

# Thrutch

A photograph of a rock climber in an orange patterned shirt and red helmet, climbing a narrow rock crack. The climber is positioned in the lower right of the frame, looking down. The rock face is composed of large, layered rock blocks. In the background, another climber is visible on a higher ledge. The scene is set in a wooded area with green foliage.

Newsletter of the Sydney Rockclimbing Club

August 2008

Climbing with Carlos

New Arapiles book

[www.sydneYROCKIES.org](http://www.sydneYROCKIES.org)

## Thrutch: Newsletter of the Sydney Rockclimbing Club

### About the Sydney Rockclimbing Club Inc.

The SRC is a meeting point for climbers and to this end organises outdoor climbing trips, regular gym climbing nights and social meetings as well as holding a monthly meeting.

The SRC is not, however, a commercial organisation and does NOT provide instructional courses.

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### SRC MEETINGS

Meetings of the SRC are held at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of every month (except January) at Wests Ashfield Leagues Club, 115 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 3

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### MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership (\$30) is valid for one year from July; discounted membership (\$20) is available for new members from January to June.

Membership gets you:

- Subscription to Thrutch (11 issues)
- Accident Insurance on organised club trips
- Discounted guide books and climbing gym entry
- Socialising and entertainment
- Talks/slideshows by occasional guest presenters
- Access to the SRC library

Download Membership forms from:  
[www.sydneYROCKIES.org.au](http://www.sydneYROCKIES.org.au)

Send membership subscriptions, accompanied by the signed waiver/membership form, to:

The Membership Secretary,  
Sydney Rockclimbing Club,  
PO Box A592, Sydney South, NSW 1235

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Single - \$30.00 (for new members)  
Single - \$20.00 (for renewals before 1st of July)  
Hard copy of Thrutch - additional \$10.00

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### THRUTCH

Thrutch is the Newsletter of the SRC.  
Contributions - on disk or via email - are always welcome, photos especially so.  
Send Thrutch Contributions to:  
Thrutch Editor, Sydney  
Rockclimbing Club Inc. PO Box A592, Sydney South, NSW,  
1235 or Email: [thrutch@sydneyrockies.org.au](mailto:thrutch@sydneyrockies.org.au)

### GET THRUTCH VIA EMAIL

If you received this newsletter as a paper copy, you may be interested to learn that you'll get it a lot faster if you have it delivered via email.

To arrange for electronic delivery, contact the membership secretary at:  
[membership@sydneyrockies.org.au](mailto:membership@sydneyrockies.org.au)

**Note:** If you use a limited space free email account address (such as Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail), you need to keep at least 1MB space available in your account at all times or your electronic copy of Thrutch may not reach you.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary,  
Sydney Rockclimbing Club,  
PO Box A592, Sydney South, NSW 1235

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### NEW ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

Sydney Rockclimbing Club  
PO Box A592, Sydney South, NSW 1235  
Email: [it@sydneyrockies.org.au](mailto:it@sydneyrockies.org.au)

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### SRC COMMITTEE

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**COVER SHOT:**  
*A suitably psychedelic  
Duncan Mercer leads  
Devil's Dihedral (20) at  
Frog Buttress,  
Queensland.*

**WARNING!** Rock climbing is dangerous. You could be injured or killed if you attempt any of the activities described. There is NO substitute for experience.

# Spanish for carrot

**When a letter of introduction from the SRC helped Mexican climber Carlos Garcia travel to Australia, it was only half of the dream. The enthusiastic all-rounder wanted to put up a new route in Australia, thereby adding to an impressive record that had already seen him establish new big-wall routes in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. With Mt Banks offering suitably long-route possibilities, who better to help Carlos achieve his aim than the equally enthusiastic MIKL LAW...**

Carlos and I walked out at dawn to Mt Banks and rapped a line that I thought would be mostly trad, on paper it looked like about 20, 15, 15, 24, 24.

I rapped down the top 2 pitches and they needed a lot more bolts than I thought and we used them all (placed 2 in poor rock and lost them when I pulled them out, and only bought 12 along) and we just did the top 2 pitches, which were still run-out (8 bolts in 50m is still scary, with lotsa dodgy natural gear too).

The long, hard pitch was very classy, it followed a fused, thin corner for 25 m, then ran out up a wall for 10m (baby wires! and a #4 Camalot) and through a choss roof to a pumpy headwall. Another 4 bolts and it would have been a cruise.



**Picture:** Mikl rapping the bottom pitches.

The next pitch was less run out and only 22, and after a bit of effort I persuaded Carlos to lead it, I think he was still in shock from seconding the last pitch ("It is so steep and loose here Michael!") but he cruised it.

We topped out as a storm hit: the walk back was an epic of boredom and wet, sore bits.

A week later we had another 20 carrots and the secret weapon, mountain bikes.

We hopped on the bikes and I got a flat tyre within 50m of leaving the car but had no tube so I rode both

ways with a flat front any way (6km with 2 ropes, drill, 20 carrots and a partridge in a pear tree).

Carlos wasn't a seasoned pedaller and it was a long and wobbly ride for him out there (well, for 20 minutes anyway).



**Picture:** Carlos leads a fairly thin slab using bolt plates for the first time (note plate in mouth).



**Picture:** Mike Law heads up the next bit. A "funky slab and corner. You can see the endless roofs in the upper wall above".

We rapped down the line again and added a few bolts to the bottom pitches

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There were 2 long easy pitches back to the base of the long hard pitch again. This time I was prepared psychologically but had absolute flopsicle shoes on and the bridging section was most painful.

The sky was greying up nicely yet again and when Carlos hit the belay I threw gear at him till he left the belay "Run, run" I screamed. And Carlos got to the belay as it started raining.

I started seconding and the rain became torrential. I fell of that pitch a few times on large but slippery holds as all ability to climb departed.

Another wet ride home, in the dark.



**Picture:** The new climb "Zanahoria" (Spanish for carrot) follows a crack system just left of the Africa-shaped choss in the middle of the cliff.

Full topos can be found at:

[http://www.sydneYROCKIES.org.au/pdfs/grossness\\_v2.pdf](http://www.sydneYROCKIES.org.au/pdfs/grossness_v2.pdf)

## BOOK REVIEW

### ARAPILES: A Million Mountains By Keith Lockwood (\$35 SRC)

Five generations of the Lockwood family have lived in the Natimuk area.

Keith Lockwood, or Noddy as he is known to many, has been a journalist and a rockclimber since his teens. He is well qualified to write this award-winning book.

It is definitely not a rockclimbing guide but a collection of magnificent photographs and writings.

It begins with a chapter on the geology followed by Aboriginal occupation and the arrival of white explorers and early settlers. It has been described as one of the richest botanical areas in Australia with "unparalleled diversity in such a limited area".

Over the years the area has seen many activities; gravel mining, timber getting, a shooting range, a picnic venue for locals, a Forest Park to finally a State Park in 1989 with an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 persons/days a year, and of course, a climbing mecca for climbers from Australia and all over the world.

Famous Australian artists have also been inspired by the rocks remarkable colours and scenes.



**Picture:** Home away from home, the Pines campsite.

There are accounts of first ascents of some of Arapiles' most popular classics with historical photographs; writings by well known climber/writers such as Greg Child; and an amazing collection of photographs of unforgettable people from the climbing scene both past and present.

It is a book to be enjoyed by all climbers who have been to Arapiles and been touched by its magic or who aspire to climb one day at Australia's best climbing cliff. - **Barbara Darmanin.**

## CLIMBING TRIPS

When: September 13.

Where: Dam Cliffs.

Grade: Easy sport.

Leader: Ray Haak.

Contact: [Raymond@pittst.kwikkopy.com.au](mailto:Raymond@pittst.kwikkopy.com.au)

When: October 28.

Where: Blueys TBA

Grade: Easy to Moderate trad

Leader: Warwick Williams.

Contact: [warwick.williams@nal.gov.au](mailto:warwick.williams@nal.gov.au)

Remember, each month one trip leader will win a \$50 gift voucher, courtesy of Mountain Equipment. Anyone interested in leading a trip should contact [tripconvenor@sydneyrockies.org.au](mailto:tripconvenor@sydneyrockies.org.au)

## GUIDE BOOKS

| Title                             | RRP* | SRC     |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------|
| Upper Blue Mtns                   | \$35 | \$15    |
| Wolgan                            | \$35 | \$22    |
| Lindfield                         | \$10 | \$6     |
| Nowra                             | \$30 | \$20    |
| Blue Mountains Guide              | \$55 | \$42    |
| Point Perpendicular               | \$35 | \$20    |
| Rockclimbing in The Hunter Valley | \$35 | \$25    |
| Arapiles Selected Climbs          | \$35 | \$25    |
| Grampians Selected Climbs         | \$40 | \$32    |
| Mt Buffalo                        | \$60 | \$42.50 |
| Climb Northern Tasmania           | \$35 | \$25    |
| Climb Tasmania                    | \$45 | \$29    |
| World Climbing                    | \$50 | \$35    |