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# Indonesia 1995

## Carstensz Pyramid, Irian Jaya

### **A new route on the North Face**

On 12 May 1995 I climbed my 'seventh summit'. My companions were my wife Sharu, Chris Brown from the UK, and Mark Bowen and Tom Calaghan from the US. On 13 May we climbed a new route on Carstensz North Face, taking a line to the left of the 1972 Isherwood route. All the pitches were long, around 5.8/5.9, on superb rock with the occasional peg belay, but usually protection was from wires and Friends wedged in between the spiky flutings.

This was a very fine mountain route, about TD or Grade V, on delectable high mountainous limestone. There are now six, possibly seven, new routes on the North Face but there is ample scope for many more. Access will always be a problem and the other big problem is the weather. This area has a reputation for heavy rainfall and in our experience the climbing had to be completed by noon, or 1pm at the latest. On the descent from our new route, the gullies to left and right of some of the flutings down which we abseiled were running streams of water. Nevertheless it is an extremely good rock-climbing area, with scope not only on the North Face for new routes, but on all the outlying peaks, pinnacles and ridges. It is also tremendous walking country and no one has yet made a traverse all the way from Carstensz to Trikora Peak (4730m) over in the east. That would be a fantastic walking/mountaineering expedition.

*Doug Scott*

### **South Face Variation**

From 8-10 November our party of ten climbers completed an approximate 25-mile approach to the base of the South Face of the Carstensz Pyramid. Thereafter, nine of our climbers summited the mountain on 11 and 12 November, including Dolly Lefever, the first American woman to climb the seven continental summits (both Kosciusko and Carstensz options). British leader Nick Banks and New Zealander Colin Monteath fixed a Tyrolean traverse across the summit ridge's crux notch, eliminating the more time-consuming rappel and 80ft South Face pitch (5.8), classic finish to this route. Other summiters included Americans Bill Martin, Mike Hightower, Randy Carnahan, Richard Birrer and Paul Pfau and Indonesian Ripto Mulyono. Australian Martin Reeve was also an expedition member.

*Paul Pfau*