

SOUTH ESK GUIDE UPDATE

December 2016



Photo: Claire Tetley leading the 2nd ascent of Douggy's Downfall 21 at the Four Thumbs Face, one of 31 new routes added to the gorge this year.

SOUTH ESK UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2016

*Note that climbs are indexed to the South Esk guidebook as a point of reference.

DUCK REACH

190 (a) Dick Reach 10m 20 *

Climbs the arête and face of the detached pillar about 20m left of Seize The Day. Take two no.3 camalots for the initial flake then up the wall via 3 bolts. Abseil from anchors. A nice addition to the crag, and as the easiest of the bolted routes at Duck Reach, it should get some traffic. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Jemimah Narkowicz, Andrew Martin. 23/10/16



*NEW TRACK TO ACCESS CLIMBS UPSTREAM FROM DUCK REACH

Some of the buttresses near the top of the hill between Duck Reach and the Sting are downright horrible to access from the river, often battling up scrub filled gullies. A new track has been cut from the Duck Reach car park to the powerline easement upstream.

From the derelict house at the carpark, go to the top corner of the yard and locate cairns heading diagonally up the hill. After 50m uphill, the cairned path heads across the hillside, essentially a flat walk, and after a few hundred metres, connects up with an existing bushwalkers path which emerges at the powerline easement.

FOUR THUMBS FACE

Located opposite Pubic Flash Buttress and directly where the powerlines cross the river.

UPPER FOUR LEFT THUMBS

Above the Four Left Thumbs is an upper tier with a prominent summit boulder on a pinnacle. Probably best approached from the top of the hill. Go directly down from the first big powerline tower for about 50m to the top of the buttress. Otherwise scramble up from the river where possible.

Ostrich Arete 15m 21 *

Starts on the wall of the gully on the LHS of the cliff. A reachy move past the first bolt. From the ledge there is an exciting move out onto the overhanging arête via a big jug. Standing on the jug is the crux. Good climb. No anchors so set up a trad anchor with middle sized cams and bring up a second. 5B. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Claire Tetley, Andrew Martin. 15/11/16

Jumping Jack Flash 10m 22 **

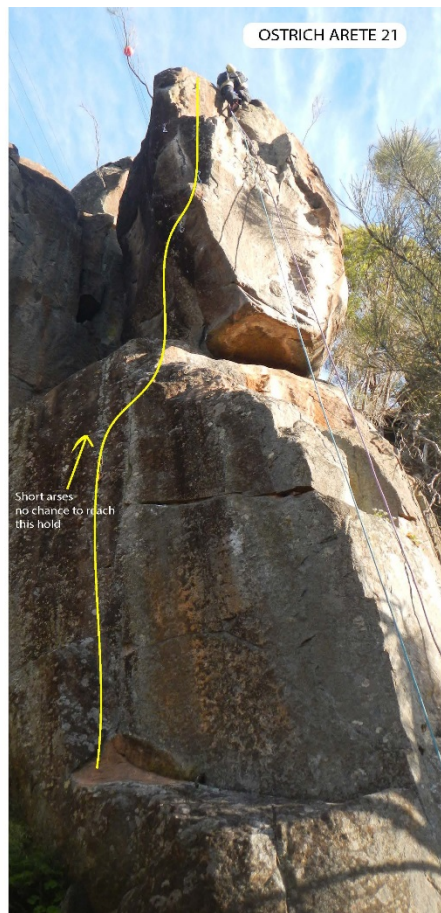
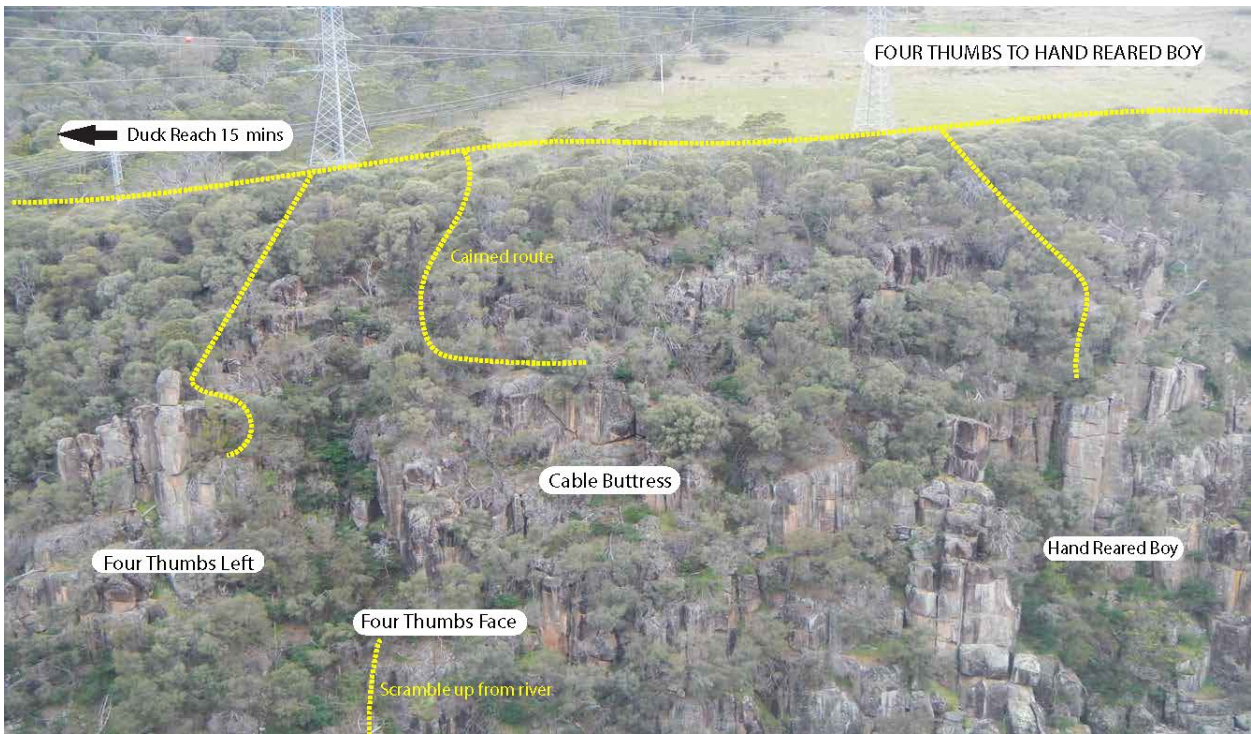
Bolted route up the face in the centre of the cliff. Big jump to a flat hold by the second bolt, then excellent technical climbing up the arête above the small ledge. Belay and rap from tree. 5B. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Claire Tetley, Andrew Martin. 15/11/16

Cohen Crack 8m 12

An easy jam crack near the right side of the buttress, with a finger crack as a tramline about 1m to the right in the same corner. A pleasant exercise in jamming and bridging. Climbed on the day Leonard Cohen died. FA: Gerry Narkowicz (solo). 12/11/16

Trumped 8m 10

On the RHS of the cliff is a thin crack to ledge, then attractive blank groove at the top protected by a bolt. Climbed the same week Donald Dickhead Trump became president of the USA. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Claire Tetley, Andrew Martin. 15/11/16



FOUR RIGHT THUMBS

30m upstream and across the gully from Four Left Thumbs .

217 Prince Jellyfish 10

The prominent chimney on the downstream facing wall. Pleasant climbing up a good looking line.
 FA Elliam Hedges (solo). 2/5/02

217a Suck My Bowls 12m 21 **

Up the improbable face left of the arête with 3 bolts and a small grey camalot for the upper crack. Start over left laying off the wide crack to jump for the horizontal hand rail on the face. A tricky mantle leads to a chinup on crimps and another mantle. A fun route. So named because Doug Fife has taken up lawn bowls in his old age. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 1/11/16

217b Duggy's Downfall 12m 21 **

Same start as Suck My Bowls but traverses out to the arête. Some very balancy layback moves follow up the arête making for a route of an entirely different character to the previous one. So named because Doug Fife originally tried to lead it on trad gear, with a piton on the hand rail (still in place). A deck fall resulted in a serious injury. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Claire Tetley, Andrew Martin. 15/11/16

CABLE BUTTRESS

Located directly above the Four Thumbs Faces, Scramble up where possible up right of the Imitation of Christ, though it is way easier to access from above via the track from Duck Reach.

220a Jump Start 24

The sharp arête with 3 carrot bolts. Fantastic technical moves laying away up the arête.

FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Isaac Lethborg. 3/11/16

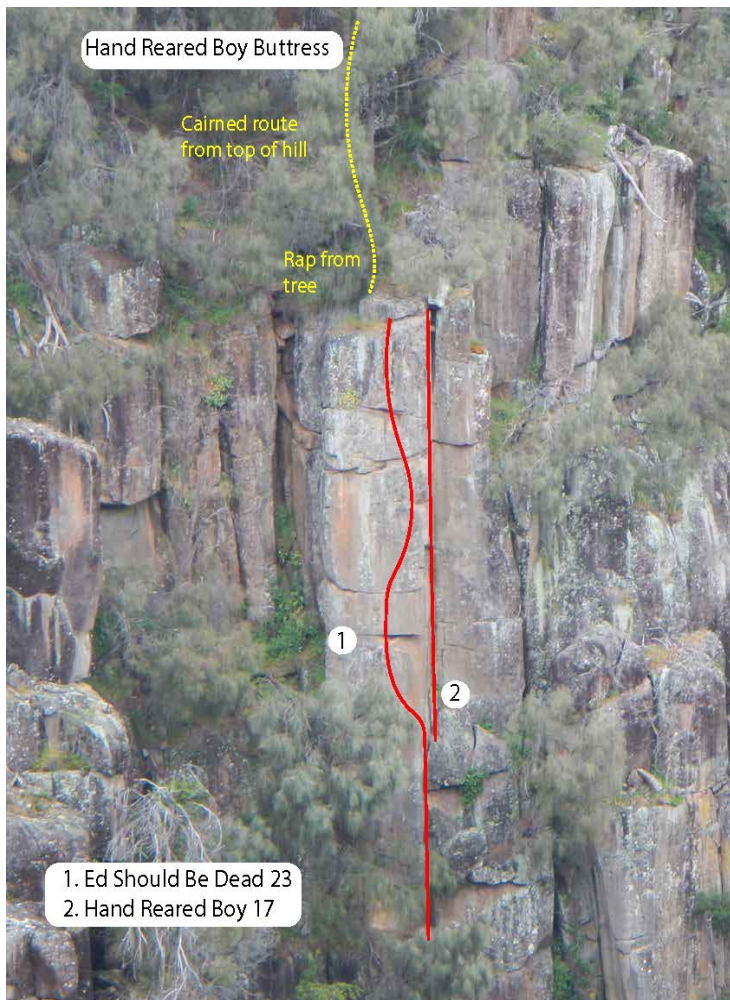


HAND REARED BOY BUTTRESS

Located about 200m upstream from Duck Reach and just past where the powerlines cross the river. It is the next buttress upstream from Petrabond, an obvious pinnacle with a left slanting diagonal crack. Scramble up the hillside where possible. Hand Reared Boy is the prominent wide corner crack on the buttress. Also easily approached from the powerline easement and rap in.

233 (a) Ed Should Be Dead 20m 23 **

Climbs the face left of Hand Reared Boy. A magnificent face climb of real stature. Start up Hand Reared Boy Direct to the ledge, then step left onto the face and clip the first carrot bolt. Blast straight up the wall with long cranks between horizontal breaks and a cruxy mantle move on the arête by the 2nd bolt. Gear is two carrot bolts plus small cams up to no. 2 and wires. Abseil from tree. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 23/10/16



KIWI FRUIT JAM GULLY

The vegetated gully about 50m left of the Sting. Bashing up this gully is an awful scrub-bash. Best accessed from the top of the hill via the new track from Duck Reach. Just past the second transmission pylon locate some cairns heading into the bush. After no more than 30m down this path the head of Kiwi Fruit Jam gully is reached, a muddy section with an intermittent creek. Head out to a rocky outcrop on the eastern side of the gully. The routes are located down left of the big pinnacle on the ridge. Rap from gear.

Expelliarmus 12m 19 *

The neat corner crack on the LHS with a small roof at half height. Excellent technical thin jamming. Finish at the ledge and scramble off to the left. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Jemimah Narkowicz. 20/11/16

Choc Mint Grovel 12m 18

The neat jam crack to the right with a small ledge at half height. The name refers to the choc-mint milkshake we had after climbing that day, or could refer to the dirt filled section at the ledge and the green furry mossy section above.

FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Jemimah Narkowicz. 20/11/16

GELB BUTTRESS

Gelb Buttress is a beautiful gold coloured buttress at the top of the hill above Mac The Finger. Best access is from the top, as the scramble up Kiwi Fruit Jam Gully is diabolical. The new arête climb 'Heart Of Gold' is maybe the best quality new route added to the Gorge in recent years. Just past the second transmission pylon locate some cairns heading into the bush. Follow cairns along the top of the hillside for about 100m to a buttress that tops out right on the edge of the hill.

Refiners Fire 10m 20 *

The bolted face left of Gelb. Start up Gelb and traverse left at the jugs. A couple of exciting mantleshelf moves.

FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 20/11/16

264 (a) Heart Of Gold 12m 23 ***

The bolted arête right of Gelb. A beautiful climb; excellent rock and fantastic technical moves. 6B.

FA: Gerry Narkowicz 7/10/16

WILLOW JUNGLE

Access from the Hoo Hoo Hut via Mansion on The Hill. From Mansion on the Hill, go down to the river, then upstream for 50m and around the corner to Willow Jungle Crag. Several fully equipped sport routes added here.

354 (a) Damo The Donkey Dick Licker 8m 20 *

On the far left of the crag is a short blank corner with 4 bolts. Nice technical climb. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 13/9/2016

355 (a) Damo Does Donkeys 15m 23 **

Excellent climb starting up Psycho-Sexual Mutilation (now sporting 2 retro-bolts), then an unlikely traverse out right to the blank corner in the middle of the face. Up the corner with some tricky moves on superb orange rock to an easy, but run-out conclusion. Take a purple camalot for the crack between the 2nd and 3rd bolt. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 19/9/2016

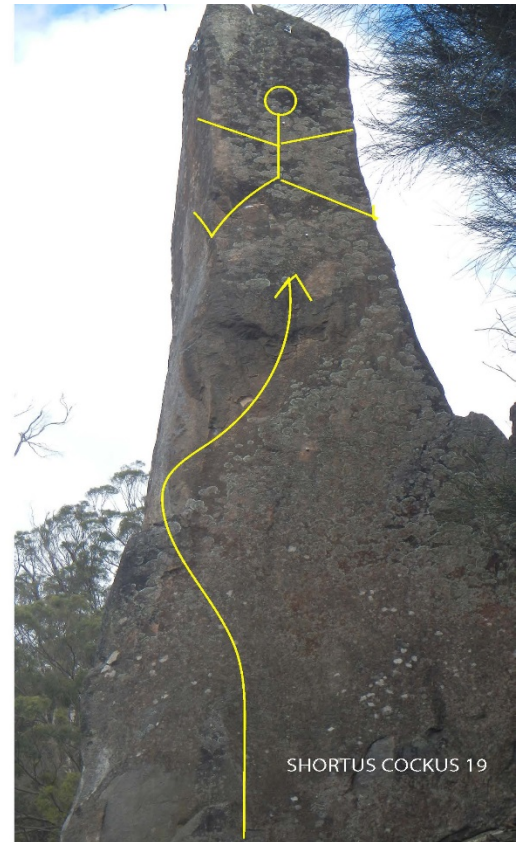
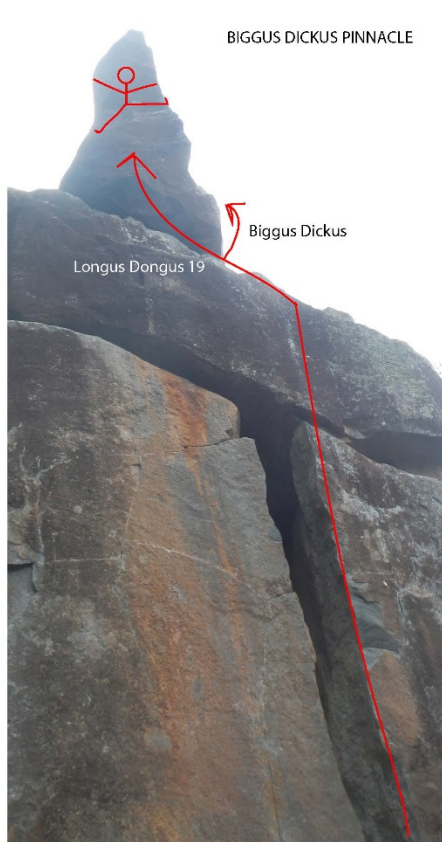
355 (b) One Day Hero Sucks Donkey Dicks 10m 21 **

The big blank corner with 4 bolts. Terrific moves and good fun. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 11/9/2016



BIG DICK PINNACLE

Located at the cliff known as the Outhouse. It is on the tier immediately above Willow Jungle Crag. Best access is to abseil from the top. Follow the track as for Mansion On The Hill, and 50m before the top of that cliff, turn right into the bush and make for the cliff top a short distance away. The cliff is facing the basin of Dead Mans Hollow. Look for a pinnacle separated from the main cliff by a chimney. Abseil from trees here. Just right of the main corner of the buttness is an offwidth crack with 2 carrot bolts, which leads to the ledge beneath the phallus like pinnacle.



364 (a) Longus Dongus 15m 19 *

Start up the offwidth splitting the wall with 2 carrot bolts. Gain the ledge then step left and climb the left face and arête of the pinnacle. Awesome crux move high up with feet smearing and grasping both sides of the arête. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 20/9/2016

364 (b) Biggus Dickus 15m 19 **

Up the offwidth to the ledge, then straight up the front of the pinnacle, a classic fridge hugging double arête. 5 carrot bolts. Great fun. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 19/9/2016

364 (c) Shortus Cockus 7m 19

The short right hand face of the arête with 3 carrot bolts. Start up the left arête sharing some holds with Biggus Dickus, then step right for some nice double arête action and heel hooking. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Jemimah Narkowicz. 2/10/16

DARK SIDE OF BOAGS

A collection of six cliffs located approximately 500m downstream from Deadman's Hollow, about 20 minutes walk from the Hoo Hoo Hut. Best access from the Hoo Hoo Hut is to go down to the river bed via Mansion On The Hill, then rock hop down the river. With six new bolted climbs (carrots) and some quality trad, this old crag now provides an excellent days climbing.

LEFT CLIFF

About 40m left and 40m up the hill from the main cliff (lower tier).

389 (a) Fat Yak 15m 18 **

The precise jam crack in a corner on the LHS of the cliff. Excellent jamming on great rock. FA: Andrew Martin and Gerry Narkowicz. 28/8/2016

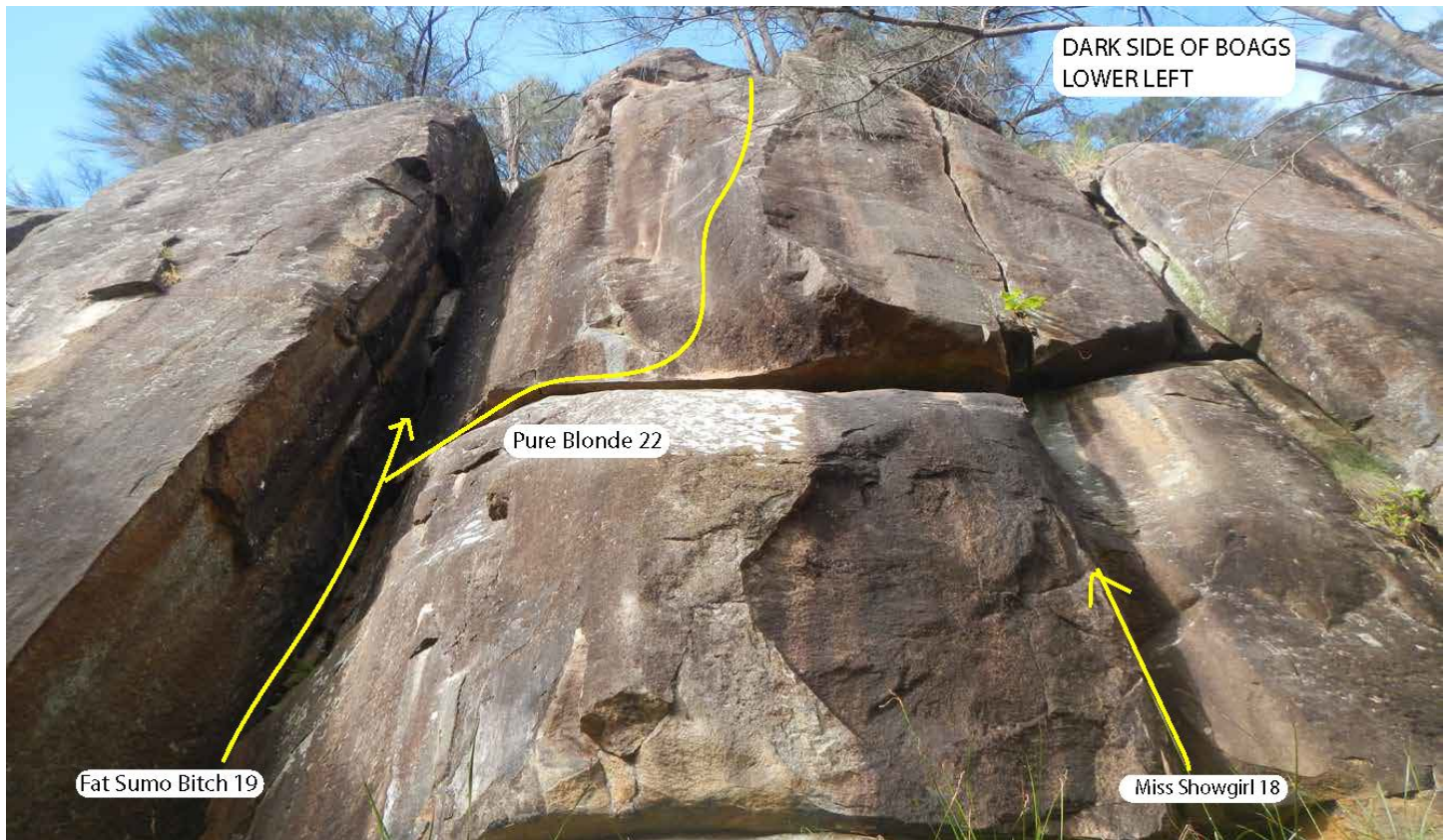
389 (b) Fat Sumo Bitch 15m 20

The nasty looking v-groove to the right. Can be finessed with some bridging moves and not as grovelly as it looks. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 28/8/2016

389 (c) Pure Blonde 15m 22 **

The bolted face and blunt arête to the right with 3 carrot bolts. Starts in Fat Sumo Bitch then traverse out to the first bolt. Good technical climbing. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 28/8/2016





390 Miss Showgirl 18 **

Described here as a reference point..probably the classic of the crag. So named because it was the root of the day. A splitter crack up a face. Starts as a finger crack round the little roof and goes into almost offwidth near the top where one moves left onto ledge and up a few undistinguished moves to belay. FA Nick Deka and Robert Hamilton, Greg Moore, Neale Smith, Robert McMahon, Gerry Narkowicz 14/1/1984

MIDDLE TIER

A gully leads from the right hand side of the lower left cliff to the upper tier. On the right side of this gully about half way up is another buttress.

390 (a) The Hopinator 10m 23 *

On the far left of the buttress is a pillar with 3 carrot bolts. A strenuous and technical example of a fridge hugging arête. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Isaac Lethborg. 29/10/16

390 (b) Feral Hop Hog 10m 23

The next line right is a feral looking overhanging fist crack in a corner which narrows to a finger crack. Thrash up this to the ledge, then step left onto the face (carrot bolt) to finish up the square slot to the top. Horrible but strangely satisfying. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. 30/11/16

UPPER TIER

At the top of the gully is a large buttress with several crack climbs that were climbed in the 80's.

AIRFIX BUTTRESS

To the right of the previous buttress and slightly uphill. From the right side of the upper tier, scramble through a notch to arrive at the base of Airfix buttress.

393 (a) Straight Off The Custard Couch 12m 23 **

Lovely technical climbing up the blunt arête on the left hand side of the buttress. A classic. The route starts from a ledge, so climb the first half of Airfix (grade 17 crack), then scramble left for 10m to the arête. 6 carrot bolts. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Jemimah Narkowicz. 4/9/2016

394 Airfix 17 *

Lovely crack on the right hand side up to a ledge. Rather cruxy near the top reaching high out of narrow jam. From the ledge jam up the felt lined crack. FA Greg Moore and Neale Smith, Robert McMahon. 14/1/1984

394 (a) Airfix Direct 15m 24 **

Climb Airfix to the ledge, then up the arête via the thin seam with good wires for protection. Very technical exercise in crack climbing.
FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Isaac Lethborg. 29/10/16



LAST RITES BUTTRESS (THE UPPERMOST TIER)

From Airfix traverse right along the hillside for about 40m to the base of a neat 10m high wall.

394 (b) Dead Man's Revenge 10m 20 **

The pocketed finger cracks up the face toward the left side. As perfect a little dolerite route anywhere. If this was in the Cataract it would get a lot of traffic. FA: Andrew Martin and Gerry Narkowicz. 28/8/2016

394 (c) Virtual Death 10m 23 *

The blank corner in the middle. Very technical bridging with barely adequate gear. Great climbing..lucky there is a nice cushion of grass below if the gear fails. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Isaac Lethborg. 29/8/2016

394 (d) Last Rites 10m 22 *

The face to the right with carrot bolts. Some great moves and worth doing. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Isaac Lethborg. 29/8/2016



LOWER TIER

The crag close to the water above a slab rising out of the river bed.

394 (e) Wizard Smith 15m 22 ***

The beautiful arête of the buttress with several carrot bolts. Starts in the corner to the right (Ripples On The Water) then traverse left to the first bolt on a small handrail straight into the crux high step onto the arête. Fantastic moves on small holds to the top. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 28/8/2016

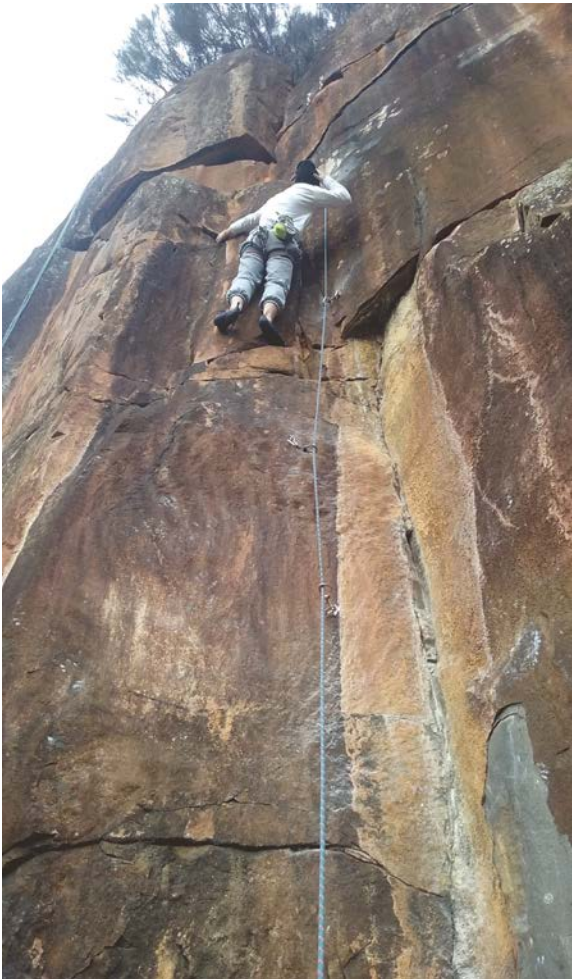
395 Like Ripples On The Water 15 *

The corner on the left hand side beginning as an offwidth, then climbs the huge flake with a sharp layback edge on the right and hand crack on the left. Pleasant and worthwhile.

FA Hans Mohler and Gerry Narkowicz. 12/4/02

395 (a) Black IPA 15m 21

The thin crack on the arête immediately right of Ripples on the Water. Bouldery move past the carrot bolt, then nice laybacks up the thin crack. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin. 28/8/2016



Isaac Lethborg climbing One Day Hero Sucks Donkey Dicks 21