

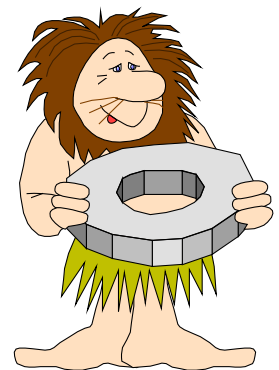
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The BOLFA newsletter

A publication of the Climbing Club of South Australia

Ethics Smeshthicks (or – why you should give away those pink lycra tights)



Story by our Norwegian correspondent – Hadd U. Fjorgotten

Once upon a time, in a far away land, lived an ape-man named Norman. Now although Norman was fairly average as ape-men went (all over body hair/total disrespect for the ladies/partial to a bit of raw antelope) – he was however an outstanding climber. This wasn't surprising, as he had had a private coach since birth (his mother) and he had been free-soloing from the tender age of 15 months.

Little did he know that – centuries later – his descendants would follow in his footsteps (still have all over body hair/still have a total disrespect for the ladies, and still be outstanding climbers).

Fast forward to 1885, to a small crag at Wharnccliffe in the UK. There, a young 16 year old lad by the name of James Puttrell is making the first ascent of Prow Rock (12) onsight – solo – in a pair of corduroy trousers, a tweed jacket, and hiking boots. Obviously the clothing ethic had taken a turn for the better, but the climbing ethic had remained arguably the same.

Throughout the intervening years since, such ethics have continued to evolve. The classic 19th century mountaineer continued the trend of solo climbing (particularly in tweed jackets), but then quickly realised the benefits of climbing with a rope. Unfortunately - despite this realisation – its real use (that of saving lives) wasn't tapped into until much later, and the decidedly dodgy tactic of tying the entire climbing team together (whilst remaining completely unprotected) was a common theme on the majority of first ascents.

....A lot of people died.

This tactic was best demonstrated by the classical first ascent of the Matterhorn (also in 1885), whereupon one person fell – and dragged three others with him. Only the action of the rope snapping saved the rest of the party. With a history like this, it's no wonder that climbing has long been considered to be a 'lunatic fringe' activity. Clearly something had to be done.

The 20th century came along, and most people agreed with Puttrell's ethic that – if you're not tied to anyone – you're not going to get pulled off. Yet there was still something strangely missing in the safety department. After all, an ascent was measured upon nothing but getting to the top – solo – in your favourite Sunday best.

.....More people died.

It wasn't until the 30's (or thereabouts) when an incredibly gifted person thought that placing some protection along the way – whilst having a belayer – may in fact decrease the chance of your ongoing loss of Friday night drinking buddies. This was revolutionary... Suddenly, harder climbs could be completed, as you now had a large machine nut (stolen from your dad's car) sitting in front of your face – protecting that undercling move.Still, a lot of people continued to die.

Nevertheless, the possibilities were endless - or so it seemed.

The day quickly came where in some countries the so called 'blank faces' became unclimbable by pure physical means. And so another genius (or idiot – depending on your point of view) suddenly realised that climbing just the bare rock was 'for the birds' – and that the act of stepping into a series of man made slings would be far more entertaining. And so it was that Aid climbing was invented.

This peculiar form of ascension appealed greatly to those climbers too lazy enough to physically cope with the demanding moves that real rock presented, and obviously too stupid enough to realise that using a ladder would be a far easier alternative. Needless to say, this became very fashionable in America, but thankfully less so in other parts of the world – and so the term 'free climbing' was born.

...(A few people still died).

Yet it wasn't as simple as that. Some countries – notably England and Australia – began employing the tactic of 'English Ethics' – which involved attempting to free climb a route from the ground – but then immediately lowering off upon failure. The crux of each route was trying to keep your eyes closed for fear of seeing the remainder of the climb – as you were lowered to its base!

It was then that another intellectual was brought in – who offered up the outstanding solution of leaving the rope clipped into the last piece of gear from which you fell – thereby rendering the art of replacing the already in-situ gear on a previous attempt meaningless. This was pure genius! And so the term 'Yo Yo ascent' was born.

...Nobody else had to die!

Yo Yo ascents continued well into the '80's – the classic Australian example being the ascent of Punks in the Gym (32) – in which Wolfgang Gullich failed to clip the fixed wire on three occasions, so resorted to yo-yo-ing it instead. This in effect meant that the first half of the route was top-roped, until the top piece was bypassed. The majority of ascents in the 70's & early 80's were made in such a way.

Then in 1983, the term 'sport climbing' came into being. This came about by yet another highly learned person (who had clearly attended university) and who had grasped the idea that the 'unprotectable' faces were indeed protectable – so long as you had your dad's petrol driven Ryobi Power Drill, and a few expansion bolts. Now this was forward thinking!

...Suddenly, no one had to die.

But further changes still had to take place. This yo-yo-ing thing was fast becoming ridiculous. After all – what was the limit to where you could leave the rope pre-clipped through the gear when you fell – the second to last move? The French (surprisingly) were the first to catch on, and worked out that staying put when you fell – then working the moves of the problem that made you fell – would save time and lead to a faster ascent. Duh!!! And so the climb was worked out in sections – leading to an overall 'true' ascent, leading from the ground, placing the gear as you go. This was termed a 'redpoint', after a German whiz kid had sprayed red paint at the base of selected routes that had been 'freed' in this manner.

Unfortunately however, this form of climbing rapidly led to an increase in difficulty – with some routes having bolts on which it was near impossible to clip. Leaving the quick draws pre-clipped into the bolts meant that the tedious task of removing them upon a fall became obsolete – but strangely enough not everyone was happy with this new development (termed 'Pinkpoint'). But why not? After all, the climber was still leading from the ground – and it was definitely an improvement in style from yo-yo-ing. Needless to say then, that this faded into obscurity, and it has now become the accepted norm on the majority of hard routes. Certainly we had come a long way since the days of Jimmie Puttrell – and his faithful Jack Russel spotter named Rex.

Along with this new-found form of ascent, came the clothing. Birthday suits were long since out of fashion (with the exception of some highly inebriated individuals), and tweed jackets were well out of date. No – it was a time of Cyndi Lauper, a time of Bananarama, a time forpink lycra. Thankfully the lycra clad climber has also gone out of fashion, though you still see some leopard skin tights lurking around crags of the world on occasion. White tights were the first to go – especially after a certain famous Frenchman wore them on a stemming corner – with less than eye-inspiring results. The Blue Mountains route 'Nappies, Patrique?' isn't called that for nothing you know!

So next time you're out on the crag complaining about the state of climbing – and other people's wardrobes – just remember:

You can always be a Norman - and go soloing in your birthday suit!

The Club Report

by Rob Baker

After a relatively mild start to the winter, the recent 2 months have been wet and cold. Most weekends have provided windy and wet conditions both in Adelaide and Victoria.

Nevertheless, some committed Adelaide climbers have still been heading either north to Moonarie, eastwards to the Grampians and Arapiles or even further east to Nowra and Sydney.

A small but well stocked (with beer) contingent headed to Nowra for some winter action. The ever youthful Justin Taylor and Sally Ely being the standouts, with JT sending some 27s and Sally equipping some hard routes for her loyal and trusty belay slave Lukey (Geelen).

Young Stevie (Star) Pollard and James (Ronnie) Falconer made a brief appearance for some sport climbing fun but were lured away to Canberra prematurely by the promise of women and wine. Much fun was had by all and muscle tops were apparently worn with reckless abandon.

Lots of trips to the Grampians and Arapiles have yielded the odd rain-free day of climbing or bouldering and lots of fun times trying to avoid the rain and stay warm. The Indian restaurant at Dadswell Bridge is a thoroughly recommended dinner outing that is only about 10 minutes drive from Mt Stapylton on the Western highway. (They even have a beer fridge in the reception!)

On the environmental front, Ben Pavy and friends have done a fantastic job of collecting seed and growing a few hundred Sheoak seedlings for planting around Morialta and Norton Summit.

Over 100 seedlings were planted at Norton Summit and around 230 seedlings were planted near the access to Far Crag at Morialta.

Many thanks to Ben Pavy and the members of the Climbing Club who helped plant the seedling over 2 weekends in September. This sort of work goes a long way toward restoring the environment to its native state and it also fosters and improves the relationship between the Climbing community in SA and the National Parks.

Track work around the climbing areas at Morialta has begun recently. The Green Corps have made themselves quite busy with track maintenance and other signage work around the climbing areas of Boulder Bridge and Far Crag.

The huge work effort is intended to reduce erosion and make access safer for all. The fantastic effort by the green corps will continue for another few months.

Any climbing related news or trip reports are welcome for inclusion in BOLFA and on the news section on the CCSA website (see below).

The CCSA Website

The CCSA Website is currently a work in progress, and should be available by the next Club Meet. Members are encouraged to email any related content material to James Falconer at:

james.falconer@student.adelaide.edu.au

A 'first draft' of the site has been put together by 'The South African' Mr Rob Absalom, and can be viewed at the following location:

<http://www.geocities.com/roba.rm/rock2/index.html>

It must be stressed that this is a test site at present – so the final product will undoubtedly be slightly different.

Re-equipping of fixed gear placements at Mt Arapiles

by Steve Kelly

Fixed gear replacement on selected routes continues to be completed at Mt Arapiles, courtesy of a small band of dedicated local Natimuk climbers known affectionately as the NBF (Natimuk Bolting Fund).

Old tats, worn out fixed wires and old bolts are gradually being replaced with new gear, without altering the climbs original makeup.

In addition, some new and much needed rap points have also been installed in selected areas, and some bolt routes have been re-bolted. Bolts used are only the best in stainless steel fixed hangers, as well as being painted to have minimal impact.

The NBF is completely self-financed yet their efforts are and will be greatly appreciated by any climber visiting Arapiles on a regular basis. If you are one of these people, then it would be appreciated if a donation (however small) be made to this cause.

Please speak to Steve Kelly if you would like to make a contribution.

A full list of the affected climbs, including new rap stations follows:

New and upgraded rappel/belay stations

Comic Strip Wall

The Wizard Of Id 18m

King Rat Cliffs

Light Fingered 20m

Cruel Consistency 15m

Skydiver 25m

Smile 12m

The Atridae

Debutantes and Centipedes 17m

Pain Street 20m

Have A Good Flight 20m

Afterburner (Jet Lag extension)
27m

The Flight Deck 25m

Organ Pipes

Tannin 30m

Toccatà 50m

Central Gully Left Side

Squeakeasy 25m

Deep Freeze Wall

Strapping 15m

Deep Freeze 15m

Reaper Buttress

Reaper 24m

Beserk 30m

Preludes Wall

Subliminal Cut 25m

Minstrel Pinnacle

Scourge 20m

Starless Buttress

Oh Bondage 20m

Starless and Bible Black 27m

Dreadnought Gully

Dreadnought Gully 25m

Dreadnought 20m

Great Temptation 40m

Dunes Buttress

Sandpiper 26m

Morfydd Wall

Feral Chicken 20m

Slap Happy 30m

Kinkaid 20m

Morfydd/Bygone 30m

Bluffs

Unrequited 15m

Despatched 26m

Denim 20m

Death Row Pinnacle

Death Row - Off Back 20m

Garden Gnome 20m

Pharos

Aftermath 50m

Trinity Wall 15m to ledge, 50m to
ground

Slopin' Sleazin' 15m

Lamplighter 45m

Kingdom Come 1st Pitch 20m

Dazed and Confused 23m

French Crack 10m

Rap via hole 20m

Oceanoid 1st Pitch Belay

Yesterday Gully

Ephemeral 20m

Fever Pitch 26m

Use No Chooks 25m

Watchtower Left Face

Hot Flap 2nd Pitch Belay

Wall Of The Afternoon Sun 1st Pitch
Belay (since chopped)

Kitten Wall

Hard Nipples 20m

Tjuringa Wall

Common Knowledge 50m

Henry Bolte Wall

Slinkin' Leopard 20m

Lord of the Rings 20m

Henry Bolte 24m

PB Gully

PB 22m

Curtain Wall

Cliffhanger top 50m

Cliffhanger base 25m

Mitre Rock

Salem 25m

Re-bolted Climbs

Note: All replacement bolts are fixed hangers which have been painted to be as unobtrusive as possible. These have now become standard.

Sagittarian

Steps Ahead

Hit The Deck

Look Sharp

New Toy

Purple Denotes Bruising

Sustained Metaphor

Beside Myself

English Ethics

Cassandra

Cassandra Direct

Pain Street

Have A Good Flight

Have A Good Flight Direct Start

Female Friends

Blind Ambition

Windsong

No Exit

Stage Right

Deeply Techo

Slap Happy

Swinging

Blyth Street

Aftermath

Slopin' Sleazin

British Beat

Snow Blind

Fever Pitch

Beelzebub

Hot Flap

Wall Of The Afternoon Sun (since chopped by Keith Lockwood & HB, and re-equipped with carrots)

New route activity

Arapiles

The past year has seen a resurgence in new route activity, particularly at the higher end of the grading scale. This may have something to do with the out-climbed nature of the easier walls at this location, or simply the major activists responsible for these lines. One look at the first ascent details will undoubtedly reveal both answers. Previously unreported ascents are also listed.

The Bluff

The Mule (30): FA Dave Jones. The wall and roof left of Anxiety Neurosis. Put up some time ago, but unrecorded.

On the Prowl (28): FA Dave Jones. The overhung wall & arete left of Station to Station.

Required (28): FA Ingvar Lidman. The 3 bolt line right of Unrequited. Originally graded 26+. 2nd ascent by Dave Jones.

Flight Wall

Afterburner (29+): FA Ingvar Lidman (02). A boulder problem extension to Jetlag (29). Unrepeated.

Yesterday Gully

All My Yesterdays (28): FA Ingvar Lidman (02). The true direct start to Yesterday, incorporating all 3 cruxes. 2nd ascent by Nathan Hoette.

Back Wall Pharos

Dave's Project (31): FA Nathan Hoette. The arete right of Trojan. Direct start (bolted by a visionary Kim Carrigan in the 80's) remains unclimbed. A working grade of at least 33 has been suggested.

Harlequin Cracks area

The Age of Stainless (25): FA Ingvar Lidman/Douglas Hockley. Brilliant left hand finish to Industrial Muscle.

Cyclops Eye Cave

Is Your Kitchen Cooking... (29) FA Nathan Hoette.

The Bolshevik Connection (28) FA Nathan Hoette. Both routes take lines through the cave roof.

Moonarie

Recent new routes – posted in August:

- Drowning Direct (Great Wall)
- Caught Short (Flying Buttress)
- Moon Unit (Callitris Corner)
- Two Up (Callitris Corner)
- Bullet Proof (Northern Group)

For a more up to date listing, including further information concerning recent activity, visit the Moonarie site on:

<http://www.geocities.com/moonarie>

The Joker

A male whale and a female whale were swimming off the coast of Japan when they noticed a whaling ship.

The male whale recognised it as the same ship that had harpooned his father many years earlier.

He said to the female whale, "lets both swim under the ship and blow out of our air holes at the same time and it should cause the ship to turn over and sink."

They tried it and sure enough, the ship turned over and quickly sank.

Soon however, the whale realised the sailors had jumped overboard and were swimming to the safety of the shore.

The male was enraged that they were going to get away and told the female, "lets swim after them and gobble them up before they reach the shore."

At this point, he realised the female was becoming reluctant to follow him.

"Look," she said, "I went along with the blow job, but I absolutely refuse to swallow the seamen."

The Half Brick Award

This issues 'Half Brick' goes to Keith 'Noddy' Lockwood, for removing the much-needed replacement bolts on the 1st pitch of Wall Of the Afternoon Sun (Arapiles).

His actions of stripping the two new bolts – then re-installing two new carrot bolts instead – have surely damaged the rock to a greater degree – than if he had left them untouched.

Please feel free to present Keith with this award (preferably by passing it to him at high speed) at the first available opportunity.

Hot Fun Closing

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

Australia

Biggest news in the last couple of months – as far as Australian climbers are concerned – is the first Australian female ascent of a 31, and now also a 32. Monique Forrestier completed both tasks at the Aliens Domain cliff in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

First up however, was Pigs In Space Direct (30), which went down after 9 days work in May of this year. Next to fall was a new (first ascent) left hand finish to this route, which she dubbed Mission To Mars (31), taking a further 8 days of work. Lastly, the harder more direct finish to both of these (Intergalactic Lactic Spastic – 32) was

repeated after a further 3 days on 23 July. Check out the pics on Simon Carter's site: www.onsight.com.au

Not to be outdone, Ben Cossey scored one for the male fraternity by establishing what is being touted as Australia's first 34 – this time at Boronia Point, also in the Blue Mountains. The route had been a long-standing project, and took some 20 days to establish. The route name must have taken significantly less – it's called *Mechanical Animals*.

Overseas reports

This from *Climbing* magazine...

Alps Suffer in Heat Wave

The worst of the European heat wave may have ended, but for Alpine climbers the disastrous summer continues.

In July, the Matterhorn was briefly closed to climbers and more than 70 were evacuated by helicopter after huge rockfalls swept the east and north faces. Now, for the first time in history, guides in Chamonix have stopped leading climbers up 15,771-foot Mont Blanc, as the exceptional heat has exposed unstable ice walls and rubble fields.

According to newspaper reports, the summit of 14,121-foot Dôme du Goûter, midway along a popular route to Mont Blanc, is bare of snow for the first time in memory. A key section of the Walker Spur on the Grandes Jorasses reportedly has fallen off, and rockfall is making other routes throughout the range completely impassable.

Officials fear that ski lifts, cable cars and mountain huts whose foundations are anchored in permafrost may be permanently damaged by melting ice.

Keep using those spray on deodorants children – soon there will be rock everywhere!

Obviously the heatwave hasn't affected conditions on the limestone...

For those of us starting to play to the tune of Pink Floyd's *Time* track (ie. getting on a bit), the next bit of news may be somewhat demoralising.

Felix Knaub – all of 11 years old, has repeated the long-standing Frankenjura classic Witchcraft (29), in a mere 3 tries.

It seems that hard climbers are getting younger and younger on the continent – unsurprising really, particularly when you have your own private coach at the age of 12. Such is the case with David Lama, who has now climbed his first 32.

Daniel Woods (13) has also become the equal youngest American to climb this grade with a repeat of The 7pm TV Show, at Rifle, Colorado. The route was previously considered to be 33.

Onto the 'super route category'. Two new routes – one in Japan, and one in the UK, have been added, both at the extreme end of what most climbers would call possible.

Steve McClure (UK) was first in with the long awaited first ascent of an extension to the Malham Cove classic Raindogs (29). Rainshadow (35) takes in all of this route, adds a V9/10 boulder problem, then another 15m of 29/30. The route had previously been equipped 14 years ago and attempted by arguably Britain's top climber at the time – Mark Leach – but with no success.

In Japan, the much heralded climber Yuji Hiriyama put up Flat Mountain – a line that was also bolted 14 years previously. The route is 33m long, starts with a 23m 26, then moves straight into a V11/12 problem, followed by another 10 move V8.

Local news

Club members Stevie Pollard and Justin Taylor have slain the mighty Procul Harem (26) at Mt Arapiles, despite a bout of flu – which reportedly had Stevie so handicapped, that he couldn't even make the coffee in the morning. We wonder whether that was because of the flu, or something else....

Justin also dispatched Power, Corruption & Lies (27), as well as flashing Aftermath (25), after a Mr Luke Geelen had fallen off the second to last move on the onsight.

Keen to drop his reputation for 'last-move-failures' and the nickname of Gaylord Warrior – Luke Geelen went on to tame the mighty Henry Bolte (25), Horrorscope (24) and Nose Job (24), whilst his partner in crime – Sally 'pin up girl' Ely – did the same to Norton Summit's Peregrine RHV (22).

The pair also had a successful trip to Nowra, with Luke doing Mega Mac (25/26), and Sally leading Vanderholics (19), Diddy Kong (18) and Gunbarrel Highway (19) – the majority of which were onsight.

She also completed her first traditional lead with Camelot (10) at the Mount.

Norton Summit was the scene of James Falconer's eventual redpoint of the classic Eddie Misses The Point (25), shortly after attempting to link a 6ft+ double-handed dyno to the start of the route.

Unreported from a while back was Steve Kelly's early morning solo ascent of Bung Original (20), having led the route previously. He describes it as more demanding than the likes of some other unroped ascents which he has done in the same vicinity – due to its insecure (polished!) nature.

Rob Baker has attended a wedding in the US - and not your average one at that. The dress code was 'fancy' – so in true style he attended dressed as 'The Crocodile Hunter'. Apparently his date for the evening got a few strange looks (a 6ft rubber crocodile).

Needless to say, he found the time to nip up a small climb in the Yosemite region before the ceremony – taking a relatively quick 13 hours to ascend the Regular NW Face Route on Half Dome (24 pitches). Perhaps he was rushing to make the cake cutting...

On the bouldering front, Sharik Walker has established Forced Entry (V13), making this one of the hardest pieces of climbing in the country. The

problem resides at Mt Stapylton in the Grampians. The origins of the name apparently have to do with a certain one finger pocket. He also managed a second ascent variation of a Klem Loskot V11 traverse – finishing up Bitch Slap (V7) at Loopeys.

Darren Williams & Lorne McClurg have unleashed their wild physiques upon what is being touted as the best wooden problem to come out of the western suburbs this century!

The line – dubbed ‘The Britiney Spears Exercise Routine’ is an instant classic – and is sure to entertain the masses for years to come (particularly when viewing the two crux holds!)

Whilst training for this immaculate concept, they spent a productive session at the Summit – where Darren walked away with a 4th shot ascent of the now famous ‘Pinch 2’ problem. This is highly significant, as it took the first ascensionist 31 more tries to establish! Lorne was less lucky – and was last seen hurling himself at the final move for his 72nd attempt.

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

ggrolton@senet.com.au

The Last Word

“I fell on them – it doesn’t count if you fall. I’m going back for the redpoints!”

- Catherine Kelly - when asked why she was bothering to return to two black runs which she had already skied at Mt Hotham, Victoria.