

Bolting guide

- Local climbers recommend the following bolting practices:
 - 316 stainless steel or titanium only (due to corrosion);
 - Minimum bolt shaft diameter 10mm;
 - Minimum U bolt shaft diameter 8mm;
 - Minimum embedment depth 50mm;
 - Use rings or U bolts in preference to chains as lower offs – place 2 in each location for safety;
 - Any two metal components placed together must be same grade of steel;
 - All manufactured protection to meet the European Standard;
 - Make sure all rings, bolts and U bolts are embedded and glued correctly; and
 - Use industrial masonry glues recommended for bolting practice.
- Not recommended:
 - No hammered in carrots, no pitons, and no galvanised bolts;
 - Expansion bolts are not preferred due to the corrosive environment; and
 - No self tapping/self drilling bolts unless manufactured for climbing – and meeting European Standards.
- Some good references are:
 - ‘Safer Cliffs Australia’ www.safercliffs.org
 - ‘Victorian Climbing Club’ www.vicclimb.org.au

Tread lightly on the earth

- Keep to rocks, hard ground and established tracks where possible.
- Avoid damaging vegetation, including moss and lichens.
- Keep groups small, avoid the spread of impacts around climbing sites.
- Use “lower offs” where installed to reduce your impacts.
- Avoid disturbing flora and fauna:
 - Be aware of rare and threatened species. Cleaning of cracks, damage to moss and vegetation threatens their habitat.
 - Be aware of nesting birds, especially during breeding season.
 - Use slings to protect trees – prefer use of bolts/lower offs where provided and safe.
- Avoid the excessive use of chalk due to the visual impact; especially near walking tracks.

Cover shot: Climb is called Thin Fiend
Climber is Sarah Truscott, photographer Ben Cirulis
Inside shot: Climb is called Prow
Climber is James Hamilton, photographer Sarah Truscott

Consider other reserve users

- Consider your impacts on other visitors and their experiences:
 - Including visitors who may be unaware of climbing dangers.
 - Other climbers.
 - Organised groups: keep small and well managed. The Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standards (draft 2007) provides accepted guidelines for the conduct of any organised climbing or abseiling.
- Warn onlookers politely of dangers - you are responsible for their safety!
- Be careful above other reserve users and walking tracks. If you are unsure of the risks or there is any likelihood of injury to others, avoid that site.
- Keep the scenic values of the reserve intact; avoid the excessive use of chalk and bolts.
- Avoid ‘hogging’ climbs and cliffs.
- Resolve disputes in a civilised way.

Your responsibility

- It’s your responsibility to exercise judgement and discretion at all times. You are responsible for your own safety, the safety of your group, and that of bystanders (any other visitors to the reserves that may be impacted by your activities).
- Accepting personal responsibility also includes your use of bolts and lower offs:
 - All fixed protection has been placed by climbers and abseilers: be aware of the dangers associated with using bolts and lower offs.
 - Bolting should only be carried out by experienced persons and to accepted practice.
- Launceston City Council does not inspect or audit the sites to ascertain whether they are safe or not, or whether there are any hidden dangers. Council has no expertise in that field. It is up to you to climb and abseil responsibly.**
- Launceston City Council accepts no responsibility for climbing sites, or any accidents and incidents resulting from climbing or abseiling activities.**



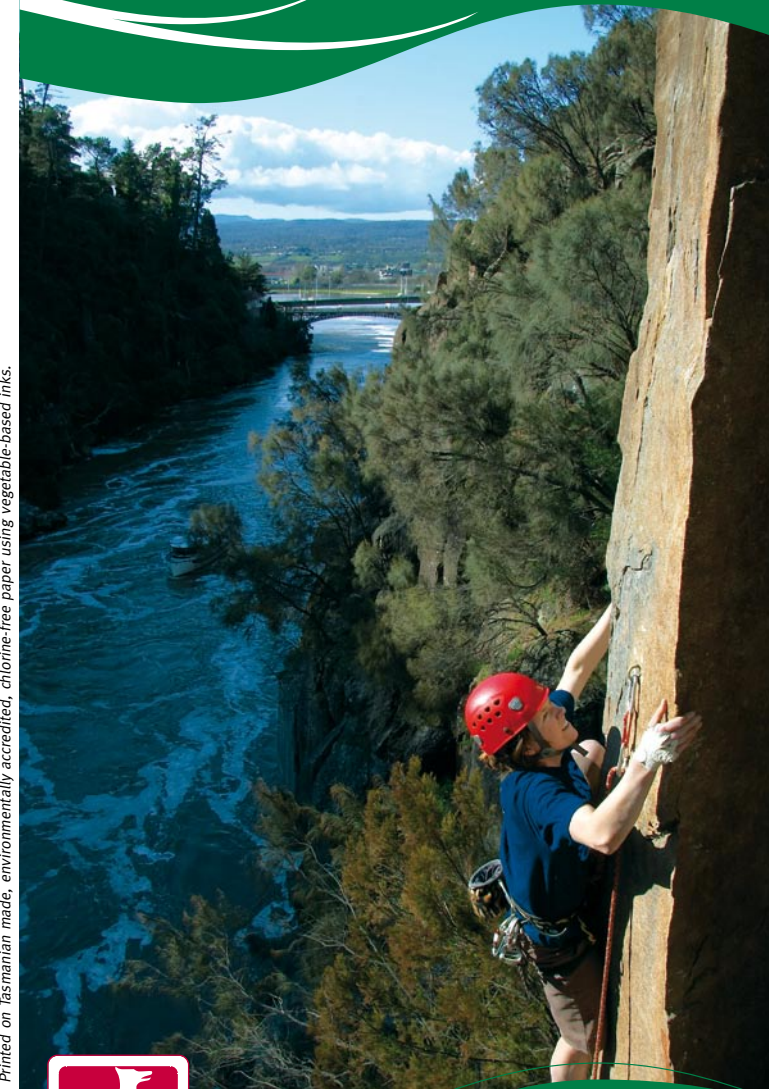
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www.launceston.tas.gov.au

Rock Climbing Code of Conduct

For Cataract Gorge and Punchbowl Reserves



Printed on Tasmanian made, environmentally accredited, chlorine-free paper using vegetable-based inks.

1-1107 www.launceston.tas.gov.au

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to:

- Preserve the opportunity to climb and abseil;
- Conserve our natural resources;
- Maintain visitor safety; and
- Promote the responsible use and sound management of climbing resources.

This Code has been developed in partnership between Launceston City Council, local climbers and abseilers and with assistance from Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

Local climbers and abseilers are helping Launceston City Council to maintain access to the Cataract Gorge and Punchbowl Reserves. If you would like to be involved, please contact Launceston City Council for further information.

The Cataract Gorge and Punchbowl Reserves are recognised as important cultural, recreational and natural assets of Launceston. Cataract Gorge is heavily promoted and visited by interstate and international visitors, and is a significant regional and state icon.

The Cataract Gorge and Punchbowl Reserves are identified as having rare, threatened and endangered species that must be protected. Sustainable use of these reserves is a priority.

Climb and abseil safely and responsibly

- When you enter climbing and abseiling areas, most hazards are obvious. These include cliffs, loose boulders and rocks, steep and unstable slopes and old trees, etc.
- Being alert and having a high awareness of these hazards will help to protect you, your group and others.
- Remember that your safety is in your hands:
 - Are you aware of and do you accept the risks?
 - Do you understand the environmental and social impacts?
 - Do you have the skills and experience?
- Use approved and suitably checked equipment at all times. Climbing helmets are highly recommended.

Launceston City Council accepts no responsibility for climbing sites, or accidents and incidents resulting from climbing or abseiling activities.

Accidents and hazards

Please observe the following:

- Council may occasionally close the reserves due to fire, heavy rain, fallen rocks and trees and public events. Refer to Launceston City Council's website www.launceston.tas.gov.au for details of major events and further information.
- Emergencies:
 - To report an emergency dial 000 (if no mobile service, dial 112);
 - Police are responsible for cliff rescues and the coordination and allocation of rescue services.
- To report an issue phone Launceston City Council 24hrs on 6323 3000.
- Contact the Parks and Recreation Department on 6323 3610 for further information regarding access to the management strategy document.

Access to the reserves

- Launceston City Council has no regulations on how to climb or abseil.
- There is no licence system for organised or commercial groups, although impacts and use by groups will be monitored.
- Act responsibly - your actions impact on access for everyone. Please follow this Rock Climbing Code of Conduct.
- Authorised Launceston City Council Officers have the right to enforce Launceston City Council By-laws.

Climbing and abseiling sites

- Use an accurate/recent guide book (description) to find sites and climbs.
- **Cataract Walk** (the shady side) is a popular and heavily marketed tourist destination. All climbing requires a high level of caution to ensure the safety of all other visitors.
- Access to **Moorhead Buttress** is via a steep, shallow-soiled slope with fragile vegetation and is also directly above the Cataract Walk – (light pole 26). Access is not recommended to protect the vegetation that stabilises the slope, and the safety of other visitors.
- **Trackside Buttress** is directly beside the Zig Zag Track (non-shady side). There is adequate room to conduct well managed and supervised climbing and abseiling activities, while protecting the safety of other reserve users. The top of this Buttress is steep and contains loose rocks. Access should be minimised, and possibly restricted and carefully supervised to protect other visitors.
- Stick to established access tracks - please don't create new tracks.
- Please contact Launceston City Council 6323 3610 before establishing a new area or climb.

Some simple rules

- No alcohol and no camping.
- There are varying restrictions for dogs throughout the Cataract Gorge and Punchbowl Reserves. Please check local signs and restrictions, however dogs are not allowed on any climbing sites.
- No fires or fuel stoves.
- Please carry out all rubbish, including slings and climbing tape, lolly wrappers etc.
- Please no toileting due to the steep slopes, shallow soil and close proximity to water.
 - At Cataract Gorge there are public toilets under the Basin Café, Cliff Grounds Rotunda and at Park Street.

Fixed anchors and bolting

- Our philosophy encourages "Clean Climbing", the use of lead climbing techniques and protection as opposed to aid climbing and the indiscriminate or excessive use of bolts.
- Respect climbing traditions:
 - Do not change an existing climb.
 - Don't place bolts next to cracks or other natural protection.
 - Minimal bolting is acceptable but not encouraged.
 - It's ok to place "lower offs" – especially to reduce erosion and increase safety.
- It's very important not to use Launceston City Council structures to belay or abseil. They are not designed for this purpose, and may pose a risk to users and the general public.
- All bolts have been placed by individual climbers. Council does not inspect or test the adequacy of bolts, pitons or other anchors. You are responsible for your own actions regarding the use and installation of any fixed anchors.

