

#6 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL 9*

A GUIDE TO MT TRIO BOLTED ROUTES

BY EMIL MANDYCZEWSKY VERSION 1.2

ABOUT

Mt Trio is situated in the Stirling Ranges which is typically known for multi pitch adventures. This crag offers quality bolted climbing with most routes being steep and long, whilst being in a stunning location. All routes at Trio have been lead on bolts alone but unless you are a solid 22ish leader, expect to be augmenting the bolts with natural protection. While the routes on the Lower Tier have lower offs, most of the upper tier routes require construction of top belays in a rap-down, climb-out style.

The crag is N/W facing so gets lots of sun. This makes it a brilliant winter crag and on the right day you could climb there late in the day in summer. The top does tend to be windy so pack a fleece/shell. The wind can mess with your rap ropes so be warned. The routes thankfully tend to be wind free especially on the Lower Tier.

Please realize that this is still the Stirling Ranges so there may be loose rock (although all routes have been cleaned) and other dangers not seen at your average crag (like weather concerns). Please take care, keep it clean and feel free to develop more routes.

GETTING THERE

From Perth you are looking at under 4 hours of driving depending on stops and time of day. From Perth:

- head down Albany Hwy through Williams and Kojonup. About 60km past Kojonup will be the turnoff to Cranbrook.
- When you get to the Cranbrook turnoff (will be sign to Stirling Ranges) turn left and drive straight through Cranbrook and keep going. The road will turn to dirt after about 30km (BEWARE ROOS ON THIS DIRT STRETCH AT NIGHT), keep going even though there will be a sign saying Stirling ranges turnoff to the right (Chester Pass Rd).
- Stay on the same road from Cranbrook till you get to a T junction (about 45km from hwy). Turn right at the T. After about 8 km you will pass the Mt Trio turnoff on your right.

If you're heading to the Caravan Park, keep going past the Trio turnoff and at the next T junction turn left and the caravan park is about 8km on your left.

GETTING SETTLED

We normally stay at the **STIRLING RANGE RETREAT** Chester Pass Road Phone: (08) 9827 9229 Fax: (08) 9827 9224
Email: stirlingrangeretreat@bigpond.com <http://www.stirlingrange.com.au>

They have cabins and camping with a large camp kitchen equipped with stoves, fridge, microwave and BBQ. Why go anywhere else?

THE ROUTES

Park at the turning circle and walk along the track that has duck boards at the start. Follow the track up to the saddle. Once at the saddle, walk another 10min or so, almost to the summit. You'll see a large cairn on your right on a small rock slab. At the cairn walk through the bush directly downhill, angling slightly left. After 100m you'll come to the top of the crag. The walk will take about 30-40min depending on your fitness level.

Gear wise you'll need 1 or 2 X 60m ropes, a rack of cams from tiny to 4 camalot and around 15 draws and bolt plates.

MT TRIO LOWER TIER

Approach by scrambling down gully on RHS of crag or 2x 30m raps from the top. Climbs described L-R.

1) ONE TRICK PONY** 30m 23

Start 4m R of vegetated corner thing. Up line of Fixe bolts to lower offs at 30m. Take a #4 camalot if you are short and/or timid and a couple of smaller (#.5-#1 camalot) cams for the top.

FA Emil May 06

2) SIDESHOW EDDIE* 30m 25

3m R of OTP. Stick-clip first bolt and batman past crumbly rock. Take a couple of cams (#.5-#1 camalot) for the top. Traverse to the lower-offs above FTDB. Bouldery crux and great rock once past the first section.

FA Emil August 06

3) FUELLING THE DANCING BEAR*** 30m 22

5m R of SE. Up rings. Lower off.

FA Mark March 06

4) CARPE DIEM*** 60m 21

Pitch One. 30m 21. Start at the quartz blocks to the right of FTDB and head directly up the overhanging orange wall. 9BR and a .75 Friend after the 8th BR. 3BB.

Pitch Two. 30m 18. Step right and go directly up the overhanging wall again. 5BR and a 3.5 friend after the 4th BR. Belay on something at the very top.

M. Rosser, J. Truscott (alt) 31 Mar 02 (Can be done in one long pitch—recommended! EM)

UPPER TIER - Approach by rapping (30m) from double rings on far climbers R of top of crag. Down a little step in small alcove. Rap down to L rings for Ringmaster and Clownshoe or R rings for CC, TR or BL. You can do 2 raps down these rings to get to the bottom of the crag. **TAKE CARE WHEN RAPPING AS THESE ARE REALLY 30m RAPS!**

BL and CC will finish at the double rap rings. For other Upper Tier routes there are 3 hangered bolts and 2 carrots at the top for belays.

Upper tier climbs described L to R

5) CLOWNSHOE** 30m 19

From leftmost double rings head left up the face and through the 2 roofs.

FA Emil Oct 06

6) RINGMASTER** 30m 20

From leftmost double rings head up rings through steepening terrain. Take gear if you're keen but you wont really need it. Belay off ring and carrot at top.

FA Mark August 06

7) TIGHTROPE WALKER** 30m 21

Between Ringmaster and Circus, Circus on the upper tier. Rap down to RH DBB - up to bolt common to CC and BL, up to second bolt common to CC and TW then trend L. FA Emil Sept 06

8) CIRCUS CIRCUS* 30m 21

From R double rings head straight up. Gets steep quick. Shares last bolt with BL. Belay off top rap rings.

FA Emil May 06

9) BEARDED LADY*** 30m 22

From R double rings head up and slightly R. Belay off rap rings. Shares the last bolt with CC.

FA Emil August 06

10) HAIL SALATHE** 40m 17

The right hand arête of Central Buttress. Start just up from the block at the base of the cliff in Easy Gully. Exposed and overhanging climbing on big jugs. 9BR to DBB. M. Rosser, J. Truscott 27 Dec 02



THE BLACK WALL

On the far left of Mt Trio is the Black Wall (above) which is visible on the walk up.

The one route shown is:

Napoleon Surrenders to his Accountant 15m 18

The bolted line between the two caves on the buttress to the left of the decayed overhangs. It is better than it looks. 5BR to DBB. M. Rosser, J. Truscott 27 Dec 02

We put in a double bolted rap station above the steepest part of this wall (shown) for those keen to develop the wall below.



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LOWER TIER

DESCENT

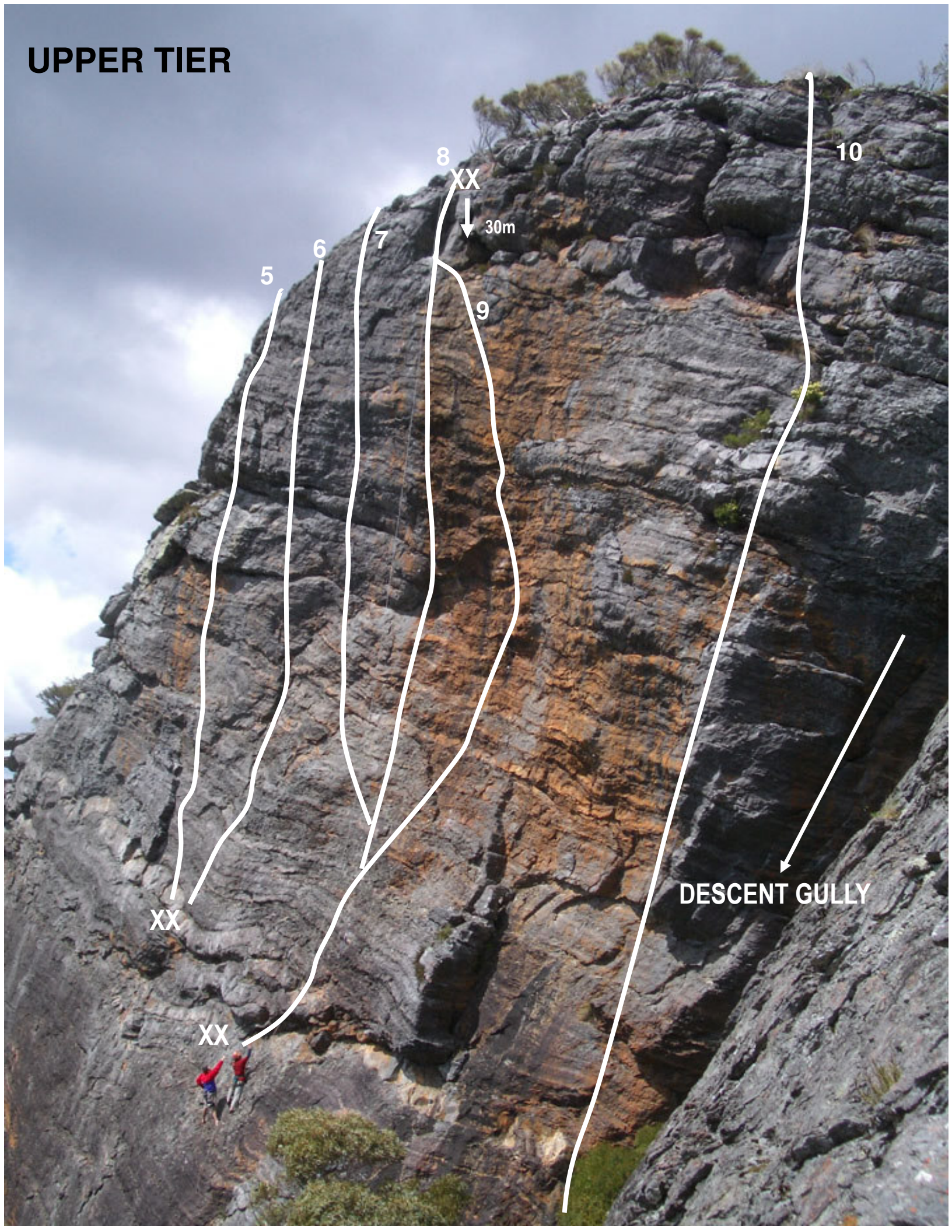
1

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UPPER TIER



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8

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30m

5

6

7

9

10

DESCENT GULLY

CARPARK BOULDERS (PIED DE MONTE BOULDERS)

Observant souls will notice some smaller boulders near the car park. There are a couple of routes that have been done here:

***Piece de Resistance** 20m 19

The RHS of the boulder on the old climbers track about 100 metres from the car park. Powerful and sustained climbing on good holes with 4BR. It is best climbed when it is soaked in on Bluff Knoll. R Master, J. Truscott, M. Rosser 25 Jan 04

Climbing on the Edge of the Observable Universe 20m 9

The arête, which must have surely been done by the oldies in the past. J. Truscott, R. Master, M. Rosser 25 Jan 04