



THE BONEYARD FACE
Bare Rock, Fingal



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Breathing New Life Into Dry Bones

The 200m high black and orange face of Bare Rock at Fingal has been a climbing destination since 1969, when Bob McMahon and Peter Jackson did Macdonagh (17). For 25 years it was a traditional climbing venue with a reputation for scary, loose and sparsely protected routes, until Sam Edwards came along in 1994 and bolted Sapphire Rose (22), a 3 pitch sport route which has become one of the most popular routes in Tasmania. Bisso of Orange (26) was another sport route of similar style done in 2006.

However it wasn't until Andrew Martin from Queensland bought the property at the base of the cliff, that Bare Rock was viewed with fresh eyes. Andrew spent hours scoping the cliff through the sights of his sniper rifle envisioning new routes and became inspired by a line high up on the right hand side near the massive roof.

Ingvar Lidman rapped the 50m face right of the roof and confirmed the quality of the rock. Then in 2010 Gerry Narkowicz bolted and climbed the superb Supernaut (24), and Into The Void (25) followed by Lidman's audacious line Fairies Wear Boots (27) The Black Sabbath lyrics inspired names continued when Gerry bolted a 3 pitch access route Tomorrows Dream (19) which has become a popular route in its own right. Andrew bolted and climbed the second pitch to his project, a delightful moderate face climb (20) up the headwall above the overhangs, and the first pitch awaits his awesomeness.

One pitch routes in the sky. This was a new way of approaching new routes at Bare Rock, finding quality sections of rock in between the choss and developing them as climbing areas in their own right. After the Supernaut face, focus shifted to the amazing orange shield high up on the left hand side of Bare Rock. Dubbed the Boneyard Face, it is an overhanging wave of orange and black dolerite of good quality, which is producing one brilliant route after another. It is named the Boneyard Face because all the routes start from a ledge 120m off the ground which is part of an old route called Boneyard (15) put up by Bob McMahon, Peter Jackson and Mick McHugh in 1969. One of their old pitons can still be seen at the base of Passchendaele. On the ledge is a graveyard of pigeon bones and other animals devoured by the peregrine falcons that nest there. The easiest route so far is grade 24 and the hardest route is 29, so all the routes are uncompromisingly difficult and steep by Tasmanian standards. The lower-off from Vapour Trail (28) for instance, will leave you swinging 10m out in space. Some routes are totally protected by natural gear, some are mixed, but most are fully bolted

Gerry Narkowicz was the first to rap over the terrifying void and realise its potential. An epic ensued as he misjudged the height of the cliff and was left 60m short of the ground, necessitating three raps from dodgy natural gear in an appalling vertical scree slope. Andrew had been eyeing off the central crack line through the sights of his rifle for a while, and thought it might make a nice grade 18 warm up. Grossly underestimating the steepness of the cliff, this fiercely overhanging

crack became Passchendaele (25), a blood filled trench with jamming of all widths, which finally succumbed to the sieging and screaming of Narkowicz. This awesome climb is Tassie's answer to Trojan at Arapiles, a climb of similar appearance, style and quality. The second pitch is a delightful grade 22 face climb on bolts. Team Fingal, namely Andrew Martin, Ingvar Lidman from Victoria and Doug Fife joined in the new route fever and began projecting routes with Ingvar getting up possibly the two best looking lines in the area. Velvet Morning (26) blasts straight up the orange shield, the dominant feature of the Boneyard Face and No Space In Time (28) climbs a beautiful seam up the very steep tiger striped wall on the right hand side. New route enthusiast Garry Phillips took the area to the next level with rapid ascents of 4 superb routes up to grade 29, and has bolted 2 futuristic projects which could be 32+. With eight routes so far and potential for another ten, it will rival the Star Factory as one of the highest concentration of hard routes in the state.

ACCESS ISSUES : by Andrew Martin

Welcome to Bare Rock!

My wife and I are more than happy to have climbers access the land to climb at Bare Rock (Fingal). Please stop by if we are around, it is always great to meet other people who share this addiction!

A few points that will make life easier for everyone:

1) Of paramount importance is the realization that the road up to Bare Rock is not council maintained, and in fact, is paid for and maintained by the three private property owners (myself included). The other two have therefore asked that any climbers please drive slowly as this seems to really irritate them (the road gets chewed up very easily, as well as noise etc). Yes you arrive 1 minute later, but recent "Schumacher wannabes" have made some of the neighbours contemplate the need to allow further access. PLEASE drive slowly on the dirt road section.

2) A call prior to coming is ESSENTIAL. Please simply call me (or text) on 0418883418, each time that you intend on climbing here. The neighbours keep an eye out on my place due to prior a burglary. If I know you are coming, I can simply inform them of this fact, so they know not to come up and check on who the un-announced person is.

3) Although we would prefer that people go up the side boundary fence (as opposed to the main drive), this is quite often impossible due to the wet nature of the track. When driving up the main drive, please maintain "turtle speed". Once past the house, you are more than welcome to park past the double shed at the right hand end of the car turning circle. There is room for at least 4 cars. Please don't park on the turning circle, as the neighbours use this frequently.



4) The cliff is closed from AUGUST through to early DECEMBER, there is no room for negotiation here. Peregrine Falcon nesting occurs all over the cliff, as well as at least one pair of Wedge Tail Eagles in the immediate area. Part of the attraction of climbing at this cliff is the untamed beauty of the area, which I wish to maintain, partly through the protection of these magnificent birds.

Other than that, I hope you all enjoy climbing here as much as I do! If we are about; pop in, grab a beer or coffee and say hello, it is always great to meet more climbers. I wish you loads of safe and enjoyable climbing on a truly fantastic cliff.

Kind regards,

Andrew & Alanna Martin

DIRECTIONS

Take the A4 highway to Fingal. Look for Legge St on the right as you enter the town from the west. Follow this for about 2.5km in the direction of the cliff. Where the dirt road comes to an intersection turn sharp left and follow the rough, rocky and sometimes muddy road up to the house which is only a couple of hundred metres from the base of the cliff. From the house follow the vehicular track towards the cliff for 40m then take the left hand fork in the track and follow it for about 400m east around the hill to an old shipping container. Keep heading east along a disused vehicle track for about 200m and you should start to see orange tags marking the start of a well marked steep track to the top of Bare Rock. At the top of the hill is a flat section of ground resembling an old paddock which extends back from the cliff edge. Walk west along this flat section for about 100m and look for a substantial cairn near the cliff edge. More cairns lead down some rock steps to a short gully which takes you to the rap station on a narrow terrace. Walking time is about 40 minutes.

Rap Station

You will notice double rings on the left as you come down the gully. You will require double 60m ropes. Rap 10m down to another ledge and some chains. A 50m abseil takes you down to the Boneyard Terrace at the right hand end of the climbing area. It will also land you next to the chains for the descent to the ground. Make sure you have knotted the end of your rope, as it is a further 120m to the ground. On Boneyard Terrace is a via ferrata of fixed rope bolted for your convenience along the entire length of the terrace, a distance of about 60m.

Boneyard Terrace Via Ferrata Fixed Rope

Use a daisy chain or slings to secure yourself to the fixed rope and for walking along the ledge (a 2-3m wide sloping ledge). You should stay attached to the fixed line at all times and also secure packs and other gear to the bolts on the ledge. The terrace has extremely loose rock and big piles of falcon guano. Don't trundle rocks off the ledge on the chance there may be people below.

Descent

Use the chains at the far right hand side of the terrace to descend at the end of the day. Double 60m ropes are required. It is a 55m abseil to the first station and it is located slightly diagonally down to the right as you face the cliff. Stay on the clean black slabs on the way down. The second rap is 50m. A well worn path leads down the scree and through the bush to arrive back near the shipping container and the track to the house.

ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Heaven Can Wait 30m 24 **

The second route in from the far left hand side of the terrace (furthest left is a project). A superb sustained face climb up a slightly overhanging wall starting just left of prominent crack. Crux is near the top with some technical moves required on flailing forearms. Fully bolted. 14B FA: Gerry Narkowicz 15/7/11

Latex Evening 40m 22 *

The prominent crack bordering the left side of the orange shield. Straight forward jamming (about 18) to the stance at half height. Then a short section of face climbing when the crack blanks, providing a cruxy move. The crack opens again to a thin finger crack with some excellent quality rock and a sequence of tricky finger locks. Turn the roof by traversing left for a couple of metres to gain good flat holds, then up the headwall to the anchors. 10 bolts plus cams 0.5 to 4 with doubles of 1, 2 and 3. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 18/3/12

Chase That Feeling 35m 28/29 ***

The line immediately right of the big crack bordering the orange shield. Another classic for the grade. Several very powerful and cruxy moves low down followed by a sustained section of insecure and difficult climbing up the orange shield. Then a heartbreaking crux over the final roof. FA: Chris Coppard 25/3/12



Velvet Morning 30m 26 ***

A mind bending excursion up the awesome orange shield - the eye catching centre piece of the Boneyard Face. Start near the left edge of the shield and follow the aesthetic right leading crack/seam system all the way to a cruxy encounter with the capping roof. 14 bolts. FA: Ingvar Lidman 7/11

Chainsaws Guns And Dogs 30m 25 ***

Another superb route with a bit of everything; steep juggy start, jamming, pumpy steep face climbing, a spine tingling traverse and a sting in the tail pulling through the roof at the top. Climbs the left trending crackline through the big guano patch out to the middle of the orange shield. A good rest on a large foothold in the middle of the face before launching up the sustained face to the roof. Traverse 5m right to a break in the roof and turn the roof via a layback flake to the

anchors. Gear: 16 Bolts plus camalots purple, red, yellow. Some long draws for rope drag helpful.
FA: Gerry Narkowicz 11/1/12



Vapour Trail 35m 28 ***

Steep climbing up the impressive bulging prow left of the central right trending crack (Passchendaele). Long and sustained. There is a lower off at 20m which is grade 26 to this point and serves as a good warm up. Caution when lowering off! F.A. Garry Phillips 14/7/11



Passchendaele 50m 25 ***

The central overhanging right trending crack followed by a lovely bolted pitch of face climbing. Tassie's answer to Trojan at Arapiles. **1. 30m, (25)** Jamming of all widths with protection totally by natural gear. The crux is a series of powerful fingerlocks through some very steep territory. Gaining the pod near the top is also cruxy. The last 10m eases back to about 22 to the anchors. **2. 20m, (22)** 8 bolts of excellent face climbing to the chains. Gear: cams micro to 4.5 one of each and double of red camalot. Medium to large wires. Gerry used 19 pieces, 7 nuts and the rest were cams. FA: Gerry Narkowicz 9/7/11

Giving The Dog A Bone 20m 23 **

Climb Passchendaele for the first 10m then break left to join the thin jam crack which trends up and left. Strenuous thin jamming up the steep crack to a lower off. All natural gear. FA: Gerry Narkowicz and Ingvar Lidman. 14/1/12

No Space In Time 25m 28 ***

To the right of Passchendaele is a steep tiger striped wall It takes the prominent crack/face near its centre. No Space In Time is the 3rd line to the right of Passchendaele, the other 2 are projects. Pull onto the short face passing 2 bolts to gain the hanging crack. When the crack closes continue up the superb headwall on perfect dolerite passing 5 more bolts. 7 bolts with medium wires and a 0.5 Camalot for the crack. FA: Ingvar Lidman 6/11

Atomic Vampire 15m 28 ***

Powerful deadpoints up the amazing line of flakes to the right of No Space In Time. FA: Ingvar Lidman 22/2/12

2 Fast 2 Furious 15m 28 ***

Start just left of corner crack near the rap station. Power up for the race! Power through the bulge, traverse left and up to chains. Excellent sustained climbing all the way. FA: Garry Phillips 17/7/11

Tiger Bean 15m 28/29 ***

Next route right of the rap station and right of the corner crack. Powerful start leads to a rest. Then trend rightwards and up to the little roof. Pull over this and up to anchors. F.A. Garry Phillips 7/11

Bad to the Bone 15m 25 **

Technical and fingery climbing up the wall 3m right of TB. The route finishes at the same lower off. F.A. Garry Phillips 7/11