

March 1976
No. 1

Chockstone

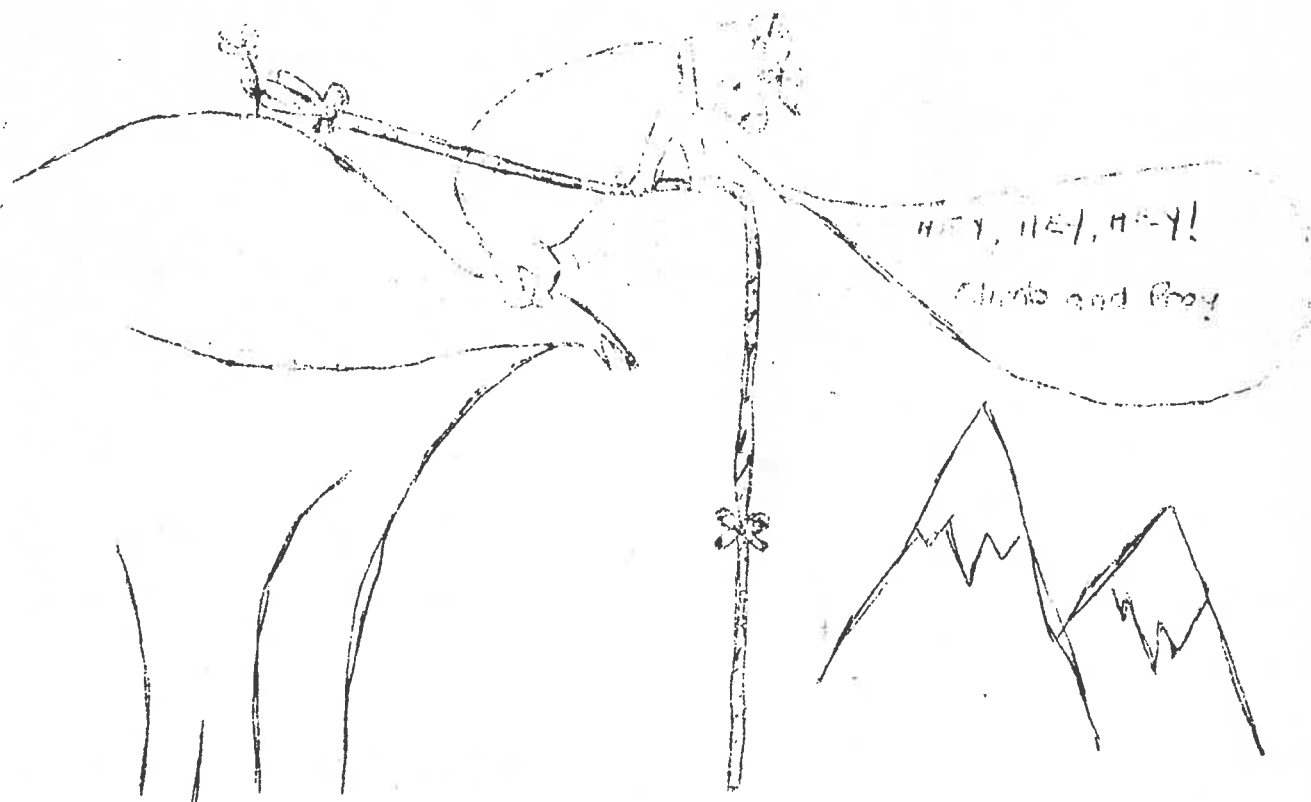
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
ROCKCLIMBERS CLUB

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 1

March, 1976

CHOCKS TONE



Since climbing is new + ...
a climbing group. People don't teach you to climb
enclosed sports can break into climbing, not a climbing school
Now at the University people with a bent away from formalized ruled

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EDITORIAL

I wish to extend a big welcome to all the new members on behalf of myself and the club and I hope that you will come to discover that extra something rockclimbing offers that no other sport can.

After a reasonably successful recruitment drive, it seems our financial membership has swollen to 23 (more or less). This represents a 35% increase on last years tally (sounds better that way)

With a growth rate like that and increasing financial status the rockclimbers club should be around for quite a while yet.

Good climbing and may your protection never pop,
C.B.G.

Committee Members

- President - Fred From 3708959
- Secretary - Craig Glasby 487983
- Treasurer - Rick Webb 3978676
- Equip./Outing Officer - Gus Fergus 3712561

Now at the University people with a bent away from formalized ruled enclosed sports can break into climbing, not a climbing school a climbing group. People don't teach you to climb rock does.

Since climbing is new to almost everyone at this University, I'll make a few points like there are no rules and no prizes other than those you create yourself.

For our club which is in Queensland well away from large mountains, the main activity is free climbing, short hard routes on rock. The enjoyment comes from situation; views; mountains; quiet; the company (unlike teamsports you climb with people you choose) and the actual act of climbing: 'Moving gently up the rock realizing all your movements count generates a relaxed concentration not a great grip up'

On to the data. Well I suppose the big thing this year was the formation of the club which promises to be a big success (giving many people much pleasure). One sad angle is the lack of female members. People seem to think climbing is for muscle-bound he-men. Look at any climbing magazine and the female forms and light wiry young men will convince you otherwise.

Climbing went on at Frog Buttress the Glasshouses, Whyberba Goanna Point, Warrambungles, Witinberh Wafers and Mt. Kapitar. All are good areas. Practice area such as Kangaroo Pt, Mt. Elphenstone and the Mushroom were also frequented. The rock varied from Sand stone to Granite and varied climbing (leading to a balanced out look) was in evidence although rockclimbing still predominates.

As to the future, several members are headed for N.Z. this summer and many interesting climbs look like getting a few more Queensland ascents.

The club is planning a climbing wall, a sort of artificial cliff where climbers and everyone else for that matter will be able to build up their hand, strength, balance and an array of techniques on which to draw on harder or bolder climbs.

The club seems to be off to a great start
Considering everything the club seems to be off to a great start.

The President. - F. From.

HINTS & TIPS & PLACES NOT TO GO IN NEW ZEALAND.

Before starting I will state that I speak from limited experience only, that I only wrote it because the editor is holding my security blanket in ransom until I deliver and that anybody being misled by this and complaining can take a running jump of Root Point.

Anyhow to continue, one cannot expect to go to N.Z. and start doing amazing feats, unless you have some experience, or your super-hard, or a Victorian, or f****d in the head the last two being synonymous. The main reasons being, the easy peaks are out of condition in summer, the ones that are in condition are too hard, anything from 5,000 ft. is a pile of rubble and scree and there is no such thing as rock in N.Z. anyway, don't know enough about alpine climbing and last but not least, you're a piker by nature.

But don't despair, there are routes away from the blank, despairing scene. The first solution is to become a common-a-gardener, abumm-ing tourist, the second to hire a guide if you're rich, and the third to go on climbing course. Climbing courses are held each year at Mt. Cook they are held under the auspices of Alpine Guides Std. and the basic course costs \$90 for 10 days.

Guides can be hired at Mt. Cook for the sums of \$16 each in a party of two per day, \$12 each in a party of three per day - plus your own and the guides food costs.

Even if you're a squalid tourist (like me) you can have lots of fun without risking your arse too much. There is heaps of bushwalking (or tramping as it is called), to be done.

PLACES NOT TO GO

Mt. Cook - mostly strictly for the expert, magnificent mind-blowing scenery if the weather is good (never) YHA hostel, primitive camping ground and store. With some knowledge of glacier travel inter-hut, walks can be attempted. Guides can be hired.

Mt. Aspring - another area similar to Mt. Cook, though the weather is a little better, somewhat isolated, didn't visit the area so don't know much about it.

Fiordland - no recognized climbing areas except the Darrans which are too hard to climb and too hard to get to. Plenty of walking available eg: Milford & Poutelburn tracks & Hollyford Valley area.

Westland - The coast glaciers are also worth a visit if you can stand the rain and the sandflies. The rest of the west coast is a dead loss.

TRANSPORT - The South Island is a hitchhikers paradise. It is the accepted mode of transport, however it is slow travel if you're in a hurry. Bus services by New Zealand Railways & Mt. Cook Airlines are very extensive, not very expensive & take you just about everywhere. Most tourist centres contain YHA hostels (90¢ - \$1.40 a night) and just about every town has a motor camp (about \$1.00 a night)

EQUIPMENT - It would be wise to purchase equipment N.Z. to take advantage of the recent devaluation \$.834 A to \$1 N.Z.

Approximate Price List,

Japana Greasy Parkas	\$22 NZ	
Cranpons	\$35.50	
Axe	\$30.40	
Helmet	\$20.00	
11mm. 45m. BS 2000kg	\$60.00	
Most popular boot (cheap) Pockos	\$40.50	

Equipment is best purchased in Christchurch at Mountain Equipment Ltd. or Oxar Kobergs.

Hints to Make Your Holiday Happier.

A few points to remember about NZ are, it rains a lot, up to 7620mm (300") in the mountains. The weather can be treacherous with conditions changing from bright sunshine to dreary sleet in a few hours. It gets cold even in summer (10° - 20°C) the freezing line is at 3000m with permanent snow to 1500m. Also to compensate for all the snakes, flies, ants, spiders, beetles and other creepy crawlies it doesn't have the South Island has Sandflies. Beware!!!

Yours in Climbing,
HEXHEAD.

CLIMBING AREAS

The object of this article is to provide information which will enable new (and not so new) members of the club to find their way to the various climbing areas around Brisbane. It is also hoped that these members who think Frog Buttress is the only climbing area in Queensland will be encouraged to try new areas. Detailed description of highway routes are not given as any good road map will give this information.

FROG BUTTRESS: This is the climbing area, providing excellent, well protected crack climbing on good rock (Rhyalite). A guide is available (Ricks Mountain Shop) which tells you how to get there and lists the climbs. To get there travel to Boonah via Ipswich and Peak Crossing, south through town and turn right at the Dugenden Pub(XXXX) near the cricket ground. Turn left and then right past Cossarts Farm mill, follow the bitumen for a couple of miles, turn left at the bitumen ends, right up the hill and follow the main track. A couple of miles to a grid, big hill then sharp right at the Y. Just past the national park sign is a clearing on the left used by rockies. You are then at the top of the scree slope in the middle of the cliff. Takes about 2hrs, good camping but no water. See Rick Whit for details.

Mt. MAROON: There are two approaches - the lagoons and Magies farm - the latter is on private property and information is classified. The rock is coarsish rhyalite offering good crack and face climbing with some longish routes (eg. Vahalla and Ruby of India). A variety of cliffs present themselves including Viewpoint Buttress, Maggies Farm, North Cliffs, East Face, Waterfall Wall and so on. To get there travel to Rathdowney via Beaudesert go through the town and turn right on the road to Boonah and Maroon Dam. Continue for some distance ignoring the road to Barney View on the left. When the bitumen ends follow the dirt until you reach a major T junction and turn left. Follow this road over a rugged grid, through a patch of lantana to where there is a picnic area on the right at the first lagoon - camp here..To get to the climbs follow the ridge to the west of the lagoon - about half way up the viewpoint buttress is on the right. Near the top on an isolated buttress is Jezevel (18), an obvious well protected, face climb. From here a traverse to the right takes you past a pinnacle to the base of the east face. About 1½ - 2hrs by car and then a 1 to 2hr walk in. See Rick White for details.

WHITINBAH WAFERS : good crack climbing on crumbly rhyolite. The cliff faces east so its cool in summer. To get here go to Beachmont via Nerang or Canungra - from the Canungra turn off on Beachmont take the road to Binna Burra (south), after 5.5km you come out of a cutting and there is a grassy parking area on the right. Park here and follow the orange tape down the hill to the left to the base of the cliff. About 2hrs from Brisbane, see Trevor Gynther for details.

GIRAWEEEN: good slab and crack climbing on excellent rock (granite) Most of the good routes tend to be fairly difficult. There are three main areas accessed as follows. All are about 3hrs from Brisbane. making a weekend necessary.

Doctors Creek: Travel to Stanthorpe via the New England Highway. From the Stanthorpe bypass turn off south of town, follow the highway south for 12.7 miles to the Accomodation Creek bridge. Just before this road turns left across the railway line. Follow this keeping always to the right until, after crossing Doctors Creek, it ends at an orchard. Ask the owners if you can drive across it to the huge boulders on the hill to the east. The climbs are among the boulders and are in the national park.

THE PYRAMIDS: Atourist track leads to these from the park (free camping and showers available). 16 miles south of Stanthorpe take the turnoff (currently a highway detour) to the left to Wybergh, cross the railway line and a creek, and turn left at the major intersection. Follow your nose, the pyramids are on the left, and the second offers the best climbing.

MT. NORMAN: From Stanthorpe travel to Wallangarra, turn left just before the tick gate and follow the road beside the railway line on the right - cross the line at the overbridge and turn immediately left. Follow the bitumen round to the right, over the ford, ignore the left turn to the army camp and continue round to the left and then right. Ignore a bitumened side street on the right and follow the gravel round to the left, right across the grid and up a hill. Turn right at the water treatment plant, through a gate and continue for about 1½ miles; past a ranch style stone gateway on the right, to where a track turns off to the left. Follow this track on foot if necessary to the end and then cross the open slabs to the north and Mt. Norman is in front of you. Some climbing has also been done on South Bald Rock and other are offered. See Robert Staszewski for details. The climbs are not marked.

THE MUSHROOM - TEVIOT BROOK: This is a pile of rubble (quartzite?) beside the Head sawmill road between Boonah and Kilarney. It offers only one short line, Aware(17). To get there take the road from Boonah to Rothdowney for about 8 miles then turn right on a bitumen road to Croftby, passing a lagoon and Minto crags on the right. Ignoring two roads entering from the right (from Mt Alford and Mayerah) follow the now dirt road in a southerly direction. Do not take the Carney Creek road to the left. After crossing Teviot Brook for the first time the road follows its left bank for about 1 mile then branches - take the left branch up the hill - a cliff on the right here may provide some interest. Down the hill again and the Mushroom is the "cutting" on the left. About 2½ hours from Brisbane, see Kahert Rankin for details. The climbs are marked and were listed in Chockstone No 2.

CLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS:

Some good long routes of varying standard are available though protection is a problem on some. The main areas of interest are east Coonowrin (Crookneck), east Tibrogargan and the slabs and "organ pipes" on Beerwah. To get to these mountains follow the Bruce Highway north past Caboolture to the Tibrogargan rest area on the left. It is possible to get to east Tibro from here. Continuing north for about 2 miles turn left into the Glass House Mountains township, cross the railway line by the overbridge and follow the bitumen for 2 miles to a T junction. A right turn here takes you onto a dirt road which passes within a mile of east Crookneck. Back at the T junction, a left turn followed by a right turn gets you onto the road to Beerwah. Ignore turns to the left until one leads to a picnic ground near the north face of the mountain. Further details may be got from Rick White or Rick Brake. Takes about one hour from Brisbane.

There are many other areas in South East Queensland where climbing has been done and forgotten about, or where only one or two routes are available. These include:

- Mt. Greville - near Moogerah Dam.
- Mt. Edwards - " " "
- Glennies Pulpit - further south.
- Minto Crags - " "
- Mt. Barney - " "
- Mt Lindsay - " "
- Mt. Cooroora - near Pomona (see Fred)
- Steamers Range - east of Warwick (see Rick Brake).
- Bina Burra Cliffs.

Noosa Sea Cliffs
Flinders Peak - south of Ipswich
Ivorys Knob - " " "
Moomank Buttress - beside the Logan River east of
Mt. Maroon

If you wish to travel further afield there are two areas which I can think of which offer enormous scope for first ascents, and both are within a days drive of Brisbane. The first is the Mt. Haputar National Park east of Narribri in northern New South Wales. It offers miles of columnated, Frog Buttress style, rhyolite cliffs up to 100 metres high. The second is the Carnarvan - Robinson's Gorge - Salvation Rosa area where there are miles of untouched sandstone cliffs.

Gus Fergus.

PRACTISE AREAS IN AND AROUND BRISBANE

TARRAGINDI BOULDERS: The great Hot Henry Barber himself climbed here and immediately pronounced the area R.S. = which is just what it is. The fifteen foot sandstone boulders in the western end of Toohey Forest Park are reached from the loop in Toohey Road by walking east, but watch you don't get skittled by a trail bike. The best rocks are on the southern side about 400 metres in. See Craig Asby if you want more info.

KANGAROO POINT: The 60 foot ignimbrite cliffs just down stream from the Captain Cook Bridge offer face climbing (toproped) to a very high standard. They can be reached from Lower River Terrace and Dock Street off Stanley Street or from River Terrace. A guide is available.

MT. EPHINSTONE: An interesting cliff in Metamorphic rock whose claim to fame is a large (for Queensland) overhang. Climbs are toproped since the rock is crumbly and protection poor. To get there travel out of Brisbane towards Moggil Ferry along Moghil Road and turn into Pallenvale Road on the right. Take the first bitumened street on the right, (I can't remember the name) and follow it to a farmhouse. Ask the farmer if you can climb the hill behind his house on which the climbs are situated. The climbs are marked and were listed in Chockstone No. 2. See Rob Rankin for details.

There are a number of Ignimbrite (Brisbane tuff) quarries and cuttings in Brisbane which are suitable for top roping. For example: Under the Story Bridge, Love St. Spring Hill, Beside Lutwyche Road etc.

INDOOROOPILLY SHOPPINGTOWN JAMCRACKS: Expansion cracks in the posts which hold up the roofs of the various covered car parks offer excellent jamming practise. Those in the upper car park near Musgrave Road are widest, shortest, easiest and best. A variety of widths are available "impossible" finger jams to the first jamb. Present relations with the management are good so please don't make a nuisance of yourselves - avoid dirtying the posts. See Gus Fergus (ie. me!) for details.

AROUND THE UNIVERSITY:

PA wall - traverse the stone wall on the eastern side of the refec.
ROOF CRACKS - near the above wall to the left of the Schonell.
MAYNE HALL - chimneys
SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING - ???

Taringa roof crack = first ascent Fred (feet) From. On the northern side of the road at the western end of Taringa Shopping Centre beside the Building Society.

Normanby Climbing Wall: beside college road at the Normanby Five Ways - not really a 50 really worth a long trip to get there.

Gus Fergus.

GOANNA POINT - MURPHY'S CREEK

Murphy's Creek is an agglomeration of cliffs with one major cliff. The whole area is sandstone with bands of coarse conglomerate cemented into bedding planes. The conglomerate bands weather much more readily than the sandstone leaving ledges and overhangs, and lots of crack systems.

To get to Murphy's Creek, take the highway out to Ipswich, and follow the signs to Toowoomba. About 5 km outside of Helidon, take the sign-posted turn-off to Murphy's ck. Farther along, take another turn-off to the right next to a sub-station this is also sign-posted. This sub-station is considered to be (O.O km, O.Omi), hence:

Turn-off at substation (O.O,O.O). Now follow the bitumen to Murphy's Creek railway station and soon after, at (10.0, 6.2) cross the railway and come to the Murphy's Creek Post Office/general store (10.1, 6.3). Follow the dirt road (very boggy after deluges) over a concrete culvet (12.6, 7.8) and take the right hand fork of a Y-junction at (13.2, 8.2). This track leads to a dug-out quarry. Cross the quarry at (13.7,8.5) and take the only track exiting from the right of the quarry. Keep going along this dirt track, full of deep ruts and similar to the old Frog Road. Pass through a gate at (14.8, 9.2), and keep going along straight ahead. At the right angle bend in this track, see the red cliffs on the opposite side of the valley. This last section of the track can be in very bad condition after rain. The grade is not steep but the large boulders and ruts may be unpassable. If the track here is unpassable, leave the car (locked) at the top and descend on foot to the campsite, only a few hundred metres down the hill. The whole area is frequented by an incredible number of trailbike riders. To get the cliffs take a foot-path leading off to the left after the second creek crossing. There is also a smaller set of cliffs to be found off to the left of the track immediately after the third creek crossing. The turn-off to this set of cliffs is marked by a cairn of rocks.

Fred From discovered and first climbed the Goanna Point cliffs. The R/S directions he gave us took us a whole day to find the camp-site from the Post Office. To prevent similar problems for others we took down the mileages and compiled the above effort. Fred deserves all the credit for finding the cliffs tho, stuck out in the mulga as they are. P.S. it's also an excellent bush-walking and trail-bike riding area for those who don't take their climbing too seriously.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

One Pair of SUPA GUIDES G/C moulded compound soles, dark tan uppers, red laces. Only climbed in once owner unable to continue usage due to hernia condition. Some subsequent usage as water melon picking boots. Prospective owner should be strong walker due to weight of boots (20lbs. 9.07 kg)
Cost \$60 walk away price at \$20.

Apply to Fred.

No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character.

VISCOUNT MORLEY of Blackburn.

A DONATION

On behalf of the rockclimbers club I would publicly like to thank Richard Meyer for his cash donation of \$50 and to wish him well in America. I would like to thank him for his great enthusiasm and active participation while a member.

C. Glasby.

THE MOUNTAIN RECREATION MOUNTAINEERING COURSE.

The course I went on while in New Zealand like all such courses was largely suited to the people who went on it and the weather. Most of the people who go on such courses are Australians who go to New Zealand to do some bushwalking and mild climbing and do not scratch up to the standards of fitness of the hards, or the confidence of the experienced rock climbers who go to New Zealand to do some hard climbing. I will give a day by day summary of what was done.

DAY ONE

We were picked up at Waraka and driven to Rasbery flat walked 7 miles to Shovel flat arriving at about 1 p.m. In the afternoon prussiking, crampon fitting, putting in ice screws, and front pointing, walking on steep ice, and waist blaying, were all taught, but the amount learnt depended on the interest of the individual.

DAY TWO

After a 10 a.m. start 11 of us including 2 instructors walked to Liverpool bivy, a tiny hut at 3,300 ft, for lunch and then up to the snow on Mt Baff at about 4,500 ft. to practice snow belays but only 7 and the 2 instructors arrived because the others got lost because they dawdled and were left behind in the complicated but safe ground. I learnt to glissade.

DAY THREE

After a 4.30 a.m. start we climbed Baff. It was a long snow plod to about 7,000ft. On the way up and back we practiced belaying and self aresting on snow. There was a little danger due to craveses (slots the Kiwis call them).

DAY FOUR

We returned to base camp at Shovel flat (1500 ft.) by lunch time. The other group of 6 with 1 instructor (the even less fit lot) arrived back that afternoon also, In the afternoon we practised river crossing in the rain.

DAY FIVE

We walked up to French ridge hut for lunch and then up to the top of the Quarter deck at 7,000ft. and on to the Bonor glacier where we found the snow cave built by a previous course. The snow cave was only big enough for about 4 people to sleep in so we started digging so that we had somewhere to put 9 people (the instructors brought a hoop tent) 4 hours digging (mainly by me at high speed) made the cave big enough for 9 we thought but when we started to move in we found it wasn't 9 of us lay down in that cave for the night but the roof dripped wetting our sleeping bags and I was so sleep on my side and couldn't roll over probably the most uncomfortable and cold night of my life.

DAY SIX

The morning was spent drying and thawing out and digging the snow cave. (Thank God it was sunny) In the afternoon we practiced cravase rescue and front pointing. Colin Dodge (one of the instructors) and I also climbed the North face of French about a 200 ft. rockclimb (grade 13) solo by whole is probable a new route as a spur of the moment impulse.

DAY SEVEN

Some people climbed Mt. French (7300) some Mt. Bovan 7000ft. some Mt. Avalanche which I climbed was mainly a rock climb up slabs. About 8 pitches of 11 the hardest moves. We all decended to base camp that afternoon. And did some great glisadeing. (skying without skies).

DAY EIGHT

Slept in the sun and walked out in the afternoon. The course is worthwhile and I recommend it to blokes who aren't climbing with a capable climber. (watch out with the big mouth experienced bumlbers). Rock climbing techniques are little good for most high mountain climbing but attitudes and experience with exposure and ropes does.

Fred From.

PROTEST RALLEY

In response to news that Lord Mayor Walsh was going to put 30 metre wide water-fall over 'Roo Point, our rockclimbers club, the various bushwalkers clubs and the F.M.R. staged a protest climb at Kangaroo Point on Monday the 1st of March. Due to brilliant propaganda tactics by Alen Davidson we managed to get maximum publicity from three T.V. stations and the Courier Mail. Ross Buchanan & Fred From did a tremendous job as interviewers. The aftermath of this is still going on but it looks like we put a spanner in the works for a while. It would be appreciated at this stage if a few individual letters were sent to the appropriate people. With the election close you should get responses.

Odin climbed again

At Frog Buttress recently Kevin Pearl led Odin on right. The overhang grade 20 was seconded by his brother.

CLUB TRIP SUNDAY 29/2/76.

The venue was F.B. The aim was to suck as many unsuspecting people as possible as possible into becoming new members and therefore causing them to part with that vital \$2 in subs. Despite heavy rain the night before access proved no problem along the new tourist super-highway. Six old members attended and five new or prospective members Clockwork Orange Crm. (13) Baby's Bottom (12) Strawberry Alarmclock (10) Witches Cauldron (12) Satan's Smokestake (14) and Pibroch (9) were done with the new hands exhibiting little difficulty with any of the climbs. Highlights of the day were the number of rocks dropped off the cliff, lunchtime lectures by president, the weather (fine) and Fred's ascents of Erg (20) Infinity (19) and Cock Crack (19) (sort of). These climbs reflected his recent ego-tripping in NZ. Infinity was also seconded by Gus Fergus. Time off was taken for a brawl with the locals at the Duganden and then home.

Peter Patterson.

CLUB TRIP SUNDAY 13th March

It was decided on the advice of Fred From (always questionable) to go to the Goanna Pt. Cliffs at Murphy's Creek. With great optimism two cars and five people set off in pouring rain. After many wrong turns past the Murphy's Creek turnoff, the entourage eventually suffered the fate of many offroad travellers - bogged and rebogged. Eventually the vehicle was abandoned to sink slowly into the quagmire while the mudsplattered rockclimbers bravely embarked on a fate worse than falling - wllaking to the cliffs. When hope of finding the cliffs was nearly gone, a pterydactil cry denoted that they had been found and within five minutes we were at their base looking dubiously at the twenty foot overhangs. As it rained most of the time, not much was attempted and only three easy climbs were done. The first 30 foot one required quite a deal of thought and bad language issued forth as climbers psyched themselves. Ginny Tyson went one better and getting angry, ripped the cliff apart with her bare hands and threw huge boulders at startled spectators who ran for their lives. The day was finished off with a swim in the creek and a weary band trudged back to the abandoned car. After an exercise of roadbuilding in the dark the car was floated out and the engineers lost no time in getting home.

Craig Glasby.

AFTERMATH: As predictable as always, Fred and his directions had led us to the wrong cliff. Rick Brake's directions were not much better even though they made good rally instructions. (Like all good rally instructions there was an error - the word 'right' half way through should have read 'left' - subsequently we did not climb at Goanna Pt., but put some new routes up a new cliff)