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The BOLFA newsletter



A publication of the Climbing Club of South Australia

Two obscure Adelaide climbers (almost make it back into the limelight) on *Passport to Insanity*

In April 2005, Stu Keynes and Dan Handley set out to tackle Passport to Insanity (PTI). With no aid climbing experience between them, the two managed to beg, borrow and steal aiders, daisy chains and the odd large Cam from various other Adelaide climbers.

2 hours practise at Norton Summit filled them with confidence, and they set out on a Thursday night for their main objective. The plan was to tick Taipan Wall's 'The Seventh Pillar' as a warm up on the Friday, camp at the base of PTI Friday night, tick *Passport* on the Saturday, and bask in their ultimate glory for all of the Sunday.

This was not to be.

The Seventh Pillar expedition was started in fine form by Dan, who quickly sorted out his aiding method on the droopy old carrots of pitch 1. However Stu quickly came unstuck on the mixed aid/free pitch 2 when rope drag reached such a level that free climbing became impossible. He was forced to continue aiding up relatively easy ground, until confronted with a totally blank section of wall just below the 2nd belay. With no way to aid or free the section, the situation looked grim until he spotted a possible bollard on the ledge above. After only three lasso attempts with the lead rope the bollard was snagged, and Stu was able to haul up to the belay in true creative aiding style.

Time had completely run away on the duo however, and they were forced to rap off in order to beat the sunset, with still 2 pitches to go. Feeling very humbled and aware that the original plan was now unachievable, there was some talk of a retreat from the task of conquering PTI. Nevertheless, Saturday morning rekindled the dream, and they set off planning on doing pitch 1 that day, and the rest on Sunday.

Stu took on the 50m gently overhanging off width of pitch 1 with two number 4 Camalots and not a whole lot of climbing fitness. Within seconds it deteriorated to an aid pitch rather than a glorious grade 20. Fast progress was however made by leap frogging the 4 Camalots and getting the odd slung bollard or wire in along the way. Dan managed to free it on second with a few sits. The belay was set and the team abseiled off for a long sleep at the bottom.

Dawn on Sunday was clear and cold as the team jugged back up to the belay. The haul bag came up complete with video camera and warm gear, which was desperately needed. Dan set off on the classic second pitch, aiding through the roof with numerous Cams while Wedgetails hovered in the strong wind, watching.



The roof was tamed quickly and Stu began to second the pitch. Some communication problems were present (Stu had suggested a purchase of the \$12.99 Coles walkie talkies - but this had been vetoed). Such problems ended when Stu screamed out "Dan! Just don't do ANYTHING" as he juggled up the rope he hoped was tied off.

The party regrouped on the 2nd belay but alas! Time had got the better of them again. With only 2 hours of daylight left and feeling very uncertain of being able to free the next pitch quickly, the decision was made to beat a retreat and rap off some old slings and 'biners. The haul bag was lowered on the 50m 9mm rope to test the length. It was seen to be blowing around ferociously in the wind and hitting large branches of a tree but definitely not on the ground. The 60m 10mm was knitted up so it could be progressively released as the first person went down.

Stu went over first, and headed down to the forest below. Unable to clearly see where he was aiming for he took the wrong path through the gum and ended up on the downhill side of the tree, which was rooted on steeply sloping ground. While he struggled to safely climb out of the tree Dan followed down the rope and with some directing from the ground, managed to take a path that allowed him to get all the way to the base. The ropes were pulled with great caution considering the wind and trees but in the end were retrieved without too many dramas.

Lessons learned for future climbers:

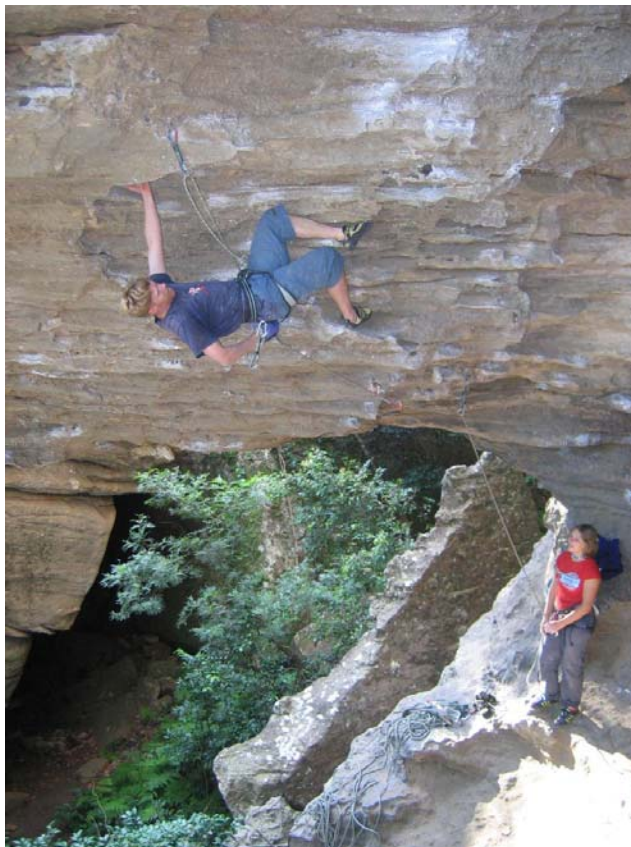
- Pitch 1 can be aided with 2x No.4 Camalots but it would be pretty bold to free it without some more big gear.
- 2x 60m ropes could make it much easier to get off pitch 2 if you are running late.
- Aiding takes a shit load of time!



The roof crack of Passport...



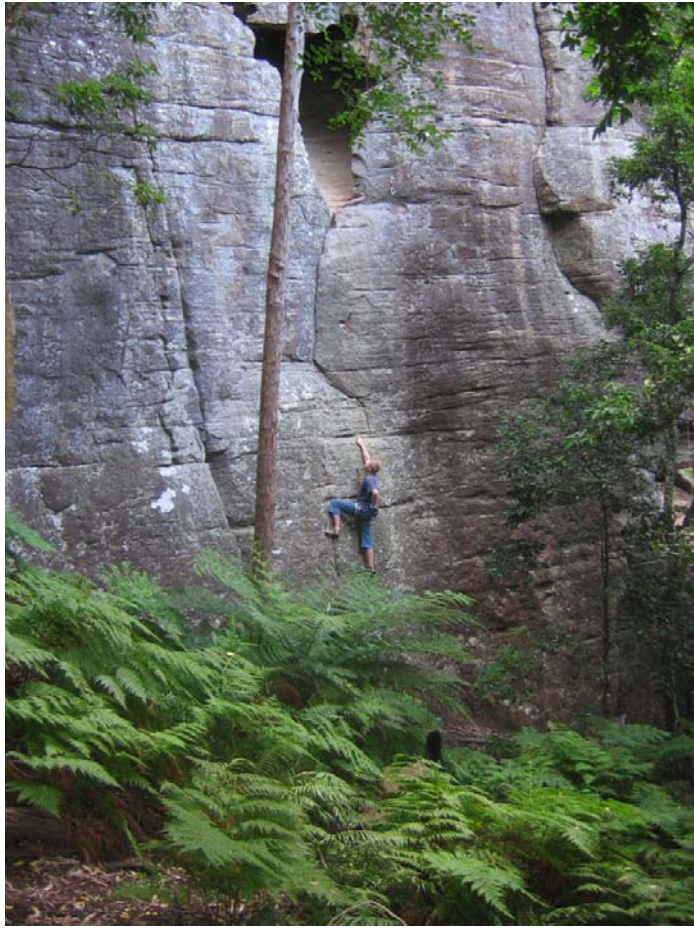
Picture Perfect: Submit your photo's to: bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au



Damian Hall – Eat My Spinning Blades of Steel... (20), The Grotto, Nowra



Paul Kinnane – Uncertainty Pleasure (22), Nowra



Damian Hall – L'Arch (17) Nowra, NSW



Katie Howell – multi-pitching in Switzerland

The BOLFA newsletter

Editor: Steve Kelly

Due date for next BOLFA submissions:
Wednesday 1 June 2005

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

Club news

Recent beta on Club issues...

Re-bolting initiatives

Many thanks go to James Falconer for his efforts in re-equipping some of the routes at the Norton Summit Cave. Such a task is never an easy one, and the new bolts will certainly get a lot of use by local climbers.

CCSA website

The CCSA website has been updated! Users can access the site via the following address:

www.climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au

Please aid in the ongoing development of this site by submitting photo's, news of new routes or any other relevant information to:

info@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au



The Joker

Prince Charles was driving around his mother's estate when he accidentally ran over her favourite dog, a Corgi, crushing it to a pulp. He got out of his Range Rover and sat down on the grass totally distraught.

The whole world was against him and now his mother would go ballistic.

Suddenly he noticed a lamp half-buried in the ground. He dug it up, polished it and immediately a genie appeared.

"You have freed me from thousands of years of imprisonment," said the genie. "As a reward I shall grant you one wish."

"Well," said the Prince, "I have all the material things I need, but let me show you this dog." They walk over to the splattered remains of the dog. "Do you think you could bring this dog back to life for me?" the Prince asked.

The genie carefully looked at the remains and shook his head. "This body is too far gone for even me to bring it back to life. Is there something else you would like?"

The Prince thought for a minute, reached into his pocket and pulled out two photos. "I was married to this beautiful woman called Diana," said Prince Charles, showing the genie the first photo. "But now I love this woman called Camilla," and he showed the genie the second photo.

"You see Camilla isn't beautiful at all, so do you think you can make Camilla as beautiful as Diana?"

The genie studied the two photographs and after a few minutes said,

"Let's have a look at that dog again."

SA new routes...

South Australian climbers being creative...

Norton Summit

TB OR NOT TB 20m 24-25ish

Start in alcove at R side of upper right cave behind 4 grass trees and olive. Climb groove (tricky start) to rest under roof. Undercling L under roof, then back up R to biting jam: tape back of L hand. R and pull through next roof and onto ledge on arête. Up short corner to ledge, (optional #1 Friend here), pull L through bulge to stance and DBB. 9 bolts, take 5 long slings. Variant L finish awaits, moving L from short corner above crux, then directly

up through roof to belay. Tony Barker 16/03/05.

Thorn Buttress

As the Crowe Flies 15m 19

Line up centre of Gladiator chimney, starting from where Gladiator moves right to corner crack. Straight up with 3 BR, when holds expire, swing up right to final layback on Gladiator to chains. Worth taking a No#2 Cam or some nuts for the final Gladiator layback. FA: Tony Barker, John Marshall 30/04/05.

The Cave, Norton Summit

KPDM-Terrace Stroll Upper Link (25)

Obvious link up of these two routes along the upper roofline. FA: Stefan Schiller.

The Hole

Oxygen (29)

Nirvanoxyne & Good Karma (32)

Grades await confirmation. FA: Fred Bonnet.

Moonarie

Micro Adventure Variant Finish 5m 21 *

Added to the original, makes excellent and extended 30m pitch. Instead of moving up final easy chimney, from base of it swing up and right to the pointy flake. Up centre/left of black headwall to top. 2BR. FA: Tony Barker, Mike Broadbent 27/03/05.

A Telstar experience

Ex-Adelaide climber Graham Dick describes climbing the 'out there for 19' route *Telstar* at Ikara Head – Blue Mountains...

The best way to spoil a pleasant weekend of comfortable sport climbing is to decide on going for a wiggly adventure on Sunday. The day of rest began nicely enough with an hour-long stroll into the Grose Valley, with the usual spotting of wildlife (red-tail black cockatoos), walking into tree branches, falling into creeks and wondering if there would be good routes on the plethora of big cliffs springing into view all around us.

Around 1000hrs Jax and I arrived at our destination - Ikara - a good old-fashioned trad cliff with lots of crack lines and a stunning position. Inspection of the area unearthed our proposed warm-up route - *Telstar*, a three star 19 (with a cautionary hand added in the guide for good measure!)

Unlike the forgettable Ford motor vehicle of the same name, the 100 metres of cliff above us looked quite imposing. From the ground, the highlight of the route looked like a largish roof on the second pitch. I believe that the guidebook description mentioned changing underwear after completing this section, but we set off with high spirits and bravado nonetheless ("it's only 19 - how scary can it be?").

The first pitch was actually quite pleasant. There was some dodgy rock, but decent gear and OK climbing. Setting up a belay about 10 metres below the roof, which suddenly looked a lot bigger than it had from the ground, the first seeds of trepidation began to sprout. Time-check was 11H10hrs as Jax left terra firma.

As I arrived at the start of the roof, it was with mild amusement that I noted scattered evidence of previous bailings - an ancient sling around a loose boulder here, a prussic cord threaded on a rotten chicken-head there... Under the roof there was actually a horrid, sloping, loose, chalky shale cave which had to be navigated to a point where it was possible to get a hold of the underside of the roof proper.

Due to this unpleasantness, the length of roof to be climbed suddenly increased from about 8 metres to around 12 - full of trouser-filling potential when viewed from the very back of the beast, gingerly perched on an unstable stance of talcum powder and loose gravel. Jam in a cam, grab two slimy underclings, chuck a foot above eye-level and push like there's no tomorrow. This achieves an extremely uncomfortable wedging of oneself in the bottomless upside down chimney/funnel that is to be followed horizontally out, out and out.

After the first 6 metres of inch by inch wiggling, accompanied by copious swearing, sweating and grunting, the last bit of gear possible for the rest of the pitch is placed with a silent prayer, and slow progress over the void painfully continues. Between my legs I could see Jax looking up rather sceptically, our bags 50 metres below and then the base of the valley, a couple of hundred metres further down.

Thoughts of clipping fat ring-bolts, enjoying lunch in the sunshine and the inevitable annoying song lyrics dance though my head....

Finally the end of the roof is reached - too narrow to go further up the funnel, so the headwall must be swung onto. The dark, painful chimney slot that had been my hateful prison for the last 30 minutes suddenly seemed very appealing when the prospect of swinging onto the massively exposed and disturbingly blank-looking wall above the roof was considered.

That last nut halfway out the roof seemed a loooooong way away, too. The decision to wear the brown cords was well justified as the unavoidable move was made - followed by a couple

of breathless pulls to a hanging belay stance.

Sometimes it takes a bit of time to establish trust with your gear in a hanging belay, and as this process went on, Jax made her way into the aforementioned shaley cave of doom under the roof.

Over the ensuing hour or two, there was much sniffing and quavering questions heard from the underside of the funnel - completely understandable questions such as "...why do I have to do it?" and "...why didn't you realise when you got here that this would be too scary for me?" were posed and statements such as ".. I'm petrified - it may be a while before I can move" got me thinking about our options for bailing.

There were no easy options, so slowly and steadily, Jax was drawn into the insanity of the situation and managed to become established in the bottomless funnel. Once into it, her intuitive grace, poise and elegance took over and there was nary a grunt nor a profanity uttered as she traversed the void and joined me on the headwall in the dull late afternoon cool.

Without a watch or a head torch between us, the possibility of camping out for the dark, cold night was not appealing.... so the final 40 metres was scampered up "any which way you can" style and we topped out without further dramas.

Two 50m raps off dodgy old chains attached to even dodgier old carrot bolts landed us back on the easy version of horizontal and we beat a hasty retreat in the gathering dusk. Reaching the good bit of the track right on dark, we knew we had made it, but still spent the final 25 mins of the march in a state of terror as we recalled a huge orb-weaver web straddling the path that morning - just couldn't remember exactly where it was.....

Next weekend, a sunny little cliff with lots of fat bolts, a good lunch and early knock-off to the pub sounds like the go!

The Half Brick Award



This issues thumbs down goes to...

The idiot(s) who chose to remove (steal) the gear off **Cobwebs (28)** (Arapiles) and **Breathing Gasoline (31)** (Grampians) whilst these routes were being actively worked on by other climbers. Both instances occurred in Victoria, however such practices must be regarded as criminal at any cliff in the country.



Words of wisdom... (not!)

"My fighters will outwit, and out muscle it!"

- President of the CMFL (**Cambodian Midget Fighting League**) Yang Sihamoni, just prior to sending 28 of his 42 prized Cambodian Fighting Midgets to their deaths at the hands of an African adult male lion. The remaining 14 suffered severe injuries including broken bones and lost limbs, rendering them unable to fight back.



Club Calendar

Upcoming meetings/events

Next Club Meet: 6 June 2005

Following Club Meet: 1 August 2005

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

Voluntary slide presentations welcome at any of these meets.



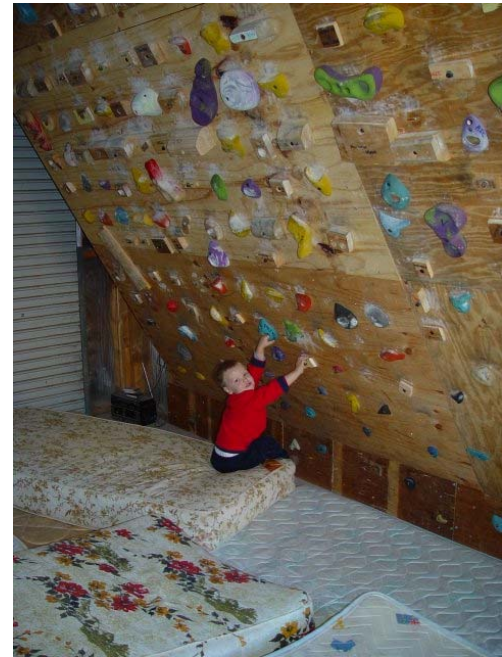
Woody Central

Continuing the theme of **Woodies around Adelaide...**

Here we have a secret training board somewhere in the vicinity of (hopefully) a childcare. 3 to 4 year olds have secretly been training on this board for 12 months now – with the intent of breaking onto the international scene by the age of 9 in a big way.

One lad – when asked 'What are you training for?' replied "Treats!" Another replied "Chocolates! Yet another thought about it for a while – then replied 'The Bard'.

Rumour has it that some of the problems being put up by these little people are absolutely desperate (i.e. bunched!)



Hot Fun Closing

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

Sardinia

Steve McClure and Gareth Parry (both of the UK) have just returned from Sardinia after making a very impressive onsight ascent of the legendary mega long hard sport route '**Hotel Supramonte**' in the Gorropu Gorge. The route involved three days of effort spread over four days.

Day 1 saw Gareth onsight pitches 1 & 2 (7b+/26 & 8a/29). After a day of rest they got back to their highpoint and Steve onsighted the crux pitch (8b/31), whilst Gareth redpointed it. The same treatment was dealt to the next pitch (8a+/30).

They camped at the base – then jugged to their highpoint the next morning for the final push. Steve flashed the pitch (7c+/28) (pitch number 5 by this stage) after Gareth took a fall attempting the

onsight. It was agreed that this pitch was also solid 8a/29.

After this sort of 'warm up' – they managed to top out after another 5 pitches onsight, all of which weighed in at 7c/27; 7b/25; 7b+/26; 7b/25; and a final 7b/25 to finish. Whew!

UK

Rich Simpson – the UK's sport climbing man of the moment – made a rare repeat of Ben Moon's 30 foot route **Hubble (8c+/34)** at Raven Tor. This, the world's first F8c+ (FA 1990), has only now had 5 ascents, all by extremely talented boulderers. Simpson also made an ascent of **Evolution (hard 8c/33)**, and onsighted **Hot Flushes (8a/29)**.

Up at Malham Cove, Katherine Schirmacher redpointed the Malham classic **Raindogs (8a/29)**, and joined the slender ranks of British women who have climbed this grade. Raindogs was the first British route of F8a to be climbed by a woman - the late Rachel Farmer way back in 1992.

On the grit, Lisa Rands has once again impressed with a solo of Robin Barker's route '**Shine On (E7/8)**' at Stanage. The route basically involves two very powerful pulls on poor pockets through a roof – above fridge-sized blocks for a landing.

US

Witness the Fitness is the new boulder problem established by Chris Sharma, this time in Arkansas. The line features a horizontal roof for its entire length and is 'Gymnastically complex to the point of improbability'. The crux reportedly features a backhanded right-hand gaston in a miniscule three-finger pocket, followed by a lock-off into a left-hand undercling at full extension. Commenting on the grade – Sharma only suggested that it is three times longer than

Esperanza, and has a harder crux. Esperanza being the V14 he repeated in 2004.

Elsewhere in the US, Matt Fultz has redpointed **Whiteout (8c/33)**. He also onsighted **Knockout (8a/29)** which he thought was more like 28. This is a record of sorts – as Matt is only 13 years old.

SPA

Iker Pou has made a rare flash of a climb rated 8c/33 in Cuenca. He gave the treatment to **Alpinismo Deportivo (8c/33)**. Only two others have reportedly flashed the same grade - Kilian Fischhuber with **Tai Chi** in Switzerland, and Yuji Hiriyama with **White Zombie** – also in Spain.

Fellow countryman Dani Andrada – famous for having climbed over 1000 routes graded 8a/29 – has completed his hardest climb to date with **La Novena Enmienda** – giving it the cutting-edge rating of 9a+/9b (36/37). The climb entails a combination of two routes graded 8c and above and is 52 metres in length.

SWITZ

Dave Graham, undoubtedly America's top sport climber, has made an ultra fast repeat of a route that up until now – has been confirmed at 9a/35. It took him only 3 tries to nab an ascent of Fred Nicole's 1993 route **Bain De Sang** at St Loup – suggesting afterwards that it felt more like 8c+/34.

At the same crag - Josune Bereziartu, the Spanish female who is undeniably the top sport climbing woman of all time, has raised the bar again.

This time she worked and then redpointed the second ascent of **Bimbaluna (9a/9a+)** or 35/36. If the grade stands then this is a major breakthrough in female climbing, virtually bringing it level with the top standard of the men. Bimbaluna

was first put up by Francois Nicole (Fred's brother) – no stranger to hard routes, having climbed Bain De Sang and numerous routes above the 8c/33 standard in the past.

Australian news

Chick power...

On April 25th, Victorian junior climber Madeleine Melder managed to tick the classic **Manic Depressive (25)** at Bundaleer. Madelaine is still only 12 years old.

Jaqui Middleton meanwhile keeps pushing the boundaries of female climbing in this country, this time sending the extremely steep **Red Vinyl (30)** at Millennium Caves, also in the Grampians.

Over in NSW, Monique Forrestier has added another 8a to her ticklist, by sending the much acclaimed Giles Bradbury route **Self Portrait (29)** in Porters Pass. She also walked away with a **Vanity Case (28)**. This was all in the name of training however, as she later visited Boronia and sent the radically steep **Big Wednesday (31)**.

Jarmila Tyrril has been ticking her way through some of the classic, harder routes in the Blue Mountains including **Hairline 2000 (28)** at Diamond Falls, **Vanity Case (28)** at Porters Pass, **Lloyd of the Rings (27)** and **Navel Aviator (27)** at Bowens Creek, **Veterans Affairs (27)** and **Onions (27)** at Boronia Point and **Headshot (27)** at The Egg (a relatively new Crag near Katoomba).

She later did a quick ascent of **Chasin' the Shadow (27)** at the Gallery and ticked both **Brutal Movements (27)** and **Wrong Movements (27)** at Centennial Glen in the Blue Mountains. Amanda Watts and Helen Ellis both

repeated **Veterans Affairs (27)** at Boronia Point.

As for the men - Zac Vertrees climbed a new grade 33 (8c) at Diamond Falls called **Tucker Time**. Lee Cossey meanwhile continues to tick hard things, this time with the second ascent of his brother's **Mechanical Animals (34)** at Boronia Point. Prior to this he also got up **Grey Area (33)** and **Rhythm and Stealth (32)** both at Diamond Falls as well.

Jake Bresnehan repeated **Mr. Lion (32)**, **Mr. Tickle (32)**, **Starring at the Sea (32)** and **Pooferator (31)**. He also flashed **Camel Toes Are Us (29)** at Boronia.

Cossey the younger (Ben) repeated some of the smallest routes at Mt Arapiles with **Bliss (30)**, **Mighty Mouse (31)** and then went onto flash **Masada (29)**. He also flashed **Camel Toes Are Us (29)** back at Boronia.

On the bouldering front, James Kassay has repeated **Cave Bitch (V12)**, Dai Koyamada's recent **Sleepy Hollow-Cave Man linkup (V13)** and added a new V13 back in December, now named **Stimulation**.

Sharik Walker returned briefly to the Grampians and sent **Lost for Life (V12)**, **Stuck South of the Border (V13)**, the 2nd ascent of James Kassay's new problem **Stimulation (V13)** and **Ammagamma (V13)**.

More recently he has relocated to Sydney, and already has settled in with the 2nd ascent of Joe Hoggson's **Two Hands (V13)** at Bonnet Bay, and the first ascent of **Nina Blue Eyes (V9)** at the Wall.

Local lads done good...

Steve Pollard continues his trip through Europe, and after a brief stop at Fontainebleau has managed to get himself down south. Areas like the famous Verdon Gorge and Gorge du

Loup, near Nice have provided a fair amount of entertainment for him – all as warm ups of course for his current location – that of Ceuse. Classics such as **Vagabond d' Occident (7c/27)** and others have so far not posed many problems – and neither has the language barrier – for he says 'there are Australians everywhere!'

Closer to home, Lawrie Dermody has sent the mighty **Slinkin' Leopard (28)** in 2 tries at Mt Arapiles. He then went on to tick **India (28)** and **The Great Escape (28)**. Also on the same wall – Luke Geelen dispatched **Wackford Squeers (26)** relatively quickly, whilst James Falconer sent **Henry Bolte (25)**. **Steve Kelly** slapped his way up **Escape (26)** and then **The Great Escape** on the same weekend, success apparently coming after some 70 'training' shots on **Stugang in the Hole**.

Dave Ceber flew an entirely different flag – soloing **Garden Knome (18)** shirtless - wearing a black beanie. Spectators at first mistook him for a gnome thief who had chosen to steal the infamous icon atop the said route – that was until policeman Rob Baker followed soon afterwards. Wearing substantially more clothing, but carrying the same amount of equipment – he confirmed that the gnome was indeed still intact.

In the Hole – Fred Bonnet has been hard at work establishing some very difficult offerings. Previously unreported are his new routes **Oxygen (29)** and **Nirvanoxyne and Good Karma (32)** – making the latter the hardest climb in the Hole (and state) to date.

On the outer cliff, Tony Barker put up a new climb called **To TB or not to TB** – giving it (24/25), whilst Stefan Shiller did the obvious linkup of KPDM into North Terrace Stroll from the upper roof (25?) – both grades await confirmation.

A detailed guide to this area listing all routes – including the outer cave – will be available on the CCSA website in the not too distant future.

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

bolfa@climbingclubsouthaustralia.asn.au

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The Last Word

“I have to go to a 3 years old’s birthday party tomorrow – solo. What am I going to do with all those mothers?”

Male climber and soloist of note – commenting on the scare factor of attending a kiddies party completely unprotected.

