

Bittangabee and Green Cape Sea Cliffs Climbing Guide

January 2006

Compiled by David Cameron & Rick Carey

Bittangabee Sea Cliffs North

General Description

Bittangabee Sea Cliffs North is a compact climbing area located within the Ben Boyd National Park, 300km south-east from Canberra near the NSW and Victorian state border.

The rock is a form of volcanic sandstone with fantastic frictional properties. Some of the rock looks friable but is surprisingly strong. Considerable jointing and quartz intrusions make for great natural pro.

The cliff is approximately 250 metres in length and ranges from 12-15 metres high. The rock is heavily featured, quite steep with some small roofs and overhanging faces. The area has great potential for development as a challenging, if short trad climbing area. The use of bolts in this area is not considered appropriate as the cliff is located within the Ben Boyd National Park. Any harder routes can be protected on abseil or top roped. This is an ideal area for beginners with a multitude of easier climbs. The area is a beautiful spot and should be preserved as such.

Disclaimer

Rock Climbing and associated activities are inherently dangerous and potentially deadly. While these pages reference rock climbing activities, the authors do not assume any risk or liability for anyone but themselves. All comments, suggestions, recommendations, reports, and content of these pages are to be considered only opinions from non-expert sources. Though efforts are made to insure the information presented within this guide is accurate, no guarantees are implied or suggested. This guide is a work in progress and as such contains errors, exaggeration, inconsistencies, untruths and straight out lies. Don't believe a word of it.

Thanks

Thanks to Rick Carey and Bill Andrews for providing the original guide notes, Mal McDonnell, Alain Bainbridge and Richard Morley for checking route descriptions and bringing the beer.

Directions from Canberra

Take Monaro Highway to Cooma, follow the Snowy Mountains Highway towards Bega via Brown Mountain. Turn right towards Candelo and head for Eden. In Eden turn right to Orbost, travel about 17kms and turn left onto Edrom Road. Turn right onto Green Cape Road after 6km. Turn Right at the T Intersection (8 km). Turn left at 6km on to the Bittangabee Bay road. Total trip time is around 3½ hours from Canberra.



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Climbing Area Access

Access the climbing area by walking north from the campsite on the Bittangabee – Saltwater creek walking trail. You have two options to access the trail, either via the beach or 'Ruins Track'. 30 minutes of easy walking gets you to the top of the crag.

The beach track starts on the north side of the camping ground turning loop. The 'Ruins Track' starts on the northern side of the day trippers' barbeque area with both tracks joining on the southern side of Bittangabee Creek.

Walk along Bittangabee Creek in a westerly direction on a rather indistinct track, cross at the well worn rock bar and follow the more defined track through the Bell Bird forest. After cresting the ridge the flora changes to low wind beaten scrub. The track continues through impenetrable Ti tree before reaching a large exposed rock platform up to 100m wide at points.

Access can be gained at either end of the cliff by an easy scramble down onto the rock ledge immediately above the ocean. Profuse jointing at the top allows for solid top anchors to be set. Bring a few long slings or an extra rope and plenty of SLCD's or hexcentrics. During heavy seas or king tides access to the climbs may well be impossible with the entire area exposed to southerly winds.



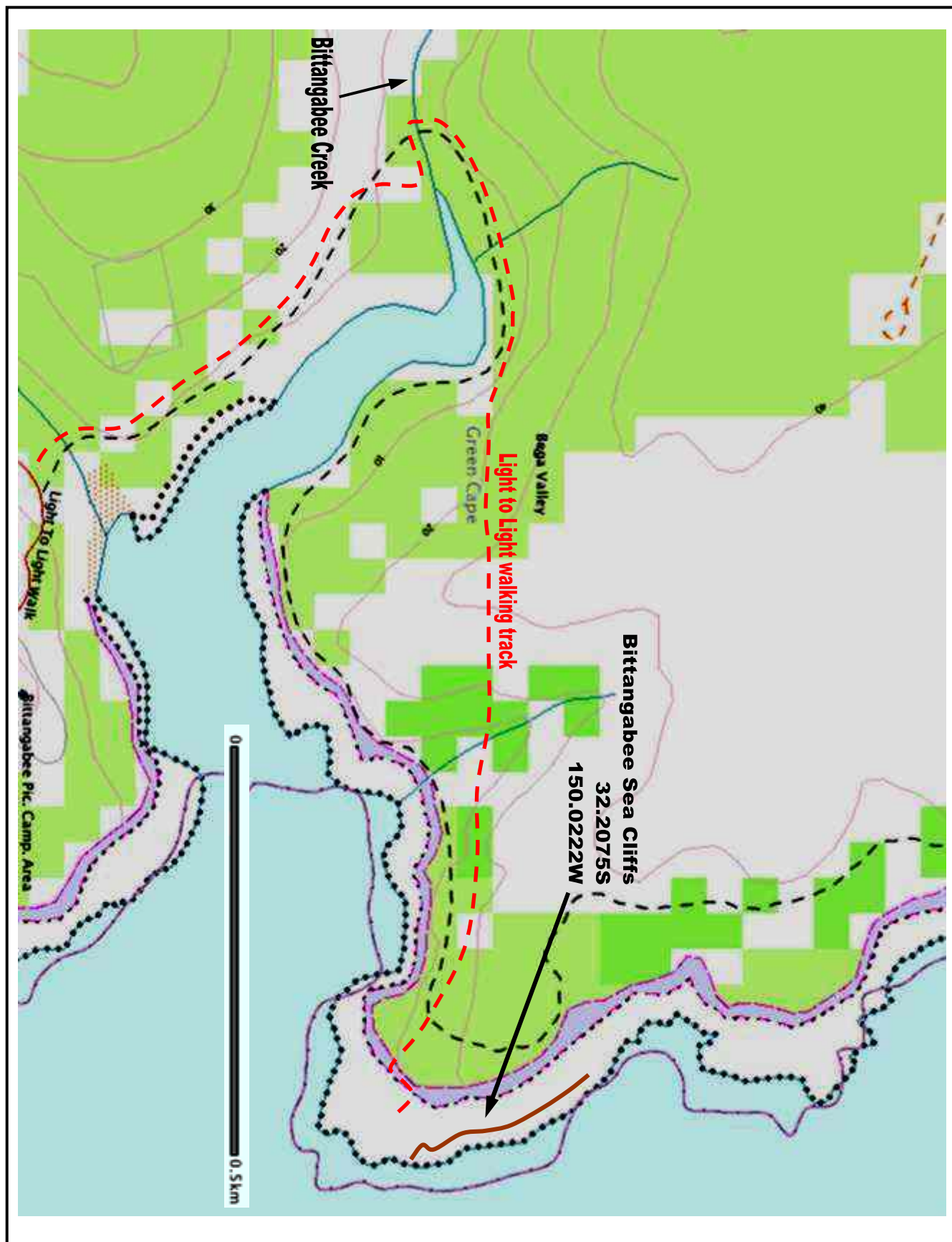
The superb view from the Disaster Bay Lookout

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Bittangabee Bay and Light to Light Walking Track



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Accommodation and Camping (fees apply)

There are plenty of choices for accommodation in the region. You can camp at Bittangabee Bay which has pit toilets, gas barbeques and a freshwater creek. A variety of campsites, van parks or motels are available in the region. Eden is close and has pubs for that quenching ale if you forgot to take water to the crag. This area is hardly a day trip but good for a couple of days. Check with the met office to avoid disappointment.

Park entry fees of \$7.00 a day per vehicle and camping fees of \$5.00 per adult apply. You will need to book ahead by ringing the Merimbula rangers on Ph. 02 6495 5001 or Fax: 02 6495 5055

Equipment

You will need the following climbing equipment.

- Wide range of SLCDs
- Lots of Wires
- Hexcentrics
- Long slings
- Spare rope for top anchors
- Rope protection (Rock is highly abrasive)
- Abseil gear

Conservation

It is important to remember this is a National Park and sensitive to human activities. Whilst little vegetation grows on the cliff itself, be sensitive to the local flora and fauna. Bolts are unnecessary and chalk should be used sparingly as the rock has exceptional frictional properties and barely needs any. Do not camp at the crag and take out all you waste, do not dispose of it in the ocean or surrounds.

Bouldering problems

There are innumerable boulder problems along the extensive cliff line and fallen blocks with plenty more that remain to be discovered.

Other activities

In the warmer months the area is sheltered and ideal for all manner of aquatic activities, including swimming, snorkelling, whale watching, fishing as well as camping and bushwalking. Multi skilled recreational devotees will love Bittangabee.

Safety

Mobile phones (CDMA) do work at the crag. Accept that climbing can be dangerous and risky, that is why you enjoy its challenges. Take responsibility for your own decisions. We accept no liability for route descriptions, loose rock, and poor protection. Do not descend in heavy seas! Take a first aid kit!

New routes

There is plenty of scope for new routes in the area. Forward any new route descriptions to the Canberra Climbers Association. See the web site at www.canberraclimbing.com for more details.

Route Descriptions

Climbs are described south to north or looking at the cliff with your back to the ocean left to right.
Descend at either end of the cliff.

Kylies Psyche

17

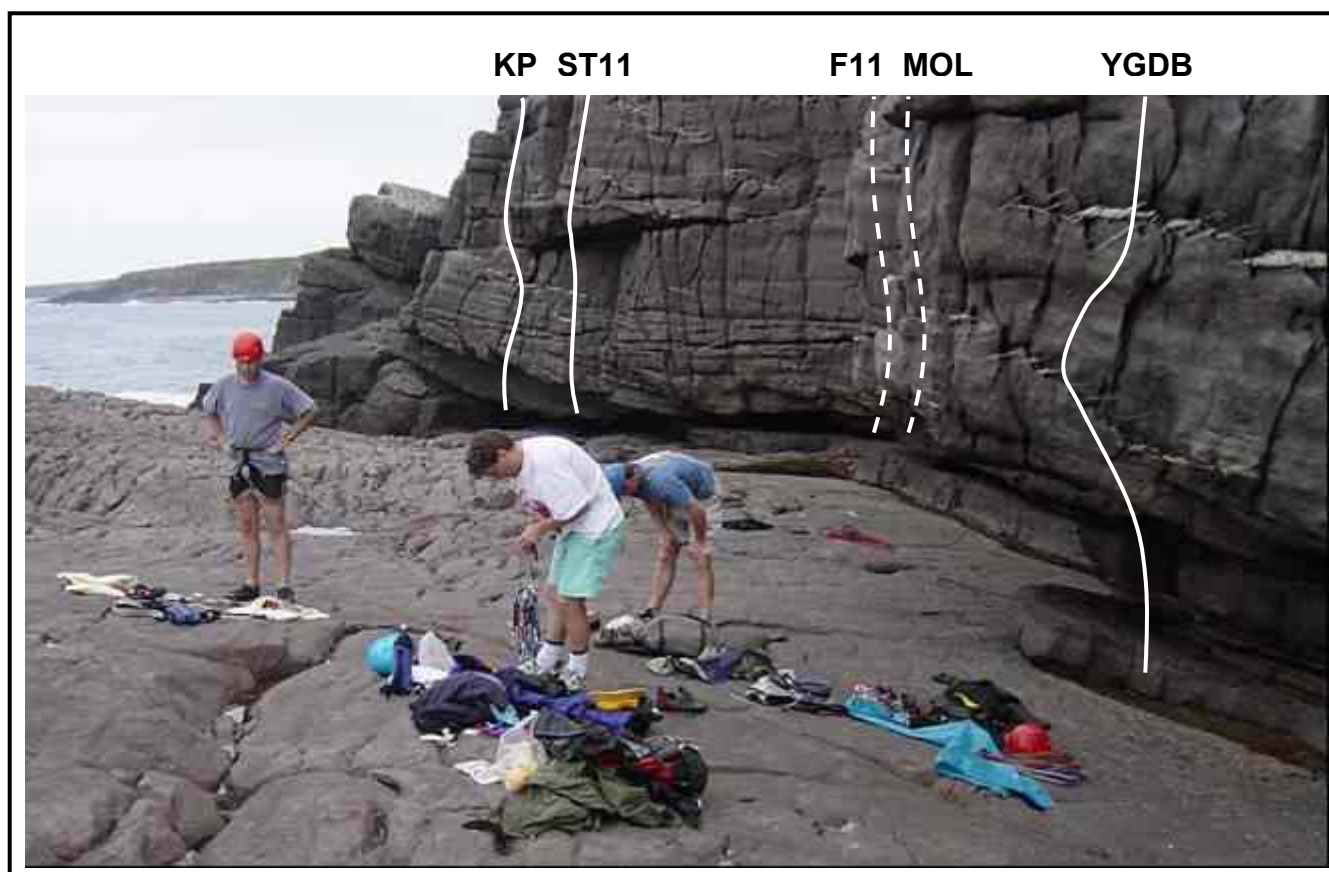
(The 1st and most southerly climb)

Up the overhanging corner below a roof on jugs, straight up the easiest line to orange rock bay and top.
Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

👉 Sept the Eleventh

20

The crack and jugs right of KP, up wall just left of crack then up crack to orange bay finish as KP
(Difficult to protect on lead) Rick Carey, Glen Fluit Oct 2001



Preparation for lightweight alpine style push to the top of the 12m cliff line commences.

Flight 11

20

Straight up obvious slopey crack left of MOL (Difficult to protect on lead) follow crack line to block at top, over block to top. Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

Meaning of Life

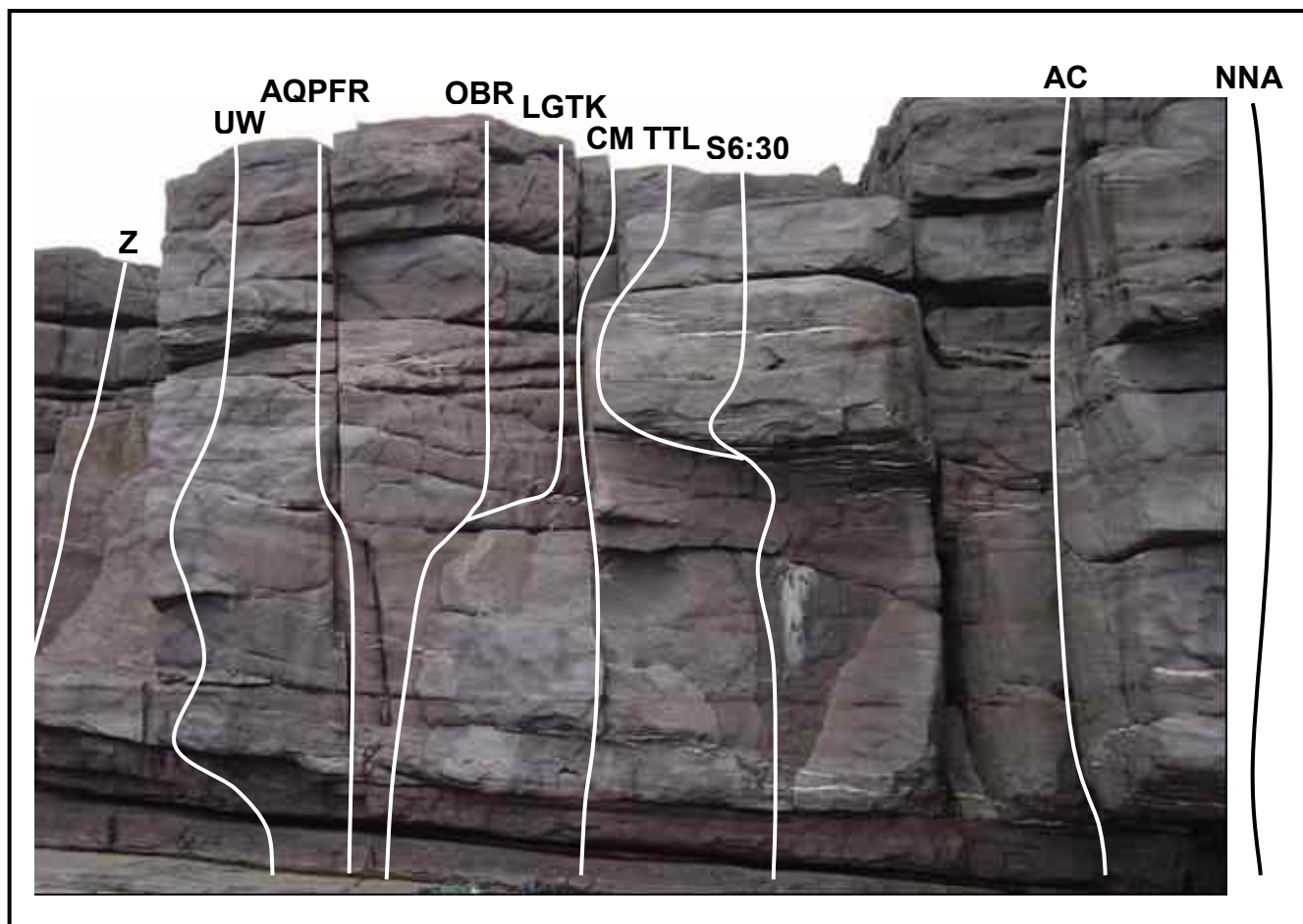
18

Up the most obvious crack line on the far right of wall.
Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

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Zoot

10

Solo up onto top of large block and white flake onto block at the top, easy quick access to top.
Rick Carey, solo July 2001

☺ Underneath Work

21

Undercut start a few metres left of AQPFR. Crank hard and twist lock to small mantle edge. Desperate moves to crimpy edges on back wall. Arrange cams under rooflet flake, undercling and find the hidden flake up high. Cruise to the top.
Dave Cameron, Richard Morely. 24 January 2005

☺☺☺ A quick prick from Rick

17

Climb up the two large cracks on jugs, a single crack leads to the top. Good wires for pro.
Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

☺ Osama's Bin Rooted

13

The flake crack 1 meter right of AQPFR. Up the flake then straight to top on monster jugs.
Rick Carey, Glen Fluit Oct 2001

Lets go to Kabul

14

Start 2m right of OBR at overlapping pocket, up flake into corner on to top.
Rick Carey, Glen Fluit Oct 2001

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Candyman

21/22

Up the thin face to the right of LGTK. Cams in breaks for pro.
Justin Ryan, April 2005.

☺ **Third Time Looser**

18

Up edge of the thin central flake. Use 1½ and 2 cams in quartz intrusion at roof for pro. Traverse left to the arête where a hidden thread allows a good rest. Layback up the arête, gear in slots.
Dave Cameron, January 2005.

☺☺☺ **Shits 6:30AM**

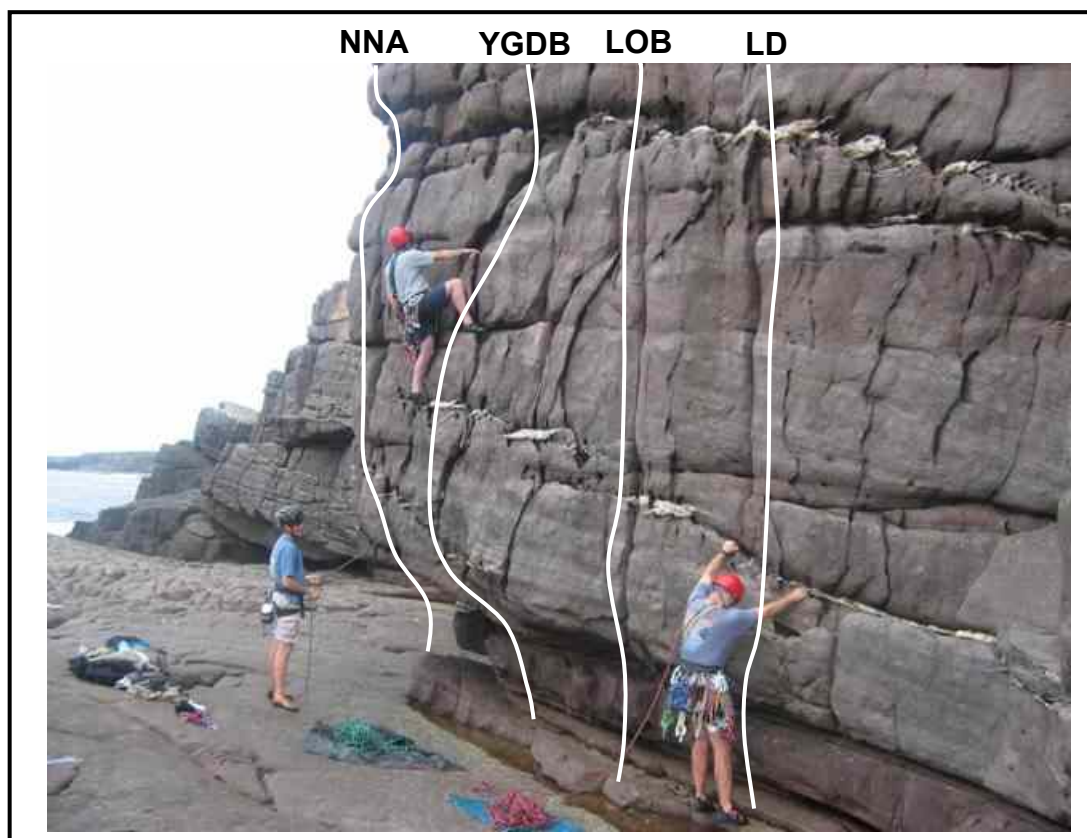
23

Start as TTL. Crank through roof and up slopes to pocket. A jugular popping mantle leads to a good rest. Run it out to top.
Dave Cameron, January 2005.

Aero Guard Chimney

15

Into and up the obvious damp, dark chimney, can be wet and slippery. Beware of mozzies with chainsaws.
Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001



Richard Morley belays Dave Cameron on FA of YGDB. Mal MacDonnell waits for his ever attentive belayer to return.

Not Nostradamus Again

18

Climb up the juggy arête and crack just around to the right of AC, pumpy undercut start, up on jugs to large ledge, up the short wall above to the top.
Rick Carey, Glen Fluit Oct 2001

☺☺ **Yorkshire Girls Draw Blood**

17

3 m right of NNA at obvious flakes. A tricky start then straight up flakes, great gear, great fun, very rough treatment for the uninitiated.
Dave Cameron, Richard Morley. 24 January 2005.

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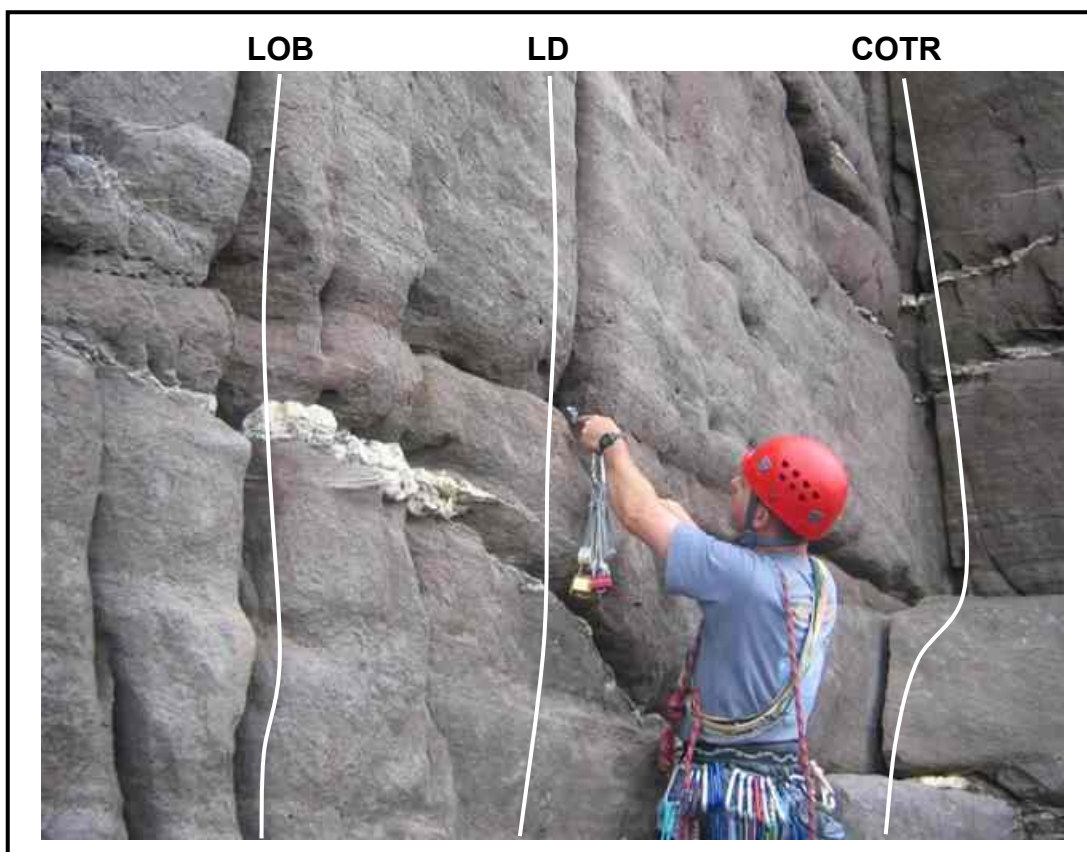
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Life of Brian

16

Left of the two cracks on wall, up easily to cam placement, continue up on good holds and more cams, straight up obvious line over block to top. Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001



Mal MacDonnell practices the black arts.

Lynelle Dares

15

Start at the bottom of the right hand crack easily to good wire placement, straight up obvious line using cams to top. Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

Cum on the Rocks

14

Start on top of triangular shaped ledge, up the corner on good holds, great pro, Continue up corner to the top. Rick Carey, Kylie Chomatek July 2001

Jealous Tart

16

Start easily up the diagonal crack behind the flake, onto ledge then up purple wall straight above (crux) protect with large cam. Kylie Chomatek, Rick Carey July 2001

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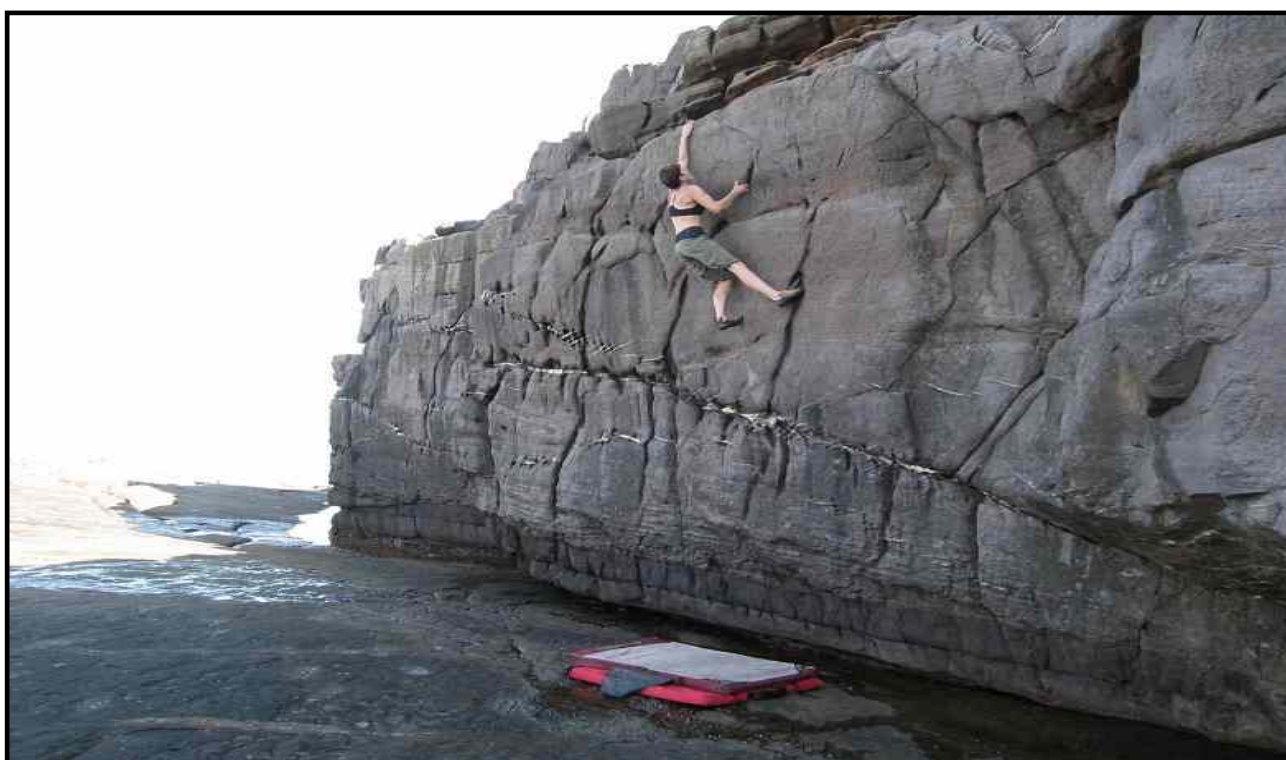
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NNA YGDB



View north from Not Nostradamus Again arête.



Gemma Woldendorp stretches for the finishing hold on a high ball V0

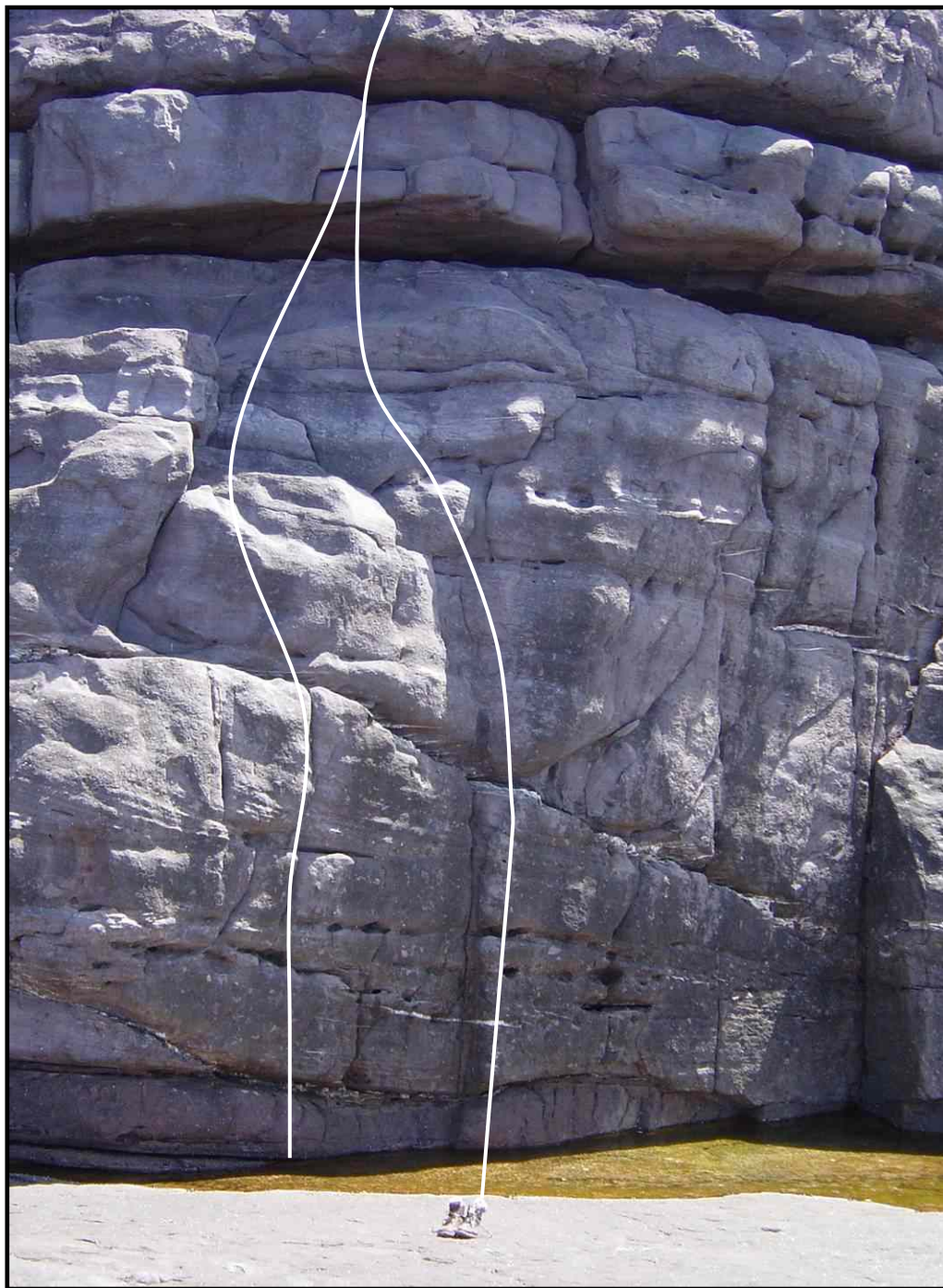
28 January 2005

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A few metres around the corner from Not Nostradamus Again arête a bulgy buttress capped by a small roof appears.



Johnny Shoot the messenger boy

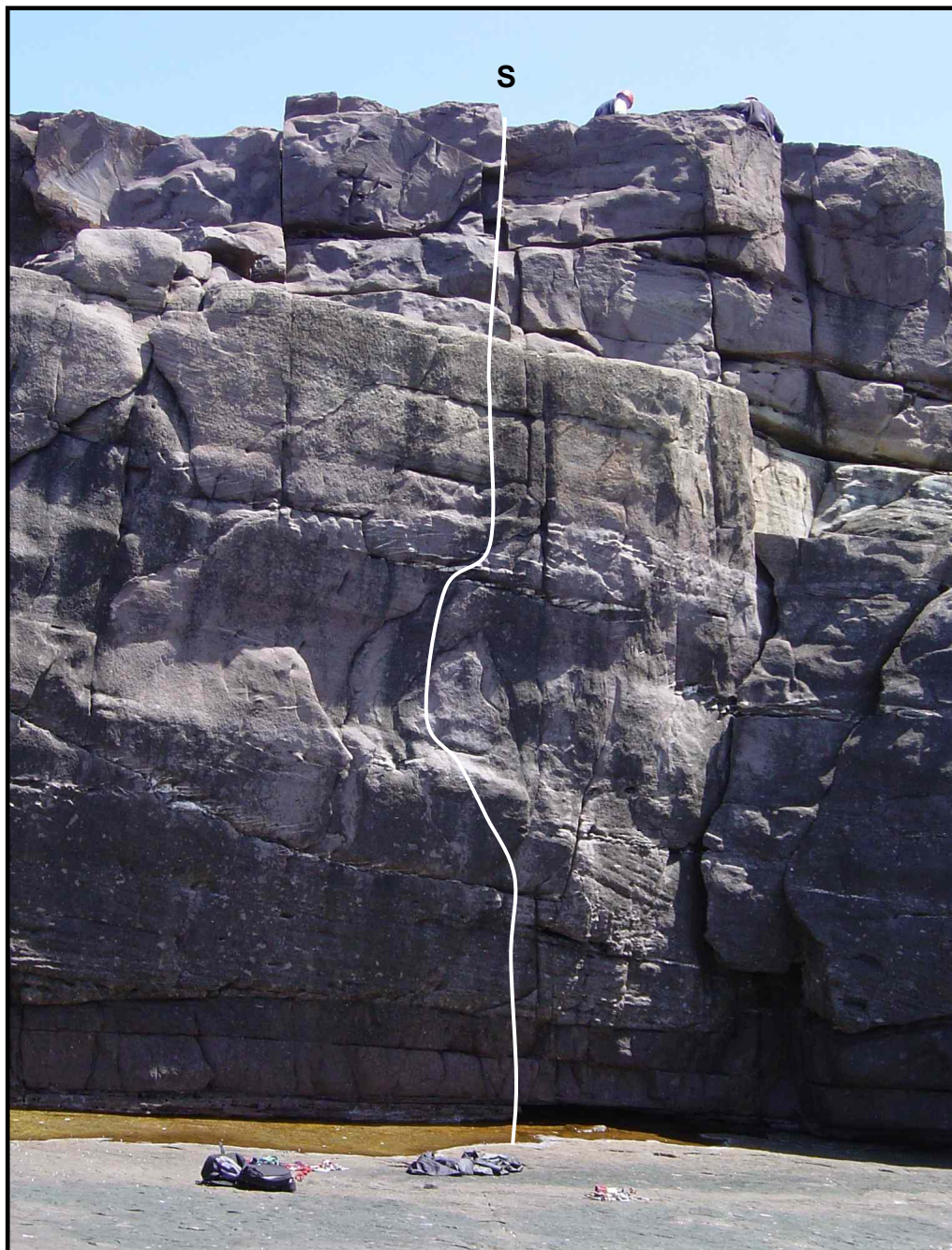
16

Step across the water onto the arête, head on up, cams in horizontals. Arrange gear under small roof and pull through to glory. Alternate starts possible as indicated.

David Cameron, Richard Morely and Mal MacDonnell 13/11/2005

Brown Bass Buttress

70m to the North of Not Nostradamus Again Arete is Brown Bass Buttress, named in honour of the brown bass like fish Mal caught on his new hormone impregnated lures.



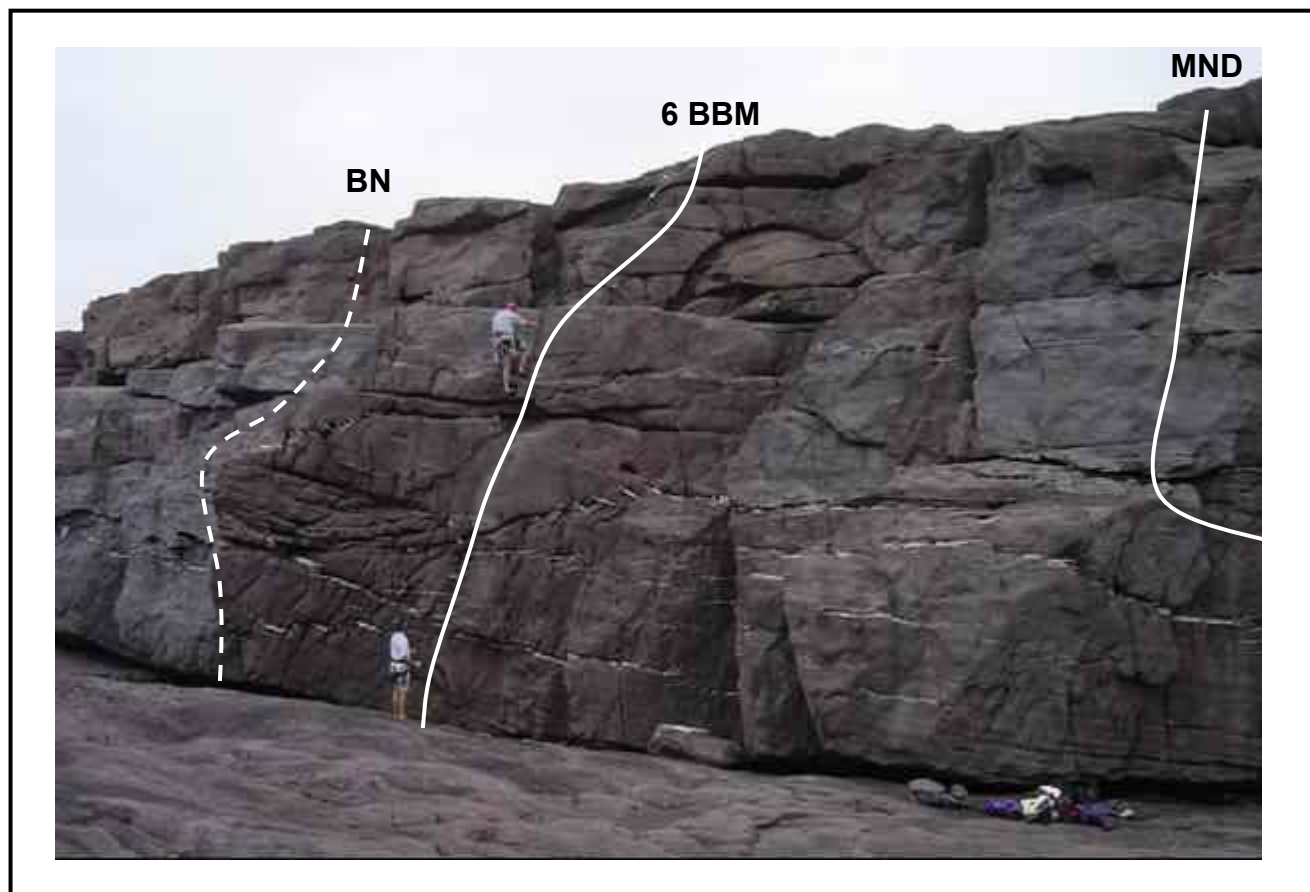
☺☺☺ Sediton

19

Step across the water onto the face and place gear as you see fit (Don't comment on the government). Trend left (of the political landscape) over the bulging (capitalists pigs) and place cams in the sickle shaped crack. Undermine the status quo by using underhanded techniques in the crack, then head straight up the middle of the road on good crimpers. Easier than it looks, easier said than done.
David Cameron, Mal MacDonnell, Richard Morely 13/11/2005

Beer Battered Rock

90 metres north of Not Nostradamus Again arête past the small pools of water against the rock face, Beer Battered Rock appears. This section contains two lower grade climbs with scope for a few more.



Mal MacDonnell lowering off after FA of 6BBM

Beez Neez

11

South around the corner from Beer Battered Rock is an obvious crack 2m from the arête. A short climb with tricky moves at 4m. Has a nice top out and good protection.

Alan Bainbridge, Mal MacDonnell 23 January 2005

Head 25m North around the corner.

6 Beers before Midnight

11

Mals description to go here, problem is he had 6 Beers before Midnight and can't remember anything.

Jug Haul/Crimp/Slap Dynamically/Layback/Mantle/Smear/Scum up the easy/tricky/difficult start, follow the obvious/not so obvious line/seam/slab/crack/flake of jugs/crimps/slopers/heucos to the crux. Finish as start. Mal MacDonnell, Alan Bainbridge 23 January 2005

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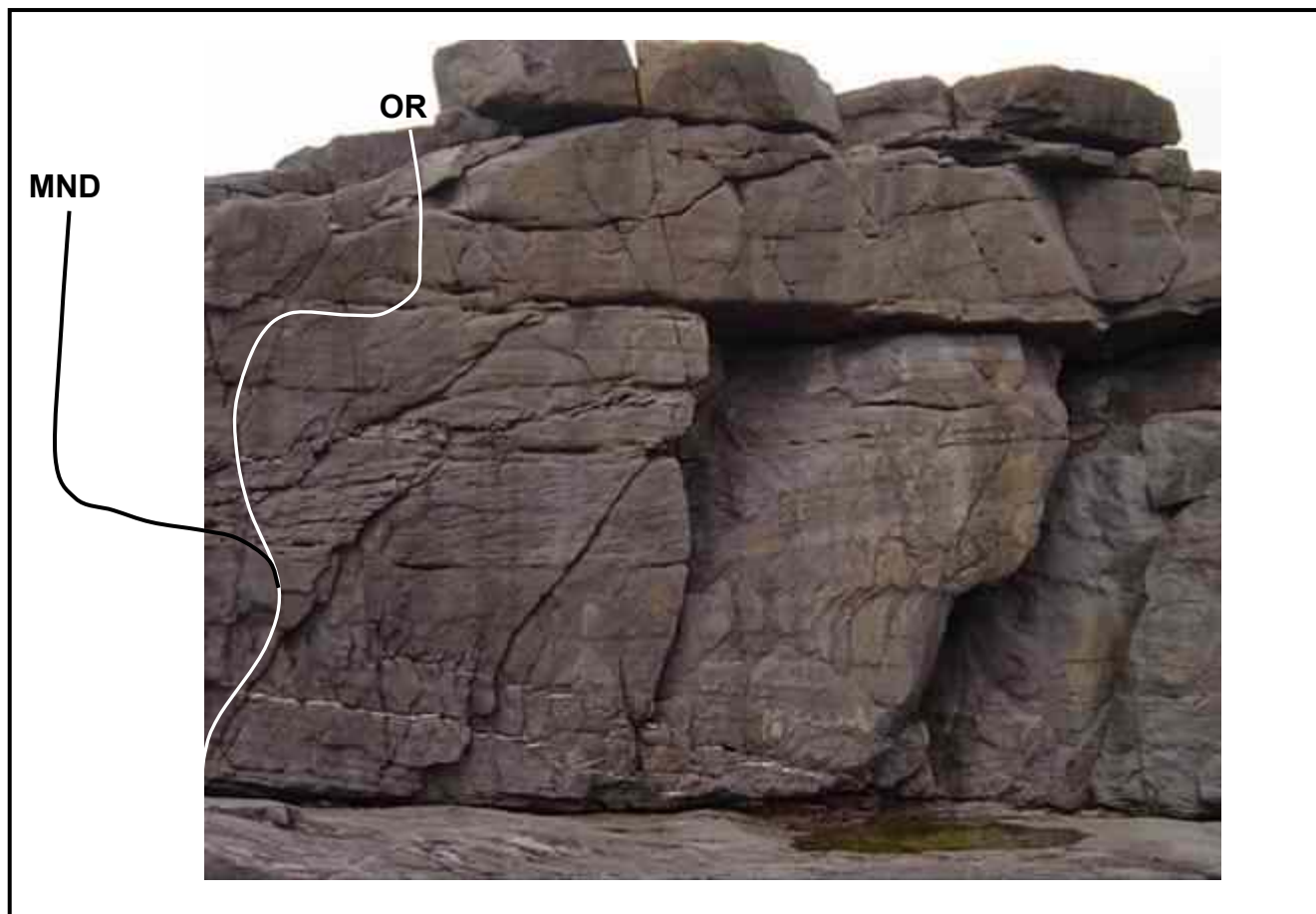
Natasha Sebire traversing on the V3 Pub Crawl near Beez Neez.

Pub Crawl V3

Start at the white splattered rock a few metres right of '6 beers before midnight' and traverse left for about 17m. Follow the lowest dyke for the first half, under-cling through the small overlap on the corner (crux), and stay on low holds well below the dyke for the second section, finishing at the incut corner.

Orange Ruffy aka Julia Gillard Wall

A slightly overhanging wall covered with orange moss. Large blocks cap a prominent roof.



Mark's Not Dead, he's just pining for the Fjords

18

Start 3m right of the arête, head to right up crack a few metres, trend left slinging lumpy jug. Head left to arête using 1 and 1½ cams for protection. Continue up arête.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morley 23 January 2005

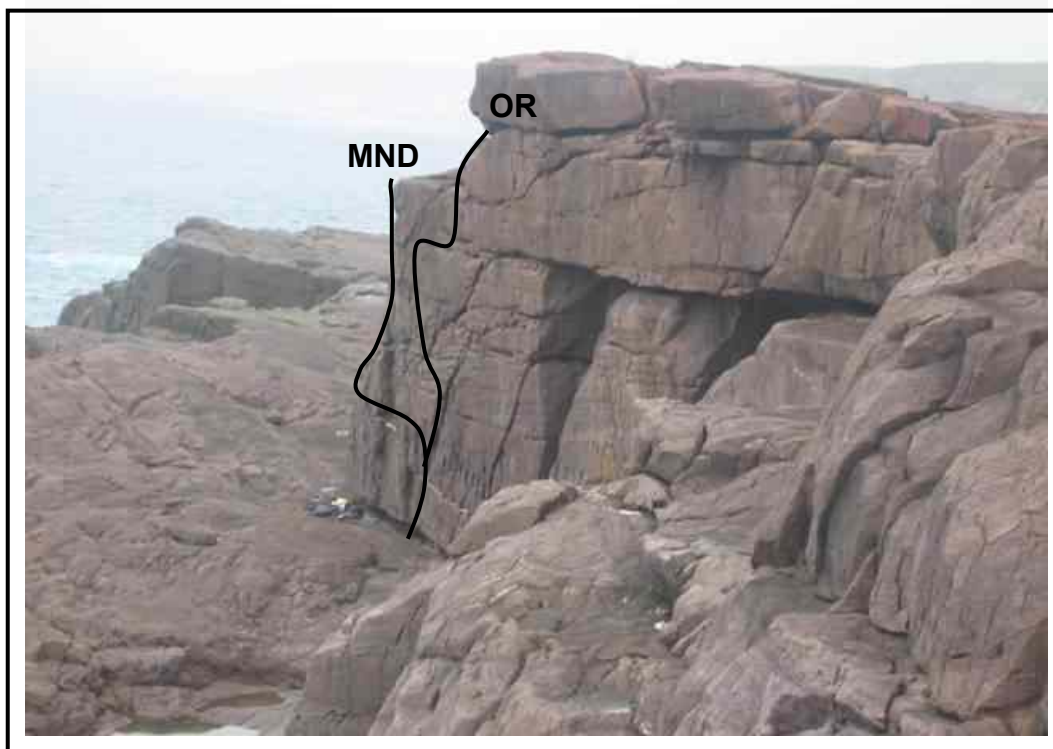
👋😊😊😊 Orange Ruffy

22

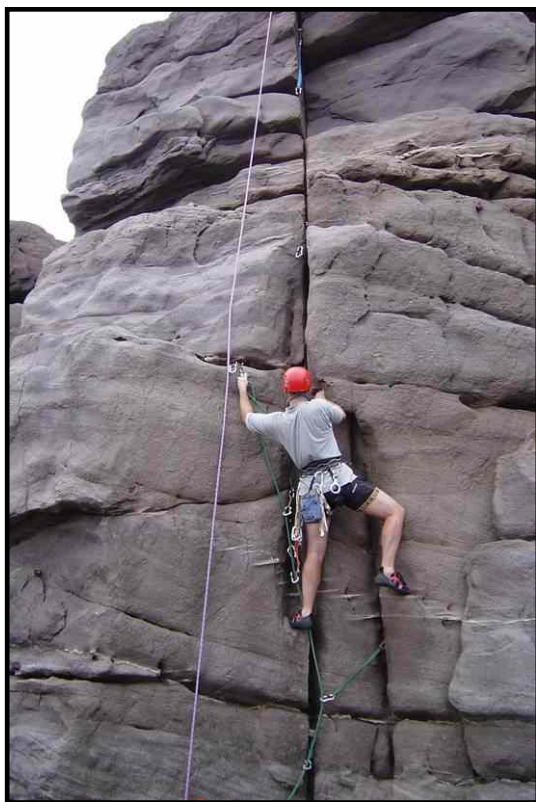
Start as for MND. Head straight up from lumpy jug to hidden heuco. Move up and right along thin break then up small pockets to slopy mantle top out. Serious.

Dave Cameron, Richard Morley 24 January 2005.

Orange Ruffy Wall



Orange Ruffy Wall named in honour of 'The Girl least Likely'.



Mal MacDonnell flashes A Quick Prick from Rick

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Beer Boulder

A shortish (7m) bouldery wall is located 30m North of Orange Ruffy Wall – a small section of the wall is accessible by a dry section of the ground in the middle.



☞☺☺☺ **Zymurgy**

21

Very bouldery start – landing is good. Up to thin horizontal slot, place 0.5 cam after you reach the next holds. Thin moves follow on equally thin gear, bloody brilliant.
David Cameron 13/11/2005

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View North of Bittangabee Cliff line



Natasha Sebire on the V3 traverse near 6 Beers

GREEN CAPE SEA CLIFFS

PULPIT ROCK

Thanks to Rick Carey, Gary Rankin and Bill Andrews (VCC) for the Green Cape Sea Cliff details.

INTRODUCTION

Pulpit Rock is a 100m wide, 9-10m high sea cliff of Grampians-like sandstone in Ben Boyd National Park, N.S.W. (580km from Melbourne). It is approx 48km by road north of Victoria on the seaward side of Green Cape near Disaster Bay. This is about 35km by road south of Eden, N.S.W. and Twofold Bay. Pulpit Rock is one of many 5-25m sea cliffs on Green Cape Peninsula that are accessible by unsealed roads and scenic trails. Most sea cliffs are vertical with clean well-defined lines, flaring cracks and bizarre weathering patterns typical of coastal exposure. Considerable potential exists for technical short routes.

Pulpit Rock has been climbed before, oxidised carabiners were found in a dead tree at the back of the upper terrace, apparently for belaying. Knowing this, our intent here is to point out a place worthy of a visit during a trip between Melbourne and Sydney.

Pulpit Rock is frequented by land based game fishermen, who consider climbers as something of a novelty. Pulpit Rock faces east and is well protected from the westerly winds which, for secret reasons, is when the fisherman turn up to float their live bait seaward on lines attached to balloons. Lines are driven by the wind for about a half kilometre out to sea, to where large gamefish (Marlin, Yellowfin Tuna, etc) surface to feed. This is where the eastern continental shelf-edge drops dramatically to the bottom of the Tasman Sea. Winds from the Tasman are cold so to escape an onshore wind go over to City Rock on Disaster Bay (approximately 4km from Pulpit Rock). The cliff there appears very steep to overhanging and is about a one minute walk from the car park.

Rick Carey, Mike Law-Smith and Zac Zaharias and others lead all the top roped climbs described in the previous edition of the Green Cape Sea Cliffs guide around 2004 as well as adding many more.

ACCESS

From Melbourne take the Princes Highway toward south eastern N.S.W. (550 km). At approx 35km north of Genoa, Vic (18km south of Eden, N.S.W.) turn right into Edrom Road (sealed; signposted), which provides access both to a Pulp Mill on Twofold Bay and to Green Cape in Ben Boyd NP, where Pulpit Rock is located. Petrol and basic provisions are at Kiah, another 5km further along the Princess Highway. After 6km on Edrom Road, turn right onto Green Cape Road (unsealed) and go 18km to the Pulpit Rock turnoff on the left. On the way, you will pass signposted roads on the left to Saltwater Creek Campground (8km) and Bittangabee Campground (15km) and on the right to City Rock (17km; no camping). At 18km Pulpit Rock Road turns left (signposted). The main road ends 3km further at Green Cape lighthouse. The final 1.5km of the track to Pulpit Rock leads to a car park among Ti trees, just above the climbs. Walk east 100m toward the sound of crashing waves.

The area can be reached from Canberra by heading to Cooma and then down to Eden, Drive south from Eden about 17km and turn left on Edrom Road, follow the signs to Greencape Lighthouse. Just prior to reaching the lighthouse a sign will direct you right 700m to City Rock, or continue towards Greencape a short distance and a left turn that will take you 1.6km to Pulpit Rock. City Rock involves a short walk to access the climbing areas. Pulpit rock is more easily accessed from the car just walk down a few steps onto a large rock platform and amphitheatre.

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Both areas are close to the ocean and as such are subject to the effects of tidal and swell influences so be aware it may be dangerous to climb in some conditions, use common sense.

The climbs listed below are found at Pulpit Rock as you walk down the steps and look to your right and you will see the obvious cliff line with some clear lines on it.

If you enjoy fishing bring your tackle, there are heaps of large fish to be had. On the first trip, during a break in the climbing the Rick Carey caught 6 good-sized fish in 20 min using a hand spear and snorkel, much to the disgust of several line fishermen watching on. In addition to the edible wildlife there are some large predators in the deep water. Whilst fishing we observed a large leopard seal slicing up the large schools of fish, this was a little unnerving. The fishermen spoke of large aggressive bronze whaler and mako sharks being common in the area, so keep a look out especially if you are in the water with injured fish.

Equipment

The area lends itself to natural protection, most routes are capable of being well protected using a variety of small wires and RP's. Small to medium cams are particularly useful so don't forget them. Most routes are short 12-15 meters so a big wall rack is not required.

Anchors

As yet top roping and rap chains are not in place, so you will need to set your own belays using the trees and cracks at the top. Most are well back from the edge requiring extensions using ropes or long slings. Ensure you back everything up until such time more permanent anchors are in situ.

CLIMBS

A trail to the base of Pulpit Rock leads eastward from the car park to a trail on an 'arête'. The path leads down to a lower terrace with a steep back wall (the main face). An alternate, poorly defined trail descends southeast through scrub to an upper terrace that's tilted gently seaward. For top-roping here, anchor placement is difficult so, unless bolt anchors are added a second rope is needed to reach scrub at the back of the terrace. The right side of the cliff (facing it) provides a quick descent route from the upper terrace (see sketch) through vegetated sandy rubble.

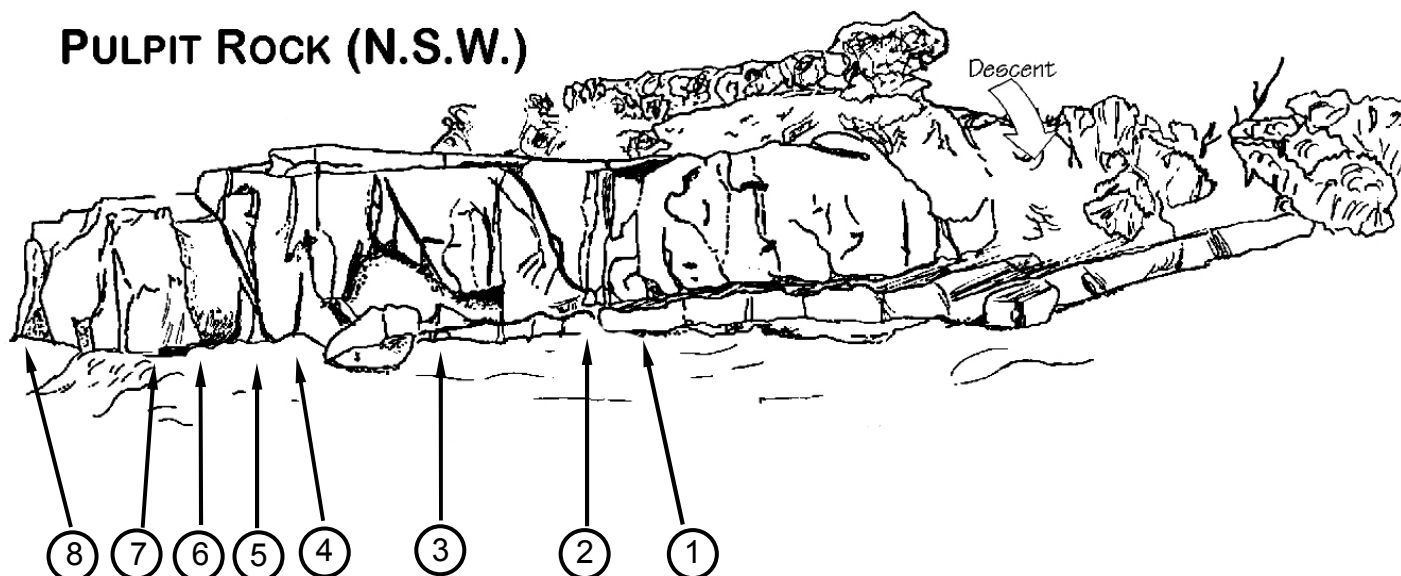
The Pulpit Rock main face, as it is approached from below, begins on the right with a pocketed, clean, sandstone wall with limited pro and dirty exits. Potential here is for bolt protection and ice-axe exits. The centre section is best with steep walls, shallow corners, and sinuous left-leaning cracks with overhanging roofs. Around left, large blocky faces alternate with mostly vertical, 90-degree corners. Because the back corners are sheltered, people use it for relief of body-functions. Unless the platform is clean from storm waves, approach this area from upwind with caution.

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PULPIT ROCK (N.S.W.)



1. ☺☺☺ **Sandy Hunt** 21
Open book corner capped by a small roof crux, caution loose looking block on left.
Rick Carey, Matt Rogerson, Zac Zaharias, June 2004.
2. **Fisherman's Basket** 20
Left ward sloping jam crack.
Mike Law Smith, Rick Carey, March 2004.
3. **Sea Eagles** 20
Diagonal crack left of FB. Take big cams.
Matt Rogerson, Zac Zaharias, June 2004.
4. **New Balance** 21
Directly up, balancey with RP's to protect initial moves up to hand crack, straight up to ledge then top.
Rick Carey, Mike Law Smith, March 2004.
5. **Fisherman's Grief** 20
Leftward sloping finger crack at back of embayment.
Mike Law Smith, Rick Carey, March 2004.
6. **Short History of the World** 12
Grovel up the chimney left of FG.
Matt Rogerson, Rick Carey, Solo, June 2004.
7. ☺☺ **Guns Germs and Steel** 17
Left ward lay back up sharp arête to flake, smear to top.
Matt Rogerson, Rick Carey, Solo.

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8. ☺☺ **Hydraulic Flush** 7
The inside corner, take peg for your nose.
Gary Rankin, Joel Rankin, Cathy Fraser, John Murphy. April 1992
9. ☺☺ **Fishermans Dunny** 22
Very thin corner with 3 bolts around back of GGS block in the recessed bay, follow your nose and you are there. Interesting technical moves past bolts then easily up to anchor brackets.
Rick Carey, Saul Hilton, March 2005.
10. ☺☺ **Cenotaph Corner Down Under** 17
Easy corner around to the left of FD.
Rick Carey, Mike Law Smith, March 2004.
11. ☺ **Left Wall Down Under** 20
Arête to the left of CCDU.
Rick Carey, Mike Law Smith. March 2004.
12. ☺☺ **Fish Fingers** 17
Wall across gap overlooking the awesome deep gutter, up the central crack line.
Mike Law Smith, Rick Carey. March 2004
- 13-19 Round back over top**
13. ☺☺☺ **Traverse of the Fun Police** 11
Left of FF traverse around the corner and down the wall above the gutter and raging sea, great fun.
Matt Rogerson, Rick Carey, Zac Zaharias June 2004.
14. **The Obnoxious Poet** 18
Starts on wall around corner from TOTFP, a line of weakness 3 peters left of CWW. Up wall using right hand layaway on to horizontal cracks and mantel, boulder move over mantel to under clings, reach over top for crimps.
Rick Carey Sept 2004.
15. ☺☺ **Chatting with Wendy** 19
Starts on wall around corner from TOTFP up wall on left sloping flake to break, then up over block to the top.
Rick Carey, Matt Rogerson, Zac Zaharias. June 2004.
16. **Visceral Victory** 12
3 meters right of CWW, big move to massive jugs on overhanging arête, then easily to top over blocks.
Matt Rogerson, Sept 2004.

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17. **Masada** 15
Up wall 3 meters right of VV on jugs. Leftwards sloping narrow ramp to corner awkward moves over top.
Matt Rogerson, Sept 2004.
18. ☺☺ **Medina** 15
Start as for Masada, move right up steep wall on good holds and crack to top.
Rick Carey, Matt Rogerson, Sept 2004.
19. **In a Rush** 12
Start 2 meters right of Medina, up easy blocks and corner to top
Matt Rogerson, Sept 2004.



The view of 'Pulpit Rock' from the descent stairs.

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Rick Carey belays Matt Rogerson on Sandy Hunt, whilst Zac Zaharias looks on.