

**Rock Climbing at
Blyde River Canyon
Mpumalanga**

INTRODUCTION

Mpumalanga, one of SA's top tourist destinations, is filled with beautiful scenery and quaint towns that date back to the Voortrekker times. There is something else in this picturesque area that, until recently, had been mostly overlooked by climbers.

While the development of trad climbing areas like Manoutsa were taking place, just around the corner some classic crags were left untouched right under the noses of bus loads of (sometimes female) tourists visiting the Three Rondawels' lookout stop.

Here is a place where you can climb five star routes all weekend and still leave some for the next time.

Climbers can enjoy good camping at the nearby Forever resort and cragging with short walk-ins on marvelous "Black Reef" quartzite cliffs overlooking some really spectacular panoramas.

I hope you enjoy the climbing at Blydepoort as much as we have.

Many thanks to Gareth Frost for taking the time to put the initial guide together.

Cover Photo: Ian McMaster on Cactus Dykes (Lake View Crags). Photo by Gareth Frost.

DIRECTIONS

Take a drive out to Lydenburg in Mpumalanga if you are coming from JHB or Pretoria. From Lydenburg head out North to Ohrstad on the R36. Drive through Ohrigstad and continue until you reach the R532 right turn to Graskop, this will be shortly after the Echo Caves left turn. Drive until you reach the Forever Resorts Blyde Canyon resort on the left.

ACCOMMODATION

The Forever resort offers various facilities for accommodation. The camping is good but chalets are also available for those with deeper pockets. Please remember to book ahead if you want a chalet or intend going over the holidays.

The resort also has a pool, pony trails and great walks for any non-climbers tagging along on your trip.

A map of the resort's layout is available at reception.

Contact reservations: 0861 22 69 66 or <http://www.foreverblydecanyon.co.za/index.php>

WEATHER

Because the crags lie on the escarpment, clouds tend to collect around this area so you could expect rain in the summer months but generally the weather is good. There is a chance of mist early in the day but it tends to clear by mid-morning. Temperatures can get quite hot in the summer time but nice breezes blow around the cliffs that cool things down while climbing. Winter is a pleasant time for climbing but the evenings get cooler so bring along some warm clothes.

ETHICS

This is a traditional climbing venue and placing of bolted protection is strictly prohibited. Consider wisely the use of pegs. The rock at Blyde can almost always be climbed safely without using pegs or bolts.

Please try to stay on existing paths where possible and respect the habitat of the fauna and flora with whom we share these crags.

EMERGENCIES

There are no major hospitals close to Blydepoort. A basic first aid station is located at the resort reception. For climbing related emergencies the following services can be contacted:

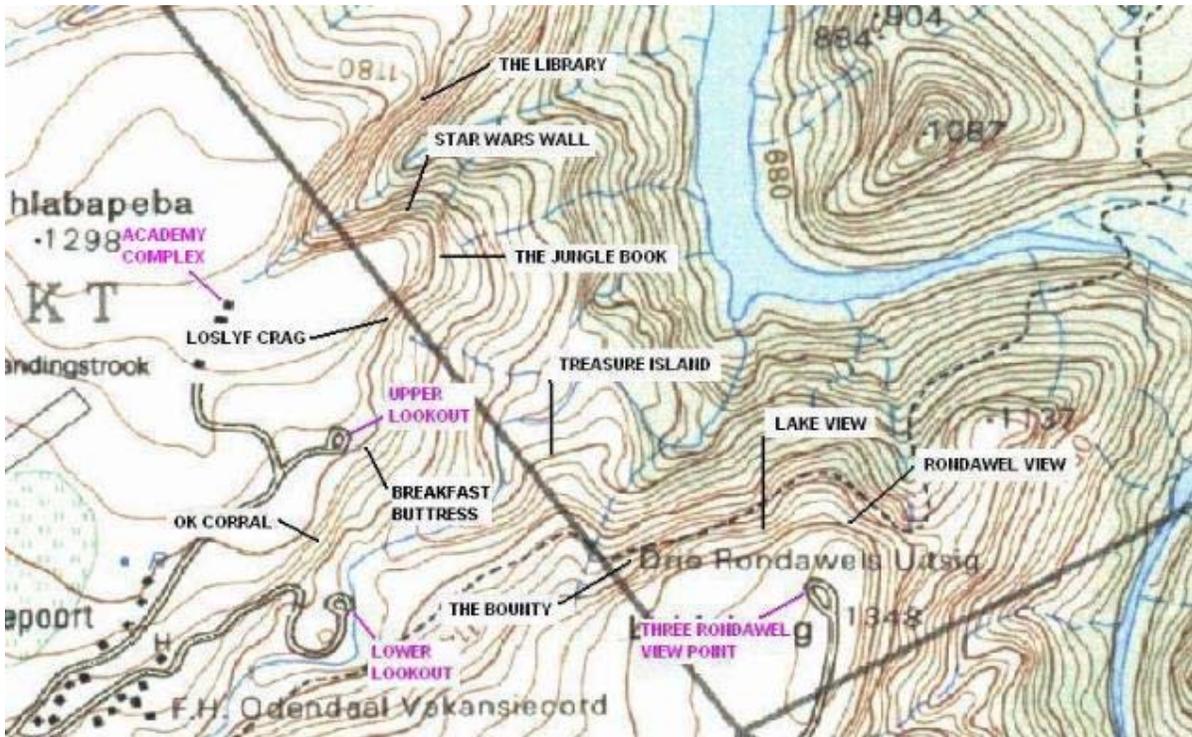
Mountain Rescue: 011-3150203

Paramedics: 112 (cellular) or 10177

Closest Major Hospital: Nelspruit

THE CRAGS

There is virtually unlimited rock at Blyde and the funnest way to experience the place is to quest off and find a new crag and the next 5* line. These are the (known) areas that have been developed so far.



Taxi Complex

These cliffs are situated between the Rondawel Lookout massif and the Blyde Canyon Lookout spot.

These are accessed from the smaller, Blyde Canyon tourist lookout, further along the Graskop road (R532) past the Rondawel Lookout point. Park at the lookout and walk back towards the Rondawel View lookout, round the first gully on the right and continue walking outwards on the peninsula, above the crags that face Swadini and find the distinctive Zuma's Gulley.

Important Access Note:

Climbers wishing to visit the Taxi Complex are advised that access to this area is sensitive and are at risk of trespassing on Mpumalanga Parks property.

Taxi Crag (NW facing)

The main event. These cliffs are situated between the Rondawel Lookout massif and the Blyde Canyon Lookout spot. They are North West Facing and characterized by a large, narrow gully (Taxi gully aka Zuma's Gulley) running the full height towards the left of the crag, big enough to park two taxi's end to end. The crag is BIG, 80 m in height so climbs are either very long single pitch (some ending at ledges) or 2-3 pitches. There is a huge amount of potential, much of which could be very hard as the faces are compact and steep. Unfortunately it faces NW so gets very little shade, only in the early morning and some faces in the late afternoon. Be careful not to get locked in the parking after they lock the gates at night. Apparently one of the stall owners is the one that locks it so maybe chat to them to make a plan. Or get dropped at the road and hop over the gate (easy).

Tuk Tuk Crag (E facing)

A small crag in the gulley between the parking and the main Taxi Crag.

Rondawel Complex

The Rondawel Complex are the crags below the Three Rondawels lookout point. Drive south out of the resort towards Graskop, turn left after a little way to the lookout point. Park at the cul-de-sac where the tourists go (toilets and water available here).

Three sections are found here and all are gained from the same gully. Walk in a north-westerly direction towards the Aventura resort following some beacons that lead to the edge of the cliff band. Here a descent gully is found through a hole under a boulder at the cliff edge.

Important Access Note:

Climbers wishing to visit the Rondawel Complex are advised that access to this area is sensitive and are at risk of trespassing on Mpumalanga Parks property.

Rondawel View Crags (E facing)

These cliffs are on the eastern side of the lookout complex overlooking the Three Rondawels and consist of quite large walls directly below the tourist lookout platforms.

Lake View Crag (N facing)

These crags are on the northern side of the lookout complex overlooking the Blyde River dam and consist of various buttresses and pinnacles to the climbers' left of the descent gully.

Phoenix Crag (N facing)

The best crag at Blyde! It's a superb 50m high wall riddled with cracks and gnarly chicken heads, to the climbers' right of the descent gully. Climb here early in the morning to dodge the heat.

Mutiny Crag (N facing)

This short section of crag is situated at the top of the ramp between the Spring Pinnacle of Lake View Crags and the large red wall of The Bounty Crag. The best approach is from the descent gully that accesses Lake View Left and Spring Pinnacle, just keep walking around past the pinnacle, heading for The Bounty.

The Bounty (N facing)

This impressive crag is found to the east of the descent gully and overlooks Treasure Island. Previously this crag was approached from the top of Treasure Island until an easier route was found from the bottom of the Lake View Crags. Descend the gully then walk in a southerly direction along the base of the crags. After some distance a steep ramp is reached on the right of some larger cliffs with steep red walls and a distinctive triangular roof on the right higher up. Descend the ramp to the base of the cliff.

Prospector Crag (S facing)

Close to the entrance of the Rondawel View Lookout point, a large gully on the eastern side of the road can be seen with some good rock walls. This is accessed by descending the gully where a vague path leads the way down. Park at the guard hut and cross the road to the gully.

Golf Club Terrace (N facing)

These cliffs are further to the east of the Prospector Crag, on the North Facing aspect and look over the valley on the eastern side of the Rondawel Complex massif. It can be accessed from the Prospector Gully but a better descent is found by scrambling down a grassy ramp that leads down from the cliff edge further out along the crag from where the gully starts.

Forever Resort Complex

The Forever Resort Complex are the crags within the resort which are easily approached from the lookout points.

Treasure Island (N facing)

Take a drive past the resort restaurant to the lower lookout point and park there under the trees. Walk back up the road for a bit until you reach the exit of one of the trails on the left (Tufa trail). Follow this trail across the river then up onto a plateau. Walk until the trail starts heading down again, Treasure Island can be seen across on the right. After a short distance on the downhill a vague path leading off to the right can be found (old hiking trail, marked with a beacon). Follow this path to the base of the crag.

OK Corral (S facing)

Take a drive towards the lower lookout point and park where the road makes its first hair-pin bend to the right. The grey crag on the left, with a prominent pinnacle in front, is OK Corral. Walk up the hill through the bush to the base of the cliff.

Breakfast Buttress (SE facing)

Located at the upper lookout point on a buttress immediately below the lookout.

Loslyf Crag (S facing)

Park at the upper lookout point and follow the Leopard hiking trail along to the base of some grey, south facing cliffs.

The Jungle Book (E facing)

This is the most eastern of the crags within the Forever Resort complex. Park at the upper lookout point and follow the Leopard hiking trail past Loslyf Crag. At the right hand arête of Loslyf Crag, leave the trail and follow the cliff band to the left where a short hike in the bush will take you to the base of these east facing cliffs.

Star Wars Wall (N Facing)

An imposing cliff around the corner to the north of The Jungle Book crag. Approached via the track going past the landing strip up to the "Academy" complex where a short walk after parking the car leads to the descent gully or to an abseil point on the NE arête of the cliff band.

The Library (SE facing)

This crag, dominated by large open books, faces Star Wars Wall and is accessed from the bushy ramp on the right hand side of the crag.

Eden Complex

The Eden Complex are a rather secluded section of crags situated on the R532 road between the Blyde Canyon Forever Resort and the "T" junction with the R36. When driving back towards Ohrigstad from the resort, the road winds down past a subsidiary canyon seen to the right (north) of the road. At this point the road is lined with a stone wall and is going through some sharp S-curves.

Find the nearest lay-by and park, or better still, get dropped off. It might not be safe to leave cars parked here.

Only leave the road at the point when you can see into the kloof (GPS Coordinates S 24°32'58.8" / E 30°43'46.7"). Bundu bash to get to the edge of the upper wall (north facing, true right) of the kloof.

From the road to the edge of the true right cliffs is around 500m.

The true right cliffs are bound on their downstream (east) end by a gulley from a (usually) dry riverbed. It is possible, although much further, to walk out along this riverbed, which eventually comes very close to the road.

The true right cliff has many large paper-bark trees along its rim. These provide easy, 50m abseil points to get down to the climbs

To get to the true left, abseil down into the valley, cross the river and hike up to the cliffs. In early October, with low water levels, this can easily be done in 15 minutes and keeping dry. The true left is one of the very few cliffs at Blyde that is shady all day long!

Note that because this crag is lower in altitude than the other Blyde crags, and further inland, it is likely to be dry when it is raining at Blyde. It is a good few degrees warmer here than at the other Blyde crags.

INDEX TO CLIMBS

The climbs appear in this guide from left to right as if the crag was looked up at from below.

Climb Name	Area	Grade	Stars	Pg
SUNBURN OF WONDER	Phoenix Wall	25 R	*****	29
SPACE BALLZ	Star Wars	24	*****	81
THE IRON CURTAIN	Phoenix Wall	24	*****	31
THE RIVER OF DOUBT	Other Side Eden	24	*****	93
AQUALION	Loslyf	24A0	****	
DRAGONSKIN	Phoenix Wall	23 R	*****	29
PIMP MY CRACK	Loslyf	23 R	*****	73
DO YA FEEL LUCKY	Phoenix Wall	23	*****	29
GUNFIGHT	Tombstone	23	*****	56
MYTHICAL BEAST	Phoenix Wall	23	*****	29
SHARK ATTACK	Treasure Island	23	*****	43
TOO KWAAI FOR A JEDI	Star Wars	23	*****	84
STOLEN TREASURE	Treasure Island	23	****	44
WYATT EARP	Tombstone	22 A1	****	59
SQUATTING TIGER PANTING PENGUIN	Rondawel	22 A1	***	20
SWANN'S CHEST	Bounty	22 A0	****	36
WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE	OK Corral	22 A0	***	53
UNDER THE INFLUENCE	Taxi	22 A0	**	15
AQUABALLS	Loslyf	22	*****	72
JUNGLE VIP	Jungle Book	22	*****	76
STORM VOYAGE	Bounty	22	*****	36
THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD	Taxi Crag	22	****	14
A SPRING IN THE TAIL	Spring Pin	22	****	33
BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE - PROJECT	Jungle Book	22	****	76
BUTCHERS REVENGE	Loslyf	22	****	66
BLACKBEARD'S TREASURE	Bounty	22	***	38
BUGGERED WITHOUT THE BUSH	Rondawel	22	***	20
BEHIND EVERY TREE - PROJECT	Star Wars	21 R/X	***	81
BUSH DIVING	Loslyf	21 R/X		64
DOC HOLLIDAY	OK Corral	21 A1	***	54
BURNING BRIDGES	Rondawel	21 A0	***	19
CRACK TEST DUMMIES	Rondawel	21	*****	19
DAVEY JONES' LOCKER	Bounty	21	*****	37
PRELUDE TO LUKA	Loslyf	21	*****	66
STAR WHORES	Star Wars	21	*****	85
THE CROWS NEST	Bounty	21	*****	35
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO	Jungle Book	21	*****	76
BLACK SWALLOW	Bounty	21	****	36
ROOF MEAN CUBED	Spring Pin	21	****	33
THE BEAR NECESSITIES	Jungle Book	21	****	78
THE BOOK OF BALOO	Jungle Book	21	****	75
THE CRACK MACHINE	Taxi	21	****	13
WEEP AND SLEEP	Eden	21	****	91
ESCAPE VELOCITY	Taxi	21	***	14

Climb Name	Area	Grade	Stars	Pg
LASERATION	Lake View	21	***	26
CENTERFOLD KLINGONS	Loslyf	21	**	64
BRING ON THE GIMP	Loslyf	20 R	***	71
CALLING ELVIS	Lake View	20 A1	****	25
CLIMB ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND	Prospector	20 A1	***	40
THE PHANTOM MENACE	Star Wars	20 A1	***	84
AMPHIBIAN INSOMNIA	Treasure Island	20 A0	***	45
LABOR PAINS	Eden	20 A0	***	90
CACTUS DYKES	Phoenix Wall	20	*****	28
CINTA LARGA	Other Side Eden	20	*****	93
MILKY WAY GROOVE	Taxi Crag – Milky Way Sector	20	****	
MY SORRY CARCASS	Lake View	20	****	25
SUNDANCE KID	Tombstone	20	****	56
BURIED TREASURE	Treasure Island	20	****	44
GREEN BOTTLE	Loslyf	20	****	64
THREE VULTURE FEAST	Jungle Book	20	****	77
BLUE MERCURY	Lake View	20	***	23
CAPTAIN JACK	Main Mast	20	***	50
HORROR SHOW GOODIES	Lake View	20	***	25
INTERNAL ORDER	Loslyf	20	***	72
MAIDEN VOYAGE	Treasure Island	20	***	42
MUCH MORE MUNTER	Lake View	20	***	26
THE MAGICAL FARAWAY ROOF	Other Side Eden	20	***	93
DELHI SANDBAG	Tuk-Tuk	20	**	12
SLAVE TRADER	Mutiny	20	**	34
A JOLLY RODGERING	Treasure Island	19 R/X		44
SLIPPERY SNATCH	Loslyf	19 R/X		71
THE PRIME CUT	Phoenix Wall	19 R	****	28
THE CAPTAIN'S SUNDOWNER	Treasure Island	19 A0	****	45
PIECES OF EIGHT	Bounty	19	*****	35
REVENGE OF THE SMURF	Star Wars	19	*****	85
SUNDANCE KID	Tombstone	19	*****	56
THE DAFT SIDE OF THE FARCE	Star Wars	19	*****	86
THE SWEET TRANSVESTITE	Loslyf	19	***	68
TITS ON FIRE	Loslyf	19	****	68
CHEWBACCA'S MUSTACHE	Star Wars	19	****	82
MOTHER NATURE'S NECESSITIES	Jungle Book	19	****	78
THE GAY CACTUS	Phoenix Wall	19	****	31
CANNON BALL	Treasure Island	19	***	42
DIGGING FOR TREASURE	Treasure Island	19	***	44
DOWNWARD BOUND	Rondawel	19	***	18
KING LOUIS' LAYBACK	Jungle Book	19	***	77
LEIA'S MANTLE	Star Wars	19	***	88
MAN'S RED FLOWER	Jungle Book	19	***	75
NO FAIRIES HERE	Rondawel	19	***	18
THE LEGEND OF JOHNNY SEPTEMBER	Treasure Island	19	***	43
THE LUCKY BUCCANEERS	Treasure Island	19	***	43

Climb Name	Area	Grade	Stars	Pg
TRIGGER HAPPY	OK Corral	19	***	54
SECOND HAND LIONS	Loslyf	19	*	72
CHASY LANE	Loslyf	19	*	73
HANGING GARDENS	Star Wars	19	**	82
LYNCH MOB POSSE	OK Corral	19	**	54
SAWN-OFF SHOT GUN	OK Corral	18 A0	**	53
DARK SPADER	Star Wars	18	*****	85
METROSEXUAL PIRATES	Treasure Island	18	*****	43
PARTY AT JUBBAH'S	Star Wars	18	*****	88
SHER KAHN-AGE	Jungle Book	18	*****	79
A THING OF BEAUTY	Eden	18	****	90
THE OLD AND THE CUTICLE	Loslyf	18	****	66
COWBOYS DON'T CRY	Tombstone	18	****	59
EXODUS	Eden	18	****	92
JABBA THE SLUT	Star Wars	18	***	82
THE BLACK PEARL	Bounty	18	****	38
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN	Treasure Island	18	****	48
THE SILVER RIBBON	Phoenix Wall	18	****	28
ASHEN AWARENESS	Rondawel	18	***	17
FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	Golf Club	18	***	41
GET ON TOP	Rondawel	18	***	17
MOJO RISING	Rondawel	18	***	21
MOTHER NATURE'S RECIPES	Jungle Book	18	***	78
MOUSE TRAP	Chalk/Cheese	18	***	52
PAPERBACK ROMANCE	Library	18	***	89
PIRATES OF THE CARABINERS	Main Mast	18	***	50
SUNDAY EXPRESS	Lake View	18	***	23
THE GOOD LEFT UNDONE	Star Wars	18	***	80
VAGABOND PRINCES	Rondawel	18	***	21
WAKE AND BAKE	Eden	18	***	91
WALKING THE PLANK	Treasure Island	18	***	44
WASSANME	Lake View	18	***	24
YOUR ROYAL HARNESS	Star Wars	18	***	86
SWEET JOHANNA	Loslyf	18	**	72
GROVELFEST	Loslyf	18	*	
HUNTING FOR MORE	Last Chance	17 R	**	61
BANTHA FODDER	Star Wars	17	*****	87
SPLENDOR	Eden	17	*****	91
THE YOUNG AND THE BREASTLESS	Loslyf	17	****	66
JEDI MIND TRICKS	Star Wars	17	****	80
ADVOCATE BARBIE	Loslyf	17	***	71
BLISTERING BARNACLES	Bounty	17	***	39
CAT-O-NINE TAILS	Main Mast	17	***	51
DEAD MAN'S CHEST	Bounty	17	***	39
FIRST BLOOD	Treasure Island	17	***	45
FUDGE LAKE	Lake View	17	***	26
HERE BE MONSTERS	Bounty	17	***	38
HOWLING SPIDER PIG	Pound Crag	17	***	63

Climb Name	Area	Grade	Stars	Pg
I TJEKED AN ALIEN IN MY COFFIN	Lake View	17	***	24
SEPARATE REALITY	Lake View	17	***	24
THE GARDEN ROUTE	Rondawel	17	***	22
THE OTHER HALF-ARMADILLO	Phoenix Wall	17	**	32
AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HOUND DOG	Pound Crag	16	***	62
CAPTAIN MORGAN	Main Mast	16	***	50
CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE	Star Wars	16	***	81
DAS ROLLENDE HOTEL	Lake View	16	***	26
ELEVEN AND A HALF ARMADILLOS	Phoenix Wall	16	***	31
GOODBYE LENIN	Loslyf	16	***	68
LIFE'S A BEACH	Treasure Island	16	***	46
MAY THE CHEESE BE WITH YOU	Star Wars	16	***	87
ONE SMALLER THAN GREEN	Treasure Island	16	***	45
SWINGING FROM THE YARDARM	Treasure Island	16	***	46
THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE	Loslyf	16 R	**	69
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BABY	OK Corral	16	*	55
KNOTTED KNICKERS VARIATION	Loslyf	16	*	72
SUMMON THE CRACKEN	Treasure Island	15	*****	46
YO, HO, HO AND A CRACK FULL OF RUM	Treasure Island	15	*****	46
BEN GUNN	Main Mast	15	***	50
DOGGY STYLE	Pound Crag	15	***	62
I LIKE DIRT	Lake View	15	***	27
JAMAICAN ME CRAZY	Main Mast	15	***	50
JUNGLE BOEP	Jungle Book	15	***	74
NOT TOO SHABBY HEY FOREST	Phoenix Wall	15	***	32
RED RACKHAM'S TREASURE	Treasure Island	15	***	48
SILVER LONG JOHNS	Treasure Island	15	***	42
THE LONG SHADOW SHIMMY	Phoenix Wall	15	***	31
TREASURE CHEST	Treasure Island	15	***	48
ISOLATION CHIMNEY	Loslyf	14 R	**	69
AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE A HIND LEG	Pound Crag	14	***	63
MANS' BEST FRIEND	Pound Crag	14	***	62
SLIPPERY WHEN WET	Lake View	14	***	27
HANG ON SNOOPY	Pound Crag	13	***	63
VROU KOOK HOND	Pound Crag	13	***	63
OATSO EASY	Breakfast	12	***	60
10 X 10	Chalk/Cheese	10	***	52

TUK-TUK CRAG

TO GET THERE

This little crag is on the south-facing aspect of the Taxi Crag peninsular. Park and walk as per Taxi Crag, but veer right down the easy gulley before reaching the Taxi peninsular. There is a nice path in the gulley which goes to some gold prospecting pits. The crag is on the true left of the gulley.

There is a good-looking crag on the true right which still needs to be climbed.

ASPECT: South-east. Morning sun and shade the rest of the day.

APPROACH TIME: 15 minutes



DEHLI SANDBAG at Tuk Tuk Crag

DELHI SANDBAG

20 **

Climbs a grey slab with some parallel cracks at the left-hand end of the crag (see photograph). Start just to the right of grey slab to avoid the low roofs.

1. 35m 20 Climb the blocky face until able to step left around the arête onto the grey face. Climb the right hand crack and make tricky moves on welcome jams between the grass tufts. When the wall steepens traverse to the left hand crack. Climb this for a few meters then traverse back right to the arête. Climb this to the top-out ledge. Scramble off easily.

Note: Great moves are spoilt by vegetation. If this route was clean it would be 4 stars.

First ascent: 21 June 2014 H. Pringle and N. Grech-Cumbo.

TAXI CRAG

TO GET THERE

Continue along the R532 towards Graskop, past the entrance to the Rondawel Lookout, to the next lookout point for the Blyde Canyon. Park at the lookout and take the path that leaves the end of the 'loop' that goes NW towards the cliff edge (see map). After 80 m the path kinks back to the SW and is the Bylde Canyon Trail. After 500 m it crosses an obvious grassy depression at the top of an open gully. Cross this then head straight out NE to close to the end of the peninsular where there is an easy scramble down to the base of the crags. You arrive at the climbers left. Walking along the base of the crag is straightforward. The Taxi Gully is the obvious landmark, it's the dark slot (also known as Zuma's Gulley as it has no redeeming features).

ASPECT: North-west. Morning shade and sun the rest of the day.

APPROACH TIME: 35-40 minutes

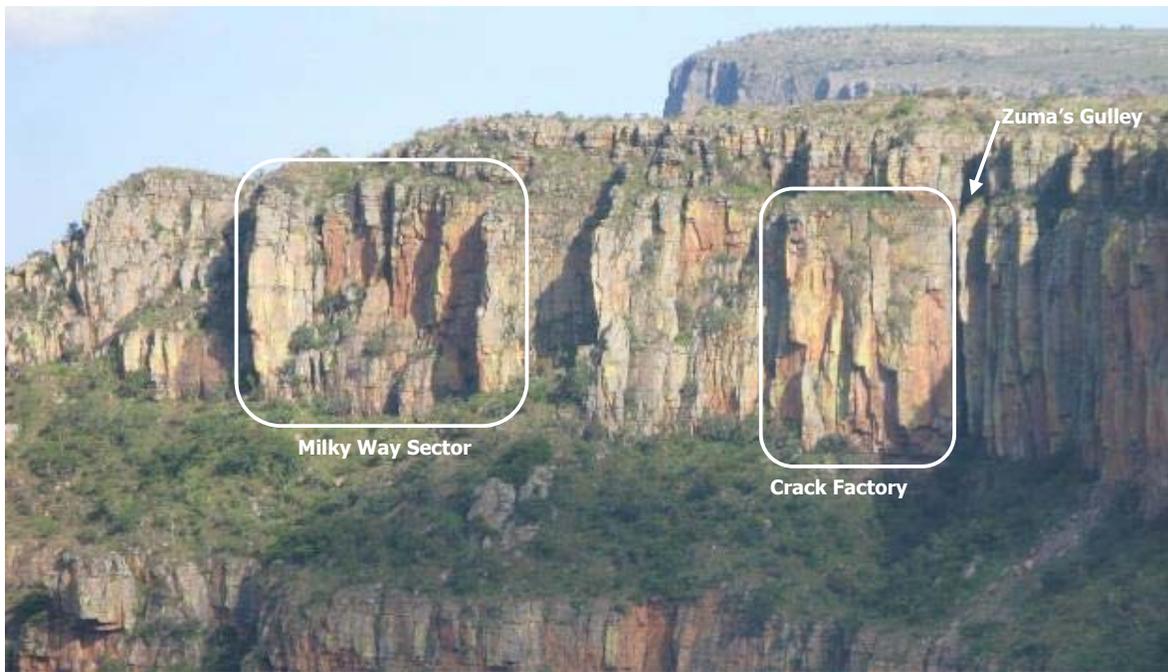


Taxi Crag approach

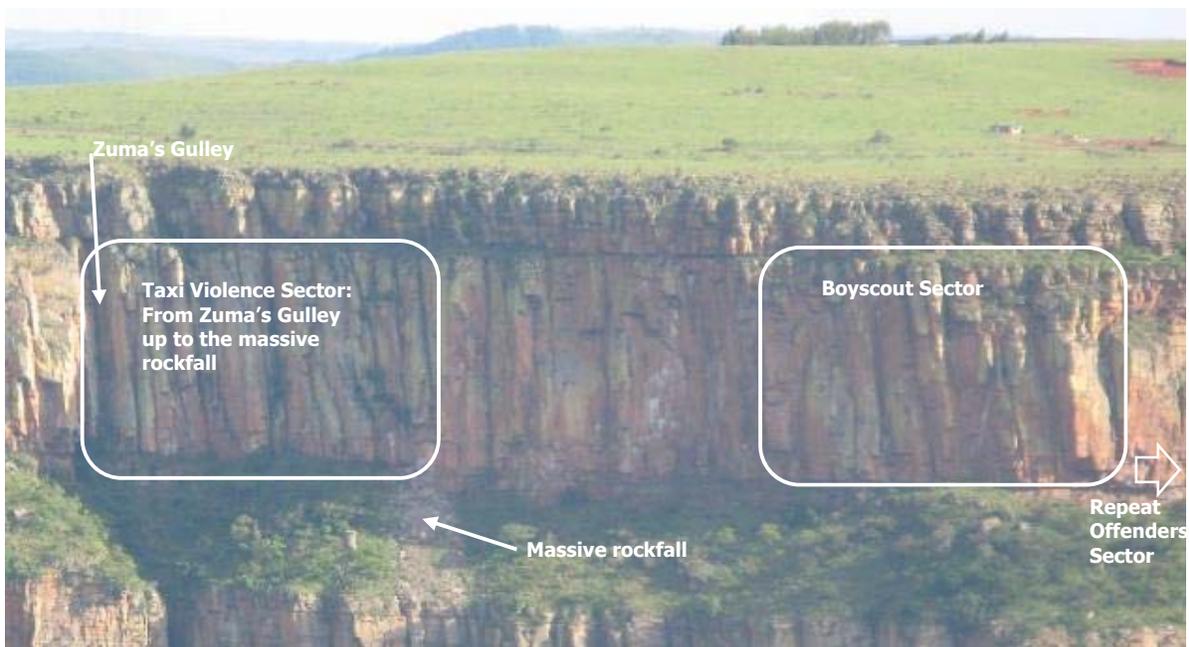
Approaches for the various sectors are with the Sector descriptions below.

This crag has various sectors shown below. There is a good pullover spot on the road from the campsite to scope it out.

The crag is 50 to 80m high and is generally vertical to slightly overhanging. Most routes top out on a large grassy ledge with a short 15m high rock band above. Usually there is an easy unroped scramble to get through this.



Taxi Crag left sectors



Taxi Crag right sectors

MILKY WAY SECTOR

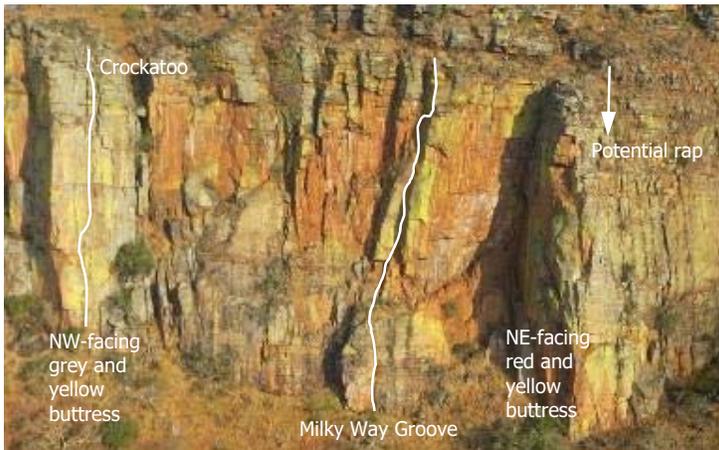
The first decent looking rock at the extreme left of Taxi Crag. This sector is bounded on the left by a NW-facing grey and yellow buttress, and on the right by a NE-facing red and yellow buttress. Right of center of this buttress is the striking Milky Way Groove, a left-facing corner crack at half height.

Approach

Either scramble down the end of the peninsular and walk to the base, or rig a rap. A possible option is shown below – this has not been tried yet but should work.



Potential abseil left of Zuma's Gulley



Milky Way Sector



Milky Way Groove

CROCKATOO

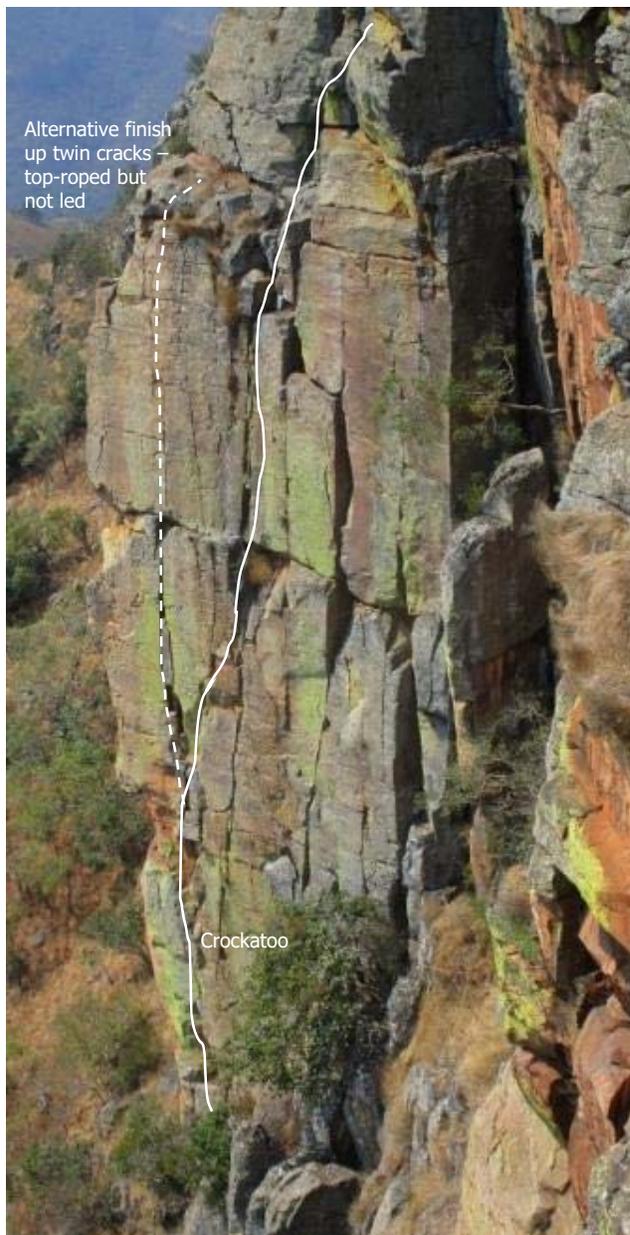
19 ****

(Pic below) Located on the NW facing grey and yellow face on the left of the Milky Way Sector.

- 1. 50m 19** Start up the cracks on the far left of the buttress and straight up to a recess below twin cracks. Traverse up and right to a vertical off-fingers crack which is followed up to ledge. Easy up to the top of the crag.

Note: There was a large loose block below the twin cracks. This was subsequently removed on top rope and one can continue straight up the wall at that point at a similar grade.

First ascent: Sept 2018 R. Halsey & C. Edelstein.



MILKY WAY GROOVE

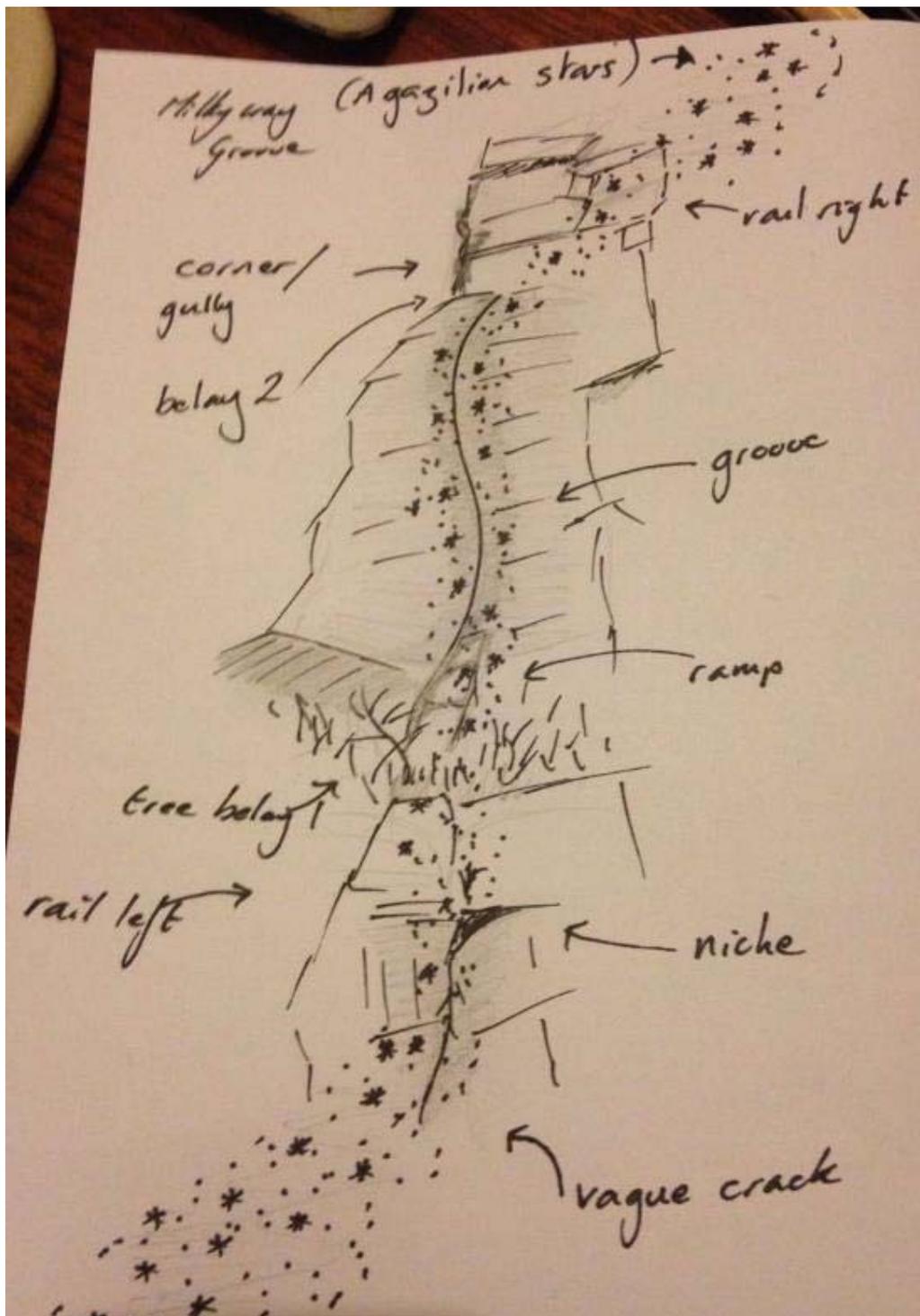
20 ****

(Topo below) Start at the toe of the buttress at a crack, below and slightly right of the stunning groove.

- 1. 20m 18** Climb the crack and slight corner feature. At bulge at approx. 8m, rail left for 1.5m. A stiff pull gains slabbier ground above which leads to a terrace.
- 2. 40m 20** A gazillion star pitch! Ascend the ramp (taking care past suspect block) to the base of the groove proper. Climb the stunning S-shaped groove with continued

interest on perfect rock. Initially steep the angle eases higher up as the crack gradually narrows from cam 3 right down to rock 2. Belay above groove or continue up pitch 3.
3. 15m 17 Follow the corner weakness with ease until possible to rail right to the arête in a nice position. A large ledge is reached with ease and exited via a stiff pull. Easy ground leads to the top.

First ascent: 21 March 2016 S. Whyte and R. Lorrimer.



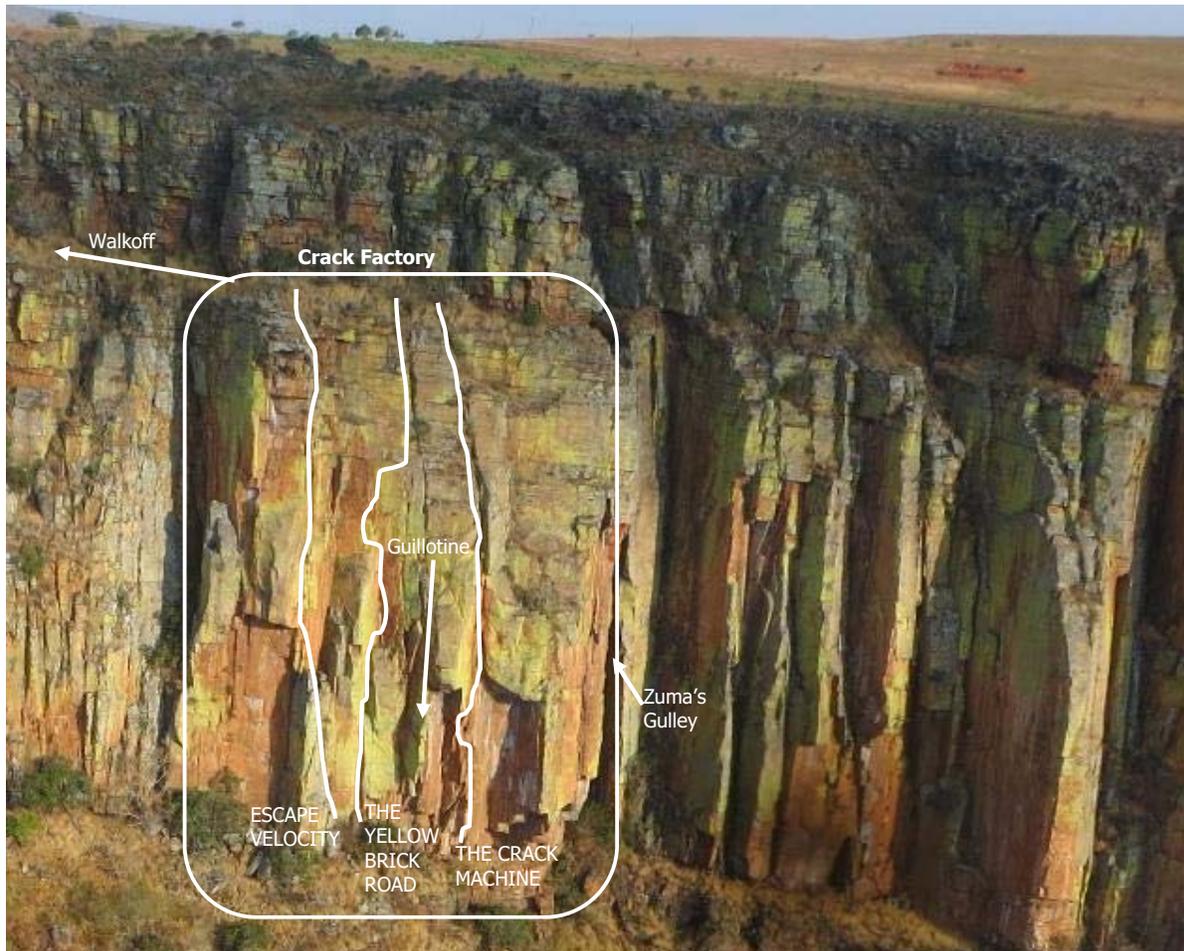
Milky Way Groove topo

THE CRACK FACTORY

The buttress immediately left of Zuma's Gully, dominated by a terrifying guillotine flake sticking straight out of the cliff about 50m left of the gully. The classic YELLOW BRICK ROAD is the blindingly obvious corner crack left of the guillotine.

Approach

Either scramble down the end of the peninsular and walk to the base, or rig a rap.



The Crack Factory

ESCAPE VELOCITY

21 ***

Start about 20m left of the guillotine, below a left-facing hand crack corner in grey rock (5m right of YELLOW BRICK ROAD).

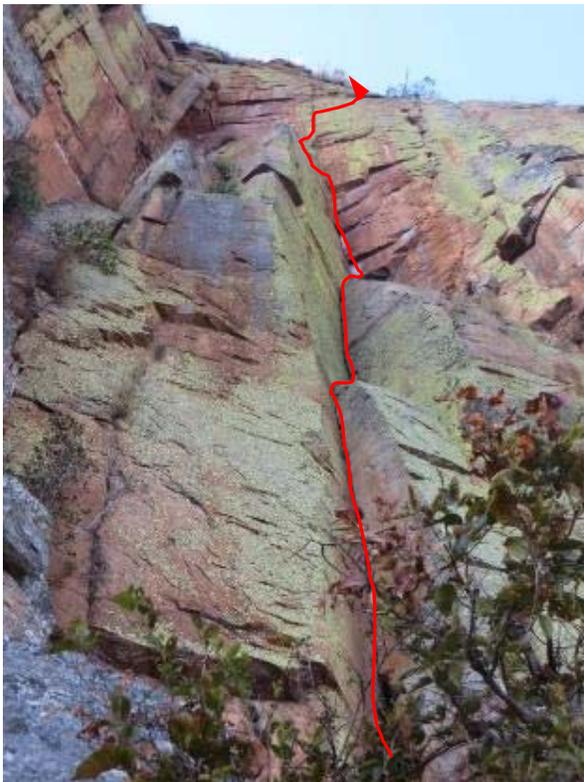
1. 40m 21 Climb the corner to a ledge. Step right and climb the gully until able to traverse back left on top of some blocks. Climb the big flake to a ledge. Rejoin the gully to get to a spectacular pinnacle below a steep broken crack in yellow rock. Climb the crack to a semi-hanging stance, just below a massive square-cut block.

2. 30m 19 Surmount the block, then the chimney above it, then up the crack above to a ledge on the right. Step right and climb grotty blocks and recess to a massive grassy ledge.

Walk off leftwards

Rack: #4 and #5 cams are useful.

First ascent: 19 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.



THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD



THE CRACK MACHINE

Crack Factory classics

THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

22 ****

Start about 15m left of the guillotine (i.e. about 30m left of THE CRACK MACHINE) at the base of a blindingly obvious acute angled corner crack with two tiers.

1. 30m 21 Climb the thin lower-tier finger corner crack to a ledge, then the upper-tier hand crack to the next ledge.

2. 40m 22 Climb the awesome layback finger crack above to where it ends at jugs. Traverse left around the arête and climb flakes to a foot ledge below the headwall. Climb halfway up the break in the headwall to place bomber gear in a slot. Traverse right on edges and make a tricky (and runout) move to exit up and right. Climb easy ground up and left to the top.

Walk off leftwards

Rack: Double rack of small cams, doubles of cams to #1, one each of #2 and #3, standard wires.

First ascent: 21 March 2016 H. Pringle T. Dunnett and G Bargon.

THE CRACK MACHINE

21 ****

Start about 15m right of the guillotine. The goal is two beautiful parallel cracks on a west facing wall. Scramble up to a ledge beneath a layback crack leading into an offwidth around a roof at 5m.

1. 30m 21 Layback up to the roof and pull around it deviously. Continue up the hand crack above to a chossy ledge. Climb up then traverse left to the next crack to avoid the choss. Continue up to a small ledge on the right.

2. 50m 21 A superb pitch with every type of crack smaller than fists. Climb the thin corner just right of the stance then step left into the main crack system. Climb this forever. When it finally ends on a ledge step left to the arête and climb this to avoid the unappealing gully. Once above the gully step back right and climb the pleasant gnarled face to a big ledge.

Walk off leftwards

Rack: #4 cam and a double rack of small cams are useful.

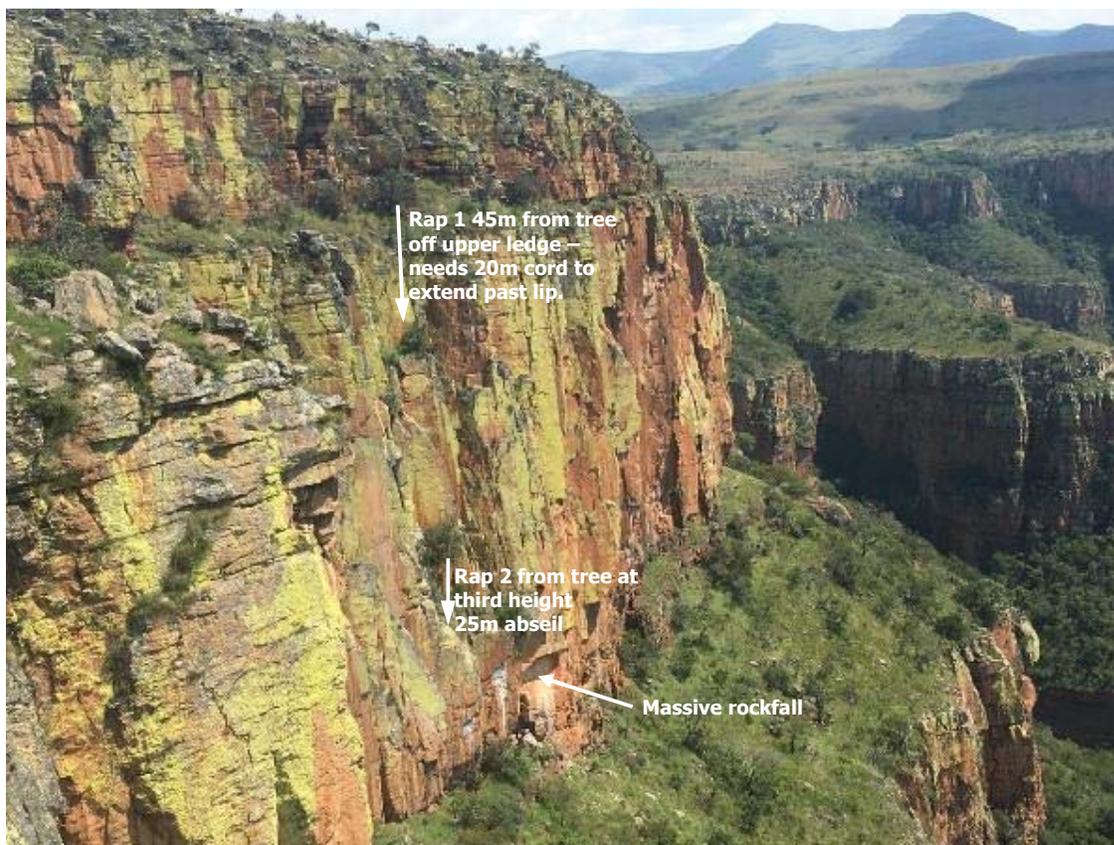
First ascent: 21 June 2014 H. Pringle and N. Grech-Cumbo.

TAXI VIOLENCE SECTOR

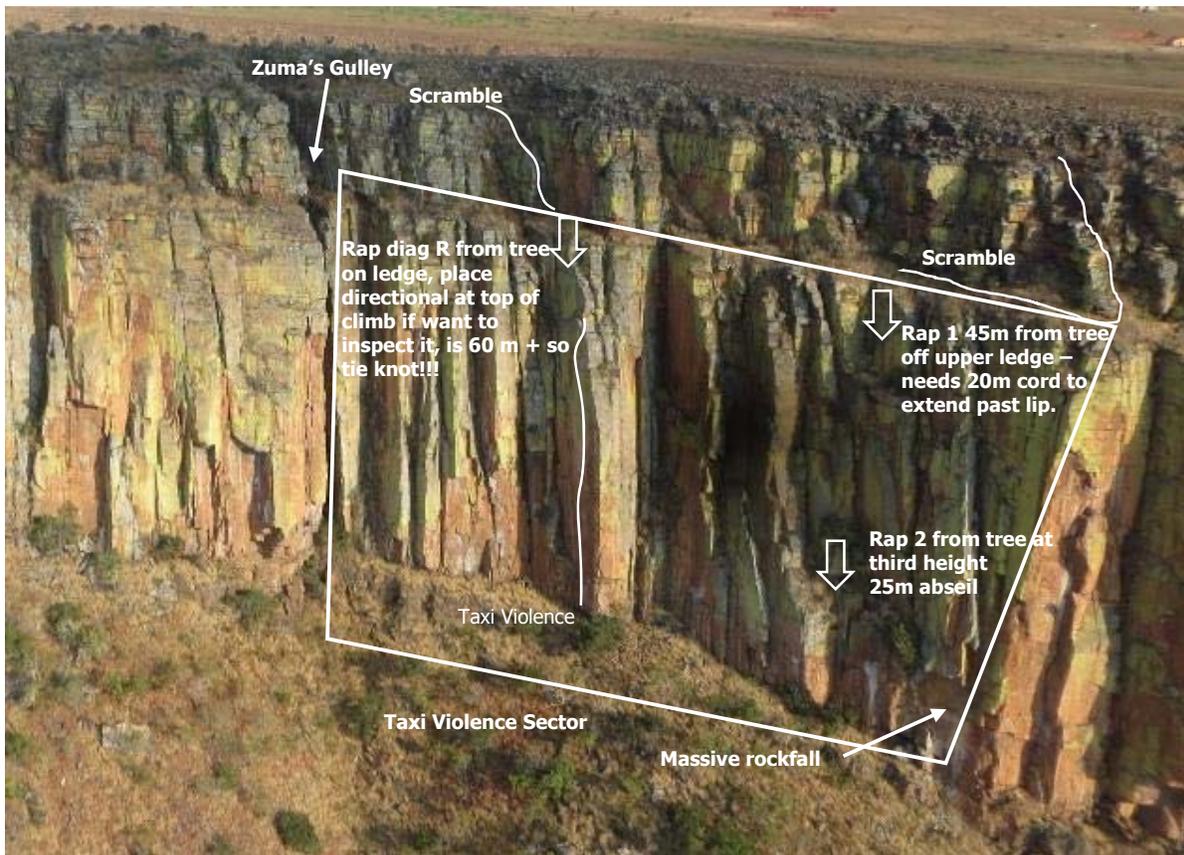
From Zuma's Gulley up to the massive rockfall marked by a huge flat roof. This sector is approximately 100m wide.

Approach

Either scramble down the end of the peninsular and walk to the base (this is a bit of a mission, especially crossing the brambles at the gully), or rig a rap. If you have a 90m rope you can rap anywhere. Otherwise find the rap shown below, or rap directly down Taxi Violence (see photo beneath Taxi Violence RD). The approach to the top is marked with cairns, but it's best to walk to the lip of the Crack Factory to scope out a landmark. The big tree at third height is obvious.



Taxi Violence Sector abseil



Taxi Violence Sector

ZUMA'S GULLEY

16 *

Two of SA's top sport climber's came to Blyde and opened its worst route: the gulley splitting Taxi Crag. This route looks terrible, and is even worse than it looks. It is also shady as fuck, just like our president.

80m 16 Climb shady, chossy weetbix up the back of the gulley.

First ascent: 2 April 2016 A. Pedley and B. Weaver.

Note: Rory climbed a route just right of Zuma's Gulley about grade 21/22

Note: Joe Mohle and Donovan have opened a 26 here, as has Alard and the Brits



Andrew Pedley only half-way up TAXI VIOLENCE, the pearl of the valley. Photo by Gustav Janse van Rensburg

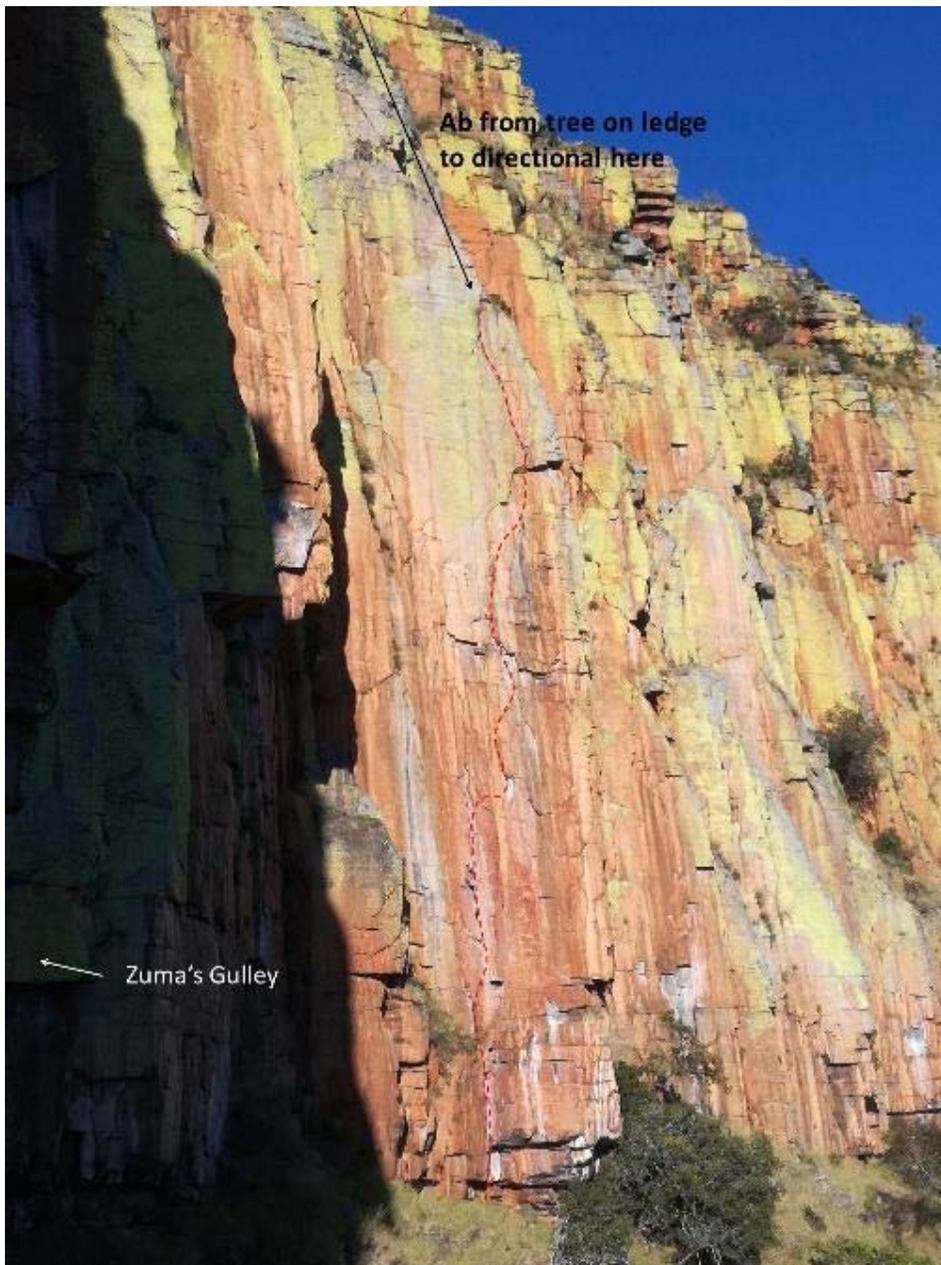
TAXI VIOLENCE

28 *****

There's Gods Window nearby, but this is Gods Climb. The pearl of the valley. About 40 m right of Taxi Gulley (aka Zuma's Gulley) is a wonderful face that can be climbed on its mid-to-right side by a connected series of flakes, cracks, faces, with some overlaps thrown in. Is in the shade early morning and last light only which is problematic. Either do this or wait for a cloudy day. The gear is bomber all the way, in fact it's easy to place too much. There are no particularly hard moves, just lots and lots of them, from the very start to the last move, and its **45 m long!** It ends about 2/3 up the cliff. It does not get dirty so ground up is fine. If you want to ab down it, there is a good ledge (3 m wide) with a solid tree, that can be scrambled down to, about 15 m from the top. From this ledge abseil (off the tree) down (a bit diagonally to the R keeping R of the bush) to the top of the climb (a round-topped, partially detached block on the arête - is solid) with a crack on its L side where you can place a directional so the ab is now directly down the climb. To here it's about a 20 m abseil (would be 35 m from the top) and is another 45 to the base, so you need a long rope, ideally a static, or a second rope. The climb starts with a hard pull over a bulge (medium cam) to gain the easy flake which becomes a crack then a high big cam in a V-slot protects a hard move R across the face to big underclings, then up some, then move rightwards towards arête up lovely cracks, pass an overlap and then the final hard bit left up diagonal crack with tricky feet and a pump. Mind and arm blowing.

First ascent: 2017

Andrew Pedley with great support from Matt Hoffman.



TAXI VIOLENCE. Photo by A. Pedley

UNDER THE INFLUENCE ATTEMPT

22 A0 **

Right of Zuma's Gulley (looking up). Note that this attempt does not top out. Climbs the first face left of the massive boulder-fall (about 30m left of the boulder-fall). Ascends a slightly overhanging red face, then a stunning crack up a yellow face to a ridge.

1. 30m 22 Climb the crack up the red wall, pull through the bulge into the stunning cracks on the yellow wall. Climb to wedged flakes, step right to the arête then up to belay on sloping blocks.

2. 15m 19 Start from the lowest point of the sloping ledge (i.e. on the right). Traverse right, using a cammed block to the arête. Keep going right until able to step down to a bushy tree in the corner.

3. Scramble down the sloping ledge, then up to the massive tree. Abseil off, back to the ground.

Note: Climbed with one rest on pitch 1. We thought about trying to top out but everything above looked either loose or crap.

Attempted: 19 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

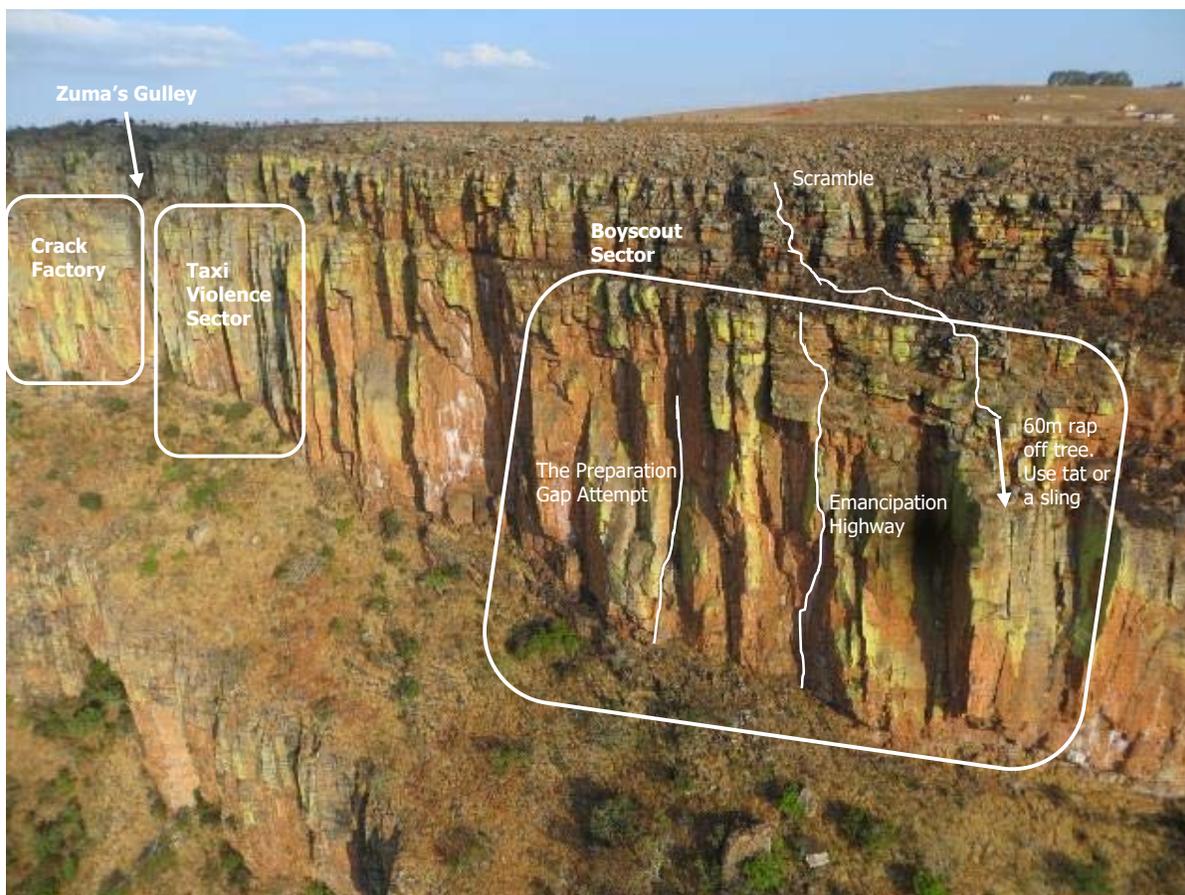
BOYSCOUT SECTOR

The sector to the left of where the crag changes aspect from north to northwest (i.e. the prow of the crag). Lots of big, steep and intimidating lines here.

Approach – as for Repeat Offenders Sector

Rap in: Find the big flat rock on top with many cairned stones on it. Scramble down easily from here through the top rock band. Traverse west (towards the road) along the big bushy ledge to the prow of the crag. Make a tricky scramble down to a tree on a ledge 10m lower. Use tat or a sling around this and rap off. Walk to climbers' left from the base of the rap.

Alternatively walk in from the left or right (serious bushwhack).



Boyscout Sector

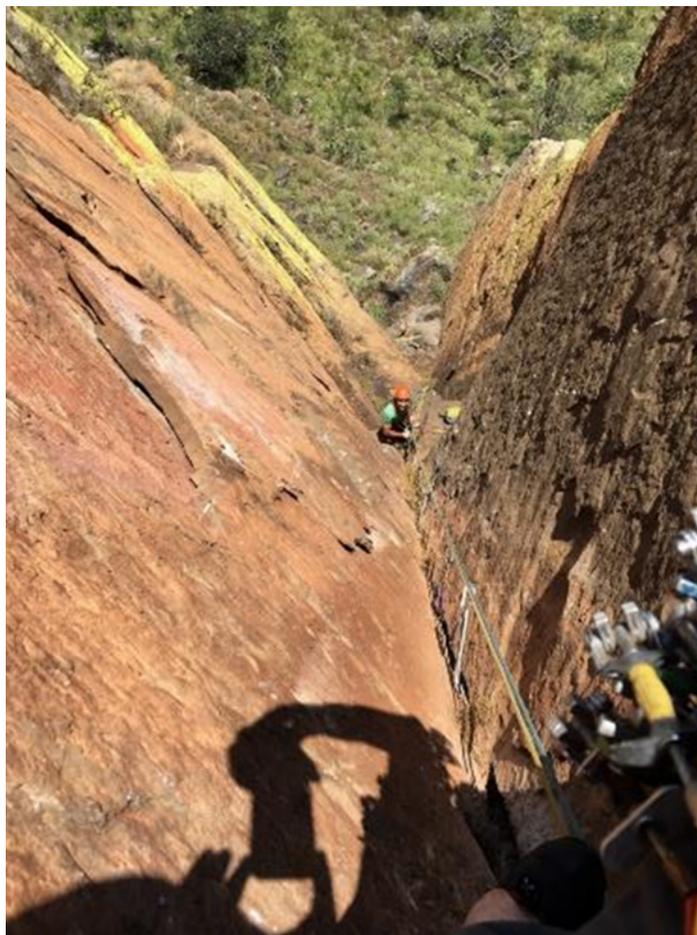
THE PREPARATION GAP ATTEMPT

22 A0 ****

About 75m left of the prow of the crag. The striking, deep open book, about 35m high starting 20m up. It ends at some large overhangs at the top of the crag. We attempted to climb the corner and got shut down by a blind section towards its top. Excellent

climbing marred by many bushes. Will probably go free with some work. Would be a classic if it got traffic.

Attempted: 2 April 2016 H. Pringle and T. Dunnett.



Looking down the Preparation Gap corner

EMANCIPATION HIGHWAY

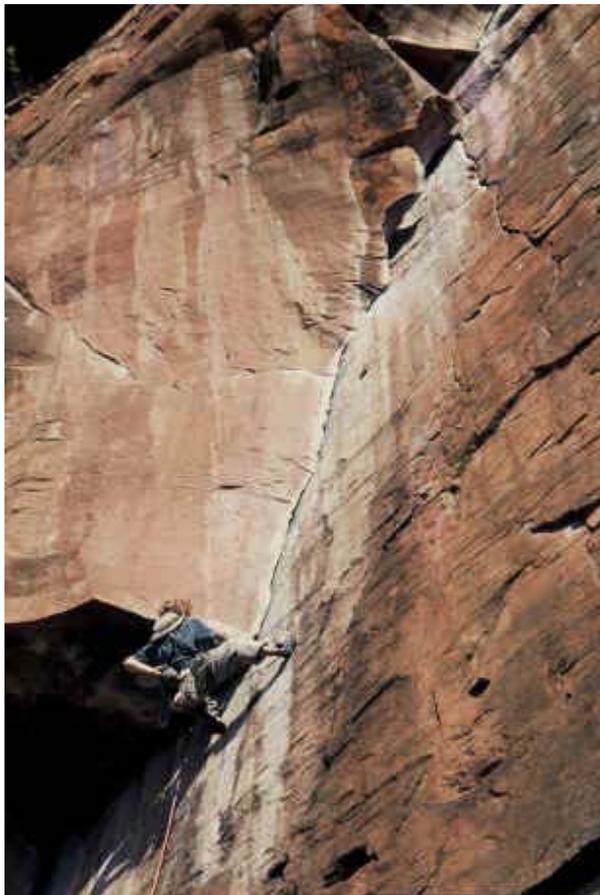
24 ****

About 25m left of the prow of the crag. Just left of this is an obvious steep right-leaning overlap which forms a white corner. It is guarded by a roof beneath.

1. 55m 24 Climb easily up to beneath the roof, undercling right and turn the lip to climb the amazing corner. Climb the flared right-facing chimney above and keep it together through the next section of underclings as the crack kinks to the right. Move up and left through the overhangs to finally break through onto the face above. Climb up to a good ledge.

1. 30m 19 Exit pitch: Grovel up through the grass to a ledge. Walk up and left and climb the final rock band to the top. This pitch is crap – it is better to leave gear and rap off after pitch 1

First ascent: Circa 2001 Pieter Martin.



Pieter Martin on the brilliant EMANCIPATION HIGHWAY

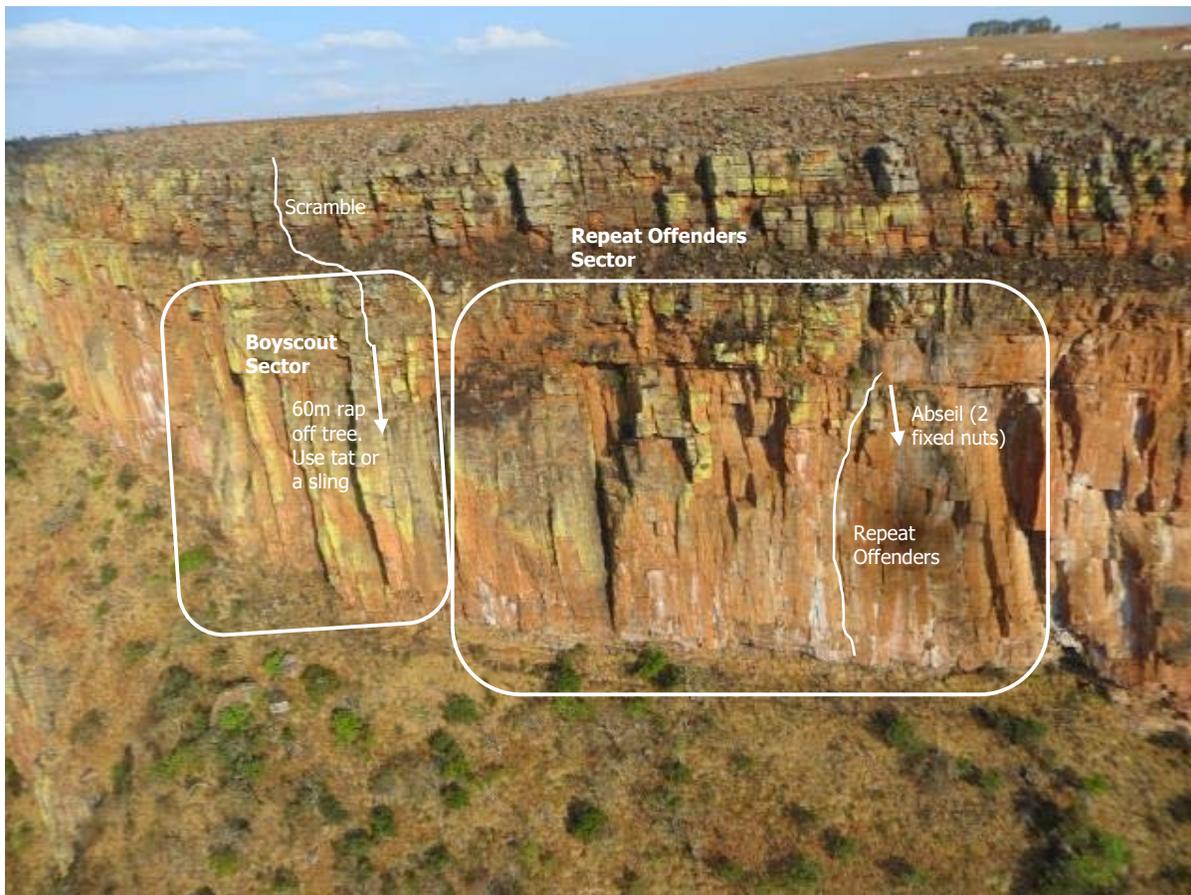
REPEAT OFFENDERS SECTOR

The sector to the right of where the crag changes aspect from north to northwest (i.e. the prow of the crag). More steep stuff!

Approach – as for Boyscout Sector

Rap in: Find the big flat rock on top with many cairned stones on it. Scramble down easily from here through the top rock band. Traverse west (towards the road) along the big bushy ledge to the prow of the crag. Make a tricky scramble down to a tree on a ledge 10m lower. Use tat or a sling around this and rap off. Walk to climbers' right from the base of the rap. Just around to the right of the prow of the crag is a long orange wall streaked with white with many vertical cracks. REPEAT OFFENDERS is towards the right end of this wall.

Alternatively walk in from the left or right (serious bushwhack).



Repeat Offenders

23 *****

Located on the face about 10m left the double right facing corner system. See topo below.

1. 20m 23 Make a tricky move into the base of a vertical crack. Relentless, strenuous jams lead up to a brief respite out left. Step back right and continue up to a projecting fin. Stance on top of this, rather exhausted.

2. 30m 21 From the fin move up into a wide recess. Head up to what looks like a heinous off width, but climbs really well outside this. Follow the wide crack curving right to an airy finish out right to a platform. An abseil anchor (two wires) is at the top of the double right facing corner system.

Halfway up pitch 2 we found a bail anchor from a joint SA/British climbing meet in 2002

Circa 2002, FA unknown. Repeat offence 13 Aug 2016 R. Halsey & T. Dunnett



RONDAWEL VIEW

TO GET THERE

Rondawel Lookout Complex are the crags below the Three Rondawels lookout point. Drive south out of the resort towards Graskop, turn left after a little way to the lookout point. Park at the cul-de-sac where the tourists go (toilets and water available here). Three sections are found here and all are gained from the same gully. Walk in a north-westerly direction towards the resort following some beacons that lead to the edge of the cliff band. Here a descent is found through a hole under a boulder at the cliff edge. From the decent gully turn right and head out along the cliff band to the far arête and turn the corner.

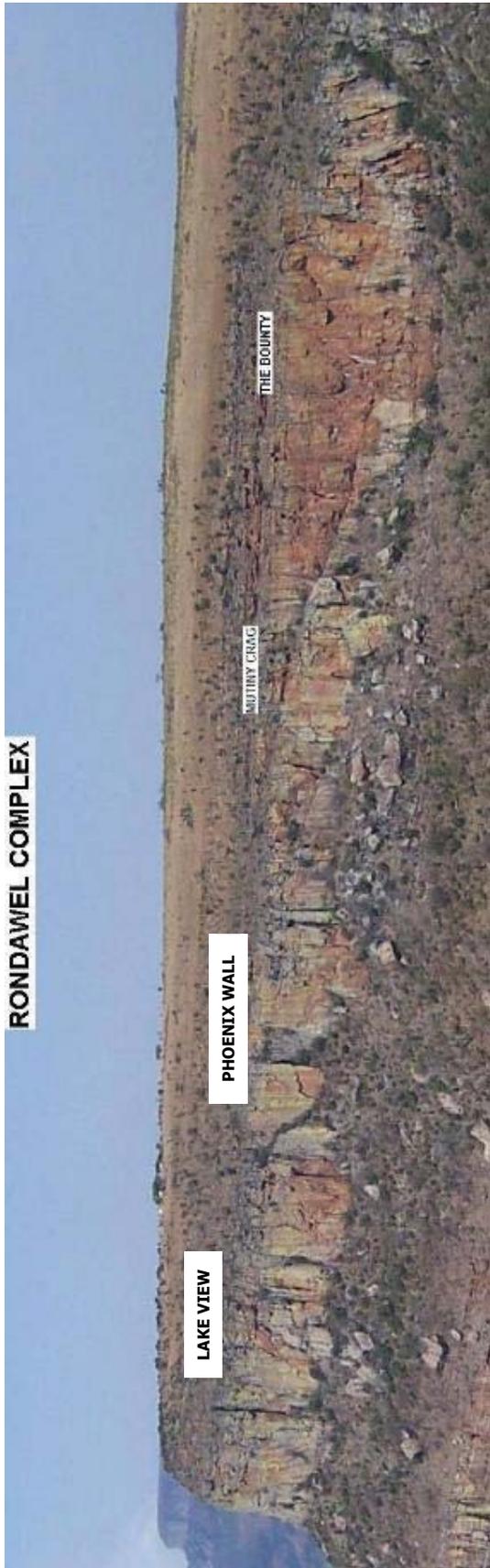
APPROACH TIME: 35-45 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

These routes finish at the top of the crag at the tourist view spots.



Local climber at the RONDAWEL VIEW crag



ASHEN AWARENESS 18 ***

To the left of GET ON TOP a large dark red corner capped by roofs can be seen. The roof directly above the corner, at the top of the crag, is a large projecting spike with a break to its left and vague break to its right. This route climbs the corner and takes the right break past the roof.

1. 55m 18 Climb the corner for a few meters until able to move left to a crack in the left face of the corner. Climb the crack and left arête to where the crack dies then step back right in to the corner. Climb the corner until about 10m below a ledge. A foot ledge runs off to the right, traverse right and climb the face using the right arête to a chossy ledge. Climb the corner to a small stance at the base of a large pillar.

2. 40m 18 Climb the crack on the right side of the pillar. Traverse left across loose blocks on top of the pillar and climb the left hand break above, through the first small overhang. Traverse right to the obvious escape ramp and climb the easy face, tending rightwards to a small platform. Continue rightwards to a good ledge. Climb the corner above the ledge until able to step left around the arête on good holds. Continue up to a large ledge.

3. 20m 13 Climb the easy break to the top of the cliff.

First ascent: 6 Dec 2002 H. Pringle and A. Koch.

GET ON TOP 18 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk along the base around the corner to the complex of crags facing the Three Rondawels to the east.

Continue along the base of this crag around another buttress corner further along. Continue past a grassy grey south facing slab. To the left of this slab the start of some dark overhanging rock can be seen. Just to the right of these a break is seen starting just left of an overhanging bulge at the base of the cliff. Start in the recess left of the bulge.

- 1. 15m 12** Climb up the grassy recess moving right higher past blocky ledges to a good ledge higher below an open book.
- 2. 25m 16** Climb the crack in the short face on the right of the ledge then move left into the open book. Climb the open book exiting left higher onto the arête. Continue up a short way then move back right across the corner. Pass blocky ledges to a good ledge higher below a short corner.
- 3. 48m 18** Climb the short corner moving left under the overhang to the arête. Continue up the juggy face tending leftwards to the recess. Climb the recess passing steeper ground to a grassy ledge.
- 4. 20m 12** Move right on the ledge then climb the grassy break to the top.

First ascent: 1 Sep 2001 H. Pringle, G. Frost and A. Grant.

DOWNWARD BOUND

19 ***

This route forms a variation to GET ON TOP for the first pitch and a half. It also shares a start with NO FAIRIES HERE.

Descend gully to the right and walk along the base around the corner to the complex of crags facing the Three Rondawels to the east. Continue along the base of this crag around another buttress corner further along. Continue past a grassy grey south facing slab. About 50m to the left of this slab a large pillar is seen forming a chimney with the wall. The pillar chimney overhangs on the right. Start to the left of the large pillar at the base of a large recess.. A large off-width crack can be seen on the left hand wall of the corner formed by the pillar and the main wall.

- 1. 40m 19** Climb the recess to the base of the large off-width on the left. Traverse left to the arête on good foot grips. Climb the arête and step right onto the face. Continue up the face just left of a grassy crack to a good ledge (shared with 2nd pitch of GET ON TOP).
- 2. 50m 17** Climb the break from the right edge of the ledge on steep rock. Step left at 20m on good holds and continue traversing diagonally leftwards to the corner. Continue up the corner (shared with 3rd pitch of GET ON TOP) to a stance on the large grassy ledge.
- 3. 20m 12** Move right on the ledge then climb the grassy break to the top (shared with 4th pitch of GET ON TOP).

First ascent: 31 Mar 2002 H. Pringle and J. Pierce.

NO FAIRIES HERE

19 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk along the base around the corner to the complex of crags facing the Three Rondawels to the east. Continue along the base of this crag around another buttress corner further along. Continue past a grassy grey south facing slab. About 50m to the left of this slab a large pillar is seen forming a chimney with the wall. The pillar chimney overhangs on the right. Start to the left of the large pillar at the base of a large recess. A large off-width crack can be seen on the left hand wall of the corner formed by the pillar and the main wall.

- 1. 25m 17** Climb the corner formed by the pillar and the main wall. Pass a tree and continue up rightwards to belay at the base of a big chimney.
- 2. 35m 19** Chimney up keeping close to the arête. Climb the face above the chimney moving left to stay on the juggy rock. Where the wall steepens move right to a small corner with a short off-width above. Climb the off-width to a small ledge.

3. 30m 18 Climb the crack at the left edge of the ledge. Move right beneath a large flake (may be loose) and continue up a vague corner to a small triangular roof. Step left around the roof and continue up tending rightwards to a large ledge.

4. 20m 12 Climb a recess to summit (same as for CRACK TEST DUMMIES)

First ascent: 4 Dec 2001 H. Pringle, D. Cullinan and D. Wright.

CRACK TEST DUMMIES

21 *****

Descend gully to the right and walk along the base around the corner to the complex of crags facing the Three Rondawels to the east. Continue along the base of this crag around another buttress corner further along. Continue past a grassy grey south facing slab. About 50m to the left of this slab a large pillar is seen forming a chimney with the wall. The pillar chimney overhangs on the right. Start in the recess below the overhanging chimney.

1. 15m 17 Climb the corner on the right of the recess moving left onto the face then up to a large ledge and tree.

2. 40m 18 Climb the wide corner on the left of the ledge. Stem up the chimney until it widens then move onto the crack system in the face. Climb up then traverse right on a good rail to another crack. Continue up the cracks to the start of the bottomless chimney. Chimney up heading rightwards to exit through a hole onto a good ledge on top of the pillar.

3. 35m 21 Climb the slab above the midpoint of the ledge to a rail. Climb up then traverse right using the rail for feet around the arête to gain a corner. Climb the corner to a small ledge and tree. Continue up the jam crack in the corner behind the tree to a blocky pillar. Move left around the arête then climb the juggy face to a grassy ledge.

4. 20m 15 Climb the break above the ledge moving left on a ledge. Continue up the blocks then pull the small overhang to the top.

First ascent: 1 Sep 2001 G. Frost, H. Pringle and A. Grant.

BURNING BRIDGES

21 A0 ***

This routes starts in the same place as CRACK TEST DUMMIES.

Descend gully to the right and walk along the base around the corner to the complex of crags facing the Three Rondawels to the east. Continue along the base of this crag around another buttress corner further along. Continue past a grassy grey south facing slab. About 50m to the left of this slab a large pillar is seen forming a chimney with the wall. The pillar chimney overhangs on the right. Start in the recess below the overhanging chimney.

1. 10m 15 Climb the wide recess with chock-stones in it on the left below the chimney above. Climb passed the vegetation to a tree at the back of the ledge.

2. 45m 21 Climb the corner on the right of the ledge up to an overhanging bulge. Traverse right with difficulty to a large, acute open book. Continue up this open book passing a series of three overhangs to a small ledge with a tree.

3. 7m 18 Continue up the corner at the back of the ledge to a better ledge with a tree.

4. 20m 20 A0 Climb up the left corner at the back of the ledge (the right corner is off-width) for a few meters until the crack peters out. Tension-traverse right to the off-width. Continue up this corner to below an overhang. Exit the overhang to the right then climb up passed grassy ledges to a large ledge.

5. 20m 18 Climb up the obvious jam-crack on the right of the ledge. Tend rightwards to easier blocks then climb the break to the top.

First ascent: 31 Mar 2002 G. Frost and A. Grant.

SQUATTING TIGER PANTING PENGUIN

22 A1 ***

Descend gully to the right. Walk along the base past the corner to the Rondawel View complex. Continue along the base passing the "flat rock" around an arête until a large grey slab pillar is seen. Start on the left of this pillar blow a very direct crack line in the wall.

1. 15m 17 Climb the slab face to a tree in the corner below a chimney with a crack in the wall on the left.

2. 27m 18 A1 Climb the crack with stemming moves on the chimney arête to a small ledge on the arête. Gain the thin crack in the wall and using aid and some free climbing higher continue up to a niche belay below an off-width.

3. 27m 22 A0 Continue directly up from the stance climbing the off-width to a sloping ramp. Continue up the ramp the base of an overhanging off-width chimney. Stem up placing gear in a crack on the left inside the off-width. Exit left and continue past a niche to a good ledge above.

4. 45m 17 Climb through the overhang break on the left of the stance. Continue up to just below the next overhang then step left to gain the arête. Climb a short face then move left around the arête continuing up on easier ground to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 30 Jun 2001 H. Pringle, G. Frost and A. Grant.

BUGGERED WITHOUT THE BUSH

22 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk around to the Rondawel View complex. Walk past the "flat rock" and around the next arête. The route starts at the base of three cracks splitting the face on the right of a prominent corner. Begin just to the left of a tree growing out of the rock a few meters up.

1. 25m 20 Climb broken cracks moving slightly right above the tree, climb the middle crack using the others where necessary. Move right higher up to a small ledge.

2. 20m 22 Climb the crack directly above the stance. Continue up on harder ground to gain a cubbyhole. Break through the overhang to the left above the cubbyhole then traverse diagonally left and up across a short face to gain a small niche and crack on the left. Continue up the crack to a sloping stance below a steep off-width.

3. 20m 16 Stem up the off-width keeping left. Avoiding loose rock climb a short corner to a good stance on the right.

4. 30m 14 Climb up to the overhang above the right of the ledge. Move around this to the left. Continue up broken ground to the top.

First ascent: 23 Jun 2001 H. Pringle and N. McKenzie.

MOJO RISING

18 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk around to the Rondawel View complex. Walk past the "flat rock" to the next corner. Start in the corner below a large tree higher up.

1. **10m 15** Climb the recess in the corner passing the tree on the right to a ledge.
2. **35m 16** Continue up the corner above the ledge and when able to, traverse left across the face to gain a groove above the tree. Climb the groove to a ledge and tree. Continue up the face past a series of small ledges to the top of the buttress.
3. **35m 18** Climb up using a flake to a corner on the left higher up. Move slightly right onto the face and up to an overhang. Pull the overhang then continue up a recessed corner to a ledge system. Climb up to below an overhang on the left arête, step left onto the face and continue up to a large ledge.
4. Scramble up to the top and belay at the view point fence.

First ascent: 23 Jun 2001 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

VAGABOND PRINCES

18 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk around to the Rondawel View complex. Walk to the "flat rock" at the base of the wall on the left of a steep gully. Start below the start of a left leaning ramp higher up on the left of the "flat rock".

1. Scramble up the grassy face to a ledge at the start of the ramp.
2. **30m 15** Climb up a grassy start to the ramp on the left. Climb up the ramp to the start of a crack system in the main face. Climb the cracks to a belay on the left above a tree.
3. **36m 17** Climb the face on the right of the steep corner above the stance. Climb up to the vegetated recessed corner and continue up, moving right higher to avoid a bush, to a tree belay below a chimney.
4. **30m 18** Chimney up above the tree to a small ledge below an off-width. Stem up to gain the jam crack at the top of the off-width. Climb up to a small ledge system below some overhangs. Climb directly up to below the break in the overhang with a tree above. Pull through the break passing the tree on the left and up to a small ledge. Climb the face to a grassy ledge.
5. **25m 14** Climb a small break and blocky cracks to where a short traverse left can be made to avoid the overhang. Scramble up to a belay on the top of the crag.

First ascent: 31 May 2001 G. Frost and N. McKenzie.

THE GARDEN ROUTE

17 ***

Descend gully to the right and walk around to the Rondawel View complex. Before the start of VP at the "flat rock" a large crack can be seen about 10m up from the ground in the face. This leads up to a broken crack system below a large overhang. On the right is a vegetated recess that can be seen going to the top. This route ascends that recess.

1. 50m 15 Start up the face just to the right and below the large crack. Climb up tending left to the start of a left facing corner with grey lichen on it. Climb up this corner passing the large crack which is to the left. At a small ledge follow a leftward leaning ramp corner and at the top of this step right onto a small ledge and belay.

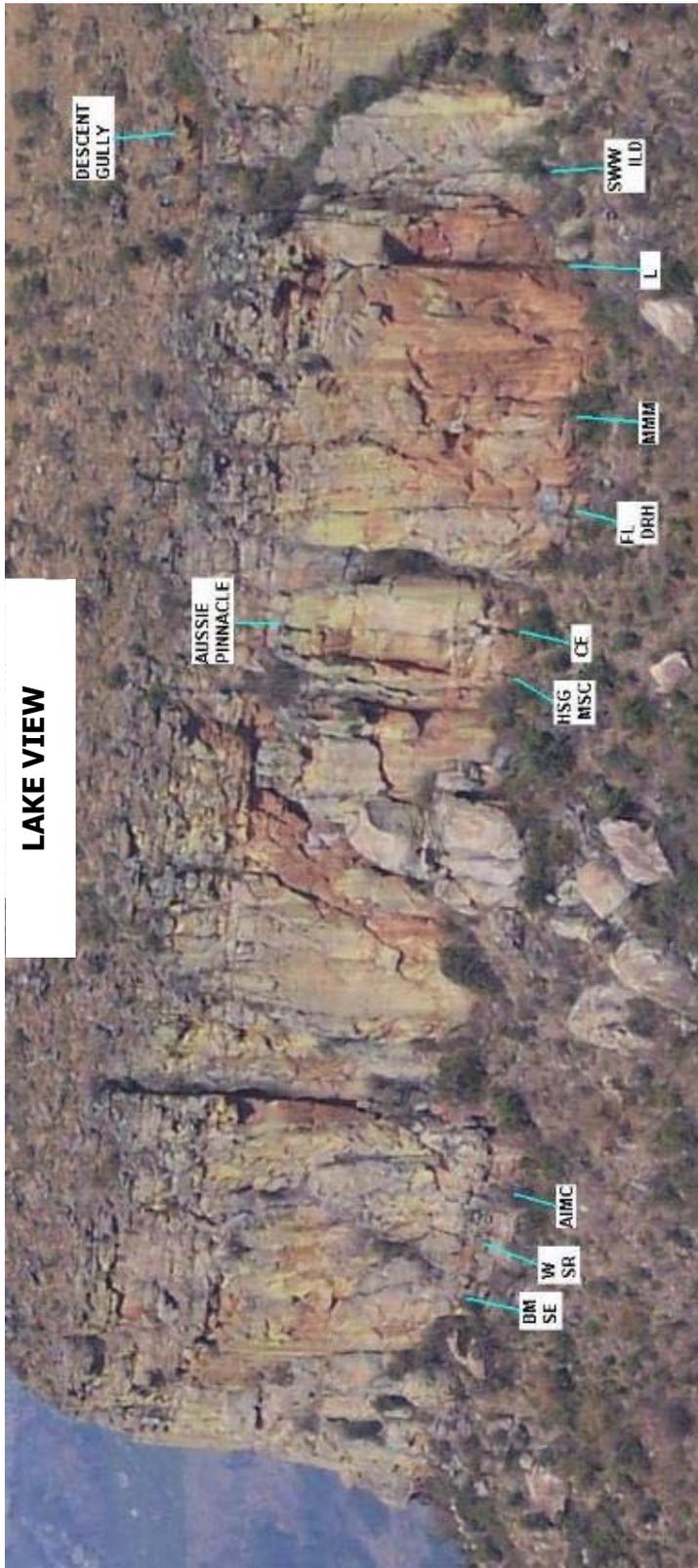
2. 45m 17 From the stance traverse right to the gully recess. Climb up passing a short layback crack to a recess. Follow this recess passed trees to the base of a large chimney. Climb this exiting right onto a large ledge and belay.

3. 20m 10 Climb up some blocks at the stance then scramble to some trees on the right at the top.

First ascent: 15 Feb 2003 G. Frost and B. Nicholson.

LAKE VIEW

TO GET THERE



Rondawel Lookout Complex are the crags below the Three Rondawels lookout point. Drive south out of the resort towards Graskop, turn left after a little way to the lookout point. Park at the cul-de-sac where the tourists go (toilets and water available here).

Three sections are found here and all are gained from the same gully. Walk in a north-westerly direction towards the resort following some beacons that lead to the edge of the cliff band. Here a descent is found through a hole under a boulder at the cliff edge.

Turn right at the bottom of the gully.

APPROACH TIME: 10-15 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Most of these routes finish on top of semidetached buttresses with bushy gullies separating them from the main crag. Scramble across the gullies back up to the main crag then traverse back rightwards towards the descent gully.

BLUE MERCURY 19 ***

Descend the gully, turn right and walk along the base of Lake View Crag until the last buttress before the corner turns right to Rondawel View Crag. This buttress is characterized by a large triangular overhang forming a flake above midway up on the left. There is a grotty gully-crack at the base of the buttress.

1. 25m 14 Climb the crack just to the left of the gully-crack. Move around onto the small arête where the rock steepens and continue up the face to a belay at a tree just right of the flake overhang.

2. 26m 19 Step left from the stance to underneath the flake overhang. A dassie traverse left will gain the left edge of the flake. Follow the flake up and right to the base of a short corner below a second triangular overhang. Move up the corner then pull the overhang to gain a rightward tending crack. Continue up the crack to a stance on top of a boulder below some overhangs.

Descent: Either top-out easily or climb right and down to abseil off a tree on a ledge below the stance.

First ascent: 1 Jul 2001 G. Frost, A. Grant and H. Pringle.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

17 ***

Shares the same start as BLUE MERCURY.

1. 50m 17 Climb the 1st pitch of BLUE MERCURY to the tree. Ascend the corner above and exit right to below an overhang. Pull the overhang and continue up the crack to a stance on a ledge behind a tree.

Descent: Either top-out easily or abseil off the tree.

First ascent: 1 July 2001 G. Frost, A. Grant and H. Pringle.

WASSANME

18 ***

Shares the same start as BLUE MERCURY.

1. 40m 12 Climb the face above the block-ledge to the gully-crack. Continue up the gully-crack to easier ground on a gnarly face. Pass a vegetated ledge and climb up another gnarly face to a higher ledge below an open book.

2. 20m 18 Climb the open book exiting right at the top. Climb up to a ledge then traverse left to a belay in a corner behind a tree.

3. 20m 10 Continue up the corner on easy ground passing a crack and blocks to the top.

First ascent: 3 Mar 2002 D. Margetts, G. Devine and G. Frost.

SEPARATE REALITY

17 ***

Start on the ledge to the right of the block ledge used in BLUE MERCURY.

1. 45m 16 Climb up a block to the base of a pillar on the right of a steep crack in the face. Climb to the top of the pillar then mantle left to a small ledge. Climb up the face on the right to a short corner. Traverse right to better holds then up to a vegetated ledge. Continue up a gnarly face to a ledge higher up.

2. 30m 17 Climb directly above the ledge on a face to a foot ledge. Traverse right on the ledge to a hand crack. Climb the crack to below an overlap. Move right under the overlap then pull up onto the face. Climb the gnarly face with cracks to a belay on some blocks at the top.

First ascent: 3 Mar 2002 G. Frost, D. Margetts and G. Devine.

I TJEKED AN ALIEN IN MY COFFIN

17 ***

Descend gully, turn right and walk along the base until passing below a large boulder. Walk back up to the crag to where a large pillar half the high of the crag sit up against the wall. An obvious groove leads up from the pillar. A steep gully is right of the pillar and face.

1. 45m 17 Start on the right of the pillar base. Climb the recessed corner and exit left below an overhang. Climb up following a series of ledges and faces past a vegetated ledge to a higher ledge and belay.

OR

1. 45m 17 Start a few meters left of the pillar base' arête below a crack that goes up to a roof. Climb the crack and move left under the roof then up to a ledge. Climb up tending leftwards to ascend a corner and then a break in the steeper part just right of the arête. Continue up a face past a vegetated ledge to a higher ledge and belay.

2. 30m 16 Climb up to the groove on the left of the ledge with a wide crack on the right higher up. Climb the recess to below the wide crack then move right onto the a gnarly face and continue up to the top.

First ascent: 23 Jun 2001 D. Margetts and G. Frost.

THE HYDROBLADE

21****

See topo below. An arête that is harder than it looks, and has moments of boldness. Start as for WAYDING IN GLORY.

1. 15m 17. Climb the blocky crack, and up to a platform where it is easy to step right onto the arête.

2. 30m 21. Step left to the base of the arête and follow this all the way to small ledge. Just before the top, you may want to step right to place gear and then finish back on the arête proper.

A 50m abseil off fixed wires brings you back to the ground.

First Ascent: 16 Aug 2016 R. Halsey & T. Dunnett

WAYDING IN GLORY

19 ****

See topo below. Almost as good as winning gold at the Olympics... Start around the corner (climber's right) from the BLUE MERCURY face. This climb in is the shade most of the day.

1. 20m 17. Climb the blocky crack, past some trees to the start of the obvious wide crack up the middle of the face.

2. 30m 19. Climb the obvious crack, until it is possible to exit diagonally left onto the arête. Step back right and climb the ramp to the ledge.

A 50m abseil off fixed wires brings you back to the ground.

First Ascent: 16 Aug 2016 T. Dunnett and R. Halsey

WAYDE OPEN SPACES

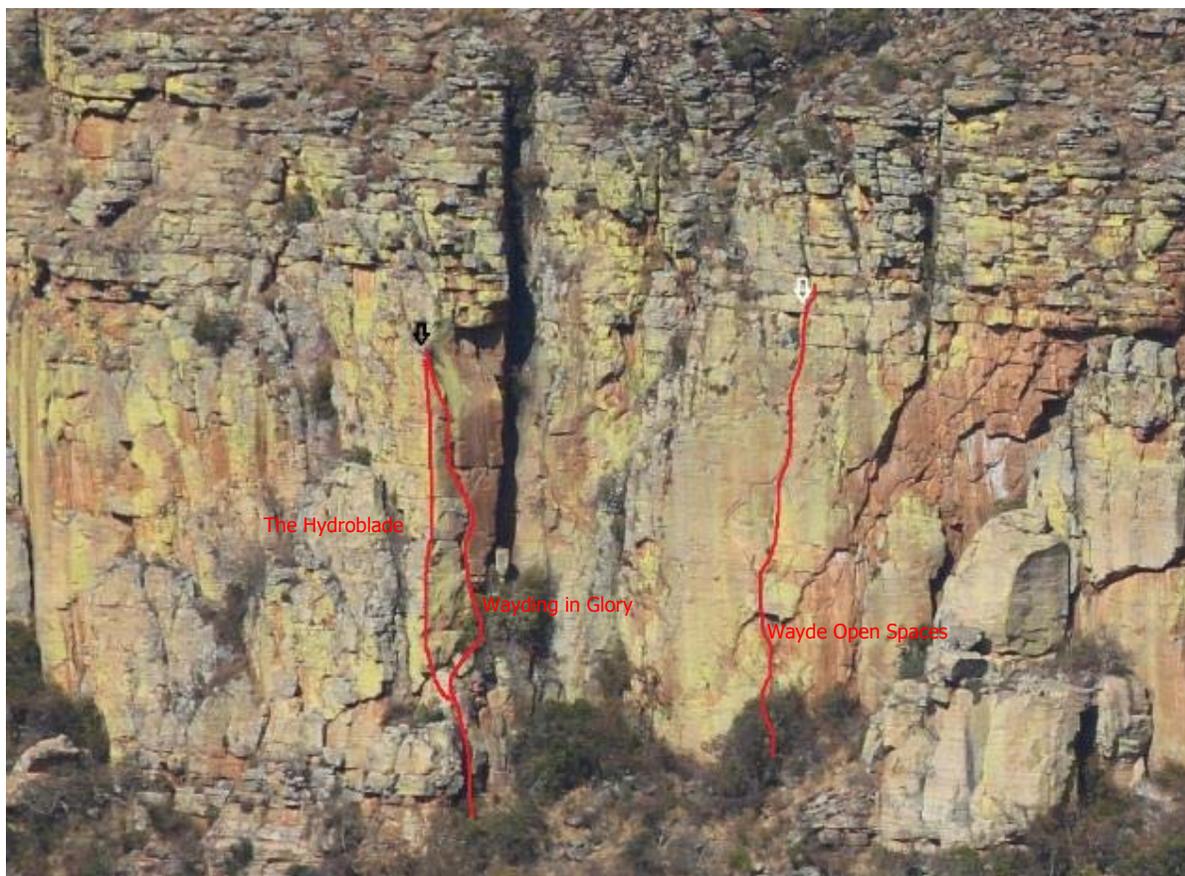
19 ***

See topo below. Left of the Aussie pinnacle is a yellow wall, with an obviously rising crack feature running from the bottom-middle to the top-right. This line climbs straight up the wall left of the crack feature.

1. 30m 19 Start on a boulder ~5m left of the base of the crack feature. Pull up over the slight bulge onto the wall and head up to a small roof. Pull through on the left side and

tend back right to a narrow vertical crack. Follow this and straight up to a narrow ledge with a thread point to abseil from.

First Ascent: 16 Aug 2016 R. Halsey, T. Dunnett & M. Bosman



HORROR SHOW GROODIES

20 ***

APPROACH – AUSSIE PINNACLE

Descend gully to the right. Walk along the base until a prominent pinnacle is seen on the left of a steep gully. This pinnacle is characterized by a large crack in the middle of the face on the right of an open book and has a thinner crack just to its right. This route climbs the open book.

1. 30m 20 Climb up stacked blocks to a crack. Continue up the crack to a ledge below the corner. Climb the corner to a sloping ledge.

2. 15m 20 Continue up the corner stepping left onto large wedged blocks. Continue up the blocks to the top taking care on the loose stuff.

First ascent: 23 Jun 2001 H. Pringle, D. Glass and G. Saintz.

MY SORRY CARCASS

20 ****

This route could possibly be a re-opening of THE FAT LADY SINGS (S. Newman).

APPROACH – AUSSIE PINNACLE

Descend gully to the right. Walk along the base until a prominent pinnacle is seen on the left of a steep gully. This pinnacle is characterized by a large crack in the middle of the face on the right of an open book and has a thinner crack just to its right.

1. 45m 20 Start a few meters left of the large crack that begins above some shattered blocks. Climb the up the blocks tending right to a ledge. Traverse right along this ledge to a tree. Climb passed the tree, up the off-width to a small ledge. Continue up the corner on the right of the ledge. Move left to gain twin cracks splitting an overhang. Climb up to a narrow chimney and follow this to the top of the pinnacle.

Descent: At the back of the pinnacle a chimney can be used to get off the top and into the gully. Scramble down behind the pinnacle to where a single tree-abseil will bring you to the base of the steep gully described in the approach.

First ascent: 23 Jun 2001 N. McKenzie and H. Pringle.

CALLING ELVIS

20 A1 ****

This route could possibly be a re-opening of THE THIN MEN WERE SCREAMING (K. Thrash).

APPROACH - AUSSIE PINNACLE

Climbs the same buttress described in MY SORRY CARCASS but starts directly below the thin crack higher and at a loose block at the base of an overhanging corner.

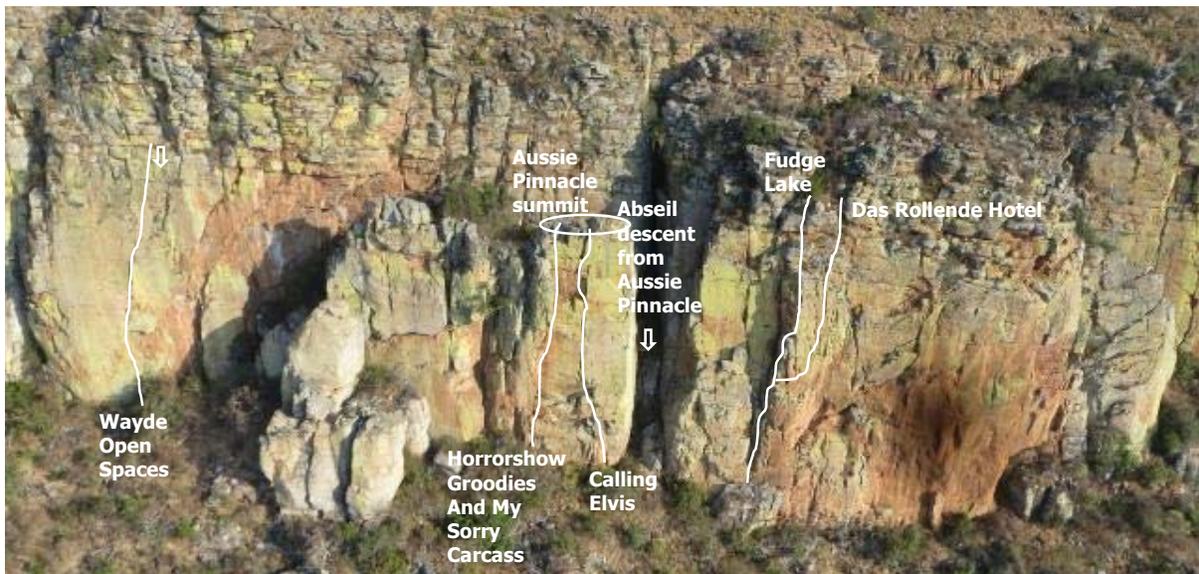
1. 10m 19 A1 Using the block and a tree in the crack climb up to an overhang on the left of a smooth face. Using aid ascend the corner on the left of the overhang up to a small ledge on the left. Step right below an overhang to a square groove and climb this to a ledge on top of a block higher up.

2. 20m 20 Climb the thin crack in the face, moving right to the arête to avoid a blank section then back left to belay on a small ledge.

3. 20m 19 Traverse left up a ramp and a ledge to twin cracks splitting an overhang. Climb up to a narrow chimney and follow this to the top of the pinnacle.

Descent: At the back of the pinnacle a chimney can be used to get off the top and into the gully. Scramble down behind the pinnacle to where a single tree-abseil will bring you to the base of the steep gully described in the approach.

First ascent: 4 Aug 2001 H. Pringle, G. Frost and D. Margetts.



FUDGE LAKE

17 ***

Descend gully to the right. Walk along the base until a buttress is seen with steep gully on the left. The buttress is characterized by a large open book, about half way up the wall, near the left arête. At the base of the open book is a recess with a small pillar against the wall below. Start on top of this pillar and tree.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb up the recess moving right higher to a ledge below and right of the open book.
- 2. 30m 16** Climb up and then right around the arête to a ledge on the face. Continue up the arête face to the top of the crag.

First ascent: Apr 2000 N. McKenzie, G. Frost and D. Margetts.

DAS ROLLENDE HOTEL

16 ***

This route forms a variation to the second pitch of FUDGE LAKE.

Descend gully to the right. Walk along the base until a buttress is seen with steep gully on the left. The buttress is characterized by an open book in the middle and about half way up the wall. Right is a steep face with a large crack in it above a ledge. At the base of the open book is a recess with a small pillar against the wall below. Start on top of this pillar and tree.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb up the recess moving right higher to a ledge below and right of the open book.
- 2. 30m 16** Traverse right and slightly downwards across the blocky face until able to move up near the right arête of the face. Climb the face tending slightly rightwards continuing up broken ledges and blocks above to the top.

First ascent: 5 Dec 2001 H. Pringle and D. Wright.

MUCH MORE MUNTER

20 ***

Descend the gully and turn right. Just around the corner past the bulge a large groove-gully is found and to left of this an overhanging open book with a wide crack and a steep face on the left. To the left of this steep face a dual crack system of two shallow corners can be seen starting behind a tree. The left corner goes up to a flake pillar-stack. Higher there is an open book recess.

1. 30m 20 Climb the right hand corner crack for about 6m then traverse left, around the arête, on small hand holds to the left corner (flake pillar-stack). Continue up passing a strenuous layback corner to a belay on a blocky ledge.

2. 35m 16 Climb the recess corner on the left of the ledge. Exit left around the arête when reaching a small roof at the top of the corner. Continue up on blocks to the top.

First ascent: 13 Dec 2003 G. Frost and A. Lloyd.

LASERATION

21 ***

Descend the gully and turn right. Just around the corner past the bulge a large groove-gully is found and to the left of this an overhanging open book with a wide crack. This route climbs this open book. See picture below.

1. 40m 21 Pull out all your wide crack techniques and blast straight up. Small people can cheat at the final overhang.

First ascent: 3 Oct 2012 A. Porter and C. Martinengo.

CROCK ATTACK

22 ****

Starts about 5m right of LACERATION. See picture below.

1. 40m 22 Head up to the steep, thin- hands crack through a bulge with a narrow face on the right. Continue up the crack system to the small roof. Step left and pull through to a small platform, then easily up to a large tree with abseil tat.

First ascent: Sept 2018 R. Halsey & C. Edelstein.

SLIPPERY WHEN WET

14 ***

Descend the gully and turn right. Just around the corner past the bulge a large groove-gully is found with a large tree on the right crack. Start below the tree.

1. 40m 14 Climb the stepped face above the tree. Continue up the groove-gully passing vegetation. Move right higher to belay on top.

Descent: Traverse on top to the left corner of the pinnacle, using the tree climb down to the descent gully.

First ascent: Apr 2000 G. Devine, S. Devine, D. Chesney, T. Wilmot and D. Margetts.

I LIKE DIRT

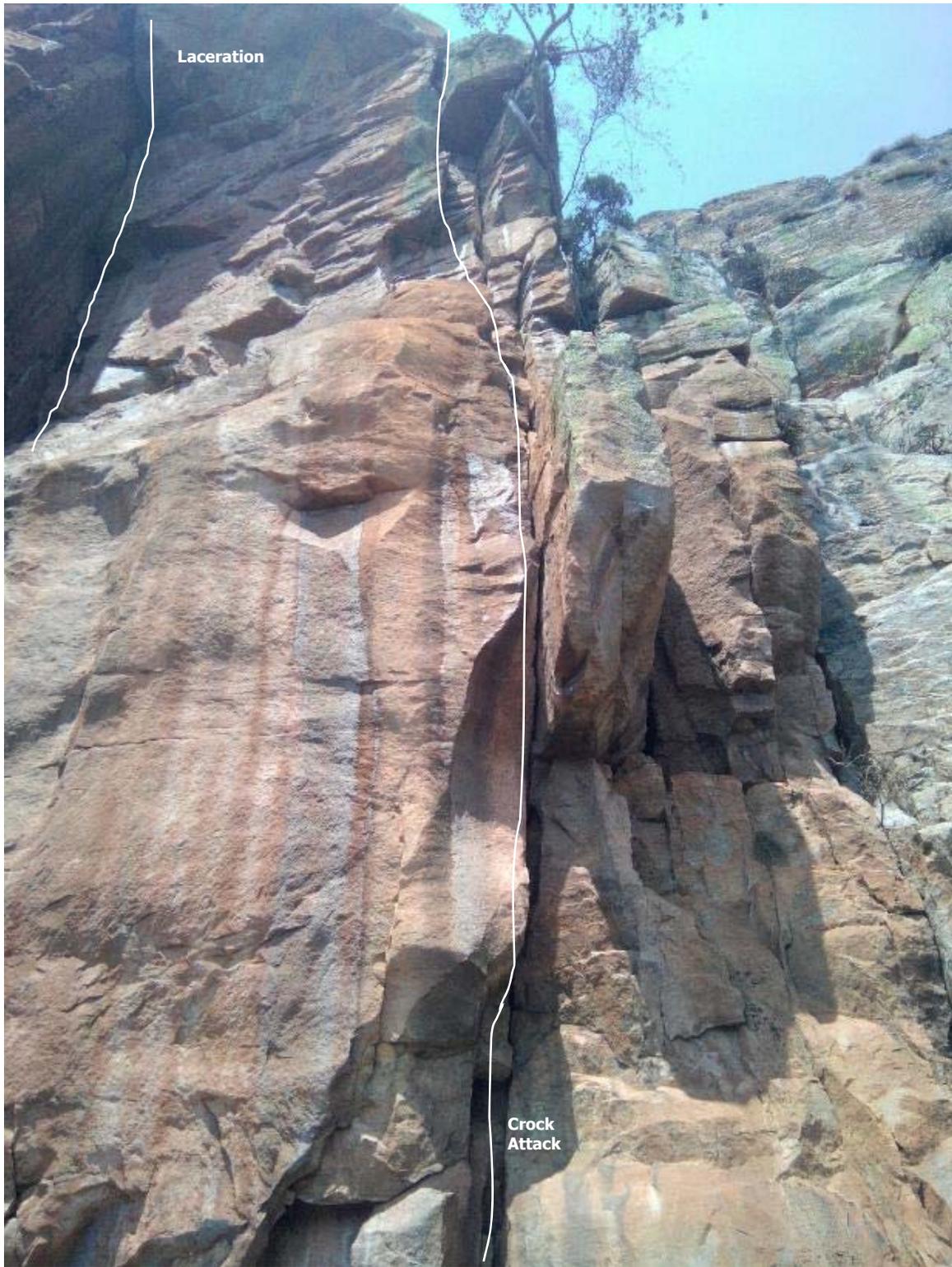
15 ***

Descend the gully and turn right. Just around the corner past the bulge a large groove is found with a large tree on the right crack. Start below the tree.

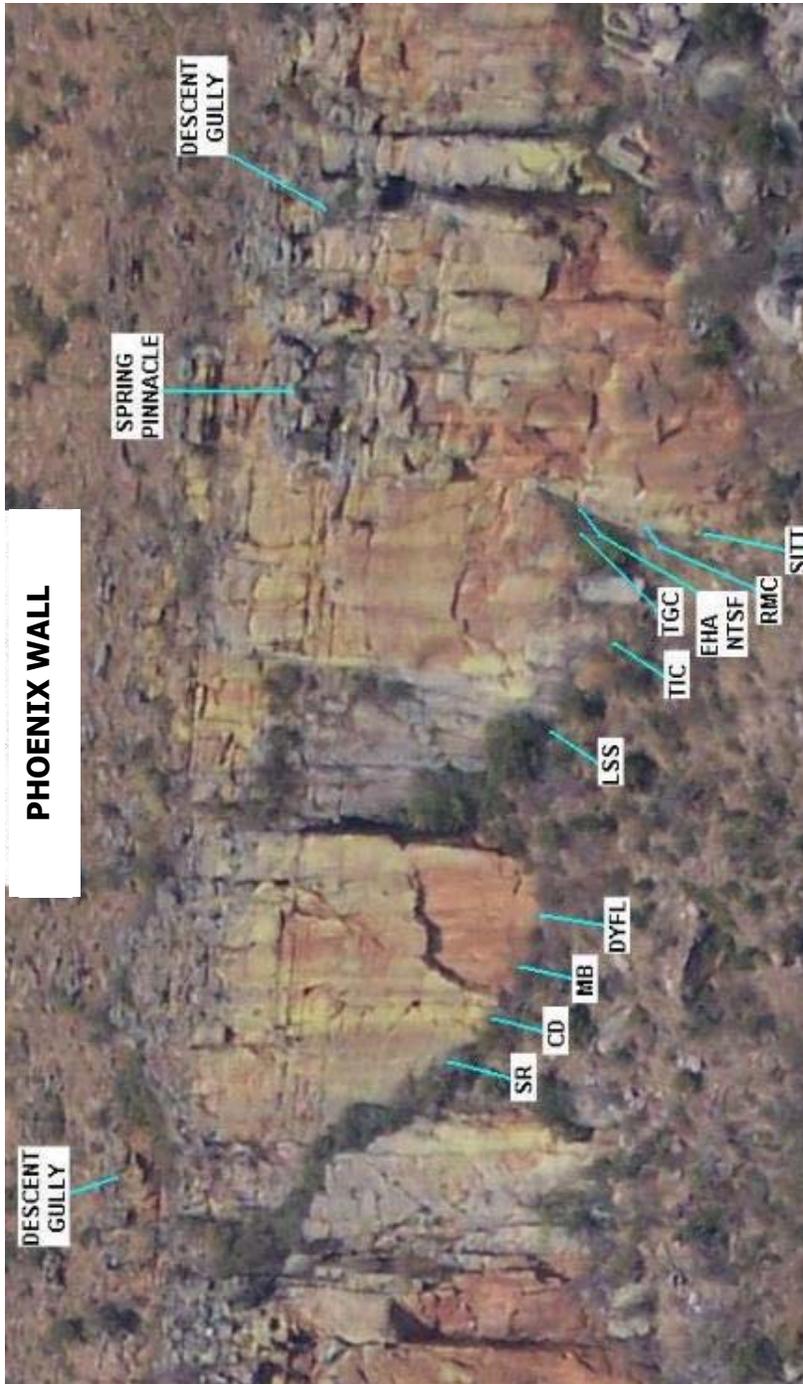
1. 40m 15 Climb the stepped face tending right to the crack above the tree. At the top of the crack step right onto ledges. Traverse right to a crack. Climb up the face moving right to easier ground just below the top. Belay on top.

Descent: Traverse on top to the left corner of the pinnacle, using the tree climb down to the descent gully.

First ascent: 13 Oct 2001 H. Pringle, D. Margetts and G. Frost.



PHOENIX WALL



The best routes at Blyde are here! Gets sun all day so start as early as possible, do one classic route, then go elsewhere to chase shade.

TO GET THERE

Rondawel Lookout Complex are the crags below the Three Rondawels lookout point. Drive south out of the resort towards Graskop, turn left after a little way to the lookout point. Park at the cul-de-sac where the tourists go (toilets and water available here).

Three sections are found here and all are gained from the same gully. Walk in a north-westerly direction towards the resort following some beacons that lead to the edge of the cliff band. Here a descent is found through a hole under a boulder at the cliff edge. The crags are found to the left at the bottom of the gully.

APPROACH TIME: 10-15 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Most of these routes finish on top of semidetached buttresses with bushy gullies separating them from the main crag. Scramble across the gullies back up to the main crag then traverse back leftwards towards the descent gully.

THE SILVER RIBBON

18 ****

Descend gully to the left. Just as the gully ends some impressive cracks can be seen on the left wall. This route ascends the first of these cracks.

1. 50m 18 Climb the crack in the steep face to a ledge below an overhang. Climb the off-width crack on the left of the ledge up to a stance near the top of the crag.

First ascent: Apr 2000 G. Frost, T. Wilmot, D. Chesney and D. Margetts.

THE PRIME CUT

19 R ****

This route ascends the face between SILVER RIBBON and CACTUS DYKES.

1. 50m 19 R Start 2m left of a short crack at ground level. Boulder through the start moves and move right into the break. Follow this for a few meters until it dies. Traverse left to the vague break running up the wall 3m right of SILVER RIBBON. Continue to top of crag, finishing up CACTUS DYKES once it traverses left at the top ledge.

First ascent: 5 Oct 2012 A. Porter and C. Martinengo.

CACTUS DYKES

20 ****

Descend gully to the left. Just as the gully ends some impressive cracks can be seen on the left wall. This route ascends the second of these cracks.

1. 45m 20 Climb the jam-crack past a small roof and up to a small ledge above the jam-crack. Finish straight up the face above.

Note: The original route traverse diagonally leftwards to SILVER RIBBON and then up right past an overhang to the top (easier). The direct finish is much more aesthetic.

First ascent (original): Apr 2000 I. McMaster and K. Thrash.

First ascent (direct finish): 29 Mar 2002 G. Frost and A. Grant.

SUNBURN OF WONDER

25 R *****

Descend gully to the left. Just as the gully ends some impressive cracks can be seen on the left wall. This route ascends the silly thin crack left of MYTHICAL BEAST.

1. 50m 25 R Make awkward moves diagonally to the right to gain the crack. Follow this until it steps left to the thin crack. Up this, breaking left through the roof. Move left to end of crack and climb straight up the wall above

First ascent: 5 Oct 2012 C. Martinengo and A. Porter.

MYTHICAL BEAST

23 *****

The king line of the crag. Descend gully to the left. Just as the gully ends some impressive cracks can be seen on the left wall. This route ascends the third crack through the roof.

1. 50m 23 Climb the crack to A-shaped groove through the roof. Hard moves gain the face above. Continue up to a slanting right rail. Move right then up and left to gain a crack through the head wall. Climb the crack and bulge on some of the funkiest grips around to the top.

First ascent (with aid): 5 Dec 2002 H. Pringle and A. Koch (up to slanting rail).

First full ascent (with aid): 15 Feb 2003 H. Pringle, G. Saintz and D. Glass.

First free ascent: 3 Oct 2012 C. Martinengo and A. Porter.



The white ninja aka Matt Hoffman ninja-bombing up CACTUS DYKES. Photo by H. Pringle

DO YA FEEL LUCKY

22 ****

Descend gully to the left. This climb ascends the fourth crack on the wall after the gully ends.

1. 45m 22 Make tricky moves off the deck (hard to protect) and continue up the crack to below the roof. Pull through the roof on good holds. Continue up the face following the crack to a ledge. Continue diagonally rightwards to an easy break, up this, then step back left to finish up an easy wide crack.

First ascent (with rests): 12 Oct 2001 G. Frost, D. Margetts and H. Pringle.

First free ascent: Unknown.

LUCKY BEAST

22 *****

The brilliance just keeps coming.

1. 50m 22 Climb DO YA FEEL LUCKY until through the roof, then veer left onto the top half of MYTHICAL BEAST.



The mythical move on MYTHICAL BEAST. Photo by A. Pedley

DRAGONSKIN

23 R *****

Descend gully to the left. This route ascends the vague crack between Do Ya Feel Lucky and the arête. Start about 4m left of the arête.

1. 45m 23R Climb the vague crack on excellent gear to 2m below the bulging overlap. Place good gear and traverse 3m right, then climb up to remarkably solid flakes. Use

these to get through the overlap. Keep your route-finding eyes open and trend up and left (big runout above marginal small wires) to where the grips improve and gear is obvious. Continue up the good crack to a rail beneath a small blocky ledge. Traverse right and climb onto the right hand edge of the ledge. Climb the thin crack in the small corner on the right to welcome jugs. Climb easily to the summit.

Notes: Although the moves might be easier than 23 the climbing is very bold and route finding is tricky. Take a large selection of small to medium wires of different shapes. Wild Country single-stem wires are particularly useful.
Opened onsight, ground up.

First ascent: 28 June 2014 H. Pringle, L. Louw and A. Porter.

FROM THE ASHES



23 *****

Located on the face that forms the right hand wall of The Phoenix crag. A committing start is followed by a fantastic journey up the rising crack system. Morning shade.

1. 30m 23 Start in the center of the face. Use a finger crack to move up to an overlap. Make a long move up and right, followed by a committing mantelshelf. Step up and right to gain the base of a fragile flake. Pull up and left and then follow the rising crack system to a perch on the top of the crag.

*First Ascent: 10 Aug 2016
R. Halsey & T. Dunnett*

Pic on right. Tim Dunnett following a rare chalk trail on the second ascent of FROM THE ASHES. Photo by R. Halsey

THE LONG SHADOW SHIMMY

15 ***

Descend gully to the left. Walk along the base past the first wall and a steep gully until the second wall is reached. On the left arête of this wall a grey slab and ramp is seen leading up to a corner just inside of the arête. Start in the trees at the base of this ramp.

1. 45m 16 Climb the short face below the ramp then continue up the ramp to the base of the corner. Climb the corner to the top of a pillar. Climb the juggy face tending right to the start of a blocky recess near the top. Climb up the recess to a stance on top.

First ascent: 1 Sep 2001 G. Frost, A. Grant and H. Pringle.

THE IRON CURTAIN

24 *****

Yet another king line. Descend gully to the left. Walk along the base past the first wall and a steep gully until the second wall is reached. This climb ascends the obvious layback and undercling overlap near the left arête of the face. Start at ground level beneath the apex of the overlap.

1. 45m 24 Climb the clean, juggy face to a ledge at 5m. Traverse left and climb up into the overlap. Layback up this, then undercling right, then finally layback up to the overlap apex and pull through onto the face above. Climb the thin crack to the ledge. Climb to the highest ledge on the right. Climb up and left from this to finish up a thin crack in the headwall.

Note: Thin wires and a large selection of small cams are useful. Gear placements are tricky above the overlap – take care. Opened as two pitches but more sensibly done as a long single pitch.

First ascent: 17 Dec 2004 K. Thrash and G. Frost.

THE GAY CACTUS

19 ****

Descend gully to the left. Walk along the base past the first wall and a steep gully until the second wall is reached. Climb ascends a steep sickle shaped crack in the middle of the wall (45m).

1. 50m 19 Climb up to below the sickle shaped crack. Continue up following the crack to a small ledge on the right of an open book and tree. Pull up the corner to a ledge. Move to the left of the ledge and climb a crack to a small ledge. Bypass an awkward move up to a grassy ledge by moving right along the ledge and climbing up on easier ground to the top.

First ascent: Apr 2000 K. Thrash and I. McMaster.

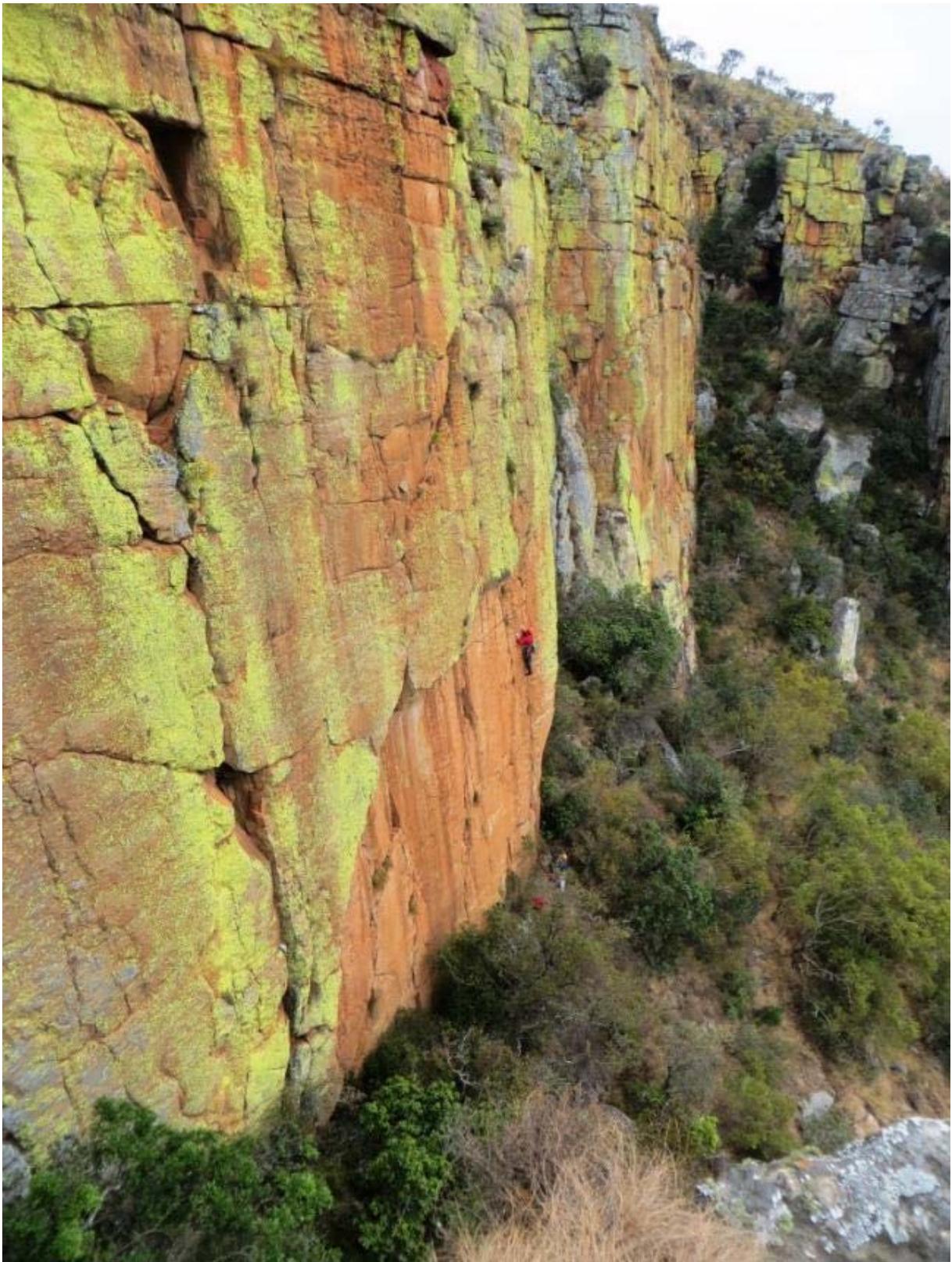
ELEVEN AND A HALF ARMADILLOS

16 ***

Descend gully to the left. Walk along the base past the first wall and a steep gully until the second wall is reached. This route is located on the right of the steep wall nearer the gully on the right. Start below an up-turned sickle shaped crack in the wall higher up.

1. 45m 16 Climb up a short face to a rail. Continue up tending left on a juggy face to a tree below a corner. Climb past the tree, up the corner to below a large flake jutting out the face. Move slightly left and up then back right onto the top of the flake. Continue up the juggy face to a ledge and tree. Climb the corner behind the tree up to the top.

First ascent: 4 Aug 2001 G. Frost, D. Margetts and H. Pringle.



A long way to go on the first ascent of DRAGONSKIN. Photo by A.Porter

THE OTHER HALF-ARMADILLO

17 **

Start just right of Eleven and a Half Armadillos, beneath an obvious vertical crack.

1. 45m 17 Climb the crack to a loosish roof. Step left around this to a small perch on the left wall. Continue up to a ledge. Climb diagonally left and up to a rail beneath the final bulge. Traverse left to the top-out ledge at a large tree. Either rap off the tree or scramble to the summit.

First ascent: 28 June 2014 H. Pringle and D. Jones.

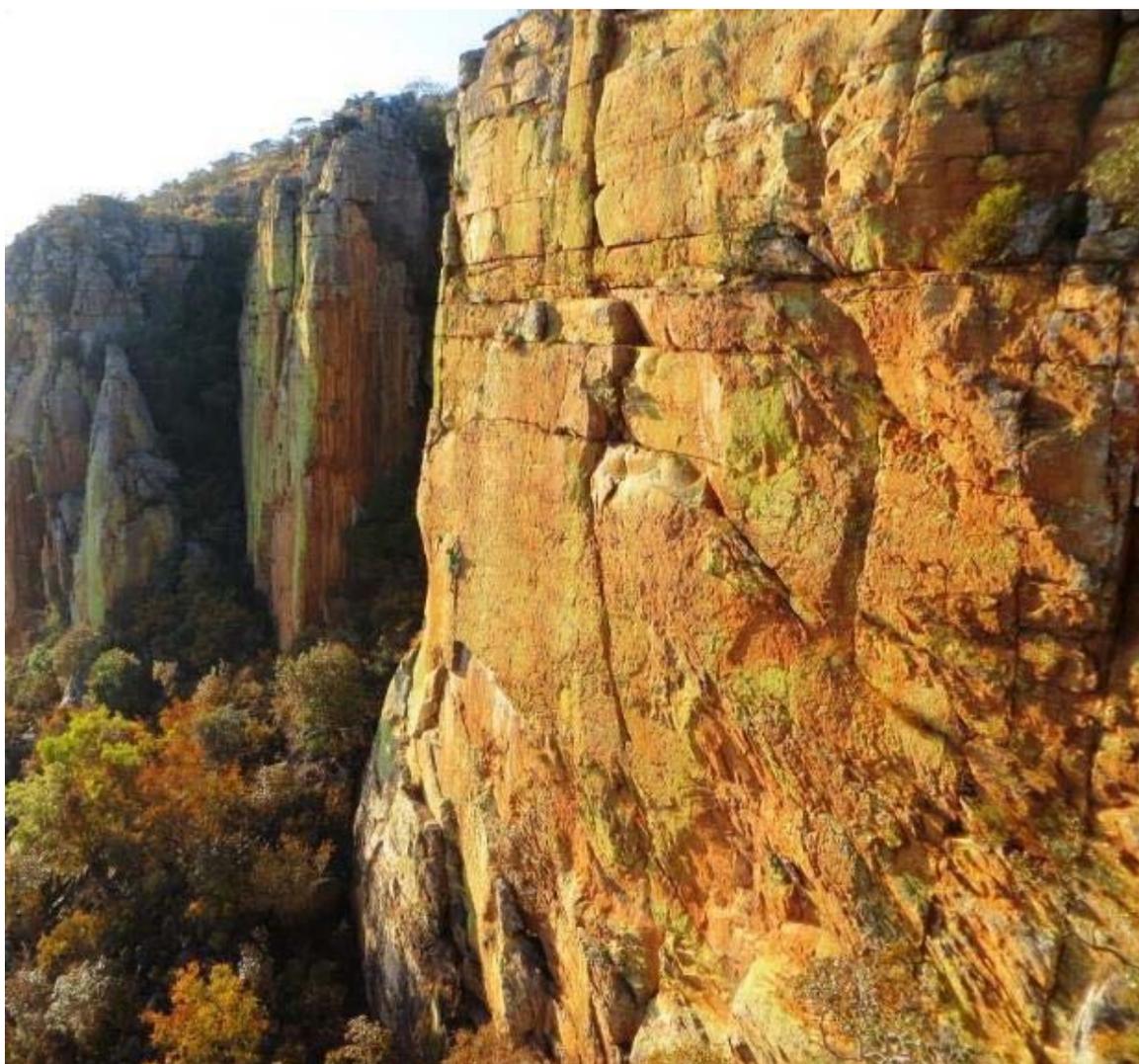
NOT TOO SHABBY HEY FOREST

15 ***

Descend gully to the left. Walk along the base past the first wall and a steep gully until the second wall is reached. This route is located on the right of the steep wall nearer the gully on the right. Start below a small triangular overhang higher up.

1. 45m 15 Climb the face up the corner below the triangular overhang. Pull through the overhang on the left then move up and right into a recessed corner. Continue up to a ledge below an overhang. Move right under the roof to a break and climb to the top.

First ascent: Apr 2000 G. Frost, D. Margetts, D. Chesney and T. Wilmot.



The immaculate IRON CURTAIN. Photo by A.Pedley

SPRING PINNACLE

TO GET THERE

Use the same approach as Phoenix Wall, Rondawel View and Lake View crags. Descend the gully then walk in a westerly direction along the base of the Phoenix Wall. Spring Pinnacle is the obvious pinnacle just to the right of the big gully to the right of the route NOT TOO SHABBY HEY FOREST.
APPROACH TIME: 15-20 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Climb down from the summit using the face closest to the main crag.

ROOF MEAN CUBED

21 ****

Descend gully to the left. Head towards the obvious pinnacle on the left of the gully. On the east side of the pinnacle a series of open books and a chimney can be seen above a ledge higher up. This route ascends the chimney and the roof on the right. Start on the left of the pinnacle below an open book a little way up the gully.

1. 20m 18 Climb the corner to the large ledge. Traverse across on blocks to below the chimney.

2. 25m 21 Chimney up to the tree. Using the tree and a rail on the right arête traverse right to gain an open book and hand crack. Climb up to below the triangular roof. Using a chock in the crack pull through the roof and continue up the jam crack to easier ground. Climb up to the blocky ledge.

Descent: scramble to the top using a corner behind the tree to the summit then descend the back of the pinnacle into the gully below.

First ascent: 14 Oct 2001 H. Pringle and G. Frost.

A SPRING IN THE TAIL

22 ****

Descend gully to the left. Head towards the obvious pinnacle on the left of the gully. On the east side of the pinnacle a series of open books and a chimney can be seen above a ledge higher up. This route ascends the right most corner below an overhang. Start on the grey face below the chimney.

1. 25m 20 Climb a short face tending right into a short corner. Climb the corner then move right to a mantle that gains a small ledge. Move up then left across the face to gain a grassy crack. Climb to the ledge and then traverse right to the first open book.

2. Walk 5m right to the next steep open book below an overhang.

3. 30m 22 Climb the strenuous corner exiting right higher under the roof. Climb the crack in the steep face to a ledge and tree just below the summit.

Descent: scramble to the top using a corner behind the tree to the summit then descend the back of the pinnacle into the gully below.

First ascent: 1 Sep 2001 H. Pringle, G. Frost and A. Grant.

MUTINY CRAG

TO GET THERE

Use the same approach as Phoenix Wall, Rondawel View and Lake View crags. Descend the gully then walk in a westerly direction along the base of the Phoenix Wall, past Spring Pinnacle. After some distance a small crag is found before the steep ramp that goes down to The Bounty is reached. There is a very large boulder to the right of the crag.

APPROACH TIME: 25-30 minutes

SLAVE TRADER

20 **

There are two obvious lines at Mutiny: A crack up a smooth wall on the left, and a left-facing corner on the right. This route goes up the corner.

1. 50m 20 Climb the chimney and corner above to a blocky ledge. Step right and climb blocks to the top.

First ascent: 20 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

THE BOUNTY

TO GET THERE

Use the same approach route that accesses the Rondawel View and Lake View crags. Descend the gully then walk in a westerly direction along the base of the crags, passing the Lake View Left and Spring Pinnacle crags. After some distance a steep ramp is reached on the right of some larger cliffs with steep red walls and a distinctive triangular roof on the right higher up. Descend the ramp to the base of the cliff.

APPROACH TIME: 30-40 minutes

OR

Approach from the top of Treasure Island crag. Walk up the descent gully turning left at the top to walk along the top of the crag towards the arête. When The Bounty crag comes into view, start walking up the ridge to where the rocky band starts. Traverse across leftwards to reach the base of the crag. Avoid the steep gully by traversing across at a higher level then descending slightly to reach the cliff.

APPROACH TIME: 45 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

An abseil descent from this tier can be found from a tree at the top of the route "The Crows Nest" or walk back along the top to a descent gully on the right hand side of the crag.

THE CROWS NEST

21 *****

Start on the next obvious line to the left of PIECES OF EIGHT.

1. 30m 17 Climb the crack through the pod shaped gully. Continue to the roof and traverse right then up and right again to the large ledge belay.

2. 20m 21 Climb directly above the belay following the obvious weakness through cracks and roofs tending rightwards, then up a short chimney to a large ledge and tree belay (abseil tree).

First ascent: 2000

S. Newman and C. Ziranek.

PIECES OF EIGHT

19 *****

Start to the right of the obvious open book which dominates the left of the crag.

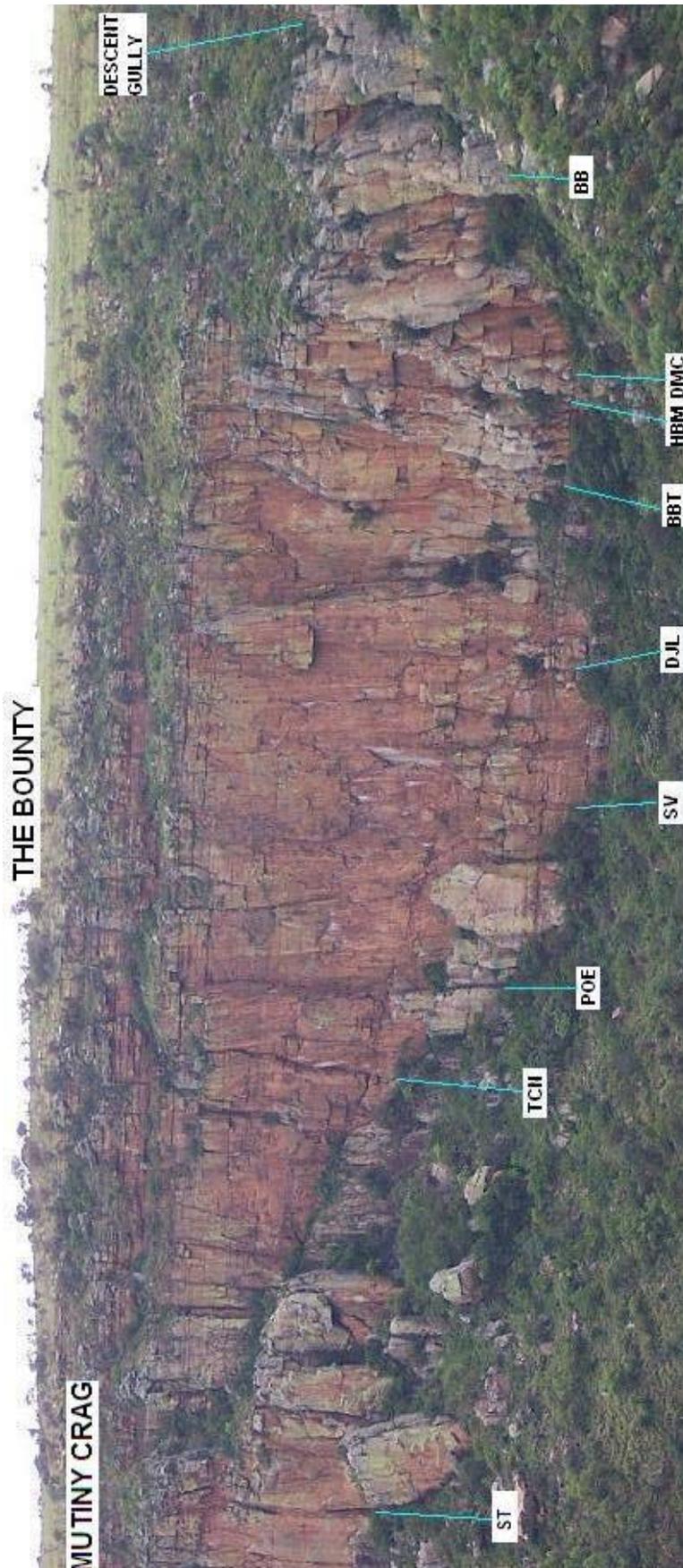
1. 20m 14 Climb easy ledges to a short chimney. Climb up then step left at the top onto a large vegetated ledge belay at the bottom of the corner.

2. 40m 18 Climb cracks to the overhang barrier. Layback through and continue up the corner to a good stance on the right.

3. 35m 19 Continue up the corner until an overhang barrier is reached. Move left to gain the arête. Climb the arête to good ledges.

First ascent: 2000

S. Newman and C. Ziranek.



STORM VOYAGE22 *****

Start at the first clean crack to the right of the huge detached block.

- 1. 25m 18** Climb the crack to the large ledge and belay by the large block.
- 2. 15m 18** Climb up over the block then move left and climb the short corner. Continue diagonally leftwards to a block belay.
- 3. 25m 22** Climb straight up then left using thin flakes. Climb the arête on the right until a sling flake is reached. Step across left to easier ground and on to a good belay ledge below a corner.
- 4. 15m 18** Climb the corner, beware of a loose block on the left, then traverse left around the arête past a small tree and on to a good ledge.
- 5. 20m 15** Climb the crack at the right hand end of the ledge until forced back over the arête and to easier ground to the top.

First ascent: 2000 S. Newman and C. Ziranek.

BLACK SWALLOW21 *****

This route ascends the obvious whitish undercling crack to the left of DAVY JONES LOCKER.

- 1. 25m 17** Start below and left of the undercling crack. Climb the obvious break then move right onto the face. Climb up to a big ledge.
- 2. 35m 21** Climb up to the base of the crack.

Fight through the bird poo and smear up right to turn the overhang. Continue up the break above to a small ledge.

3. 25m 19 Step left then climb straight to the top.

First ascent: 14 Jan 2012 J. Wakeling, H. Pringle and T. Dunnett.

SWANN'S CHEST

22 A0 ****

Climbs the obvious break just left of DAVY JONES LOCKER (and to the right of BLACK SWALLOW). Start about 20m left of DAVY JONES LOCKER at the base of a right facing corner system.

1. 30m 18 Climb a few meters to ledge, and then climb steep corner above. Move up past a few ledge systems to a shady stance behind small pinnacle.

2. 30m 19 Climb continuation left facing corner, exiting right at the roof to a ledge and stance common with DAVY JONES LOCKER.

3. 30m 22 Move left until above the previous pitch's corner. Pull through steep rock and climb vague recess above. Continue straight up face above.

Note: 3rd pitch opened with lots of rests. Clean ascent still awaits

First ascent: 14 Jan 2012 A. Porter and C. de Villiers.



Tim Dunnett on BLACK SWALLOW. Photo by Andrew. Porter.

DAVEY JONES' LOCKER

21 *****

Start directly below the large triangular roof.

1. 44m 18 Scramble up to the large ledge. Climb the short open book moving left out the top. Climb diagonally left for 5m then climb the flake crack and move back right to the bottom of the main crack. Climb the crack to a small stance on the left.

2. 35m 21 Climb/layback the main crack to the large roof. Traverse left under the roof to a small stance at the far end.

3. 38m 15 Climb chimney/cracks to easier ground. Move left and climb the short buttress on the left. Belay on good blocks.

Alternatively, for better climbing use finish up the third pitch of SWANN'S CHEST.

First ascent: 2000

S. Newman and C. Ziranek.

THE BLACK PEARL

18 ****

DAVY JONES LOCKER climbs the obtuse open book leading directly up to the massive triangular roof which dominates the right side of the Bounty. This route climbs the splitter hand crack up the yellow, northwest-facing wall immediately right of DAVY JONES LOCKER. The crack is blindingly obvious when approaching the crag from the west. Scramble up to just below and left of the lowest of two big trees. Belay from a platform directly below the splitter.

1. 40m 18 Climb slightly right, under the branches of the lowest tree to gain the base of a narrow open-book. Climb the book to a notch, then up the continuation corner to a small roof. Pull through into the hand crack and howl with delight. Climb the crack and follow it diagonally right at the top, then up to belay on a good platform. Unofficially the best pitch at Blyde.

2. 20m 17 Climb the squeeze chimney above the back of the platform to just below a chockstone. Wriggle out into the sunshine and climb easily to the top.

First ascent: 21 Nov 2010 Hector Pringle and Ian Kotze.

BLACKBEARD'S TREASURE

22 ***

This climb starts to the left and around the corner from HERE BE MONSTERS. Approach as for HERE BE MONSTERS but continue past the large corner to the wall on the left. Scramble up to a higher ledge with a small boulder. Start at the open book between the main face and the boulder.

1. 30m 22 Climb the open book to a roof. Pull through the roof on the left. Continue up the crack to a bulge where a leftwards traverse is made to another break. Continue up the steepening break to a belay and tree.

2. 30m 17 Climb on the right hand side of the break on a slab up to a ledge. Walk rightwards to a chimney and follow this to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 15 Dec 2008 K. Thrash and D. Margetts.

HERE BE MONSTERS

17 ***

On the right hand side of The Bounty crag, a broken section of face with shorter lines can be seen to the left of the descent gully. On the left of the middle of this face an easy looking break with a large tree at the bottom can be seen to the left of DEAD MAN'S CHEST. Start on the vegetated ledge to the right and below the tree.

1. 48m 17 From the ledge climb up onto a free standing block below the recess with a tree. Climb through the tree to a corner which gains another tree and a ledge on the left. Climb up, tending slightly leftwards, to below an open book with a small overhang higher up. Climb the corner passing the small overhang then continue upwards to below a larger overhang with off width cracks above. Traverse leftwards out of the corner passing a small tree with a rail behind it to gain a good ledge on the arête.

2. 30m 17 At the back of the ledge, climb the corner to reach a vegetated ledge with an open book above. Climb the crack in the right hand face, to avoid the vines at the base of the corner, then move back leftwards into the corner. When the corner starts becoming broken and grassy, move rightwards onto the face to climb a nice crack up to the blocks at the top of the crag.

First ascent: 24 Mar 2007 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

DEAD MAN'S CHEST

17 ***

On the right hand side of The Bounty crag, a broken section of face with shorter lines can be seen to the left of the descent gully. On the left of the middle of this face a feature rich rib can be seen dividing two obvious chimneys, one higher up on the left and one lower down on the right. Start on the vegetated ledge below the easy recess to the left of the steep red corners.

1. 30m 17 From the ledge climb up into the blocky recess to the base of a right facing open book with a good crack. Climb the open book with a tricky section higher up to gain a ledge on the left. Climb up the cracks on the left of the ledge then move rightwards under an overhang to gain a ledge. Continue up tending rightwards to below a gnarly face which is climbed to gain a large blocky ledge below a steep chimney.

2. 30m 15 Climb up the wide crack on the right hand side of the ledge to below a narrow pillar. Climb around to the right hand side of the pillar then up to the top to stand below an overhang. Bypass the overhang on the left and climb up into a blocky recess which is ascended to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 28 Dec 2006 G. Frost, R. Nathan and D. Margetts.

BLISTERING BARNACLES

17 ***

On the right hand side of The Bounty crag, a broken section of face with shorter lines can be seen to the left of the descent gully. About half way up the gully a grey, slabby looking buttress with a steeper face above can be seen. Start below the obvious crack to the right of the buttress arête.

1. 48m 17 Climb the crack, moving rightwards higher up onto the face to avoid some grass tufts then back leftwards to gain a small ledge with a flake on the right. Climb the flake to gain an easy slab on the left which leads up to two obvious cracks in the steep face above. Climb the left hand crack to a sloping ledge then continue up to the blocks at the top of the crag.

First ascent: 24 Mar 2007 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

PROSPECTOR CRAG

TO GET THERE

Park at the guard hut at the entrance to the Rondawel View Lookout point. Cross the road and head down to the large gully on the eastern side of the road. Descend the gully using a vague path that leads to the base of the south facing wall.

APPROACH TIME: 25-30 minutes



CLIMB ON YOU CRAZY DIAMOND

20 A1 ***

Most of the crag in the beginning section of the gully is non-descript grey rock with few distinct features. This climb takes the first obvious line, on the true left, characterized by a chimney and subsequent vegetated recess leading up to a ledge with a large tree. Below the chimney is a steep recess with a series of small overhangs on the left. Start on the slab below a short open book that leads to the recess.

1. 45m 20 A1 Climb the slab into the base of the corner and continue up to the recess which leads into the chimney. Climb to the roof at the top of the chimney then using aid, ascend the crack until it ends. An awkward move leftwards gains a vegetated recess which is climbed for a few meters until it is possible to climb the pleasant face on the right. Continue up the face passing a small ledge, up to a large ledge below an open book with a wide crack.

2. 15m 18 Climb the open book above the ledge then traverse leftwards to a steep corner. Climb the corner up to a very large ledge system.

3. Scramble up to the top of the crag using the easiest route up from the ledge.

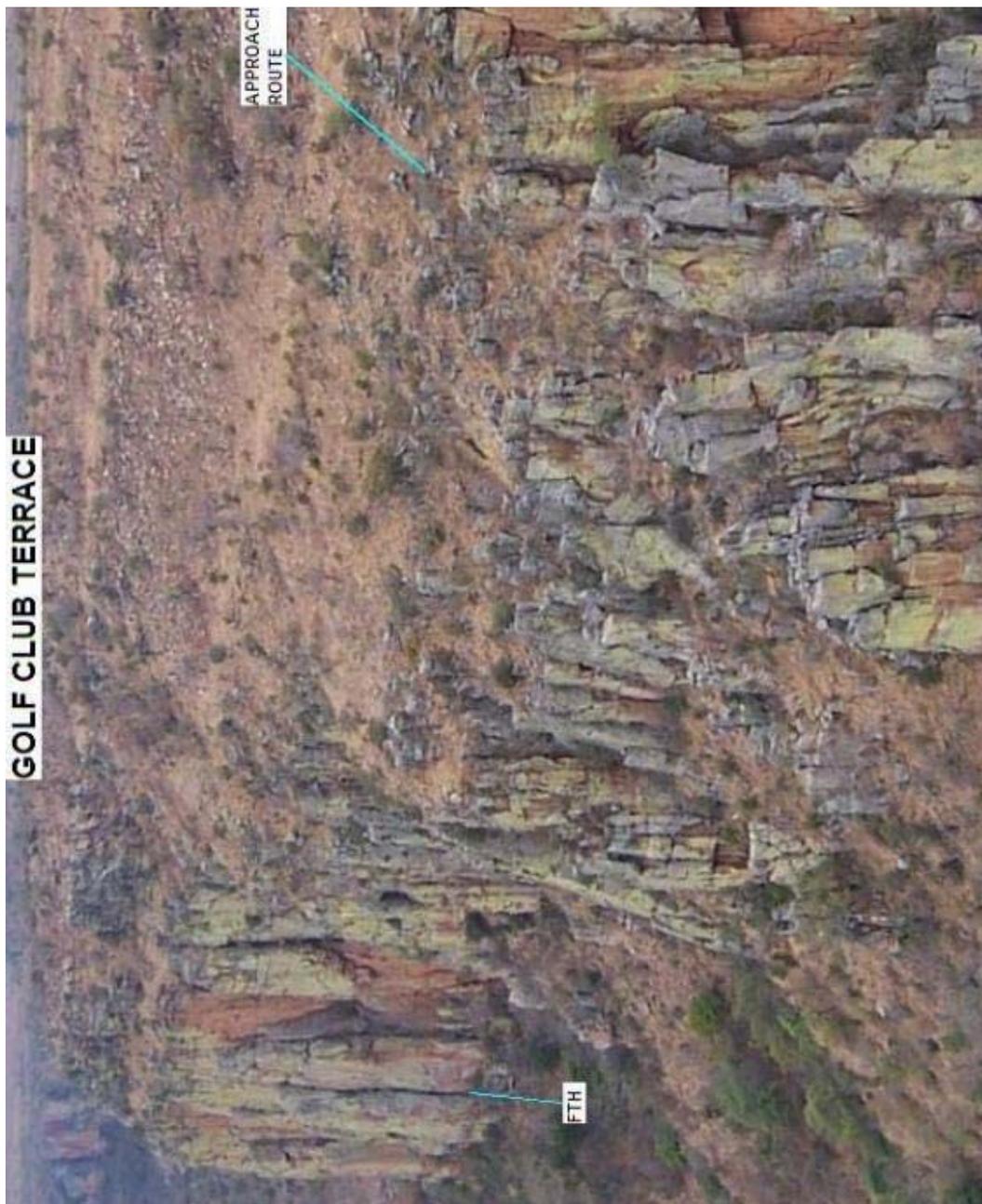
First ascent: 8 Oct 2005 G. Frost, M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

GOLF CLUB TERRACE

TO GET THERE

Park at the guard hut at the entrance to the Rondawel View Lookout point. Cross the road and head down to the large gully on the eastern side of the road. The best approach is not to descend the gully but to follow the edge of the cliff face on true right of the gully for a few hundred meters until a rocky scramble descent can be found going down a grassy ramp. The Golf Club Terrace crag can be found to the left (looking up) of the descent scramble where the broken section of crag ends and the more impressive routes start to appear.

APPROACH TIME: 40-45 minutes



FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

18 ***

To the left (looking up) of the major corner system that dominates Golf Club Terrace, two obvious pillars can be seen propped up against the face. The routes starts on the ledge below the chimney on the right hand side of the leftmost pillar.

- 1. 25m 17** Climb the chimney up to where a cave leading leftwards can be found. Traverse leftwards through the cave, to the other side of the pillar, to a ledge below an overhang. Climb up to above the overhang then move diagonally rightwards, on the outside of the pillar, to a good ledge on the arête.
- 2. 20m 18** Traverse rightwards off the ledge onto the main face and to below an open book break. Climb up the open book to a belay on a ledge on the right.
- 3. 30m 16** Continue up the break on the left hand edge of the stance. Move rightwards higher up onto the face to avoid the vegetated recess. Climb the face passing a ledge and up to another larger ledge near the top of the crag.
- 4.** Scramble up the short gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 9 Oct 2005 G. Frost and M. Sporen.

TREASURE ISLAND

TO GET THERE

Take a drive past the resort restaurant to the lower lookout point and park there under the trees. Walk back up the road for a bit until you reach the exit of one of the trails on the left (Tufa trail). Follow this trail across the river then up onto a plateau. Walk until the trail starts heading down again, Treasure Island can be seen across on the right. After a short distance on the downhill a vague path leading off to the right can be found (old hiking trail, marked with a beacon). Follow this path to the base of the crag.
APPROACH TIME: 15-20 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

From the top of the routes walk right, back towards the resort, until a gully with a good path in it is reached.

MAIDEN VOYAGE

20 ***

Walk along the base of the crag to the northern arête. Pass around the corner and continue on a little way to where a prominent pillar can be seen reaching half way up the face. Continue on for about another 100m to where a hand crack leading up from a rotten band lower can be found.

1. ??m 20 Climb through rotten band to hand crack above. Follow crack to right facing corner. Traverse left here and belay.

2. ??m 20 Continue up shallow corner to chimney on the left, continue to summit.

First ascent: Nov 2007 M. Burhardt and J. Niles.

SILVER LONG JOHNS

15 ***

Walk along the base of the crag to the northern arête. Pass around the corner and continue on a little way to where a prominent pillar can be seen reaching half way up the face. Start at the base of a chimney on the left hand side of the pillar.

1. 20m 13 Climb up the chimney behind the pillar and exit through the upper most slot to a ledge just below the top of the pillar.

2. 25m 15 Climb the short face on the main wall up to a good traverse ledge. Traverse leftwards to a wide crack with a tree. Climb the wide crack moving leftwards onto the face, to avoid a blocky obstacle a couple of meters above the tree, then move back into the crack where a series of straddle moves upwards gain the top of the crag.

First ascent: 5 Nov 2006 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

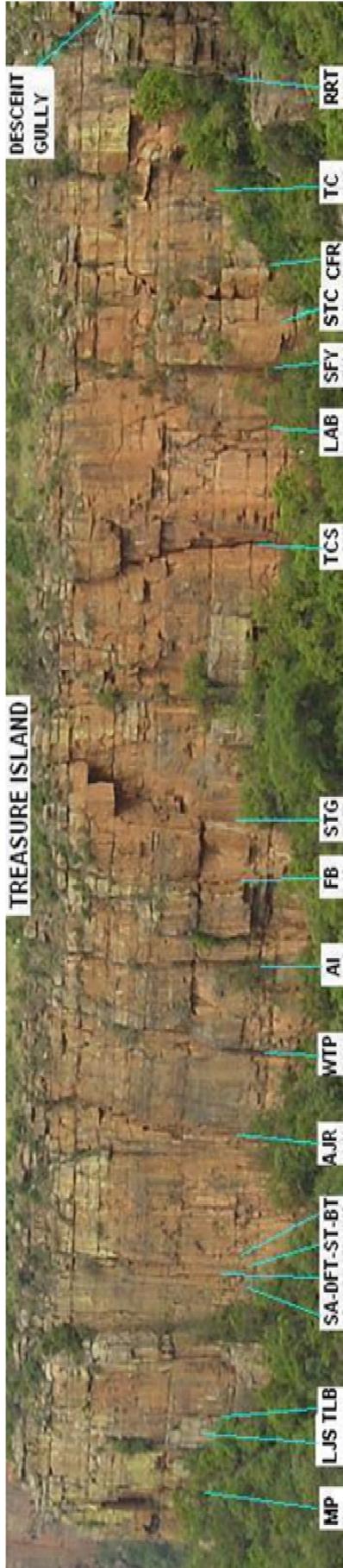
CANNON BALL

19 ***

Walk along the base of the crag to the arête. Just around the corner a prominent crack can be seen in the face. Start at the blocky pillar below the crack.

1. 40m 19 Climb up on blocks to a chimney behind the pillar. Continue up on blocks to above the chimney to gain the crack. Climb the crack to a sloping ledge on the left. Continue up the crack to the top.

First ascent: Jan 2000 N. McKenzie, G. Frost and S. Newman.



METROSEXUAL PIRATES

18 *****

Pass the steep bushy gully the left of THE LEGEND OF JOHNNY SEPTEMBER to the base of a wide, recessed crack system with a small roof half way up the route. Start at the base of the wide crack behind a tree.

1. 30m 18 Climb up the wide, recessed crack to where a ledge gives access to the right-hand arête. Climb the short crack and face leading up the arête then tend leftwards back towards the crack above the small roof. Continue directly upwards, passing a blocky section higher, to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 G. Frost, R. Nathan and C. Ziranek.

THE LEGEND OF JOHNNY SEPTEMBER

19 ***

Walk along the base of the crag to the second last buttress before the arête. This route climbs the first obvious crack in the face to the right of the steep bushy gully and to the left of the pillar block climbed in THE LUCKY BUCCANEERS.

1. 45m 19 Climb up the face to a ledge then follow the crack system, past another small ledge, to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 2000 K. Thrash and I. McMaster.

THE LUCKY BUCCANEERS

19 ***

Walk along the base of the crag to the second last buttress before the arête, to where an obvious block forming a pillar against the face can be seen. The right hand corner of the pillar also forms the start of a crack that continues up towards the top of the crag. Start at the base of the pillar below the crack.

1. 35m 19 Climb the corner on the right hand side to the top of the pillar. Continue up to where a large block obstructs the crack. Carefully pass the block and continue to an off-width section which is climbed to the top of the crag.

Variation: Instead of pulling on the scary block, traverse 7m left to a good crack. Place gear in the crack then climb the face to the right of it to avoid the grass. (22 June 2014 H. Pringle and N. Grech-Cumbo.)

Note: The obstructing block halfway up the route is loose and poses a potential hazard for climbers.

First ascent: 15 Dec 2007 G. Frost and J. Viljoen.

SHARK ATTACK

23 *****

Near the middle of the crag just up from the trail three very direct cracks quite close to each other can be seen the follow up to the top of the crag. Just to the left of the crack climbed in DIGGING FOR TREASURE a faint crack line in the face can be seen that starts as a jam crack lower down to the right of a block. Start on top of the block.

1. 35m 23 Step rightwards off the block to the crack. Continue up moving rightwards higher to gain another thin crack. Continue up to the top passing a pointy flake jutting out of the face below a ledge.

Note: The opening ascent was done using pre-placed protection as placing gear on lead makes for a very taxing climb.

First ascent: 16 Dec 2004 K. Thrash and G. Frost.

DIGGING FOR TREASURE

19 ***

Near the middle of the crag just up from the trail three very direct cracks quite close to each other can be seen that follow up to the top of the crag. This route climbs the left hand crack that goes up to a tree.

1. 45m 19 Climb the crack directly up to the tree. Pass the tree into the corner behind and ascend to the top of the crag.

First ascent: Jan 2000 K. Thrash and K. Binedell.

STOLEN TREASURE

23 ****

Near the middle of the crag just up from the trail three very direct cracks quite close to each other can be seen the follow up to the top of the crag. This route climbs the middle crack that goes directly up to a tree.

1. 45m 23 Climb the crack directly up to the tree. Pass the tree into the corner behind and ascend to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Oct 2004 K. Thrash and I. McMaster.

BURIED TREASURE

20 ****

Near the middle of the crag just up from the trail three very direct cracks quite close to each other can be seen the follow up to the top of the crag. This route takes the right hand crack which is a shallow open book.

1. 45m 20 Climb the corner to a small rest ledge. Continue up the face to the top or move left below the pedestal into a short gully then climb to the top.

First ascent: Jan 2000 G. Frost, N. McKenzie and S. Newman.

A JOLLY RODGERING

19 R/X

To the right of BURIED TREASURE around the arête is a large, obvious open book corner that continues to the top of the crag. Start at the base of the corner.

1. 35m 19 Climb the broken corner until clean rock on the left wall. A finger/hand crack is climbed, to the left of an off-width, until a step leftwards can be made to a foot ledge. Hand traverse rightwards on good holds, above the off-width, into the corner. Climb the right hand wall of the corner to a ledge with a tree. Traverse left and climb the steep finger crack and then a squeeze chimney to the top.

First ascent: 17 Dec 2004 H. Pringle, N. Hemphill and K. Thrash.

WALKING THE PLANK

18 ***

On the right of BURIED TREASURE is a large open book with a steep face on its right. There are some thin crack lines in the face. To the right of the thin cracks a more prominent crack can be seen.

1. 40m 18 Start on the face below the prominent crack and continue up the crack to the top of the crag.

First ascent: Jan 2000 K. Thrash and K. Binedell.

AMPHIBIAN INSOMNIA

20 A0 ***

Start about 10m to the left of FIRST BLOOD where a break in the steep face takes a crack line to a ledge with a tree about 10m up from the ground.

1. 15m 19 A0 Climb the right hand break directly below the ledge up to the tree and belay on the ledge below the open book at the back.

2. 35m 20 A0 Climb the open book up to an overhang and pull through using the crack to the left to below another smaller overhang. Continue up the crack to gain a small ledge on the left. Climb the face to the left to another small ledge. Climb the face to a ledge on the left of a steep corner. Climb the face on the left to the top of the crag.
Note: pitch 2 could be grade 21 without aid.

First ascent: 17 Oct 2004 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

FIRST BLOOD

17 ***

Near the middle of the West facing section on Treasure Island crag a huge roof with a big corner below is seen. To the left of this feature an open book in darker rock with an overhang below can be seen. Start in the clearing to the left of the open book below the overhang.

1. 45m 16 Climb up a short face to a blocky ledge below the overhang and traverse right over a large block then up to the base of the open book. Climb the open book to a ledge. Continue up a short face to the top of the crag.

First ascent: Jan 2000 S. Newman, N. McKenzie and G. Frost.

ONE SMALLER THAN GREEN

16 ***

Near the middle of the West facing section on Treasure Island crag a huge roof with a big corner below is seen. This route starts at the bottom of this feature.

1. 45m 16 Climb up on easy blocks to a chossy ledge below the corner. Climb the corner passing right of a boulder to a system of foot ledges. Traverse right to the arête and ascend a crack to a ledge. Follow the ledge to a chimney. Climb up and exit to the right to the top of the crag and tree belay

First ascent: 15 Dec 2003 G. Frost and A. Lloyd.

THE CAPTAIN'S SUNDOWNER

19 A0 ****

About 30m to the right of ONE SMALLER THAN GREEN, a recessed corner with a steep face directly above can be seen. Start in trees below the corner.

1. 45m 19 A0 Climb up a block to the base of the corner. Continue up the corner then exit left under the steep face to below a narrow chimney. Traverse left around the arête then climb up to a small ledge. Climb/aid the steep open book exiting left onto a narrow ledge. Continue up the boulder face to the top.

Note: Will go free at about grade 22/23

First ascent: 2 Mar 2002 A. Porter and G. Frost.

LIFE'S A BEACH

16 ***

Close to the descent gully in the 2nd large recessed open book to the left of the gully, a bushy corner above a triangular ledge about half way up the crag can be seen. There are two corners going up to either side of the ledge. Start at the base of the left hand corner behind a large block.

- 1. 23m 15** Climb the corner to a ledge on the right. Continue up to the next ledge below the bushy corner.
- 2. 10m 10** Climb up rightwards to a traverse ledge. Follow this rightwards around the arête to a stance in a niche below a wide crack.
- 3. 20m 14** Climb the face, on good holds, just to the left of the stance to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Dec 2004 G. Frost, N. Hemphill and D. Margetts.

SWINGING FROM THE YARDARM

16 ***

Close to the descent gully in the 2nd large recessed open book to the left of the gully, a bushy corner above a triangular ledge about half way up the crag can be seen. There are two corners going up to either side of the ledge. Start at the base of the right hand corner.

- 1. 35m 16** Climb up the corner passing a ledge on the right to a bushy ledge on the left. Move up to a traverse line on the right which is taken to the arête. Climb the arête moving right higher to a short vegetated recess and continue up to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Oct 2004 I. McMaster and K. Thrash.

SUMMON THE CRACKEN

15 *****

On the right of the arête separating the 1st and 2nd recessed open books (i.e. on the arête between SWINGING FROM THE YARDARM and TREASURE CHEST) is an obvious crack line which starts at a largish tree. The start of the crack is very steep but eases a couple of meters off the ground. Start on the tree below the crack.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb onto the tree to bypass the steep start. Continue up the crack, passing some blocks breaking the line, to a grassy ledge. Continue up the arête to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 C. Ziranek, G. Frost and R. Nathan.

YO, HO, HO AND A CRACK FULL OF RUM

15 *****

5m to the right of the arête separating the 1st and 2nd recessed open books (i.e. on the west face between SWINGING FROM THE YARDARM and TREASURE CHEST) is a large chimney-like recess, which ends with a roof and a tree above it. The climb starts on the face 3m to the right of the recess.

- 1. 30m 15** Climb onto the face then move left to gain the thin vertical crack with an aloe in it 1m to the right of the recess. Climb the crack until you reach a ledge and cubby-hole (12m). Stem the cubbyhole then move onto the left face and climb up past the tree onto a large ledge. From the ledge there are two cracks, take the thinner crack on the left with a couple of small trees half-way up.

First ascent: 18 Jun 2006 G van Weele, L Maritz and A. Lloyd.



Ron following SUMMON THE CRACKEN. Photo by Gareth Frost.

TREASURE CHEST

15 ***

In the 1st recessed open book to the left of the descent gully, a crack in the face formed by a flake like feature on the right of the open book can be seen. Half way up is a ledge with a short corner on the left. Start below the crack.

1. 30m 15 Climb the crack to below an overlap. Move left then climb a short face to the ledge. Continue up the face using a crack to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Dec 2004 G. Frost, N. Hemphill and D. Margetts.

VARIATION

1. 20m 15 Climb the crack to below an overlap. Move left then climb a short face to the ledge. Move left into a corner / cubby hole.

2. 10m 16 Climb the corner straight up to the top of the crag.

First ascent: U. Kiefer, K. van Graan. 2006/06/16

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

18 ****

To the right of Treasure Chest is a 90° corner with 2 roofs above it.

1. 30m 18 Pull through the overhang above the shelf 2 meters right of the corner and step left into the corner. Pass the first roof on the left and the second on the right. Step left over the second roof and continue up a face to the top.

Note: Matthys took a winger on the first placement shortly after Hendrik and I climbed it, so we figured it's a cool name. Jahne did well to keep him off the deck.

First ascent: 10 Aug 2013 H. Van Zyl and H. Neethling

RED RACKHAM'S TREASURE

15 ***

On the very right hand side of the crag, just before the cliff band peters out into the descent gully, an obvious crack line on the left of an arête, going up to an overhang with a pillar higher up on the right, can be seen. Start at the base of the crack, near the large tree.

1. 20m 15 Climb the crack to where it splits then continue up to the overhang.

Traverse rightwards to climb up onto the pillar. Step off the pillar onto the final section of face and continue up on good holds to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 10 Sep 2006 G. Frost and M. Sporen.

MAIN MAST BUTTRESS

This is the small buttress to the left of the Treasure Island descent gulley (going down). To get off the buttress, one can either go down via the gulley or abseil off a convenient tree.

CAPTAIN JACK

20 ***

On the lowest arête of the buttress, an obvious face with thin cracks on the right of the edge can be seen. Start below the face to the right of the arête.

1. 25m 20 Climb up starting just to the right of the arête then move slightly rightwards to below a thin crack. Follow the crack to below an overlap then climb up to the ledge. Traverse leftwards to the arête and continue around to the recessed block at a tree. Continue up the face tending leftwards, following the crack, to a break with a tree. Climb the wide crack to the top of the buttress.

First ascent: 23 Mar 2008 G. Frost, D. Margetts and J. Viljoen.

CAPTAIN MORGAN

16 ***

On the lowest arête of the buttress, an obvious face with thin cracks on the right of the edge can be seen. To the right of the face, climbed in CAPTAIN JACK, an obvious break can be seen going up to a wide crack above a ledge. Start at the base of the break.

1. 25m 16 Climb the break up to the ledge then continue up to the wide crack and follow this to the blocks at the top of the buttress.

First ascent: 23 Mar 2008 G. Frost, D. Margetts and J. Viljoen.

JAMAICAN ME CRAZY

15 ***

Move around the base of the buttress from left to right from the descent gulley. A small recess can be found on the northern side. Start below a steep break to the left of the corner and the start of BEN GUNN.

1. 20m 15 Climb the steep break up to a ledge with a wide crack and the tree trunk. Follow the crack, exiting rightwards to the top of the buttress.

First ascent: 23 Mar 2008 G. Frost, D. Margetts and J. Viljoen.

BEN GUNN

15 ***

Move around the base of the buttress from left to right from the descent gulley. A small recess can be found on the northern side. BEN GUNN ascends a crack line in a corner on the left of the recess.

1. 20m 15 Ascend the corner and the face to a large ledge with a wide crack with a tree trunk above. Follow the crack, exiting rightwards to the top of the buttress.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

PIRATES OF THE CARABINERS

18 ***

This climb ascends the off width crack approximately 4m to the right of BEN GUNN.

1. 20m 18 Ascend the crack then off width to a ledge. Continue up a short face to a crack line through a bulge on the right. Ascend the crack over the bulge to the top.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

CAT-O-NINE TAILS

17 ***

This climb ascends the face 6m to the right of PIRATES OF THE CARABINERS. The climb follows the face to directly below a recess with a tree in it.

1. 22m 17 Pull up into an overhanging recess. Move left following the face up to a ledge below an off width crack with a tree in it. Pass the tree on the right and continue to the top.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

CHALK & CHEESE BUTTRESS

This buttress is found about 50m to the right of Main Mast Buttress. The buttress is short (+/- 10m). Descend using the gulley behind buttress.

MOUSE TRAP

18 ***

This climb ascends the short face on the left-hand side of the buttress.

1. 10m 18 Climb the short face and move left into a crack line and ascend for 3m before moving right onto the face. Move up the face and then back left to the top.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

10 X 10

10 ***

This climb ascends the arête on the right hand side of the Chalk and Cheese Buttress.

1. 10m 10 Ascend the arête easily to the top.

First ascent: 23 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

LOURIE TRAIL

TO GET THERE

Go to the lower viewpoint parking. The steep orange wall is clearly visible from the here. Follow the Lourie Trail for about ten minutes, keeping an eye out on the left for the orange walls above. The trail dips down slightly just before the wall, and at this point it is a very short uphill walk through the trees for about 1-2 mins to the base of the route.

APPROACH TIME: 12 minutes

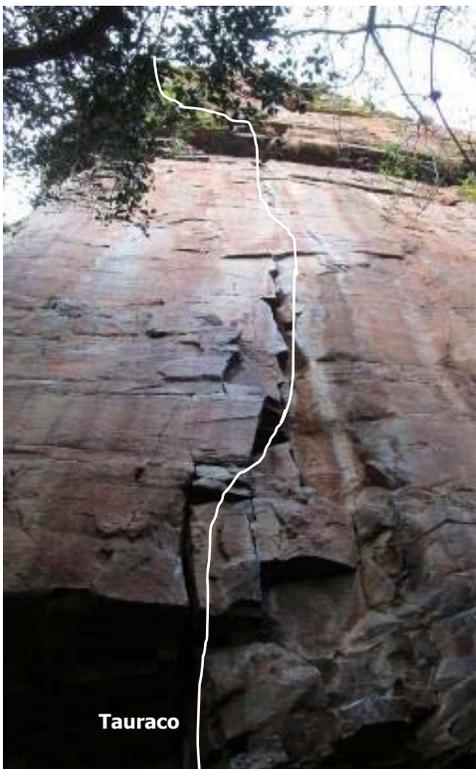
TAURACO

23 ****

See pictures below. Walk up from the road at the first right hand hair-pin bend on the way to the lower lookout point. Follow the base of the crag to the right past a small pinnacle to where a large open book with a chimney at the bottom is seen. The route ascends this corner.

1. 20m 23 Follow the only crack system on the left of the wall. At about 7m up, there is layback feature. Make sure you have good gear (small cams in a tapering slot) just below the layback. Fire up this and straight up to the roof. Pull through the break and then tend up and left to the arête (a bit run out, but there is a good small wire down and left). Continue up on good holds on the left side of the vague arête and then swing back right at the very top.

First ascent: Sept 2019 R. Halsey.



OK CORRAL

TO GET THERE

Take a drive to the lower lookout point and park where the road makes its first hair-pin bend to the right. The grey, south facing crag on the left is OK Corral. Walk up the hill through the bush to the base of the cliff.

APPROACH TIME: 5-10 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

From the top of the routes walk straight up to the road that goes to the upper look out point. Follow the road back down to the resort and lower look out point.

OR

Scramble across to the left from the top of the crag then descend through the bush back down to the road.

SAWN-OFF SHOT GUN

18 A0 **

Walk up from the road at the first right hand hair-pin bend on the way to the lower lookout point. Follow the base of the crag to the right past a small pinnacle to where a large open book with a chimney at the bottom is seen. The route ascends this corner.

1. 25m 18 A0 Climb up on blocks to the start of the chimney. Continue up the chimney and corner crack to an awkward move using aid to exit the corner on the left. Belay on the ledge.

2. 20m (scramble) Scramble up the gully on the right of the belay stance.

First ascent: 13 Dec 2003 G. Frost and I. Kotze.

WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE

22 A0 ***

To the left of Tombstone Pinnacle is a portion of grey rock which is recessed back a bit. This route ascends the front of the first orange buttress to the left of this. I.e. about 15m left of a massive, scary looking grey stack-like buttress and just left of the big red overhangs at the top of the crag. Start below the obvious crack.

1. 50m 22 A0 Climb up on the right and step left across the recess. Crank through the bulge using a good crack. Step back right into the main recess. Climb the very thin corner crack to the bottomless crack through the bulge (crux). Crank through to a rest ledge. Climb up, tending slightly rightwards to a bushy ledge.

Descent: Abseil off the tree on the right hand side of the ledge.

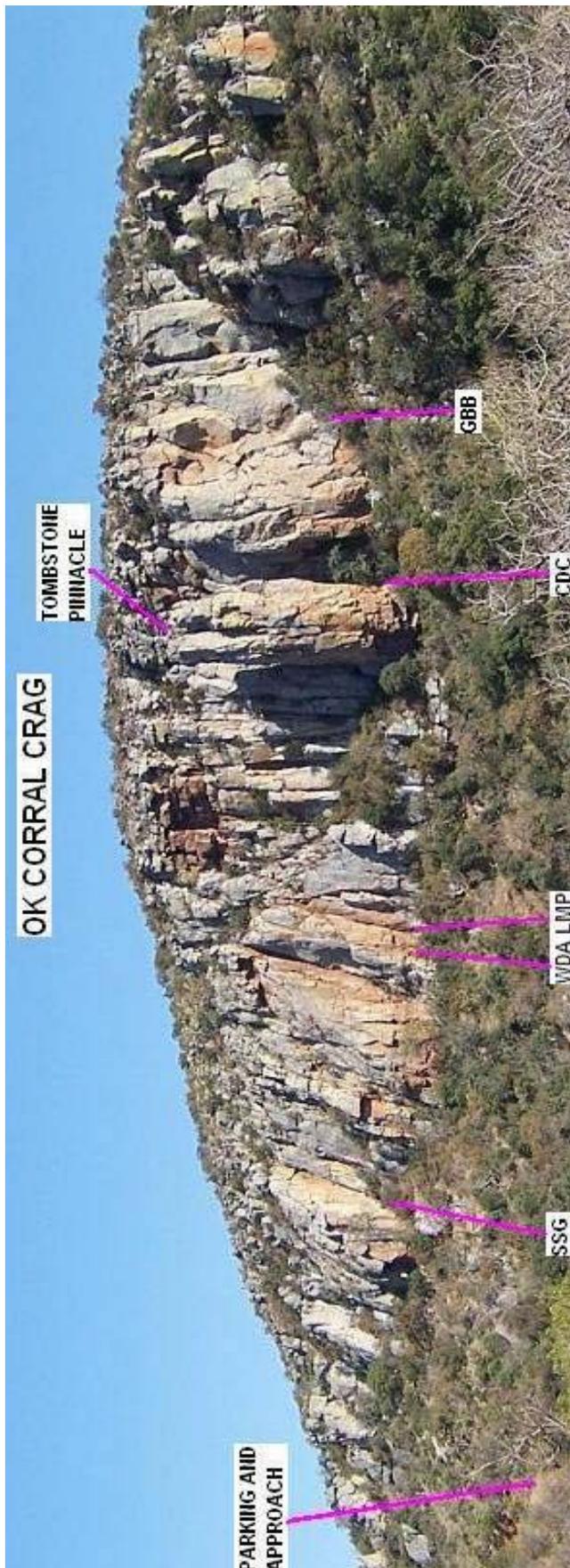
Note:

A #5 friend is recommended for the crux.

The leader rested below the crux. This route still needs a free ascent.

We found a #1 BD stopper and a quick-link below the crux. Obviously the route has been tried before.

First ascent: 13 Jun 2009 I. Kotze and H. Pringle.



LYNCH MOB POSSE 19 **

Climbs the big corner to the right of WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE. Start below the corner.

1. 50m 19 Climb the corner to a ledge beneath the off-width. Step right and climb the face (run out) to a thin rail. Traverse left into the corner (you are now above the off-width portion). Climb the corner till it is blocked by a big wedged block. Step right to a rest ledge. Continue up the right wall of the corner to the top. Exit slightly left, then up to a bushy ledge.

Descent: Abseil off the tree on the right hand side of the ledge.

Note:

A set of small cams is useful for the occasional rail in the right hand wall.

First ascent: 13 Jun 2009 I. Kotze and H. Pringle.

TRIGGER HAPPY 19 ***

The climb takes the right hand obvious good off-width crack directly behind Tombstone pinnacle on the main wall. The route follows the crack and exits out left beneath the overhang. Bring lots of big cams.

1. 27m 19 Climb the off-width crack to a small ledge by a chockstone (75 cm diameter) lodged between the crack and the ledge. The chockstone looks secure, but the ledge can be reached without pulling it. Continue up crack over a bulge, after which the angle eases. Follow the groove up to the roof and stance where the groove starts exiting to the right under the first roof.

2. 18m 16 Exit left onto small ledge. Around the corner on the left is an open book where gear can be placed. Climb up and continue diagonally left to a grassy ledge

(stance). An scramble easily to the top. Watch out for loose rock.

First ascent: 10 Apr 2011 Sarel Petrus, Hermann Uys and Herman van Zyl.

DOC HOLLIDAY

21 A1 ***

"I thought you were dead?" "No, I'm in my prime"

Climbs the main crag of OK Corral, just right of Tombstone Pinnacle. The main feature of the route is a striking rail about 20m up, visible from the nek between the Pinnacle and the main crag. Start in the forest, on the right, beneath the first obvious break through the bulges right of the Pinnacle.

1. 40m 21 A1 Scramble up to a ledge. Crank through the bulge in the recess. Continue up the flaring recess until able to step out left onto funky featured rock. Climb up diagonally left to the rail. Rail left for 5m to beneath a steep oblique open book. Climb this to the bulge (aid) then up and right (free) to reach an easy slab. Amble up to the top and rap off a tree of your choice.

First ascent: 4 Jun 2011 Hector Pringle and Brian Weaver.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BABY

16 *

Walk past Tombstone Pinnacle and around the corner until below a section of red overhanging rock about two thirds of the way up the crag. Start on the other side of a fairly large bush/tree.

1. 25m 14 Climb up to a slab. Once on the slab move rightwards to place gear, then back leftwards and up the knobby slab (run out but easy) to where it gets a lot steeper. Step leftwards across the gap and traverse 2m leftwards to a crack which is climbed to a good belay stance.

2. 15m 16 Climb the face tending slightly leftwards, to below steeper rock. Traverse leftwards, around the corner to a tree and belay.

3. 20m 8 Climb a short face and then continue up the grassy gully to the top.

Note: The gear on pitch 2 is minimal and tricky to place on the traverse. Some micro nuts may be handy but the FA was made without any.

First ascent: 5 Nov 2006 I. Kotze and L. Kotze.

TOMBSTONE PINNACLE

Standing prominently in the front of the OK Corral crag, is a large pinnacle with huge roofs (climbed by WYATT EARP) on the lower, outward-facing wall.

Approach: Bush bash to a small clearing beneath the black roofs (WYATT EARP). To access the other routes walk counterclockwise around the pinnacle, first passing COWBOYS DON'T CRY, then GUNFIGHT and finally SUNDANCE KID.

Descent: There is a good rap station with a fixed biner on the mainland side of the pinnacle (down the route GUNFIGHT). Bring about 5m of rap cord to beef it up. If you add new cord please remove the old manky tat. The rap is 35m so use two ropes.

GUNFIGHT

23 *****

Climbs the steep recess on the side of Tombstone Pinnacle that faces the crag. Scramble to the highest point of the gulley at the back of the base of the pinnacle (scramble in from the right, looking up). Start just to the left of the highest point (looking up).

1. 20m 19 Climb leftward-facing corner to a tree. Step right and climb rightward-facing corner to a roof. Step left and pull through to a crack. Up this to a ledge.

2. 15m 23 Climb the crack above the stance to a ledge below the overhanging hand crack. Climb the crack to the top.

Note: Doubles or even triples of Camalots # 1, 2 and 3 are useful.

First ascent(with rests): 17 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

First ascent: 13 Apr 2011 Andrew Porter.

SUNDANCE KID

20 ****

Start at the highest point in the neck between the pinnacle and the crag, 5m right of GUNFIGHT. This is just left of a shattered-looking crack line. The first pitch ascends the face of the pinnacle which faces the crag (i.e. the NW face), to a stance on the western arête. The second pitch then traverses the SW face to the southern arête, then up the arête to the top. The entire second pitch is visible from the road. This is a very photogenic route.

1. 25m 20 Climb edges for 2m until you can step down and rightwards to the jagged crack. Climb the crack, moving right at the top, then up to a rest ledge. Continue up and rightwards to the arête, then up to a ledge beneath a large corner crack (visible from the ground). Climb the crack to a ledge on the left, then up the final 3m of big crack to a spectacularly exposed flat platform on the SW face.

2. 15m 15 Walk rightwards then step down to the lower ledge and traverse rightwards to an outrageous foot perch on the southern arête. Climb just right of the arête to the top. Use two ropes and keep one without gear to protect the second from above.

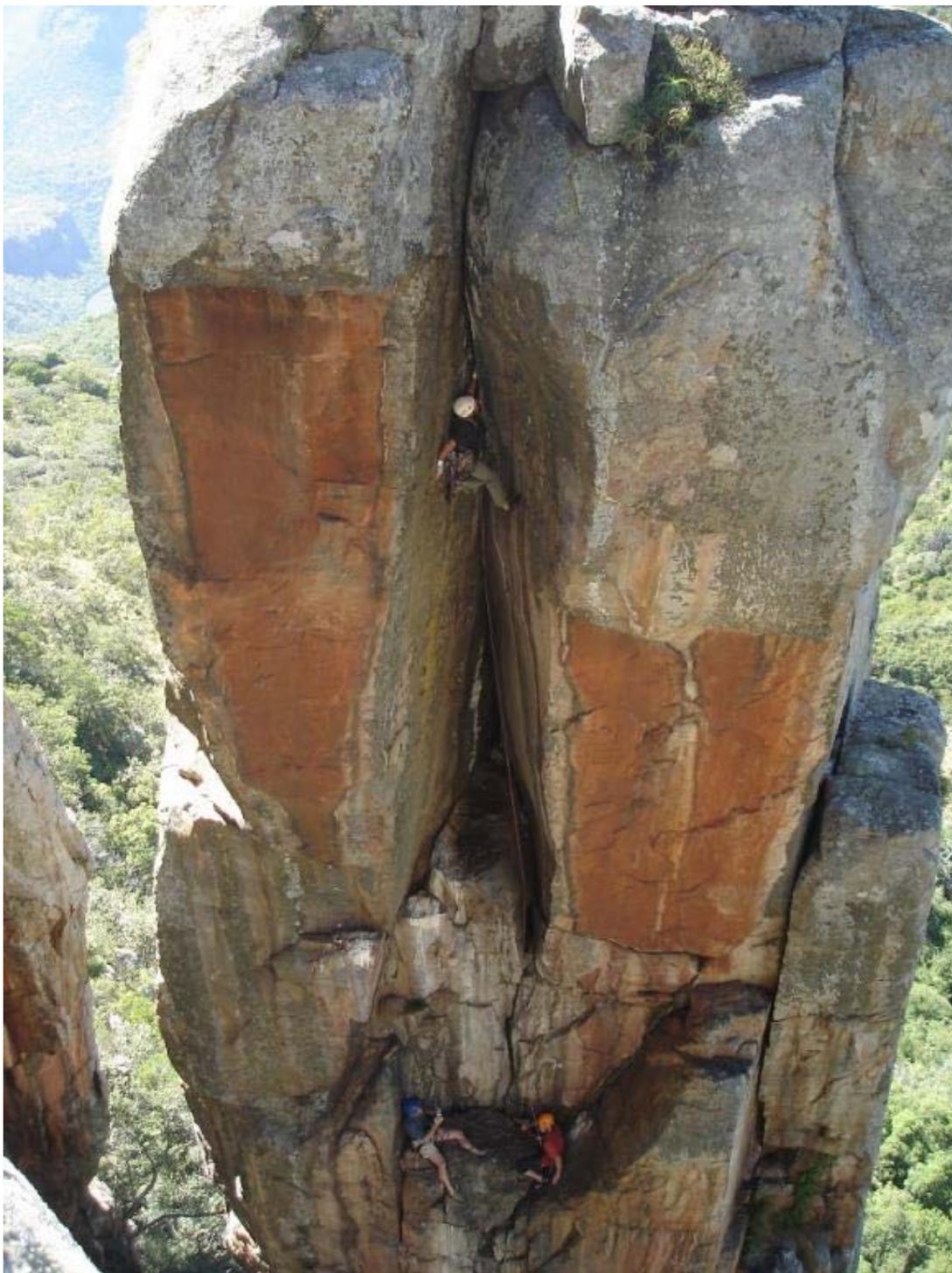
Note:

Small cams useful on pitch 1.

A #5 friend is handy but not essential for the platform stance.

First ascent(Pitch 1): 14 Jun 2009 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

First ascent(Pitch2): 13 Jun 2009 H. Pringle and L. Watson.



Andrew Porter on GUNFIGHT

COWBOYS DON'T CRY

18 ****

Approach the right hand side of the pinnacle to where an obvious break in the face can be seen to the right of the huge roofs. Start at a short open book with a blind crack ending in a rail that will give access to the break further above to the left.

1. 32m 18 Climb the short open book to the rail then move leftwards and up into the break with a crack. Move leftwards again to the next portion of the break and climb up to below a steep open book. Climb the open book and subsequent easier break, continuing upwards to below an overhang where a short traverse rightwards onto the face and then a move up will gain a small grassy ledge and belay at a wide crack on the right.

2. 15m 16 Climb up the corner on the left hand side of the stance, using the crack in the left hand face, up to a blocky ledge on the left. Climb up and rightwards to gain another larger ledge then ascend the corner on the left to the top of the pinnacle.

Notes: Can easily be done in one long pitch

This route had a previous but unrecorded ascent a number of years prior to this description where a nut and abseil cord were left behind on the route.

New Ascent: 17 Jun 2006 G. Frost, D. Margetts and M. Sporen.

WYATT EARP

22A1 ****

A route straight out of the wild west. Not even Wyatt Earp had big enough guns to fire the first pitch.

Climbs straight up the front of Tombstone Pinnacle. The line is clearly visible from the lower parking circle. Start in the blackish cave.

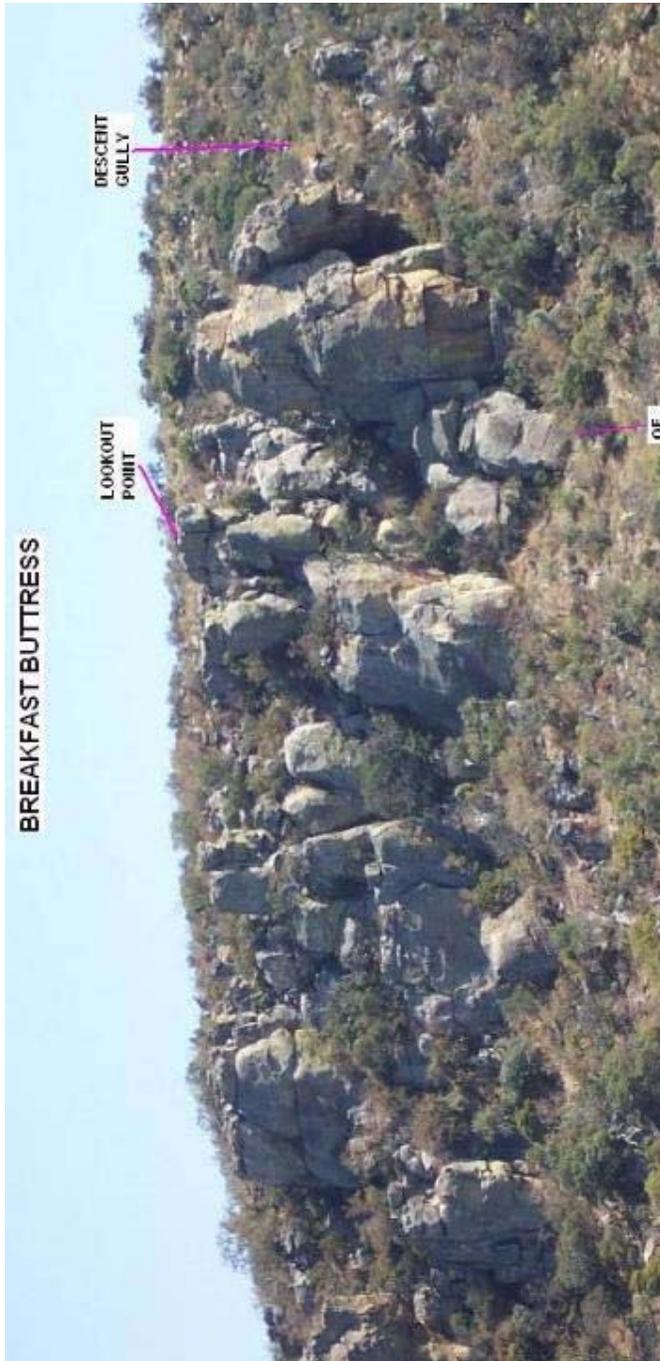
1. 15m 22 A1 For mere mortals aid the crack leftwards through the cave then climb the continuation recess above to belay in a cubbyhole. Awaiting a free ascent. Bring your big guns.

2. 30m 18 Move slightly right then straight up into the open book, pass a small roof, then up the crack to a ledge.

3. 15m 15 Soak up the exposure on the left arête to the top.

First ascent: 4 Jun 2011 Hilton (Two Guns) Davies, Richard Behne and Ian Kotze.

BREAKFAST BUTTRESS



TO GET THERE

Take a drive to the upper lookout point then follow the short path to the lookout where a buttress forming a pinnacle on top can be seen standing just in front of the lookout looking towards the lake. Approach this buttress using a bushy gully that descends down the left hand side of the buttress, not the one directly below the lookout but the next gully further out.

APPROACH TIME: 5 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Walk back across to the lookout point.

OATSO EASY

12 ***

Descend the bushy gully and continue on passing under a huge roof and then past a couple of chimney features heading down towards the lowest portion of the buttress. A large grey slab feature can be seen at the bottom apex of the buttress that goes up to a blocky ledge above. Start at the right hand edge of the small, waist-height overhang at the bottom of the slab.

1. 25m 10 Step up onto the slab after the waist-height overhang then continue up to the large boulders on the ledge above. Climb over the

boulders to a stance below a short chimney in the wall on the right hand side.

2. 10m 12 Climb up the short chimney that gives access to a ledge traversing rightwards below a steep face to the arête. Belay on the ledge around the arête and below a gnarly face above.

3. 6m 10 Climb up the gnarly face, just to the right of the arête, to a ledge above.

Descent: Traverse rightwards on the ledge to the lookout point.

First ascent: 18 Jun 2006 G. Frost and M. Sporen (solo).

LOSLYF CRAG – Last Chance Buttress

TO GET THERE

Park at the upper lookout point and follow the Leopard hiking trail along to when a small, isolated buttress can be seen, above and to the left of the path. This appears before reaching the main Loslyf Crag. A horror abrasive chimney splits the crag, capped by a giant sickle-shaped flake.

APPROACH TIME: 5 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Walk off the buttress to the left.

HUNTING FOR MORE

17 R **

This route climbs the pleasant chicken-head face just around the arête to the left of the chimney.

1. 10m 17 Climb the chicken-head face to a ledge on the right. Finish up on the arête to the big ledge on which the sickle flake rests.

First ascent: Jun 2008 H. Pringle and B. Spies.

LOSLYF CRAG – The Pound Crag

TO GET THERE

Park at the upper lookout point and follow the Leopard hiking trail along to the base of some grey, south facing, cliffs. Walk leftwards along the base of the crag from the corner at the start of CENTERFOLD KLINGONS to where the face almost seems to end and a second smaller crag can be seen behind.

APPROACH TIME: 10 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

From the top of the routes walk leftwards over the hill then down again back to the road that goes to the upper lookout point.

DOGGY STYLE

15 ***

There is a blocky pinnacle to the left of the main wall with big chock stones wedged between the wall and the pinnacle. Walk past the pinnacle, continuing on to the left hand arête of the crag. Start below a crack to the right of the arête.

1. 25m 15 Climb the crack to a small tree on the arête. Continue diagonally rightwards up the face to a crack that leads upwards to ledge below a niche. Climb up the corner in the niche, exiting leftwards on good holds to the block ledges above.

First ascent: 9 Sep 2006 M. Sporen and G. Frost.

AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A HOUND DOG

16 ***

Continue on towards the left hand arête. Start below a thin crack and subsequent face to the right of DOGGY STYLE.

1. 25m 16 Climb the thin crack and subsequent face up to a small ledge below a bulge with bushes above. Climb the break on the left up to a ledge then continue up leftwards to the blocky ledges on top of the crag.

First ascent: 9 Sep 2006 G. Frost and M. Sporen.

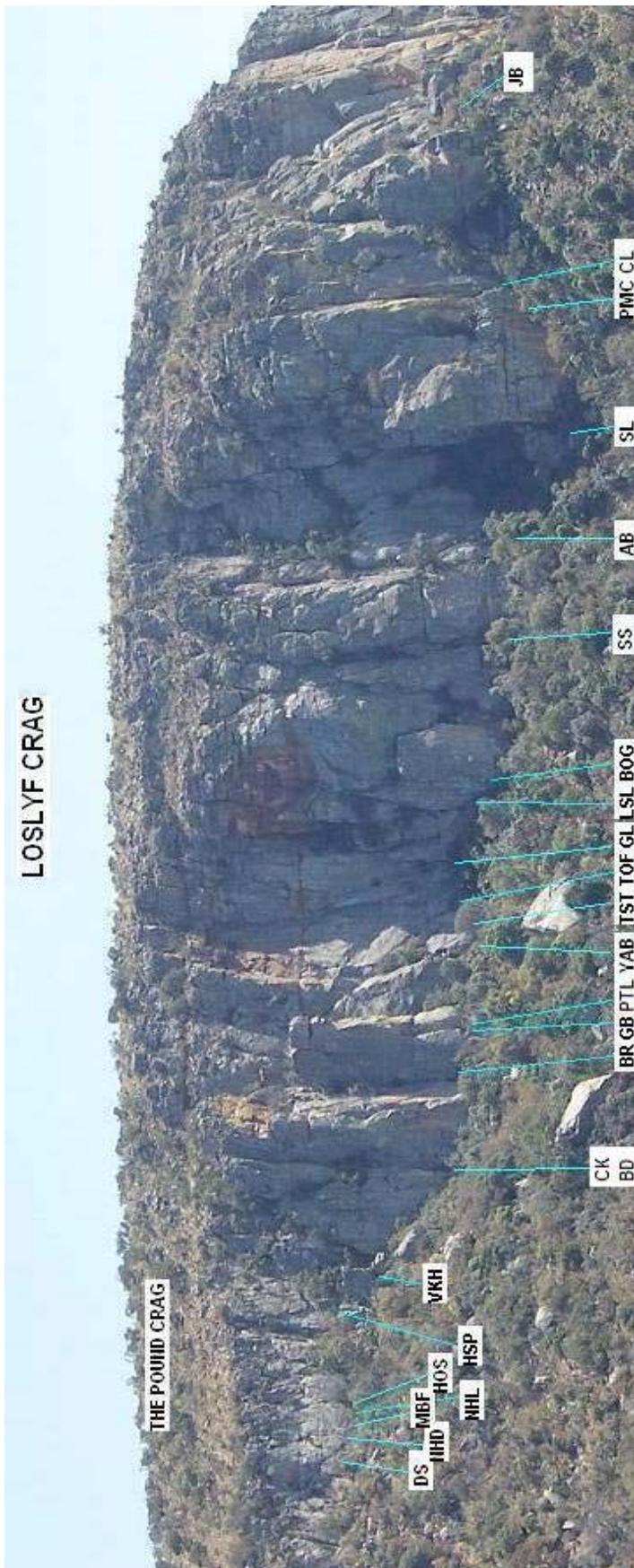
MANS' BEST FRIEND

14 ***

Continue on towards the left hand arête. Start below a crack system to the right of AINT NOTHIN' BUT A HOUND DOG, just to the left of a clump of trees.

1. 25m 14 Climb the crack system, passing a tree on the right, up to a small ledge. Continue upwards following the left hand break to the blocky ledges above.

First ascent: 9 Sep 2006 G. Frost and M. Sporen.



AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE A HIND LEG 14 ***

Between the routes MAN'S BEST FRIEND and HANG ON SNOOPY is a narrow crack with a gnarly face going up to a ledge with a tree. Start below this crack.

1. 25m 14 Climb up the gnarly face following the crack line to a small ledge with a tree about 5m below the top. Continue up following the recess behind the tree to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 21 Jul 2007 G. Frost, D. Margetts, R. Nathan and J. Viljoen.

HANG ON SNOOPY 13 ***

Continue on towards left hand arête. Start at a noticeable crack system to the right of MAN'S BEST FRIEND, to the right of a clump of trees.

1. 25m 14 Climb the face on the left of the crack system up to where a step rightwards, below a bulge, gains a flake. Climb up into a niche. Climb up then move leftwards to gain a small ledge with a tree. Continue up to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 9 Sep 2006 M. Sporen and G. Frost.

GRUMBLING SPIDER PIG 17 ***

Start as for Howling Spider Pig but instead of moving right under the overlap, head straight up the narrow, left facing corners, and the straight up to the top of the crag.

First Ascent: 14 Aug 2016 R. Halsey & M. Bosman

HOWLING SPIDER PIG

17 ***

Continue on towards the left hand arête. From the clump of trees at the base of MAN'S BEST FRIEND, walk rightwards passing a wooded recess and the start of the second pitch of VROU KOOK HOND, to where a gnarly looking face with a small overlap near the bottom can be seen. Start from the boulders at the base of the face just to left of the overlap.

1. 25m 17 Step off the boulders to gain the face with a ridge on the left. Move rightwards to under the overlap then pull through on good holds to gain the gnarly face above. Continue up the face to reach a blocky finish at the top of the crag.

First ascent: 21 Jul 2007 G. Frost, D. Margetts, R. Nathan and J. Viljoen.

VROU KOOK HOND

13 ***

There is a blocky pinnacle to the left of the main wall with big chockstones wedged between the wall and the pinnacle. Start at the gap between the wall and the pinnacle.

1. 10m 11 Climb the front of the pinnacle to a big ledge close to the second wall.

2. 25m 13 There is a wooded recess in this wall a little further along the ledge to the left. Climb the arête to the right of this recess to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Jun 2006 K. van Graan and U. Kiefer.

LOSLYF CRAG – Main Crag

CENTERFOLD KLINGONS

21 **

From the boulder, with a bit of graffiti on, that overhangs the Leopard Trail, looking directly up at the crag an obvious open book, that runs the entire height of the crag, with a bushy ledge in the middle, can be seen. Start at the base of the big open book at the steep, clean corner on the right hand side below a ledge a few meters above.

1. 30m 21 Climb the steep corner with a jam crack to the ledge. Continue up the big open book to the bushy ledge. Continue up onto the block above the ledge to a belay on a ledge below the next section of the open book.

2. 25m 21 Continue up the open book to the top of the crag.

Note: Observe the uniquely strange plants growing on the right hand face of the second pitch of the open book.

First ascent: 27 Nov 2004 G. Frost and I. Kotze.

BUSH DIVING

21 R/X

From the boulder, with a bit of graffiti on, that overhangs the Leopard Trail, looking directly up at the crag an obvious open book, that runs the entire height of the crag, with a bushy ledge in the middle, can be seen. Start at the base of the big open book at the steep, clean corner on the right hand side below a ledge a few meters above.

1. 25m 21 Start as for CENTERFOLD KLINGONS. Climb the nice layback crack to a ledge where CENTERFOLD KLINGONS goes left. Continue straight up the dirty crack to stance at a tree. Either traverse left to a ledge and rap off a tree or top out on CENTERFOLD KLINGONS.

Note: Still needs some cleaning.

First ascent: 14 Jun 2009 H. Pringle, I. Kotze, L. Watson and C. Terrell.

GREEN BOTTLE

20 ****

Follow the Leopard hiking trail to where a large boulder hangs over the path. There is some graffiti on the boulder. Look straight ahead, you will see a buttress that forms a pinnacle at the top. In the middle of the grey, lichen-covered face is a prominent crack. This is the second pitch of the climb. Head towards the base of the buttress. On the right hand end of the buttress are two obvious lines. The one on the left is an open book. Just around the corner is a chimney feature just behind a medium sized tree. You can start up either feature. The open book is better climbing. The grade is about the same.

1. 15m 20 Climb either the open book or the chimney to a ledge at 5 meters. Then climb the off width chimney to a recess just right of the arête and belay.

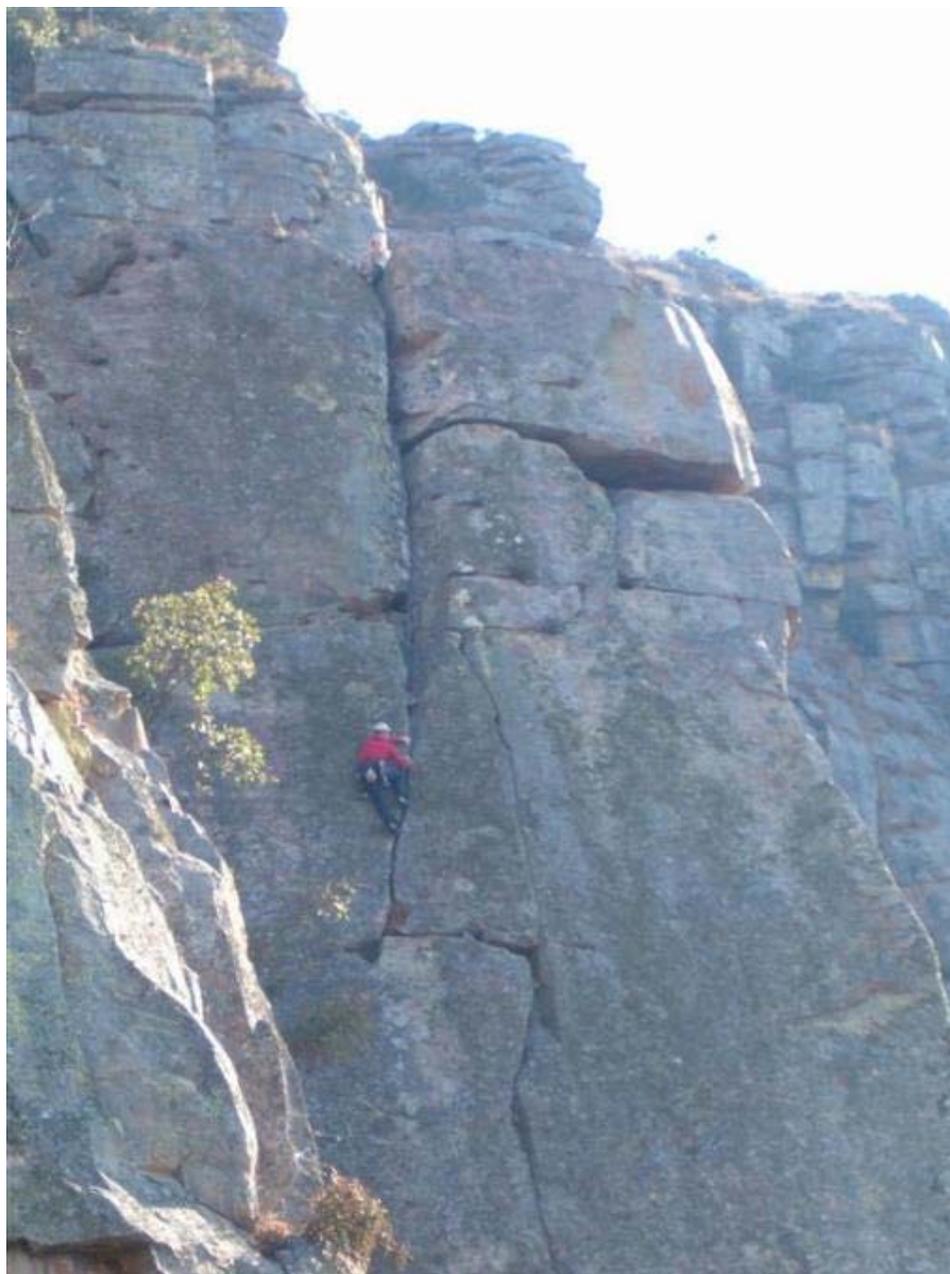
1. Alternative (as for BUTCHERS REVENGE) 15m 19 Start in the open book / gulley at the left side of the buttress. Climb this for 10 meters before climbing rightwards (very runout but fairly easy) to belay at the base of the crack.

2. 30m 20 Traverse left from the stance for 4 meters to below a crack. Climb the crack to another rail. Traverse 2 meters left to avoid the thin hands crack above (BUTCHERS REVENGE goes straight up) and follow the wide hands crack and squeeze chimney to the top. Set up a belay on the pinnacle.

Using the left-hand start it is straightforward to do this climb in one pitch.

Descent: Scramble down the ramp into the gully. Scramble about 15 meters down the gully to a very prominent smooth barked tree. Abseil of this tree over a large chock stone. Watch out for loose rock in the gully.

First ascent: 21 Nov 2004 I. Kotze, G. Terrell and R. van der Wiel.



Graham Terrell on GREEN BOTTLE, pitch 2.

BUTCHERS REVENGE

22 ****

This route climbs the thinner, right hand crack of GREEN BOTTLE. Start the route at the open book on the left hand side of the base of the buttress.

1. 15m 19 Start in the corner, climb this for 10 meters, before climbing rightwards (quite bold) to belay at the base of the crack.

2. 30m 22 Climb the crack, taking the right branch, then the final chimney to the top of the pinnacle.

First ascent: 22 Mar 2008 J. Roberts and G. Desforges.

PRELUDE TO LUKA

21 *****

Start as for GREEN BOTTLE.

1. 55m 21 Start with GREEN BOTTLE and instead of stepping left after the off width go straight up right leaning crack to roof above. Possibly the best crack climb in the country – do it!

First ascent: Nov 2007 M. Burhardt and J. Niles.

THE YOUNG AND THE BREASTLESS

17 ***

Follow the Leopard hiking trail to where a large boulder hangs over the path. About 100m up the trail from the boulder an obvious, large grey slab, with two open books on either side going up to an overhang, can be seen. This route takes the large, left hand open book higher up (GOODBYE LENIN climbs the right hand open book). Below the open book is a bushy ledge with a short buttress below. Start at the break in the face to the left of the lower apex of short buttress.

1. 33m 14 Climb the break moving rightwards below a small tree and overhang.

Continue directly upwards to the grey slab on the left of a bushy ledge. Climb up the slab, following the arête, to a large ledge with an off-width crack in the right hand wall.

2. 25m 16 Climb the short off-width to a ledge on the right then step down to a lower ledge. Traverse rightwards to the prominent open book. Climb the crack, moving rightwards occasionally to avoid grassy patches, to a small ledge on the right of the open book and about 6m below the roof.

3. 20m 17 From the stance climb up and leftwards to another small ledge in the corner. Climb up the corner to a good rail below the roof (top most of 3 obvious rails). Traverse leftwards to the arête then climb up and tending leftwards follow a break and a series of small ledges to the top and tree belay.

First ascent: 16 Jun 2005 G. Frost, H. Tillwick and G. Lowther.

THE OLD AND THE CUTICLE

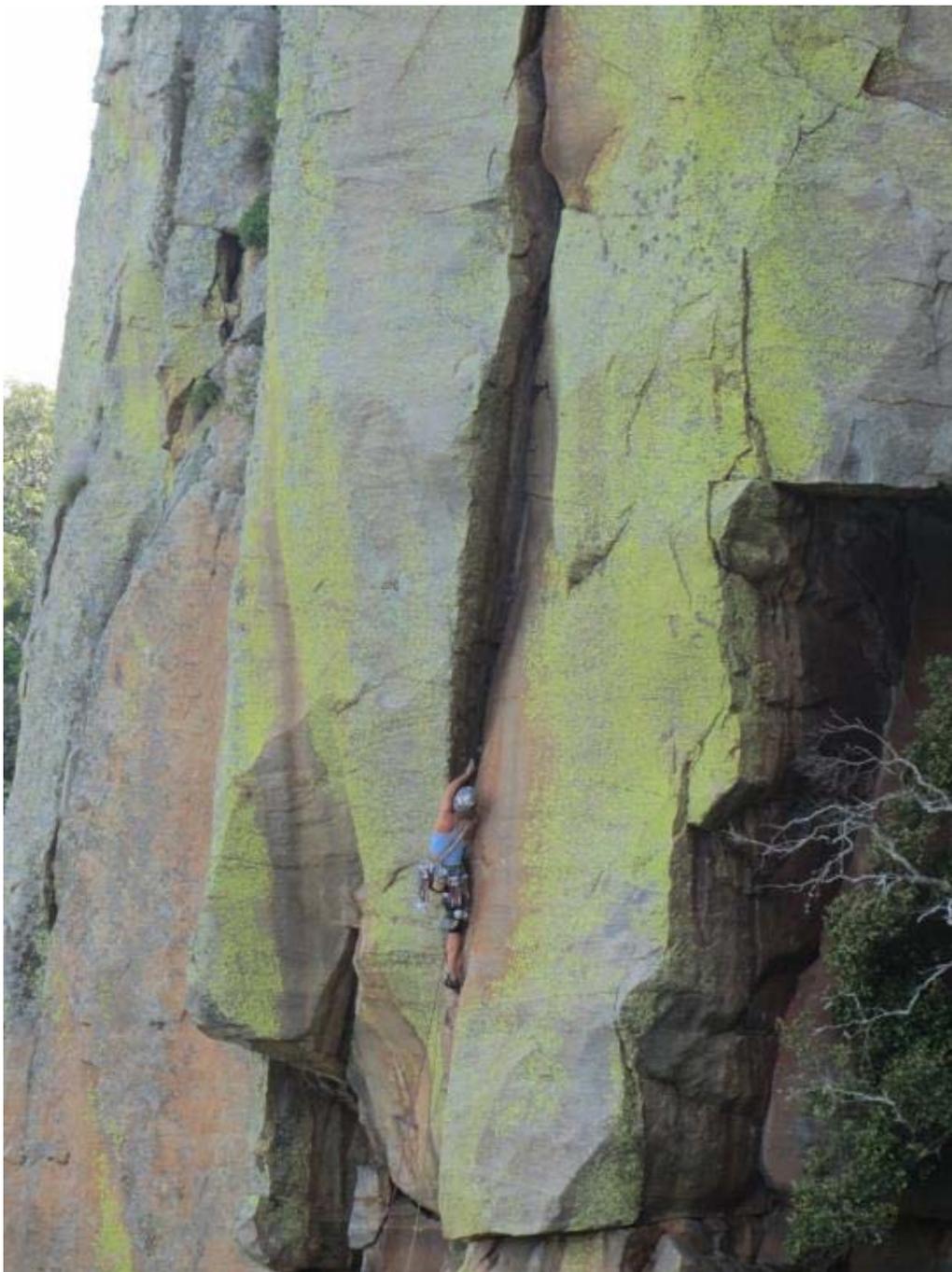
18 ***

TITS ON FIRE starts up a chimney formed by a large grey slab and a grey prow of rock. This route starts on the other (left) side of the prow, which forms a wide crack up to a tree infested ledge at 15m. THE YOUNG AND THE BREASTLESS starts further left and ends up climbing to the left of the tree infestation.

1. 55m 17 Climb the wide crack to the ledge, then move right onto slabs to avoid the infestation. Climb up the slab and then trend leftwards to a short corner. Climb this and traverse left to a striking finger crack in a corner (a less aesthetic alternative is to climb straight up instead of traversing left). Layback up this to a small ledge (THE YOUNG AND THE BREASTLESS traverses in from the left here) and climb the continuation corner to a semi-hanging stance at a large block about 3m below the first of 3 obvious rails on the left pillar.

2. 20m 18 (Pitch shared with TITS ON FIRE) Continue a few meters higher to the first rail. Rail wildly left until able to climb up a move or two, then pop around the arête to easy climbing. Climb the ridge to finish on a wide bushy ledge.

First ascent: 16 May 2015 H. Pringle, C. Wynne



Julia Wakeling on PRELUDE TO LUKA

TITS ON FIRE

19 ****

This line takes the thin seam that rises from the bottom left to top middle of the on-angle slab below some medium sized red roofs. It then traverses left at the top of the slab, up the corner then left again to the arête of the left buttress. It finishes straight up, to the left of the top roofs. Walk off to the car park or back down to the hiking trail, down the easy slope.

1. 55m 19 Start at the large chimney at the left end of the slab. Use the tree to gain the left arête of the chimney, climb this until able to step across to the start of the seam. Climb the seam for 25m until it steepens, pull through (crux) and traverse off left to the tree. Climb the flake to the right of the tree and ascend diagonally left to the corner. Climb up to a semi-hanging stance in the corner, below the first rail left.

2. 30m 18 Climb the corner to the first rail left. Rail to the arête (exposed) and climb the arête to the top.

Note: This route was cleaned extensively on abseil before being led. The grass has probably grown back.

First ascent: Jun 2008 G. Terrell, B. Spies and H. Pringle.

THE SWEET TRANSVESTITE

19 ***

Follow the Leopard hiking trail to where a large boulder hangs over the path. About 100m up the trail from the boulder an obvious, large grey slab, with two open books on either side going up to an overhang, can be seen. Start in the open book on the left of the grey slab the goes diagonally up to a bushy ledge.

1. 15m 17 Climb the grey open book up to a bushy ledge.

2. 10m 14 Climb the corner at the back of the ledge to a smaller ledge on the right.

3. 50m 17 Climb the crack system, on the right hand edge of the ledge, up to a tree. Pass the tree on the right up to a grassy crack. Continue up, climbing on the face, following the grassy crack to a clean crack system. Follow the clean crack system up to a traverse line right to a block and tree belay below the overhangs.

4. 15m 19 Climb diagonally up rightwards to the corner break in the overhangs. Pull through to the face on the left and up to a large bushy ledge and belay.

5. 20m 14 Continue up on the right hand face of the corner at the back of the ledge. Avoid a steep section higher by traversing rightwards to a bushy gully. Continue on the right of the gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Oct 2004 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

GOODBYE LENIN

16 ***

Follow the Leopard hiking trail to where a large boulder hangs over the path. About 100m up the trail from the boulder an obvious, large grey slab, with two open books on either side going up to an overhang, can be seen. This route ascends the right hand corner (THE YOUNG AND THE BREASTLESS ascends the left hand corner). Start at a large flake on the right wall just under a large boulder pinnacle near the wall.

1. 35m 16 Climb onto the flake and climb the corner above to a large tree. Continue up the corner to reach twin cracks. Climb these to where they steepen then step left onto the "chicken head" face moving back rightwards higher up to a tree in the corner. Continue up the corner to the next tree.

2. 25m 17 Climb corner to the 3rd tree and continue to a ledge. Step onto a face bearing leftwards (thin) towards a crack in the center of the face. Follow crack to a big ledge with a tree.

3. 18m 14 Walk rightwards along broken ground to a corner and traverse rightwards over the slab around the arête to a corner. Climb the corner and broken ground above to the top of the crag.

Note: 2nd pitch is steep and thin; protection is sparse, but sufficient.

Variation:

3. 12m 15? Walk rightwards over broken ground to a corner. Pull up on excellent holds and follow a groove to a ledge then walk off to the left.

Note: The variation was not climbed but there was a general vote for what seemed the easier exit. However the variation is well protected and the holds are excellent, it might be easier than the original, even if it is steeper.

First ascent (pitch 1): 18 Dec 2004 H. Pringle and M. Ojdanic.

First ascent: 17 Jun 2006 U. Kiefer, K van Graan and J van Graan.

ISOLATION CHIMNEY

14 R **

From the lookout point at car park there are 2 obvious off width looking cracks visible to the right of the GREEN BOTTLE buttress. This takes the left hand crack, which on closer inspection is a narrow chimney. It starts about 15 meters right of GOODBYE LENIN. You cannot miss it.

1. 25m 14 Climb the narrow chimney up to a ledge.

Descent: Abseil off a tree or scramble easily down the gully on the right of the buttress (looking up).

First ascent: Jun 2008 H. Pringle.

SCARECROW

24 ***

Start as for THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE

1. 50m 16 Climb the first two pitches of THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE. Stance at a nice ledge under the obvious large overhangs.

2. 30m 24 Climb diagonally left up a slab to a steep hand rail. Traverse this to the right then pull into the obvious break. Continue through the overlap/vertical break and gun for the top. Steep climbing on bomber gear.

First ascent: October 2016 A. Bester and E. Nel.

BE THE G

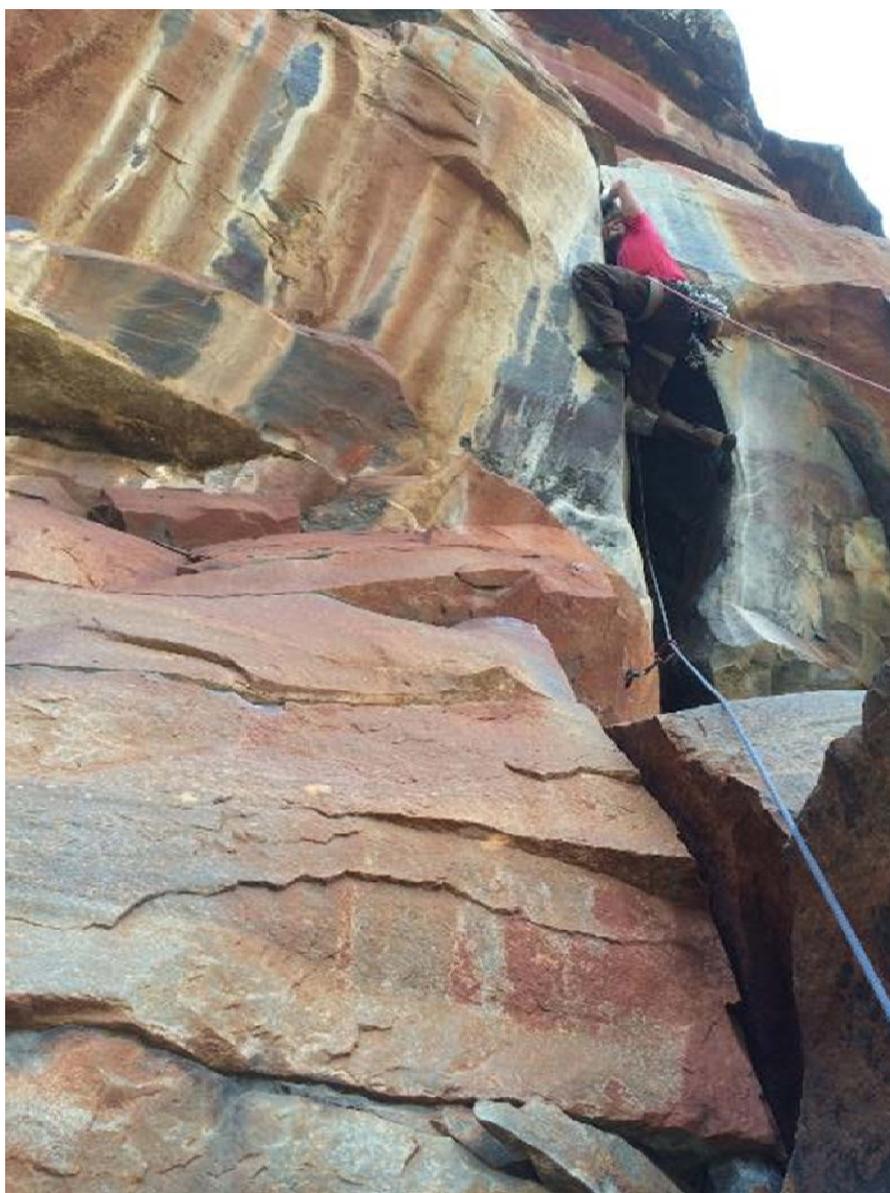
28 ****

Start as for THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE

1. 50m 16 Climb the first two pitches of THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE. Stance at a nice ledge under the obvious large overhangs.

2. 30m 28 Climb the obvious overhanging body sucking offwidth (bomber gear). Make hard moves to the crow's nest then meander left and bust out right on good holds. Might be easier if you very tall or very small

First ascent: October 2016 E. Nel and A. Bester.



Ebert Nel busting a gasket on the FA of BE THE G

THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE

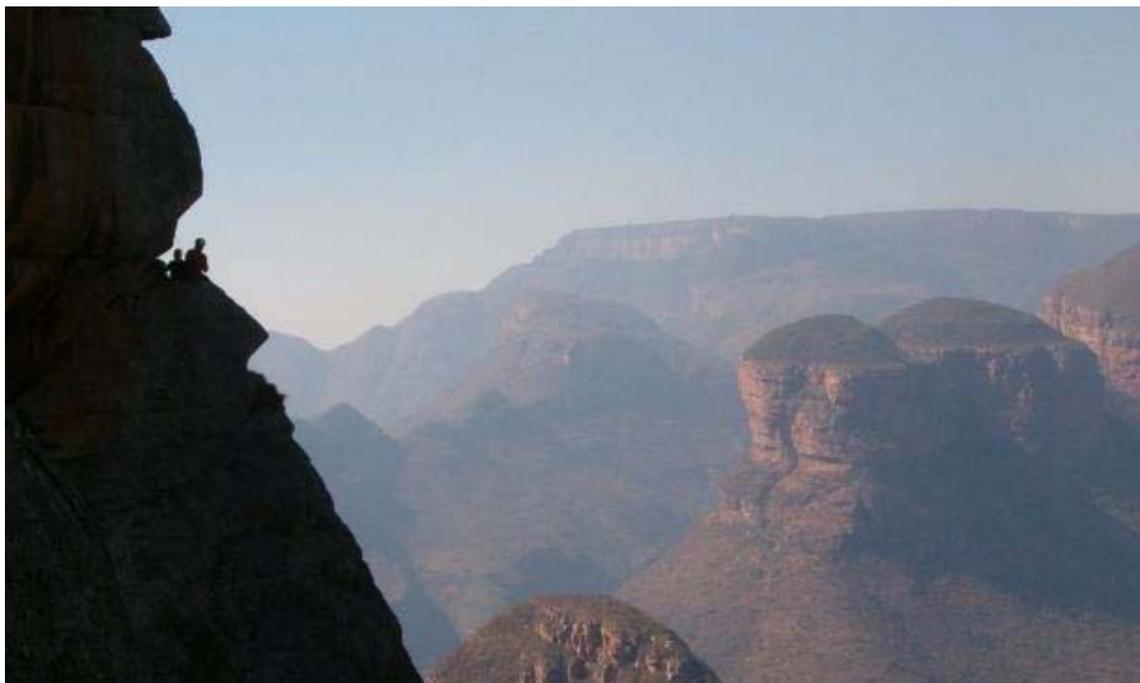
16 R **

From the lookout point at car park there are 2 obvious off width looking cracks visible to the right of the GREEN BOTTLE buttress. This takes the left hand crack, which on closer inspection is a chimney. It starts about 15 meters right of GOODBYE LENIN. You cannot miss it.

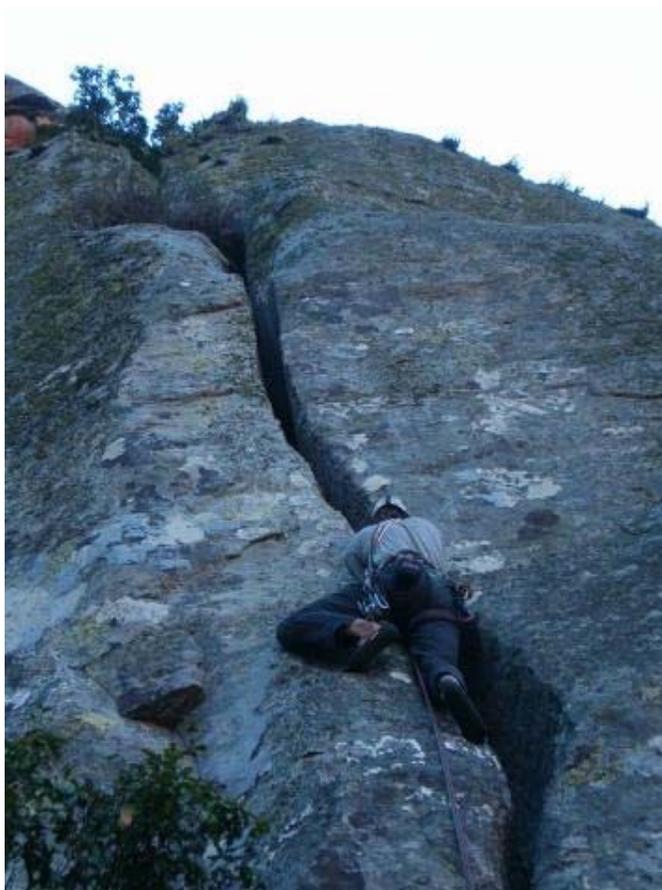
- 1. 25m 14 R** Climb the chimney (ISOLATION CHIMNEY) to a ledge.
- 2. 25m 15** Climb narrow rib/slab at back of the ledge, to the left of large crack, all the way to directly below huge overhangs.
- 3. 15m 16** Take slightly rising traverse line to the right, underneath the overhangs, all the way to skyline. Stance on the arête.
- 4. 40m 16** Step 3m right from stance and climb past tree, then do rising traverse, leftwards underneath the roof (careful of the loose flake) and follow incipient line to the top.

Note: Pitch 3 is very good but gear is somewhat lacking in the chimney.

First ascent: Jun 2008 G. Terrell, I. Kotze and L. Watson.



Ian Kotze and Linda Watson on the 3rd stance of THE LEOPARD SKIN LINE.



BRING ON THE GIMP

BRING ON THE GIMP

20 ***

From the look out point at car park there are 2 obvious off width looking cracks visible to the right of the GREEN BOTTLE buttress. This takes the right hand crack, which on closer inspection is a horror off width. It starts about 20 meters right of GOODBYE LENIN. You cannot miss it.

1. 25m 20 Climb the off width to the top of the pillar.

Descent: Abseil off a tree or scramble easily down the gully on the right of the buttress (looking up).

Note: The route was opened with 2 #4 Camalots and a #5 Friend which makes the top bit completely unprotected. For peace of mind get some #6 Camalots or some big bros.

First ascent: Jun 2008 H. Pringle and B. Spies.

SLIPPERY SNATCH

19 R/X

This route climbs the obvious break to the right of the huge red overhangs in the middle of the crag. The break appears as two converging recesses meeting halfway up the cliff. Start below the right hand recess.

1. 22m 18 Climb the break on the right of the recess then continue up, moving left bypassing a tree, to a small ledge with a steep face above. Climb up the face then move rightwards into a corner continuing upwards to an overhang. Move rightwards to a large grassy ledge.

2. 23m 16 Climb the short corner to the left of the stance. Continue up through a small overhang. Continue up the gully passing a series of grassy bulges to exit leftwards to a large ledge.

3. 22m 19 Traverse rightwards from the stance to the base of a chimney. Climb up the chimney through the overhangs to exit rightwards at the top. Continue up a short break to a grassy ledge.

4. 28m 17 Climb directly above the grassy ledge, passing an awkward bulge. Continue up non-descript rock to the top.

First ascent: 15 Dec 2005 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

ADVOCATE BARBIE

17 ***

Towards the right hand arête of Loslyf Crag before the start of SECOND HAND LIONS, a grey face that breaks up higher on the cliff can be seen. To the right of the face is a large, vegetated gully/corner. Start below a leftward tending crack that goes up to a large tree.

1. 25m 17 Climb the crack past some small trees, moving leftwards above the trees onto a thin face. Climb up to a ledge with a large tree below a recessed corner.

2. 30m 15 Climb up the recess past the tree and chock to a small ledge. Continue up the crack moving left under a large block. Continue up the crack on the left on the left of the block up to a large ledge below a blocky recess/chimney.

3. 20m 14 Climb the recess, taking care on the loose blocks, passing some boulders higher up to a bushy ledge on the left below a grassy gully.

4. Scramble Scramble up the gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 20 Feb 2005 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

SWEET JOHANNA

18 **

On the slab immediately opposite AQUABALLS (and hence left of ADVOCATE BARBIE), you will see 2 cracks. This climbs the left hand, larger crack.

1. 25m 18 Climb the fingers/hands crack which opens and closes to the ledge. Traverse right to tree for abseil.

First ascent: 20 Nov 2010 A. Porter and N. Sekikawa.

INTERNAL ORDER

20 ***

This climbs the thin crack just right of SWEET JOHANNA.

1. 25m 20 Climb the thin crack, which slants rightwards to the tree.

First ascent: 20 Nov 2010 A. Porter and N. Sekikawa.

Water Birth

21 *

A really good looking feature, which turns out to be a masochistic endeavor of difficult gear, loose rock and wide flaring obstacles.

From the base of the pinnacle below Aquaballs, scramble up and left the base of a short wall. Just the of the wide crack, and two deceptively nice pretty parallel cracks.

1. 30m 21 Start up the cracks and immediately struggle with gear on the left and loose rock on the right. Pass a fin which leads to an award flare. Pass another big block and grind up the chimney-esque feature and squirm past some thorniness to a grassy ledge with a phenomenal abseil tree. This fantastically smooth, perfectly positioned member of the floral kingdom earns the route its only star.

First Ascent: 14 Aug 2016 R. Halsey & T. Dunnett

AQUABALLS

22 *****

Towards the right hand arête of Loslyf Crag you will see an overhanging west facing wall. It is directly before the point where the path reaches the rocky overhangs. AQUABALLS climbs the amazing hand crack on the overhanging wall.

1. 25m 22 Climb the crack.

Descent: Rap off a slung boulder at the top of the crack.

Rack: Doubles of #0.75 to #3 cams plus normal supplementary gear.

First ascent: Nov 2007 M. Burhardt and J. Niles.

LIONBALLS

24A0 ***

This is an alternative finish to AQUABALLS, breaking out right to the obvious diagonal crack. The climbing is contrived but fun and well-protected.

1. 25m 24A0 Climb AQUABALLS until able to use a jug/flake on the right to traverse right to the diagonal crack. Climb this to a slopey top-out.

Descent: Rap off the slung tree 2m to the right of the top-out (as for AQUALION).

First ascent: Aug 2016 H. Pringle and T. Dunnett. Climbed with one rest

AQUALION

24 *****

Directly above where the approach path reaches the graffiti-encrusted rocky overhangs is a rounded arête with a red, blank-looking A-shaped feature leading into a flared crack

system. The route ascends this arête, which splits the AQUABALLS and SECOND HAND LIONS walls. Belay from the path and scramble up to the start as for SECOND HAND LIONS.

1. 35m 24 Rail out right above the roof then step up to a ledge (SECOND HAND LIONS traverses right from here). Climb straight up the blunt arête passing two rails to get to a third rail beneath the A-frame. Climb the A-frame and continue up on the arête using the flared crack as necessary. Where the angle eases step right onto grey rock (with a rest out right if necessary) and climb the easy slab to a tree.

Descent: Rap off tat from the tree.

Rack: Single rack of C4's from #0.3 to #2, and 2 x #3 cams for the lower rails. Single rack of aliens to red. Single rack of normal wires.

First ascent: 3 April 2016 H. Pringle and T. Dunnett

SECOND HAND LIONS

19 *

Towards the right hand arête of Loslyf Crag where the leopard trail meets up with the base of the cliff face, an obvious open book corner with some trees at the bottom and an overhang to the right can be seen. Start on a ledge below the corner at the trees.

1. 20m 14 Climb the corner behind the trees to where a rail going out right is reached a few meters above the ledge. Traverse rightwards about 2m then climb up to a small ledge. Continue traversing on a good rail around the arête to another small ledge with a tree.

2. 20m 13 Continue traversing rightwards to a vegetated ledge below a break in the face. Climb the groove to a big, bushy ledge on the right below a steep open book.

3. 30m 19 Climb the open book past a large tree. Continue up the narrow chimney. From the top of the chimney follow a vegetated ramp to a stance on a vegetated ledge.

4. 30m 16 Climb the grassy ramp on the right of the ledge up to where a break in the face can be seen a few meters left of the right hand arête. Leave the ramp then climb the break, with a wide crack at its base, up to a blocky ledge and belay.

5. 50m Scramble From the stance, traverse left along the ledge then scramble up towards the top of the crag.

First ascent: 18 Dec 2004 G. Frost, A. Margetts and D. Margetts.

KNOTTED KNICKERS VARIATION

16 *

Same as for SECOND HAND LIONS. This route however, takes the more aesthetic line directly up the face after the stance on the first pitch.

1. 20m 14 Climb the corner behind the trees to where a rail going out right is reached a few meters above the ledge. Traverse rightwards about 2m then climb up to a small ledge. Continue traversing on a good rail around the arête to another small ledge with a tree.

2. 25m 16 Climb up directly from the stance, through the small overhang, onto the face above. Climb up the face and subsequent slab, moving leftwards and rightwards to gain the best protection, to a belay on the left hand corner of a bushy ledge.

3. 15m 13 Traverse rightwards on the ledge then climb the obvious break and subsequent grassy ramp to a ledge with large blocks and trees.

4. 20m 15 From the stance climb up onto a sloping ledge below the face above and to the left of an obvious crack (climbed in SECOND HAND LIONS). Traverse leftwards on

the ledge to an open book then climb up, continuing passed a couple of ledges to where the climbing eases and a good belay can be found.

5. Scramble Scramble up to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 8 Oct 2005 G. Frost, M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

GROVELFEST

18 *

A miserable line to the right of SECOND HAND LIONS. It was used to access the AQUALION rap and is written up so others can avoid it. Leave the path and squeeze along between trees and the wall to an obvious crack (on the way to PIMP MY CRACK).

1. 45m 18 Climb the crack – this is lovely for 10m and then turns to a ball of bushy shit. Grovel on upwards through various jungles and find the leftward curving grey ramp. Belay somewhere here and rap off in disgust.

First ascent: 21 March 2016 H. Pringle and T. Dunnett

PIMP MY CRACK

23 R ****

The stars are given for the first pitch. Don't bother with the second.

Continue following the base of the cliff, under the overhangs on the right of where SECOND HAND LIONS starts, then squeeze between trees and the wall up the ramp towards a bushy gully. Just to the left of the gully is a large chimney with a splitter crack higher up in the yellow lichen face on the left. Start on the small rock ledge below a short grey face on the left of the chimney.

1. 50m 23R Climb the short face and subsequent crack to a ledge below the yellow lichen face. Climb the shallow open book just to the left below the yellow face. Step rightwards onto the face to the crack line. Climb the face and crack (protection is thin at the start but improves higher up). Where the crack starts to peter out, a convenient foot ledge leads rightwards to another crack. Climb this crack to where it ends then step rightwards onto a gnarly face which is climbed up to a large ledge. There is fixed gear here to rap off (recommended).

2. 20m 16 Shared with SECOND HAND LIONS pitch 4 – seldom done.

Climb up from the ledge to another ledge then ascend the break in the face up to a blocky ledge and belay.

Scramble up the break on the left of the stance towards the top of the crag.

First ascent (with aid): 17 April 2005 G. Frost, G. Lowther

First free ascent: Nov 2007 M. Burhardt and J. Niles.

CHASY LANE

19 *

Climbs the thin and discontinuous crack up the grey slab just to the right of the gulley to the right of PIMP MY CRACK.

1. 30m 19 Climb the slab and cracks to a ledge. Up the blocks at the back of the ledge to a stance.

2. Scramble to the top.

Note: It is probably much better to abseil off after the first pitch. There seems to be a tree off to the right for this, but check it out properly first.

First ascent: 18 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

THE JUNGLE BOOK

TO GET THERE

This is the most eastern of the crags within the Aventura complex. Park at the upper lookout point and follow the Leopard hiking trail along past the grey, south facing, cliffs of Loslyf Crag. Continue around to the East by leaving the trail and hiking a short distance in the bush following just below the cliff band.

APPROACH TIME: 25-30 minutes

OR

From the main resort road, drive up to the "Academy" complex following the sign posts to the stables and airfield. Follow the track up the hill, passing the airfield on the left and the rubbish tip on the right to the dormitory complex and then park up at the top gate. Pass through the gate (which is sometimes locked), then follow the track up to the pony kraal. From the gate of the pony kraal, heading in the direction of the Swadini Wall in the distance, walk towards the NE arête of the buttress. Scramble down to a tree where a bolted abseil reaches the base of the crag. The Jungle Book crag is to the south.

APPROACH TIME: 15-20 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

From the top of the routes walk up to a horse kraal on the summit and follow the track down to a fence with a gate.

If the gate is open: follow the track past some buildings taking the left hand track down the hill back to the road that goes to the upper lookout point.

If the gate is locked: follow the fence leftwards through the bush back down the hill to the road that goes to the upper lookout point.

JUNGLE BOEP

15 ***

To the left of the dominating gully at the base of the crag, a bushy ramp going up to the left of a broken, vegetated buttress can be seen. Scramble up the ramp, going rightwards at the base of the rock band, to below a broken chimney in the right hand corner of the ledge.

1. 35m 15 Climb up the chimney for a few meters then move leftwards onto the gnarly face. Climb the face up to a ledge with a tree and recess on the left. Continue up the gnarly face to a stance on a blocky ledge.

2. 20m 14 Climb the break to the left of the stance, past a thin slab under an overhang, then up to a bushy ledge.

3. 20m scramble Scramble through the bushes to the left of the ledge then up a short gully to the top of the crag.

Note: Although the face climbing on pitch 1 is easy, the gear is somewhat thin.

First ascent: 19 Feb 2005 G. Frost, A. Margetts and D. Margetts.

THE JUNGLE BOOK CRAG



MAN'S RED FLOWER 19 ***

Jungle Book crag has a large gully present starting at the base of the cliff. At the head of the gully is an overhanging chimney. The route starts to the left, around the arête from the chimney and basically leads up to and follows the large groove higher up. Start below an overlap, a few meters off the ground, with parallel cracks in the face above.

1. 40m 19

Climb up to below the overlap and using the parallel cracks pull up onto the face and climb up to a small ledge. Climb the corner and exit rightwards via a crack and up to a large ledge below a chimney. Climb the chimney then follow the right crack to the groove. Exit the groove on the right to a stance on the ledge.

2. Scramble

Scramble right, around the arête and into a bushy corner. Belay below the corner.

3. 20m 16

Climb the corner then move left around an

overhang onto a slab. Follow the break up to a blocky recess and climb up to a stance on top of a pillar.

4. 30m 14 From the pillar step rightwards onto the face. Follow the break in the face avoiding the overhangs on the left and climb to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 24 Jan 2004 G. Frost and N. Hemphill.

THE BOOK OF BALOO

21 ****

Cross over at the top of the gully to a blocky ledge on the right at the base of the cliff. The route starts below the face to the right of a large overhanging recess at the head of the gully.

1. 30m 17 Climb up the face left of a tree and continue up tending leftwards to a crack. Climb up the crack to a ledge below a vegetated corner and belay.

2. 25m 20 Step rightwards on the ledge and climb the crack immediately right of the arête. Follow this crack system up past a small roof onto the face and belay on a small ledge on the arête.

3. 20m 21 Traverse right to an open book. Climb the crack in the corner, to a big ledge and belay.

4. 25m 16 Continue up the open book above the ledge. At the top of the corner move left on a ledge to a tree and climb the face behind the tree to a big ledge and belay.

5. Scramble tending rightwards to the top of the crag.

First ascent (with rests): 15 Dec 2003 I. Kotze, G. Frost and A. Lloyd.

First ascent: Nov 2007 M. Burhardt and J. Niles.

WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO

21 *****

After crossing the gully and rounding the large boulders at the base of Jungle Book Crag, scramble up the grassy ramp to where the most obvious open book chimney system, which is capped with a large roof, can be seen in the middle of the crag. Scramble up to a ledge about 5m up and directly below the open book chimney.

1. 45m 19 This pitch follows the crack system which is directly below the open book chimney which forms pitch 2. Climb the crack system through a number of bulges to the base of the open book chimney.

2. 40m 21 Climb the open book chimney system using the right hand wall where necessary till one is forced into the chimney. Climb the chimney till below the roof. Traverse out right under the roof till the end and it is possible to climb onto the face above. Climb up tending rightwards for about 5m or so till the ledge at the base of a bushy open book. Belay on the ledge.

3. 30m 16 Climb the left hand face as much as possible avoiding the bushy open book until it is possible to scramble off.

First ascent: 20 Feb 2005 K. Thrash and I. McMaster.

JUNGLE VIP

22 *****

One of the best routes at Blyde. Climbs the middle of the smooth wall between WHAT DO YA WANNA DO and THREE VULTURE FEAST.

1. 50m 22 Climb straight up to the LHS of the biggest overlap. Deviously gain the thin crack through the bulge above and climb this till it dies. Traverse right across the

slab to the base of a grassy crack. Climb up diagonally right, then back left to rejoin the grassy crack. Climb up and left to a ledge.

2. 30m 17 Avoid the gully and climb straight up to the top.

First ascent (with rests): 15 Jan 2012 Hector Pringle, Julia Wakeling & Andrew Porter.

First free ascent: 12 Feb 2012 Hector Pringle and Ian Kotze.

BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE - PROJECT

22 ****

Climbs the open book left of THREE VULTURE FEAST. To the left of THREE VULTURE FEAST is a large rock at the base of the cliff. Start just right of this, on a ledge a few meters above the ground.

1. 40m 22 Traverse right into the open book. Climb the face right of it until forced into the corner itself. Make hard moves until able to move right to the THREE VULTURE FEAST stance

2. 20m 18 Move back left and climb the leftwards curving recess/crack to gain the ledge (shared with JUNGLE VIP).

3. 30m 17 Avoid the gully and climb straight up to the top (as for JUNGLE VIP).

First ascent: Project: A. Porter, C. de Villiers. 2012/10/06 (pitch 2 already opened, pitch 1 top roped)

THREE VULTURE FEAST

20 ****

After crossing the gully and rounding the large boulders at the base of Jungle Book Crag, scramble up the grassy ramp to where a crack line just to the right of a steep open book can be seen. The crack starts about midway in the section of the face between the boulders and a vegetated pinnacle further to the right. Start on a ledge about 3m up from the ground below the crack.

1. 35m 18 Climb up on jugs to the thin crack just off the ledge. Continue up to an acute open book/off-width crack. Climb the crack up to where it eases below an overhang. Exit the overhang climbing rightwards and up following a crack to a small ledge and belay.

2. 15m 20 Climb the right hand fork above the ledge following a jam crack to where it narrows into a thin crack at a short, shallow corner. Climb up the corner to where the crack widens again and eases below a small overhang. Move right under the overhang then up to a ledge and tree belay.

3. 40m 16 Climb rightwards from the ledge up a short ramp to a leftwards tending curved crack. Climb the crack moving left higher up to gain a break in the face. A rightwards tending juggy face, just to the right of the arête, is followed to a blocky ledge and belay just below the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Dec 2004 K. Thrash and G. Frost.

KING LOUIS' LAYBACK

19 ***

On the left hand side of the grey face climbed in THE BEAR NECESSITIES, a steep, vegetated gully can be seen. On the left of the gully a large pinnacle about half way up the face with an obvious open book on the right hand side can be seen. Start on the blocky ledge below and to the right of the open book which is gained by scrambling up the gully on the right of the ledge.

1. 25m 19 Climb the short crack on the left hand edge of the blocky ledge then continue up on the face moving left higher to gain a ledge below the open book. Climb the face, using a crack, just to the right of the open book to a rail which is traversed leftwards to the open book. Climb the open book exiting right at the top to a large ledge with blocks and belay.

Descent: An abseil can be made, using the largest block on the ledge as an anchor, to some trees below the ledge. A second abseil from the trees can be made to the blocky ledge at the start of the route.

First ascent: 28 Nov 2004 G. Frost and I. Kotze.

THE BEAR NECESSITIES

21 ****

On the right hand side of the Jungle Book crag a large pinnacle with a grey face to the left can be seen. There is an obvious rightward tending crag, heading for some trees on the right hand arête, which makes a fork in the middle of the face. Start at the base of the crack.

1. 22m 21 Climb the crack to a small stance on top of a block with a small tree and a good rail on the left.

2. 28m 19 Climb just above the block then traverse left with the rail for feet to below an open book with a jam crack, to the right of a large detached pillar. Climb the open book to a ledge on the right below a small overhang.

3. 22m 16 Climb up below the overhang then move left onto the arête. Climb up the face following a break tending slightly leftwards to below a small overlap. Traverse right to gain another break then continue up to the top of the crag.

Note: Pitch 2 is exquisite climbing, a real must do.

First ascent: 27 Nov 2004 G. Frost and I. Kotze.

MOTHER NATURE'S RECIPES

18 ***

On the right hand side of the Jungle Book crag a large pinnacle with a grey face to the left can be seen. There is an obvious rightward tending crag, heading for some trees on the right hand arête, which makes a fork in the middle of the face. The bottom section of the crack, before the fork, is climbed in THE BEAR NECESSITIES. This route starts further to the right just to the left of a ramp where a leftward tending diagonal crack can be seen. This crack is not obvious when looking from the left of the grey face.

1. 20m 16 Climb the face just to the left of the ramp to a short, shallow corner. Continue up to the leftward tending diagonal crack which is climbed to a block. Climb up the block, using the crack on the left, to a stance on top (shared with THE BEAR NECESSITIES).

2. 30m 18 Climb the rightward tending diagonal crack to a small ledge below the large trees. Traverse right on the ledges to a blocky recess then up to a stance on the blocks.

3. 30m Scramble Scramble up following the blocky recess to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 28 Nov 2004 I. Kotze and G. Frost.

MOTHER NATURE'S NECESSITIES

19 ****

This a combination of THE BEAR NECESSITIES and MOTHER NATURE'S RECIPES. Start as for MOTHER NATURE'S RECIPES.

- 1. 20m 16** Climb the face just to the left of the ramp to a short, shallow corner. Continue up to the leftward tending diagonal crack which is climbed to a block. Climb up the block, using the crack on the left, to a stance on top.
- 2. 28m 19** Climb just above the block then traverse left with the rail for feet to below an open book with a jam crack, to the right of a large detached pillar. Climb the open book to a ledge on the right below a small overhang.
- 3. 22m 16** Climb up below the overhang then move left onto the arête. Climb up the face following a break tending slightly leftwards to below a small overlap. Traverse right to gain another break then continue up to the top of the crag.

Note: Pitch 2 is exquisite climbing, a real must do.

First ascent: 28 Nov 2004 I. Kotze and G. Frost.

SHER KAHN-AGE

18 *****

This climb starts on the extreme right hand side of the Jungle Book directly behind a large pinnacle. The climb ascends the crack line marking the abseil route. Start in the right-hand crack line above a ledge and tree at the base of the abseil route.

- 1. 35m 18** Climb the right-hand crack to a ledge. Follow the break up to a tree. Move right onto the face and left again into the small chimney. Follow the easiest line to the top and belay at the large tree.
- 2. 10m 18** (One can avoid this pitch by scrambling up the gulley to the right.) Move up and left across an exposed face to the base of a short corner. Move up the corner to easier ground. Continue up to top of crag.

First ascent: 22 Sep 2007 M. Sporen and D. Margetts.

STAR WARS WALL

TO GET THERE

From the main resort road, drive up to the "Academy" complex following the sign posts to the stables and airfield. Follow the track up the hill, passing the airfield on the left and the rubbish tip on the right to the dormitory complex and then park up at the top gate. Pass through the gate (which is sometimes locked) then turn immediately left through a small gate and follow a vague path to reach the head of a large gully. Descend this gully to access the routes on the right hand wall.

APPROACH TIME: 20-30 minutes

OR

From the top gate at the "Academy" complex (which is sometimes locked), follow the track up to the pony kraal. From the gate of the pony kraal, heading in the direction of the Swadini Wall in the distance, walk towards the NE arête of the buttress. Scramble down to a tree where a bolted abseil reaches the base of the Jungle Book Crag. Star Wars Wall is around the arête to the north.

APPROACH TIME: 25-30 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

From the top of the routes walk up to the pony kraal on the summit and follow the track down to the gate at the top of the "Academy".

THE GOOD LEFT UNDONE

18 ***

Located on the pinnacle on the north-eastern arête. Climbs a fun looking leftwards slanting jam crack.

1. 15m 18 Scramble into the cave and place your favourite #5 cam in the crack. Swing left and jam to the top. The final off-width is easier than it looks.

First ascent: 6 Oct 2012 A. Porter and C. De Villiers.

JEDI MIND TRICKS

17 ****

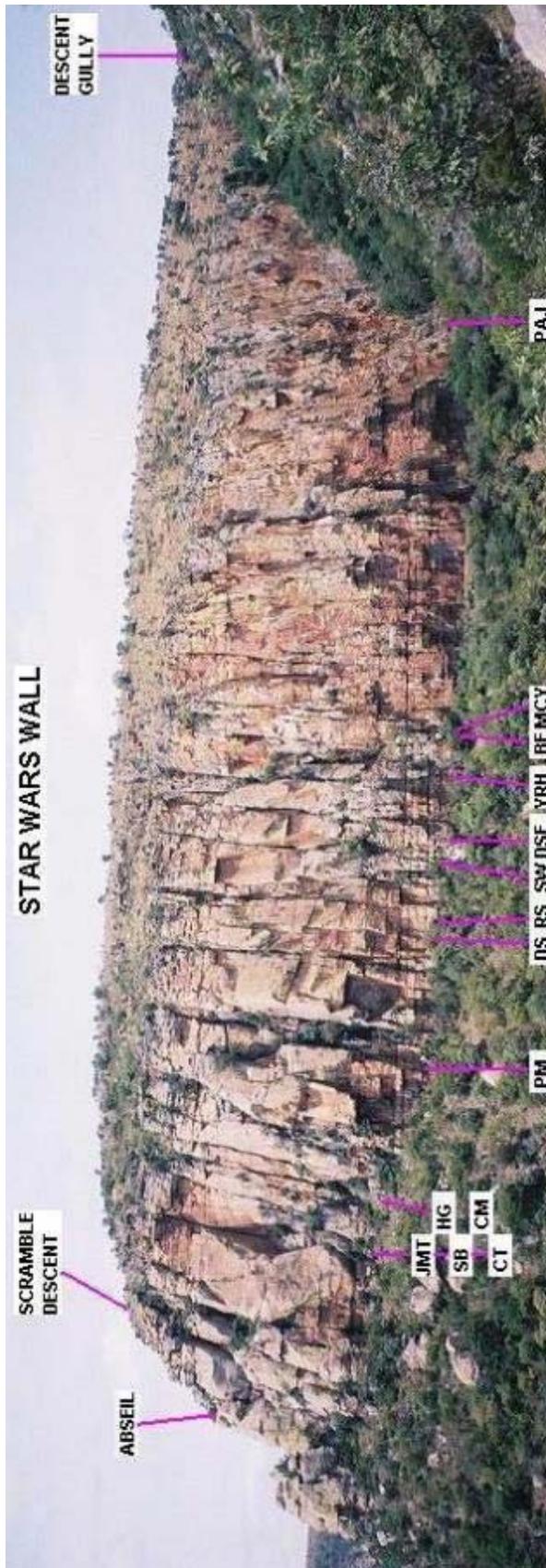
About 100m right of the pinnacle on the north-eastern arête an impressive red open book half way up the wall with a grey open book below can be seen. This climb takes the fun face left of the main red openbook. Start on the ledge 3m above the ground below the open books.

1. 30m 17 Climb up the broken face on the right of the ledge, moving left higher up to gain a large ledge. Climb the grey open book on the left of the ledge up to where a rail going left to a ledge is reached. Rail left and belay on the ledge.

2. 20m 15 Climb the face above the ledge up to a gnarly slab. Continue directly up, just to the right of a vague crack, to a ledge.

3. 30m 16 Climb the corner on the left of the ledge to where a step rightwards can be made to gain some blocks. Climb up tending leftwards below some overhangs to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 25 Jan 2004 G. Frost and N. Hemphill.



BEHIND EVERY TREE - PROJECT 21 R/X ***

About 100m right of the pinnacle on the north-eastern arête an impressive red open book half way up the wall with a grey open book below can be seen. This climb takes the face and arete left of the grey openbook. Start on the ledge 3m above the ground below the open books.

1. 30m 21R/X Climb up the broken face on the right of the ledge, moving left higher up to gain a large ledge. Move left to the arete and climb this and the face just right of it to the ledge.

Note:

In the Arctic, there is a theory that there is an Innuit girl waiting behind every tree for single guys. The colloraly says that this climb has a cam in every crack. But, that would be discriminating against climbers who prefer hexes.

First ascent: Project. A. Porter, C. de Villiers. 2012/10/06

SPACE BALLZ 24 *****

About 100m right of the pinnacle on the north-eastern arête an impressive red open book half way up the wall. This route ascends this open book. Start on the ledge 3m above the ground below the open books.

1. 30m 17 Climb up the broken face on the right of the ledge, moving left higher up to gain a large ledge. Climb up the corner on the left hand side of the ledge to where a traverse can be made on a narrow ledge to gain an easy face on the right. Climb up to a large tree and belay.

2. 35m 24 Climb the short ramp leftwards to the open book corner crack system. Climb the open book crack through a few bulges and continue up the crack till one gets to a white bird guano ledge on the left. Belay from ledge.

3. 15m 17 Traverse back into the open book crack system and continue

up past the bird nest. Pull through a small roof and move out left to the top.

First ascent: 19 Feb 2005 K. Thrash and I. McMaster.

CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE

16 ***

Starts the same as SPACE BALLZ but climbs the face with the large flake to the right of the prominent open book.

- 1. 25m 13** Climb up the broken face on the right of the ledge. Continue up on broken, vegetated blocks to the right of the slabs. Climb up to a ledge and large tree belay.
- 2. 25m 16** From the ledge, move right around the arête to gain a crack behind a large flake. Follow the crack up to the top of the flake then traverse right to a short chimney. Continue up to a small ledge below a recessed off-width.
- 3. 25m 13** Continue up the recess passing an overhang on the left into an open book. Climb up the open book moving left onto the blocky face above. Continue up on blocky ground to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Oct 2004 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

CHEWBACCA'S MUSTACHE

19 ****

Start in the large corner around the buttress to the right of the start of CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE. This route aims to climb the crack line immediately to the right of the flake climbed in CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE.

- 1. 40m 19** Climb up from the base of the corner passing a vegetated ledge to a crack on the right of the corner. Climb the crack moving leftwards higher up, avoiding a steep section, to a ledge below a steep recess. Climb the recess, moving rightwards past a small overhang, to gain a small ledge on the left. Climb the steep, narrow crack on the right hand side of the ledge, passing a small tree, to a small ledge on the left. Climb the face above the ledge diagonally leftwards to gain an off width crack above a tree. Climb the off width to a ledge and belay, shared with CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE.
- 2. 25m 13** Continue up the recess passing an overhang on the left into an open book. Climb up the open book moving left onto the blocky face above. Continue up on blocky ground to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 22 Mar 2008 G. Frost, D. Margetts, J. Viljoen.

HANGING GARDENS

19 **

To the right of the impressive open book where JEDI MIND TRICKS and CHEWBACCA'S TRAVERSE start, a face with a series of crack systems appears on the left of a vegetated open book. This route ascends the more prominent of these crack systems.

- 1. 18m 18** Climb the crack that ends at a boulder at the foot of a steep chimney.
- 2. 15m 19** From the top of the boulder climb the steep chimney then traverse right to gain an obvious ledge.
- 3. 17m 16** Traverse leftwards back into the crack. Climb the off-width up to a large ledge.
- 4. 25m 12** Traverse left for about 4m then scramble to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Oct 2004 I. Kotze and D. Ferreira.

JABBA THE SLUT

18 ***

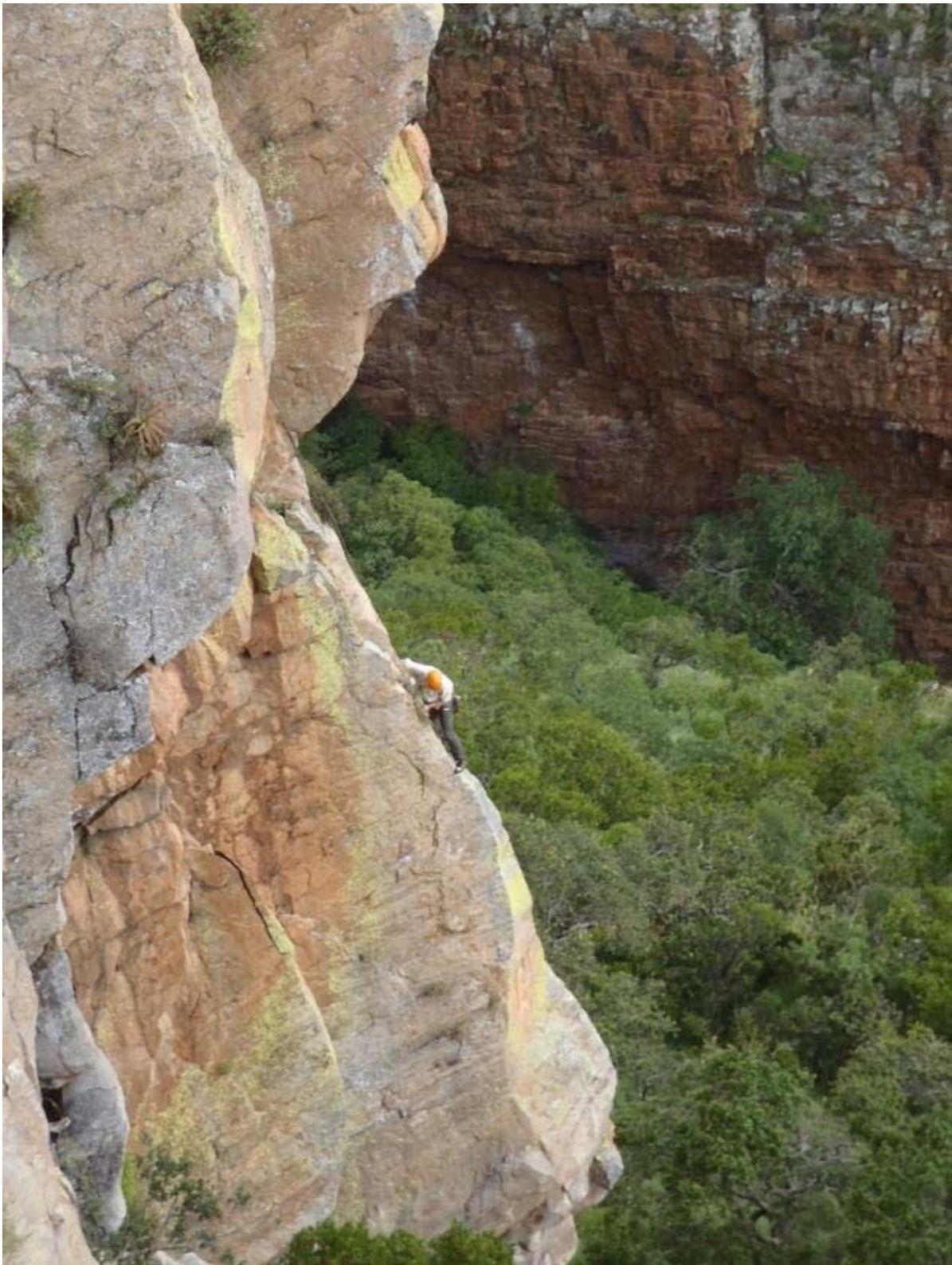
From the abseil, walk around right past the obvious dihedral of SPACE BALLZ. Keep going to the next prominent buttress which has a massive roof at 20m.

This route climbs the obvious corner to the left of the massive roof, then traverses out right to the arete.

1. 40m 18 Climb the bushy recess to the base of the corner. Climb the corner through the first tricky section. The corner looks hard above so traverse out to the right hand arete. Climb this and move back left to climb the corner and face above to a ledge.

2. 20m 16 Climb to the top.

First ascent: 11 Feb 2011 Hector Pringle and Ian Kotze.



Ian Kotze on the exposed arête of JABBA THE SLUT. Photo by Andrew Porter.

TOO KWAAI FOR A JEDI

23 *****

This route is more exhilarating than stumbling on a busload of nubile Dutch 3rd year veterinarian students in the campsite (true story!). At no point during the whole experience are you completely sure you are not in an alternate reality.

From the abseil, walk around right past the obvious dihedral of SPACE BALLZ. Keep going past the next prominent buttress which has a massive roof at 20m. The next prominent buttress has another massive square roof, at 25m, with a striking blind corner below its right hand end.

This route breaks past the roof on the left, and then sneaks right beneath the next overlap. Scramble / climb up to belay on the big ledge below the left end of the massive roof.

1. 45m 23 Climb the overhanging peapod recess and breathe through your arse to pull onto the headwall. Continue up to the overlap. Use your Jedi powers to traverse right with your feet just above the lip of the massive roof. Find A New Hope when you gain the foot ledge in the middle of nowhere. Be careful though, because the Empire tends to Strike Back in the peapod corner above and to the left. Feel the Jedi Return as the corner eases off. Take a semi-hanging stance at a foot ledge.

2. 45m 21 Climb the thin crack through the bulge directly above the stance until able to step right to welcome jugs. Try clean up after yourself as you romp diagonally left up the orgasmic chicken head face. Don't be surprised when you get slipped one where it steepens - it won't last long. Climb straight up to the top and collapse - those Dutch girls will have to find somewhere else to party tonight.

Note: The original route traversed right at the top of the first pitch. The second pitch then turned the rude roof crack at grade 22 before moving left to rejoin the line. Opened with many falls and a few jumps. The first ascent of the direct start to pitch 2 was by Julia Wakeling, H Pringle and C Martinengo on 6 Oct 2012.

First ascent (with rests): 11 Feb 2011 Hector Pringle and Ian Kotze.

First clean ascent: 7 Oct 2012 Hector Pringle and Andrew Porter.

THE PHANTOM MENACE

20 A1 ***

Continue down from SPACE BALLZ passing under the prominent prow above on the next arête. To the right of the prow a large, a vegetated gully can be seen extending the height of the crag. Just to the left of the gully a rightward facing corner with a good crack can be seen going up to a ledge on the left and chimney above. Start on the blocky ledge below the corner a few meters above the ground (short scramble).

1. 25m 17 Climb up the corner, moving rightwards to bypass an obstacle near the bottom, following the crack to the overhang which caps the corner. Move leftwards to gain the ledge then continue up and leftwards to the ledge on the right of the off-width chimney.

2. 22m 20 A1 Climb up the overhanging section at the base of the off-width chimney. Continue up the off-width chimney to an overhang above. Pull through the break on the right to gain a crack which is followed to a narrow ledge on the right. Climb onto the ledge then ascend the corner above to gain a good ledge on the left.

3. 50m 14 Continue up the crack in the face above the ledge, moving leftwards onto the gnarly face. Tending leftwards towards the arête, continue up the face and subsequent slab to a large boulder above on the right of a gully. Climb up the boulder to gain the blocky faceabove and continue up to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 9 Sep 2006 G. Frost and M. Sporen.

DARK SPADER

18 *****

Continue down from SPACE BALLZ passing under the prominent prow above and then around the next corner to where a very large tree is growing up against the cliff. Start in the corner about 3m left of the tree.

- 1. 30m 17** Climb up on broken rock for about 5m. Traverse right for about 2m to get into a crack system. Climb the crack through the roof and continue up to a ledge.
- 2. 25m 18** Continue up the crack behind the ledge avoiding the small roof on the left. Continue up to the large "wobbly" block and belay.
- 3. 30m 18** Continue up the crack avoiding some loose blocks. Traverse about 2m right to gain the right-hand tending crack system. Follow this to the tree and top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Oct 2004 I. McMaster and K. Thrash.

REVENGE OF THE SMURF

19 *****

Continue down from SPACE BALLZ passing under the prominent prow above and then around the next corner to where a very large tree is growing up against the cliff. Start at the tree. The route climbs an obvious rightward facing open book and subsequent recess higher up and to the right of the start of the route.

- 1. 25m 17** Climb the face directly up from the tree tending slightly rightwards to below the rightward facing open book with a vine above. Climb the crack up to the open book then move rightwards passing a small overhang and continue up passed the vine to where the open book steepens. Traverse rightwards then climb up to a good ledge with a tree and belay.
- 2. 15m 18** Climb the chimney at the back of the ledge for a short distance until a traverse ledge leading leftwards can be taken around the arête and into the open book with a good hand crack. Climb the corner up to a large ledge below a steep corner and belay.
- 3. 45m 19** From the right most extremity of the ledge, climb up the steep face on the arête then tend leftwards back into the corner bypassing its steepest section. Continue up the corner to a narrow blocky ledge on the right. Climb up into an easy recess. Follow the recess then move leftwards under an overhanging section to another easy recess on the left which is followed to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 4 Nov 2006 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

STAR WHORES

21 *****

To the right of the very large tree at the start of DARK SPADER, a large boulder is situated at the base of the cliff. The route starts on a small ledge just to the right of the boulder below a recess.

- 1. 25m 14** Climb up the recess, moving leftwards onto a short face which leads to a large ledge system higher up. Belay on the second tier of the ledge on the left hand side.
- 2. 45m 21** Move left from the stance into a niche below a wide crack in an open book corner. Climb up the corner to a sloping ledge where a prominent crack is seen in the right hand face of the open book. Climb the crack to where it widens below a small overhang. Pass the overhang to the right and onto a flake then climb up onto the top of the flake. Traverse leftwards back to the open book. Follow the crack up to a niche and belay ledge.

3. 25m 16 Climb up above the stance to the small overhang. Climb rightwards passing the overhang then tend leftwards and up to a small ledge on the left of the big roof. Climb up the recess a short way until a foot ledge on the right hand side can be traversed rightwards to a break in the face. Climb the break, tending slightly rightwards, to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 16 Apr 2005 G. Frost and G. Lowther.

THE DAFT SIDE OF THE FARCE

19 *****

About 30m to the right of STAR WHORES, a prominent blocky face leading up into a recess with a tree at its base can be seen. Higher up a distinct open book can be seen. Start below the block face.

1. 35m 17 Climb up the blocky face to a tree then move rightwards onto a short face. Climb up then move leftwards to below the recess/chimney. Climb up then step leftwards to climb up a bulgy face to below a ledge at the base of a corner on the left.

2. 45m 19 Climb the corner up to the next blocky ledge. Climb the open book on the right of the ledge moving leftwards in a crack higher up to another smaller ledge. Move leftwards into the main corner then climb up to the overhang. Exit through the left break of the overhang into a short corner. Climb the corner exiting rightwards to a good ledge.

3. 30m 16 Climb the bulgy face on the right hand side of the ledge to another ledge below an overhang. Traverse rightwards below the overhang around the arête to a wide crack system. Climb up the crack to a ledge then continue up passing a series of ledges and bulges to the top.

First ascent: 16 Dec 2005 G. Frost, D. Margetts and M. Sporen.

YOUR ROYAL HARNESS

18 ***

The right hand central portion of the crag is dominated by large overhangs and to the left of this a section the lower layers start being composed of brown, polished rock and the lines look less impending. To the left of the arête climbed in BANTHA FODDER, an obvious leftward tending series of steps can be seen in the face. Start below these steps.

1. 25m 17 Climb the stepped ledges, tending leftward, then pull through the recess up to a ledge. Scramble leftwards and climb the open book for 2m then traverse leftwards on the face to the other side of the arête where a good stance is found.

2. 40m 18 Climb the easy off-width to a ledge then climb up tending leftwards following the easier line to gain a ledge with a crack on the right and an arête on the left. Climb the arête to a large ledge.

3. 30m 17 Climb the corner crack system for 20m and then 10m of dirty slab until a comfortable belay stance.

4. Scramble Ascend rightwards up a gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Jun 2005 H. Tillwick and G. Lowther.

BANTHA FODDER

17 *****

Start as for MAY THE CHEESE BE WITH YOU but the route will traverse leftwards above the overhangs from the open book towards the arête.

1. 25m 17 Climb up the ledges that lead to the start of the open book. Climb the open book until the rock in the corner deteriorates and an obvious traverse can be made to the left onto a ledge above the first overhang. Climb up the short face moving leftwards to exit onto a good ledge.

2. 35m 17 Climb the face on the right of the ledge to a block ledge. Move rightwards to the arête then climb up the face close to the arête continuing up to a ledge higher up on the left. Traverse leftwards on a small ledge to the main recess then climb up to a ledge on the right (shared with 2nd stance of MAY THE CHEESE BE WITH YOU).

3. 50m 16 Same as for pitch 3 of MAY THE CHEESE BE WITH YOU.

Climb the face, starting directly behind the tree, tending slightly rightwards away from the large vegetated corner. Continue upwards to an obvious, short open book on the left of the arête. Climb the open book, exiting leftwards then ascend the short gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Dec 2005 G. Frost, D. Margetts, N. Hemphill and M. Sporen.

MAY THE CHEESE BE WITH YOU

16 ***

The right hand central section of crag is dominated by large red overhangs. Just to the left of where the overhangs end and shortly before rounding an arête, an obvious break can be seen going up a dominant recessed corner. There are a series of overhangs to the left of the base of the corner. Start below this break on the ledges immediately below the start of the open book.

1. 40m 15 Climb up the ledges that lead to the start of the open book. Climb the open book until the rock in the corner deteriorates and an obvious traverse can be made to the right. Climb the next recess, to the right of the corner, up to a large ledge and tree belay.

2. 15m 16 Move left from the stance into the chimney. Climb the chimney and exit left then climb up onto a ledge. Climb the break on the left of the ledge, taking care on the loose ground, then up to another ledge and tree belay.

3. 50m 16 Climb the face, starting directly behind the tree, tending slightly rightwards away from the large vegetated corner. Continue upwards to an obvious, short open book on the left of the arête. Climb the open book, exiting leftwards then ascend the short gully to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 17 Jun 2005 G. Frost, K. Schmidt and N. Hemphill.

LEIA'S MANTLE

19 ***

Scramble down the gully on the southern side of Star Wars Wall. The first large feature is a right leaning chimney that reaches for the length of the crag. Next is a large gully like feature with a lot of vegetation. Just to the left of the gully is a grey buttress that is slightly impending. On the left hand edge of this is a sandy shelf with a tree that is convenient to belay off. Just left of the ledge is a very clean open book.

1. 30m 16 About 7 meters up is a small wide roof. Start below this roof and head diagonally up left towards the arête. Pass the overhang on the left. Head up a further leftwards until a comfortable position is reached on the arête. Follow the arête upwards towards a large comfortable ledge with a large block below an open book. Take a stance.

2. 30m 19 Traverse 2 meters left of the ledge to a crack. Climb the crack until it ends. Then climb straight up to a ledge and belay.

3. 30m 16 Climb up on the left hand edge of the ledge. Climb a short open book, then step slightly right and follow the gully to another ledge where a big flake leans against the face. Climb up behind the flake. Then go for the top minding some of the loose rock.

First ascent: 20 Nov 2004 I. Kotze, G. Terrell and R. van der Wiel.

PARTY AT JUBBAH'S

18 *****

Scramble down the gully on the southern side of Star Wars Wall. Follow a vague path on the right of the gully. After a steep section the path meets the cliff face. Here a large tree up on the cliff with roots and stems growing against the rock face can be seen. To the left of the tree the rock face opens up to reveal a grey face with ledges and a grassy crack above the uppermost ledge where the face begins to steepen. Above the crack a series of recessed open books can be seen with overhangs on the left. Start below the grey face.

1. 35m 18 Climb the grey face, past a small grassy ledge just off the ground, to a ledge with a tree on the left below the grassy crack. Climb the crack to a good ledge and belay below an open book.

2. 28m 17 Climb the open book to a small ledge on the right with a tree. Traverse leftwards around the arête to below another corner. Climb up the corner then move left up a crack to another corner. Climb the corner exiting rightwards to a big ledge and tree belay.

3. 23m 17 Climb the obvious open book going up from the left of the ledge. At the top of the open book climb the juggy face on the left up to a blocky ledge and belay.

4. 10m Scramble From the ledge scramble to the top of the crag.

Note: Pitch 1 is sparsely protected for the first 10m to the ledge with the tree below the grassy crack. Pitch 2 and 3 produces some excellent climbing on good rock.

First ascent: 18 Dec 2004 M. Sporen and G. Frost.

THE LIBRARY

TO GET THERE

Park at the upper lookout point then walk back along the road to the dirt track that breaks off to the right. Follow this up the hill, past the dormitory complex on the right, to the fence. Go through the gate and immediately turn left to walk through the bush past a small cemetery on the right. Continue up the short hill heading slightly rightwards to a big fence. Follow the fence rightwards to where it ends then cross over to the other side and walk along the top of the cliff band following it to its furthest point.

Walk down the hill to the right of the summit, avoiding the bushes and head directly down the ridge for the furthest point of the plateau on the next tier down. The descent ramp is located to the right of this.

APPROACH TIME: 45 minutes

DESCENT ROUTE

Descend the bushy ramp following the cliff band rightwards around the arête.

From the top of the climbs, take the same route back to the car park as was used in the approach.

PAPERBACK ROMANCE

18 ***

From the bottom of the descent ramp, just around the first arête, an obvious, curved chimney higher up the crag can be seen on the right hand facing wall. To the right of this feature is a steep, vegetated open book/gully. To the right of the gully is a face with a flake on it about half way the wall. Start below the broken face slightly to the right of the flake above.

1. 45m 18 Climb up the broken face tending slightly rightwards to break through the first rock band then climb diagonally leftwards to the right hand edge of the flake. Pull through the small overhang to gain the crack which is followed to a sloping ledge below a shallow recessed corner. Continue up to a ledge with a tree.

2. 25m 18 Climb the open book, with a jam crack, above the stance to the top of the crag.

First ascent: 19 Feb 2005 G. Frost and D. Margetts.

EDEN CRAG

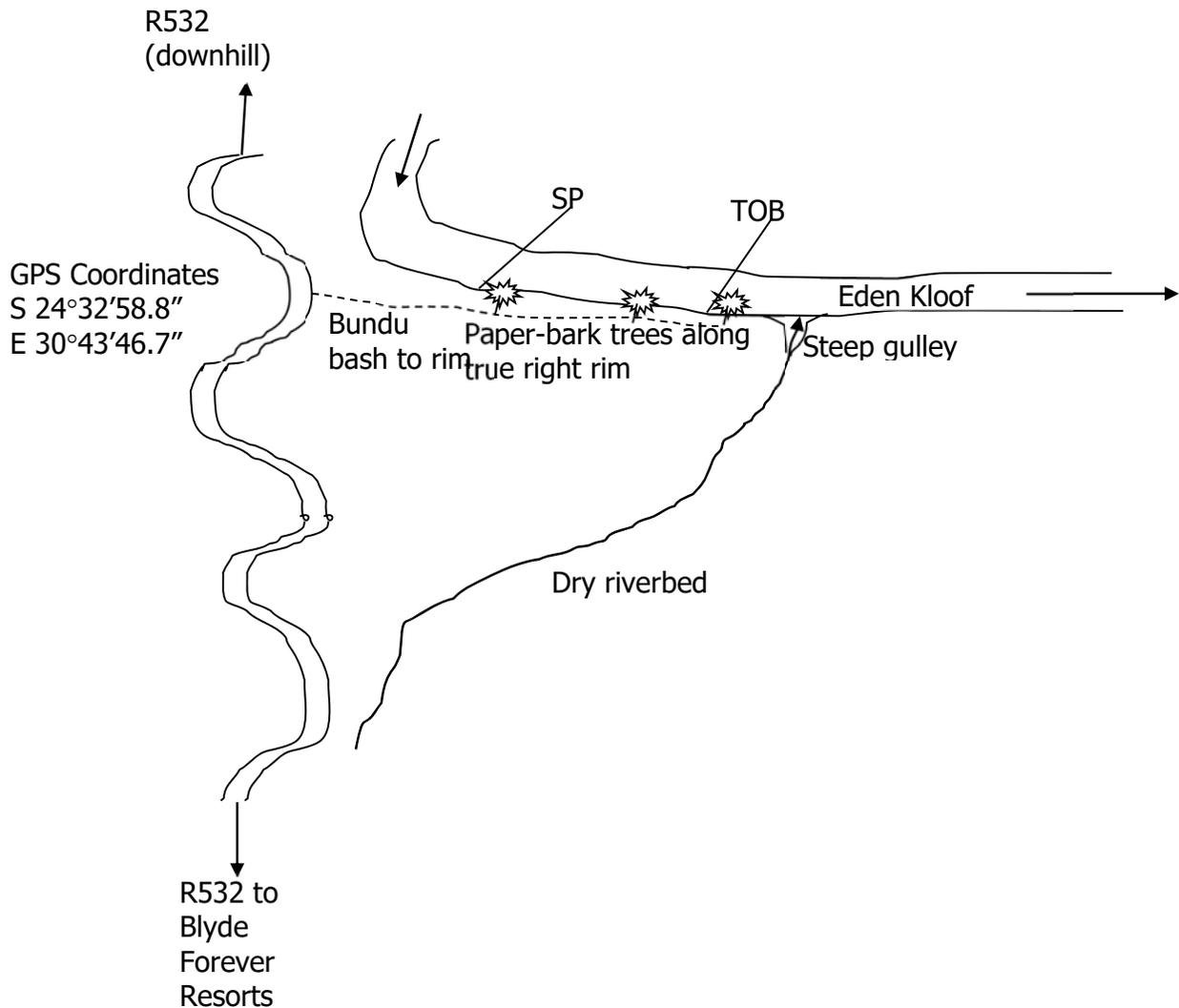
TO GET THERE

The Eden Crag is a rather seclude section of crags situated on the R532 road between the Blyde Canyon Forever Resort and the "T" junction with the R36. When driving back towards Ohrigstad from the resort, the road winds down past a subsidiary canyon seen to the right (north) of the road. After about 10Km from the resort and where the road is lined with a stone wall and is going through some sharp S-curves, a large kloof can be seen on the right-hand side of the road.

Find the nearest lay-by and park, or better still, get dropped off. It might not be safe to leave cars parked here.

Only leave the road at the point when you can see into the kloof (GPS Coordinates S 24°32'58.8" / E 30°43'46.7"). Bundu bash to get to the edge of the upper wall (north facing, true right) of the kloof. Eden is on this wall. The Other Side of Eden is, well, on the other side (south-facing, true left) wall. From the road to the edge of the true right cliffs is around 500m. The true right cliffs are bounded on their downstream (east) end by a gulley from a (usually) dry riverbed. It is possible, although much further, to walk out along this riverbed, which eventually comes very close to the road.

APPROACH TIME: 10-15 minutes



DESCENT ROUTE

The true right cliff has many large paper-bark trees along its rim. These provide easy, 50m abseil points to get down to the climbs. It is a good idea to use a tree as close as possible to the intended route, because walking along the base of the cliff is a bit of a bundu bash.



A THING OF BEAUTY

18 ****

When standing on top of the cliff find the big gulley at the extreme right (looking out). Find the first big paper-bark to the left of this, looking out. Abseil off the tree. The route follows the abseil route. Start off blocks at the base.

1. 50m 18 Climb a short corner on the right. Traverse left to the main break. Climb the crack until it peters out. Step left, then up the arête and blocks above to the tree.

Note: A harder, direct start is possible.

First ascent: 17 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

LABOR PAINS

20 A0 ***

When standing on top of the cliff find the big gulley at the extreme right (looking out). Find the first big paper-bark to the left of this, looking out. Abseil off the tree. From the base of the abseil, walk about 20m upstream rightwards) until an obvious, acute open book is found that ends at a ledge a little further up. Start at the base of the open book.

1. **15m 20** Climb the open book to the ledge with a deep recess and tree at the back.
2. **30m 19 A0** From the outside edge of the ledge, climb rightwards up the ramp to the top of the pillar below the steep face. Climb the steep face to a niche below an overhang. Pull through the overhang then tend rightwards following the corner and ramp up to a large ledge and belay.
3. **25m 15** Climb up the block at the back of the ledge towards an open book on the right. Climb the open book onto a mantle ledge then continue up following a break and wide crack to a ledge on the right and the top of the route.

Note: It is estimated that the steep face on pitch 2 will climb free at about grade 22.

First ascent: 14 June 2009 G. Frost, D. Margetts, J. Viljoen and B. Gardner.

WEEP AND SLEEP

21 ****

Rap off as for SPLENDOR and WAKE AND BAKE. From the base of WAKE AND BAKE, rap another 10m to the ground off a paperbark. Walk left about 50m. A prominent left-facing open book can be seen at the top of the crag. There is a ledge at about half-height, the left edge of which is in line with the base of the corner. Start below and left of the corner, at the base of a recess/break.

1. **50m 21** Climb the recess to under a roof. Continue up the corner forming the left side of the roof, until able to traverse right above the roof. Keep traversing right and slightly down to the large ledge beneath the prominent corner. Climb the initial crack to the base of the corner. Climb the corner to where it steepens. Make tricky moves up to gain a good jug on the right hand wall, about 4m below the top of the corner. Swing around the right arête and crank up to a big ledge.

2. **10m** Pick a scramble to the top.

Note: Take a double rack of cams if you want to climb the full 50m in one. Otherwise there are a few options to split the pitch in two.

First ascent: 20 Nov 2010 Hector Pringle and Ian Kotze

WAKE AND BAKE

18 ***

Rap off as for SPLENDOR.

1. **40m 18** Climb the crack line immediately left of SPLENDOR. This is just right of a fearsome looking offwidth/chimney.

First ascent: 20 Nov 2010 Hector Pringle, Roland Smith and Ian Kotze.

SPLENDOR

17 *****

When standing on top of THING OF BEAUTY looking outwards, one can see an obvious chickenhead face at the top of the crag about 150m to the left (looking out). Abseil off the paper-bark tree just right (looking out) of the chickenheads, to a large ledge. Do not abseil all the way to the ground as the bottom 10m of the cliff looks grotty here.

1. **40m 17** Climb rightward diagonal recess above the right hand side of the ledge to under a roof. Crank through and climb the immaculate jam crack to the chickenhead face above. Jug haul to the top.

First ascent: 17 Dec 2008 H. Pringle and I. Kotze.

EXODUS

18 ****

10m right of SPLENDOR is a white, blank overhanging openbook. Start just right of this, around the arête

1. 40m 18 Climb the face which gets easier as you go. No need to use the crack on either side.

First ascent: 4 Oct 2012 A. Porter and C. Martinengo.



Clinton on THE RIVER OF DOUBT. Photo by A.Porter

THE OTHER SIDE OF EDEN

TO GET THERE

Abseil down one of the trees at Eden Crag. Continue all the way to the ground. Find a way across the river (easy in October, could be hard in wetter months) and work your way up to the cliffs overlooking Eden on the other side of the river.



CINTA LARGA

20 *****

Start 20m left of THE MAGICAL FARAWAY ROOF below a left facing corner system with a hand / finger crack.

1. 50m 20 Climb the corner system for 30m to a large ledge. Step left off this into the splitter running straight up the steep yellow wall.

First ascent: 4 Oct 2012 C. Martinengo and A. Porter.

THE MAGICAL FARAWAY ROOF

20 ***

Start 10m left of RIVER OF DOUBT, and about 2m right of the crack which higher up becomes a large gully.

1. 25m 20 Start up the crack. A few meters up, bad rock pushes you left into the next crack. Follow this until just below the large roof to your right. Traverse under this to a small, exposed stance on the lip.

2. 25m 18 Climb the fun hand crack straight to the top.

First ascent: 4 Oct 2012 A. Porter and C. Martinengo.

THE RIVER OF DOUBT

24 *****

Climbs a clean face in the center of the cliff. 10m up is an overlap with a tiny corner breaking through it. Start directly below this.

1. 50m 24 Climb straight up the wall, passing through the break in the overlap about 10m up.

First ascent: 4 Oct 2012 C. Martinengo and A. Porter.