

CLIMBING REPORTS

Source - Bob Bull

HIGH TOR - Molesworth

These outcrops are on the north facing end of Big Rocky, they can be seen on the left of the road when going along the bridle road to Molesworth from Glenlusk. The rock is, as usual, doleritic and is sound with most of the routes here being very clean. It is not a serious place and is nearly always dry despite its position. None of the routes here are very hard and all are well protected, making it a good place for beginners or for an off day. Overall there is not a great deal of climbs here but the two or three very good ones make the place worthy of at least one visit. The cliff has two tiers the lower being the largest with the bulk of the climbs on it.

Lower Tier

At the left hand end the short slab goes up to a ledge from which two cracks lead up.

GLADRAGS Grade 8 45'

First Pitch 45'

Go up the slab and onto the ledge at its left hand end. Take the left hand crack to the top.

First Ascent M. McHugh R. McMahon
Oct. 1971.

SMIFFIT Grade 8 50'

First Pitch 50'

Up the slab and onto the ledge at its right side then go up the right hand crack using a few pegs and nuts for aid.

First Ascent M. Tillema & B. Bull
13-2-72.

THE TOWER Grade 14 75'

The best climb on the lower tier, it goes up the crack in the middle of the highest piece of rock. Starts as for BUTTERSCOTCH.

First Pitch 40'

Go up past the small pillar and into a short thin crack. Up this to belay.

Second Pitch 35'

Step up into the foot of the crack and on to the top.

First Ascent L. Closs & B. Bull
Oct 1971.

BUTTERSCOTCH Grade 10 75'

The crack to the right of the Tower, the first route to be done here. Starts at the lowest point of the slab.

First Pitch 40'

Go up the slab and onto a leftward trending gandyway. Pull up right then go up a short crack and belay.

Second Pitch 35'

Climb up the good crack to finish.
First Ascent E. Bull & J. Moore
Sept 1971.

HIGH TOR - Molesworth (Cont)

GRUNT Grade II 65'

The obvious chimney crack.

First Pitch 70'

Climb up to the ledge then thrutch up the littl horror to the top.

First Ascent L.Closs & B.Bull.

The jamming crack to the right of Grunt has yet to be done.

Upper Tier

On the upper tier there is one major buttress with a few smaller rocks about. The two best routes here go up the cracks on this buttress.

THE LIAR FIGHTER Grade 15 65'

The left hand crack.

First Pitch 65'

Move up and mantleshelf on the pedestal, pull up into the niche and continue up the crack to the top.

First Ascent J.Moore & B.Bull

15.9.71

SCUEALY BAGS Grade 16 60'

This starts just right of the previous route.

First Pitch 60'

Go up the rightward tending crack with difficulty until it is possible to bridge out across right and go up to the top.

First Ascent M.McHugh & J.Moore

Oct. 1971.

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SORELL CREEK CRAGS

These rocks are in the Sorell Creek gorge about half a mile upstream from the crags of High Tor. The atmosphere here is grey as the cliff is shrouded by large trees and in places the rock is adorned with a healthy amount of vegetation. Two routes have been done on this cliff and another has been tried. These two routes are both very good climbs on good rock and there is now practically no gunge on either of these. There are still climbs to be done here but they will need working on and will almost definately be hard.

Opposite, on the other side of the creek there is another small outcrop on which one route has been done. It is cleaner than its counterparts on the other side, but really there is nothing more than a few short problems to be done here. Further upstream there are some isolated buttresses which could be climbed but there is nothing of special interest.

SORELL CREEK CRAGS (Cont)

(SPOOKED) Grade 14 80'

Starts at the extreme right hand end of the cliff there is a good clean crack.

First Pitch 80'

Layback up the crack in the corner then move left and mantleshelf over the bulge then continue up the crack to finish.

First Ascent E.Bull & J.Moore
19.3.72

HORSE Grade 17 90'

Starts on the main buttress there is a 10' vee crack at its right hand end.

First Pitch 50'

Bridge up the crack then continue up and step right onto the large ledge and belay.

Second Pitch 40'

Move back left out onto the face then up steeply to the foot of a bulging crack. Jam over this with difficulty to the top.

First Ascent J.Moore & E.Bull
Alt. Leads 26.3.72.

SCRIMSHAW Grade 12 65'

Starts on the opposite side of the river to the other two it takes the crack on the right below the big ledge.

First Pitch 30'

Straight up the crack and belay on the ledge.

Second Pitch 35'

Go up the ramp using the crack and then step onto the wall to finish.

First Ascent E.Bull & J.Moore
19.3.72,

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FOOLS WALLS

LA BOMBA Grade 10 170'

First Pitch 100'

Starts beneath the buttress which has a black wall at its right. This climb takes the crack in the left side of the buttress. Move up the rock and go up the corner to a small bushy ledge beneath the main crack.

Second Pitch 70'

Go straight up the corner and exit left at the top.

First Ascent J.Moore & E.Bull
Alt. Leads 13.12.72.

SORELL CREEK CRAGS

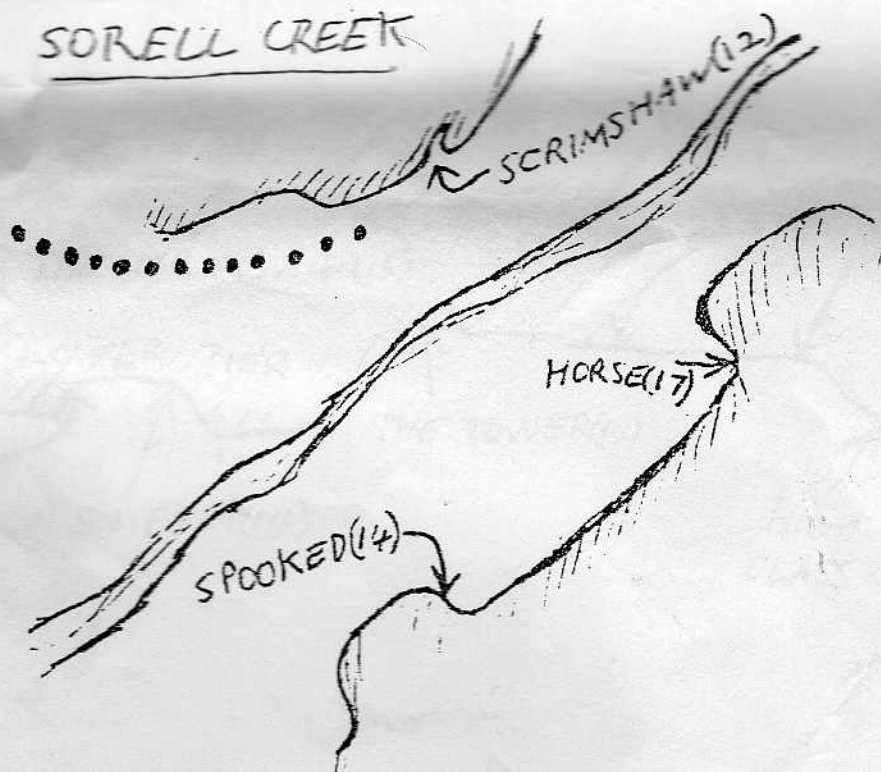
In Bob Bull's backyard, there are a number of good quality dolerite outcrops. The best time of year to visit these cliffs is late spring and early autumn due to the wet clammy conditions in winter and tidal waves of snakes in summer. Being well worth a trip, the following three are the most important of the Molesworth crags.

SORELL CREEK

After a long and scrubby approach late in '82, Craig Maddock and Phil Steane managed to find the starts of the three routes established by Moore and Bull in 1982.

Horse (17) is a long, fine climb (one pitch) with a technical wall crux. The final overhanging fist crack loves flesh! Trundling off the spooked buttress is great for making badly needed tracks down to the creek. New lines exist but need massive cleaning operations.

In 1979, Jackson took a group of rank beginners with top-roping equipment and sieged two or three new routes on the sunny side of the gorge. They wisely made a short trek from the east through open private property.



HIGH TOR

Legend has it that the tor was once a lookout for bushrangers scouring the ghostly Sorell Creek valley floor for unexpected squatters and their wittles ...

In different combinations, Bull, Closs, McMahon and Tillema tore the place apart leaving seven routes of varying quality at this little cliff which is reached after a ½-hour struggle with scrub and boulders.

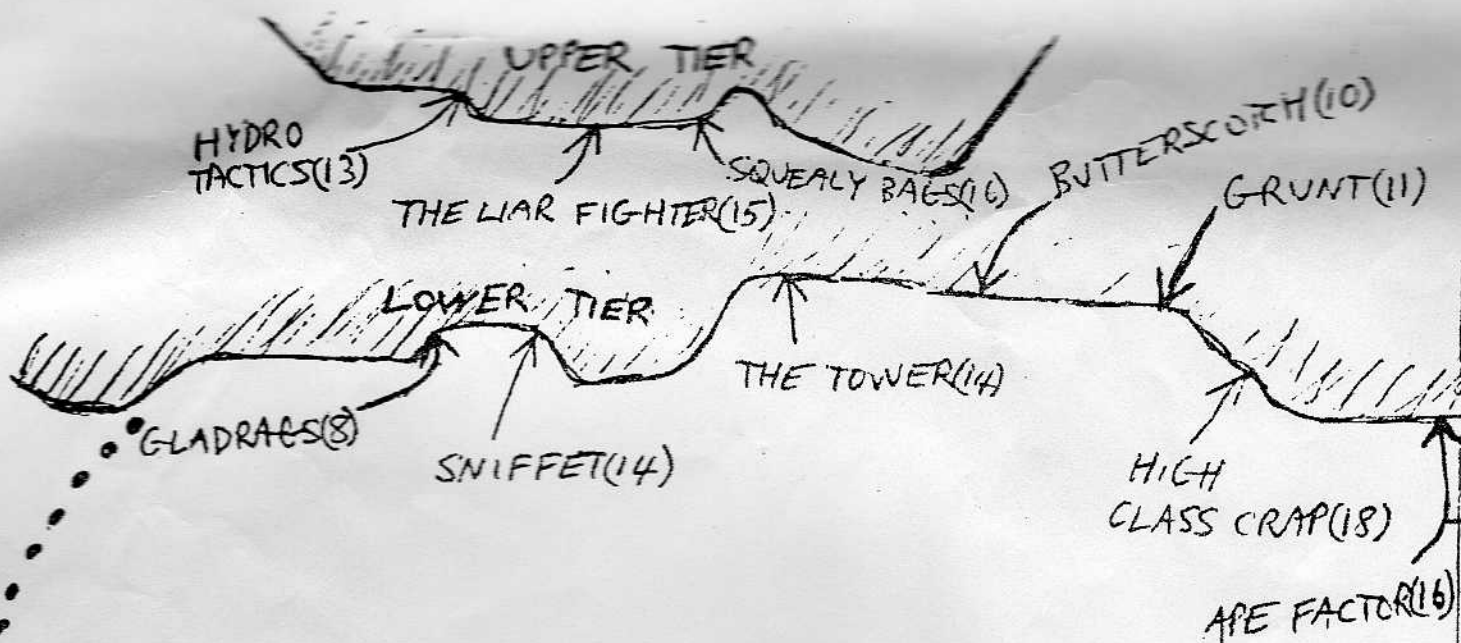
The best routes produced were The Tower (14) on the lower tier and Squealy Bags (16) on the upper outcrop.

Ten years later, Doug Fife and Phil Steane emerged from the jungle to put up High Class Crap (18) which had been feared by the previous hard-ons. With one 4-friend and no big hexes it proved to be quite heady. Sniffet was easily freed by bridging into another route. After a near brawl over who would lead the route, Phil grabbed the sharp end and Fife followed straight up the crack (20).

After a night of alcoholic abandon, Phil and Noel "alpine" Ward returned the same summer at 6 a.m. to clean up the remaining lines. An easy traverse of the lower cliff was solved and the enjoyable Ape Factor (16) with its magical rock'n'pro was manufactured.

The cliff is easily seen from the road.

HIGH TOR



HIGH TENSION CRAG

High up on a hillside there lies an isolated cliff which radiates warmth and sensuality to the onlooker. Now for the history lesson. The crag was first visited by such animals as Bull, Lewis, Closs, Dawson and possibly Moore around about 1973-75. Their main efforts were ACDC (19), a short, thin corner crack; Shock-Jerk (16), a very exciting hand traverse across a large flake leads to a seemingly blank nose.

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In 1980 Dong Fife and Bob De Chezarray thought they'd done a new route in the short but sexual Kilowatt Hour (16). This was not so, as the modest Jackson had climbed it and the body crack left of ACDC sometime before.

Spring of '82 saw the last major line fall to the dole bludging Steanes. The rather electrifying High Voltage (18) was flashed in fine style by Pete. Apparently Jackoff and Bull had looked at this steep route but a sixth sense told them not to unpack their bongos. Phil found out why when he shot his load in the midst of a "barn door" on the crux.

Driving from Hobart, go towards Molesworth until a transmission line almost crosses the road. The cliff is visible from this point and after a ½-hour stroll, a very pleasant days climbing can be had in beautiful surroundings complete with randy horses and hillbillies with blunder buses.

Thank you for your time.

PAS.

PICKWADALE
(HUEART)

→ COLLINS VAL

SORREL
TREE
CRAGS

HIGH
TEASION
CRAG

SORELL
CREEK

Small
side road

HIGH TOR

MOLESWORTH
(NEW NORFOLK)

ACCESS MAP (NOT TO SCALE)

- I POWER LINE
- APPROACH MARCH
- ~~~~~ SORELL CREEK
- HOUSE
- ~~~~~ MOLESWORTH ROAD

