

## Highlights

1. Making the grade in SA
2. Glad to be trad
3. The Half Brick Award

## Inside

1. The Joker
2. Hot Fun Closing – latest news
3. The Last Word

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# The BOLFA newsletter



## A publication of the Climbing Club of South Australia

### Making the grade in SA - by Paul Badenoch

The other day I realized that apart from perhaps *Barad Dûr* and *Following a Felch*, I couldn't name the climbs that established new grades in South Australia. So I thought I'd get a list together, if only for my own benefit.

It soon became obvious that there would be problems with the lower grades as the details of the earliest routes at Morialta weren't recorded. I assume that those efforts that were actually named and graded (for example, on St Mary's), were given a rough British grade and then there was a fair bit of guesswork in the translation to Ewbank later on.

Thus I've put in the earliest recorded climbs that I can find given names and dates and were most likely originally led free. At least they serve as a reminder of where the action was in the 60's. I'm more confident that I've found the right climbs above 14, but corrections are welcome. The grades are those given in the most recent guidebooks (Nick Neagle and Tony Barker -editors).

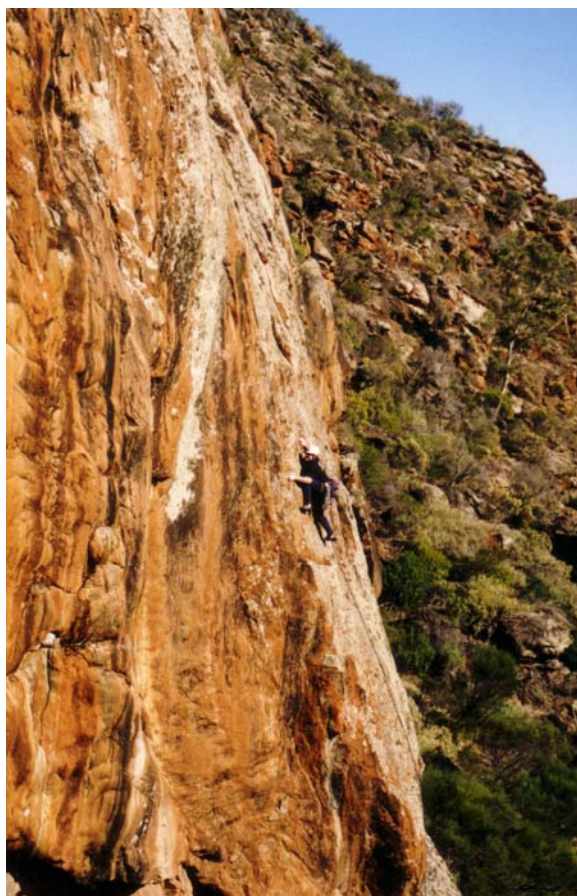
Route grade/name	Area/FA details	Comments
5 Kow-id	St Mary Peak K.O. Wade and Ivan Dainis, 24/4/65	Records seem to exist for the early trips to the Flinders. Commendably, the first explorers headed straight for the steepest face on the highest peak. Nick suggests that Old Folks Ascension, climbed in 1969 and graded 12, may have been a repeat of Kow-id, so what the route might be graded today is anyone's guess.
6 Angeline or Groveline	St Mary Peak David Moriarty and Ivan Dainis, 10/10/65	Double success for the team on the day. Angeline may have been the morning's effort as they seemed to be working their way from R to L across the crag on this trip.
7 Cowrana	Point Bonney Mike Ashton and David Moriarty, 6/1967	Funny how people drove straight past Moonarie to climb Bonney in those days. I guess those big slabs caught the eye.
8 Brevity	Morialta Mike Ashton, 5/1967	A small flake up to the lookout at First Falls. A poor excuse for the "first" 8 but I can't find anything earlier.
9 Wirra Wirra	Point Bonney John Considine, David Moriarty, John Wells, 9/10/66	Wandery. Nine climbs on this list have Moriarty's name on them, supporting Nick's suggestion that he was the most talented free climber in SA at the time.
10 Pincer	Waitpinga David Moriarty and Dan Connell, 12/1967	Haven't climbed this one, but the description "chossy chimney" doesn't inspire.
11 Funcrack	Point Bonney David Moriarty, John Liddle, R. Garrett, 28/8/67	Thought I'd wander over to Bonney one afternoon from Moonarie by walking inside the Pound. Should've taken a torch and a lot more water. It was an epic. Ended up knocking on the door at Prelinna station late that night.
12 Sheoak Corner	Morialta Mike Waite, 25/4/68	Good to see a Hills classic as the first recorded 12. But it's a Sheoakless Corner now.
13 Muldarbie	Point Bonney Peter Lawrence, David Moriarty, Christine Shedley, 10/6/68	Three pitches up an impressive corner. Nice to see female representation on the list. We could certainly arrange more - an invitation to Josune Bereziartu?
14 Claw	Waitpinga John Ellis and David Moriarty, 11/2/68	Done in two pitches, but we'll give it to them. A 14 at Red Rock near Whyalla called Poltroon dates from 1968, but whether it was actually climbed, at what time of the year, and by whom, is a mystery.

Route grade/name	Area/FA details	Comments
<b>15 AUMC Route</b>	Norton Peter Lawrence and John Wells, 4/7/65	Throws a cat amongst the pigeons (peregrines?) This evidence that local climbers were leading 15 in 1965 suggests that the routes established at Morialta by that time had been led free. We're talking climbs up to 13 such as The Buttress, A Question of Balance and Lorikeet, the last of which is still a delicate proposition.
<b>16 Ob La Di</b>	Morialta Mike Waite, 10/1968	Wouldn't have guessed this as SA's first 16, but here it is. Evidently, obladi-oblada means "life goes on" in Nigerian but it won't go on very happily for male climbers in particular if they fall astride the sharp blade.
<b>17 Kaddi-kra</b>	Point Bonney David Moriarty and Richard Horn, 9/6/68	Pushing the boundaries up at Bonney in 1968.
<b>18 Shewoodenduit</b>	Morialta David Moriarty, 18/8/68	Again, Christine impacts on the list. I think the original grade was 17 and Nick slipped it up a notch. Therefore, our ancestors may have considered Skein Dhu at The Bluff, climbed in 1969, to be the first 18. At any rate, Shewoodenduit needs reassessing again with the new start. Looks like higher grades would have come sooner to SA had Moriarty stuck around.
<b>19 Hairy Guru</b>	Moonarie Nick Bendeli and Joe Friend, 15/12/73	Moonarie enters the fray, but I don't think this one gets climbed very often. On a personal note, the big sporting news that week was that I set a world-record 57 stableford points in a junior golf tournament at Glenelg! Illequipt had been freed in early 1973 and, although graded 19 in Nyrie's guidebook, is now back at its original free grade of 18.
<b>20 Bung</b>	Morialta Henry Barber, 15/4/75	Hot Henry spent an afternoon at Morialta before heading up to Moonarie. We're lucky it wasn't a wet day or he might have gone to the movies instead.
<b>21 Lady Release</b>	Moonarie Colin Reece, Mike James 24/6/77	Anyone climbed this? It's in the Northern Crags and I'll bet it's solid at the grade. Includes a 15m traverse!
<b>22 Barad-dûr</b>	Morialta Henry Barber, 15/4/75	When you think about it, it would be like someone turning up today and climbing three grades harder than anyone in Adelaide has managed, onsight and with a degree of ease. It really would have been impressive. I think SA's second 22 was Marathon Runner at Moonarie (Reece, 4/77).
<b>23 Trojan</b>	Moonarie Kim Carrigan, 5/1979	Carrigan also freed the second pitch of Peregrine (Norton) at 23 in 1979, but I suspect that was later in the year.
<b>24 Grand Larceny</b>	Moonarie John Smart, 31/8/78	Smart was/is a Canberra climber who obviously backed up ability with a fair bit of push. His other great legacy at Moonarie is Downwind of Angels.
<b>25 Insect Fear</b>	Moonarie Kim Carrigan and Eddie Ozols, 27/4/80	With the exception of Expiry Date, Curving Wall climbs seem never to have enjoyed great popularity. The description of IF suggests it may not be the best choice for your first grade 25 lead.
<b>26 Full Torque</b>	Moonarie Kim Carrigan, 1982	Full Torque was climbed sometime in 1982, not sure when, while Ape and Away (also Carrigan) was climbed in May of that year. They could well have been ticked on the same trip. The New Routes book in Paddy's was no help and BOLFAs from that time are probably lining old bird cages. John Marshall thinks FT came first. Anyone repeated it?
<b>27 Kensington Park Duck Massacre</b>	Norton HB, 8/1/89	A twitch of the moustache and away he went.
<b>28 The Womb Waltz</b>	Moonarie Stuart Williams, 8/1989	Denied KPDM, but made no mistake here. An amazing looking climb.
<b>29 Following a Felch is No Fun Part II</b>	Morialta Stuart Williams, 3/1991	I was always very impressed that anyone could climb through this territory.
<b>30 Come Out Fighting</b>	Norton Sharik Walker, 12/1998	Matt Adams claimed SA's first 30 with The Shining Path in 1993, but the grade has slipped a notch. COF, according to those in the know, remains solid. Sharik also extended Filipino Furburger to 30 the same month, but thinks COF came first.
<b>32 Nirvanoxyne and Good Karma</b>	Norton F. Bonnet 2005	Sacré bleu!
<b>33 Beavis Descent Route</b>	Onkaparinga Peter Beavis, 16/11/82	The crowning achievement of South Australian rockclimbing. Done one of these myself, but unfortunately not in SA and with a lower degree of difficulty.

It would be great to see climbs of these higher grades established at Moonarie, but I accept it's a question of logistics. Anyone want to go climb all these?!

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**Picture Perfect: Submit your photo's to: [bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au](mailto:bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au)**



**Unknown climber, at an unknown cliff, somewhere in South Australia**



**Kim Carrigan on the first ascent of Full Torque (26), Moonarie, photographed by Eddie Ozols. Scanned from an ad in the 1983 issue of Rock.**

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## The BOLFA newsletter

Contributors for this issue: Many thanks go to Tony Barker, and Luke Adams. Special thanks to Paul Badenoch for his work on the 'climbs that made the grade' list.

Due date for next BOLFA submissions:  
Friday 30 September 2005.

All photo's, letters, stories or trip reports to  
bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.  
asn.au

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## A close call – news from New Zealand

Hey Guys -

Something to think about next time you go alpine climbing...

We had a close call recently, travelling out from Empress Hut. The snow on a serac slid over us, burying us completely.

We were actually travelling through a heavily crevassed glacier, and not under any 'typical' avalanche slopes.

The avalanche danger was listed as moderate, but increasing to high. The weather conditions at the time were a strong Nor-West wind and light snow, with bad visibility.

The serac was triangular, about 3 metres high and 4 metres wide and sloped about 50 degrees. There was approximately 300mm of wet, fresh snow lying on the side of the serac - it was on the leeward side of the prevailing wind. We effectively got buried by 2.5 to 3 cubic metres of snow.

I was completely covered, but was able to dig my head and face out. Once I had my head uncovered, I started yelling out for Mat. There was no response. The avalanche debris had set really hard. My right leg was buried the deepest, about a metre under, and took ages to uncover. Fortunately I was able to dig my legs and body out when I did.

I found Mat at the end of our rope just before he asphyxiated. His face was about 300mm under the snow. His lips and face were purple by the time I got to him, and he was struggling for breath. It took another 40 minutes to get him out of his hole.

The force of the slide broke my hip belt buckle, and put a 1 inch rupture on the sheath on our rope. It also twisted the webbing strap that tensions my pack shoulder strap around 2 revolutions, actually through the buckle and the GU gel in the top of my pack exploded in a sticky chocolate mess.

Lessons learnt :

It doesn't take a lot of snow to get covered - we had tested all the 'usual slopes' before committing, only to get covered when walking through glacial seracs. Avoid travel during and after a snowstorm - (90% of avalanche accidents happen within a day of new snow). If the weather is going to crap out, try and leave before it craps out and the avie danger increases. Having my axe and ski pole wrist loops on, even though it was really easy terrain, meant that I could use my tool and pole to extricate myself (otherwise you wouldn't be getting this email).

Once I realised I was in an avalanche, I held my arms up to my face like a boxer, also swimming with my feet and hands - textbook stuff. As a result I wasn't buried too deeply, and was able to get myself out of the snow. Wear a transceiver - ropes may not survive the forces of an avalanche.

Stay safe, - Ant

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## Glad to be trad...

well... at least some of the time

by Tony Barker

Having completed my nemesis sport route, *TB Or Not TB* at the Summit in March (12 days of attempts over 18 months), going back to Moonarie at Easter and more recently to the

Grampians made me revel in the joys of trad climbing once more.

The classic *Miles From Nowhere* and the new pitch of Dwarfism were excellent. Moonarie is a special wilderness crag where the majority of routes are free from the intrusion of fixed protection.

Having had my formative climbing years in the era of jangling hexes, this clunky style of protection remains dear to my heart. When cams arrived, the rack fortunately became more sophisticated.

However the idea of placing and removing your own gear remains for me an essential part of the climbing experience. Sorting out placements for nuts and wires etc is part of the challenge, even if you may tire a bit (or a lot) hanging around to do so. The fulfillment of arranging or finding a bomber nut at the crux gladdens the heart and gives you the resolve to go on.

I find that that Thank God! runner placements burn their way into your memory of the whole climb. For instance, the #5 Rock on the crux layback of *Miles From Nowhere*, or a similar size nut to protect the delicate runout on the Wraith.

Sports climbers may say that the fussing with hand placed gear detracts from the thrill of the climbing, and slows you down, but to me it is an integral and enriching part of the climb itself.

What struck me at Moonarie was the forlorn attitude of some of the sports climbers, whose sights seemed constricted to looking only at the climbs with fixed pro.

Yet another lap on *The Buckets*, 19 - not too hard; *But Holland Is A Country*, 25, way too hard, what can we do now? If they broadened their horizons and tried some trad climbing, there are far more excellent quality routes within their grasp.

Yes, they may have to drop a few grades to make up for the extra effort of placing the gear, however there are so many good climbs on which they are turning their backs through not trying trad routes.

Why not give it a go??

Try some easier routes to build up confidence at placing and trusting trad gear, then start pushing the grades again.

The common complaint which I have heard is that sports climbers don't trust hand placed gear. One common technique in sports climbing is to push yourself until you fall, as a method of seeking one's true limits. This definitely will then test the integrity of their runners, and may be daunting if translated to trad gear. However, do you really have to do this on every climb?

We don't always have to be pushing ourselves to the limit, climbing can be fun too. There is no real harm in a bit of a runout above bomber gear if you are within your limit, be that sport or trad. And the surprise is, even if you do fall off on trad gear, it usually does stay in!

I think that it is important to maintain a balance between trad and sport. There was an incisive editorial in the American "Climbing" journal years ago, which made a pertinent observation.

Too much sport climbing and you may indeed lose the confidence to run it out from good trad gear, and with too much trad you may lose the fluidity of clipping quickly and keeping the momentum going through the crux and beyond.

## The Half Brick Award



This issues thumbs down goes to...

Speed cameras.

Nuff said.



## Club Calendar

### Upcoming meetings/events

**Next Club Meet:** Monday 10 October 2005

**Venue:** All bi-monthly meetings take place at 7.30pm in The Brecknock Hotel, King William Street, Adelaide on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month.

Voluntary slide presentations welcome at any of these meets.



## Hot Fun Closing

Latest (and some not so latest) news & views from around the world...

### US

**Lynn Hill** has made a one-day free ascent of the *West Face of Leaning Tower* in Yosemite while her partner, **Katie Brown**, freed the climb's crux pitches over a couple of days.

The two women worked on the climb for two days, rested for two days, and then went for the free ascent. Hill topped out after dark, and they returned later so Brown could free the final 5.12 pitch.

The West Face goes at 5.13b (29) A0 and was originally freed by a UK team led by Leo Houlding. The free variation starts atop the 200-foot bolt ladder at the base of the wall and has five pitches of 5.12 or 5.13. An insurmountable reach problem on the free version of the fifth pitch, forced the two to free the original aid line via a hard boulder problem.

"It was a good challenge," Hill said. "I really like that length of climb it's more accessible than an El Cap route. I can go up on it for a day and then come back down and be with my baby."

### GER

**Richard Simpson** (UK) has been on a trip to Frankenjura where he managed to do *Infinity*, 8c+ (34) and six 8c's (33's). He also onsighted *Subway*, 8b (31). Word has it that this man can do 1-4-7 on a campus board – using one-finger snatches. Not exactly weak then.

**Adam Ondra** (CZECH) – all of 12 years old - has (also in Germany) onsighted his fifth 8b (31), *Stoney Road*. In addition to that he did Wolfgang Gullich's celebrated *Wallstreet*, 8c (33).

**David Lama** from Austria has broken a new record by doing *No Future*, 8c+ (34) at the age of 14.

### JAP

**Yuji Hirayama** has put up *Karachi*, 9a (35) in Japan. *Karachi* apparently entails a 22 meter grade 32 followed by a V10 boulder problem.

### Australian news

**Ben Cossey** has repeated *Attack Mode* (32) at PC, Nowra. His brother meanwhile has made tracks overseas and has been performing rather well on French and German limestone. At Ceuse he (Lee) did *Face du Rat* (8a+) as his first grade 30 onsight. He also redpointed *Violent Illusion* 8b (31) which has been described as a V10 boulder problem start into a 27.

**Nathan Hoette** has also been visiting Germany. To date he has climbed many routes in the 7c+-8b bracket (28-31) including routes such as *Siphon* (31), *Bastard* (31), *Clockwork Orange* (31), *Oden's Taffel* (31), *Phrik Nam Pla* (31), and the classic Gullich route *Amadeus Schwarzenegger* (30). On top of all this he has completed at least 10 routes of grade 30 and 6 more 29's. Obviously quite fit then...

Closer to home **Monique Forrester** has sent the now classic Arapiles sport route *Poosticks Connection* (29). She also sent *Like A Koala* (29) at the

Gallery, and onsighted *Gorilla Tactics* (26).

Homeboy Frederic Bonnet has been hanging out at Rodellar (France) – and has apparently ticked 5 8a's (29's) and one 8a+.

Australia's Toby Benham loves the UK gritstone circuit so much - that he has got himself British citizenship – and seemingly moved there for good. Over the winter he established *Simba's Pride* E8 6c at Burbage – a complete solo up an overhanging arete with what has to be described as the worst landing imaginable. Think of stacking a dozen fridge-sized blocks down a downward sloping landing and you'll get the picture.

The Australian grade equivalent is solid grade 26 sloper slapping...

He also repeated the seldom climbed Stanage route *Black Car Burning* (E7 6c) (Australian 26) – which is virtually a solo as well (1 wire) but above a far better landing.

As usual, please send any Local News/Trip Reports or other BOLFA material to Greg Rolton at the following address:

[bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au](mailto:bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au)

## Advertiser's Board



We currently have some great in store specials!

Franklin Drop Zone bouldering pads are on special, plus our huge 'Rack Pack', which includes all you need to hit up some trad lines (see in store for details).

Keep an eye out for PrAna climbing clothing and mad rock shoes due to arrive this month....

Don't forget you Climbing Club Card to receive your standard discount (10%). Please note that the Club Card discount doesn't apply to above prices.

## Arapiles Mountain Shop

10% discount is available to all CCSA members at Arapiles Mountain Shop

An advertisement for Paddy Pallin's climbing store. It features a central image of a climber on a rock face. Text includes 'Adelaide's Leading Climbing Store For 30 Years', '228 Rundle St. Adelaide 5000', and contact information: 'Ph (08) 8232 3155', 'E-mail: adelaide@paddypallin.com.au', and 'www.paddypallin.com.au'. A small logo for 'BLACK DIAMOND' is in the top left.

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## The Last Word

**“Climbers have come and gone and some are still going strong, others have become injured or got married and had kids, which is just as good as being injured.”**

Long time climber and boulderer Ben Moon, talking about climbing's current state of affairs (quoted from his website)

