



The Log

Newsletter of the UNSW Outdoor Club
December 2006

Playing on Sydney Seacliffs

By Adrian Di Qual

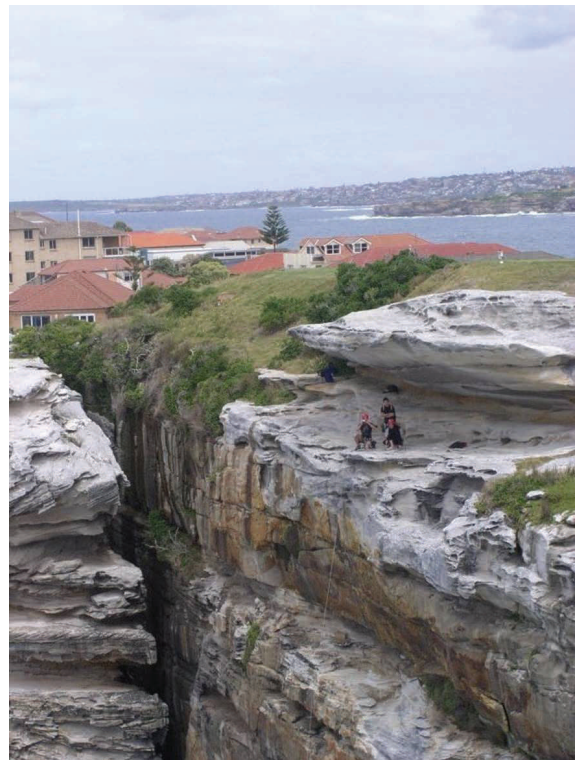
It was the exam period and I needed a break. North Bondi was close and I'd wanted to try it out for a while. So I got a trip going through the club website and four of us headed (Dave Ho; Frankie; Julian; and myself). We met at uni, drove for 20 minutes, crossed a golf course and forgot we were in Sydney. To make us feel a little more isolated there wasn't even mobile coverage at the bottom of the crag.



The first order of the day was to set an abseil line off some carrot bolts. They looked pretty new although we could see the stubs of rusty ones that had been cut off. We then set a focal point quite a bit below the cliff line with a climbing rope through it to top rope with a belayer at the bottom. The cliff is just a little too high to do a double line top rope from the top.

Everything was set and we were ready to go. The slab was 40 metres from top to bottom, but it felt so much higher. The ocean crashing be-

neath us and spreading out to the horizon added a flavour you never get in the Blue Mountains. It just makes you feel small and insignificant. We abseiled onto a rock platform that was safe. It was high above the waves, the water, but every now and then a fine mist would be caught on an updraft and land on our faces.



We did some climbing, but it was really crumbly. There were a few easier climbs about, but no where to anchor off for them. The climbing was pretty disappointing. Although that didn't

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bother me, I was happy to be just chilling back a little. After trying to get a few climbs going, and over all ending up a little disappointed, we pack up the climbing rope and headed out.

The way out is through a sandstone gully. The gully is like a series of large steps, with a few small climbing moves needed to head out. Doing it with a pack is interesting, but not too hard. The climb out may have one or two moves that are about a grade 8, but the rest is pretty straight forward. All in all the best climb of the day was simply getting back out. Julian was feeling rather energetic and prusiked out on the abseil line. That looked pretty impressive, but none of us managed to get a pic of him doing it.

We headed back and were at uni by midday. Joy of joys, to return to study and exams. North Bondi is a pretty special place for when you need a break. If you're after some serious climbing, it's not the place to go, but for an abseil and a light climb out that takes an hour or two, it's worth it!

What's On in December?

- Sat 9th: Sport and Trad Climbing at Mt Kuringai
- Sat 9th to Sun 10th: The Castle: Bushwalking in the Budawangs
- Mon 11th: Sea Cliff climbing at Jervis Bay
- Sun 17th: Christmas Party at Queens Park
- Mon 25th: Merry Christmas Everyone!

Keep an eye on the club website for more trips to be posted!

Jumping up Barrenjoey

By Susan Ireland

It's the Christmas holidays, but I'm up at around 7 – climbing today! Summer has finally arrived, and I'm on way outdoors to enjoy it. We're driving in a general northward direction, grumbling at the peak hour traffic, while secretly laughing at everyone who has to go to work. We meet with Mathew at Station beach, where he has been watching some people struggle to get their boat off the trailer.

I feel the nostalgia as I walk towards the site where I climbed on real rock for the first time ever. Unable to draw any kind of connection between what the guide says, and what the rock looks like, we follow Matt to a spot where he remembers climbing once before. We set up top ropes, and soon enough, we're on real rock.



Dave E practicing gear placements

Unlike many sea cliffs, the rock is strong & not pouring sand into my eyes. Although many have climbed here before me, I feel like a pioneer as my fingers search in all directions for



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something big enough to hold on to. I pull up confidently, then look down to see there's really not much there. That makes me feel awesome, even on a grade 16. Me and Adrian give the belay anchors a workout, then play on a fun looking chimney, after a team effort to redirect the rope. I notice that Matt and Dave climb straight up, whereas I veer to the left and right a lot more. You could call it dodging the crux, but I call it 'exploring.'



After what seems like half an hour spent untangling the rope, another anchor is set. It's getting hot – the soles of my feet feel like they're on fire, as I fumble my way up the slab. (Or maybe my feet are just sliding in Jimbo's enormous climbing shoes). Matt and Dave, meanwhile, discover what a 25 feels like (as impossible as it looks). Heading back to the right side, we discover labels at the bottom of the climbs – the guide and the rock, reunited at last! Matt did a comfortable lead on Liquid Insanity (18), while Adrian, king of the chimney climbs, discovers yet another. This chimney is a little inset that nature is clearly taking over.

Called Ratbite (I wonder why?), it is full of cobwebs, with plants growing at the bottom. I feel explorer-like as ever, as I begin my struggle to the top.

Matt has to leave for his ferry now, and suddenly we know it's time for our long awaited swim. But not before I run back to identify what we did! I run around like a bossy-boots mother, telling the climbs what their names are. With Dave looking thoughtful as ever, I wonder if this has raised issues about environmental domination and the fear of the unknown... The walk back along the beach seems longer than the walk out, but there's a refreshing reward waiting for us – swim time! Normally afraid of the cold, and lacking swimmers, I actually find the water a lovely temperature. Refreshed but not frozen, we buy some well-deserved drinks and head back to Sydney. I smile as I sit in the car, feeling what a satisfying day it was.



A 4WD in beachside car park: how could it possibly get that dirty?



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A Look Behind the Scenes...

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To many, the UNSWOC exec is a mysterious unseen force behind much of what's on the club website, as well as activities like Boree Log, club meetings, and of course, newsletters. So what else does the exec do? Well, first, we have meetings. Lots of meetings – about once a month. As you can imagine, these meetings aren't always terribly exciting, but we all get a kick out of it somehow. There are weird ones who get a kick out of doing paperwork (eg Dave L), while others get a kick out of buying new gear (eg, Smithy). Others just enjoy keeping up to date with what's going on, and to some degree, I think most of us feel the club is their baby. :)

So what do we actually do at meetings? Well, first we have a BBQ, then we talk. We mainly talk about budget things – particularly around now, since the annual budget is usually due in November. You may be thinking 'how boring,' but who doesn't enjoy shopping now? Particularly when it's for gear that, as uni students, we can't possibly afford to buy for ourselves. So the exec decide which items of gear need to be retired (important for safety equipment like ropes), and what we should buy to replace it. There is, of course, the inevitable haggling for the best deals possible...

OK, so we plan how to spend money. But where does this money come from in the first place? Our main source of funding is the Sports Association (SA). We give them a budget, which breaks down all our income and expenditure, and hopefully they give us the funding

we ask for. Not submitting a budget is like not submitting a tax return – there's no way you'll get a good deal if you don't do it! So towards the end of each year, each of the officers in the exec (eg climbing officer, kayak officer) write an 'activity review.' This just details all the trips/activities that were run and how much everything cost. Then the treasurer gets to put it all together to figure out how much to set aside for each activity the following year...

Besides money, money, money, we also organize activities like Boree Log and O-Week. This involves basically brainstorming ideas then dividing up roles. Already, we have booked a stall for O-Week, and are considering ways to promote the club, such as demonstrations and a party for newcomers.

If you're interested in finding out more about what has actually been decided at our meetings, go to "minutes" under the "club home" heading on the website. To find out who is on the exec and what their role is, go to "contact us" also under the "club home" heading.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Wishing a safe and happy festive season to all! Don't forget, our Christmas party is happening on Sunday 17th December at Queens Park. See you there!

