

Wellington Park Rock Climbing Meeting

Notes from Meeting

26 May 2008

Attendance: Tony McKenny; Doug Bruce; Pete Steane; Stu Scott; Roger Parkyn; Alan Williams; Al Adams; Phil Robinson; John Burgess; Peter Jackson; Adrian Harrington (Climbers); Richard Greenhill, Lindsay Ashlin, Owen Gervasoni (HCC); Michael Easton (WPMT)

Apologies: Justin Otlowski; Margie Jenkin

1 Track Management

- Existing tracks are largely along lines of least resistance
- There are a number of tracks leading to the base of climbs
- There is trampling of vegetation due to people having to work through vegetation
- Tracks are becoming overgrown as the re-growth below the crags continues. Working through vegetation might be seen as part of the experience..... but is resulting in more damage
- The existing tracks are Class 5 (refer attached), and are not currently shown on maps etc.
- Any improvement in track condition may lead to greater use by walkers, which may have an impact on climbing potential
- Any recommended track network would be considered by the Trust in light of all natural and cultural values
- There are some areas where erosion is now an issue, particularly below Blue Meridian and Suicide Sadness

Actions:

- *small group (Roger, Tony, Al, Doug) to mark up a map showing all existing tracks – including Pinnacle area and Lost world – and recommend a preferred network*
- *Al to meet Richard and Lindsay on-site to review some of the more immediate erosion issues*

[Site meeting has now occurred]

2 Access from carpark

- Needs to be low key and informal to reduce use by non-climbers
- Lindsay recommends extending the stonewall to provide informal steps

Action:

- *Lindsay/Richard to submit rock walling proposal to Trust for approval*

3 Car Parking

3.1 Climbers car park

- Increase in climbers means more cars, so longer term solutions need to be considered

- It was suggested that there is poor visibility coming up the Road, and any narrowing of the road due to parking will exacerbate this
- Support on the road verge may be problematic
- Moving the large rock on the upslope side of the car park would enable more space
- Owen outlined a basic plan which revolves around: giving an indication as to how cars should park on the western side; using warning signs for drivers approaching the carparking area; and moving the bollards on the eastern side to provide more room

Action:

- *Owen to prepare draft parking plan and distribute for comment*
[Plan has been distributed along with Notes of meeting]

3.2 Sawmill Track

- Used to provide some parking however has been closed for some years

Action:

- *Michael to determine reasons for closure*

[Council staff advise that the spot was closed due to its inadequacy (only provided one space), difficulty and dangerousness of use, and use by mountain bikers illegally accessing the Sawmill Track]

3.3 Lost World

- It was suggested that the spaces right on the corner of Big Bend are dangerous and poorly sited, and better parking is available either at Big Bend car park, or further down Pinnacle Road

Action:

- *Owen to include closure in overall traffic plan for Pinnacle Road*

3.4 Lenah Valley Track

- These spaces are used by climbers, however it was agreed that they should be left in their current state

4 50th Anniversary

- Anniversary provides opportunity to showcase climbing, bring forward photos/memorabilia, and to record oral histories
- Could be timed for Nov/Dec 08
- Display could be held in HCC Atrium, but requires quality images and is a lot of work
- 7.30 Report may be interested, or special feature in the Mercury?
- May be suitable for Trust's Occasional Series, with the opportunity for a number of articles (reflections, anecdotes etc.) and images

Action:

- *Climbers to consider the options for the anniversary*
- *Michael to determine whether the topic is suitable for Wellington Park Papers*
[It is suitable]

5 Next Meeting

- Probably sometime in September, given various absences; to be advised