

## Impact *continued...*

- Keep climbing groups small and well managed. Check the Tasmanian Adventure Activity Standards for accepted guidelines for organised climbs.
- Avoid disturbing flora and fauna.
- Be aware of rare and threatened species. Cleaning cracks, damage to moss and vegetation can threaten their habitat.
- Be aware of nesting birds.
- Be considerate of other visitors and limit your impact on their experience.
- Don't leave any rubbish behind.
- There is to be no toileting on climbing sites.
- No alcohol, camping, fires or fuel stoves are allowed on climbing sites.
- No pets are allowed on climbing sites.



## 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 two 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.
- 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.
- No self tapping/self drilling bolts unless manufactured for climbing – and meeting European Standards.

## Further information

- 'Safer Cliffs Australia' [www.safercliffs.org](http://www.safercliffs.org)
- 'Victorian Climbing Club' [www.vicclimb.org.au](http://www.vicclimb.org.au)



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# Rock Climbing Code of Conduct

for the Cataract Gorge Reserve





The Rock Climbing Code of Conduct aims to preserve the opportunity to climb and abseil, conserve Launceston's natural resources, maintain visitor safety and promote the responsible use and management of climbing resources.

It has been developed in partnership by the Launceston City Council, local climbers and abseilers and with assistance from Sport and Recreation Tasmania.

## Sites

You must use a recent guide book to find sites and climbs within the Cataract Gorge Reserve. These three sites require the following safety considerations:

- 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 other visitors. Safety cones are to be placed on the Cataract Walk adjacent to the Prince of Darkness and Aretes areas to notify walkers of climbing activity above.
- 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. 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. Safety cones are to be placed on the Zig Zag Track adjacent to the Trackside Buttress to notify walkers of climbing activity above.

## Emergencies

To report an emergency dial 000 (if there is no mobile service, dial 112). The Tasmania Police are responsible for cliff rescues and the coordination and allocation of rescue services.



## Safety

You are responsible for your own safety, your group's safety and that of bystanders. The Council doesn't inspect or audit sites or inspect or test the adequacy of bolts and other anchors. The Council accepts no responsibility for climbing sites, or accidents and incidents resulting from climbing or abseiling activities.

It is up to you to climb and abseil responsibly. To achieve this, please adhere to the following:

- Be aware of hazards in climbing and abseiling areas such as loose boulders and rocks, steep and unstable slopes and old trees.
- Remember that your safety is in your hands. Think about the risks and ensure you have the skills and experience to safely complete the climb.
- Use approved and suitably checked equipment at all times. Climbing helmets are highly recommended.
- Bolting should only be carried out by an experienced person and in line with the accepted practice.
- Warn other visitors of potential dangers.
- Take care when climbing or abseiling above other reserve users or walking tracks.
- Avoid hogging climbs and cliffs.
- Resolve disputes in a civilised way.

The Council may close reserves due to fire, heavy rain, fallen rocks and trees and public events. Please refer to the Launceston City Council's website [www.launceston.tas.gov.au](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au) for details when this occurs.

To report an issue call the Launceston City Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 6323 3000. For further information regarding access to the management strategy document, please call the Council's Parks and Recreation Department on 03 6323 3610.



## Impact

The Cataract Gorge Reserve is recognised as an important cultural, recreational and natural asset of Launceston. The Reserve is a significant regional and state icon and accordingly attracts a high number of visitors.

The Cataract Gorge Reserve is also identified as the habitat of rare, threatened and endangered species that must be protected. The sustainable use of these reserves is a priority.

The Council's philosophy encourages "clean climbing" so the impact on the environment is minimal. This can be achieved by adhering to the following:

- Don't change an existing climb.
- Stick to established access tracks. If you want to establish a new area or climb, you must call the Council on 03 6323 3610 beforehand.
- Don't place bolts next to cracks or other natural protection.
- Don't use Council structures to belay or abseil. They are not designed for this purpose and may pose a risk to users and the general public.
- Place lower offs (especially to reduce erosion and increase safety) and use these to reduce your impact.
- Use slings to protect trees where bolts or lower offs can't be used.
- Minimal bolting is acceptable but not encouraged.
- Avoid the excessive use of chalk.
- Keep to rocks, hard ground and established tracks where possible.

