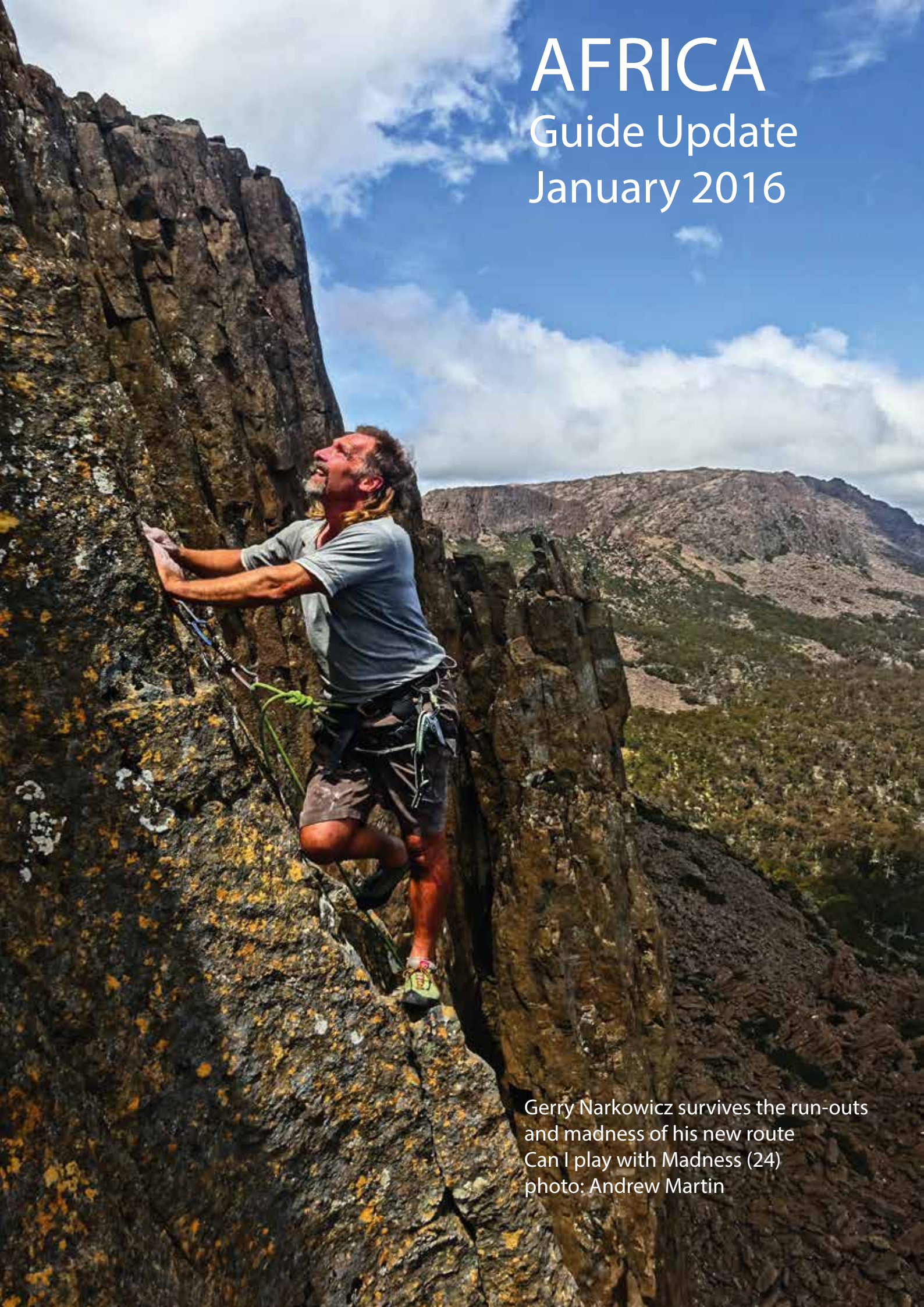
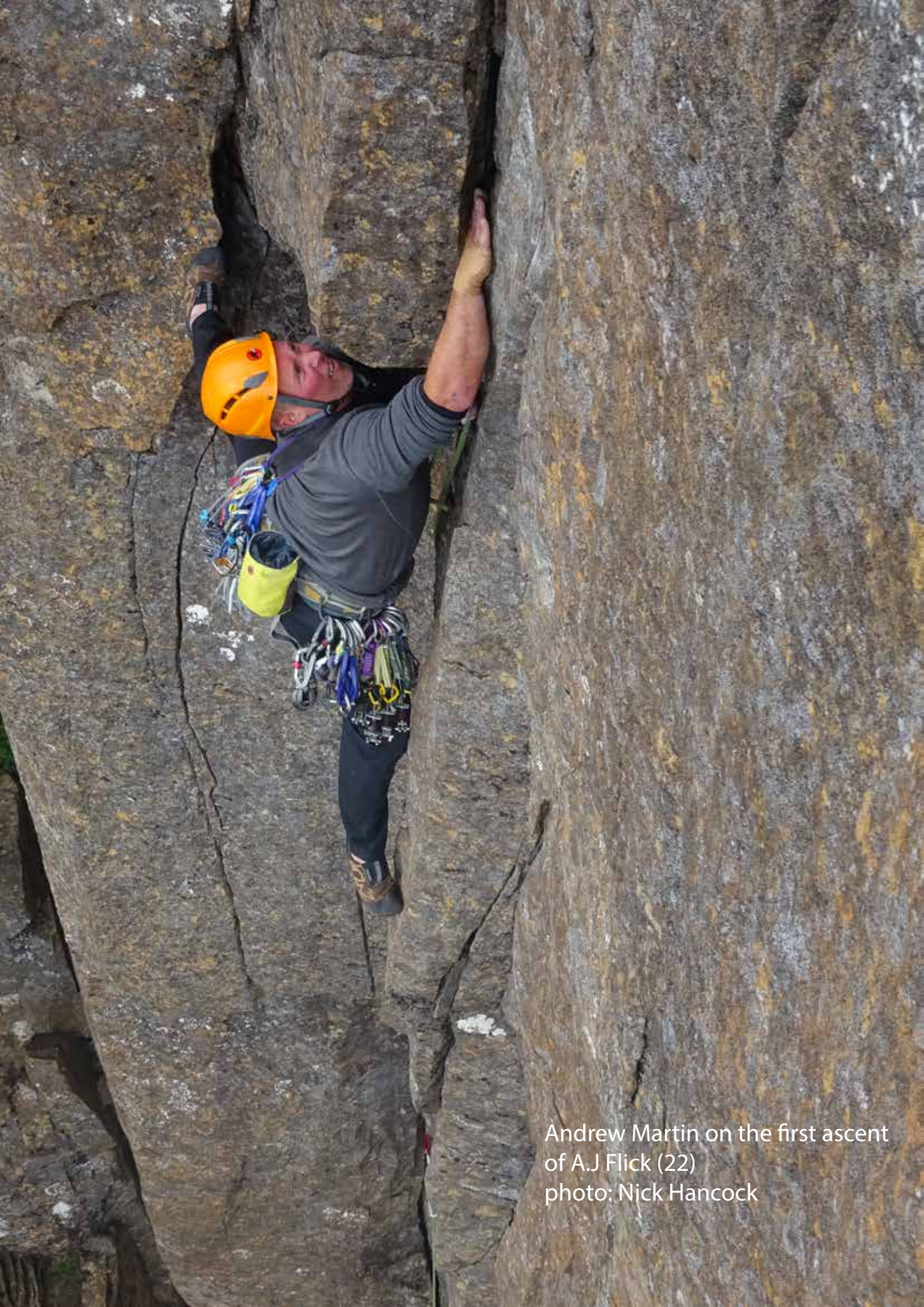


AFRICA

Guide Update
January 2016



Gerry Narkowicz survives the run-outs
and madness of his new route
Can I play with Madness (24)
photo: Andrew Martin



Andrew Martin on the first ascent
of A.J Flick (22)
photo: Nick Hancock

AFRICA UPDATE

This updated guide to Africa is the result of a concentrated new route campaign in the summer of 2015 by Gerry Narkowicz, Andrew Martin, Nick Hancock, Squib and Simon Bischoff. Beware that the routes were done in headpoint style, that is cleaned on abseil, top-roped then led ground up placing gear on lead. Some of these routes have had a second ascent and were onsighted, but bear in mind that these routes are pretty bold. This update should be used in conjunction with the guidebook 'Memory of Journey' and the 2013 update to this guide found at:

<http://climbnortherntasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/ben-lomond-guide-update-2013.pdf>

Escape From Sobibor 75m 22 **

Right of Zimbabwe Buttress is a gigantic chimney with a prominent fallen column across the chimney about 30m up. This route climbs the thin grey corner system up the face about 20m left of the chimney.

1. Pitch 1, 40m, (22). Climb the easy, short, left trending wide crack to a stance at 5m. A bottomless, thin seam is on the face 2m to the right. Some bold face climbing to gain the seam is the crux of the route. A medium size nut can go in the bottom of the seam, but it is committing to place. Gain the magnificent light grey coloured corner and some superb bridging leads up to a small ledge at 40m height.
2. Pitch 2, 35m, (20). Some steep jamming through a couple of roofs in a crack of various widths, but predominantly fist size.

FA: Nick Hancock and Gerry Narkowicz (alt). 23/12/15

Dr Strangelove 75m 23 ***

A novelly conceived route with some excellent climbing..one of the best at Africa. Climbs across the fallen column in the chimney mentioned above, then up a splitter handcrack, culminating in a thin seam on the overhanging headwall. If you've seen the movie Dr Strangelove where the guy straddles the atomic bomb and rides it down, you'll get why we named the route as you straddle the giant fallen column.

1. Pitch 1, 25m, (18). Climb easy ground on the RHS of the chimney to a ledge, then a tricky face (poor gear) to gain the jam crack below the fallen column. Go underneath the column and surmount it on the other side to a good belay.
2. Pitch 2, 25m, (20). Crawl across the column to the buttress on the other side of the chimney. Boldly gain the thin corner 2m to the left, then up the corner to the roof (crux) to gain the fantastic splitter handcrack. Belay on the next ledge by looping the big spike on top of the pedestal.
3. Pitch 3, 25m, (23). A brilliant pitch which climbs more like a sport route..hard to believe it goes on gear. Step left off the ledge to gain the thin seam and steeply layback and face climb to the summit with good gear (pumpy to place).

FA: Nick Hancock and Gerry Narkowicz (alt). 23/12/15

A.J Flick 100m 22 ***

On the second buttress left of the rock island is a beautiful steep corner system branching off the big chimney on the left side of the buttress. A superb, sustained climb.

1. Pitch 1, 20m, (15). Climb the chimney on the LHS of the buttress to a stance on a small ledge. From here the chimney heads up left, but straight up is a neat corner system going through roof after roof, 4 roofs in fact.
2. Pitch 2, 30m, (21). Up neat jam crack and boldly layback around first roof to gain thin corner leading up to next roof, negotiated by some fancy bridging. Up next corner to hanging belay below next roof with chockstone.
3. Pitch 3, 50m, (22). Grapple with the chockstone (handy foothold over the roof to the left) then up next corner to the biggest roof of all. An exhilarating move to turn the roof to the right (crux) and gain the thin corner crack leading to the summit.

FA: Andrew Martin, Gerry Narkowicz, Nick Hancock. 22/12/15

Can I Play With Madness 100m 24 ***

A brilliant, bold, mad climb. Start as for A.J.Flick.

1. Pitch 1, 20m, (15). Up the chimney on the LHS of the buttress to a small ledge at 20m height, where a series of undercut roofs head diagonally out right.
2. Pitch 2, 30m, (22). Superb, unlikely pitch jamming diagonally right out through 3 overhangs to the middle of the wall. Well protected with a crux move just before a small belay stance. Belay takes two small grey camalots and medium wires.
3. Pitch 3, 50m, (24). An astonishing pitch and hard to believe it goes on trad gear. Up the black corner above the belay for 3m then traverse right (crux), then up through the gap in the roof on its RHS to a stance on the arête over left. Continue up through two more roofs following the cleanest line of least resistance to the top. Protection is good, but spaced. Take lots of slings for rope drag. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Nick Hancock, Andrew Martin, Neale Smith. 21/12/15

Too Mad For the Mullet 100m 26 ***

A direct first pitch to 'Can I Play With Madness', even madder and bolder than the original.

1. Pitch 1, 50m, (26). Start 20m right of the chimney and blast up the wall trending slightly left all the way to the first belay of 'Madness.' The prominent blank corner is not the start, but the next weakness to the right. Squib says the gear is ok, but from the ground it looks imaginary. An incredible climb.
2. Pitch 2, 50m, (24). As for 'Can I Play With Madness.'

FA: Squib and Simon Bischoff (alt). 23/12/15

The End Of Time 75m 23 ***

Probably the steepest route at Africa; an amazing jam crack through multiple roofs. Starts up in a gully directly opposite the rock island, approximately 30m right of Madness buttress. Well protected.

1. Pitch 1, 30m, (23). A thin corner culminating in a desperate move left to get round the first big roof. Hanging belay below the next big roof.
2. Pitch 2, 15m, (23). A short pitch due to rope drag, but climbs over the next 2 roofs with a burly jamming move over the second roof being the crux.
3. Pitch 3, 30m, (21). Superb thin jamming up a splitter crack (green and red camalot size), then a bit of ordinary clambering for the last 10m.

FA: Nick Hancock and Gerry Narkowicz. 8/1/16

ASGARD CRAG

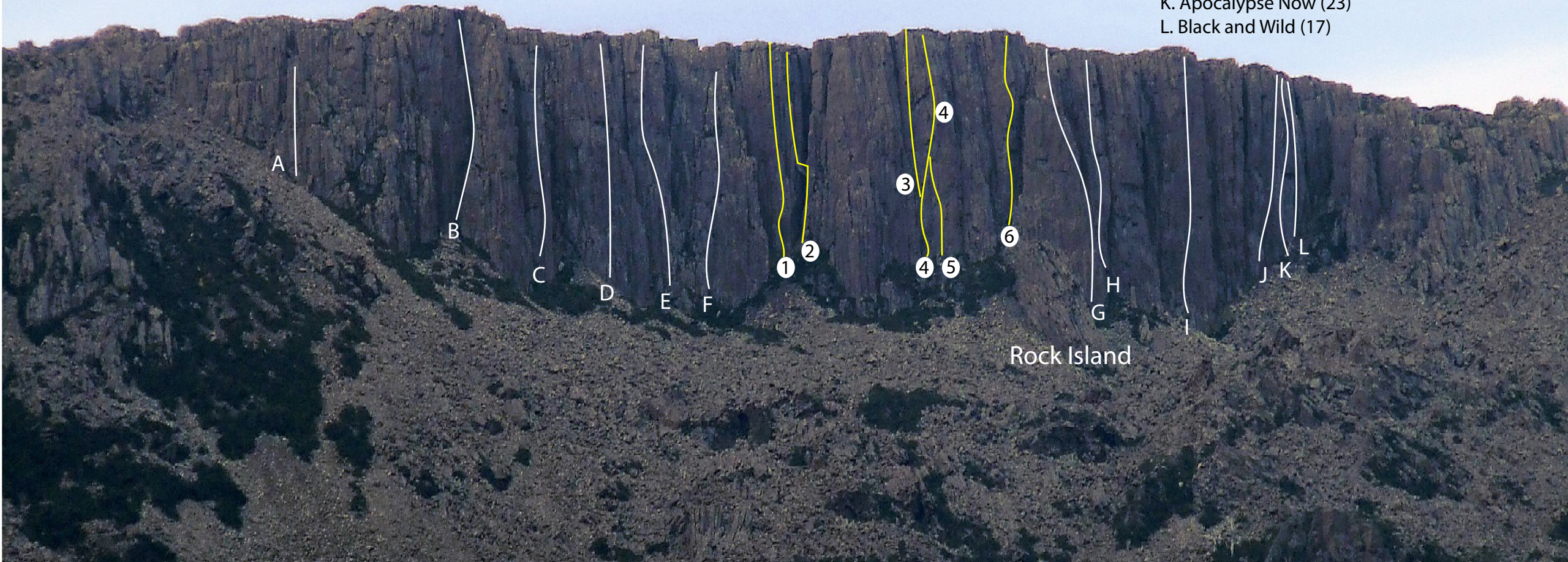
NEW ROUTES SUMMER 2015

1. Escape From Sobibor (22) **
2. Dr Strangelove (23) ***
3. A.J Flick (22) ***
4. Can I Play With Madness (24) ***
5. Too Mad For The Mullet (26) ***
6. The End Of Time (23) ***

EXISTING ROUTES

- A. Alains Needle (18)
- B. Source of the Nile (15)
- C. Fear of the Dark (23)
- D. Kurtz (20)
- E. Assegai (18)
- F. Zimbabwe (19)
- G. Ragnarock (22)
- H. Black Ivory (23)
- I. Invictus (23)
- J. Voodoo Child (22)
- K. Apocalypse Now (23)
- L. Black and Wild (17)

← Campsite 100m



- 1. Dr Strangelove (23)
- 2. Escape From Sobibor (22)



pitch 3 (23)

pitch 2 (20)

Belay

Belay

pitch 2 (20)

Belay

pitch 1 (22)

pitch 1 (18)

1. Dr Strangelove

2. Escape from Sobibor

Gerry Narkowicz on the 2nd pitch
of Dr Strangelove (23)
photo: Simon Bischoff





Gerry Narkowicz heading up the
splitter jam crack on Dr Strangelove (23)
photo: Simon Bischoff

Gerry has survived straddling the atomic bomb in the chimney and and heads up the 2nd pitch of Dr Strangelove (23). Nick Hancock on belay.
photo: Simon Bischoff

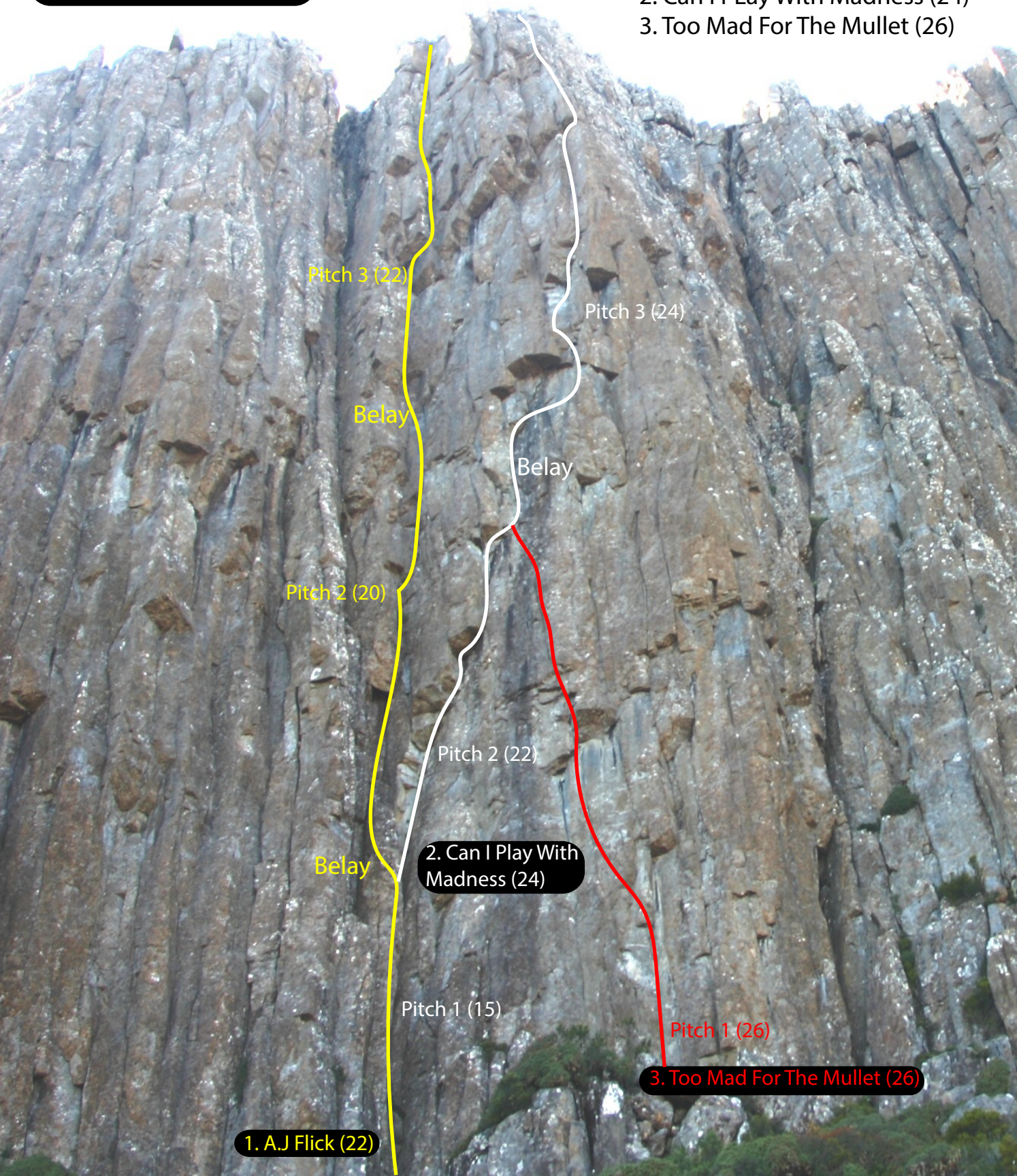




Nick Hancock leading the superb overhanging headwall on the 3rd pitch of Dr Strangelove (23)
photo: Simon Bischoff

MADNESS BUTTRESS

1. A.J Flick (22)
2. Can I Play With Madness (24)
3. Too Mad For The Mullet (26)



Pitch 3 (22)

Pitch 3 (24)

Belay

Belay

Pitch 2 (20)

Pitch 2 (22)

Belay

2. Can I Play With
Madness (24)

Pitch 1 (15)

Pitch 1 (26)

3. Too Mad For The Mullet (26)

1. A.J Flick (22)



Gerry Narkowicz on the first ascent of
Can I Play With Madness (24)
photo: Andrew Martin

Squib playing with madness on a successful
onsight of Can I Play With Madness (24)
photo: Simon Bischoff





Squib on the 2nd ascent of
Can I Play With Madness (24)
photo: Simon Bischoff



Belay



Gerry, Nick and Squib at
Africa campsite.
photo: Simon Bischoff