

Tuross Falls

Climbing Guide

July 2005

Tuross Falls is a new area in terms of climbing and just 2 hours drive from Canberra. The falls are located in the Wadbilliga State Forest. Free camping with fireplaces and picnic tables make weekend expeditions a great proposition. The ranger is also extremely climber friendly.



The Tuross River plunges 40m into the gorge

There is easy to moderate grade canyoning above the falls with excellent swimming at the 'Cascades', a water polished granite slippery slide. Make sure you slide down on the side closest to the access stairs otherwise you will require an arse transplant. Head 200 m upstream from the main falls to do some excellent Hi-ball (10-15m) above water free solos.

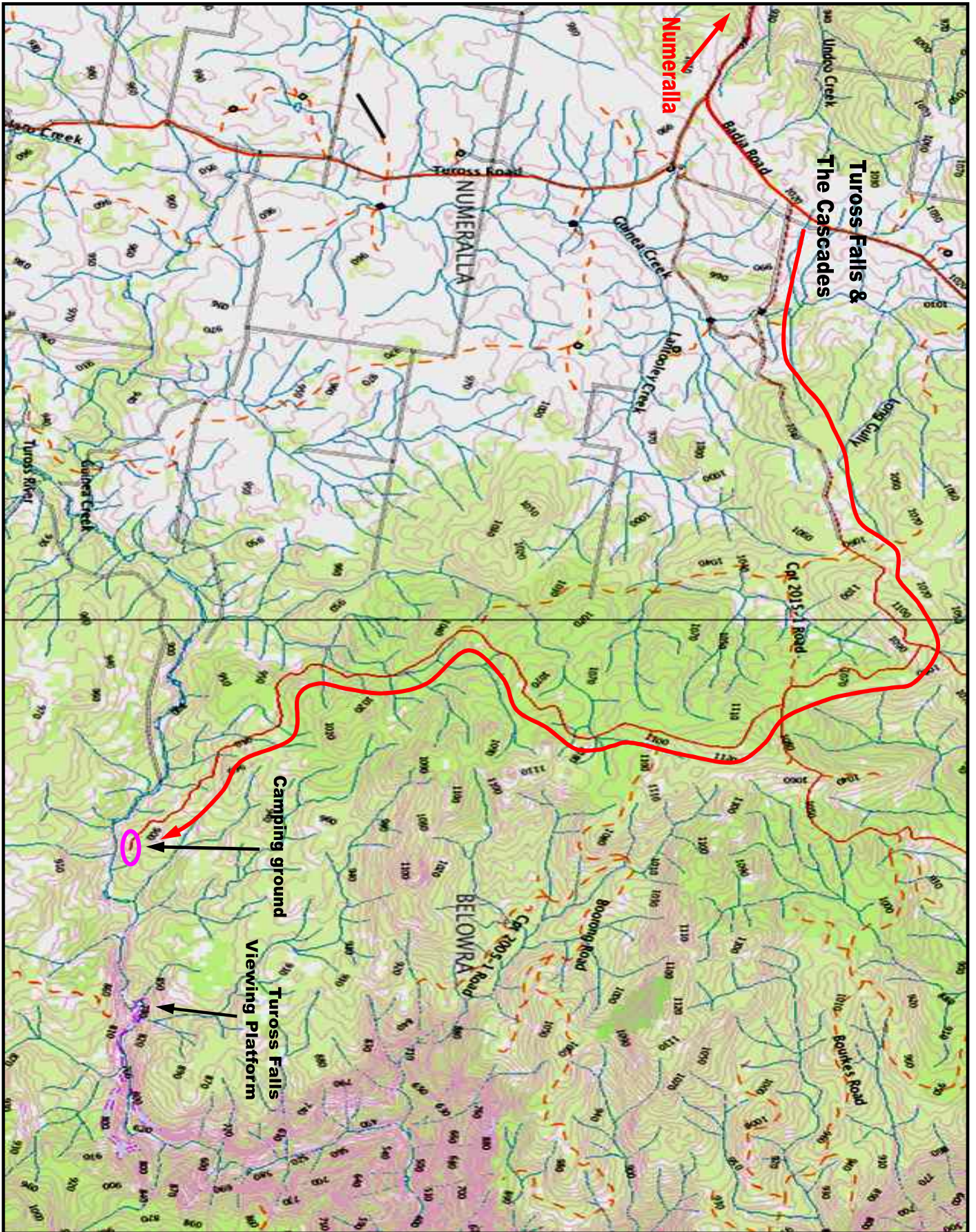
Directions

Head to Cooma and turn left onto the Numeralla road just before you reach Cooma. It is easy to miss the first turn off. Don't worry if you get into Cooma as you can turn left near the railway line. Follow the signs to Numeralla and continue on the tarred road until it turns to dirt. After a few hundred metres of dirt make a right hand turn and follow the signs to the Wadbilliga State Forest and the 'Cascades'. The road is well maintained and suitable for the average climb mobile.

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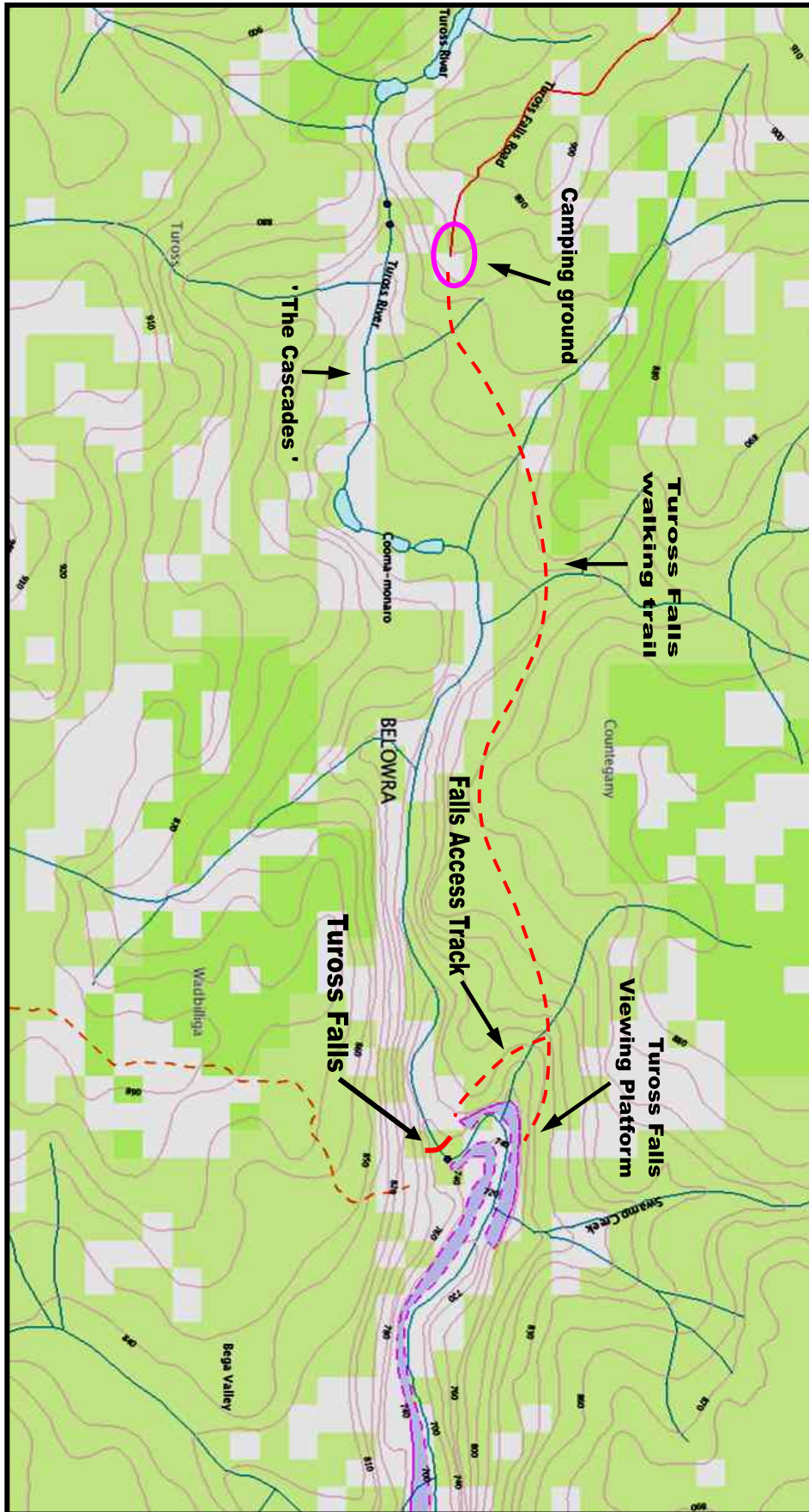
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Access

Park your car in the upper car park unless you are planning on camping. Follow the marked walking trail to the falls viewing platform. The 1.7km walk-in is a relatively flat and takes about 30 minutes. About 300m from the car park you pass through a number of boulders, with a few crack lines on them. When you get to the metal viewing platform look towards the 40m falls. On the left you can see a large slab and arête with a huge block perched above the valley, this is **Brown Underpants Arête**. On the right a prominent crack-line capped by roofs is evident, this is **Can't Hear You!**. To access the climbs, walk back along the track until it crosses below and to the left of a slab, look for a rather indistinct track heading towards the falls. Cross the gully and follow the ridge line towards the falls, turn left after about 100m and head down a steep gully for **Can't hear you!** and **Brown Underpants Arête**. You will pass **Can't Hear You!** on your right.

For **Brown Underpants Arête** follow the gully to the river, traverse left until above the lower falls and cross here. Scramble up the left hand side of the cliff and follow the saddle down towards the main falls till at the edge of the arête. It takes 15 minutes of serious bush bashing from the viewing platform, watch out for stinging nettles. To access to **Consumer Friendly** and **Black Adder** rap of the slings at the top of the falls. If the river level is low you can fix a line to the water level and rock hop across to **Brown Underpants Arête**.

The steep wall (5 plus metres overhung in 25m) left of **Brown Underpants Arête** has potential for several hard trad routes, so head on down and beat the crowd to the FA.

Warning

Climbing at Tuross is adventure climbing in the true sense. The climbs described are relatively remote and rescue will be a long time coming and difficult to effect. The noise created by the falls can make communication extremely difficult. The routes described have had few if any repeat ascents, loose/friable rock is present on all of the routes described.

[Wear a helmet and belay well away from the climbing line.](#)



**Brown Underpants Arête
from viewing platform**



**Brown Underpants Arête
from beneath**



**Hot Dam Hot
30m 20/21**

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👋👋👋😊 **Brown Underpants Arête**

18

90m

P1 40m 18. Head up thin crack line a few metres right of the arête to base of a detached flake, protect with small wires and RPs. Traverse right around flake and move left above the flake to the arête. Head up the base of the bottomless chimney around the corner to the belay ledge.

P2 50m 15. Head right and up from the belay for 10m, traverse 30m along great orange rock. Continue 10m to top. Back clean to P1 belay and rap off the fixed gear.

Adam Steer & David Cameron November 2003

Special Prize a six-pack of beer is on offer to anyone who can tell the FA team what the fixed gear at the P1 belay consists of. Rick Carey claimed the prize in May 2005, it required two separate attempts with a number of death defying falls.



Can't hear you! 75m 20

😊😊 **Can't hear you!**

20

75m

P1. 25m 20. Follow the thin crack-line up the wall for about 15m until the crack disappears (Excellent pro). A gripping traverse left gets you pulse racing (No gear). Follow the edge of the flake up and mantle onto the ledge.

P2. 30m. Walk left, be careful not to dislodge anything onto your belayer.

P3. 20m 16. Head up left leaning slab, avoiding loose blocks on right hand edge.

Dave Cameron & Adam Steer December 2003



Consumer Friendly 16 45m

☺☺☺ **Consumer Friendly**

16 45m

Rap in from the fixed abseil point to the right of the falls. There are several ledges on the way down to the water line. Spray from the falls can leave the lower ledges wet and slippery. Use your own judgment on where to start. Follow the ledges and corner crack to the top. There are several variant finishes all at the same grade.

Rick Carey, Jamie Valdivia April 2005



Black Adder 21/22 50m

☺☺ **Black Adder**

21/22 50m

Arrange anchors 10m right of the fixed abseil point. Rap in to a small ledge just centimeters above the water line. Two 0.5 cams in a horizontal crack about waist height stop you falling in the drink.

- P1. (19) Head up the black overhanging left leaning arête on small wires. Swing right about 10m up and climb the ramp to a large ledge. Be careful the gear is very thin.
- P2. (21/22) Head up the short wall at the back of the ledge and crank through the roof. Don't get stuck under the roof if you are tall.
- P3. (19) Traverse right on the ever diminishing ledge. Funky technical moves gets you established in the crack. Follow the crack up to a large ledge. Climb the slippery water polished slab to a left trending flake to the top. The initial moves on the slab are harder than they look.

Rick Carey #1 & #3, Dave Cameron #2, May 2005

From the top of the falls rock-hop up the river about 100m until you see an undercut 30m slab on the left hand side.

☺☺☺ **Hot Damm Hot**

20/21

30m

Start in the centre of the steep undercut slab. Crank through the bulge (21) or traverse in from left (20) and follow the crack line to the top of the slab. Rap off slings.

Dave Cameron & Adam Steer November 2003.