

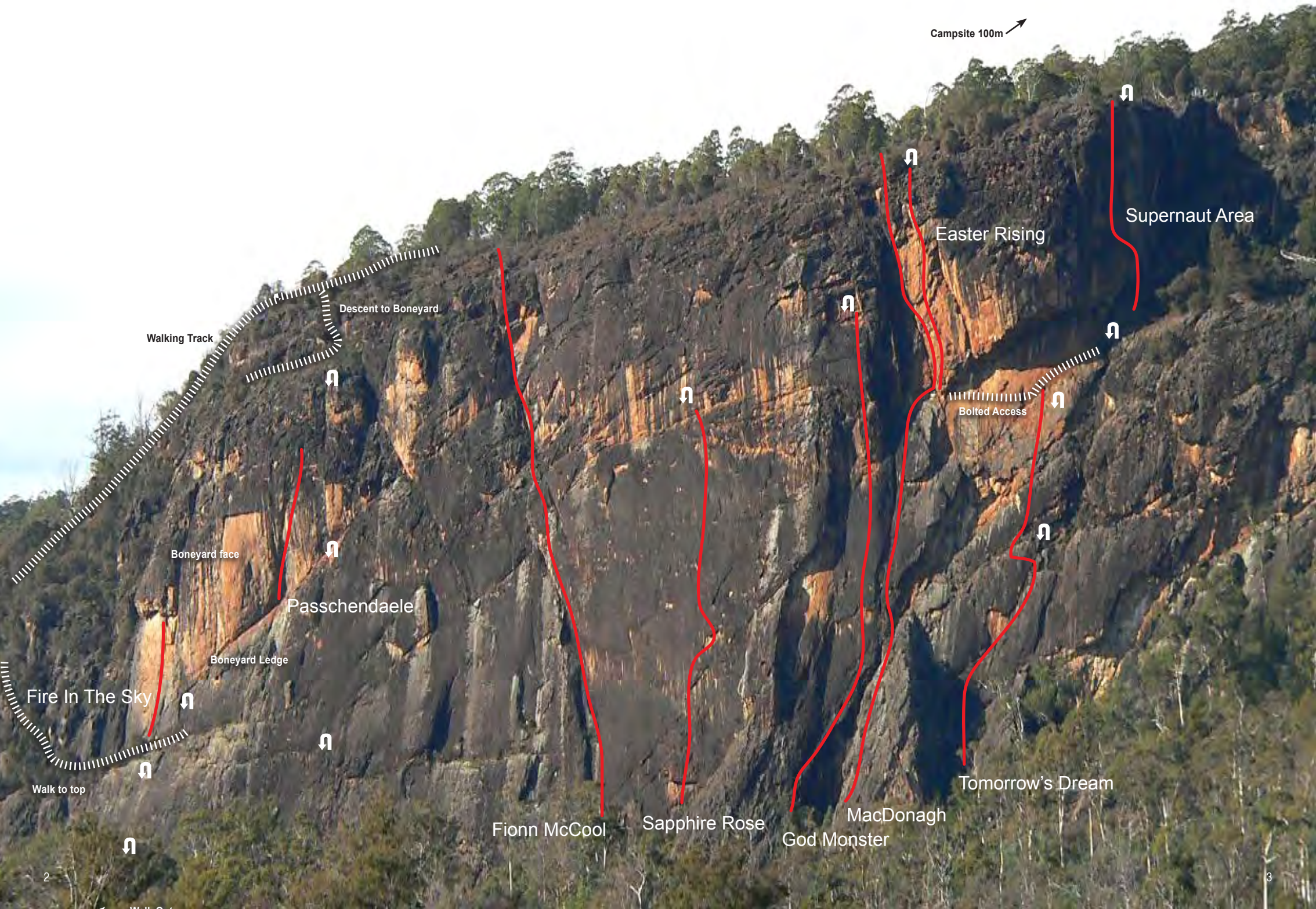


Fingal

Bare Rock

An interim guide by Gerry Narkowicz

FINGAL OVERVIEW



Campsite 100m ↗

Supernaut Area

Easter Rising

Descent to Boneyard

Walking Track

Bolted Access

Boneyard face

Passchendaele

Boneyard Ledge

Fire In The Sky

Walk to top

Tomorrow's Dream

Fionn McCool

Sapphire Rose

MacDonagh
God Monster

■ INTRODUCTION

Bare Rock is the 200m high black and orange cliff on the hill about 3km to the south of Fingal. It is a sheer vertical to overhanging dolerite face, an unusual formation for this type of rock, with only a few natural lines and acres of black, blank rock in between. As you walk towards it, the scale of the cliff is gobsmacking. The views of the valley and Ben Lomond massif are spectacular and the atmosphere is truly amazing, with wedge-tail eagles constantly sighted around the crag.

The cliff offers serious traditional multi-pitch routes and superb sport routes on quality sections of rock in between the choss. MacDonagh (17) and Fionn McCool (19) are the classic trad routes, but in recent times, the cliff has been transformed into one of the premier sport climbing destinations in Tasmania. Prior to 2010, there were a couple of multi-pitch bolted slab climbs on the cliff, the best of them being the terrific three pitch Sapphire Rose (22). In the last 2 years over 30 pitches of new climbing has been added. Most of these routes are steep, difficult, endurance type routes starting from ledges high on the cliff. The rock is generally of excellent quality on the sport routes and is very finger friendly. However loose rock is always a possibility, especially on the approaches, the ledges, abseils and the trad routes, thus helmets are mandatory. Double ropes are also helpful on the multi-pitch routes. After heavy rainfall, the cliff seeps considerably for several days, so check the condition of the cliff with Andrew Martin when you ring to ask permission.

■ ACCESS ISSUES : by Andrew Martin

Welcome to Bare Rock! My wife and I are more than happy to have climbers access the land to climb at Bare Rock (Fingal). Please stop by if we are around, it is always great to meet other people who share this addiction!

A few points that will make life easier for everyone:

- 1) Of paramount importance is the realization that the road up to Bare Rock is not council maintained, and in fact, is paid for and maintained by the three private property

owners (myself included). The other two have therefore asked that any climbers please drive slowly as this seems to really irritate them (the road gets chewed up very easily, as well as noise etc). Yes you arrive 1 minute later, but recent "Schumacher wannabes" have made some of the neighbours contemplate the need to allow further access. PLEASE drive slowly on the dirt road section.

- 2) A call prior to coming is ESSENTIAL. Please simply call me (or text) on 0418 883 418, **each time** that you intend on climbing here. The neighbours keep an eye out on my place due to prior a burglary. If I know you are coming, I can simply inform them of this fact, so they know not to come up and check on who the un-announced person is.
- 3) Although we would prefer that people go up the side boundary fence (as opposed to the main drive), this is quite often impossible due to the wet nature of the track. When driving up the main drive, please maintain "turtle speed". Once past the house, you are more than welcome to park past the double shed at the right hand end of the car turning circle. There is room for at least 4 cars. Please don't park on the turning circle, as the neighbours use this frequently.
- 4) The cliff is closed from AUGUST through to early DECEMBER, there is no room for negotiation here. Peregrine Falcon nesting occurs all over the cliff, as well as at least one pair of Wedge Tail Eagles in the immediate area. Part of the attraction of climbing at this cliff is the untamed beauty of the area, which I wish to maintain, partly through the protection of these magnificent birds.

Other than that, I hope you all enjoy climbing here as much as I do! If we are about; pop in, grab a beer or coffee and say hello, it is always great to meet more climbers. I wish you loads of safe and enjoyable climbing on a truly fantastic cliff.

Kind regards,

Andrew & Alanna Martin



■ CAMPING: There are several options:

- 1) Andrew Martin is happy to let people camp on his property about 100m closer to the cliff from the house. However, **unless personally invited by Andrew**, people are asked to respect their privacy and not enter the house, cook on their verandah or use their water tanks. Follow the rough vehicle track from the turning circle and take the right hand fork shortly after that and the track leads down to some grassed areas closer to the cliff.
- 2) Alternatively, there are ample campsites by the shipping container about 200m from the house via the left hand fork in the track. This area is on a different property, and the other landowner has given permission for people to camp there.
- 3) On top of the cliff is a terrific campsite and it is possible to drive within 100m of the cliff top. See directions below.
- 4) Otherwise, there is not an official campground or caravan park in the Fingal valley as such, but it is permitted to camp at the back of the park in the main street of Fingal, and also at the football ground.

■ DIRECTIONS

From Launceston to Fingal is about 110 km and takes about one hour and 15 minutes to drive. Coming from either Hobart or Launceston, turn off the Midlands Highway at Conara Junction and take the A4 highway through the Fingal Valley. Fingal is about 50km from this junction. Look for Legge St on the right as you enter the town from the west. Follow this for about 2.5km in the direction of the cliff with several turns. Where the dirt road comes to an intersection near a dilapidated shed, turn sharp left and follow the rough road up to the house which is only a couple of hundred metres from the base of the cliff. Park at the turning circle by the house.

■ VEHICLE ACCESS TO CLIFF TOP CAMPSITE

From Avoca it is 46km, allow 55 mins to drive. Turn right at Avoca and go 18km to Royal George. From Royal George, keep going 3km to Merrywood Rd turnoff on the left. 40 mins from here to Bare Rock. Turn left into Merrywood rd and after 3.3km turn left onto road signposted T.P.F.H private road, St Pauls Rd. This road eventually goes up the hill, follow what appears to be the main road at intersections (2 sharp right turns).

Locked gate after 6km (open and shut it after – we have permission to access) then another locked gate after 1km. Follow main rd (Mt Foster Rd) for 10km along top of range. After 10km look for large cairn half way down a hill marking turn off to left. From here it is 4.5km to Bare Rock. Follow this left hand track (creek crossing after a short while) and after 2.6km turn right. From here, it is 1.9km to Bare Rock. Follow this veering left at intersections. Towards the end it goes down a hill and gets rougher – don't be discouraged – keep going but take it easy – to emerge at Bare Rock campsite. The cliff is 100m north of the campsite down a hill to a flat grassy area above the cliff. Boneyard is at eastern end of cliff and Supernaut face is at the western end.

■ The Walking Track

From the house follow the vehicular track towards the cliff for 40m then take the left hand fork in the track and follow it for about 400m east around the hill to an old shipping container. Keep heading east along a disused vehicle track for about 200m and you should start to see orange tags marking the start of a well marked steep track to the top of Bare Rock.

■ Boneyard Access Abseil

At the top of the hill is a flat section of ground resembling an old paddock which extends back from the cliff edge. Walk west along this flat section for about 100m and look for a substantial cairn near the cliff edge. More cairns lead down some rock steps to a short gully which takes you to a narrow terrace. You will notice double rings on the left as you come down the gully. Walking time is about 40 minutes.

Boneyard Rap Station

You will require double 60m ropes. Rap 10m down to another ledge and some chains. A 50m abseil takes you down to the Boneyard Terrace at the right hand end of the climbing area. It will also land you next to the chains for one of two descent options to the ground. Make sure you have knotted the end of your rope, as it is a further 120m to the ground. On the Boneyard Terrace is a via ferrata of fixed rope bolted for your convenience along the entire length of the terrace, a distance of about 60m.

Jumar Alternate Access

If you don't wish to rap in, it is possible to walk almost to the base of the Boneyard then gain the ledge via a short jumar. About 200m before the top of the hill, look out for a yellow tag on a tree on the right hand side. Yellow tags mark a steep track down and across the hillside to the base of Fire In The Sky (23). From here, a short fixed line goes across a slab, then there is a 10m jumar to the Boneyard ledge.

Boneyard Terrace Via Ferrata Fixed Rope

Use a daisy chain or slings to secure yourself to the fixed rope and for walking along the ledge (a 2-3m wide sloping ledge). You should stay attached to the fixed line at all times and also secure packs and other gear to the bolts on the ledge. The terrace has extremely loose rock and big piles of falcon guano. Don't trundle rocks off the ledge on the chance there may be people below.

Boneyard Descent Options

a/ Abseil the 10m fixed line at the far left end of the Boneyard then across the slab via a fixed line to the big tree at the base of Fire In The Sky. Rap from the rings beside the tree. Double 60m ropes will get you down in one hit, or else there are more rings half way down for people with only one 60m rope. Walk along the base of the cliff to the base of the other abseil, the scene of much destruction from rock trundling. From here a tagged track leads back to the shipping container. **DO NOT TAKE THIS OPTION IF THERE ARE OTHER PARTIES REMAINING ABOVE.** Bush bash straight down the hill if you must, but the chance for mishap is significant and should be avoided at all costs.

b/ Use the chains at the far right hand side of the terrace. Double 60m ropes are required. It is a 55m abseil to the first station and it is located slightly diagonally down to the right as you face the cliff. Stay on the clean black slabs on the way down. The second rap is 50m. A well worn path leads down the scree and through the bush to arrive back near the shipping container and the track to the house.

Right: Ingvar Lidman and Gerry Narkowicz on the Boneyard Ledge.



BONEYARD FACE ACCESS OVERVIEW



BONEYARD FACE ACCESS

← Walking Track 100m

Descent Gully

Main Abseil Access

10m rap to ledge

10m rap to ledge

55m rap to ledge

2 raps to ground
Double 60m ropes

- ① 55m
- ② 50m

Boneyard Ledge

Bolted fixed line along
length of Boneyard ledge

10m rap to ledge
Fixed jumar line

50m rap to ground



THE BONEYARD AREA

3 Boneyard 240m 15

The result of a fun day out in 1969, Boneyard was not regarded as a quality route by its first ascensionists. Decades later, Adrian Herrington did a repeat and judged it to be pretty good.

- 1) 37m. Start at the far LH end of the cliff below a mossy nose of rock and climb it.
- 2) 40m. Move up on easier angled rock to a ledge. Sidestep R a metre or so and then up to belay on ledge beneath the big chimney pitch of McCavity-Batten Memorial.
- 3) 30m. Traverse delicately R to below a corner, which heads towards the great rising rightward diagonal which is the signature tune of the climb.
- 4) 37m. Up crack to belay at beginning of diagonal.
- 5) 46m. Some delicate prancing (or scrambling) along ledge until it narrows and throws a delicate crux traverse in your lap, to belay at large block.
- 6) 50m. Climb block and cut back L on a slant to an easy finish. FA: Robert McMahon and Michael McHugh, Peter Jackson (alt). 1969

4 Fire In The Sky 30m 23 **

The easiest sport route in the area and a lovely technical face climb. On a separate cliff about 30m left of the Boneyard. Easily accessed by abseiling off anchors for Redneck Love at far left end of fixed line. Fixed abseil line in place - rap 15m to ledge. Walk along easy ledge via fixed line to base of the route by large tree. Continuously technical moves with the rock quality increasing as the route progresses. 16 bolts. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 8/4/12

5 Redneck Love 35m 24 **

Starts from the double rings at the far left hand end of the Boneyard. Excellent and varied climbing. Traverse immediately left and then follow the obvious line through two bulges (crux) and an easier crack section. Traverse slightly left at the second rooftop to an airy and technical finish. Mixed gear: cams 0.5 - 3, small to medium wires, 2 hexes plus 16 draws. At least 4 slings will help as well. F.A: Andrew Martin 7/07/2012

- 3) 50m. Very lively climbing through a bulge (crux) followed by stemming up the feral chimney. Quite an experience. Helmets obligatory.
- 4) 50m. A very ordinary finish. FA: Robert McMahon and Robert Staszewski (alt). 1979

6 Heaven Can Wait 30m 24 ***

The second route in from the far left hand side of the terrace. A superb sustained face climb up a slightly overhanging wall starting just left of prominent crack. Crux is near the top with some technical moves required on flailing forearms. Fully bolted. 14B FA: Gerry Narkowicz 15/7/11

7 Dopamine 30m 25 ***

The direct line of bolts branching to the right off Heaven Can Wait at its 4th bolt. Thinner, more technical and maybe better than Heaven Can Wait, but compromised by the ability to step into the crack of Latex Evening to gain a no hands rest. Superb climbing. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 7/4/12

8 Latex Evening 40m 22 *

The prominent crack bordering the left side of the orange shield. Straight forward jamming (about 18) to the stance at half height. Then a short section of face climbing when the crack blanks, providing a cruxy move. The crack opens again to a thin finger crack with some excellent quality rock and a sequence of tricky finger locks. Turn the roof by traversing left for a couple of metres to gain good flat holds, then up the headwall to the anchors. 10 bolts plus cams 0.5 to 4 with doubles of 1, 2 and 3. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 18/3/12

9 Chase That Feeling 35m 28 ***

The line immediately right of the big crack bordering the orange shield with u-bolts. Another classic for the grade. Several very powerful and cruxy moves low down followed by a sustained section of insecure and difficult climbing up the orange shield. Then a heartbreaking crux over the final roof. FA: Chris Coppard 25/3/12

10 Velvet Morning 30m 26 ***

A mind bending excursion up the awesome orange shield - the eye catching centre piece of the Boneyard Face. Start near the left edge of the shield and follow the aesthetic right leading crack/seam system all the way to a cruxy encounter with the capping roof. 14 bolts. FA: Ingvar Lidman 7/11

11 Chainsaws Guns And Dogs 30m 25 ***

Another superb route with a bit of everything; steep juggy start, jamming, pumpy steep face climbing, a spine tingling traverse and a sting in the tail pulling through the roof at the top. Climbs the left trending crackline through the big guano patch out to the middle of the orange shield. A good rest on a large foothold in the middle of the face before launching up the sustained face to the roof. Traverse 5m right to a break in the roof and turn the roof via a layback flake to the anchors. Gear: 16 Bolts plus camalots purple, red, yellow. Some long draws for rope drag helpful. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 11/1/12

12 White Powder 25m 32 ***

Start on the first 3 bolts of Chainsaws, then head right and up. Fantastic climbing all the way. FA: Garry Phillips 9/6/12

13 Jetstream 35m 28 ***

Climb Vapour Trail to just above the first anchors (25) then left via a V5 boulder problem to the anchors. FA: Garry Phillips 10/6/12

14 Vapour Trail 35m 28 ***

Steep climbing up the impressive bulging prow left of the central right trending crack (Passchendaele). Long and sustained. There is a lower off at 20m which is grade 26 to this point and serves as a good warm up. Caution when lowering off! F.A: Garry Phillips 14/7/11

15 Passchendaele 50m 25 ***

The central overhanging right trending crack followed by a lovely bolted pitch of face climbing. Tassie's answer to Trojan at Arapiles.

- 1) 30m, (25) Jamming of all widths with protection totally by natural gear. The crux is a series of powerful fingerlocks through some very steep territory. Gaining the pod near the top is also cruxy. The last 10m eases back to about 22 to the anchors.

- 2) 20m, (22) 8 bolts of excellent face climbing to the chains. Gear: cams micro to 4.5 one of each and double of red camalot. Medium to large wires. Gerry used 19 pieces, 7 nuts and the rest were cams. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 9/7/11



Above and right: Ingvar Lidman on the first ascent of *Velvet Morning* (26)

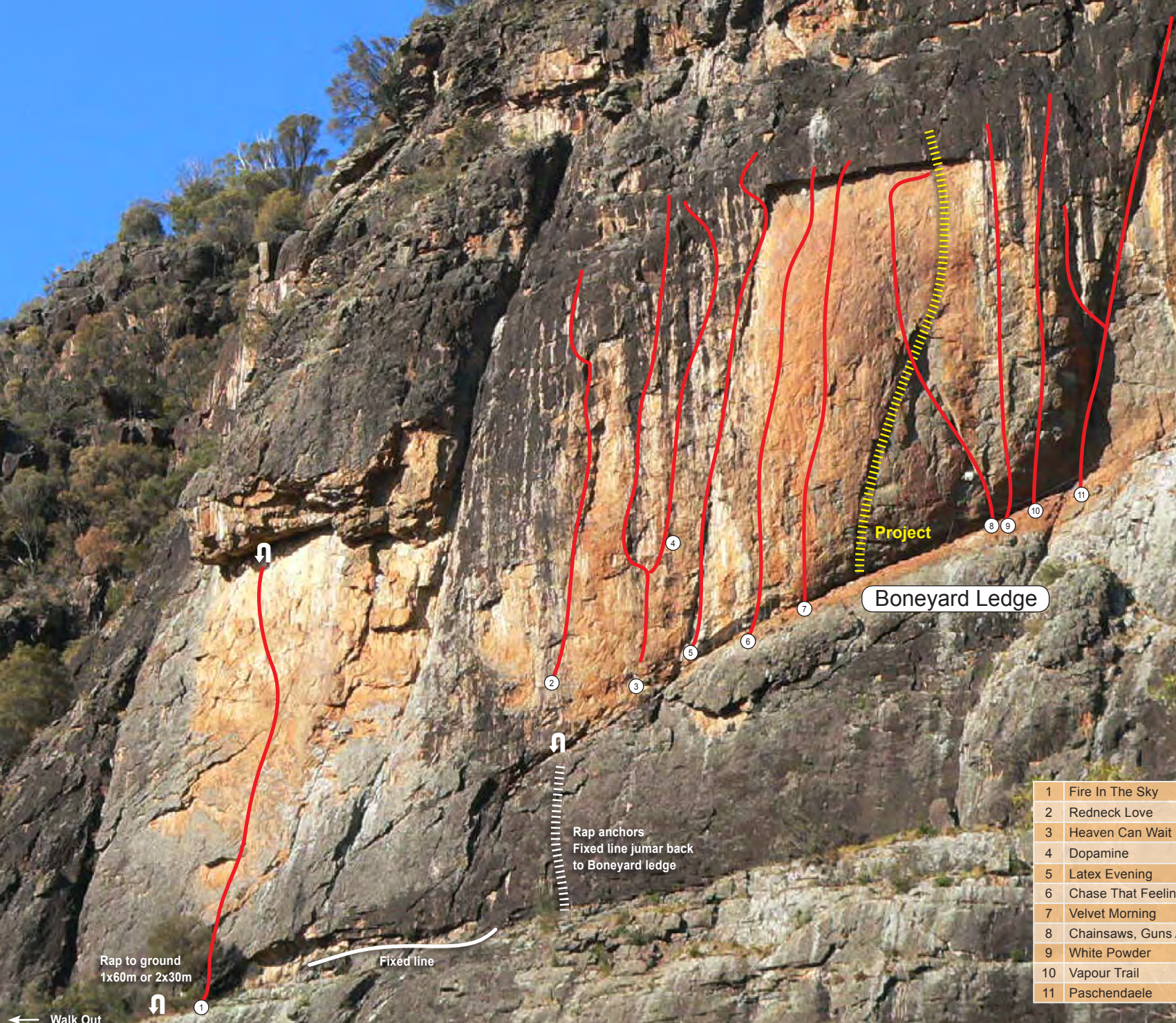


Garry Phillips lowering off *Vapour Trail* (28) showing how steep the route is.



Garry Phillips on the first ascent of *Vapour Trail* (28)

BONEYARD FACE



1	Fire In The Sky	23
2	Redneck Love	24
3	Heaven Can Wait	24
4	Dopamine	25
5	Latex Evening	22
6	Chase That Feeling	28
7	Velvet Morning	26
8	Chainsaws, Guns And Dogs	25
9	White Powder	32
10	Vapour Trail	28
11	Paschendaale	25

BONEYARD FACE

Abseil access of cliff
Double 60m ropes

Project:
(A.Martin)

Project:
(I.Lidman)

Project:
(D.Fife)

Project:
(I.Lidman)

Project:
(G.Phillips)

1	Redneck Love	24
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9	Jetstream	28

10	Vapour Trail	28
11	Passchendaele	25
12	Giving The Dog A Bone	23
13	Angel Of Pain	26
14	No Space In Time	28
15	Atomic Vampire	28
16	2 Fast, 2 Furious	28
17	Tiger Bean	28
18	Bad To The Bone	26

16 Giving The Dog A Bone 20m 23 *

Climb Passchendaele for the first 10m then break left to join the thin jam crack which trends up and left. Strenuous thin jamming up the steep crack to a lower off. All natural gear. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Ingvar Lidman. 14/1/12

17 Angel Of Pain 25m 26 ***

Climbs the thin cracks up the grey wall right of Passchendaele with the crux on slopey holds between the 4th and 5th bolt. Up through very steep ground on big holds and after 8 bolts joins Passchendaele at its second crux. If you make it this far, you've done the technical crux but the exhausting redpoint crux remains. Struggle up the last 10m of Passchendaele to the anchors. Gear: 8 bolts plus medium size nut, purple, green and red camalot. Next right is a project. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 6/5/12

18 No Space In Time 25m 28 ***

To the right of Passchendaele is a steep tiger striped wall. It takes the prominent crack/face near its centre. No Space In Time is the 3rd line to the right of Passchendaele. Pull onto the short face passing 2 bolts to gain the hanging crack. When the crack closes continue up the superb headwall on perfect dolerite passing 5 more bolts. 7 bolts with medium wires and a 0.5 Camalot for the crack. FA: Ingvar Lidman 6/11

19 Atomic Vampire 15m 28 ***

Powerful deadpoints up the amazing line of flakes to the right of No Space In Time. FA: Ingvar Lidman 22/2/12

20 2 Fast 2 Furious 15m 28 ***

Start just left of corner crack near the rap station. Power up for the race! Power through the bulge, traverse left and up to chains. Excellent sustained climbing all the way. There is a direct start being projected at the moment. FA: Garry Phillips 17/7/11

21 Tiger Bean 15m 28***

Next route right of the rap station and right of the corner crack. Powerful start leads to a rest. Then trend rightwards and up to the little roof. Pull over this and up to anchors. FA: Garry Phillips 7/11

22 Bad to the Bone 15m 26 ***

Technical and fingery climbing up the wall 3m right of TB. The route finishes at the same lower off. FA: Garry Phillips 7/11

CENTRAL FACE**23 Fionn McCool** 175m 19 **

Named after the Irish mythical hero who ate the Salmon of Knowledge, leader of the Fianna (a marauding band of warriors) and the inspiration for later Irish revolutionaries, the Fenians in particular. Quite a hard route for its day, this climb and MacDonagh are the two most popular and approachable trad routes at Bare Rock. Fionn McCool is the dominant L leaning line in the centre of the cliff.

1) 45m. Start in shallow groove. The crux is turning the bulge. Up face to corner and belay up corner adjacent to narrow ramp that slants to the L.

2) 40m. Follow ramp onto face and climb to base of huge projecting pillar. Climb R side of pillar and belay on top.

3) 40m. This magnificent pitch follows the L leaning diagonal crack. After the crack runs out, climb face to belay ledge.

4) 50m. Not such a hot finish but easy enough to the top.

FA: Robert McMahon and Michael McHugh (alt). 1971

24 Little Pinnochio 95m A2+

Takes the face between Fionn McCool and Sapphire Rose, approximately 20m L of the latter. Written up as "an interesting excursion", the route is an aid climb on natural gear with some bolts. Locate pedestal to start. FA: Matt Perchard and J.Clarke. 1998

Right: Garry Phillips on the first ascent of *Vapour Trail* (28)



**25 Bisso of Orange 185m 26 ****

Between Fionn McCool and Sapphire Rose is a line of BRs that breaches the headwall at the top. A fully bolted route with sustained climbing on reasonable quality rock.

- 1) 25m (16) six BRs. A pretty chossy pitch and quite scary gaining the first bolt which is high off the ground.
- 2) 30m (22) ten BRs. The next 3 pitches involve thin slab climbing similar to the second and 3rd pitches of Sapphire Rose. Holds are a little brittle.
- 3) 30m (22) ten BRs.
- 4) 35m (22) twelve BRs.
- 5) 25m (26) ten BRs A weird pitch with pumpy, slopey face climbing taking a left trending line to the overlap, then turn the small roof followed by a right trending diagonal to the belay.
- 6) 35m (21) twelve BRs.

FA: Marc Tierney, Michael Fox, Kim Robinson, Feb 2006.

26 Sapphire Rose 95m 22 ***

A major engineering feat, this climb is a popular sports route which ascends the wonderful black face L of Padriac Pearse. Starts half way up the big rightward rising ramp R of Fionn McCool in the centre of the cliff. You will need 17 quickdraws and two ropes for the descent.

- 1) 45m 22. Up wall, pull through roof and straight up face to rest. Sustained up face above to crux rightward rising traverse to belay. One of the bolt hangers on the traverse is loose, so take a couple of small cams for this traverse to back it up. 16 bolts and chain belay.
- 2) 15m 21. A cruxy move traversing L from the belay, then terrific face climbing to the ledge and next belay. 5 bolts and chain belay. 3) 35m, 21. Superb face climbing to belay below bulging headwall. 10 bolts and chain belay. Abseil from here in two 50m abseils to the bottom. FA: Sam Edwards and Stefan Eberhard. 1994

27 Padriac Pearse 270m 21 **

Named after the Irish revolutionary, poet and school teacher who was one of the sixteen

executed after the failed Easter Rising of 1916. Originally the climb was graded 18 but a repeat ascent by Danny Ng and Mick Ling regraded it in line with contemporary thinking. Be aware that Padriac Pearse is a serious undertaking. The first pitch and a bit takes the front face of the ramp. From the top of the ramp follow the leftward leaning corners. Once the corners run out, move through overlap (crux) onto face to the R and join up with Finn Crisp at big ledge with tree. Follow Finn Crisp for the last two pitches of bold and spooky climbing. FA: Robert McMahon and Ben Maddison (varied) 1980

28 Finn Crisp 200m 18 **

Near the middle of the cliff, beginning to the R of the start of Fionn McCool, is a huge rightward rising ramp. Scramble up the ramp unroped and from the top of the ramp move R onto the face. The route follows the lichen streaks. The first 3 pitches of this bold and magnificent route have apparently not had a second ascent. The climb should be approached with caution because protection is not abundant and Joe Friend, hardman of his day with a very individual take on reality, gave the climb its grade. FA: Joe Friend and Wayne Stevens (varied). 1976

29 God Monster 125m 25 ***

A fantastic and varied route with superb face climbing, hard thin slab then a steep headwall. Start at the line of bolts 30m left of Macdonagh at the left hand side of the huge curving arched roof.

- (1) 60m 22. 22B. Follow the lip of the roof for 18 bolts before gaining the slab proper for a further 4 bolts to belay at rings.
- (2) 30m 25 11B. Climb the slab to gain a left leading seam over a small overlap. Follow the seam before veering rightwards to regain the centre of the slab. Straight up the slab to belay at rings.
- (3) 35m 25 12B. Step left and climb the steep and exposed orange wall to a small stance. Continue straight up passing a couple of awkward bulges before blasting up the final headwall.

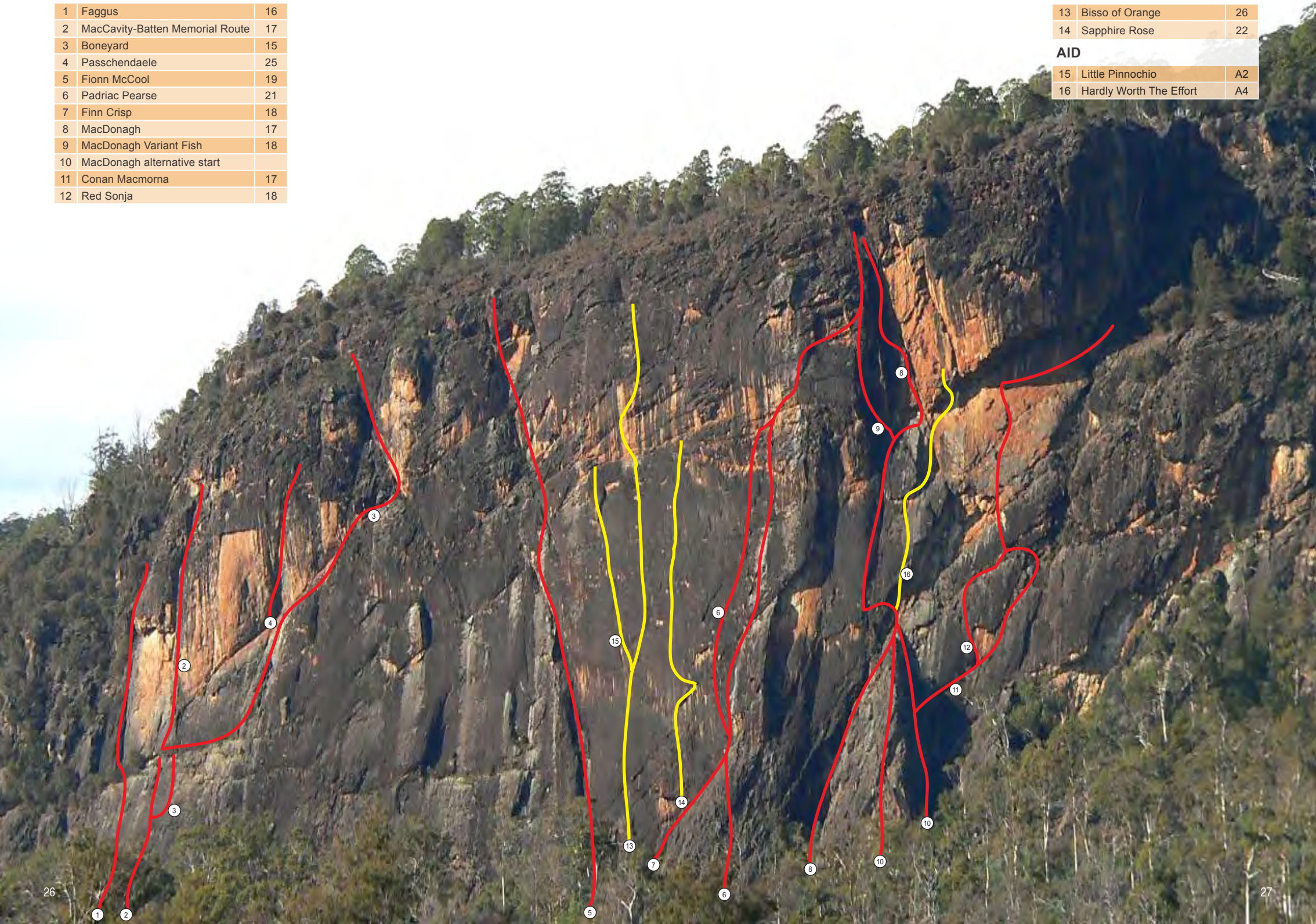
Descent: 3 raps of 35m, 30m and 60m. Double ropes essential. Gear: 22 draws – a few longer draws handy on 1st pitch. FA: Ingvar Lidman 1/10/12

FINGAL TRAD ROUTES

1	Faggus	16
2	MacCavity-Batten Memorial Route	17
3	Boneyard	15
4	Passchendaele	25
5	Fionn McCool	19
6	Padriac Pearse	21
7	Finn Crisp	18
8	MacDonagh	17
9	MacDonagh Variant Fish	18
10	MacDonagh alternative start	
11	Conan Macmorna	17
12	Red Sonja	18

PRE-2010 SPORT ROUTES

13	Bisso of Orange	26
14	Sapphire Rose	22
AID		
15	Little Pinnocchio	A2
16	Hardly Worth The Effort	A4



THE GREAT ROOF AREA

30 MacDonagh 204m 17 ***

Named after young poet Thomas MacDonagh, executed after the Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916. The original route at Bare Rock put up in the dark ages (1969) by McMahan and Jackson and the scene of a major epic two weeks previously when attempted by McMahan and McHugh, resulting in the latter having the shape of his skull altered. The major line of weakness up the black face immediately L of the big roof on the RH side of the cliff.

1) 50m. There are three alternative starts up the L, centre or RH side of the pyramid shaped pillar of rock abutting the base of the cliff. The LH start is better, but that's not saying a great deal.

2) 37m. Up R side of 4m high block. Traverse L and down to bridge spectacularly into crack. Climb crack to belay in small hole.

3) Beautiful crack pitch with plenty of face holds to big ledge. Traverse R on ledge to stance smeared with much birdshit, below huge triangular lens of rock which is pitch 4.

4) 30m. Jam and bridge through overhang (crux) and continue a little awkwardly in places up the R side of the triangle to good belay.

5) Move slightly L and climb the terrific slab for an airy finish. Scramble to the top. A classic climb. FA: Robert McMahan and Peter Jackson. 1969

31 MacDonagh Variant Finish 85m 18

1) 40m. From the top of pitch 3 of MacDonagh before the R traverse to belay stance, climb the corner and ramp up left.

2) 45m. Move R and turn bulge with no protection finishing up the last pitch of Finn Crisp.

FA: Peter Steane and Doug Fife (alt), Gerry Narkowicz. 1983

32 Terrible Beauty 45m 24 ***

Start 3m left of MacDonagh's 4th pitch at a single bolt belay. Excellent steep climbing, with 2 definite cruxes - not as sustained as Easter Rising but the crux moves are harder. Could be 25. Pull through

roof (22) and up orange face to cross Macdonagh after about 15m. Step right out of Macdonagh and up through leftwards slanting stepped roofs (first crux). Rest on small stance and move right and over next roof (crimpy pull through roof - the crux). Lovely face climbing on steep ground with big holds for another 4 bolts to a small ledge below the last roof. Strenuous through the blocky roof to the final corner and the same anchors as Easter Rising. 20 bolts. Named out of a line from W.B Yeats' poem about the Easter Rising of 1916 against British rule in Ireland. 'A terrible beauty is born' refers to the execution of the leaders by the British designed to quell the rebellion, but only served to inflame it. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 14/7/2012

33 Easter Rising 45m 24 ***

Climbs the bolted face right of Macdonagh's last 2 pitches. A candidate for the best pitch of bolted 24 in Northern Tas. Some say it might be 25. Start just right of the guano patch at the base of Macdonagh's 4th pitch. Up the steep face passing 5 bolts to a small ledge. Move 2m left and continue up through steep territory with a small roof providing the crux. The route continues with some hard moves in between good rests on large footholds, though slightly overhanging all the way. A specky traverse move to gain the left slanting corner near the top with another couple of potentially heartbreaking puppy moves. Named after the Easter rising of 1916 against British rule in Ireland, of which Macdonagh was one of the leaders. Access: Two ways: either climb Tomorrows Dream, then traverse left along the easy bolted slab (7 bolts, grade 3) to the base of the route. Then rap down Tomorrows Dream to descend - two 60m ropes. Or walk to the top and rap in, then top out. There are rings at the top 20m right of the top of Macdonagh. Rap 15m down slightly to the left to another set of rings at the top of Easter Rising. There are 4 bolts up through the choss after finishing Easter Rising so you can top out. Gear: 22 bolts. NOTE* take half a dozen extendable draws for potential rope drag FA: Gerry Narkowicz 12/1/12

34 Enchanted To A Stone 40m 24 ***

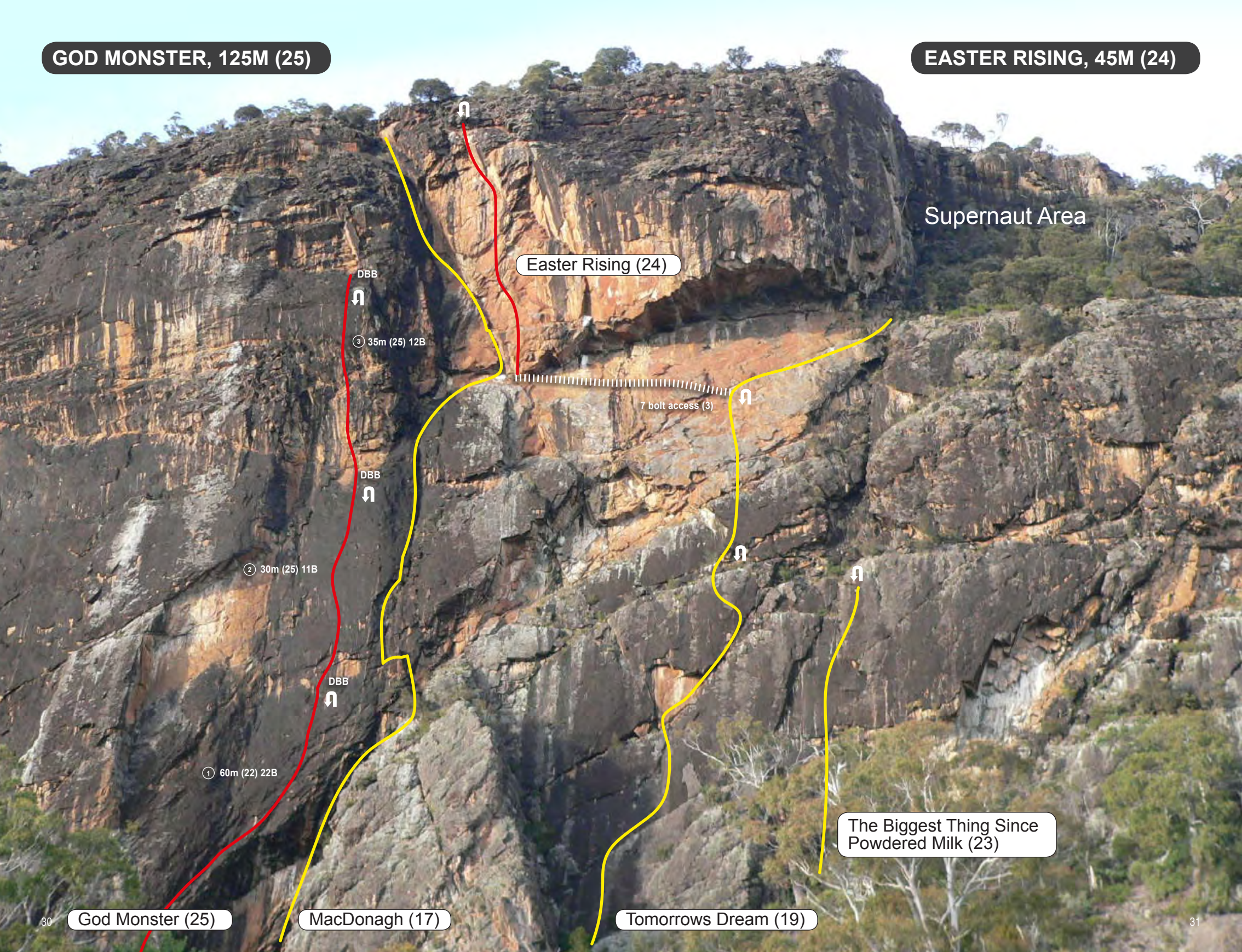
The third of the magnificent Easter Rising Trilogy. Enchanted To A Stone is a line out of W.B Yeat's poem about the Easter Rising of 1916. Climb the



Right: Gerry Narkowicz repeats: *Sapphire Rose* (22)

GOD MONSTER, 125M (25)

EASTER RISING, 45M (24)



Supernaut Area

Easter Rising (24)

DBB



③ 35m (25) 12B

DBB



② 30m (25) 11B

DBB



① 60m (22) 22B

7 bolt access (3)



The Biggest Thing Since Powdered Milk (23)



God Monster (25)

MacDonagh (17)

Tomorrows Dream (19)

first 5 bolts of Easter Rising to the ledge, then take the right hand line of bolts up the gorgeous orange wall. Superb technical climbing at about grade 22 to the big sloping ledge beneath the final roofs. Through the daunting stepped roof in one of the most spectacular positions on the whole cliff. The crux of the route is exiting the roof at the top of the corner, a real heartbreaker. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 2/12/12

35 Hardly Worth The Effort 140m A2+

(1) As for MacDonagh to "obvious" ledge.

(2) Crank free straight out of belay up slab to "obvious" ledge under roof. Aid and free climb onto the ledge. Aid up to carrot. Aid through crack (two fixed wires). Bat hook past second carrot up the crack in the slab.

(3) Do a massive traverse rightwards to climb behind the arête. Free climb rightwards under roof until triple carrot (?) belay.

(4) Aid out L through roof crack. Traverse rightwards until double bolt belay.

Rack: Double sets of cams and wires, assorted pins (mostly knife blades), two hooks.

Three double rope abseils reach back to the ground. In his write up for the CCT Garry said the route was "Hardly worth the effort"; he might be wrong (if you can follow his route description!). The route name was not supplied so the one above is interim. FA: Garry Phillips and S.Harper May 1997

36 Conan MacMorna 170m 17 **

Named after Conan the Bald, a member of the Fianna, the band of warrior heroes led by Fionn McCool. The climb is on the far R of the cliff and begins as for the RH (the original) start of MacDonagh.

1) Climb more than half way up first pitch of MacDonagh to belay on a block at the start of a rightward rising diagonal traverse.

2) Short but good hand traverse pitch to base of ascending diagonal crack.

3) Up rightward leaning diagonal crack that slants back left to base of black L leaning corner. There is a direct variant pitch 3 – see below.

4) Climb corner, turn the roof (crux) and then straight up the orange face to belay beneath the big roof in as good a pitch as Bare Rock turns on.

5) Traverse easily R along the ledge to finish. FA: Robert McMahon and Ben Maddison. 18/6/79

37 Red Sonja 25m 18

The direct pitch 3 of Conan MacMorna. From the belay of pitch 2, climb the crack to the L of the orange triangle of rock. At top of crack move L to flake and then straight up. Move R along ledge to rejoin Conan MacMorna for pitch 4. FA Sam Edwards and Jon Tiller. 1994

38 Tomorrows Dream 100m 19 **

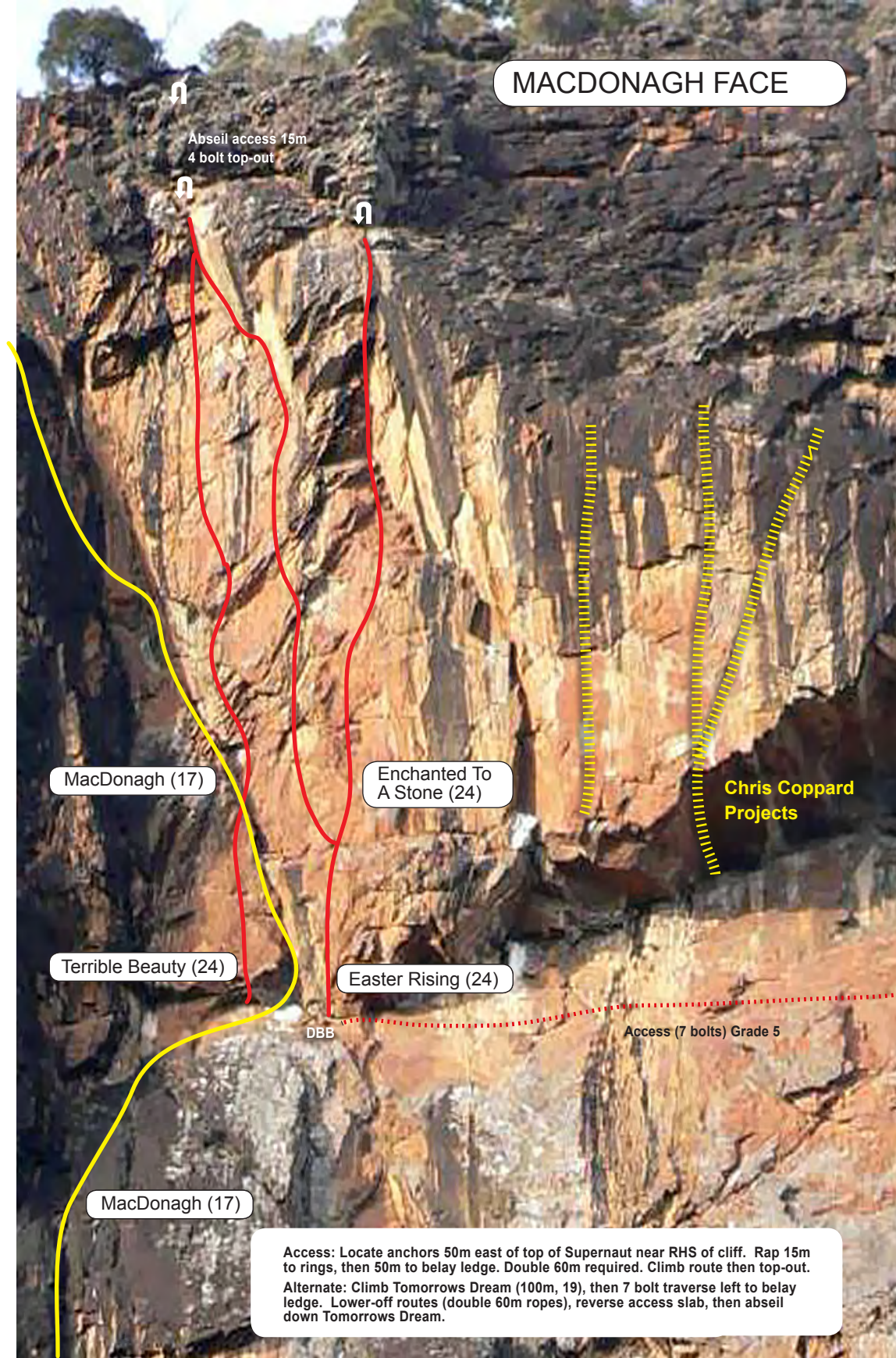
Designed as an access route to the Supernaut Face, but proving to be a popular route in its own right. More or less a direct line up the face to the big roof and bisecting Conan MacMorna at one stage.

1) 30m 16. Start 20m right of Conan Macmorna. Delightful climbing up the black slab to a narrow ledge, then traverse right for 5m to the next line of bolts up a steeper slab to double bolt belay at apex of orange triangle of rock. 12 bolts.

2) 25m 18. Climb the big diagonal of Conan Macmorna to the right for 15m with trad gear, to point opposite bolt on left face. Traverse left spectacularly via 2 bolts on small rail to middle of face, then straight up to belay at chains on big ledge. 2 bolts plus cams size 1-4 and long slings.

3) 40m 19. Move belay 5m right to another double bolt belay. Lovely face moves up the next black face for 4 bolts, followed by a 10m section of mank up to the base of the amazing orange headwall. Superb face climbing (crux) up the orange wall on Arapiles like rock, to belay at chains on ledge below big roof. 13 bolts.

Descent: Either rap from here (two raps to ground with double 60m ropes) or continue up to Supernaut (see below). Gear: 16 draws required, cams 1-4, double 60m ropes. 20 draws if doing Supernaut. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Andrew Martin, Oct 2010



MACDONAGH FACE

Abseil access 15m
4 bolt top-out

MacDonagh (17)

Enchanted To
A Stone (24)

Chris Coppard
Projects

Terrible Beauty (24)

Easter Rising (24)

DBB

Access (7 bolts) Grade 5

MacDonagh (17)

Access: Locate anchors 50m east of top of Supernaut near RHS of cliff. Rap 15m to rings, then 50m to belay ledge. Double 60m required. Climb route then top-out.
Alternate: Climb Tomorrows Dream (100m, 19), then 7 bolt traverse left to belay ledge. Lower-off routes (double 60m ropes), reverse access slab, then abseil down Tomorrows Dream.



Gerry Narkowicz attempting the first ascent of *Terrible Beauty* (24)





39 The Biggest Thing Since Powdered Milk 30m 23 **

A terrific one pitch slab starting 40m right of Tomorrows Dream. A steep start through a bulge provides a boulder crux, then the middle section is easy and pleasant, followed by several cruxy thin moves on the slab below the anchors. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 27/7/12

SUPERNAUT FACE

The black and orange face on the far right of the cliff, right of the big roof.

Access: From the chains above the third pitch of Tomorrows Dream, traverse right along narrow ledge (2B) to tree, then up easy slab to chains. Scramble 5m further up to the right to single bolt belay for Supernaut. Alternatively, walk up track on eastern side of cliff and rap in. Chains are just over the edge. Rap from small sturdy tree to reach the chains.

Descent: 4 raps from the top with chains, first to ledge below Supernaut, then reverse narrow ledge section to chains above Tomorrows Dream. Double Ropes required.

Walk Out to Top: About 50m to the right of the face is a straight forward gully. From the base of Supernaut scramble west along the chossy cliffline for about 50m and look for a slanting right trending ramp (climb short black corner to gain this), then up the ramp for a short distance to base of easy left trending gully.

40 Master of Puppets (second pitch) 20m 20 **

On the far right hand side of the massive roof are two steep projects trending left out through the roofs to a hanging corner. The second pitch of both these projects is a nice pitch of face climbing. Access from the top by abseiling from a ring and tree 10m right of the Supernaut chains as you face out towards the cliff edge. Rap 20m to another anchor, then a further 25m to a double bolt belay in the hanging corner above the huge roof. Lovely, technical face climbing to the top. FA: Andrew Martin. 2/1/2011



41 Fairies Wear Boots 45m 27 ***

The second route in on the left side of the face (furthest left are projects). Shares a start with Into the Void. Belay on the chains on the slab. Up 4 bolts via the very steep face (25) to stance at base of right trending hanging corner. Go left across the severely overhanging face (crux) to the arête in an outrageous position of exposure. Continue up the arête (23) for 5 bolts to join Supernaut. Finish up the last 8 bolts of Supernaut (about 21). 20B. FA: Ingvar Lidman. January 2011

42 Into the Void 45m 25 ***

Awesome steep climbing up first 4 bolts of Fairies Wear Boots to stance at hanging corner. Up corner to the right with a tricky move (23) then straight up wall with superb face climbing to join Supernaut. Continue up last 8 bolts of Supernaut. 20 B. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. February 2011

43 Supernaut 45m 24 ***

The furthest route right on the magnificent orange and black face right of the big roof. Single bolt belay opposite the climb. Up the overhanging seam for 3 bolts (crux), then a rising traverse on superb range rock out towards the arête (about 23). Climb just right of the arête for a sustained section of 21 climbing to the anchors. 16B. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 3/7/2010

Left: Gerry Narkowicz on *Easter Rising* (24)
Above Right: Chris Coppard working *Green Spandex* (27) his project above the roof

TOMORROW'S DREAM AND SUPERNAUT FACE

40	Master Of Puppets	20
41	Fairies Wear Boots	27
42	Into The Void	25
43	Supernaut	24



NEW HORIZONS BUTTRESS

New Horizons is the neat buttress on the hillside to the east of Bare Rock about 20m high. The escarpment extends for quite a distance but only the top right hand end has any quality lines. First visited in 1984 by Bob McMahon, Gerry Narkowicz and Mark Tierney, the route names reflect what Tierney ate for breakfast, the stick book the boys had at the campsite and the hope of a new era of route development. The crag lay unvisited for 28 years until Narkowicz bashed up the hill in 2012, armed with a drill, and realised the potential for some terrific sport routes. A good track has been cut to the cliff.

ACCESS: From the house, follow the 4WD track to the left as if going to the summit of Bare Rock. About 100m before the shipping container where the track meets a paddock on the left, locate some tags on the trees and head east down the hill. The tagged track crosses the creek then through bush to the base of the steep hill. Cairns and tags mark the way up to the cliff, about 40 minutes walk from the house. Routes from left to right.

White Death 18m 16 *

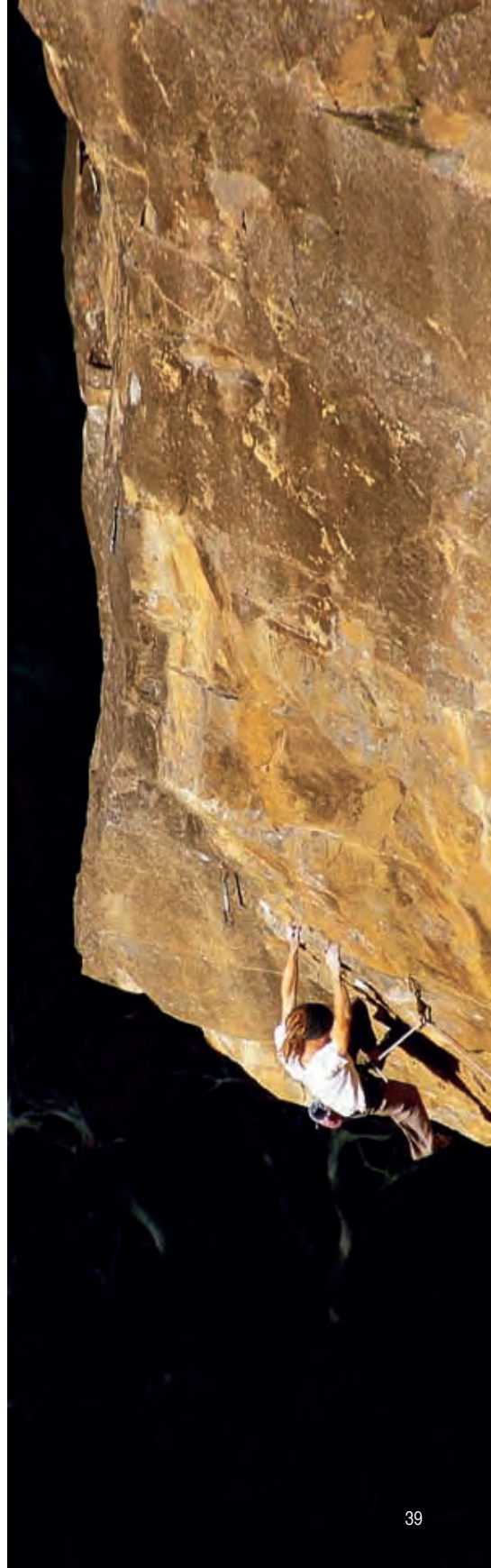
The neat hand crack through a couple of small bulges on the left side before the cliff degenerates into uninspiring choss. Worthwhile. FA: Robert McMahon, Gerry Narkowicz, Mark Tierney. 5/6/84

Project – Doug Fife

Black Leather Barbarian 18m 18 **

The black streaked face with 4 bolts to the right. Originally led on barely adequate natural gear, the first ascent was essentially a solo and graded 20. Now rebolted by Narkowicz, it is now a pleasant and sensible grade 18. FA: Gerry Narkowicz, Robert McMahon, Mark Tierney. 5/6/84

Right: Ingvar on *Fairies Wear Boots* (27)





Dripping Wet Crack 16m 17

The thin corner crack to the right which widens through a roof and is a bit mossy. A good line that climbs nicely. FA: Andrew Martin, Gerry Narkowicz. October 2012

Captain Awesome 18m 23 **

Line of right trending bolts up the black face. A technical and powerful start leads to a consistently technical and engaging route. FA: Captain Awesome aka Andrew Martin. November 2012

Froot Loops 16m 16

The wide crack to the right which is not as grovelly as it looks. FA: Mark Tierney, Robert McMahon, Gerry Narkowicz. 5/6/84

Project – Ingvar Lidman

The main face of the cliff with barely discernible holds.

The Mullets Edge 18m 24 ***

The stunning precise arête of the main buttress. It doesn't get much better than this. FA: Gerry Narkowicz. October 2012

Andrew's Arse Crack 18m 20

It doesn't get much worse than this but it had to be done. The barely protectable offwidth to the right which looks like Andrew's Arse crack. FA:Gerry Narkowicz. October 2012

New Horizons 18m 20 **

An excellent steep corner on the R. Mainly finger jamming until you stand with difficulty on a sloping ledge, then awkward thin hand jams over the small roof at the top. FA Gerry Narkowicz and Robert McMahon, Marc Tierney. 5/6/84

Project – Gerry Narkowicz

The 2 aretes on the RHS of the crag.

Left: Gerry on *Supernaut* (24)



SUPERNAUT FACE

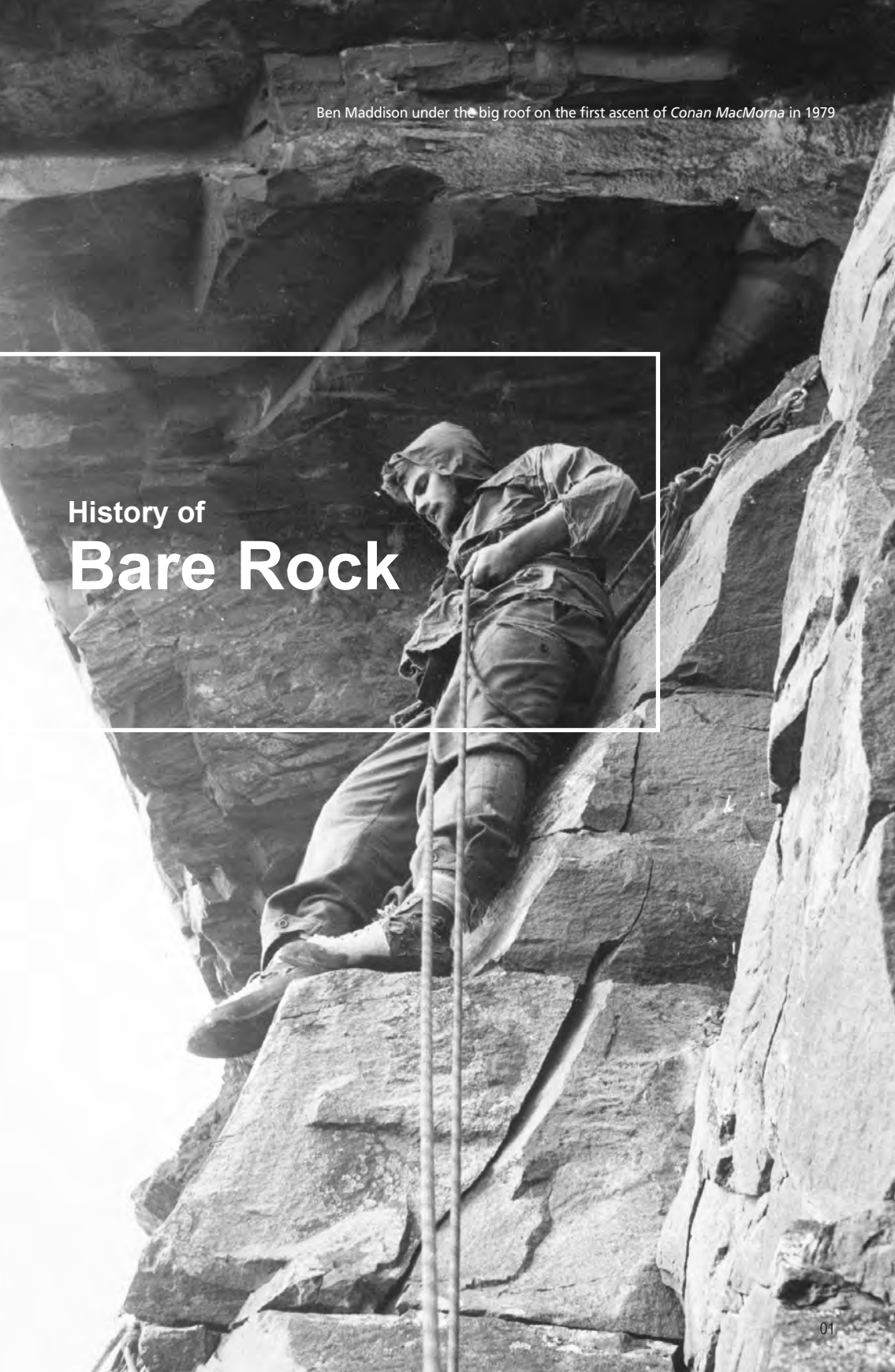
Fairies Wear Boots (27)

Into The Void (25)

Supernaut (24)

Ben Maddison under the big roof on the first ascent of *Conan MacMorna* in 1979

History of Bare Rock



HISTORY

The first climbers to attempt a route on Bare Rock were Robert McMahon, Michael McHugh and Peter Jackson in 1969. The first attempt turned out to be a screaming epic with McHugh getting his head caved in by a falling rock. McMahon and Jackson returned a week later and completed MacDonagh 17 which was pretty cutting edge stuff back then considering the primitive climbing gear. Robert McMahon made the place his own in the late 60's and seventies and was involved in the first ascent of six of the routes. The history of Bare Rock is best told by McMahon in a classic piece of climbing literature called 'The Museum Of The Mind' which appeared in Peaks Magazine in December 1980.

THE MUSEUM OF THE MIND

by Robert McMahon

How It All Began

It was not as if the black cliff at Fingal ever needed discovering. Perched up there in the paddocks behind the town, the black cliff streaked with orange is so obvious from the highway that I don't suppose anyone even notices it. The townspeople call it Bare Rock but I suspect the name is simply descriptive, like 'high mountain' or 'rough road.' Apart from the fact that it is there, I doubt whether it has much more significance for them. It comes as a surprise while having a beer in the pub after a climb, to look out the window left of the dart board, or at least left of where the dart board used to be, and see the massive cliff interposed between the wooded hillside and the sky, a clear sky often as not, because the Fingal Valley does not get a good deal of rain, being in the shadow of the Ben Lomond massif to the north.

In the early days a little interest was shown in our activities. 'Youse blokes bin climbin up on Bare Rork?' A twitch of the head would indicate the direction of the cliff through the bar walls. 'Well next time you're up there, keep your eyes open for them falcon's nests. Kick'em orf the bleedin' cliff. Them bastards fair stir the possum in the pigeons.' Pigeon fanciers. But that was over a decade ago and no-one seems too keen on racing pigeons in Fingal now. There has always been a peregrine falcon or a pair in residence on the cliff and late in the afternoon, while edging up the steep waves near the top of the cliff, six or seven hundred feet above the scree, a falcon stitches the air with its screeching trajectories. White pockets of falcon droppings dot the cliff and stand out like neon signs against the black cliff. On one of the early visits to the cliff in the late sixties, Peter Jackson

The first ascent of *MacDonagh* in 1969; Bob McMahon on belay seconded by Peter Jackson.





found a falcon's skeleton on the rocks below the cliff. He photographed it. The photograph is a poignant reminder of those early days, an exhibit in the museum of the mind. The image of the bleached falcon bones, the dessicated knot of feathers and stringy skin thrown on the rocks forces my memory to run in a particular channel. Dryness of bones, rocks, scrub, dried grass, a tiger snake disappearing into the pile of rocks in the paddock. In the early days the paddock had dry yellow grass and the occasional scotch thistle. Now the paddock is overgrown with head high bracken fern. Well, it has been over ten years and something had to change. The paddock is no longer the open space for spectators it once was. Although still a marvellous place from which to view the climbs, the atmosphere is quite altered.

The falcon bones take me back to the first morning and the stroll through the open forest of white trunked eucalypts, dry eucalypt leaves and long crisp strands of bark underfoot, the sharp smell and the barbed wire fence squeaking as we climb over it and the black cliff just ahead through the trees. The trees cast long shadows in the early morning. Our climbing gear tinkles as we walk. We come into the open and in the crisp sunny morning the cliff is a vast ocean. That is how it all began and in my memory I see Jackson, McHugh and I as tiny figures staring up at the black face whose height we could not even sensibly guess.

MacDonagh Attempted

We chose the dominating line left of the big roof. At least McHugh and Jackson do. I simply go along with their decision. I feel out of depth here and if I look too long at the cliff I may turn to stone. I lead the first pitch because I think it may be easy. It is. On the comfortable belay the warm sun brings on a lethargy tainted with fear. I get sea-sick looking up at the rolling waves of rock. Jackson abseils, forewarned I presume, of some impending disaster. I begin to take a perverse delight in the blackness of the occasion and step confidently left in a position of total exposure. Here a thin finger crack has me knocking in a piton to hold onto, to mantleshelf on and finally to stand on. I get my money's worth out of that piton. The rest of the pitch, a wide crack up the black wall is riddled with holds. McHugh comes up and joins me in the little belay hole in the middle of the face. He is finding it difficult to stay awake so I lead the next pitch to give him a chance to sleep. Feeling confident I move up 100ft and have only to traverse 30 or 40ft to the next belay when suddenly the rope goes tight. It is all over. McHugh has had his head caved in with a falling rock. At least it seems that way from the weight on the rope and the way Jackson is shouting.

From the ground Jackson teaches me to abseil. Rope between the legs, over the shoulder. Grim. I descend and find McHugh vacillating between consciousness and unconsciousness. Blood in his hair. The abseil ropes are jammed and I re-climb part of the pitch to free them. I lower McHugh down the second pitch. No, I am strangely detached and it is his body I am lowering. The hot afternoon wears on. I join him at the top of the first pitch. The ropes are once again jammed. I am reduced to a screaming, frothing madman. McHugh begins to show some awareness of his surroundings and helpfully suggests trying to pull the ropes a little harder. It is almost dark as Jackson climbs the first pitch with another pair of ropes. We all finally get off the cliff but these two ropes jam as well. With four ropes hanging off the cliff, the climb resembles a spaghetti bolognese. We are forced to return.

MacDonagh Climbed

On the following weekend Jackson and I returned, retrieved the ropes and completed the climb which I had already named MacDonagh. The climb lived up to its heroic name and forcibly laid our souls to waste. The fourth pitch, an 80ft high triangular lens of rock, seemed but a temporary feature. A awkward, tremendously exposed overhang at the beginning of the pitch set the scene for a series of moves on loose blocks poised on the awkwardly angled face. There we were, two desperados crouched on the shattered belay below what appeared to be a pitilessly blank last pitch.

Eleven years after the first ascent it is very difficult to maintain a flow of events in the memory, and it is beguilingly easy to be convinced of the truth of a memory when all along it may be a lie. Yes, there is a very strong possibility that what may seem to be a true recollection of events may be a fabrication for the sake of a story. No, I don't mean a deliberate lie, but distortion is on the cards. Occasional scenes are clear, the feeling of sick desperation on the first abseil, the dryness in the mouth, but do I really remember seeing McHugh hanging off the belay with blood in his hair? And I can never remember anything in those five or six hours it took to get off the cliff. In fact I can remember very little. And what I really felt on the first ascent is mixed up with my memories of later ascents. Even if isolated scenes are clear, the flow is long since gone. They say that time is a continuum, but the more the present recedes into the past the more it resembles a series of snapshots, or glass cased exhibits in the museum of the mind. One such exhibit, the most powerful of them all, concerns that last pitch on the first ascent. I am leading. The pitch had looked impossible from the belay, but although the holds are small they are sharp and positive. Our one thought it is to escape. The exposure is tremendous. Either side of the cliff, bushfires burn out of control. Smoke fills the sky and as the sun drops the light is orange. Just out from the cliff a falcon haunts the air. A gentle breath of air pushes up from the ground which is a million miles away. This is my moment, my first major climb. The glorious feeling has not grown ghostly with the years.

The Years Unfold

Boneyard, an 850ft slanted piece of inferior rock on the left of the cliff, was the second route to fall. Literally. The climb was memorable for the incessant rain of boulders and for the charnel house of bones on a ledge. Memorable also was Jackson's fatuous prance along a vegetated ledge with a stalk of dried grass between his teeth. More memorable was the previous night spent at the bottom of the cliff. All night the cliff sang, whistled and spat at us, acting as an amplifier for the sounds washing up and down the Fingal Valley.

Attention focused on the black expanse of the middle of the cliff and the diagonal line that cut through the bulging waves. McHugh and Viney placed a tape recorder at the bottom of the cliff. The Rolling Stones propelled McHugh up the first pitch into the vicinity of some gigantic hanging flakes. The music ran out and McHugh had no option but to retreat. In 1971 this central line was climbed by McHugh and I. A climb of sustained seriousness, the route stole the scene at Fingal and another new route was not done on the cliff until years later. Fionn McCool was largely McHugh's creation. He led the crux first and third pitches and although





we undergraded it we did not under-rate it. The climb was, and remains a most significant route, and in the 9 years since its creation it has had a total of four ascents, not to mention the innumerable attempts which were turned back by the great loose flake on the first pitch. Ben Maddison and Pete Morris eventually prised the flake off with a tree and so opened the way for the third and fourth ascents and presumably for further ascents in the future.

Sometime after the middle of the decade Schmidt and Butler broke the drought with a fairly mediocre route on the left of the cliff – Faggus. A few ascents of MacDonagh were recorded as well as an aid ascent of Fionn McCool. Then in 1976 the drought broke with a vengeance with an ascent by Joe Friend and Wayne Stevens of perhaps the greatest route at Fingal and one of the most spectacular in anybody's language. Left of the MacDonagh recess, no-man's land stretches in an ocean of impregnable roofs, bulges and blank faces. There are a few tantalizing diagonal crack systems that start in the middle of a blank face and come to an abrupt end in even more inhospitable regions. Visions of gravity defying pendulums gave way to the reality of bolt ladders. With an optimistic placement rate of two an hour in the hard dolerite, that possibility too was quickly dropped. What choice was there but to forget about Fingal? It was climbed out. But Joe Friend, with a fresh gaze unimpressed by the mystique of the place, casually pushed Finn Crisp up the lichen streaks taking in several long sections of bulging face towards the top. As a spectator it seems I was more impressed with the route than Joe. That's the way it goes. For one day at least, the cliff had been demystified. Despite its length, its difficulty, its position, it was but another route. Although the future inexorably led to me doing a repeat ascent of the climb, the years slipped by and the most I could manage were several more ascents of MacDonagh, transformed by familiarity into an afternoon stroll, a heady one mind you, but without sting, and a couple of half-hearted attempts on the left of the cliff. Finn Crisp I avoided. There was plenty of time.

Looking For A Brand New Start

It seemed the future held only Finn Crisp and it was somehow surprising to find further new routes. Left of Boneyard, the McCavity/Batten Memorial done with Robert Stazewski, was only an average route enlivened with several mandatory showers of rock. On the other hand, Conan MacMorna, to the right of MacDonagh turned out to be a classic. Climbed by Ben Maddison and myself, it has everything; a certain intricacy, bold route finding, an audacious pitch up the steep orange face and a magnificent position up under the huge roof. The pitch up to the roof is arguably the best pitch at Fingal and bears the Ben Maddison stamp of boldness. In the years to come the climb will rank with MacDonagh as a classic amenable to the average climber. It had been something of a brand new start. Would it end there? Finn Crisp still nagged and I felt duty bound to give it a second ascent, having missed out on its first. Spectator neurosis, combined with a hefty slug of envy, had not been diluted with the passage of four years.

Blitzkrieg

The trip resembles a lightning war. Early in the morning Ben and I sweep down the highways on my motorbike, building up energy and momentum for a big day on the black cliff. At Fingal we slide our way up the paddocks and stop and chat with the farmer who is ploughing in a dust storm. No rain at Fingal for three months. Rain up the road at St Marys,

rain down the road at Avoca but not one bloody drop at Fingal. It's so dry you've got to staple the bloody stamps on the envelopes. The farmer's red eyes stare moistly out of a face of dirt. Still he has to sow oats and hope the rain comes. It's not a matter of whether the rain comes in autumn, it's a case of it bloody well having to rain in autumn. From the caw of the crows in the next paddock you'd be excused for thinking we were in Australia.

Finn Crisp then? It's about time. The sun shines warmly and the brightness of the sunlight fizzes at the back of my eyes. Too much heavy living in the last week. Too many flashing miles this morning. It is not that we want to avoid Finn Crisp, but after putting up over 200ft of new climbing up the face of the ramp to where Finn Crisp begins, we are taken in by a series of leaning corners left of the climb. Uncharacteristically Ben takes a long time on the first corner peeling off a layer of rock like an orange skin. The pitch is tidied up nicely by the time I come to second it. However, it is not a chop pitch. Neither is the next one, just more sustained climbing. The following pitch, a blind lead into death row, has us reversing and moving right in the vicinity of Finn Crisp. Ben has difficulty forcing a way up the face above and he is already 100ft out on hard rock without a runner. Nothing new in that. I rehearse in my mind the old routine of tying the leader off in a flash as he falls. This climb is getting serious. I ask Ben if he has a runner in yet. 'No,' he shouts. Can you get one in? I ask him. 'No worries,' he replies. 'But I'm not going to put one in. I'm getting a perverse pleasure out of this.'

From a very cramped belay on top of this pitch I edge up the smooth bulge of the next pitch. This is surely Finn Crisp and I can only place a single minute runner of any worth. The next pitch, the last, is no different, and being mentally and physically done in, it seems the most awkward of all and the exposure is truly cosmic. The climb has been over 900ft and the last 700ft with a consistent grade of at least 18. We have been brow-beaten by the black cliff. With almost 600ft of new rock we feel justified in regarding what we have done as a new route – *Padriac Pearse*.

Night falls as we lurch down the interminable scrubby, mobile scree. We climb over the fence at the bottom and stand amongst the head high bracken and stare up at the sea of rock and trace out our climb in the gloom, pitch after pitch. Impossible to believe we were up there. It is too tiring to even be bothered thinking about. So it is an intricate weave down the paddocks with Ben dismounting occasionally to open the decrepit gates or when the going gets too rough. At the pub we down beers in rapid succession, a reward for 10 hot, dry hours, and look for a place to sleep on the floor amongst the butts and the slops. Time to go home.

Insulated by beer we do not notice the coldness of the night and marvel at the brightness of the stars and the swarms of animals on the road. Coming onto the Midlands Highway we stop because there is something seriously wrong with our bodies. We can hardly stand up. Booze? No. It is the cold and we walk around like stick men to get the blood moving. The night is black and icy. Across the south-western horizon the *Aurora Australis* flickers and throws beams of fragile light from Antarctica into the heavens. The Milky Way is a river arcing across the sky on its north-south axis. We drive at the speed of light up that straight highway, carving a wedge into the night with our headlight. Frozen faces, hands, legs – solar plexus turned to ice. Above are the stars and behind are the flickering beams of the *Aurora Australis*. Shaking and shivering we scream through Launceston passing lines of cars that relative to our speed, barely move. It is a dead city. The present doesn't exist at 70, 80, 90 miles an hour. I am still back there on the black cliff, walking through the museum.

Ben Maddison coming up for air on the 3rd pitch of *Padriac Pearse*.



THE BONEYARD

by Gerry Narkowicz

Breathing New Life Into Dry Bones

The 200m high black and orange face of Bare Rock at Fingal has been a climbing destination since 1969, when Bob McMahon and Peter Jackson did Macdonagh (17). For 25 years it was a traditional climbing venue with a reputation for scary, loose and sparsely protected routes, until Sam Edwards came along in 1994 and bolted Sapphire Rose (22), a 3 pitch sport route which has become one of the most popular routes in Tasmania. Bisso of Orange (26) was another sport route of similar style done in 2006.

However it wasn't until Andrew Martin from Queensland bought the property at the base of the cliff, that Bare Rock was viewed with fresh eyes. Andrew spent hours scoping the cliff through the sights of his sniper rifle envisioning new routes and became inspired by a line high up on the right hand side near the massive roof. Ingvar Lidman rapped the 50m face right of the roof and confirmed the quality of the rock. Then in 2010 Gerry Narkowicz bolted and climbed the superb Supernaut (24), and Into The Void (25) followed by Lidman's audacious line Fairies Wear Boots (27) The Black Sabbath lyrics inspired names continued when Gerry bolted a 3 pitch access route Tomorrows Dream (19) which has become a popular route in its own right. Andrew bolted and climbed the second pitch to his project, a delightful moderate face climb (20) up the headwall above the overhangs, and the first pitch awaits his awesomeness. Also in this area, Narkowicz rates his route Easter Rising (24) up the face right of Macdonagh, as the best pitch of 24 in Northern Tassie.

One pitch routes in the sky. This was a new way of approaching new routes at Bare Rock, finding quality sections of rock in between the choss and developing them as climbing areas in their own right. After the Supernaut face, focus shifted to the amazing orange shield high up on the left hand side of Bare Rock. Dubbed the Boneyard Face, it is an overhanging wave of orange and black dolerite of superb quality, which is producing one brilliant route after another. It is named the Boneyard Face because all the routes start from a ledge 120m off the ground which is part of an old route called Boneyard (15) put up by Bob McMahon, Peter Jackson and Mick McHugh in 1969. One of their old pitons can still be seen at the base of Passchendaele. On the ledge is a graveyard of pigeon bones and other animals devoured by the peregrine falcons that nest there. The easiest route so far is grade 22 and the hardest route is 32, so all the routes are uncompromisingly difficult and steep by Tasmanian standards. The lower-off from Vapour Trail (28) for instance, will leave you swinging 10m out in space. Some routes are totally protected by natural gear, some are mixed, but most are fully bolted.



Chris clocking up frequent flyer points on the *Green Spandex* project (27)

Gerry Narkowicz was the first to rap over the terrifying void and realise its potential. An epic ensued as he misjudged the height of the cliff and was left 60m short of the ground, necessitating three raps from dodgy natural gear in an appalling vertical scree slope. Andrew had been eyeing off the central crack line through the sights of his rifle for a while, and thought it might make a nice grade 18 warm up.

Grossly underestimating the steepness of the cliff, this fiercely overhanging crack became Passchendaele (25), a blood filled trench with jamming of all widths, which finally succumbed to the sieging and screaming of Narkowicz. This awesome climb is Tassie's answer to Trojan at Arapiles, a climb of similar appearance, style and quality. The second pitch is a delightful grade 22 face climb on bolts. Team Fingal, namely Andrew Martin, Ingvar Lidman from Victoria and Doug Fife joined in the new route fever and began projecting routes with Ingvar getting up possibly the two best looking lines in the area. Velvet Morning (26) blasts straight up the orange shield, the dominant feature of the Boneyard Face and No Space In Time (28) climbs a beautiful seam up the very steep tiger striped wall on the right hand side.

New route enthusiast Garry Phillips took the area to the next level with rapid ascents of 5 superb routes up to grade 32. Chris Copard has joined in with his own desperate up the Boneyard with his ascent of Chase That Feeling (28). Typical of the endurance climbing required on these long pitches, Chris fell within an arms reach of the anchors 3 times before finally succeeding on his masterpiece. Chris has also bolted some futuristic projects near the massive 20m roof including a possible route through the roof itself which would make it Tassie's biggest roof climb. With 33 pitches of new climbing so far added in the Bare Rock renaissance and potential for many others, it has become one of the highest concentration of hard routes in the state.