

Barden's Lookout and The Land of the Giants

(The lookout was named after one of the council grader drivers (Ray Barden) who cleared the area at the lookout for a car park for his earth moving equipment.)

Guidebook update - January 2012 (from A Sport Climbers Guide to Mt Victoria by MJ Warren 2010/12).

15 years ago you only went to Barden's to do 'Electric Blue', 'Holy Leaping Shortarse..' and 'The Way if all Flesh'. 'Electric Blue' was a classic must do with 5 old rusty carrots - we didn't really think of them as rusty old carrots, they were just bolts. Holy Leaping Shortarse, Batman had ring bolts! ...and a cool picture of Moss (Steve Moon) quickdraw in mouth contemplating the lip of the route and of course, it was Mikl's so it was famous. Way of All Flesh was just steep and there wasn't much 'steep' about then. Steep, with carrots and homemade fixed hangers with assorted sized holes drilled in them - it was fun, hard and terrifying. If you did climb on the Main Wall you either solo'd up to the 4th or 5th bolt or had to borrow a couple of bits of gear from a mate who 'might' lend some. You were more likely to just head to Shipley, the Glen, the Freezer or one of the new crags that were starting to appear - Atlantis, Bowen's Creek - or bumble about at Cosmic or Mt Boyce.

Something happened about 1998, Rod Young whacked a few rings in, Glenn Short found some space and Pircher decided that the Blueys needed a 'sport climbing' guidebook. He also decided that he had to have a route at every crag and set about doing just that - ring bolts of course! At this time, there was the initial push into 'rebolting' as well as just a general (shall we say, improved?) change in thinking about the art of route equippage. For better or for worse there is no denying that the publication in 1998 of 'Blue Mountains Sportclimbing Crags (Martin Pircher)' set a ball rolling. This was my first climbing guide, and what's more, I didn't have to pay for it! (This isn't the place for a history lesson - Mr Short is writing that ...perhaps he is waiting for everyone to die first?) Well, there was a 'little spurt' of activity in anticipation for that guidebook. But I suppose, for some reason, this crag just didn't cut it - probably because Martin didn't get his route in in time.

Barden's has now come of age. An alternative to Wall's Ledge for those looking for easier grades, a few harder, sportier things and a trad route or two - everyone should be happy at least for one day. Easy access close to *free* camping, a great lookout and no hassles with walkers. Mostly sport routes, with a few good lines on 'natural' gear and a great combination of styles. Life and death, ticks, tears and tantrums - it has it all. Take a few bolt plates and a rack if you are planning to do some of the cracks - Haystack Madness, Kooks, Odie Odour - for example. CliffCare has put a fair bit of effort into the crag in an attempt to maintain a native bush environment and the whole crag has now been rebolted. Many of the older climbs are marked.

Have a great time and take care of the place, particularly with regard to the natural vegetation and wildlife (it's a bird watchers paradise) and please park with consideration as it is a designated tourist lookout. (Note; there has been some minor vandalism to cars in the car park over the past couple of years and some theft of both bolting equipment and project draws (down at the crag) so please be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.) And *please*, no more graffiti!

Its about 6km up Mt York Rd from the servo on the highway. Turn left into the lookout 200m past the northern exit to the 'Historic Wells'. Take the track right of the lookout (below the big tree) down Barden's Gully – or Damo's, or Elmar's, or whoever else has their names carved into the steps (the steps are courtesy of BMCC's Track Care initiative). The track splits near the bottom, take the track to the left for Barden's Lookout main area. (The track through the ferns on the right takes you to Collitt's Crevasse and Lawson's Gully areas.)

The Land of the Giants can be reached either by continuing along the cliff line from the 'Madness Area' for 5 minutes or from the car park by walking along the top (south, back towards the wells) via Cox's Rd for 5 minutes and then following the cairned track down into the gully. You can also park as for *New York* and walk back along Cox's Rd towards Barden's Lookout car park. Its all about the same, just depends where you want to warm up.

In general the cliff faces west so it gets into the sun just after lunch time in the summer.

The following routes are at the bottom of the stairs on the left of Barden's Gully they are listed left to right as you come to them.

Red Arrow 15m 21

The first route you come to at the bottom of the access gully.

E Rutherford 2006

Jean Geanie 15m 24**

A Prehn, R Young 1983

Who Killed Bambi? 15m 22***

A Prehn, R Young 1985

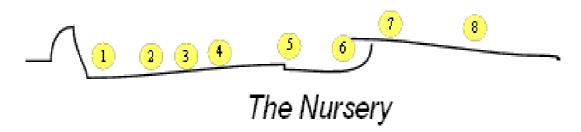
Crank Fat Boy, Crank 12m 27

B Ashby 2008

Zowie 20m 19

Corner. Now overgrown. There are a couple of rusting old pitons underneath the vegies. A Prehn 1982

The Nursery.

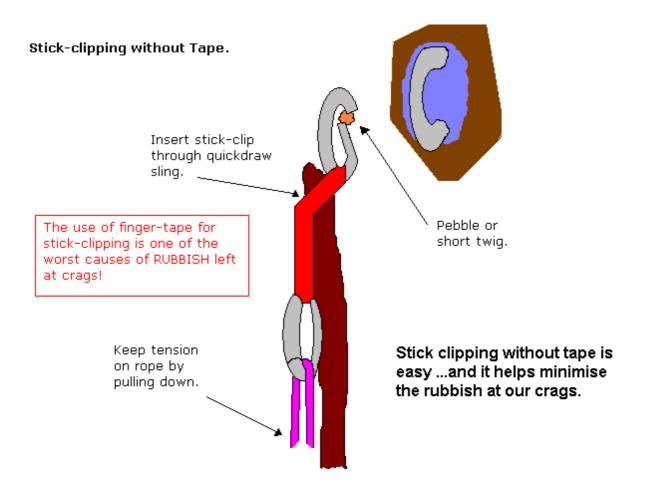


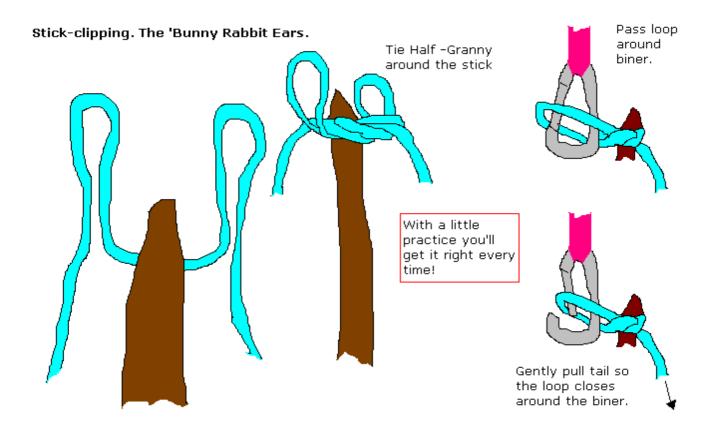
Short, bouldery routes. No exposure...popular after lunch with the hoards from the Main Wall, and of course ...the kiddies.

Careless Memories A Prehn 1982	15m 23
2 Major Tom M Pircher 1999	15m 23***
3 Its No Game R Young, A Prehn 1985	15m 23*
4 Scheme of Things R Young, A Prehn 1983	15m 23**
5 Puppy Fat G Colville 2006	10m 23**
6 Chicken Skin M Warren 2006	12m 24**
7 Project - Sam	
8 Goosebumps Classic. G Colville 2006	10m 23****
9 It Beat a Circus A mega classic. M Warren 2011	12m 24***
10 Now I've Sure got a Home in Glory Land	12m 26**

Something for Vinny to tell the kids about...

M Warren 2011







There are a few boulder problems to the right of this route. The old mattresses and the rubbish have been cleaned up so please don't leave anything about - take your own mat. Some have potential to be quite hard ... as are the landings...

10m 24***

At the right hand end of the cave.

E Rutherford 2006

10m 25

Bolt a boulder problem and you have a route! R Bombala 2008

The Main Wall

The big grey to orange vertical wall right of the overhanging nursery.

1 Monkey Girl 20m 16
Kinda starts in the cave – except everyone traverses in from the grey ledge

Kinda starts in the cave – except everyone traverses in from the grey ledge. P Mort 2011

2 The Arrow & The Song W Williams, N Doherty 2010

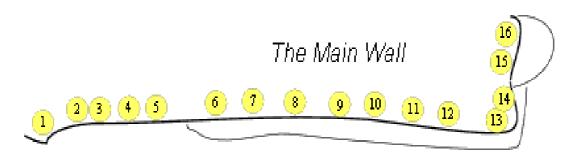
3 Karinya 20m 16

J Lammers 2006

4 Happy New Year 22m 18

Start as for K then head out right to JGF anchor. J Lammers 2007

5 Jolly Good Fellow
D Dewar 2001



There is an old climb here that pretty much has a permanent tag on it (Hermione, R Young 1998). The small cave on it is the nesting place for a pair of Australian Kestrels – god bless 'em. Kestrels mate for life and lay and rear their babies here from August until mid December. They're great to watch but please resist the urge to get too close to the nest. The set of rings (lower offs) here are a good place to test the skills of your new belayer and to hone your skills for cleaning routes - its kinda closer to the ground so creates less anxiety amongst those few of us who believe we know what's going on.

6 Mike and Lorna go to Town

18m 18**

'Devious line past a couple of BRs and some very poor natural gear. Take Care!' So it was... has had a facelift and is now a sprightly young thing. This is the first route up on the ledge.

M Stacey, L McManus

20m 20*** Sound and Vision R Young, A Prehn 1983 8 Dr Do Little 20m 20 G Short, P Mort 1998 25m 19*** 9 Little Triggers A little gem. R Young, A Prehn 1982 (10) Change Junkies 20m 19 G Short, P Mort 1998 11 Go Lotto 25m 19*** R Young, A Prehn 1982 25m 20* (12) Starman One move wonder, popular with the ladies. R Young 1998 (13) Hang on to Yourself 25m 21* The arête. R Young 1998 (14) Lady Grinning Soul 25m 21*** Start around the arête from HotY. Climb the wall and flake before traversing left to the arête and finish up HoyT. A Prehn, R Young 1982 The next 3 climbs start up on a ledge. Access via ground level up a small gully around to the right - or you can scramble on up. (15) Holy Leaping Shortarses, Batman 25m 24*** M Law 1997 16 Lady Stardust 25m 21** R Young, A Prehn, M Moorhead 1983 15m 14* Solvin Puzzle Felix Pircher 2013 The gully to the right is Lockyer's Gully. Electric Blue Area. On a short wall just above the track, 15m 21*** Low

Good intro to the sport! R Young, A Prehn 1983

Hunky Dory 15m 22*

Has two different finishes. Take your pick. R Young, A Prehn, M Burton 1980

Changes 15m 20*

R Young, A Prehn 1983

Back to the track and along 20 metres or so is a soaring grey slab,

Frisky Tootimes 20m 19

Blunt arete. Scramble left from the start of Under Pressure.

G Short 2012

Note, the next 4 routes are all longer than 25m!

Under Pressure 27m 21*

Slabbing. Crucial hold has broken at the crux - do it at M0 as its well worth the effort. A Prehn, R Young 1983

Piping Hot 27m 20**

Shown in the previous guidebooks as a right hand variant of UP. Probably the way it was originally done but quite silly really. Best done from the same start as EB (takes the grade down (20) but adds 2*!). Continue up on rings where EB takes right hand traverse.

A Prehn, R Young 1983

Electric Blue 27m 19****

Takes some gear at the bottom if you don't feel solid. A 'classic'. Bolt Plates required. A Prehn, R Young

Kooks 27m 16***

Crack (best to start up the blunt arête in front of the tree) to off width. Has bolts and is worth the effort, old style off width just to test the nerves. Take some big gear if you have it - but you wont die without it! Lower offs! R Young, A Prehn 1982

Kate's Kangaroo Dance

20m 21

D Taylor 2000

Electric Boogaloo

22m 21 (gear)

Right as for D then into corner with bolts and gear to lower offs. 2). Up corner and crack above to belay. Walk off. The top section is all gear at about grade 15.

G Short, P Mort 1998

Desire 40m 20 (gear)

Hard start, then right across to chossy wall right of the corner. Up to top through easy stuff (about grade 12). A Prehn, R Young, M Moorhead 1983

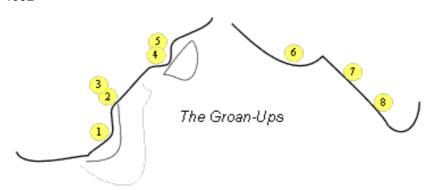
The Grown-ups Cave.

Perhaps better called the 'Cave of Thieves and Vandals'. Excellent steep climbing on possibly the worst rock in the Blueys. The cave also appears to be the preferred toilet for the Main Wall climbers, so if you're climbing here and someone comes around the corner with a wad of toilet paper send them back.

1 The Way of All Flesh

20m 28***

Starts at reinforced flake (horror!). M Baker 1992



Project - Open

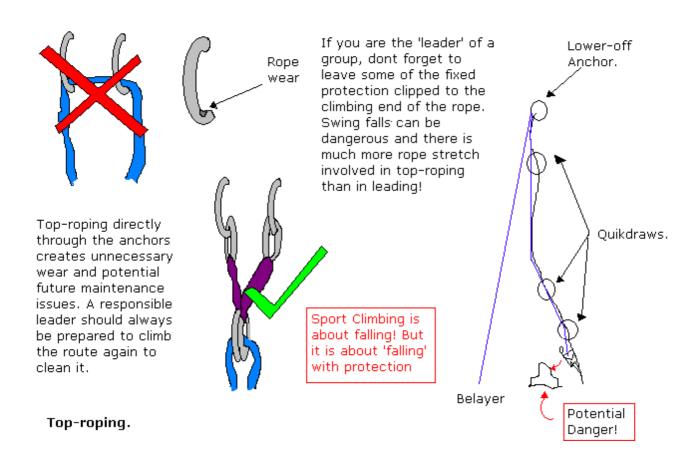
Start as for WoAF then straight up to rejoin the line on the arête.

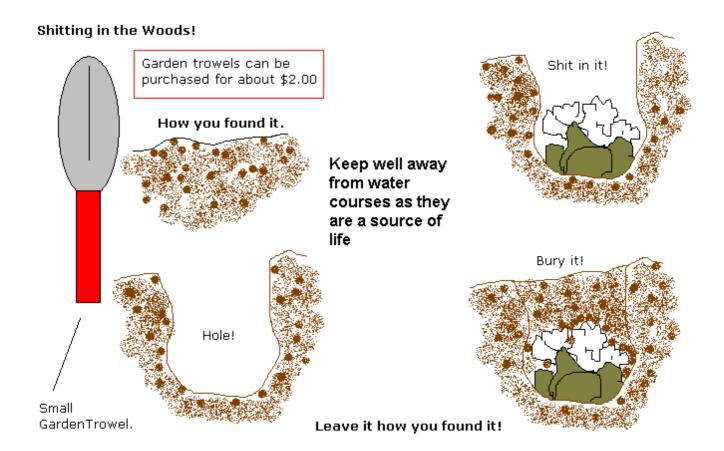
2) Booby Trap 20m 29*

Through the roof on Bloodline then go left and up to hidden anchor. J Saunders 2010

3 Bloodline 20m 31****

Right after the roof. The original effort. B Littleford 2009





4 Brain Hemorrhage 25m 30

Off the slab block 5m right of Bloodline. Left through the roof. V Day 2005

5 It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry Nigel Campbell 2013. 20m 28**

6 These Terrors be but Arguments for Children 10m 26 **

Popular, apparently easy. M Warren 2009

7 A Most Profligate Sinner

Very good, very interesting... Definitely HVS I'm told. M Warren 2010

8 George, King of the Jungle 25m 24***

Another classic... Crown yourself for doing the move to the old anchors. Jump back to chain to clean - if you're old enough to remember the cartoon you will get it.

G Fieg 1995

20m 22***

Around the corner is a classic Blueys crack (trad obviously!) which is more often walked under than climbed these days...

Madness Area

Haystack Madness 25m 20*** (gear)

Steep crack.

R Young, J Smoothy, J Lamb 1980

There is a line of Coach Screws to the right of HM, not very safe, and before 'Rod's Ravine'. Don't use them ..! Continue through the jungle and across the creek.

The Friendly Jackal 12m 16** (gear)

Short wall to corner above and lower off. Marked.

J Lamb, J Smoothy, R Young 1980

Storm Child 15m 22*

3m right. Through roof to ledge and out to arête.

K Shultz 1992

Swimming Upstream 20m 25***

M Spring 2012

I Aint Never Kissed a Car Before 12m 23**

M Warren 2012

Red Sails 20m 21 (gear)

15m right of TFJ. Choss then left and up wall. Take a bit of gear for the traverse. Direct start (J Smoothy) is 15 metres left at short arete for another grade.

A Prehn, R Young 1984

Two Nil 25m 19**

Choss then wall above. Shares start with RS and the next route.

M Pircher

Back to the Kraut House 25m 18**

M Pircher

Unknown Pircher#3 20m 18

1m right through mega choss to grey moss!

M Pircher (likely) 2013

Unknown Pircher#4 18m 17

500mm right again. M Pircher (likely) 2013

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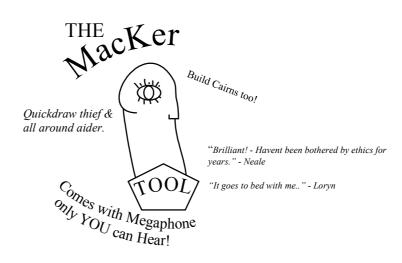


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Madness Project - Mitch

Ridiculous looking thing through the short roof. If you think you can do it please ask. I know him...he's an idiot, he's got no hope of getting up and across this thing.

Karma 20m 20

M Pircher

Mind Over Matter 35m 20 (gear)

Moments of madness! Marked corner is not recommended. Not highly anyhow. J Friend, B Ewald 1976

If you keep walking along the cliff line for 3 mins you come to next crag and an alternative exit to the car park.

The Land of The Giants

Best to park as for New York. Walk along the Cox's Rd track towards Barden's for a couple of minutes until a track is reached heading into the bush on the left. Its just before a kink in the track and there is an old walking track marker nailed to a tree just past it. Follow the track down and then left under a small outcrop and then right into a gully. A short fixed rope leads to a ladder and then more rope down the gully. Turn left at the bottom. If you turn right you will get to Barden's in about 3mins. A great little spot with lots of variety for the family.

The Slabs.

1 The Cat That Fought Back M Warren 2011

15m 14**

Dirty Beasts

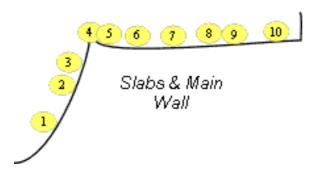
15m 15**

S Puchala 2011

3 Boatbuilding for Clancy

10m 15*

Test piece ..apparently. R Forrest 2011



4 Back to Back 10m 14* (gear)

Corner with steep wall on right. Corner then step left to BBfC lower off. R Young, S Morton 1985

Main Wall

Statistical Scare Tactics 10m 20**

Up nice orange wall (avoid stemming!) to bulge and anchors S Hawkshaw 2004

6 Evil Deeds with Good Intentions
J Jackson 2011

7 The TwentyFour 10m 24***

Crag classic...Ed got lucky. E Rutherford

8 Starseed 10m 20**

S Puchala 2011

9 Tree Beard

R Young, A Prehn 1984

10m 21**

10m 24*

10 The TwentySeven

You can add a grade for the direct start.

E Rutherford

Around the corner on the short vertical grey wall are,

J&D1(^)

10m 15

J & D Taylor 2012

J&D2 (^)

10m 16

J & D Taylor 2012

Back to the orange rock...

Casper Area

13 Project - Mitch/Cindie

14 Thirty-Eight S Meng 2013

15m 25*

15 All the Madmen

20m 26*

Somethings amiss here...

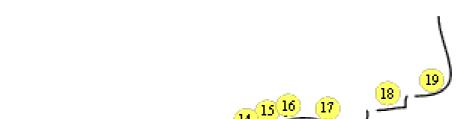
(16) Casper

20m 21*

Corner and thin wall above. You may want to take a couple of wires for the start. Marked. R Young, A Prehn 1983

17 Shebang
J Smoothy 2011

20m 21***



(13)

18 When I Was a Cowboy M Warren 2012

15m 21**

(19) Quicksilver

15m 23

Take care! Marked, 2m left of the arete. R Young, A Prehn 1983

Around the corner on a vertical wall with dubious rock..

The Alcove

Scooter Fun 18m 19

This thing starts off with a low traverse to the right of CCMG. It was graded 23 ...with the chips! Follow the Fixed hangers. Unknown 2011

Casper Area

Chocolate Crackle & The Mischievous Gnomes

18m 20

On ring bolts.

S Puchala 2011

Easy corner that has been climbed straight up.

Trick of the Light

18m 17*

Please, please ..leave the goat alone!

Ed's Weird Little Thing

10m 16

3m right of TotL. Slab move to lower off, or step right and continue to more lower offs higher! If you do this be damned careful lowering off...

E Rutherford

The Ledges

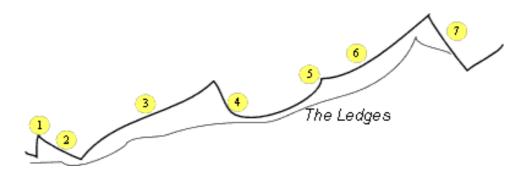
G Short 2011

Odie Odour 20m 15** (gear)

Corner crack, arête, crack to lower off. R Young, A Prehn 1983

2 Funkytown 10m 20**

3 Bless its Pointed Little Head
M Warren 2011



4 Movin' on Up 20m 19

Start on the orange face of the right hand face of the right angled alcove. G Short 2011

5 Use The Fork, Luke(^) 15m 18**

Undercut start to short crack. 3m left of the off width. P Mort 2012

6 Offwidth Joy(^) 20m 14* (gear)

Take gear – parts of it are bolted! J Smoothy 2011

Note; These next few climbs are designated as being at 'The Historic Wells' in most guides. They all have lower offs and are much easier to access via Land of the Giants...sorry Crunch but it just makes sense.

7 Alive 'n Kicking 22m 23****

Off the ground at the very end of the ledge. A must do route. M Stacey, L McManus 1989

Back down on ground level and around the corner about 20m or so you will see a 'marked' slab to roof crack. This is Monkey Grip (23) and about another 75m on on a black wall a set of rings in the middle. This is Oliphant Wall (24)...and that's it for here.

My Notes



Editors Notes.

Climbs marked (^); names have not been provided by either the FA or the route equipper nor has the name of the FA been given unless known without a doubt - I hope this gives no offence. Also, some FAs change the names of their classics at the mere drop of a spoon ... or a fork...

Grades; the grades, particularly of new climbs are sometimes subject to dispute, the only way you can really have an idea is to actually climb them. The grades in this update are those of a cross section of climbers from the local community and I hope give a clear lineal progression regardless of style. Regardless of the number, grades should be consistent. I hope that this is the case as we have tried hard to be objective.

Route descriptions: A toughy. You have to give everyone the chance to 'onsight', for this to happen you really cant give info about the climbs. I mean, onsighting means that you just might not have the right gear, definitely shouldn't know anything about the crux, where it is etc, etc. If you haven't taken the right gear then you have simply fucked up - onsighting is about fucking up and dealing with it. The stars give an indication of quality. 0 stars is still worth a look, 5 stars means do it even if it kills you!

Links: Unless a link breaks new ground and has significant original climbing on it it isn't included in this guide. In fact it shouldn't be included in any guide!

Rubbish: Unlike your climbing gym, no one gets paid to come down and collect the rubbish left at the crags. Please take it out with you. Finger tape, band aids, cigarette butts, toilet paper etc are all considered to be rubbish.

Flora & Fauna: Respect the beauty of the outdoor experience. Take care when lowering off, don't let your friends or kids destroy native habitat. Consider leaving your pets at home for the day. Look, listen, learn ...use the outdoors for education.

Tags: Routes are 'tagged' for a reason. From a layman's point of view though, tags should be respected because there is less chance of you being injured if you show this little bit of respect.

The Land of the Giants: the routes from Alive 'n Kicking through to Oliphant Wall are part of the Historic Wells area in the 'Rockclimbs in the Upper Blue Mountains, 2nd Ed.' Other than by a bush bash and abseiling they are not accessible from the Historic Wells.

References: Rockclimbs in the Upper Blue Mountains 1995, Blue Mtns Selected Climbing Areas 1999, Blue Mtns Climbing 2002, Blue Mtns Climbing 2007, Sport Climbers Guide to Mt Victoria 2010, ACA Route Database, The Crag database. Personal conversations with both the users of the crag and those who have seen fit to produce the routes - we haven't always been in agreement but we've chatted away anyway.

Thanks: To all of you who has spent the time, effort and cold hard cash to put up so many cool and interesting climbs throughout the world, because without you we would have to all the world ourselves.

If you've only got one day... Bob recommends;

The Cat That Fought Back Offwidth Joy (gear) Dirty Beasts Odie Odour (gear) Kooks Trick of the Light	14** 14** 15** 15** 16** 16**
Jolly Good Fellow Back to the Kraut House Electric Blue Little Triggers Mike & Lorna go to Town Sound & Vision Piping Hot Haystack Madness (gear)	18** 18** 19*** 19** 19** 20** 20**
Starseed Tree Beard	20** 21***
Shabang Low Bless its Pointed Little Head	21*** 21** 21**
A Most Profligate Sinner Who Killed Bambi? Hunky Dory	22*** 22** 22** 23***
Alive'n Kicking Goosebumps Major Tom Puppy Fat	23*** 23** 23**
Evil Deeds It Beat a Circus George, King of the Jungle	24**** 24*** 24***
Holy Leaping Shortarses These TerrorsGlory Land	24*** 26** 26**
The Way of All Flesh It Takes a Lot to Laugh Booby Trap	28*** 28** 29*
Bloodline	31****



Believe me, Bob knows his rock!

Please note, the star system used is a 5 Star system. Why? Because the 3 Star one is just too limiting How does it work? We give everything 5 stars and then subtract stars with the following considerations;

The line, consistency, rock quality, gear (bolting), and 'ambience'. Anything with a 'batman' or that requires a cairn to start, or is chipped automatically loses a star.

Nothings perfect and these are Bob's ratings ...he hopes he doesn't spoil your day. He takes no responsibility for the tastes of others. This doesn't mean that a route without stars *isn't* worth doing - *everything is worth doing at least once!*

If you have an accident make sure its a damned good one before you call any emergency services - there are usually more than enough people about to carry you out. If you do need *desperate* help call 000 - you're at Barden's Lookout, off Mt York Rd, Mt Victoria.

Cheers, have a nice day!

Respect Native Habitat, Tread Softly and Leave No Trace.

CliffCare Blue Mountains 2012



Produced and edited by Mitchell Warren. February 2013

