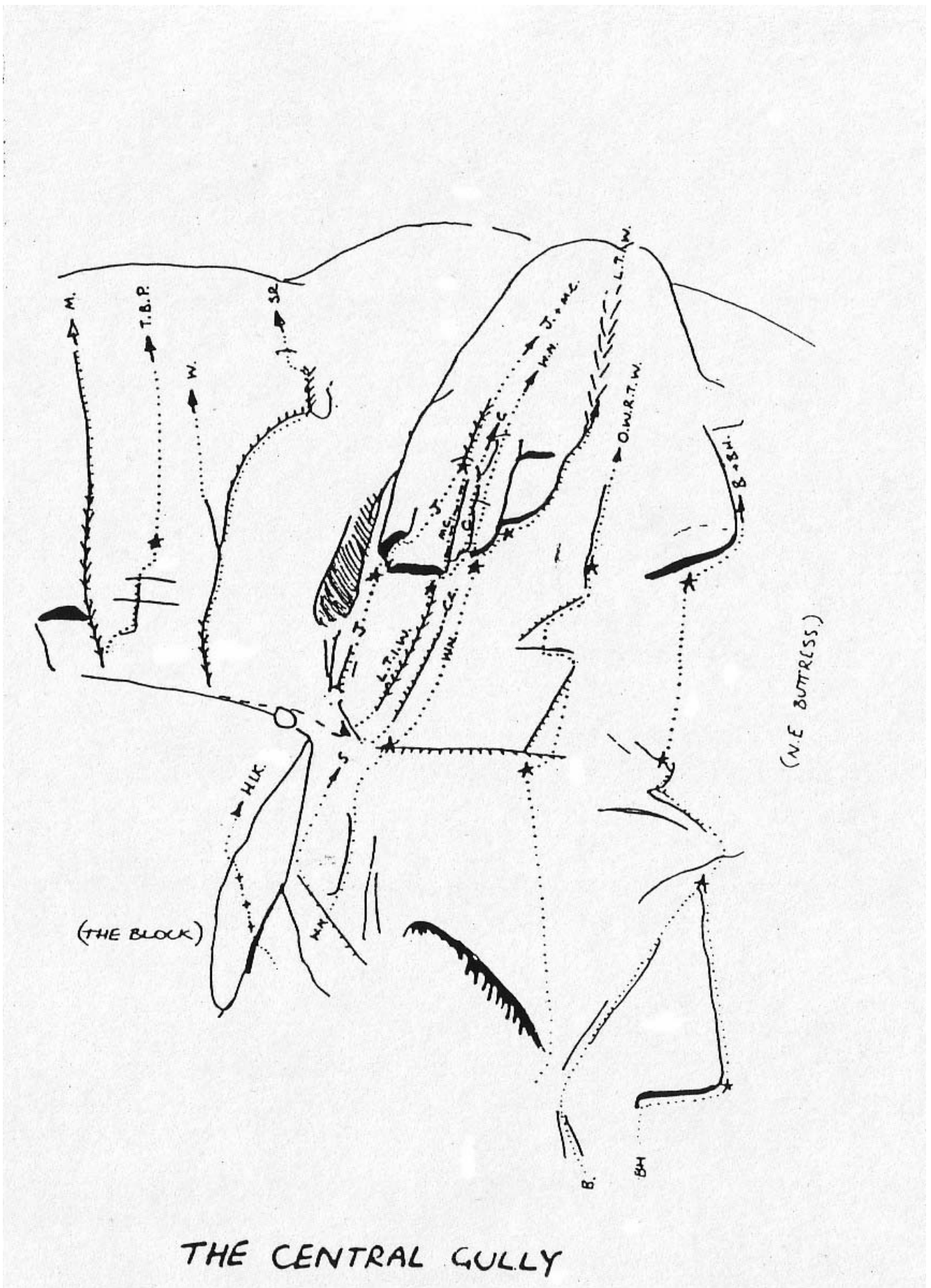
Wodewick (13) 85m R. Rathbone, P. Harrison

15 metres to the right of Mogadon.

I) 40m. Up crack to belay in small cave.

II) 35m. Then into groove and up and out left onto slab/rib, up then back into crack, then to belay ledge where crack finishes.

III) 18m. Move right, then diagonally up and right, then left until angle eases.



*** Sickle (15) 85m Unknown**

- I) Same first pitch as Wodewick.
- II) 50m. (10) Rightwards to the end of the sickle crack and into small corner formed by blocks.
- III) 15m. (14) Up corner, past blocks over the small overhang to belay on ledge.

On the southern side of the Central Gully is an abseil route from the Summit Terraces. The abseil begins from below Piranha Charmer and requires two ropes to rappel down into the Central Gully. The second abseil is from one bolt located on the right hand side above the cliff as you look down. This is a good descent route to retrieve gear after climbing routes such as Juluka.

On the right (North Side) of Central Gully are:

**** Polished to Perfection (22) 107m** A. Corbe, D. Brereton (alts) 4/95

Starts on right wall of central gully 15 metres up from rappel station (gain access from Summit Terraces or gully below). Take med.-large cams and wires.

I) 22m. (crux) Desperate start on smooth slab, then up face (crux). 4 fixed hangers to belay on ledge on large broken blocks.

II) 50m. Step right from belay then up left to fixed hanger, then left past two fixed hangers through right end of gash to easier ground. Belay where buttress is narrowest (you meet Juluka).

III) 35m. Wander up slab.

The Serpent (16) 113m D. Moyses, G. Phillips 4/94

When seen from the south side the North Wall of Central Gully is split horizontally by a large snaking crack system (almost an overlap). This system starts level with Guano Roof and rises to the Summit Terraces. An obvious and in some places exposed rising traverse. Start 2 metres left of Bull Frog Alley, scramble up short wall and into gully proper at base of obvious groove/chimney.

I) 30m. (12) Up groove/chimney for approximately 35 metres then exit left to belay on a big ledge with a free standing rock for company.

II) 35m. (16) Move left and traverse along crack system (crux) to belay in alcove around corner. Stay low and beware of loose rock.

III) 40m. (15) Continue following crack system at base of overlap to belay at base of finishing gully. Scramble up 35 metres to finish.

Bullfrog Alley (15) 115m G. Phillips, D. Moyses 4/94

A few metres left of Juluka the Central Gully narrows and is blocked by a short wall (2nd abseil pitch of Central Gully Abseil route). Bullfrog Alley takes the thin crack up the arete immediately above this.

I) 30m. (15) Straight up thin crack, belay as for first pitch of Juluka.

II) 35m. (14) Move left and climb groove/chimney a few metres before the groove ends. Move right and climb the steep blank wall on good holds but poor protection. Gain large left trending crack system and follow this to belay on large vegetated ledge.

III) 50m. (15) Traverse right along obvious crack line and ramp. Lonely moves take you around the arete to join final pitch of Juluka. Straight up crack and slabs to belay. 40 metre scramble to finish.

***** Juluka (18) 110m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/90

Situated just to the right of the cave-like gully that separates the Central Gully from the Northern Buttress. There are some huge overlaps and cracks here, but unfortunately the overall angle is very low. This climb takes the left hand overlap where the rock is steepest. Start in the gully immediately below the waterfall (2nd abseil pitch for rappel descent route).

I) 30m. (15) Climb the diagonal crack and slabs to belay on a small ledge beside and left of the huge overhang.

II) 30m. (18) Move up and traverse towards the right under the next overhang in a superb position. Move around corner to gain crack and slabs which leads to a belay ledge beneath a shallow corner.

III) 50m. (15) Climb the corner and slabs which eventually leads to the summit terraces.

*** Call Me Thor (18M1) 110m** P. Weber, C. Mason, T. Holm 10/98

First pitch is the same as Juluka then heads out through crack system in largest roof (Guano Roof). Aid moves through roof that may eventually go free at grade 24/25. Route then joins third pitch of Mediterranean Cruise.

I) Same as first pitch for Juluka

II) Traverse out on thin pro to reach roof. Good pro in roof crack. Climb out using crack and jugs. Aid moves on good cams to reach roof lip. Pull through on good holds to reach belay stance above roof.

III) Traverse right on slabs to join Mediterranean Cruise at start of third pitch.

**** Last Tango in Widgiemooltha (13) 150m** R. Rathbone, M. Smith

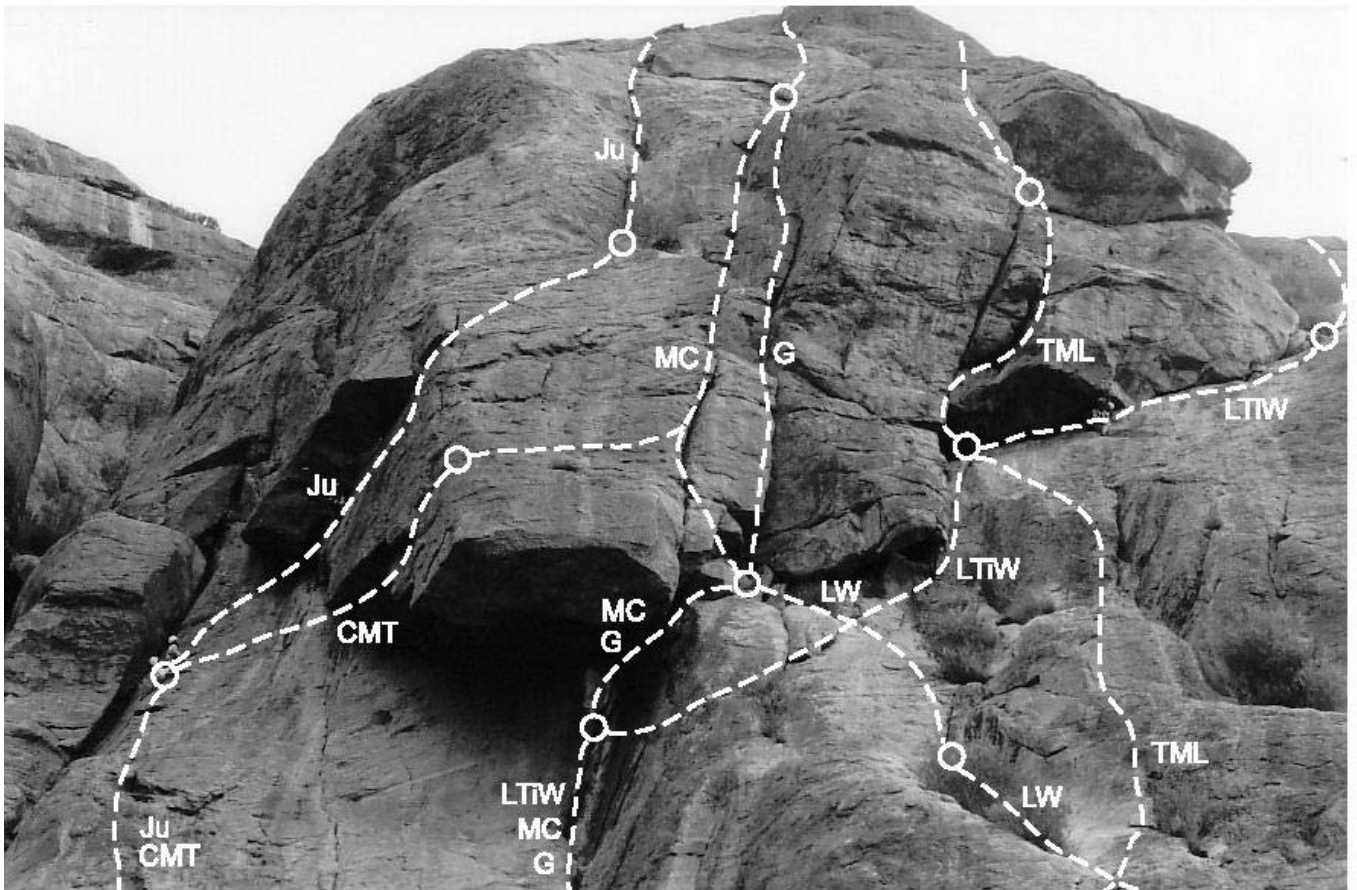
Start in the gully right of Juluka below Guano Roof.

I) 42m. Up to belay at base of guano-covered corner below Guano Roof.

II) 35m. Descend slightly and traverse right to arete. Climb up to right to belay in large cave.

III) Traverse right under overhang and follow corner to gully. Move right to arete and up belay flake on right.

IV) Two pitches of 40 metres up slab to top.



*** Mediterranean Cruise (17) 170m** P. McKenzie, M. Smith

- I) Shares first pitch with Last Tango in Widgiemooltha.
- II) 20m. Traverse across right wall of corner to left trending crack on wall. Up this to belay above roof (crux).
- III) 40m. Traverse left and ascend second crack, about fist width. Continue over two overhangs, then trend right to belay.
- IV) Scramble to finish.

*** Guano (18) 170m** R. MacArthur, P. McKenzie, R. Master

- I) As for Last Tango in Widgiemooltha
- II) As for Mediterranean Cruise.
- III) 40m. Straight up the offwidth chimney crack above and then continue up the right crack system. Crux.
- IV) 45m. Straight up slab.
- V) Scramble to finish.

**** Constipation Corner (16) 40m** P. McKenzie, R. MacArthur

Start 10 m R of Guano. Up slabs and walls to obvious short corner. Up this to belay level with Guano Roof.

Gothic Silence (19) 70m M. Haffner, S. McKie 4/94

- I) Climb Constipation Corner.
- II) Steep crack at right hand end of leaning orange headwall.

**** The Missing Link (17) 120m** R. Weiter, D. Pantic 4/04

- Belay at the base of the Constipation Corner crack (not at the base of the mossy slab below).
- I) 50m. (16) Climb Constipation Corner for 15m. Where the crack finishes, move R over slab, R of large bush. Trend R up slab to gain L facing corner. Up wall L of this, then L across blank face to belay at cave.
 - II) 20m. (17) Directly up through overlap, then up R groove. Belay 3m below next large roof.
 - III) 50m. (15) Turn roof on L, then climb wall L of the crack above for 10m. After the crack finishes, climb 35m of slab, trending R all the way. Belay at small vertical crack. Scramble off.

*** Lost World (12) 60m** C. Swain, D. Shaw 6/95

- I) From bottom of the gully proper, go diagonally right to a large block, step around the corner and ascend the broken groove into a vegetated gully.
- II) Climb cracks and thin face to blocks at base of third pitch of Mediterranean Cruise.

THE BLOCK AND LOWER GULLY AREA

The following three climbs are part of The Block that makes up the bottom of Central Gully and allow access to the climbs described in the section on Central Gully. To the south and just below Central Gully is a thirty metre high block. On the north face of this block is:

** **Holiday in Kambalda (23) 15m** B. Dowrick 8/93

Follow the bolts up the northern face of the large orange block. Three bolts.

Behind the block to the right of Holiday in Kambalda is the top rope problem:

Top Rope Problem (18) 15m B. Dowrick

The prow to the right of Holiday in Kambalda.

Behind The Block is:

Slime (14) 20m P. McKenzie, R. McArthur

The climb is located on the left corner of the Central Gully and follows the gently sloping corner to emerge on the wall above to the right. The wall provides the crux.

The following climb goes through the lower gully cliff and continues up the upper cliffs:

** **White Noise (21) 110m** M. Moore, P. Robbins 7/91

- I) Climb the crack between the orange and white wall and into the gully proper
- II) Climb the slim groove in the right wall of the gully and up to the steep orange buttress.
- III) Hard moves onto the nose of buttress and head for very steep thin crack at left end of orange buttress.

NORTH EAST BUTTRESS

The prominent buttress to the right of Central Gully. Climbs include:

** **Office Workers Rule the World (14) 150m** S. Harris, B. Dowrick 1/94

Climb starts from the sloping edge above and to the left of the start of Badile.

- I) 50m. Traverse right for a couple of moves onto the buttress. Climb straight up to the ledge.
- II) 40m. (14) (Crux). Climb face right of corner to meet at its top. Traverse left along horizontal break until it is easy to move up to the right leaning overlap. Up this to belay after 15m.
- III) 35m. (13) Up the overlap for 5 metres and then step left to the wall. Climb up to thin vegetated crack that widens and is followed to blocks. A nice pitch.
- IV) 25m. Continue up crack
- V) Easy climbing right of Last Tango in Widgiemooltha.

*** **Badile (11) 200m** M. Adams, B. Adams 12/87

A favourite classic. At the foot of the face is a distinct long overlap across a black slab (BH), start to the left.

- I) 40m. The layback crack leads to a platform and wall. Up wall two metres to wide ramp to right. From ramp, move onto crack leading to centre of face. At top of crack put in protection and traverse right across face to platform and belay.
- II) 30m. Above belay, up crack to small roof. Follow crack to thread belay and platform.
- III) 35m. Follow large flakes till they run out and traverse left around corner into long open corner. Up to platform scoops, poor belay.
- IV) 20m. Walk right along easy line of weakness to large gangway across face, belay at left end (peg).
- V) 35m. Move left and take wall direct to corner of great overhang and belay at top of rock pile.
- VI) 40m. Climb wall a metre or two from the corner until under the headwall.
- VII) 30m. Up crack, not chimney, above belay to easy ground. Straight up left to belay at foot of water crack.
- VIII) 40m. Straight up water cracks.
- IX) 15m. Up steep ramp through headwall onto summit ridge.

Badile and Beckoning Horizons take very similar ground.

** **Beckoning Horizon (19) 185m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 9/91

This climb starts at the left-hand end of the overlap that forms the roof to the right of Badile. A great outing.

- I) 15m. (19) Gain the overlap and traverse right on underclings and jams, hanging stance at base of corner.
- II) 20m. (14) Climb the corner.
- III) 50m. (12) Climb up and diagonally right following the flake crack. Where it peters out, climb straight up over a small overlap to a small ledge.
- IV) 50m. (13) Traverse 5 metres right and climb steep black slabs to the huge scimitar shaped fissure and climb this to its right hand end.
- V) 50m. (15) Climb the right hand of the two corners and finish over the capping overhang.

Just right of Beckoning Horizon is:

**** Skins and Heart (23) 130m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 9/91

- I) 20m. (23) Climb wall (bolt) and slab between Beckoning Horizon and Trout Dentures.
- II) 45m. (14) Slabs to belay below a short corner.
- III) 50m. (16) Slabs to belay beneath imposing orange headwall.
- IV) 15m. (20) Blast up the middle of the orange headwall.

*** Direct Start to Trout Dentures (21) 15m** M. Haffner 10/89

Start 15 metres left of Trout Dentures start. The pitch takes a direct line to the belay ledge at the end of the first pitch of Trout Dentures. A bolt protects the moves over the bulge to gain the small corner and then a small ledge. Slab climbing on good holds leads to Trout Dentures belay ledge.

Note: Trout Dentures and Homeward Bound share a lot of the same route.

*** Trout Dentures (14) 160m** R. Tyson, W. Tyson 89

Starts in the centre of the main cliffs, belay on gently sloping slabs under overlap.

- I) 30m. (14) Move right from start onto flake and thence follow line of bolts up easier ground, belay at left of large amphitheatre where Homeward Bound joins same line.
- II) 30m. (10) Two variations are possible, either join bolts by climbing directly left to first bolt and then follow bolts and natural line to belay ledge. Alternatively climb straight above belay and then along crack to join bolt line and then to ledge.
- III - IV) Shares same finish as Homeward Bound.

Reptilian Encounter (17) 230m S. Digwood, G. Phillips 4/97

Traverses across the main slab to give access to the upper pitches of Californication. Starts 5 metres left of Homeward Bound at base of cracks, below a large block.

- I) 30m. (15) Take the crack system to the large block that forms the first belay of Homeward Bound.
- II) 45m. (14) Climb slab, trending to the right to a large boulder on a ledge at about 35 metres. Traverse right to belay at left end of large vegetated ledge.
- III) 25m. Walk right along vegetated ledge to end of vegetation.
- IV) 30m. (17) Move right and climb steep slabs to the large overlap system using a bolt runner from Californication.
- V) 35m. (16) Undercling the overlaps to the final corner and traverse left to belay at end of overlaps.
- VI) 60m. (9) Up corner and slabs to small amphitheatre.

Homeward Bound (14) 232m M. Smith, M. Rathbone 76

At the lowest point of the cliffs 20 metres right of Trout Dentures there is a large block 20 metres up.

- I) 36m. (Crux) Straight up the black slab above ledge then rising traverse left to belay on top of block. Note the melted tape from the 1991 fire.
- II) Walk left to belay stance where rout joins Trout Dentures.
- III) 36m. Up slab on left then back right to good nut belay in scoop.
- IV) 36m. Traverse back left until below corner. Up this for 2 metres then rising traverse left to belay in scoop with corner on right.
- V) 38m. Rising traverse past ledge with small tree(?) at 30m to belay on ledge.
- VI) 44m. Walk right along ledge into pockmarked scoop. Climb out on its left and climb straight up to belay on two horizontal flakes.
- VII) 42m. Straight up to finish.

*** Kwelaman (15) 220m** D. Egeland, P. Carter 5/98

A good direct and sustained route. Starting as for Homeward Bound, but climb straight up the 'black face'.

Medium to small gear, include extra micro friends and slings. This route now has fixed abseil anchors (rings) at the end of pitches 2-5, also a bolt in the middle of pitch 4. Latest reports say that someone has added a lot of bolts all around the area, sadly.

- I) 20m. Rock leaning against slab, tend left to homeward bound blocks.
- II) 35m. Careful traverse right 8m and then directly up over hollow over-lays, then short left to diagonal crack for nut belay.
- III) 35m. Almost straight up to a gentle crux over a small nose to some welcome pro, up and left to a good belay on less vegetated small ledge with a small square beige block on the left.
- IV) 45m. Head straight up into the black knobbly rock, sling one or two for pro, tending slight left to a lone grey block and over to a nut belay 5m above.
- V) 40m. Up to cracks and carefully upward traverse left to block, and up to belay flake beside small shrub.
- VI) 45m. Continue up the 'black band' to enjoy the line below summit terrace. Walk out.

Some 40 metres right of the Homeward Bound Area is a large narrow slot of a gully where Succubus, Californication and Infinite Pursuit starts.

**** Succubus (23) 115m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/92

Start at the base of Californication / Infinite Pursuit gully.

- I) 15m. (23) Climb steep black slab on left (bolt) to belay at diagonal break.

- II) 40m. (18) Straight up slab to belay beneath left hand end of overlap.
- III) 10m. (21) Climb overlap and thin seam to belay on top of big Californication flake.
- IV) 50m. (18) From left hand end of ledge climb slabs to finish.

**** Californication (20R) 105m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 3/90

Also (18R) variation by avoiding pitch III. Quality all the way. Start 15 metres up the gully.

- I) 15m. (18) Branch out left to follow the arching line and then launch through to the big ledge.
- II) 25m. (18) Climb up and diagonally left past a detached flake and climb the headwall (peg runner). Traverse right to the base of the flake crack or straight up to the ledge thus avoiding pitch III.
- III) 25m. (20) Steep ground to gain the underside of the flake. Traverse right on jams and then glory laybacking to the stance (or climb thin crack in face of the flake).
- IV) 30m. (17R) Steep slab climbing to the giant overlap system which is followed to a hanging belay at the top of the last corner.
- V) 10m. (19) Thug through the roof crack and jugs to gain slabs and the big ledge system, or (16) traverse left around end of overhangs for an easier finish.

Infinite Pursuit (19) 150m M. Moore, M. Haffner 3/90

Start by climbing the right trending diagonal crack system just right of some white streaky rock to the right of Californication.

- I) 30m. (17) Climb the gully to a big ledge beneath the diagonal roof.
- II) 30m. (19) Climb the slab and bulge just right of the crack.
- III) 40m. (15) Directly up slabs to a big ledge.
- IV) 40m. (17) Climb the crack system that splits the slabby buttress.

100 metres right along the base of some steep rock is a prominent gully with an orange buttress to the right. In the gully is:

Fat Guy Goes Nutzoid (11) 30m P. Cleary 11/93

Follows obvious cracks at back of gully. Allows access to all sorts of interesting things.

100 metres right of the orange buttress and down the steps are:

*** Season of the Bitch (21) 20m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 7/91

Gain the thin snaking crack line and jam the steep crack above.

*** Year of the Dragon (20) 15m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 1/92

Start 2 metres right of Season of the Bitch. Gain thin hanging crack from left, climb this, the bulge and the finishing jam crack.

*** Switch Bitch (23) 15m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 1/92

Thin sinuous seam 5 metres right of Year of the Dragon.

70 metre right is Endless Quest

**** Endless Quest (23A0) 190m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 1/90

A powerful expedition. The large north facing corner system which can be clearly seen from the rock pools above the Old Campsite Crag.

- I) 25m. (23) Gains the diagonal corner crack and climb it until it gets very flared. Tension down to rare footholds. Regain the crack which gives easier climbing to the belay.
- II) 45m. (16) Climb the corner.
- III) 45m. (15) Gain the ledge system via the corner/gully or better by the slabs on the left.
- IV) 40m. (17) Towards the left hand edge of the ledge is a corner crack above which are slabs leading to a ledge.
- V) 40m. (21) A very elegant pitch. Climb the diagonal crack which starts at the left hand end of the ledge. After 20 metres enter the hanging corner by a hard move and climb this and the wall above.
- VI) Easy slabs to summit.

**** Where the Fuck is Tuktoyuktuk (16) 35m** B. Dowrick 8/93

The first shallow corner 30 metres right of Endless Quest. Up this corner and step left and then the wall above. From the top of the climb escape off to the right.

Approximately 70 metres right of Endless Quest is a group of climbs associated with a black slab.

Trivial (11) 18m D. Shaw, S. McKie 4/94

Crack and wall on left side of Arc of Iris. Start on platform and climb left trending crack to base of wall. From here straight up to belay.

Arc of Iris (13) 18m D. Shaw, S. McKie 4/94

The arch-like roof about 70 metres right of Endless Quest. Start on the platform to the left. Climb to base of the overhang up slab. Reach over lip for holds on upper face. Belay in front of tiny cave.

Two Moves (15) 18m S. McKie, D. Shaw 4/94

The central apex of the Arc of Iris. Start as for others and climb blankish wall to shelf below overhang, then crank over lip.

Push the Bush (14) 23m D. Shaw, S. McKie 4/94

The right trending crack immediately right of Two Moves. Gain the overlap from the right at the base and climb overlap on right using crack. Cross right and then left to gain holds on the wall, then belay on ledge with small trees.

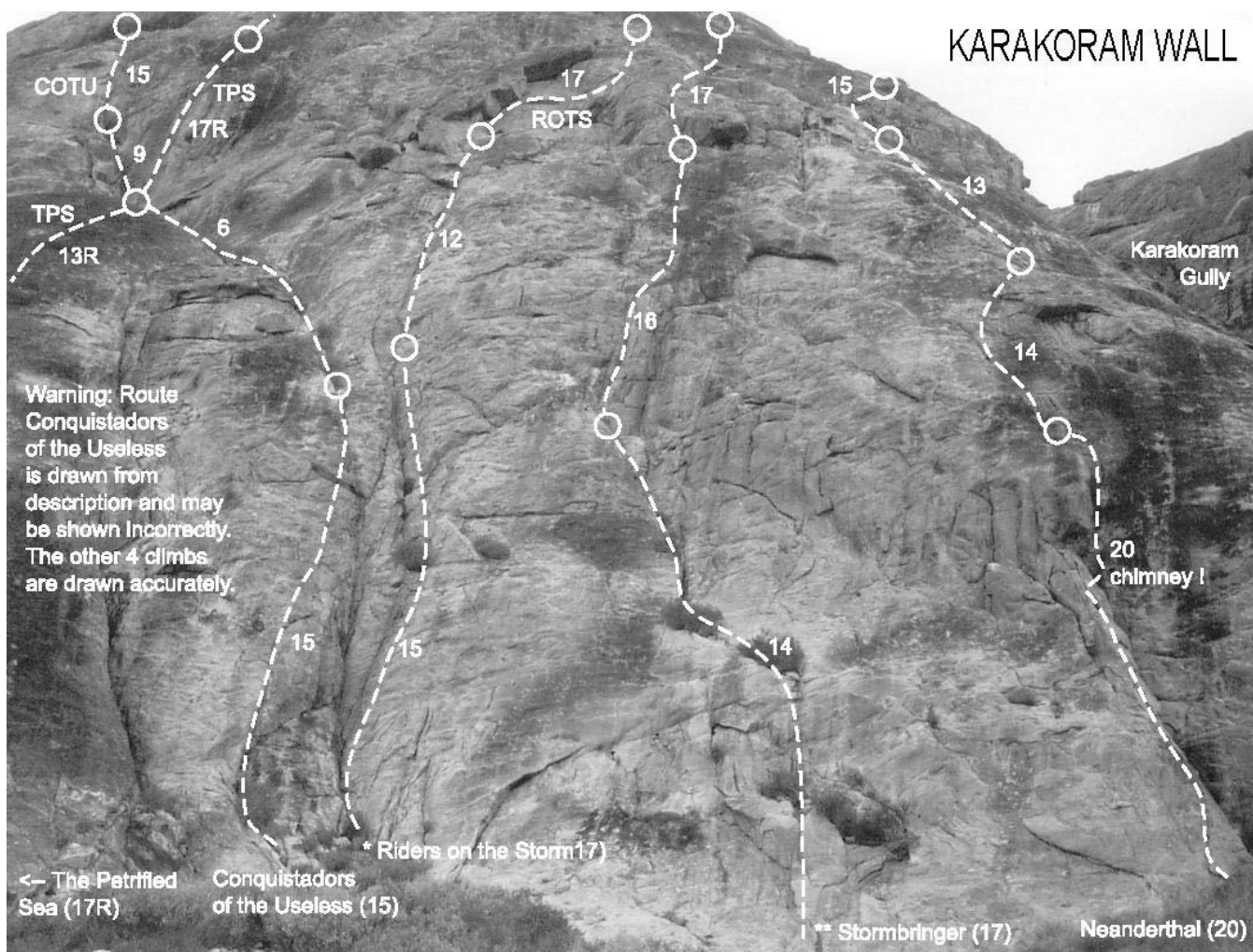
KARAKORAM WALL

This wall extends for some 300m L of Karakoram Gully. See the photo diagram for routes location. The location

*** The Petrified Sea (17R) 210m** R. Weiter, J. Gregg 4/01

This route takes the black wall L of Conquistadors of the Useless to reach a steep wall R of the COTU gully. Start 25 m L of COTU, at the L end of a low overlap - marked by a cairn. The rock is generally solid and far better than for routes further R. Protection is on medium nuts and cams, however sparse at times.

- I) 50m (10) Directly up the black slab to reach a broad sloping ledge. Belay at small overlap at the back of ledge, below blank wall.
- II) 30m (12) Traverse L for 10 m to reach top of detached block. Continue further L to reach protectable terrain, then 18 metres up to belay.
- III) 50m (13R) Continue directly up on sparse pro to gain the C.O.T.U crack at blocks.
- IV) 30m (17R) On the R side of the gully and directly above the belay should be a steep wall. Climb up the L-facing corner at the R end of this wall. There is an overlap at 8m height. Turn this on R and then continue directly up a short blank section (crux) to reach easier ground.
- V) 50m (10) Continue up until angle eases.



Conquistadors of the Useless (15) 160m G. Phillips, D. Moyses 4/94

Approximately 100 metres right of Endless Quest is a large black slab. At the extreme right of this are two gullies approximately 10 metres apart. Up the middle of the arete which separates these gullies is a curving scimitar shaped crack line. Start at the base of this.

- I) 50m. (15) Up crack till it curves right, then straight up through short head wall to belay ledge.
- II) 40m. (6) Scramble then walk up gully to belay blocks where gully starts to narrow.
- III) 20m. (19) Up gully to belay on small vegetated ledge below steep wall.
- IV) 50m. (15) Up gully to just below overhung water runnel (crux). Move right through easy ground up and then left to regain gully system. Steeply up this to belay on large terrace. 100 metre scramble to summit.

**** Conquistador (15) 196m** G. Phillips, S. Digwood (alt) 4/95

Supposedly a fine outing up fairly steep rock, except that no one knows where it is.

- I) 50m. (15) Start as for C.O.T.U. First pitch as for Conquistadors of the Useless Pitch I.
- II) 42m. (13) Move right from belay to gain obvious gully/groove. Straight up groove passing large precarious blocks (don't climb them!). Belay below overlap directly above blocks.
- III) 24m (15) Left under overlap (rising traverse), move round corner, then straight up short wall to belay ledge directly below right trending gully.
- IV) 30m (14) Straight up from belay for approximately 2.5m (gully on your right) then diagonally right for approximately 5m to gain short crack and welcome protection. From here move diagonally left a few metres, then straight up aiming for large crack system above. Belay at base of crack.
- V) 50m (15) Straight up crack, exit left, then continue on until angle eases and a belay can be established.
- VI –VII) 100m Scramble up to the summit cairn.

Piece of Cake (14) 80m C. Swain 96

Starts from the beginning of the fourth pitch of Conquistadors of the Useless.

- I) 50m. (14) Climb out of the gully diagonally up and right into the bottom of the corner which is followed to a good belay.
- II) 30m. (13) Continue on the same line crossing the 5th pitch of Conquistadors of the Useless to scramble of the top.

*** Riders On The Storm (17) 125m** R. Weiter, J. Gregg (alt) 3/97

Named so because it bucketed down during the first ascent. Starts in the gully some 5 metres right of Conquistadors of the Useless, on the wall left of the Karakoram Gully. The climb follows an obvious direct gully/crack line up to the left edge of a striking triple-tiered roof. A scenic outing with a great pitch III, albeit generally slow going due to loose rock in places.

- I) 40m. (15) Up gully for 20m to ledge with bush. Climb on the wall just right of the gully for next 20m, to belay right of and level with the top of the gully, just below a small roof/corner.
- II) 50m. (12) Traverse 3 metres left, then up another crack/gully which has massive loose blocks in it. Head for the lowest roof in the 3-step roof system above, belay at the roof.
- III) 35m. (17) Up right of 1st roof, right of 2nd roof, then traverse right below 3rd roof. Airy bridge right across gap about 5m below and right of the 3rd roof, then directly up to belay on wide terrace.
- IV) 40m. (6) Continue in a direct line for the summit, staying roped until the angle eases at niche. Scramble for another 80 metres to reach the summit. Alternatively from top of pitch III abseil down Central Gully or lead-downclimb wall (10) left of Karakoram Gully.

**** Stormbringer (17) 140m** R. Weiter, J. Gregg (alt) 4/98

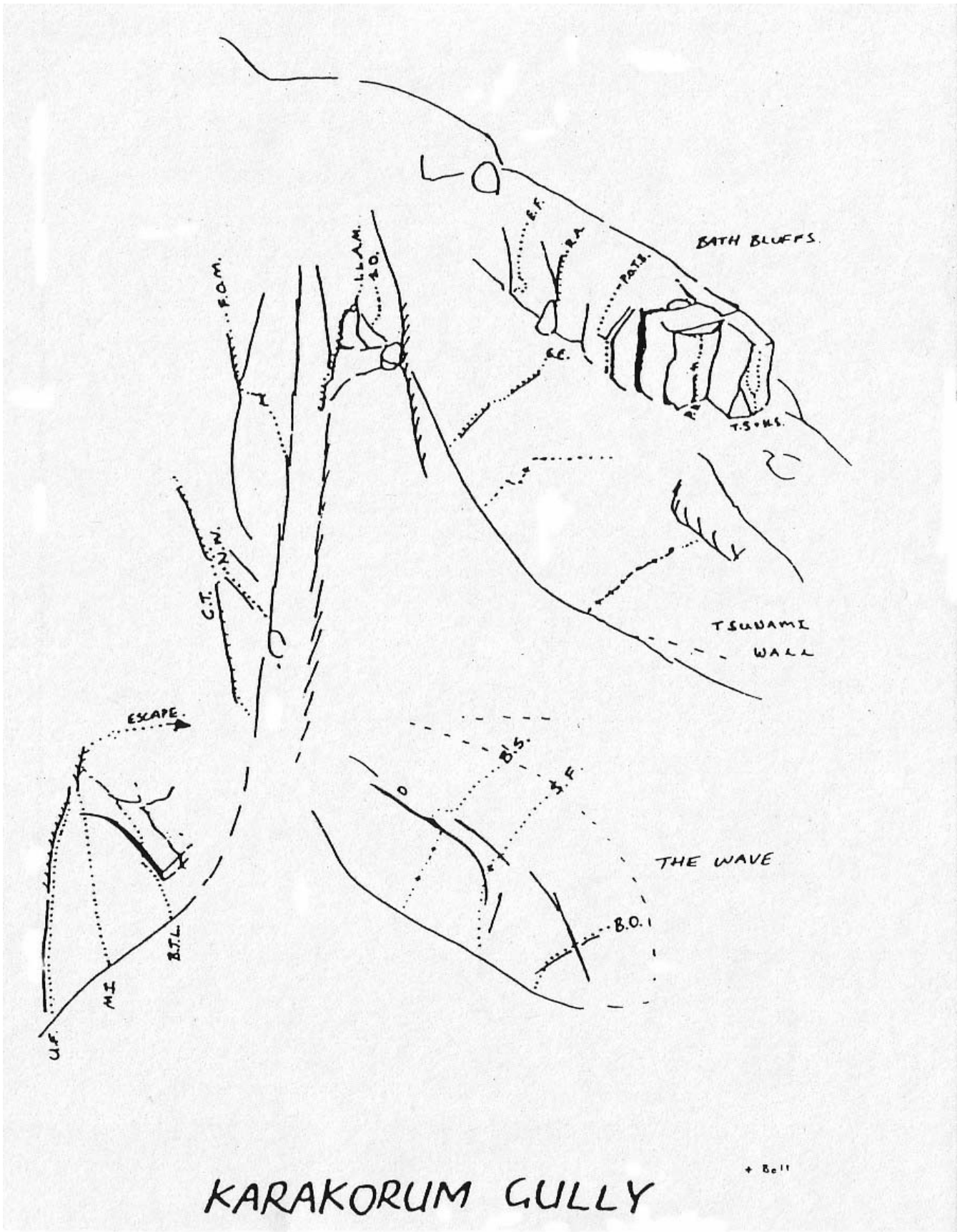
"Big wall" fun. Start 25 metres right of Riders On the Storm. Scramble 5m up to gain a small ledge that is 3 metres below a large block forming a left-rising overlap.

- I) 50m. (14) Up past left edge of block, up crack with bush (bypass bush to right), then directly up crack above. Scramble between two large bushes and up deep gully behind them. Belay at the base of twin cracks (1 metre apart) at the end of gully, just right of large guano streaks.
- II) 50m. (16) Up twin cracks for 8m. When the left crack ends traverse right onto detached flake and up it. Directly up black slab just right of prominent gully/corner, aiming for the cave/roof above. Belay left of it.
- III) 40m. (17) Just left of cave is a shallow corner split by a 5 metre finger crack. Some strenuous moves lead up this (crux), then slightly right and directly up until wide terrace. Descend as per Riders On the Storm.

*** Neanderthal (20) 215m** R. Weiter, D. Pantic 4/04

The large chimney 30m R of the start of Stormbringer; three stars if you like this sort of thing. Either number 3½ or 4 Camelot, or similar, are essential for protecting the crux.

- I) 35m. (20) Up cracks on the L arête of the chimney (not inside the chimney) for 20m until bulging headwall. Move R into chimney and fight through the bulge (crux), then L above to sloping stance (nuts belay).
- II) 45m. (14) Up cracks L of stance. When these run out move R to large flake, then R across slab to crack/gully.
- III) 45m. (13) Up cracks, then up slab with detached flakes to belay in a niche below a short blocky vertical wall.
- IV) 45m. (15) L of headwall traverse up and L for 6m, then directly up slab. Belay on a large flat ledge with 2 boulders sitting on it.
- V) 45m (10) Up cracks and slab until huge flat ledge with bushes. Scramble from there. For a shorter version, it is possible to traverse off R from 2nd belay into Karakoram Gully.



KARAKORUM GULLY

**** User Frenzy (16) 25m** M. Haffner, B. Dowrick, J. Stratford 4/93

Start 5m R of the Neanderthal chimney and 20m downhill of a boulder with a cave at the base of the cliff. Follow the right leaning fault/crack to belay in the short corner where crack meets right hand roofs. A few hollow holds and exciting at the grade.

**** Firefight at Baghdad (16) 160m** C. Slee, D. Pantic, R. Cole 4/03

The first pitch initially follows User Frenzy, the climb then shares much ground with Skyliner.

1) 45m (16) Follow the right leaning crack, there is some hollow and loose rock. As the climb gets steep, move

first rightwards away from the crack, the leftwards across thin holds to belay at a small overlap 3m left of bushy gully, near scoops in the face.

II) 40m (13) Straight up and slightly leftwards along face, protecting at the blocks. Belay 15m below bushy ledge.

III) 30m (6) Scramble up to left side of bushy ledge and climb to below base of 7m headwall.

IV) 45m (15) Climb the headwall using blocky ramp and marginal protection on left side of thick flake. Continue up dimpled face above to large scoop belay. Scramble 100m to summit cairn.

**** Skyliner (13) 180m** M. Adams, B. Adams 95

Start from near the cave. Proceed upwards keeping to what might be termed a blunt spine. 4 pitches, approx. 45 metres each. This climb probably shares common ground with Firefight at Baghdad. Easily angled ground.

**** Maternal Instinct (16R) 25m** B. Dowrick, M. Haffner, J. Stratford 4/93

Climbs the centre of the face just right of User Frenzy and directly to the same belay.

Born to Lose (21) 25m B. Dowrick, M. Haffner 4/93

A tough start, the leftward trending overlap crack at right side of triangular face just right of Maternal Instinct. Pull one roof of overlap after about 10 metres and follow crack and slabs to User Frenzy Belay. To descend continue up short corner and head right and up to escape into Karakoram Gully.

She Waits Alone (12) 200m C. Mason (Roped Solo) 5/99

I) 25m. Start up crack 5 metres right of Born to Lose. Traverse left onto belay in scrubby gully.

II) 30m. Avoid gully by climbing blunt arete on right, then trend left to belay at corner/alcove.

III) 45m. Step left up crack then trend left into steeper ground. Head up then up slabs to alcove.

IV) 25m. Trending left over blocky ledge, up black slab (Crux 13). Traverse right to belay from stance and crack directly above pitch III.

V) 50m. Scramble up slabs.

VI) 25m. Up slabs to gully below summit. Scramble off.

KARAKORAM GULLY

The large gully that faces north at Peak Charles and drains into Trough Creek. The climbs are described from left to right around the gully. Be careful of rock fall in this area.

*** Concrete Tundra (19) 60m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 3/91

Start quarter way up the gully on left. The first natural line is a layback flake with black water streaks emitting from its base.

I) 30m. (19) Gain the flake and layback it to steep ground and the continuation crack.

II) 30m. (16) Follow the right diagonal crack line and where it peters out climb directly up and over the overlap.

*** Neon Wilderness (18) 35m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 3/91

Thirty metres up the gully from Concrete Tundra is a hanging corner crack. Gain this and over bulge to the overlap on Pitch II of Concrete Tundra.

**** Field of Mars (23) 30m** M. Haffner, M. Moore 3/91

Fifty metres up the gully from Neon Wilderness. Steep hard face climbing past bolt to gain corner crack over overlap.

Shaka Zulu (23) 45m K. Lindorff, C. Jones, M. Haffner 10/95

The left leaning flake up the front of the buttress that divides Karakoram Gully. Step up easily right onto block, then undercling the line left and around the bulge and beyond.

The following two climbs are on the orange prow of rock at the top of Karakoram Gully.

*** It Looks Like a Mountain (Only Smaller) (16) 35m** B. Dowrick, M. Haffner 5/93

The corner system at the left arete of the prow.

*** Strange Dreams (20) 15m** B. Dowrick, M. Haffner 5/93

Start on block on right side of prow, follow pockets leftward to large pocket and then right and up.

*** Scorched Earth (19) 30m** M. Moore, M. Haffner 3/91

Wall on the right side of the gully and right of the huge sweeping triangular slab. Take the only continuous natural line. Climb flake crack and traverse right to gain the long diagonal crack line.

*** Tsunami Surfer (16R) 40m** J. Gregg, R. Weiter 4/01

A good, enjoyable trad route with one run-out. Start 20m right of Scorched Earth at a small, L-facing corner capped by an overlap. The start is marked by a cairn. The climb follows a direct line up: up corner, then R through overlap to ledge. Up steep wall with flakes, step L and then direct to top.

Note: It is not quite clear if Tsunami Surfer is located left or right of Slab and Tickle. Have a look.



***** Slab and Tickle (14) 60m**

J. McIntosh, D. Brereton (alt) 6/95
Starts 25 metres right of Scorched Earth, from the right end of a 5 metre wide block, below a conspicuous diagonal flake and fixed hanger.

I) 45m. Up to flake, step right and up diagonal flake. Step left, up past fixed hanger then up right trending ramp and on to belay at a flake.

II) 15m. Up left through flake and beyond.

***** Solaris (19) 30m**

D. Brereton, J. McIntosh 6/95
50 metres right of Scorched Earth. Find the 30m wide roof capping the slab. The route follows the deep orange streak toward the left end of the roof. Up past 6 fixed hangers to belay on #3 cams. Traverse off left with care.

THE WAVE

Down the gully to the north is a very prominent rock feature known as the Wave.

***** Engines Burning (22) 20m**

R. Weiter, J. Gregg 4/01
An absolute must do! Start at L end of wall, well L of all other routes. Up past 3 bolts to reach the highest overlap, then strenuously traverse 10 m R, past 4th bolt to belay ledge. Traverse off R or L as 2nd pitch. Gear: 4 bolts, #1 nut + several medium to large cams. No.3 Camalot is useful but not essential.

**** Top Rope Problem (24) 25m**

There is a very obvious hole above the roof line. Take slabs to gain roof 2 metres right of this. Go through roof at hole and up.

***** Bodysurfing (22R) 25m** B. Dowrick 6/93

Up face past two bolts, undercling left and pull through roof at scoop in overhang. Move back right then up.

***** Suckerfish (23) 25m** B. Dowrick 9/93

Start up the left trending sickle in middle of face. Clip bolt and struggle up face above to prominent water groove.

Break Out (17) 15m G. Murray, R. Murray 1/93

At the right hand end a black streak comes out of the base of a right trending crack. Climb this.

BATH BLUFFS

Above and to the north west of the Karakoram Gully is the ridge and bluffs that make up the Bath Bluffs.

**** Eau Fuque (19) 15m** B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 9/93

Near the south end of the ledge above Karakoram Gully is a face with a Y shaped crack on its right and a left leaning crack to the left. Pleasant face climbing on left, climbing past horizontal break and short thin vertical crack, then upwards.

**** Rackless Abandon (19) 15m** B. Dowrick, P. Cleary 11/93

The right branch of the Y shaped crack right of Eau Fuque. Start on top of block, follow crack and wall above. A bit of gear comes in handy.

**** Top Rope Problem (23) 15m**

8 metres right of Rackless Abandon there is a pocket on a steep wall just reachable from the ground. Pull up to this and then up the wall above.

*** Pigs on the Brain (20R) B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 9/93**

There is a right facing corner 2 metres left of the second crack right of Rackless Abandon. Up this (crux) for about 7 metres until it is possible to traverse left onto face and up to the top.

***** Poignant Device (26) 20m B. Dowrick 4/94**

On the eastern side of Bath Bluff near its northern end is a large square corner. The left hand wall is smooth and steep and split by two cracks. Take the right hand crack. Traverse left under the roof at the top to the arete and up. Bolt and fixed wire.

On the north of Bath Bluffs is:

**** The Tenzing Shuffle (19R) 15m B. Dowrick, J. Stratford 12/93**

Left hand variant to The Hillary Step. At the small rooflet head left and up to and past the "Post Box" (Crux).

**** The Hillary Step (19R) 15m B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 11/92**

Start at the left side of the face at the end of the bluffs. Up the face to under the small roof, right and onto ledge. Up corner and face above.

Around on the west side of Bath Bluffs is:

**** Go-Go-Gadget-Arms (21) 20m B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 9/93**

More climbing than most Peak Charles multi-pitch routes! On the northwest side of bluffs 20 metres from the north end. An obvious short orange corner with a traverse left at half height.

Below and to the west of Bath Bluffs is:

**** The Problem with Bottoms (24) 15m B. Dowrick 11/93**

Drop of the ridge to the west opposite the north end of the Bath Bluffs (as for the descent to the Far Side). A small undercut cirque 20 metres from Bath Bluffs has a rounded bulging crack at its right end.

THE FAR SIDE WALL

On the western side of Peak Charles is the aptly named Farside Wall. The wall is a major feature 100 metres long and 40 metres high with a cave at either end. Approach is from the tourist track (fastest) or from Bath Bluffs.

Leave the tourist track at the point where you gain the ridge proper and beneath a short vertical step. Traverse at this height around the slabby side of the mountain passing a small ridge and two large amphitheatres en-route.

From Bath Bluffs take a descending sidle on the back of the ridge. You should gain a sloping ramp which will lead to the bottom of the face.

*** Suspended Animation (19R) 15m B. Dowrick, G. Murray 1/93**

At the left end of the wall there is an open corner system above the cave. Rappel down to the ledge above the lip of the roof. Follow cracks to the top. An excellent route marred by the approach.

***** Santa Claus (22) 40m pitch I: B. Dowrick, J. Kerr 12/92, pitch II: M. Haffner 9/97**

I) 20m. (17) The obvious corner in the middle of the wall. Belay and rappel off from ledge immediately below top of flake or continue up pitch 2.

II) 20m (22) Superb second pitch to original climb. Continue up wall beyond flake. Face is bolted; however, pro is required in places.

***** Mr Pharmacist (24) 45m M. Haffner 10/97**

Mick describes this as one of his best routes ever. Located 10 metres to the right of Santa Claus this line heads directly up the centre of the wall. Several pieces of pro are required, the remainder being painstakingly bolted over several weekends. A must do.

OLD CAMPSITE CRAG

500m to the north of the new campsite is the old campsite (pre-1991 bushfire) which is accessed by an old four wheel track. At the base of Trough Creek is a steep bluff above the end of the track. This area was damaged by the bushfire and the rock is now heavily exfoliated.

Thief of Youth (22) 15m M. Haffner 11/89

Climbs the hanging corner, damaged bolt has been removed and needs replacing. One piton still remains.