

# GOAT WALL

The southeast face of Goat Mountain is the huge wall that extends from the Yamnuska col southward to the prominent prow-like outline of Goat Buttress. Much of the face is extremely steep and continuous natural lines are few. The rock is comparable in quality to that on Yamnuska although it is less jointed and generally there is more face climbing and less natural protection.

Only eight climbs have been established to date and these are rarely repeated. There is very little fixed gear, except on Goat Buttress, and pitons are required for all climbs. The three routes on the slabby central portion of the cliff all have at least one bad belay that needs bolting. With modern ethics regarding bolt protection, the extensive areas of steep gray rock on this huge cliff offer interesting possibilities for new routes. Most notably these are the wall to the left of Goat Buttress, the right-hand side of the buttress itself (now climbed by Gotcha), and the big water-worn wall to the right of Wendigo (now climbed by Goatman). The approach to the cliff is not as bad as may be expected and is a welcome change from the hard grind up to Yamnuska.

## Approach

Most climbs are best reached from the south beginning with the same approach as the other Goat Mountain areas. From below Goat Slabs, continue in a northeasterly direction along the horse trail in the open valley between the cliffs and the esker. About half a kilometre after the trail swings to the east and roughly parallels Yamnuska, turn left at a clump of large poplar trees in a flat area on the left and head toward the Goat Mountain-Yamnuska col. Locate a small but definite trail that leads through trees to out-wash gravel from the creek that drains the gully left of Goat Buttress. Continue up the creekbed over several rock steps to the base of the cliffs. A few climbs, Wild Colonial Boys, The Ramp and possibly Wendigo, are best reached via the Yamnuska col.

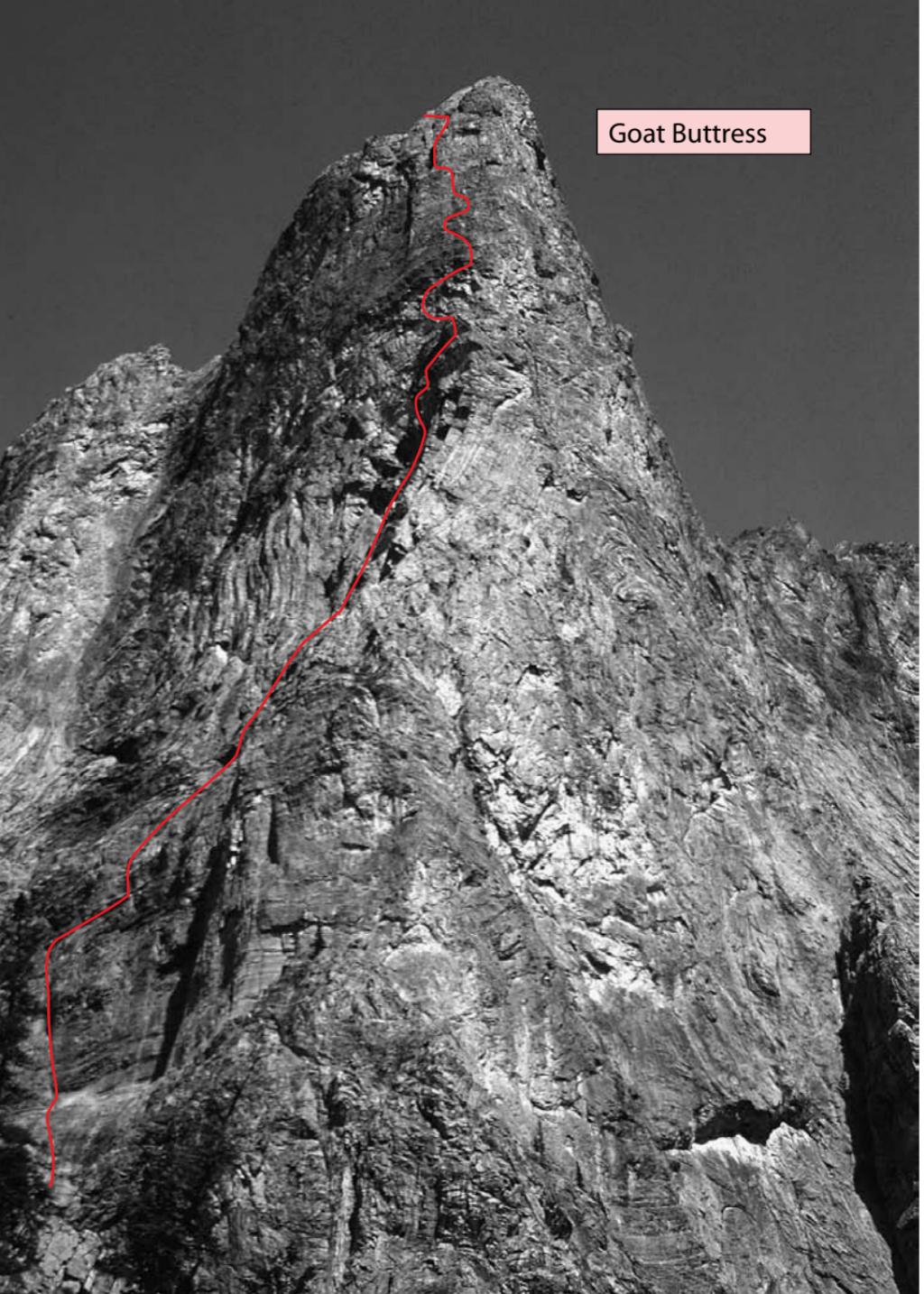
## Descent

The only feasible descent from most of the climbs is to continue up to the east ridge of Goat Mountain and follow it down to the Yamnuska col. It is necessary to traverse slabs on the north side of the ridge in places (exposed), and near the bottom, a broad easy gully is down-climbed back to the col. The gully is situated between the main ridge and a subsidiary ridge to the north. From the top of Goat Buttress, a convenient descent can be made to the base of the climb down Goat Buttress Gully. This is fairly tricky, however, and at present the rappel stations need bolting. From the top of Goat Buttress, traverse across scree slopes and then descend steepening slabs. Caution is necessary as these end in a big drop-off. Make two full-length rappels (single pitons in place) to reach the lower part of Goat Buttress Gully, which is easily descended.

**Goat Buttress 375 m, 5.10d**

C. Perry & T. Jones, July 1977

F.F.A.: S. Dougherty & C. Yonge, June 1987



Goat Buttress

This classic route follows a superb natural line up the prominent prow-like buttress at the southern end of the face. As it follows the “line of least resistance,” some sections are relatively straightforward. The situation on the exposed, upper headwall is exceptional. Opinions differ widely as to the overall quality of the route, some people give it three stars, others have little good to say. Regardless, the line is undeniable and it remains one of the plums of the valley. The long approach and descent necessitate an early start.

**Start** The climb begins in the large gully on the west side of the buttress above a lower cliff band. Bypass the cliff band on the left via an open slope that leaves the streambed about 50 m below the cliffs. Traverse across the top of the cliff band, cross the gully, and scramble up easy slabs to a long ledge left of a bottomless chimney that leads up to an obvious break on the edge of the buttress.

The route described below varies slightly from that of the first ascent that involved short sections of aid. Consequently, fixed equipment can be seen right of pitch 8 and left of pitch 9.

- 1) 40 m, 5.7 Climb a shallow, right-facing groove about 40 m left of the chimney and continue up and left to a belay at a small tree below overlaps.
- 2) 40 m, 5.7 Move up and climb easily through an overlap onto a slab. Walk right on the slab and follow a groove up and then back left. Continue up to a short V-corner to a ledge system that angles down rightward across the face.
- 3) 15 m, 5.4 Climb easy rock up and right and then traverse back left to a belay below a long corner with a slabby right wall.
- 4) 45 m, 5.7 Follow the corner to a small belay about 5 m below a large roof that arches rightward above the slabby wall.
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Move up and across the left wall of the corner to the arete. Climb this past the left end of the roof to gain a curving slab above. Follow the slab to a large sloping ledge below a formidable, overhanging crack, the “Fissure Firth.” Bolt belay.
- 6) 7 m, 5.10d Either climb the corner (large cams) or the overhanging right wall on widely spaced holds with no protection (the “Gross Wall”) to gain a good ledge above. Bolt belay.
- 7) 33 m, 5.6 Move right on to a higher ledge and continue right to a corner. Climb the corner, moving out onto the left wall, to reach a ledge on the prow of the buttress (used as a bivouac on the first ascent). Bolt belay.
- 8) 20 m, 5.10a From the left end of the ledge, climb a loose ramp up and left to a bolt. Continue up and left to larger holds and then traverse right to a sloping ledge and bolt belay.
- 9) 40 m, 5.10b From the belay, make some tricky moves up and right (the “Cheesmond Step”) to easier ground. Continue right to the top of a crack and then move back left to an obvious ramp. Climb this (5.8) past a piton to a crack that leads to a bolt belay in a small alcove.
- 10) 45 m, 5.10a Move up and go across right on good holds to a crack on the left side of a small pillar. Climb this, then angle up and left (5.7) to a bolt below a steep, shallow groove. Climb

the groove and move left past a bolt into the base of the exit gully.

- 11) 50 m, 5.5 Climb the gully and exit left just below the top of the buttress.

### Gotcha 515 m, 5.10a/b

P. Gatzsch & B. Tezcan, June 1999

This is the first new route on Goat Wall in 20 years. It climbs an obvious shallow weakness on the right-hand side of the buttress and follows good, but compact gray rock. The climbing is run-out in places. Pitons are required and 55-60 m ropes are useful.

Start Take the same approach as Oreamnos to a small pinnacle and instead of going down, scramble up for a few metres to a short corner.

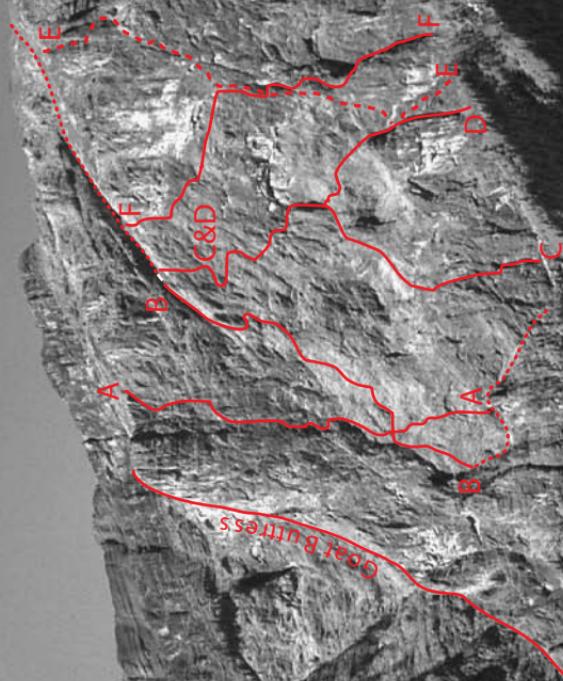
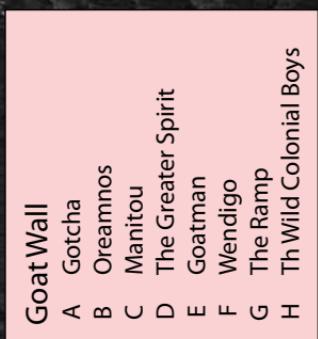
- 1) 50 m, 5.8 Climb the corner and move left and up under the left side of a half-moon overhang. Traverse left and step over the lip. Go straight up over slabs and then trend left on easier ground to belay.
- 2) 50 m, 5.6 Move right and then go left over slabs to a ledge. Climb a crack on the left and belay close to the wide, main corner.
- 3) 50 m, 5.6 Climb straight up the slabs parallel to the main corner and belay.
- 4) 50 m, 5.7 Climb to the end of the corner and continue up for 5 m until a traverse left can be made. Climb up and over a short chimney to a ledge.
- 5) 50 m, 5.10a/b Climb a few metres to the right and then layback a crack on the left, directly above the belay. Move up and right across a steep wall to a small pillar (two pitons). Go left around the pillar and then traverse right to a poor bolt (needs replacing). Climb a steep wall and belay at the end of a slanting ledge.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10a/b Traverse up and right for 10 m to a piton and then climb straight up (run-out, needs a bolt). Trend left (piton) to a small pedestal and climb a short corner. Belay below a prominent, wide, yellow corner.
- 7) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the corner until it steepens and then move up left over a steep section (piton) to easier ground. Continue up and right in a groove and belay.
- 8) 50 m, 5.5 Continue moving right to an arete and then traverse 20 m right and belay.
- 9) 50 m, 5.6 Climb up to a wide crack. Move left over a pillar into a wide, right-leaning groove.
- 10) 50 m, 5.6 Trend left over slabs to the final wall. Climb close to the corner on the right-facing wall and belay.
- 11) 25 m, 5.5 Move up for 10 m, then traverse right around a pillar, and go up to the top.

### Variation

- 1 & 3 alt.) Above the half-moon overhang on the first pitch, go straight up to ledge (50 m, 5.8). Move right and then trend left over slabs to a wide ledge (50 m, 5.6). Climb up for 5 m, traverse left for 5 m, and move up over a lip to gain some grooves. Follow the grooves to the left to the top of a corner. Traverse left (2 pitons) across the left side of the corner and move up left to belay at an old, hangerless bolt (50 m, 5.8). The

Bruce Keller on pitch 4 of Goat Buttress during an early attempt.





normal belay at the top of pitch 3 is just above.

### Oreamnos\* 450 m, 5.8

J. Firth & J. Jones, June 1973

To the right of the buttress is a slanting system of corners and slabs that leads up right to a prominent ramp near the top of the cliff. This is the line of Oreamnos that is perhaps the best of the three major climbs on this section of the face.

Start Scramble up left following easy corners and ledges to a large pinnacle below the main corner. Start about 30 m right of the pinnacle, below a short right-facing corner.

- 1) 5.6 Climb a short wall and then move up and diagonally right to a corner. Follow this to ledges on the right.
- 2) 5.4 Angle back left and up on easy ground to a belay in the main corner.
- 3) 5.6 Continue up the corner and belay below a small roof level with a traverse line leading right.
- 4) 5.7 Traverse right to a belay ledge.
- 5-7) 5.7-5.8 The exact route taken on the next section is uncertain. The steep slabs above the belay are climbed for a short distance and then a long traverse is made to the right. Slabs and corners are then followed, trending slightly right toward a prominent exit chimney. Finally, a traverse right is made to a ledge beneath a steep section, below and left of the exit chimney.
- 8) 5.8 Climb steep loose rock following a thin crack diagonally up right. Continue on easier ground to good ledges at the foot of the chimney.
- 9) 5.8 Move up into the chimney and then make an awkward descending traverse left round the corner on a ledge.
- 10-12) Follow corners and chimneys to the foot of the ramp. Continue up the ramp to join the east ridge of Goat Mountain.

### Manitou 580 m, 5.8

J. Martin & C. Perry, 1980

Located about 100 m right of the easy beak where Oreamnos starts is an area of large blocks on the scree below the cliff. The climb begins in the first obvious right-facing corner near the middle of these blocks. There have been several repeat ascents and there is some uncertainty regarding the best line to take on pitches 6 and 7. The original description and an alternative are given below.

- 1) 50 m, 5.7/5.8 Climb the corner, which faces right, for about 40 m to a steep section. Hand traverse left using an obvious crack to gain a good ledge.
- 2) 40 m, 5.5 Climb up to a bulge, step right to a break and then climb the groove above. Belay near the top on a small ledge.
- 3) 40 m, 5.6 Finish the groove and then go easily up and right to an easy gully.

- 4) 60 m Follow the gully up and left, then cut up to the right to large ledges. Above are easy-angled gray slabs below a steep, dark, shattered wall. To the right of the wall is a pillar with slanting grooves on its left side.
- 5) 35 m Climb easily up slabs for about 15 m, then traverse right on ledges and belay a short distance above, near the rightmost slanting groove.
- 6) 40 m, 5.7 Climb the groove to its top. Step left (see pitch 7 alternative) and continue by short walls and corners to an alcove.
- 7) 40 m Moderate climbing leads to the top of the pillar. Alternatively, after stepping left on pitch 6, climb the left arete of a broken groove to below a shattered wall, traverse hard left (5.8) to a groove, and continue more easily up this to a good belay near the top of the pillar.
- 8) 45 m, 5.6 Continue above and slightly right by a thin slabby wall leading into an obvious gully that slants up left.
- 9) 40 m, 5.4 Climb the right-hand of the two grooves. Near its top traverse upward to the left along a ledge.
- 10) 40 m, 5.2 Climb left and up along a discontinuous but obvious break and belay at a ledge.
- 11) 40 m, 5.2 Continue left and up to a ledge at the end of the ascending traverse line.
- 12) 25 m, 5.6 Go straight up the slabby wall above and move diagonally left to a poor belay on a sloping slab below a steeper, broken wall.
- 13) 25 m, 5.6 Traverse left across the slab, step onto a second slab and traverse left across it, passing below the base of a slabby groove. Step left onto a wall and climb up into the base of a groove with a good crack in its lower section.
- 14) 35 m, 5.8 Climb the groove to a traverse line just below a prominent small roof that blocks the groove. Traverse upward on steep rock into a groove on the right. Climb this for a few metres, then traverse back left across a steep, improbable wall to a good belay in the original groove just above the overhang.
- 15) 40 m, 5.7 Move left, then back right and up the groove above on awkward, sloping rock (sustained). Belay where the groove becomes easy.
- 16) Easy rock now leads into the exit ramp of Oreamnos.

### The Greater Spirit 5.9

C. Quinn & T. Jones, 1991

This is a variation start to Manitou that begins in a prominent, right-facing corner system a short distance left of the start of Wendigo and then curves over leftward to join Manitou at about half-height. The corner/chimney system is steep but solid and is climbed in two pitches, the first

one being harder and more run-out. Above, a 5.6 pitch, followed by two fourth class pitches, lead over left to the top of pitch 8 of Manitou.

### Goatman 480 m, 5.10, A0

P. Gatzsch & B. Tezcan, July 2000

This recently completed route starts just left of Wendigo, crosses it near the start of the traverse, and follows an obvious crack and corner system that leads up and slightly right toward the top. The climb starts in the same break as The Greater Spirit, but instead of climbing the corner it follows a series of large steps up and left to join the corner higher up. Scramble up from the right to where the easy climbing ends at the first, short (2 m high) step.

- 1) 40 m, 5.9 Climb the step and continue up over a second step to the third step. On the last slanting ledge go left to the end and climb up to the last step (piton). Move up to the left and then go right and up to a stance.
- 2) 50 m, 5.8 Climb up to a piton and continue up left and then back right to a big ledge. Go up the corner system and belay.
- 3) 55 m, 5.9 Climb a crack to a bolt, traverse right for 3 m on small holds, and then go straight up to a small scoop. Climb up and right slightly for 40 m to the top of a pillar.
- 4) 55 m, 5.5 Climb easy rock along a ridge into a gully and belay on its left side.
- 5) 20 m, 5.6 Climb the wall left of the belay to a big ledge and the bolt belay at the top of pitch 7 of Wendigo.
- 6) 50 m, 5.10 Climb the steep wall directly above past four bolts and two pitons to where the angle eases. Continue up and right and then move left to the right-hand end of the big ledge system close to the belay on Wendigo.
- 7) 35 m, 5.10 Climb an easy crack on the right to its end, traverse 5 m right to a piton, move up to another piton, and then go right to a bolt. Climb up for 4 m and move around the left side of a bulge. A few metres higher, traverse right and belay in a small corner level with a prominent roof.
- 8) 25 m, 5.10, A0 Climb to the end of the corner and then make an exposed traverse right. Go up a steep wall and belay in a big, yellow corner. (Five pitons, two of which were used for aid.)
- 9) 15 m, 5.10, A0 Climb the yellow corner past three bolts and continue up first on the left and then on the right to a big ledge. (Two points of aid were used on this pitch, which could be combined with pitch 8.)
- 10) 40 m, 5.7 Move right from the ledge and climb a diagonal crack until the wall steepens. Traverse back left past a piton into the corner and move up to a belay in a small cave.
- 11) 55 m, 5.8 Follow the crack above to where it ends at a small depression. Climb loose, easy

rock and then go up left past a small overhang.

- 12) 40 m, 5.7 Make a rising traverse left into a steep gully and go up this to the top (excellent rock but no protection). The gully could be reached more directly by following the crack on the previous pitch for only about 8 m and then climbing a bulging corner on the left.

### Wendigo 535 m, 5.8

J. Lauchlan & C. Perry, 1974

Wendigo follows a major right-facing corner system leading up to a huge ledge high on the face, traverses left across this ledge, and then climbs up to the prominent exit ramp of Oreamnos.

Start at the first right-facing corner left of a large black water streak.

- 1) 45 m Climb the corner to a ledge on the left.
- 2) 35 m Follow the right-hand crack for 15 m, then move left into a chimney. Belay at its top.
- 3) 30 m Scramble up and left along ledges to an arete.
- 4) 30 m Traverse left into a corner and climb this to a ledge.
- 5) 45 m Move diagonally up left to a piton and continue to a ledge.
- 6) 15 m Follow the ledge up right to the foot of a smooth corner.
- 7) 15 m, 5.6 Climb the corner a few metres, then diagonal leftward across a slab to a large ledge and bolt belay.
- 8) 20 m, 5.7 Traverse left for 10 m along the ledge until it peters out beyond a small rib. Climb steep rock up and then right to a ledge. Diagonal up left to a corner and follow this to a niche.
- 9) 40 m, 5.8 Follow a ramp right for 15 m to a small bay. Climb this on the left side, and then move right and make a difficult move onto the continuation ramp above.
- 10-12) 135 m Traverse left along the big ledge to a belay on the far side of a pinnacle.
- 13) 35 m Trend up and left toward an obvious exit groove, then step down to a poor belay on a sloping ledge.
- 14) 45 m, 5.7 Climb up and across to the exit groove. When the groove blanks out, traverse left around a corner and belay in a scoop.
- 15) 45 m Ascend a shallow scoop to gain the exit ramp of Oreamnos.

### The Ramp 5.6

B. Greenwood, R. Lofthouse & J. Steen, 1961

This is by far the easiest route on the face, but to the authors' knowledge it has yet to be repeated.

Follow the huge slabby ramp that slants across the face from lower right to upper left and belay at its very top. The climbing to this point is easy.

- 1) 30 m Climb an open chimney, then cross a slab on small holds in a rising traverse to the right to a good belay.

- 2) 45 m Climb straight up on poor rock to easier ground.

The Wild Colonial Boys 295 m, 5.10c

S. DeMaio & C. Quinn, July 1987

This route climbs the steep face set at an angle to the main cliff at the far right-hand end. It begins almost directly below the first subsidiary summit west of the Yamnuska col and about 120 m left of a prominent cave at the base of the cliff. The line had been attempted before and old pitons found near the top of pitch 4 indicate some of the first 5.10 climbing in the valley. The rock is bad on most pitches but improves higher up. Pitons are required and a good head for scary, run-out climbing is reportedly an asset. To the left of the route is an interesting line on more promising gray rock. This, and a direct finish to Wild Colonial Boys, are obvious possibilities although some bolt protection would probably be required.

Scramble up for 20 m to a large ledge with two small trees.

- 1) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the left-hand of two short corners to a ramp heading up and left. At the end of the ramp, climb up and right to a bolt. Continue up and right along a diagonal break and then go straight up to a belay below a corner.
- 2) 25 m, 5.8 Climb the corner until it is possible to step right onto a ledge (two pitons).
- 3) 50 m, 5.10 Move back left into the corner and follow it for about 5 m to its end. Traverse left with difficulty across the wall for about 5 m and then move up to a ledge. Go back right to a large corner and climb this and a crack system above past an old piton belay to a ledge.
- 4) 50 m, 5.10 Pull over a small overhang directly above the belay and climb a corner to an old piton belay. Step left and climb another corner to a large ledge (two bolt belay).
- 5) 40 m, 5.8 Move right across the ledge to a piton, down-climb a right-facing corner to its base, and then traverse right and up following the easiest line for 15 m to reach a corner. Climb the corner to a ledge.
- 6) 40 m, 5.10 Traverse right to below a right-trending seam. Follow the seam as it widens and eventually turns into a ledge system. Move up to belay in large cracks.
- 7) 40 m, 5.8 Climb up and then traverse left into a corner. Climb this past an overhang to the top.

## THE WILD COLONIAL BOYS

