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This issue – Free!

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The BOLFA newsletter



A publication of the Climbing Club of South Australia

in association with Redpointer's Anonymous

Yosemite 2004 - by Luke Adams

Everything in California is big. Big Cars, Big People, Big Meals and Big Walls.

Mike and I left Australia early one Thursday morning in July, and after flying from Adelaide to San Francisco via Sydney and LA and crossing the date line we arrived in Yosemite the same day we left.

The Valley was busy, being mid-summer in the US every man with an oversized SUV was getting the "wilderness experience" of bears, waterfalls and big walls of Yosemite.

I was amazed to be able to secure two tent sites at Camp 4 campground late in the afternoon on our first day.

We decided to start with a classic 6 pitch climb near the famous El Captain Buttress called *Nut Cracker* 5.8 or 17. The climbing was fantastic and varied mostly slab and crack climbing with an exposed "mantle" on the last pitch. The first two pitches were slippery in places as so many people had climbed it.



Luke Adams – thinking about becoming a car thief

The weather was hot and most days the temperature would have been in the low 30's. In the mornings the air was thick with wood smoke that had settled in the valley at night from the bushfires that had burnt higher up in the backcountry.

We spent the next few days climbing 2 & 3 star classics in the 5.6 – 5.10 bracket. These included routes like *The Commitment*, *Munginella* and *After Six*.

I had climbed *Snake Dike* on Half Dome about eight years ago and was keen to do it again. We left the carpark at Curry Village at about 5:30am and began walking, arriving at the base of the route at 10:30am. While the climbing is only about grade 12 the route only has 1 protection bolt per 50m pitch and if you did fall the cheese grater effect would be awful. We led nine roped pitches - then the angle of the rock kicks back and we unroped and frictioned up the last 300m to the summit. The walk down the tourist chains on the back of the Dome are as scary as the climb itself!

We decided to have a change of pace for a few days so we drove 60 miles into the Yosemite backcountry to another famous climbing destination: Tuolumne Meadows.

Once we had secured a camp spot we started with a well protected 6 pitch slab climb called *Zee Tree* 5.7 on Pywaick Dome. The granite was steep but had little protruding rocks or "knobs" that could be pitched and used as footholds.

The famous Cathedral Peak is a real alpine summit set about 2 hours walk from the trail head. We decided to leave early to beat the crowds, arriving at the base of the climb at 8am to see that there were six parties on the three routes on the mountain. On pitch four, a chimney created a bottle neck of climbers that had about 16 climbers waiting. After

consulting the guidebook, Mike was able to pick a well protected 5.7 pitch that got us around the hold up and on the way to the summit before the next party had even set up a belay. We arrived at the summit about 3pm and had it to ourselves before down climbing the back of the peak and the walking back to our bags.

The only time the guidebook let us down was on Stately Pleasure Dome the next afternoon. We wanted to do a combination route called *Hermaphrodite to the Boltway* a 5.8 route with a bolted 5.10b finish. Mike was ready to go slabbing on the .10b but no hard moves could be found. The walk down the side of the Dome on steep slabs where you are relying on friction was exciting to say the least.

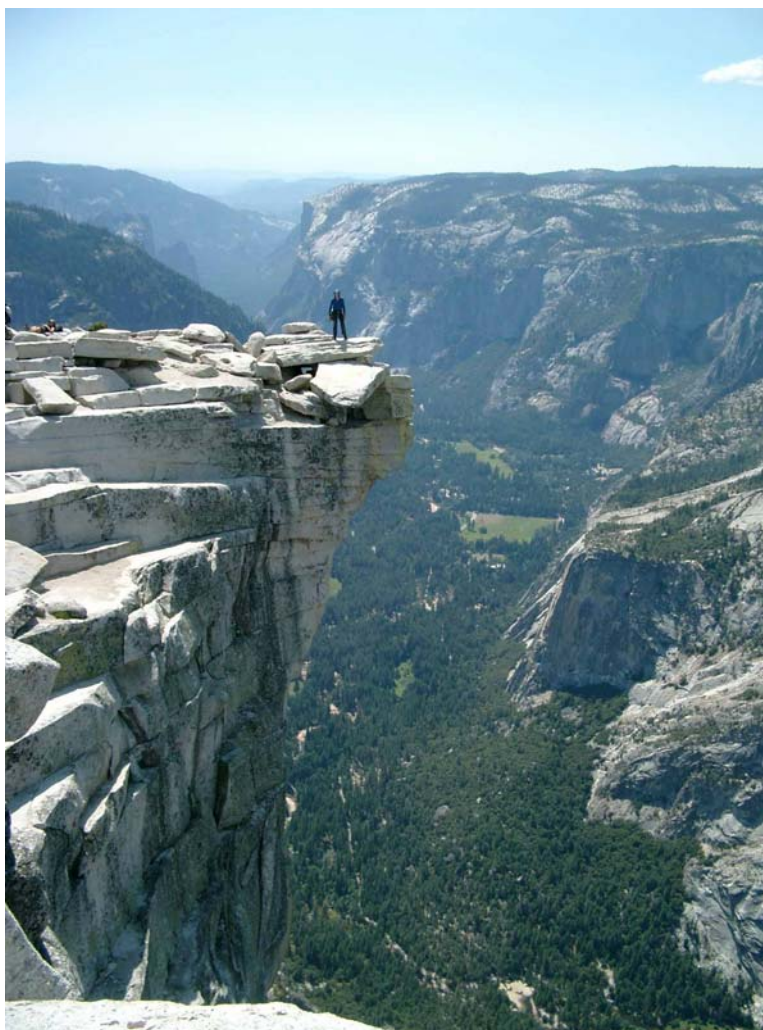
Before heading back to the Valley for the last few days of the trip, Mike led *Darth Vader's Revenge*, a fantastic two pitch 5.10 slab route through a 5-foot overlap.

Heading back to the Valley we climbed at the Church Bowl Area on single pitch climbs ranging from 5.8 – 5.10. Near the end of our trip we climbed *Little John Right* 5.8 that ascends a sloping 3 pitch line below the magnificent *Shield* route on El Capitan Buttress.

On the last couple of days we found the all you can eat buffet at Camp Curry Village. There is nothing better than a hot shower and a burger, burrito and chicken dinner with as much soft drink as you can stomach all for \$12.00!

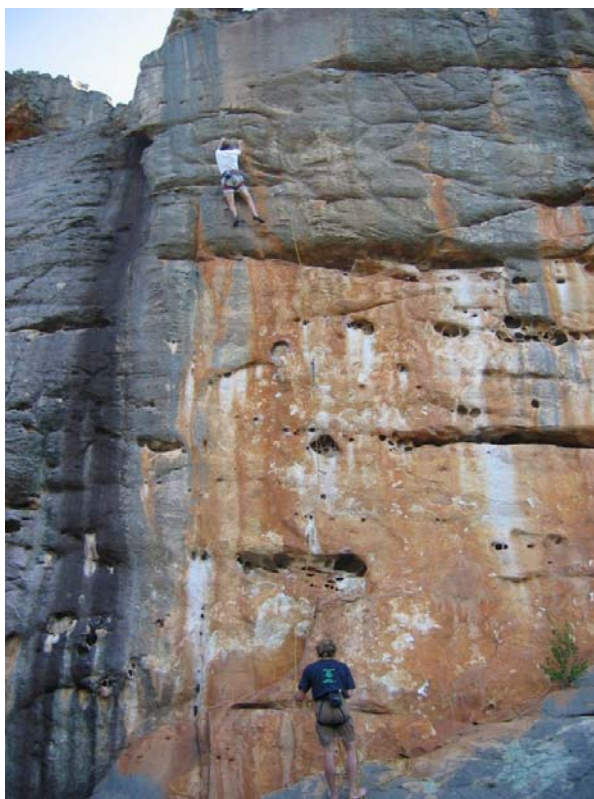
Having to catch a non-connecting flight back to LA from San Francisco early on the Saturday morning we left the valley late on the Friday Afternoon. I think we were both satisfied with the 60 pitches and 2500m of climbing that we had done.

Mike wanted to order a GMC Yukon XL SUV (this truck makes the F250 look small) in LA but we could not work out how we could pack it into the bags and not get charged excess baggage!

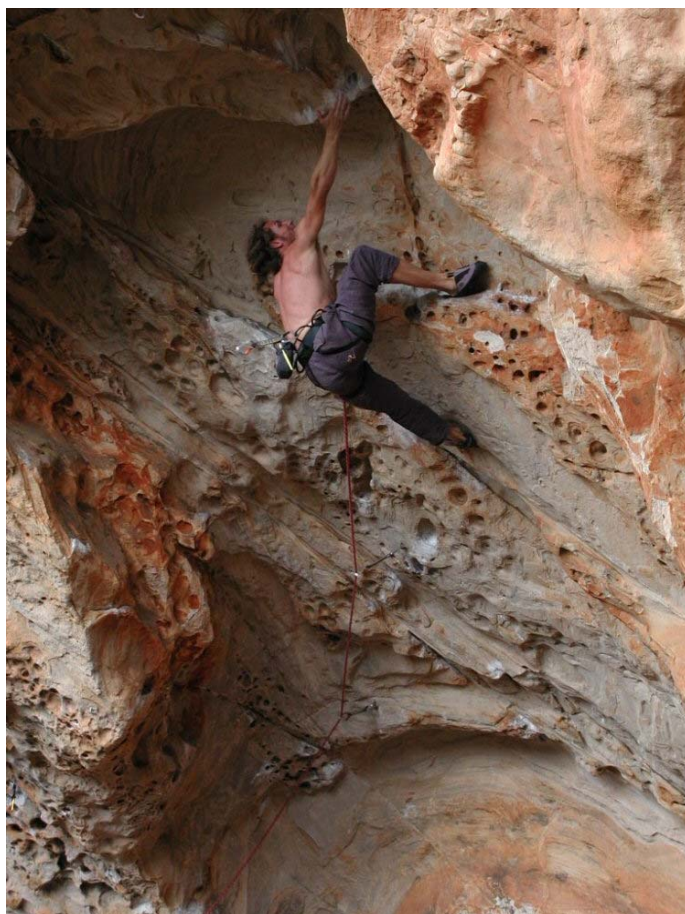


Mike on the summit of Half Dome, Yosemite Valley, California

Picture Perfect; Submit your photo's to <mailto:ggrolton@senet.com.au> ...



Guillermo Rossi - Cosmic Psycho (24) Van Diemens Land



Lawrie Dermody - Tunnel to Caracas (28) Millennium Caves

The BOLFA newsletter

Editor: Steve Kelly

BOLFA submissions: Greg Rolton

Due date for next BOLFA submissions:
Monday 29 November

All photo's, letters, stories or trip reports to
Greg Rolton at:
<mailto:grolton@senet.com.au>

The Joker

Reader submitted funnies...

CHILD: Dad, where did I come from?

DAD: Okay, we had to have this conversation some day!..... So why not now?

DAD: Okay, now listen....

Dad and Mom met in a chatroom on the net. I set up a meeting with your Mom and we landed in the bathroom at the Cyber Cafe. Then Mom did some downloads from dads memory stick and when Dad was ready to upload, we discovered that there was no firewall.

Seeing that it was a bit too late to cancel, I just carried on doing the download. Nine months later, the damn virus appeared!

CHILD : Huh?

Letter's from abroad

A short note from Vaughn Thomas...

Well my time in the *Bugaboos* is over, and after 5 days of bad weather, I finally got to do my dream route - *All Along the Watchtower* (5.12-), 950m.

We didn't free the 5.12 section - a 10m roof traverse - but everything else went, including an 800ft corner sustained at 5.11+! The most amazing feature you can imagine! It was a bit different to a wall in Yosemite!

The route on the West Face of the North Howser Tower is super committing. Climbing classic leading and seconding style with our packs on, we knocked off the first 13 pitches of sustained 5.9 - 5.10 that first afternoon to reach a small bivvy ledge.

We went light weight:- boots, crampons, axes, a stove, 8L of water (there was snow on top but no water on route) down jackets and bivvy bags was about it.

After as warm a night as we could have hoped for, we continued up through the crux corner the next day (hauling those pitches), eventually reaching another bivvy on the summit ridge after another long day.

We brewed up, re-hydrated, and put hot water in our camel backs to keep us warm during the night.

Although still warm by area standards, it dropped below zero, making a frosty morning, but we stayed reasonably warm by reheating our bladders every 1 1/2 hrs through the night.

The next day we descended down the much smaller East Face and finally stumbled back into camp several hrs later, the best and most rewarding climb of my life behind me, making me smile as I slept in the sun!



The Half Brick Award



This issues thumbs down goes to...

This issues 'Half Brick' goes to **Rob Taylor**, for his comments concerning the cost of this newsletter at the last Club Meet.

Apparently 6 issues a year, at \$2.00 per copy (totalling a grand \$12.00 – or \$1.00 per month) – is too expensive.

We here at the 'BOLFA Publishing Empire' recommend a savings plan of 23 cents per week – thereby allowing anyone who has the same concerns to budget for this obvious downfall in personal revenue. Alternatively – try and not buy a newspaper once a month – and you will be well on the way to obtaining true financial bliss!

(Rob was last seen haggling for a copy of *The Big Issue* off a homeless man – so we are not surprised by this feedback...!)

Luckily however, this issue has been donated for free (hence the different layout) – so no one has to worry about taking out a second mortgage.



The Soapbox

CCSA members chance to 'voice off' on any particular issues of concern...

Bouldering Etiquette (or Wave Dropping) – by Tony Barker

Call me old or boring, but one thing that bothers me is a slip in standards of bouldering manners up at the Cave at Norton Summit!

It has become a more and more popular spot to train. In days past when a person was on the traverse, for instance, then you would let them do their lap or two, then when they tired and finished, the next person would get on.

These days I start on a lap, and find that someone gets on the wall just in front of me, to do some hideous problem on tiny crimpers.

You have to hang around until they finish or drop off. I think this is as bad an etiquette problem as, say, dropping in on someone else's wave when surfing.

Obviously there is a problem with people sharing the wall for doing traverses (older guys like me who can't hang on to the crimpers any more) and the younger generation doing short vertical problems.

This is just a request to others to be mindful of other users at the Cave. eg. jump on the wall after I've passed, as you will probably have finished your short problem by the time I get back on a return lap (strength willing!)



Club Calendar

Upcoming meetings/events

Next Club Meet: 11 October 2004

Following Club Meet: 6 December 2004

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.

The Climbers ID Kit

It's time to re-visit the climbing personalities you'd like/not like to be...

Jonny Spraylord Man



Most likely to say: I climbed 3 28's in a morning the other day. Then after that, myself and Chris Sharma (who's my usual spotter) went off for a bit of bouldering – and I did this cool problem that Chris had a bit of trouble with. Don't think it was his day really!

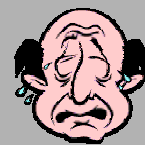
Most likely to ask: Whether or not you've heard of his/her mates – the Huber brothers

Most likely to wear: Standard attire

Normal climbing standard: Generally 5 grades below what route he/she is rabbiting on about having repeated.

Usually found at: Indoor gyms, base of crags (not doing much climbing), bakeries.

Definitely can't climb: What he/she says they have



Jonny Sad Solo Man

Most likely to say: Nothing

Most likely to ask: Why did she leave me?

Most likely to wear: Jeans and jacket

Normal climbing standard: Pretty high

Usually found at: Bars (alone), summits (alone), at home (alone)

Definitely can't climb: With other people...



Jonny Irritating Solo Man

Most likely to say: Bloody Peregrines!

Most likely to ask: Do you mind if I just nip up this while you're getting your rack together?

Most likely to wear: Anything (including Santa Claus suits)

Normal climbing standard: 2 grades below his/her redpoint limit (without a rope)

Usually found at: Ledges on multi-pitches, psychiatric wards, ambulances

Definitely can't climb: With a full rack



Jonny Epic Man

Most likely to say: Don't worry, I've done this before

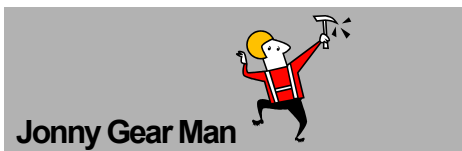
Most likely to ask: What time is it?

Most likely to wear: Raincoat, fleece and helmet

Normal climbing standard: 10 grades below what he/she states before embarking

Usually found at: The top of climbs after dark, lost in the back country, stuck between two rocks on the walk-in path

Definitely can't climb: As much as he/she would like to



Most likely to say: I think that I scratched my No#6 Walnut – might have to replace it.

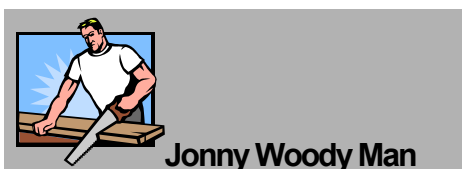
Most likely to ask: Where's the nearest gear shop?

Most likely to wear: Top of the range overseas climbing labels

Normal climbing standard: Grade 21 tops

Usually found at: Paddy Pallins/MDs

Definitely can't climb: Anything that requires the 3 RP#1s that he/she bought last week



Most likely to say: It's the hardest move on Wood!

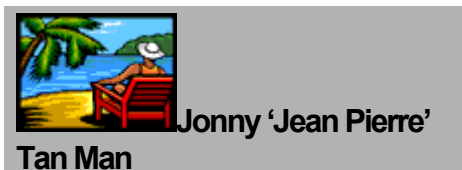
Most likely to ask: RH MDF sloper, LH to Ply crimp, RH where?

Most likely to wear: Anything

Normal climbing standard: Up to grade 36 – providing it is only 5m in length

Usually found at: Home cellars, garages, woodwork classes

Definitely can't climb: Anything over 8 moves long



Most likely to say: 26? Path!

Most likely to ask: Where are da chicks?

Most likely to wear: Topless and in tights

Normal climbing standard: 31

Usually found at: Sun tanning at the base of 28's – prior to running laps on them

Definitely can't climb: Without an audience



Most likely to say: No! You go left foot there, right foot there – twist into an Egyptian, then dyno up right to the 2 finger pocket. Remember the drop knee!

Most likely to ask: How did you do the crux?

Most likely to wear: Street clothes

Normal climbing standard: Ranges from grade 18 to 34

Usually found at: Base of climbs, shouting out the moves one by one

Definitely can't climb: Anything without a road map or tick marks



Most likely to say: I haven't got the hip flexibility for that kind of move!

Most likely to ask: How do you do a high step?

Most likely to wear: No shirt, black leather pants

Normal climbing standard: Based upon ratio between size of biceps circumference (added) divided by age, multiplied by number of years climbing

Usually found at: Weights gyms, or foot-freeing the crux's of grade 20's

Definitely can't climb: Slabs



Most likely to say: It was done years ago

Most likely to ask: Excuse me

Most likely to wear: Trousers, shirt and tweed jacket

Normal climbing standard: Based upon age. Recent studies suggest that the average 'Jonny Wizen Man' can climb grade 25 at age 25 – then minus 5 grades for every 15 years

Usually found at: Local crags – where they've got everything completely wired

Definitely can't climb: On small crimpers



Hot Fun Closing

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

Local news

Local lads **Damian Hall** and **Peter Daish** have seemingly struck a deal with some Hollywood producer to enable them to develop a film on bouldering at the Bachelor Pad.

The short flick shows these two honed beasts flexing their stuff and doing a lot of falling off from problems such as Free Mahi Mahi (V4) and the classic V6 traverse.

Keeping with the theme, another email did the rounds – this time displaying the 'anti-gravity' methods of one **Paul Kinnane** and **Steve Lahenney** at the nearby Hole. The film shows a unique grip of the English language and good belaying techniques – as opposed to a good grip on the rock itself!

Sally Ely continues her quest to upstage her male counterparts, this time with a flash ascent of Moonarie's Great Wall testpiece *Against the Wind* (23). **Ben Carrick** wasn't as lucky – taking an approximate 8m dive off the top section of the same route. Sally however, wasn't content with just this. At a later date she returned to Norton Summit and ticked *Tim In The Gym* (26) – making this her first route of the grade and one of the few female ascents of this climb.

A much weaker **Steve Kelly** completed two more new routes at Mount Arapiles, unveiling delectable morsels such as the 10m 'Apron Strings' (24) – out at Mitre Rock, which takes the back wall of 'Mason's Apron' and features some very thin crimpers in its final headwall.

Also of note is his addition to the base of the now much in vogue 'Poosticks Gully' below Mysteries Wall. '100 Acre Wood' (named because 'it is the home of Poo and all his friends') involves some highly technical face climbing up an attractive orange streak and is given 25. The second ascent was completed shortly afterwards by an in-form **James Falconer** – who along with others has confirmed the grade.

In the same area Steve also decided to onsight solo an old **Geoff Weigand** route – with amusing consequences (see *The Last Word*). Having completed the hard part of *Short & Sharp* (25) – he found himself in a sea of lichen on a grade 12 slab (in a very exposed position) – and promptly started dribbling. A couple of shouts for help and a quick top rope from **Mick 'the saviour' Wells** stopped any further mishap.

Mick – beers are in the post!

Other new routes in the same area include **Nathan Hoette's** 5m (2 bolt) 29 *Honey Pot*, as well as the recent completion of an old **Paul Hoskins** project on the left side of Mysteries Wall named 'Tigger' – which went at a bouldery 27.

The same gully later saw ascents of *Anus Horribilus* (26) by 'Beefcake' **Rob Baker**, and a redpoint by **HB (Malcolm Matheson)** of *Consumer Constipator*

(29) – which signals a return to form for him after 5 months of dealing with Glandular Fever!

On the same trip **James Falconer** made a great flash of *Spasm In a Chasm* (25), whilst **Sally Ely** made very good progress on the aforementioned *Anus Horribilus* (26).

On the home front there was further 'potential new routing' by **Steve Kelly** again – this time via two solos (previously rehearsed). The undercut arête to the left of *The Billiard Table* goes at 18, whilst the left-hand finish to *Potluck* (dubbed 'Good Luck') goes at 21. No doubt both lines have been top roped in the past – but have they had a roped lead ascent?

Paul Kinnane (seemingly having had enough of *The Bachelor Pad*) – jetted off to Thailand for some sun-drenched limestone. Ascents include *Vikings in Heat* (6c), *Nutcracker* (6c) and *Lom Mon* (7a) onsight – the latter being a personal best at the time. Loads of other classics went down, and a lot of 'sampling' – but it is clearly obvious that the trip was a great success.

Justin Taylor (JT) finally made it to his crag of choice (Ceuse – France) whereupon he made an ascent of *Vagabond de Occident* (7c) (27) in three tries. Near the end of his stay he also knocked over the ultra classic *Mirage* (7c+/28) in four tries, and the infamously run-out *Blocage du Violent* (7b+/26) (6 bolts in 25m) – raving about the quality.

Stevie Pollard meanwhile jumped in a car and made off with some substantial bakery products for the promised land – that (apparently) being NSW. Of course, such a road trip (done solo) is never for 'just the climbing' – and thus it was Canberra to which he initially set his sights (or something else for that matter!)

Nearby Nowra saw him attack 'Conehead & the Barbitutes' (28) – successfully slaying this beast after some 3 days work. Then a Blue Mountains trip yielded some fine time on such classics as *Don't Believe The Tripe* (29) and others.

Ex-local **Sharik Walker** meanwhile has shown those strange animals known as

Kiwis how to climb – by making the first ascent of a long standing boulder problem on North Island. The line went at V10 – so obviously young Walker wasn't too impressed – as he linked an existing V9 into it shortly afterward – establishing the hardest boulder problem on the North Island at V11.

Overseas news

Italy

Serik Kazbekov, 34, had an amazing day at Covolo, Italy recently. The Kazakh climber flashed the route Shalom (32) and onsighted Ghegoro, which had been graded 31/32 but is considered solid 32 after a hold broke. Kazbekov, who has been climbing for nearly 20 years is ranked eighth in the world in competition climbing.

UK

On Sunday 5th September Mark Katz repeated John Gaskins Trowbarrow masterpiece *Isla De Encanta* (V13). First climbed back in 1999 it was the hardest problem in Britain at the time, and features in the brilliant bouldering video *Stick It!* by Slackjaw Films. The problem saw a quick repeat in 2000 by Scottish bouldering supremo Si O'Connor, living locally at the time.

Whilst on the subject of Si O'Connor – the one-man tour-de-force in northern Scotland added *Hyperballad*, marketed as the country's second hardest problem (just behind his own *Extradition* V15).

Hyperballad, named after the Bjork song because "the song lyrically suited the line perfectly... just the agony and beauty of it." V14/15. Well, harder than his previous V14s, but if it was V15 "I'd still be trying it".

Tyler Landman has repeated the super-classic Stanage problem *Jerry's Traverse* (V10). Tyler is only 13, but he's already climbed for nine years. This was his first problem of the grade.

Lisa Rands (US) added a slew of difficult problems to her ever-growing tick list during a one-week stay in the French Pyrenees. On May 29, Rands made the third ascent of Tony Lamiche and Chris Sharma's *Absynthe* (V10) in only two tries. Later that day she sent yet another V10 out a powerful,

horizontal roof, one V9, flashed a V7, and climbed a V8—wrapping up an epic day of sending problems she had never before attempted.

After leaving France, she arrived in England and quickly dispatched with *The Pinch* (7c/27) at Crag X, in the Peak District, a notoriously hard limestone route with terrible pinches.

Still strong, Rands sent a couple more V10s, including *The Fin*, a well-known problem with a difficult sit-start. Then, at Raven Tor, also in England, Rands sent *Ben's Roof* (V10), a long, sustained limestone cave route / boulder problem, despite the typical and ceaseless British rain, which had been keeping key holds wet.

France

Charlotte Durif (up and coming French superstar) gave herself a great present on her 14th birthday by climbing *Voieultime Femme*, 8b/31, at Cantobre. Charlotte worked the route for an hour and then sent it on her first redpoint attempt.

USA

Daniel Woods (now 15) has repeated *Super Tweak*, 8c/33, in Logan Canyon. The last 15 year old to repeat the route was Chris Sharma.

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

<mailto:grolton@senet.com.au>



Lost & Found

A column dedicated to finding things lost and losing things found...

Item: Black beanie – NZ make and design

Found: Base of Muesli Wall, Morialta

Contact: Steve Kelly
<<mailto:stephen.kelly@eds.com>>

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The Last Word

"Rob!"

"Yeah"

"I'm in a bit of a predicament here!"

"What sort of a predicament?"

"A bit of a sketchy one!"

"What do you need?"

"I need a bloody rope!"

Conversation between two well known CCSA members – one of whom had severely underestimated the level of exposure (and lichen) whilst onsite soloing a route at Arapiles...



