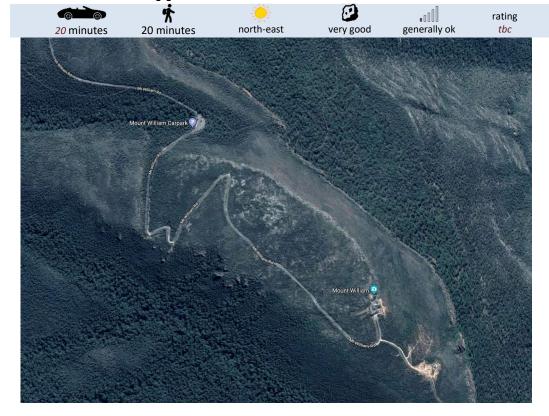
Mt William - Upper Cliff



Partly verified from thecrag, these descriptions ought to be checked against Baxter 1991. Also check full dates of FA from sources. NW end is about -37.288384, 142.595694 SE end is about -37.291571, 142.600918

The highest peak in the Grampians is not a winter destination. A long cliff line in a striking location but few strong lines. There are however a number of good buttresses with unexpectedly good holds and gear turning up on many of the faces. A number of good climbs are available [if you can locate them!]. The climbs around Conqueror and the Major Mitchell buttress are easy to find and are the best starting points for visiting the cliff. A lot of the original routes were very undergraded. This probably happened in the late 60s when the grades were translated from the old (and badly

applied) English adjectival system to the Ewbank system of grading without anyone actually repeating the routes to see what grades they really were.

Mt William is very much a summer cliff and is often much cooler than other cliffs even though it faces north.

From the Halls Gap/Dunkeld road take the Mt William road to the carpark at the locked summit road gate. The RH end of the upper cliff is visible above the carpark.

*\frac{\text{\text{\$\frac{\text{\$}}{\text{\$}}}} You can easily access the cliff from below as follows: from the lower (downhill) end of the car park, ascend a marked trail (this is part of the GPT) steeply for about 30-40m until it swings left; proceed straight ahead up the hill here on an older but still distinct track (the Bomjinna track; not signposted). This ascends for 140m easily uphill then reaches a flat area. Before the trail starts

descending, look for a 1.5m high boulder over to your right, cairned (\$37.28732° E142.59591°). From this boulder head left across the slope, following cairns, then uphill through moderate scrub (don't wear shorts) to arrive at the cliff after another 150m (\$37.28841° E142.59636°). This is just left of the base of *Lower Order*.

The above is quite straightforward but there are two other options. *not verified* For the main section of the wall (climbs around *Conqueror* and from there rightward to *Order of the White Elephant*), walk up the summit road to the 4th and last zig zag corner.

Option 1. This is best From the 4th zig zag continue along the road for 15m. On your L is a scree slope get up onto this and find a cairned route. This route initially keeps about 50m away from the cliff edge, after the first 100m it moves into quite clear and easy terrain and hits the cliff edge in little more than 5 minutes about 20m short of the abseil chains above *Marie*. #gps These abseil chains are over the cliff edge and it is advisable to connect in with a sling before setting up the abseil. 2x50m ropes required (45m abseil). Gear up at the top and abseil down to climb. Use these for descent if you walk in to the base.

T Option 2. *not verified* This accesses the area from the Major Mitchell Buttress rightwards and back L as far as Lower Orders. For these climbs head out on a faint track from the last zig zag to the cliff edge 40m away. If you walk R (facing out) along the cliff edge for 30m you will arrive at a descent gully. There are 2 abseil bolts a few meters down in the gully. A single 50m rope will get you down from here (25m abseil - If preferred this gully can be scrambled down and back up with some difficulty). From the foot of this gully the Major Mitchell buttress is about 20m R. Or you can pick your way left from here on a rapidly improving *pad* to get to the area around *Conqueror*. The most prominent landmark is a smooth, north-facing wall with a series of stepped roofs to its left about ¾ of the way up. The wall is between Free Bird and Fedallah. Several of the climbs are (or were) initialled, making them easy to spot – the more obvious are the "O" for *Order* of the White Elephant (faded but still apparent) and Banksia. The corner of Nails is also a good landmark, with orange rock on its right and a triangular roof at 9m. Likewise the initial at the



Mt William: Mt William - Upper Cliff

base of *Snake* is visible. The pinnacle leaning outward at the base of *Despondency* is another landmark. *rewrite*.

1. Your Worst Nightmare 75m 16

Good luck finding this. South of the summit is a lot of cliff. This route is in a large amphitheatre accessed from the first prominent saddle south of the summit area. Start 5m L of a prominent spur. 1) 25m Through scrub and up broken corner to ledge and tree on R. 2) 20m (16) Offwidth and squeeze chimney. 3) 30m (16) Move 4m R then up wall. Traverse R then up and L. Up through scrub to the major spur dividing the amphitheatre. Graham Gittins, Wayne Maher (alt) 13.2.93

2. Montague 61m 18

A long way L of the other routes, look for a groove line starting high on the cliff [it has some bright green lichen on the left wall high up but this doesn't stand out as much as it did 40 years ago!]. It is a V groove leading to an overhang then a steep R facing groove up the headwall. It is not however easy to find. I recently repeated it thinking I was on a new route, and as I had done the first free ascent of it in 1978 I should have had some idea what it looked like.

1) 39m (12) Pick your way up broken walls and ledges to below the groove with the lichen. **2)** 22m (18) Up line to groove, up this to ledge. Corner to roof then R (crux) to groove and up around overhang. Michael Stone, Chris Dewhirst (alt) Rein Kamar (one aid) 16.12.72 FFA Philip Armstrong 1978

3. Queen Ann 44m 10

Nothing royal about this. Start below a buttress with a distinctive triangular roof. 1) 22m (10) Up broken rock into corner and up to small stance. 2) 13m (10) Chimney to small ripply wall. 3) 9m (10) Chimney L of wall to top of pinnacle. Up wall to top. Rob Taylor, Daryl Carr (alt) 12.10.66

4. Brace and Bit 45m 16

The variant finish is the preferred way to do the route. R of the *Queen Ann* buttress is another buttress distinguished by a 1m wide overhang just below its top. This overhang has a couple of lines though it towards the RH side. 1) 25m (16) Up thin

shallow cracks towards RH side of buttress moving L to foot of deep crack. **2)** 20m Deep cracks tending R. Jerry Maddox, Philip Armstrong (alt) 7.5.78

5. Brace and Bit Variant Finish 40m 18

An exciting finish and the obvious way to do the climb. 1) as above. 2) 15m (18) From half-way up pitch two, follow crack L and jam up to and over the overhang. Philip Armstrong, Richard Curtis 26.1.80

6. Bloody Mary 88m 15

Start: Next buttress R of B&B. 1) 22m (15) Corners on L wall of buttress. 2(36m Up crack for 5m, traverse L to corner chimney and up. Rein Kamar, Bob Connell (alt) 29.12.72

7. The Ego Trip 45m 8

Start from end of terrace L of *Stage Fright.* **1)** 36m (8) Broken line to tight chimney, up. **2)** 9m (8) Chimney crack on R. Alan Gledhill, Geoff Gledhill (alt) 12.11.72

8. Stage Fright 45m 17

Big corner line 13m R of *The Ego Trip*. Originally described as a 'proud corner' it actually looks like a steep grotty gully ... and what do you know, when you climb it that is just what it is. Chris Baxter, Geoff Gledhill, Julie Tulloch, 18.2.73

9. Tweedle Dee 45m 15

Start as for *Stage Fright.* **1)** 30m (12) Up the loose rubbish of *SF* for 6m then into and up subsidiary line on R. **2)** 15m (15) Corner to overhang. A fraught *??* followed by a terrifying swing R on loose blocks and up. Geoff Gledhill, Michael Stone (alt), Alan Gledhill 11.11.72

10. Banksia 39m 13

Not bad but a bit mossy. Start 7m R of *Tweedle Dee*. Has a prominent square and initial "B", which faces away from you (east). A good landmark. 1) 18m (12) Climb short corner to ledge. Veer L and climb crack beside detached pinnacle. R and up crack to small stance. 2) 21m (13) Nice moves around overhang then line. Ann Richardson, Jerry Grandage (alt) 12.10.66

The arete with roofs high above is the landmark between Banksia and Free Bird.



11. *Free Bird 60m 20

Excellent positions. Start 3m R of *Banksia*, at the shallow V corner on the arete (or perhaps just left of it). 1) 25m (20) Up wall then R around arete. Up corner a few moves then back L around arete and up wall to ledge. Step R and climb thin crack to exit R to block. 2) 35m (18) Wall then finger crack to roof. Step R and up line to step R to ledge. Finish up crack. Kevin Lindorff, Rod Young 7.5.78

12. **Fedallah 47m 22

A dramatic line and an atmospheric climb which is best completed by the *Direct Finish*. Start at the initialled corner 9m R of *Free Bird*. 1) 18m (15) Corner, over overhang and up crack to sentry box. 2) 13m (22) Up corner and flakes moving L to a small stance under roof. 3) 8m (15) Up crack then step R to sloping ledge. Up to small terrace. Peter Jackson, Ian Guild (alt) 22.10.66 (all pitch two was aided). FFA Peter and Kevin Lindorff 1978

13. ***Fedallah Direct Finish 54m 22

1) and 2) as above. 3) 15m (18) Go straight up without moving R. Peter Lindorff, Kevin Lindorff 1978

14. *Harpoon 50m 19

The excellent crack [which the abseil route goes pretty much straight over] on the 2nd pitch links together sections of existing climbs to give an exciting route finishing at the abseil bolts. 1) 18m (15) As for P1 of *Fedallah*. 2) 32m (19) Up the corner to the bulge, step out R and up to the ledge above the bulge. Traverse boldly out R to the thin crack, up this exiting L at the top. Step back R and up to join the top corner of *Marie*. Peter Cody, Philip Armstrong (alt), Jerry Maddox 1.4.12

15. **Kiss of the Spider Woman 50m 20

Very unlikely looking wall climbing which looks very poorly protected. Sustained. Start 4m L of *Marie*, 2m R of the major corner (*Fedallah*). 1) 25m (20) Up face to short corner which leads to overhang. Swing R onto steep slab then make a dramatic move L to a hanging slab. Up and L to join *Fedallah* for 2m. Where that climb swings L continue up line to stance below overhangs. 2) 25m (20) Short corner to roof. Move L and pull up R around lip in exciting situation. Follow line up R to join *Marie*. Finish up this. Stephen



Hamilton, Chris Baxter 16.12.90

16. *Marie 47m 17

Two clean, varied and enjoyable pitches which deserve to be popular. Start at a crack 4m R of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and 3m L of the prominent corner of *Conqueror*. S37.28889° E142.59743° **1)** 25m (17) Climb crack, when it stops above steep wall step R and climb *Conqueror* for 4m to sloping ledge on L. **2)** 25m (17) L-facing corner above. A nice pitch of jamming and bridging. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter (alt), Gary Schmidt 12.3.90

The abseil chains at the top of Marie is the normal means of descent. 2x50m ropes required.

17. Conqueror 47m 16

A solid undertaking up a powerful line. Originally graded 11! Possibly the hardest route led by a woman in Australia in 1966. Start at the corner 5m L of *Nails*, 3m R of *Marie*. Reportedly initialled but this was not apparent. 1) 26m (14) Corner to ledge. 2) 21m (16) Up the R-hand line (L-hand one is *Marie*) with some steep and awkward moves. Jerry Grandage, Ann Richardson (alt) 22.10.66

18. *Rameses II 45m 18

Looks very good, may deserve another star. Start as for *Conqueror*. 1) 25m (18) Up *Conqueror* a few metres then R and up unlikely looking wall to arête and V corner. A hard start to the corner then R and up to small ledge. 2) 20m (14) The L of 3 lines. Kevin Lindorff, Philip Armstrong (alt), Tony Dignan 20.1.78

A left-hand variant to Nails might be interesting.

19. Nails 46m 19

Dirty, loose and poorly protected. Start 8m R of *Conqueror*, at an outward-facing corner with a triangular roof at 9m. **1)** 26m (19) Corner to overhang (very loose flake), R to nose then up to and up groove. **2)** 30m Flake and corner, L under overhang and up groove easing. Chris Dewhirst, Michael Stone (alt) 5.11.72 (one aid). FFA Stephen Hamilton, Nick Tapp 22.3.92

20. *Swarm 50m 19

Although it initially struggles to stay out of *Snake*, P1 gives good climbing on excellent rock. P2 isn't bad despite some loose stuff. Start 4m L of *Snake*, 7m R of *Nails*. 1) 25m (19) Climb groove to overhang, L under this (crux) then up next groove stepping R to ledge below roof. 2) 25m (18) R along ledge, climb

corner to ledge on R. Up thin crack above to exit onto unstable ledge. L on this then up crack, veer up L to arete and follow it to an unexpectedly difficult conclusion. Stephen Hamilton, Chris Baxter 16.12.90

There is a large gully/groove between Swarm and Excalibur. Snake, Pilgrim and part of Swarm go into this gully. Some time in the 80s there was a massive rock fall in this gully when a huge detached flake high on the cliff which was originally part of Pilgrim and Snake along with a large part of the gully/groove lines above and below it, fell down. There is some remaining evidence in some gravel at the base. Only the first pitch of Snake has survived, after which you will need to continue up one of the harder finishes. The original writeup of Snake is provided as background, but now superseded by Pilgrim.

21. Snake 50m 13

Start at the crack 1m R of *Swarm*. Faint initial and square at head height, 3m L of the arete. **1)** 15m (13) Up wide crack to nose, swing R and up to ledge. Continue up one of the other routes as noted above. (For the record, P2 was originally written as: *35m Climb crack to ledge below overhang. R around arete and and up corner (loose blocks). Continue up beside detached flake to ledge. Up.) Brian Oates, Barbara Gillespie 22.10.66*

22. Pilgrim 47m 18

Due to the rockfall the described route is an amalgam of 3 old routes giving a route on mostly solid, protectable rock. Originally started in the gully around the corner, but this is now best avoided. Start as for *Snake*. 1) 15m (13) Up wide crack to nose, swing R and up to ledge. Up to block, climb crack behind block to ledge below overhangs. This is the same belay as for *Swarm*. 2) 35m (18) Traverse R to short corner, up this (crux) then traverse R on unstable ground to solid crack on R wall of groove. (Continuing up the thin crack above the crux is P2 of *Swarm*). 3) 20m (14) Up the steep crack (top pitch of *Despondency*). Michael Stone, Chris Dewhirst (alt) 12.11.72

23. Despondency 49m 14

Awful first pitch. At the R edge of the gully/groove line R of *Swarm* is a large detached pinnacle, leaning

outwards at a fearsome angle (landmark). This is the L side of the arete L of *Excalibur*. **1)** 34m (14) Up the R side of the pinnacle then R-ward into a series of short corners leading to a ledge below a steep exit crack. **2)** 12m (14) Crack and chimney. Alan Gledhill, Geoff Gledhill (alt), Michael Stone 11.11.72

24. Excalibur 49m 16

20m R of *Swarm*. Marked with a white square. The climb starts up a fairly obvious crack/seam above an overhang which was originally graded 11. Not a bad route with the variant finish. 1) 23m (16) Up the undercut crack for about 5m. then make an ascending traverse L across steep wall and up to ledge. Up short wall to second ledge at base of chimney. 2) 26m (10) Chimney to ledge and large block. Move R around block and finish up short crack. Daryl Carr, Rob Taylor (alt) 22.10.66

25. *Excalibur Variant 47m 16

A better way to do *Excalibur*. Interesting climbing on both pitches. **1)** 18m (16) Start as for *Excalibur* but belay at the first ledge. **2)** 29m (14) Climb the little corner on the R to the overhang. Pull R-ward through overhang then step back L. Up to roof, step L to finish up *Excalibur*'s chimney. Philip Armstrong, Jerry Maddox (alt) 27.10.11

26. **Yesukai 42m 17

Takes the attractive shallow corner 15m R of *Excalibur*, and just L of a landmark arete/low roof. Clean and steep, with some unexpectedly good holds and excellent gear. Up corner, step L when it ends and up to overhang. Above this move R (crux) to crack near arete. Up this to ledge (possible belay) then R and up 2 short walls. Rod Young, Kevin Lindorff 7.5.78

27. Tweedle Dum 45m 14

About 22m R of *Excalibur*, and 7m R of *Yesukai* are a pair of short L-facing corners, below a 1m roof @3m, with an arete and another roof up L. Initialled "TD" in white paint on the R. Up the RH corner to a ledge, make a rising traverse L ward for 3m then up short wall to ledge. Up wide crack, then short walls, cracks and gullies to top. Alan Gledhill, Geoff Gledhill 5.11.72

28. Dorothea Jordan 45m 19

Start: As for *Tweedle Dum.* **1)** 14m (14) Up short corner to ledge. Rising traverse L ward for 3m then up short wall to ledge. (As for *Tweedle Dum* which then continues up the wide crack above). **2)** 12m (19) R to corner, up this to roof. R around roof and up to ledge. **3)** 19m (18) Up crack and steep seam in wall behind, then another short wall and a corner on the L to the top. Philip Armstrong (P1&2) Jerry Maddox (P3) 27 10.11

29. Mitchell's Carpenter 47m 8

7 This route wasn't positively located for earlier guidebooks. It was described as starting 5m R of Tweedle Dum or "50m L of Order of the White Elephant"; I suspect instead it takes the corner/gully left of TD. potentially renumber. 1) 18m (8) Crack, exit R at overhang. Up L past overhang. 2) 18m (8) Crack, R to ledge. 3) 11m (8) Chimney Tom Banfield, Keith Woodward 1972

30. Tolpuddle 45m 15

Start at the bushy ledge at the base of *Upper Crust*, which is 15m L of *Order of The White Elephant*, 10m R of *Tweedle Dum*. 1) 30m (15) From L end of ledge head easily up and L a few meters to a ledge. Up short corner on R to roof, step out R and up line around bulge to ledge. R and up short crack to large ledge. 2) 15m (15) As for *Upper Crust*. Philip Armstrong, Jerry Maddox (alt) 15.4.12

31. *Upper Crust 40m 17

Steep and enjoyable face climbing. Start 10m R of Tweedle Dum/15m L of Order of The White Elephant, a seam/crack up an attractive wall. Reportedly initialled, but I was not able to find any. Scramble up onto bushy ledge with reddish rock. 1) 25m (17) Follow seam. 2) 15m (15) Short walls and crack. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox (alt) 11.3.06

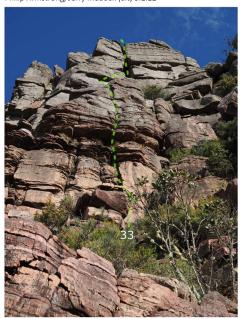
Order of The White Elephant is readily located: it's below a free-standing pinnacle higher on the cliff (40m up), although the pinnacle looks like part of the cliff from below, unless you're standing over to its left. Look for a cairn on a flat-top boulder, 7m downhill from the start.

32. *Order of the White Elephant 35m 17

A worthwhile outing at the grade. Start 15m R of *Upper Crust* at a L facing corner, initialled. There's a small (50cm) overhang about 8-9m up, L of the crack. 1) 20m (17) L facing corner then steep crack to sloping ledge. R to sentry box, then crack to ledge. 2) 15m (17) Cross crevasse and up wall to steep R-tending seam in headwall, up this (route originally exited off L). Greg Aimer, Chrissy Freestone 10.4.94. P2 as described: Philip Armstrong, John Stone 20.11.11

33. Silly Billy 35m 15

About 30m R of *Order of the White Elephant* is a buttress with a band of steep broken orange rock across its base (pictured). Scramble up to the RH edge of this band. Take care with large detached blocks on P1 which you have to pull over. **1)** 18m (15) Up RH crack over two bulges to a seam. Up seam until it steepens, step L and up to ledge. Up and R to ledge next to chimney. **2)** 17m (15) Up chimney and crack Philip Armstrong, Jerry Maddox (alt) 5.1.12



The track from below reaches the cliff just below Lower Orders.

34. *Lower Orders 40m 19

Approx 50m R of *Order of the White Elephant*, locate a short steep buttress with a thin crack leading to a

bulge. Faint initials left of the crack. (This is about 70m L of the major Mitchell Buttress) 1) 20m (19) Crack then up and R through bulge. 2) 20m (17) Up to and up obvious crack which is a good deal more awkward than expected. Jerry Maddox, Philip Armstrong (alt) 30.12.04

I haven't verified anything past this point. Seeking help.

35. Major Mitchell's Cup of Tea 33m 19

Good. Start: The buttress directly below where you [used to] reach the cliff. There is a distinctive boulder/pinnacle at the L edge of the face. 1) 25m (19) Up line behind pinnacle, trend R through small overlap into R hand seam. Up this to sentry box, exit R and up through bulge to ledge. 2) 8m (16) Step out R from ledge to finish up steep crack. (Can be avoided but is a lot of fun). Greg Aimer, Chrissy Freestone, 28.3.94

Major face and seam right of descent gully (near The Milkshake). Scramble to boulder on belay ledge, then thin seam for 2m to diagonal flake. Up left to seam and roof, then 1.5m right to crack. Right from sentry-box to bulging wall with ledge on left.

Philip Armstrong: I now believe that my route King Billy 18 (Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong 27.02.05) is a repeat of Major Mitchell's Cup of Tea. [however-1]

Mitchell's Cup of Tea, 2nd Pitch 19

The short second pitch which we did to Major Mitchell's Cup of Tea appears to be new. Philip Armstrong, Peter Cody [when?]

36. Major Mitchell's Fan Club 28m 16

From top of pillar, 4m R of *Major Mitchell's Cup of Tea*. Steep wall, short flake then L hand seam. Greg Aimer, Chrissy Freestone, 10.4.94

Seam 3m right of Major Mitchell's Cup of Tea, then right to left-facing corner.

36a Mrs Jordan 16

"From top of pillar, 4m R of KB. Steep wall, short

flake then L hand seam. Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox 13 March 2005"

- I believe this is a repeat of Greg Aimer's Major Mitchell's Fan Club 17. - Philip Armstrong

We cleaned a fair bit of loose stuff off of Major Mitchell's Fan Club before climbing it and it is probably now 16 rather than 17. Philip Armstrong

37. **Royal Bastard 28m 19

Excellent, sustained climbing. Start 4m R and 8m below *Major Mitchell's Fan Club*. Easy square cut chimney to ledge on L (possibly better to start from here). The surprisingly frantic groove and seam exiting R-ward to finish up short cracks and steep head wall. Jerry Maddox, Philip Armstrong 14.5.05

38. *William Who? 27m 17

Nice varied climb. The next buttress R of the King Billy buttress has a steep bushy gully in the centre (about 10m R of *Royal Bastard*). 1) 12m (17) The clean arete just R *of* the gully moving R when the angle eases to belay on ledge. 2) 15m (16) Corner then out R to finish up steep line. Jerry Maddox, Philip Armstrong (alt) and Chris Armstrong 13.5.05

39. House of Hanover 33m 19

Start 3m R of *William Who*. Wide crack to ledge below overhang. Follow good crack around overhang and R-ward up steep wall then back L-ward to finish as for *WW*. Philip Armstrong, Peter Cody 24.11.07

40. Last Will 18m 11

About 10m R of *William Who* starting on top of the platform 8m higher. Take crack up R side of short pillar and continue up through bulge to foot of large chimney. Climb R arete of chimney. Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong, Jerry Maddox 14.5.05

41. HMS Valiant 24m 17

Enjoyable face and arete. 40m R of *House of Hanover* is a buttress with an orange seam towards its L side, a few metres L of a deep line with 2 wide cracks up it. Steeply up seam until it ends at horizontal break, L to arete, up just R of arete to ledge. Line just L of arete to top. Cairned. Philip Armstrong, Peter Cody 24.11.07

42. Earl of Munster 10m 12

40m R of *HMS Valiant* (and clearly visible from the top of it) is a steep jam crack up the R wall of a gully. About 6m L of *Little Willy*. Philip Armstrong, Peter Cody 24.11.07

43. Little Willy 16m 21

Strenuous and pushy. On the front of the face around R of *Earl of Munster*. The thin seam on the L side of buttress which has wide cracks on its R side. At 10m step L to avoid a small corner leading to a dubious boulder. Stephen Hamilton, Peter Woolford 7.4.91

44. The Milkshake 30m 12

The original description said 'A track from the car park crosses the cutting near the N end and goes NE to the ridge. From the start of this track above the cutting go S to cliff above car park, L of 3rd gully'. So the climbs are somewhere on the cliffs visible from the car park? Who knows? 1) 12m Climb corner 7m L of middle chimney (*Dodo*) 2) 13m Corner to scrubby ledge. 3) 5m (12) L front of boulder. Tom Banfield, Laurie Doe, D. Delves (var) 3.1.72

45. Hello Sailor 36m 5

Start 2m R of *The Milkshake*. **1)** 21m (5) Front of L corner of buttress. **2)** 15m (5) Short wall, scramble to next face, climb R crack. Laurie Doe, Steven Pinder 3.1.72

46. Dodo 36m 8

Start 5m R of *Hello Sailor*. **1)** 21m (8) Chimney. **2)** 15m (5) As for *HS*. Laurie Doe, Keith Woodward 27.12.71

From VCC web site: MT WILLIAM - UPPER CLIFF

This buttress has very easy access for this cliff [no scrub bashing], is clean and has good rock. Walk up the Mt William Summit road about 800 metres to the 4th and last switchback. A rough track leads to the cliff top 30m away. Descend by abseil.