

Guidebook - Burnley Bouldering Walls

Email - burnleybouldering@vicclimb.org.au



Crag Summary

- Free to public. Open 24x7. Undercover.
- Rock type: Artificial walls. Plywood walls with resin holds.
- Proximity to Melbourne CBD: 2km
- Accessible by tram or train: Yes
- Pet friendly: Yes. You can attach your dog's leash to the wire fencing while you boulder.
- Family friendly: Yes. The crag has a picnic table, and the ground is flat. However young children need to be supervised due to the fact the crag is bordered by the river.
- Nearest public toilet: 5min walk.
- Nearest food stores: 2min drive or 10min walk (Swan St).
- Ground surface: Rubber matting. BYO bouldering mat for additional fall zone comfort.

History

In 1993, Chris Shepherd conceived the idea of having a long traverse wall near the CBD. The wall became very famous for its pumpy line. In 2003, risk management concerns highlighted the need for the route to be removed. Transurban (manager of CityLink) offered to sponsor the construction of a new facility, and Parks Victoria offered the location; inside McConchie Reserve in Burnley. A Burnley Project Manager position on the VCC (Victorian Climbing Club) committee was created to oversee the project, and a project team was assembled to commence the planning process.

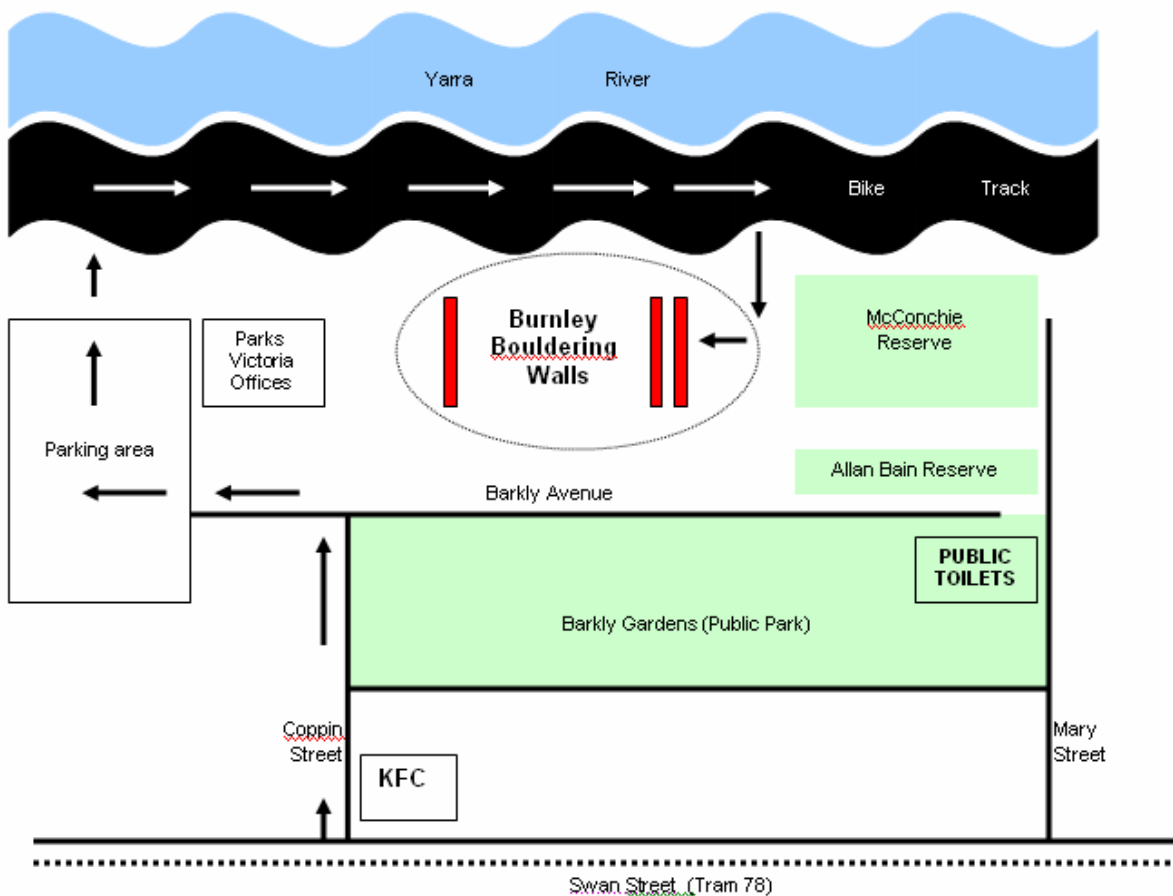
The VCC Burnley Project Manager rallied the climbing community to create a series of construction teams, leveraging skills climbers had developed in their day jobs. Construction began on January 31st, 2006, and the first routes appeared on April 29th, 2006. Regular internet posts on progress were viewed by other organisations, who came forward and offered their support. Four months and more than 130 volunteers later, the three walls were opened to the public.

When to go

Burnley is open 24x7, and access is free. The freeway provides protection from the rain in the form of a massive roof. The crowds tend to congregate during the afternoon in the winter, when a little sun creeps through to warm the area. In summer the freeway roof cap keeps conditions nice and cool; though the left hand end of the 45 wall might have the sun hitting it in the evenings (estimate 6pm).

On weekends, Sundays seem to be busier.

Getting there



By car

From Swan St Richmond, turn into Coppin St on the KFC side of the road. Go to the end and turn left into Barkly Avenue. Pass through the Parks Victoria entranceway and park your vehicle. Wander down the gravel driveway towards the river, turn right and walk across the floating pontoon bridge, and after approximately 100m you're there!

By bicycle

Follow the Yarra Trail to Burnley. When you find yourself opposite Herring Island, and in between Coppin St and Mary St on the map, you're there.

By tram

Tram 78 along Church St gets you the closest.

Take tram 78 along Church St Richmond and get off as close as possible to the intersection of Church St and Yorkshire St. Walk east along Yorkshire St in the direction of Mary St. Turn right into Mary St, walk through the Pedestrian subway and turn left when you hit the river. Walk for 200m or so and you're there.

Alternatively, take tram number 70 along Swan St Richmond and get off at the intersection of Swan St and Coppin St. Turn left at the end into Barkly Ave, and go through the Parks Vic entranceway. Walk down the gravel driveway and turn right when you hit the river. Walk across the floating pontoon bridge and Burnley is on your right.

By train

Take the train to Burnley station (The following lines will take you there: Lilydale, Belgrave, & Glen Waverley.) Walk along Madden Grove in the direction of Melbourne CBD. Turn left into Rooney St. at the dogleg in the road, head left through the Parks Victoria entrance gates. Wander down the gravel driveway towards the river, turn right and walk across the floating pontoon bridge, and after approximately 100m you're there!

Safety and Behaviour

Our sport is very much on show to the public at this location. Let's show Melbourne what a great climbing community we have by exhibiting suitable behaviour when using the facility.

Burnley is not a supervised facility. You will need to take responsibility for your own personal safety (as you would at the crag). Always use a spotter, and avoid being in the area alone after dark.

The correct spotting method is to position hands behind the climber's shoulders, with your fingers pointing outwards. Do not have your fingers pointing upwards towards the ceiling, as you are likely to injure your own hands during the climber's fall.

Please help keep the area clean. Keep all rubbish contained in your bag and take it with you when you leave. (Rubbish left lying on the ground during your session will almost certainly be picked up by the breeze and dumped in the river – not good).

Please wear footwear when climbing on the walls (no bare feet!)

The nearest public toilets are located in Barkly Gardens in Mary St, near the corner of Barkly Avenue. If you decide to bring pets "to the crag" at Burnley, please keep them off the rubber matting. Please also be sure to clean up after them if they "visit the loo".

Burnley will essentially present an opportunity to newcomers to try rock climbing. Please be welcoming of newcomers, and offer them some tips when you can. More participants in our sport leads to more stability for the gyms and climbing stores, which means good things for you, the climber.

When in conversation with newcomers, assist in guiding them into our world. Let them know that Melbourne also offers climbing gyms that can cater for children's parties etc, and the location of the climbing stores.

Be mindful that there are some people living very close to our site. They have been there longer than our site has, and have assisted in the construction of the bouldering walls, and kept a protective eye on them when we are not there. We are very grateful to these people and hope you will be also.

Be respectful that nearby parking is in residential streets. Help minimise the impact to local residents by using alternative means of transport where possible. We are located right next to the Yarra Trail (bike path). Cycling to Burnley is a great way to warm up for your session on the wall! If you plan to drive, refer to the notes under "Getting to Burnley" regarding where to park.

You are welcome to bring along lighting to cater for evening sessions if you wish – but please keep lighting away from the walls (and other wooden surfaces) and off the mats. Most climbers find a headtorch more than adequate.

In an emergency, dial 000 and specify your location is McConchie Reserve. Access is via the southern end of Mary Street, Burnley, Melway reference 2M 2B.

The wall will be attended to intermittently by Burnley "staff". Such people can be identified by brightly coloured vests. Spinning holds / feedback etc can be reported to these people. Alternatively, please send your comments via email to burnleybouldering@vicclimb.org.au

Route Descriptions – Vertical Wall



Vertical Wall - Main Routes

** All main routes on the vertical wall are designed such that they can be climbed in either direction. In general, left to right is easier and nicer climbing.

** All routes are climbable in running shoes.

** Why not try making up your own routes by mixing the colours!

Red. Grade 6/7. Offers large footholds, and two tiers of handholds. People as short as four years old will be able to climb this route! Routesetter - Louisa Iacono, 27.05.2006.

Green. Grade 12. Plenty of nice big holds. Routesetter – Meily Effendy, 27.05.2006.

White. Grade 15. Routesetter – Steve Ford, 27.05.2006.

Black. Grade 17/18. Routesetters – Louisa Iacono, Jacqui Middleton, 27.05.2006.

Blue. Grade 18. Routesetter – Clarke Vincent, 27.05.2006.

Route Descriptions – 30 Degree Wall



30 degree wall - Main Routes

** All main routes on the 30 degree wall are designed such that they can be climbed in either direction. In general, left to right is easier and nicer climbing. **

** Why not create your own variant routes by mixing the colours! **

Blue & White swirlies. Grade 17. Juggy route with holds nice and close together. Suitable for adults, or people aged as young as 8 years old. Routesetters – Michaelangelo Duran, Rebecca Hopkins, Robert Creedon, 23.07.2006.

Black. Grade 18. Sensational route with massive holds. Routesetter – Louisa Iacono, 29.04.2006

Green. Grade 22. Learn how to move through an iron-cross move, from the comfort of juggy handholds that aren't too far apart. Routesetter – Jacqui Middleton 06.05.2006

Red. Grade 24. Routesetter – Tim Le, 05.06.2006.

Pink Circuit. Grade 26. (Top row only is grade 23. Bottom row only is grade 25.) The circuit can be done in a circular fashion, or in a figure 8 shaped circuit, in any direction. Routesetters – Martin Lama and Tim Marsh, 29.04.2006.

Yellow. Grade 26/27. Get those shoulders ready for some quality press moves! Routesetters – Tim Marsh, Martin Lama and Jacqui Middleton, 29.04.2006.

30 degree wall - "Up" Problems

Purple & yellow swirlies. Hangboard configuration. Left hand end of wall. Holds donated by John Stone. Routesetter - Tim Le, 20.05.2006.

Purple & yellow swirlies. Moderate problem. Just beside the hangboard configuration. Holds donated by Gerard Healey. Routesetter - Tim Le, 20.05.2006

White. Hard. Routesetter – Michaelangelo Duran, 25.06.06.

Light orange. Hard. One third of the way in from the left end of wall. Holds from [Woodie Worx](#). Routesetter - Tim Le, 20.05.2006

Blue. Moderate. Centre of wall. Routesetter – Tim Le.

Dark orange. Super hard. Centre of wall. Holds donated from many climbers. Routesetter - Tim Le, 20.05.2006.

Blue. Moderate. Centre of wall. Routesetter – Tim Le.

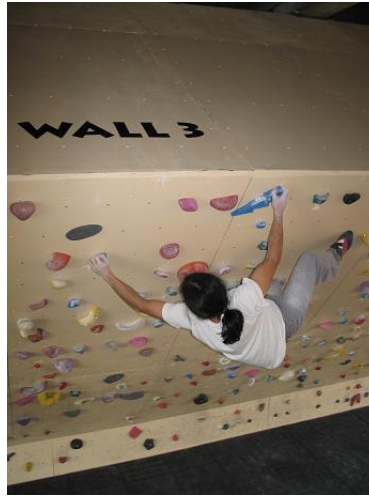
Red and Blue swirlies. Right hand end of wall. Moderate. Holds from [Infinite Holds](#). Routesetter – Joe O'Connell, 06.05.2006.

Purple. Right hand end of wall. Hard. Holds from woodies around Australia. Routesetter – Steve Ford, 27.05.2006.

Blue. Right hand end of wall. Easy & juggy. Holds from woodies around Australia. Routesetter – Chris Toan, 28.05.2006.

White. Moderate. Routesetters - Jacqui Middleton, Michaelangelo Duran. 25.06.06.

Route Descriptions – 45 Degree Wall



45 Degree Wall – Main Routes

** Routes are designed to go from right to left. **

White. Grade 20. Keep an eye out for the fancy rotational twist move at the end! Routesetters – Jacqui Middleton and Clarke Vincent, 21.05.2006

Burnt Orange. Grade 21/22. Plenty of positive holds, with a move that tests your understanding of your centre of gravity! Routesetter – Louisa Iacono, 01.06.2006.

Purple. Grade 25. A bit of everything! Snatching to pinches, a bit of delicate stuff through pockets, a powerful move off an undercling and a high heelhook. Routesetter – Jacqui Middleton, 06.05.2006.

Stone. Grade 25. Something for the talk folk! Routesetter – Joe O'Connell, 06.05.2006.

Red. Grade 27. Prepare your ego for a battering near the end – on the heartbreaking semicircle hold! Routesetter – Phil Neville, 06.05.2006.

Yellow. Grade 28. Routesetter – Andy Ellemor, 12.05.2006.

Blue. Grade 29. See if you can tell the difference between the handholds and the footholds on this toughie! Routesetter – Andy Ellemor, 07.05.2006.

45 Degree Wall – "Up" Problems

*** There are plenty of extra random holds on this wall, so you can design your own problems! ***

Green. Left hand end of wall. Moderate. Routesetters – Tim Storey and Sam Morley, 24.06.2006.

Pink. Left hand end of wall. Hard. Holds from Mingy Goat Climbing Equipment. Routesetter – Chris Toan, 28.05.2006.

Flourescent Yellow. Left end of wall. Moderate. Look out for the fancy heelhook! Routesetter – Rebecca Hopkins, Tim Le.

Black. Left hand end of wall. Easy. Holds from Woodie Worx. Routesetter – Phil Neville, 06.05.2006.

Magenta. Super hard. Holds from Tasty Holds. Routesetters – Scott Clarke, Sam Morely, Anthony Prieto, Selena.

Brown. Centre of wall. Moderate. Holds purchased from a woodie in Queensland. Routesetter - Tim Le, 20.05.2006

Green. Hard. Routesetters - Alex Iser and Sam Morley. 24.06.2006.

Turquoise. Right hand end of wall. Hard. Holds from Woodie Worx. Routesetter – Tim Marsh, 06.05.2006.

Black. Right hand end of wall. Super hard. Holds from Woodie Worx, Infinite Holds and Mingy Goat Climbing Equipment. Very hard. Routesetter – Jacqui Middleton, 28.05.2006.

Pink. Right hand end of wall. Super easy - monster jugs. Do-able even if you're short (ie a little kid). Holds are from Mingy Goat Climbing Equipment. Routesetter - Alister Robertson, 21.05.2006