

# Rock Guide Preamble

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## Introduction

It has been some time since we have had a guide that could be printed. The original guide was made up by the local group at that time, and their names appear in the Fun Parlour area. The areas of Fun Parlour and Wonderlands were all that was developed at that time. The history descriptions that follow were from the original guide so deserve a place here.

## This section is an extract from that original guide.

### *History*

*"Fun Parlour was found by Nymboida River White-water Rafting guide, Larry Dixon sometime in the early eighties. In the summer of 1984, during a moment of weakness, his brother, "Dicko" agreed to see what climbing was all about and tied onto the end of the rope. They put up three routes that year, the best being COLD TAP 14, nearly melted in the process and then rushed back to the Golden Dog for some life-saving beers.*

*The following year, 1985, Neil "Dicko" Dixon found that rock climbing interfered too much with his social life. As a result another White-water Rafting guide, Ian Allen, was talked into visiting the cliff. The result was two more new routes by Dixon, the best being WHIP IT 15.*

*The first wall route, CHICKEN HEROES 18 by Al Stephens from Armidale, went up in 1986 along with seven other crack routes. The true potential of the Fun Parlour began to dawn on Dixon and Stephens in 1987 when they bolted the classic FUNNEL WEB 16 by Dixon and later, LONG TALL TEXAN 21 by Stephens. A total of eight new routes went up that year. Other visiting climbers that year were Richard Thomas (the long, tall Texan) and Mark Spence from Coffs Harbour.*

*The year of the Bosch, 1988, resulted in five beautiful routes, the best being the Ramones inspired PLANET EARTH 19 by Dixon and QUASIMODO 18 by Stephens. Other visiting climbers involved in first ascents were Graham Stewart from Armidale Wade (Imageman) Fairly and Richard Falls from Tamworth. 1989 saw many visitors come and go and sixteen superb new routes being put up. Gavin (Coke) Dean, a climbing and abseiling instructor from Coffs Harbour, got very serious about new routes and, with a variety of seconds, put up twelve new ones, the best being THE RAW 21 and the infamous, almost impossible for some, RUM AND COKE 22. Other visitors during the winter were Neil Rabb and Mark Colyvan from Armidale, Karl Shultz from downtown Glenreagh and Davey and Tim Wood from Ulong.*

*In 1990 Larry Dixon became more involved in developing his White-water Rafting business and temporarily retired from climbing. Dean, with Stephens and Wayne Anderson at various times, was involved in fourteen of the fifteen new routes put up during the year. The best being WALT DISNEY'S PICKING STRAWBERRIES 23 by Dean, the hardest route at Fun Parlour. Other climbers involved in first ascents were Tim (Tadpole) Balla, Patrick Thompson, Toldy Thompson and Tim Loughlin. Due to Gavin Dean's discovery of "Wonderland", another cliff in the same area, in 1991 Fun Parlour received very few visits and no new routes! But don't be put off by the lack of interest during this year, there are still some hard cracks some challenging arêtes and many great walls waiting for your first ascent.*

## **WONDERLANDS**

### **History**

*Wonderland was founded on the 2nd May of 1991, by Gavin Dean, Keith Bennett and John Kennedy from the forestry commission. The potential for rock climbing was soon realised, after inspecting the 1 km multi-tiered cliff line. Many superb onsite cracks were done by Gavin Dean, Keith Bennett, Allan Stevens, Dick Curtis and Ed Sharp. These were done in the months of June and July. Many fine wall routes were also bolted in this period. "*

## Guide History since

Since that time many new areas have been developed about 13 in all by a number of adventurous climbers. I will leave the history of the individual crags to their own sections.

The original guide (A6) was developed around 1991 and was photocopied as needed. With the advent of new areas a new guide was produced by Bruce Jones in January of 97. In an A5 format with a laminated cover it was called 'Climbers Guide to the Coffs Harbour Area". It included all the areas known to that point; Fun Parlour, Wonderlands, Daydreams which incorporated Fort Knox, Wild dog wall & Music hall, Kangaroo Ck, Water Towers (Mal's Rock), and Sherwood Rock. Fifty copies of this guide were printed with a laminated cover. I still have one in the draw.

Soon after another guide was prepared by Sally Goode in a similar A5 format called "Climbing Guide to Coffs Harbour". This guide included the areas Fun Parlour, Wonderlands, Gods Cliff, Sherwood Buttress, Wild dog wall, Music hall, and Nymboida gorge.

Due to the rapid expansion and new route development in the area I created a web site and provided the guide information that way. So in January 2002 the site Vertical Mania was established and has continued on to this day (8/08/09).

There has been a lot of unrecorded development in and around the areas covered by this guide over the years. Old bolts and pitons that have been 'rediscovered' are being updated when found.

## Acknowledgments

Appreciation is extended to the major contributors of information and help in compiling the Coffs Harbour guide information over the years. The following names have been acknowledged in the previous guides; Kevin Chisholm, Mal Drummond, Danny Rose, and Al Stevens, Bruce Jones, Col Jones, Jim Veness, Larry Dixon, Gavin Dean, Ben Christian, Gordon Low, Dick Baker, Matt Kelly, Craig Bellamy, and Terry Burnutt.

The new guide is to be a downloaded PDF printable guide and acknowledgment for the work goes to Toby Holmes.

## New Climbs

Please help us keep this guide up to date. New editions will be issued from time to time. Send new climbs and information to Bruce at [brujones@gmail.com](mailto:brujones@gmail.com) or Toby at [THolmes@cvas.nsw.edu.au](mailto:THolmes@cvas.nsw.edu.au) or directly to the local climbing community at: [coffsclimbers@yahoo.com.au](mailto:coffsclimbers@yahoo.com.au)

## Ethics

There is much possibility for the putting up of new routes in some of the areas referred to in this guide. Climbers may work on a particular route for some time and several methods have been used to indicate to other climbers that a project has not yet been completed. A traditional one used in the

Coffs Harbour area is the piling up of a few rocks at the base of the climb. The other method used is the use of a tag (red ribbon) tied around a bolt runner or hanger, or inserted in a crack. The ethic to be observed here is that climbers should not climb another climber's project until it is declared open by the removal of these markers.

The environment is most important and everyone is asked to treat the areas with respect. Please try not to bend, break, cut or damage anything unnecessarily. Take EVERYTHING that you bring with you away with you. If you find someone else's rubbish, then take this with you as well.

## Warning

Generally all the areas that we climb in are controlled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Wonderlands is the only notable exception which is controlled by the Forestry. The Sherwood Nature Reserve is covered by a plan of management. This plan of management was adopted by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment on 20th March 2009. The areas of Fun Parlour, God Zone, Bunyip, Music Hall, Wild dog wall, Sherwood Rock, Never Never land, and Kilowatts, are all now enclosed in Sherwood Nature Reserve. All climbers are asked to treat the areas with the utmost care. Check with your local NP office or web site to find out the requirements for camping, fires, access, etc. A permit is required to climb in the reserve. See the Plan of Management document in the download section of the web site.

***Please make sure you have access rights before climbing in the areas covered in this guide. We accept no responsibility for incorrect or misleading information. Climbing is considered a dangerous activity and you use the information based on your own judgment. Climbing requires experience and training and if you are new to climbing then it is highly recommended that you seek the services of a climbing guide.***

## Climb description terms grading and general information.

### Grading

A " 3 star " rating system has been used to recommend quality climbs. This does not mean that the routes without stars are not worth doing, just that they are not particularly outstanding.

☺ good

☺☺ excellent

☺☺☺ All time classic

These ratings were not decided upon by any committee, club or board of directors but by the first ascents. All climb descriptions are set out in a similar manner to the example described below.

### **FAT RICH CONSTABLES ☺☺ 16m 19**

Start is as for PUNTERS AND COLLECTORS. Up the wall. #3 Friend and 3 bolts.

A. Stephens, G. Dean, 1 July 1991.

The description is laid out showing name of the climb, rating, total length, and grade followed by a short introduction about the character, quality and protection of the climb. The start description gives a reference in meters either right or left of the previous climb. The distances between the climbs are as accurate as guessing will allow.

## Authors Note

Let's not be picky nasty or horrid – just be kind, write and speak the truth. It is that simple.

BJ 29/07/09

## Terminology

I have tried to use abbreviations and terminology that is consistent with Australian climbing. I have generally used the methods used in our most popular climbing magazines.

Alt	alternate leads
BB	Bolt belay
FH	Fixed Hanger
BR	Bolt runner
RB	Ring bolt
DBB	Double bolt belay
FA	First Ascent
FFA	First free ascent
FTRA	First top rope ascent
HB	Hanging belay
HDBB	Hanging double bolt belay
NP	Natural Pro
OS	Onsite
SLCD	spring loaded camming device

## Camping

The areas other than Wonderlands are part of NPWS Sherwood Nature reserve. Camping is not allowed in these areas. The best choice is to book into one of the caravan parks around the Woolgoolga area and the crags are approx half an hour west by road. You could also camp at the pub, 'The Golden Dog' in the small township of Glenreagh and the crags are around the 15min to ½ hour east. See maps.

## Contacts

Contact	Phone
Emergency	000
Police	02 6652 0299
Ambulance	See emergency
Westpac Rescue Helicopter	1800 155 155
State Emergency Service	13 2500 - (02) 6652 2722
Coffs Harbour Indoor Climbing gym	(02) 6658 6222
Information at <a href="http://www.verticalmania.com">www.verticalmania.com</a>	0407669027
Toby Holmes Climber	0434 267 737
Golden Dog	(02) 6649 2162

## References

[www.verticalmania.com](http://www.verticalmania.com)

Coffs Harbour climbing guides

Rock Manual by BJones

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