

CLEDDAU VALLEY ROCK CLIMBING

*PROVISIONAL EDITION
January 2022*

Edited by Tom Riley

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Darrans, and more specifically the crags of the Cleddau Valley.

This provisional guide is an excerpt from an upcoming print edition of the New Zealand Alpine Club's Darran Mountains guidebook.

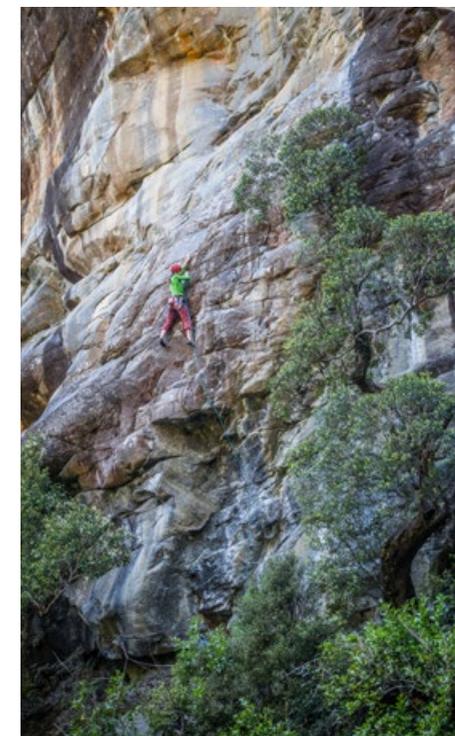
Corrections and suggestions for this draft are strongly encouraged and very welcome, and they'll help to make future versions of this guide the best that they can be.

If a description doesn't make sense, you think a route deserves more stars, or you got lost on the way to the Chasm, please let us know!

You can send your suggestions to editor@alpineclub.org.nz.

 Jean Jack enjoying *Ulysses* (24) at Little Babylon.

TROY MATTINGLEY



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Edited by Tom Riley.

Layout by Mark Watson, with topo assistance from Tom Hoyle, New Zealand Alpine Club.

Typeset in Geogrotesque and Garamond.

 COVER: Alec McCallum eyeing up the drive-by dyno to end the crux of *Busta Drive-By* (31), The Chasm, Milford. TOM HOYLE

THIS PAGE: Troy Mattingley high above the Cleddau rainforest on *Contact Neurosis* (29), Chasm Crag. MARK WATSON

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GETTING THERE

The only road access to the Darran Mountains is via the Milford Highway. From Te Anau, the road winds its way north and west through the Eglinton, over the Divide into the upper Hollyford, then through the Homer Tunnel to Milford Sound. To avoid traffic congestion during the summer tourist season (usually October to April), it's a good idea to leave Te Anau before 8:00am or after 11:00am. A Department of Conservation (DOC) visitor centre in Te Anau provides information about Fiordland National Park. It's also a good place to pick up the latest weather forecast on your way in.

Homer Hut is in the upper Hollyford, two kilometres before Homer Tunnel as you're driving towards Milford Sound. The hut is about a hundred kilometres from Te Anau, but you'll want to allow 1.5 hours for the trip. Follow the signs from Te Anau to get onto the Milford Road. Follow the road until you see the Hollyford Forks bridge, immediately followed by a sign on the left-hand side of the road for the Gertrude valley. Turn to the right and follow the gravel road into the main car park. If you want to park by the hut, you'll need to cross the stream bed. This is usually possible in a 2WD car with reasonable ground clearance, but it's a good idea to scope the route on foot to check for any large rocks. The stream can rise rapidly in heavy rain, so park on the side of the stream closest to the road if a storm is forecast. Cars have been washed down the Hollyford before!

Historically, there's been no cellphone coverage in Fiordland, although there is now very limited reception at Milford itself and coverage in the Milford Road vicinity may increase in the next few years.

ACCOMMODATION

Homer Hut and the Milford Lodge are the closest accommodation options to the Cleddau crags. There are also DOC campsites at Kiosk Creek, the upper Eglinton, and at Cascade Creek, all of which need to be booked in advance. The DOC campsites are a bit far from the action if you're planning a long stay, but they're worth knowing about if you're planning a short stay, or if you want to combine rock climbing with tramping or fishing. There is also a privately-run camp at Knobs Flat in the Eglinton, with studio rooms, tent sites, a laundry, and a kitchen. Gunn's Camp in the Lower Hollyford valley was effectively destroyed in the storm of February 2020, and is unlikely to be rebuilt.

Homer Hut (NZAC) has 30 bunks. There are gas stoves, solar lighting, and two long-drop toilets. The warden will usually write a weather report on the whiteboard in the kitchen. The kitchen is equipped with some basic cutlery and cookware. There are no facilities for charging



Lower Cleddau valley and Mitre Peak.

TOM HOYLE

mobile phones and other electronics, so come prepared.

A hut warden is in residence from December through to April, and at busy times during the rest of the year. Hut fees are payable to the warden, or may be paid online by credit card or bank transfer if you have a New Zealand bank account. You can also post your fees to NZAC National Office, PO Box 786, Christchurch 8140. You can even ring the National Office on (03) 377 7595 and pay over the phone. The hut is owned and run by the New Zealand Alpine Club and all hut fees (and more besides) are spent directly on the maintenance and operation of the hut.

- NZAC members: \$20 per night for the first seven nights, \$15 thereafter
- Non-members: \$40 per night
- Day Use: \$15
- Camping (NZAC members only): \$15 per night
- Children of NZAC members aged 11–17: \$10 per night
- Children of non-members aged 11–17 (in bunk-rooms only): \$20 per night
- Children aged 10 and under: No charge





Upper Cleddau valley. TOM HOYLE

FOOD AND SUPPLIES

Te Anau is the closest town to the Darrans. There you'll find two supermarkets, three petrol stations, a sports shop selling a good range of outdoor equipment, a post shop, restaurants, and a few different cafés. Prices tend to be higher than in the main centres, so the budget-conscious would be wise to stock up before heading down. Remember to arrive at Homer Hut with adequate petrol to return to Te Anau because buying fuel at Milford is not always possible, and it's usually expensive.

NZAC members are allowed to camp only in the immediate vicinity of the hut and not in view of the Gertrude valley car park. Six tents at a time are allowed. No camping for non-members. Sleeping in vans and cars at Homer is not allowed.

Milford Sound's primary role is to cater to the thousands of tourists who visit the fiords each year. With the lamentable demise of the pub (now the Blue Duck Café), the Milford Sound Lodge has become the hub of social activity. It's no longer possible to pitch a tent at the Lodge, but they will let you sleep in your car or van. There are powered sites for campervans and luxurious chalets. They also have an excellent restaurant, laundry facilities, a comfortable lounge with paid internet access, and a shuttle for guests. You can buy snack food over the counter. For further details, see www.milfordlodge.com.

EMERGENCIES

There's an intentions book at Homer Hut, and it's a good idea to fill this in even if you're only going cragging in the valley. At the very least, tell someone who's not with your group where you're going. Remember that this is an isolated area, and err on the side of caution. There is no mobile coverage at any of the climbing areas, so don't rely on your phone for communication. In an emergency, first speak to the hut warden at Homer. There is a satellite phone at the Homer portal of the Homer Tunnel, and another one at the Milford Road Alliance depot on the right-hand side of the road as you head towards the tunnel. There are also payphones at Milford Sound at the ferry terminal and the café, and at the Milford Lodge. Dial 111 to speak to emergency services, and ask for the police. Calls to 111 are free of charge from anywhere in New Zealand.

HOUSEKEEPING

If you're staying at Homer Hut, bring your own dish-washing liquid and tea towels. Consider taking a pair of gumboots and an umbrella. It's a good idea to bring firewood and some kindling with you, because it's pretty hard (and in fact illegal) to gather good firewood from around the hut. Don't forget to bring toilet paper.



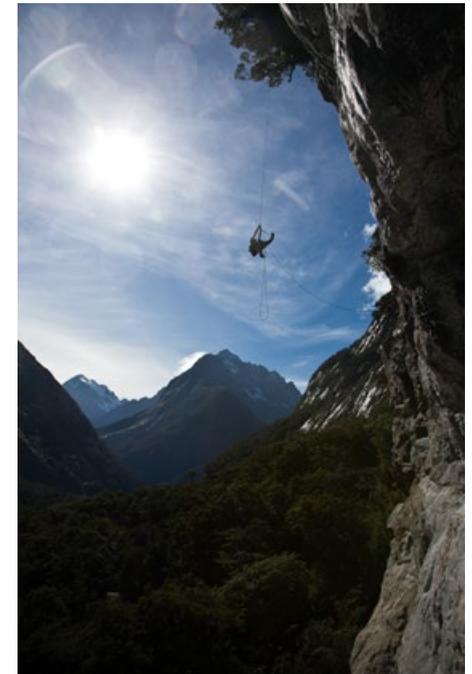
Babylon Crag, lower Cleddau Valley. TOM HOYLE

Leave your dog and any other domestic animals at home! Dogs are not allowed in national parks, not even on a leash or as passengers in a car.

Homer can get really busy, especially during the summer. Practice good hut etiquette by washing up after yourself and putting things away. There are bins provided for storing your non-perishable food. Brush your teeth outside, not in the indoor sinks. If you need to wash, fill up a bucket and do that outside as well. The plumbing can't handle large amounts of food scraps or coffee grounds, so try not to put anything down the sinks except water.

There is no rubbish collection service at Homer Hut. The best thing to do is to take your rubbish out to Te Anau. There is a recycling depot three kilometres towards Manapouri from Te Anau, and another one on the right-hand side of the road about a kilometre past Mossburn on the way to Lumsden. Don't dump or bury your food scraps. They make great food for the local rats and possums and it's best not to encourage them.

Paul Rogers working on a new line at Chasm Crag. MARK WATSON





Cleddau Valley

There's nothing ordinary about the Cleddau valley; everything here is bigger, and better. The gob-smacking views, the rampant tangled bush, the miles-high waterfalls, and of course world-class rock climbing. If you've come to the Darrans looking for cragging amongst the scenery, you're in the right place. There's even a few multi-pitch mega-routes that escape the valley and just about make it up to the clouds.

Even though it's not physically far from Homer Hut to the Cleddau crags, it's still a bit of an emotional journey. Leaving the subalpine cirque of the upper Hollyford, you travel through the tunnel and down into the green. Your view of the world constricts at the tunnel entrance, then expands at the exit in a moment of high drama as the dark walls rise around you. The valley even smells different, full of the scent of loam and wood, moss and water. This is perhaps the finest scenery anywhere that you can drive to in a car.

Before the late 1990s and the development of the Chasm Crag, a trip to the Darrans would almost inevitably involve a few days sitting at Homer in the rain, waiting for the clouds to part so that you could go up high again, and eyes soon turned to some other likely-looking pieces of rock on the valley walls. When the advantages of having an all-weather climbing venue became obvious, things really got going and two more major crags – the Babylons – were developed in the Cleddau, creating a new epicentre of crag civilisation in Aotearoa. And it's not over yet, with a good few other crags to be discovered. If you're after hard sportclimbing in an unparalleled setting, this is the place to come.

 Little Babylon.

DEREK CHENG

Pt 1665/The Charismatic Wall

Looking from the tunnel portal on the Milford side, you'll see a prominent face on a truncated spur on the true left of the Cleddau valley. This is the Charismatic Wall, named after the original route on the cliff. Park below the Cleddau No.3 bridge. Walk up the true left of the stream for about 50 metres before picking up a flagged track through swampy forest. After about 250 metres, you'll reach the bottom of a rocky creek bed. Follow this to the bottom of the prominent forested knob at the base of the wall. Ascend through steep bush using hand-lines along the way and then traverse left to the base of access slabs.

1 Uprising 19P 560m 24 ★

 The direct line on the face and already a modern classic – testament to the utility of bolting on abseil. Double hangers are intended as belay anchors, not abseil anchors. Take about 15 quickdraws, some slings, and a full set of wires and cams up to #3, with extras of both in finger-crack sizes. The first ascent party used double 60 metre ropes. As well as the anchors for each pitch, there are separate abseil anchors to make the descent faster.

The first four pitches are fully bolted and relatively easy, but the rock takes a while to dry after rain. You may be able to run two or more pitches together and climb in your approach shoes if it's dry.

P1 30m (14), **P2** 20m (16), **P3** 20m (16), **P4** 30m (15). Bolts.

You should now have reached a sloping scrubby ledge. Camping is possible here, but there is no permanent water source. There may well be some water in a collection drum under the trees, but don't count on it. To reach the next set of approach pitches, head left and up through a patch of beech forest to the base of the Waterfall Slabs, an 80m clean watercourse. Scramble up and left to a pedestal.

P5 30m (17), **P6** 20m (14), **P7** 30m (20). Bolts. Once you've finished **P7**, head right along the Goat Path for 100m to reach the base of *Uprising*. Look for a single bolt near the high point of the track.

P1 50m (15) Climb a buttress and partly vegetated slabs past two bolts.

P2 20m (22) A steep short wall with 9 bolts.

P3 50m (17) Gwilym's Corner. Up the big ramp/corner feature, passing a bolted abseil anchor. 2 bolts.

P4 35m (24) Up the Houdini Corner, before tackling a slab and moving left around the pillar to the



1 Charismatic Wall access

2 Cleddau Ledges descent

top of the pedestal. 10 bolts.

P5 20m (12) The Zig Zag Pitch. Follow a dyke and a slab up and right. 5 bolts.

P6 30m (22) The Dwarf Killer. Great flakes and cracks. Be careful not to jam your rope in the crack below the belay ledge when you abseil. 6 bolts.

P7 40m (22) The Snout. Up the corner and face to a bulge, then move rightwards up the slab to the belay. 6 bolts.

P8 35m (22) Up to a tricky leftwards move to turn the arête. Left and up the wall to a steep bomb-bay corner, then left again to the belay. Watch out for rope drag. 7 bolts.

P9 20m (22) Up to hanging corner and rightwards through steeper ground on jugs to a hanging belay. Situational! 7 bolts.

P10 30m (23) The Velcro Corner. Up the ramp and follow the bolts through tricky bulges and corners to a double bolt belay. 8 bolts.

P11 17m (21) Camille's Pillar. Up the face and pillar on the right side of the gully. 8 bolts.

P12 35m (18) Rogers Ridge. Glorious face climbing to the top station. 10 bolts.

From here you can walk off left and up to camp on flat slabs, with a tarn nearby. Descend by abseiling the route or walk off via the Cleddau Ledges.

Jon Sedon, Paul Rogers, Matt Evvard, Camille Berthoux, Bruce Dowrick, 27 December 2018

 Camille Berthoux climbing pitch eight during the first ascent of *Uprising* (24).
BRUCE DOWRICK





2 The Charismatic Movement Marketing Council 14P 480m 23 ★

 Solid climbing around grade 20, with some bolts and fixed gear. A bivvy ledge can be found at the top of the fourth pitch. The route was originally climbed in a series of attempts over three weeks. The exact line of the route is a matter of conjecture to all but the first ascensionists, and it would be a real adventure trying this route from the ground up.

Haul up on tussock, trending right to a flat-looking area with a few trees about 100 metres below the wall proper. Negotiate a difficult and exposed section of cliff up and rightwards to the start of the technical climbing. It's also possible (and frankly preferable) to climb the initial seven pitches of *Uprising* to get to this point, unless you're looking to replicate the first ascent in its entirety.

P1 50m (19) From the start flake climb straight up and through a short steep corner, moving right to belay in the bottom of a white left-facing corner.

P2 30m (12) Follow a white leaning corner to peg belay.

P3 30m (17) Straight up the obvious weakness, then traverse right across slabs to bolt belay.

P4 52m (18) Keep traversing right across a slabby wall and follow a shallow left-facing groove into a steep corner. Continue up a few steps for the belay on Privet Hedge Ledge. The pitch was split on the first ascent due to rope drag.

Privet Hedge Ledge: Spacious seating for two with gear. Stunning views, and sheltered from space junk. You'll find ample protection in the flake above.

P5 35m (20) Traverse right to a shallow left-facing open-book corner with a small roof. Use some cunning to protect the striking blank traverse low down. Finish on a bolt belay.

P6 25m (20) Up the groove two metres right of the belay, then step left through steep ground to an open corner.

P7 45m (23) Up the groove above the belay and onto the wall: good gear in the crack. Traverse right past the bolt (crux) to a mantle ledge. Continue up the wall on positive ledges to more good gear and a fixed piton. A small tensioned pendulum will get you past the crux at 21/A0.

P8 12m (19) Up the arête to the left of the corner, then follow the groove to a small slab and bolt belay.

P9 30m (20) Left from belay to a right-trending weakness which leads to a bottomless corner. An uncomfortable bolt belay above this.

P10 30m (20) Traverse left under roof thing to where it is breached by a weakness. Up then right to belay under overlap about seven metres above the last belay.

P11 45m (15/A0) Follow the dirty wet right-trending seam using a few points of aid. Belay as high as possible on the easy ramp.

P12 45m (20) Trend towards a short corner to the right of the belay via a tricky undercling move. Beware of loose flakes! Belay under a large roof.

P13 25m (16) Move out left from roof then up broken slabs to belay under gully things.

P14 25m (15) Climb right of roofs to grass, sun, and places to sit and walk. Belay from abseil bolt.

Walking out to Homer via the Cleddau Ledges under the Mate's Little Brother is probably the best and safest descent option. The alternative is nine or ten abseils. P5 and P6 would be difficult to retreat from without fixed lines, but not impossible. Gwilym Griffith-Jones, Daniel Meecham, February 1994



 Jon Sedon bolting on the first ascent of *Uprising*.
BRUCE DOWRICK





📷 James Gunn making an excellent flash attempt on *Insane Automatism* (28), Chasm Crag.

TOM HOYLE

FACING PAGE: Troy Mattingley pursuing *High Ideals and Crazy Dreams*. (22) Chasm Crag.

JOHN PALMER

CHASM CRAG

The Chasm has a wide variety of multi-pitch climbs on clean, steep diorite. The upper pitches are protected from the rain by enormous roofs. Climbing here in a storm on dry rock with a backdrop of sheets of water is quite an experience.

HISTORY

Development of the Chasm Crag began in 1993 when Paul Rogers and visiting Brit Steve Walker saw some flashes of white through the bush and decided to take a closer look. *High Ideals and Crazy Dreams* was the first route to be completed. The quality of the rock and the engaging climbing was a great incentive to try all of the main features on the right-hand end of the crag. *One Way Ticket* and *Day Tripper* were soon added. The next area of exploration were the slabs and overhangs on the left-hand end of the wall. The lower parts yielded some excellent natural pro climbing, but the overhanging upper wall soon became the centre of attention. A couple of days sky-hooking and jug pulling produced *Buster Gonad*. Chris Plant made the first onsight of this impressively steep route. Along with visiting Brits, some of the Wānaka posse gave up the wire brush and headed to the deep south. Steve Henry and Dave Roberts established a set of quality teenage climbs that worked their way up to the Chill Out Ledge. Hugh Barnard bolted *Jack the Biscuit*, an exposed ramp moving left off the Chill Out Ledge. A year or so later, Paul was back with Kevin Nicolas to create *Vertically Challenged* up a steep dyke on the right-hand wall.

ACCESS

From Homer Hut, drive towards Milford Sound through the tunnel and down the Cleddau valley. At about 8.5km from Homer Hut, you'll reach a set of bright yellow gates (used for controlling vehicle traffic during the avalanche season). Stop here. If you get to Chasm Creek, you've come too far. There's also a passing lane on the uphill side of the road, with space to park at the end of it.

There are two access tracks 30 metres apart:

Track One: On the Milford Sound side of the gates, look for a small cairn and a vague track on the right-hand side of the road. Follow the track for a couple of minutes through the bush, then head to the right to cross the creek bed before making your way up to the



left end of the crag.

Track Two: About two metres back from the gates on the Homer side, look for very faint evidence of a track and follow it into the bush. You'll find a steep creek bed which can be followed to the base of the crag, immediately below *High Ideals and Crazy Dreams*. This track is difficult to find from the bottom, but can be more easily followed from the top.

CLIMBING NOTES

It's possible to pick your way around the crag by climbing access pitches and then traversing or rapping to other anchors. You can spend a good day linking up climbs without having to descend to the soggy forest floor. When lowering someone off the steep upper pitches, you may need to throw them a line to pull the climber in. You may find it more efficient to down-climb steep routes to retrieve gear.

A 60 metre rope should be enough for most climbs, but a tag line may be useful for the long abseils. A standard rack of natural pro along with quickdraws should be enough for most routes. Any extra bits are noted in the route description.

To minimise impact at Chasm Crag, please:

- Don't pee off the Chill Out Ledge, as there's no runoff to wash it away.
- Dispose of waste properly. Take everything with you when you leave.
- Avoid excavation or destruction of vegetation around the base of the crags.



THE LEFT SIDE

From the end of the Track One, go left for 20 metres along the base of the wall through steep vegetation to gain a small ledge with a rata. To reach *Pro Rata* follow the base of the cliff leftwards and up.

Access One is used for routes numbered 1–9.

Access Two is used for the first pitch of *Jack the Biscuit*, and for getting to the Chill Out Ledge.

1 Many a Slip Twixt Cup and Lip 18

Up to a small roof, then traverse left and around the corner, riding underclings diagonally leftwards to a small ledge. Exit left to a kāmahi tree which can be used to lower off. Dave Blair, Steve Carr, Dec 1997

2 Pro Rata 2P 36m 22 ★

P1 18m (22) Thin moves past a bolt take you to a small roof. The wall on the right is climbed to a bay with a natural pro belay. There is a huge flake on the left that is best left alone, because of its tenuous attachment to the wall.

P2 18m (19) A lovely pitch. Traverse leftwards on lush holds with bomber gear. Double ropes and long runners will help smooth out the rough bits.

Steve Henry, Dave Roberts, February 1994

3 The Drunken Skunkin' Leprechaun 28m 18 ★

A cracker outing up an ever-steepening wall, giving a good pump and great views. It's a bit loose in the second half, otherwise it would get two stars.

Sally Carter, Aaron Ford, December 2004

4 Dirty Deeds 19 ★

Just to the left of the Track One exit, you'll see a distinct crack. This is a unique climb, with a frustrating bulge at the start. Move with elegance, and take small-to-medium cams. Might need a clean, though. Anton Vestberg, 2014

It is possible to traverse right from the rata tree to the start of P2 of Dread Zone if P1 is wet. Dread Zone starts ten metres left of the steel rungs.

5 Dread Zone 3P 60m 24 ★

P1 3B 15m (18) From the forest floor, reach up through the blocks and rock-over onto the slab. Climb up through blocks below the guillotine, a v-shaped wedge of rock.

P2 9B 30m (21) Follow underclings out left and move left up the slab. A grunty rock-over takes you to another section of slab and after the next reachy crux, climb the left-trending crack. Delightful.

P3 5B 15m (24) Move left into the diagonal corner

and climb with conviction through a difficult bulge. Keep charging and things will taper off quite nicely. From the fourth bolt, head straight up to join *Jack the Biscuit*. The leftward finish is grade 21.

Paul Rogers, Polly Stupples, November 1994

6 Mountain Mojo 15m 21

Starts from the top of pitch two of *Dread Zone* and crosses over *Jack the Biscuit*. Claudia Gray, 2012

7 Scenic Flight 12m 27

Continues from the top of *Mountain Mojo*. Cool moves in an exposed location. Anton Vestberg, 2014

The large left-facing diagonal above the second pitch of Dread Zone, marked with a red sling, isn't a known route but has seen many retreats. Stay well clear!

8 Chill Out Ledge Traverse #1 8m 15

A short traverse down and right to the Chill Out Ledge from the top of the second pitch of *Dread Zone*. Place lots of gear so that your second has an easy time of it.

9 Mr Wolf 2P 31m 22 ★★

P1 3B 15m (18) Start as for the first pitch of *Dread Zone*. After the rock-over, continue straight up the slab to a single bolt anchor, which can be backed up with a fat wire. Take long slings or a cordellette so that you can belay from a small ledge below the anchor.

P2 2B 26m (22) Sublime climbing on a diagonal undercling. Rock on to the slab, then start drifting right on some gnarly slopers. Plain sailing to the Chill Out Ledge. Murray Ball, Paul Rogers, Feb 2003

The following routes are accessed by a steel rung ladder (Access Two).

10 Unnamed 15m 17

Scamper up the slab and over the bulge. Paul Rogers, 2014

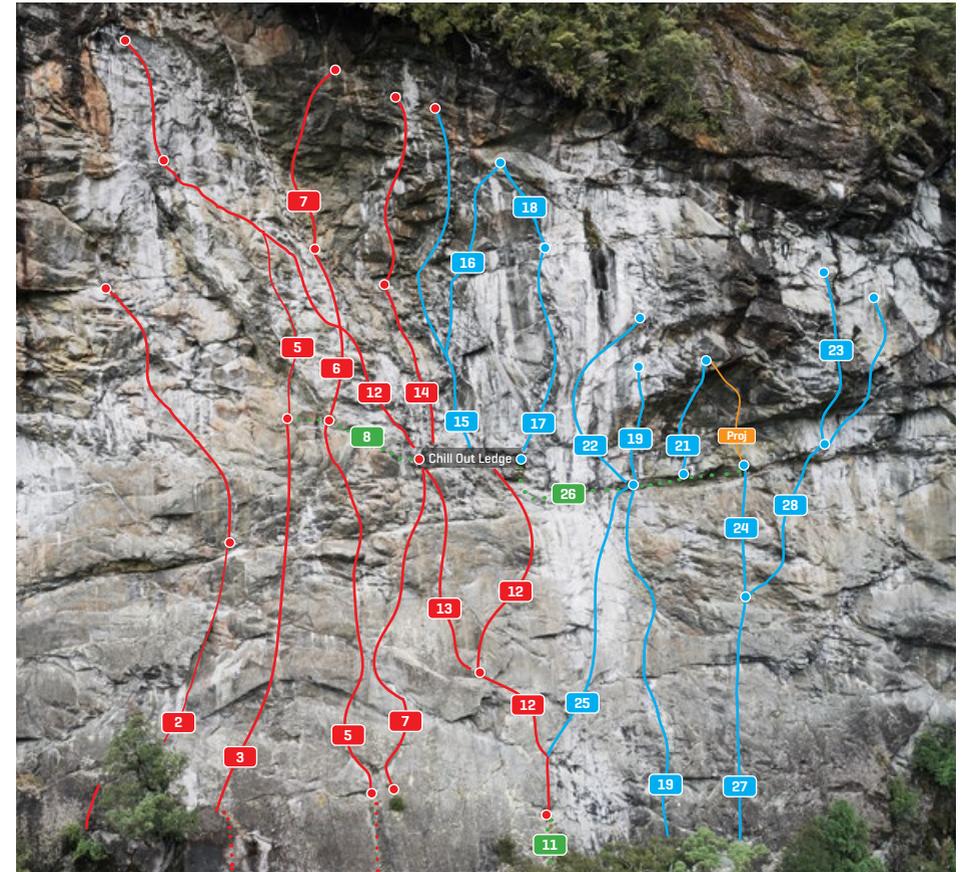
11 Access Two 15m 10

The steel rung ladder. The rungs run out at the lip and you have to do a few rock moves to get to the anchor, so get someone to belay you.

12 Jack the Biscuit 4P 65m 24 ★

P1 30m (17) Climb the tree past three bolts and into the left-facing corner. Follow the corner system, then trend left on a black slab and then up towards a prominent nose. Underclings lead across the slab and underneath the nose to a bolt belay.

P2 15m (18) The corner above, move right, then up



past two bolts to a ledge. A right-facing corner leads to the Chill Out Ledge.

P3 25m (20) From left-hand belay on Chill Out Ledge, traverse left past three bolts, moving up at the third to a shallow corner. Continue on wires until another bolt indicates an exposed traverse left to belay.

P4 12m (24) The bolted wall above and to the left. Good holds lead to some tough slopers. Belay out left. P1 to P3: Hugh Barnard, Paul Rogers, October 1993. P4: Rob Wigley

Above and right of the belay past two bolts of pitch 3 there is a wild corner crack. This has been aided, but it needs to be freed!

13 Granite Gringo 15m 22

A variation to the second pitch of *Jack the Biscuit*. From the belay at the top of the first pitch of *Jack the Biscuit*, climb the ladder of ledges towards a

sickle crack. Some very sneaky slab moves and crimps take you to a juggy top out protected by medium wires. Kate Sinclair, 2004

The next four climbs go up the steep wall above the Chill Out Ledge. They are well-protected sport and mixed routes, and all have lower-off chains. There is a rescue rope on the ledge for pulling the climber back in. To avoid dropping your mate, consider tying the loose end of the lead rope to the belayer or the chain. Enjoy!

14 Akathisia 2P 24m 28

Bolted with tender loving care by Paul Rogers. It is possible to climb the route as one long pitch.

P1 12m (20) Five bolts and a no-hands rest at the end.

P2 12m (28) Straight up from belay to the anchors up and left of *Buster Gonad*. Equipped: Paul Rogers; FA Mayan Smith-Gobat, January 2006

15 Buster Gonad 26m 26 ★★

9 A wild ride from start to finish. Take quickdraws and cams from #1 to 3.5. Left-facing corner and prow above the belay. A real cornucopia with pockets, underclings, lay-backing and crimps! Paul Rogers, Steve Walker, April 1993

16 Insane Automatism 23m 28

10 Originally bolted as going up the corner and arête, but needs the removal of a large, loose block. Instead, start up *Buster Gonad* then voyage right through the cruxy dyke feature. **Equipper:** Ivan Vostinar; FA Derek Thatcher, 2005

17 Bus t' Milford 18m 27 ★★

8 This route takes the line of pockets out right. Crimpy moves past the first bolt lead to a steep ramp and pocketed headwall. A popular test piece. **Equipper:** Paul Rogers; FA Chris Plant, February 1994

18 Bust a Drive-by 31 ★★

13 Climb *Bus t' Milford*, get a good rest, then do a steep and tricky boulder problem. The climax is a drive-by dyno for the very lip of the crag. Derek Thatcher, 2006

19 Contact Neurosis 3P 55m 28 ★★

10 Take a set of wires, and cams to #2.
P1 20m (16) Climb by the dead tree past three bolts and into the left-facing corner. Climb this for eight metres before moving right to reach a sloping ledge. Natural pro anchor. It is best to continue through doing the second pitch in one.
P2 14m (18) Step right then straight up on gear then past two bolts to belay under the big roof.
P3 18m (28) Moves from the ledge lead to a fingery section then generous jugs. Athletic through the steep ground and a funky top-out over the lip.
P1 and **P2:** Paul Rogers and Toni Bryant, January 2003;
P3: FA Andy Cockburn, 2003

The following five routes start from the ledge to the right of the belay at the top of the second pitch of Contact Neurosis.

20 Bus t' Milford Direct Start 15m 28 ★

15 From the belay head straight up, then left. Join *Bus t' Milford* at the dyke feature. Mayan Smith-Gobat, 2007

21 Psychonaut 32 ★

8 Steep roof to the right of *Contact Neurosis* with two hard boulder problems. The first one features a throw off a pinky mono undercling! Derek Thatcher, 2011

22 Liquid Sky 31 ★

9 Three crimpy bouldery sequences lead to a dynamic finish in an outrageous position. **Equipper:** Derek Thatcher; FA Joshua Jacobsen-Grocott, 2013

23 Pseudopanic 27 ★

9 Join *Power Trip* at the end of the ledge, then finish following a line of bolts through the bulge. Jon Sedon, 2006

24 The Hairy Fairy 25

9 A short bolted route below the belay ledge. Can be climbed as a second pitch to *Zola*. The Bolt Fairy, 2006

The next four routes start back on the ground.

25 Another One 20m 19

5 An alternative to the first pitch of *Contact Neurosis*, finishing at the belay of the second pitch of that route. Climb the left-facing corner but instead of moving right, head straight through the small overlaps past 5 bolts. Paul Rogers, 2005

26 Chill Out Ledge Traverse #2 12m

From the top of the second pitch of *Contact Neurosis*, traverse left and down for a metre or so, then climb a short crack to the ledge.

27 Zola 35m 19

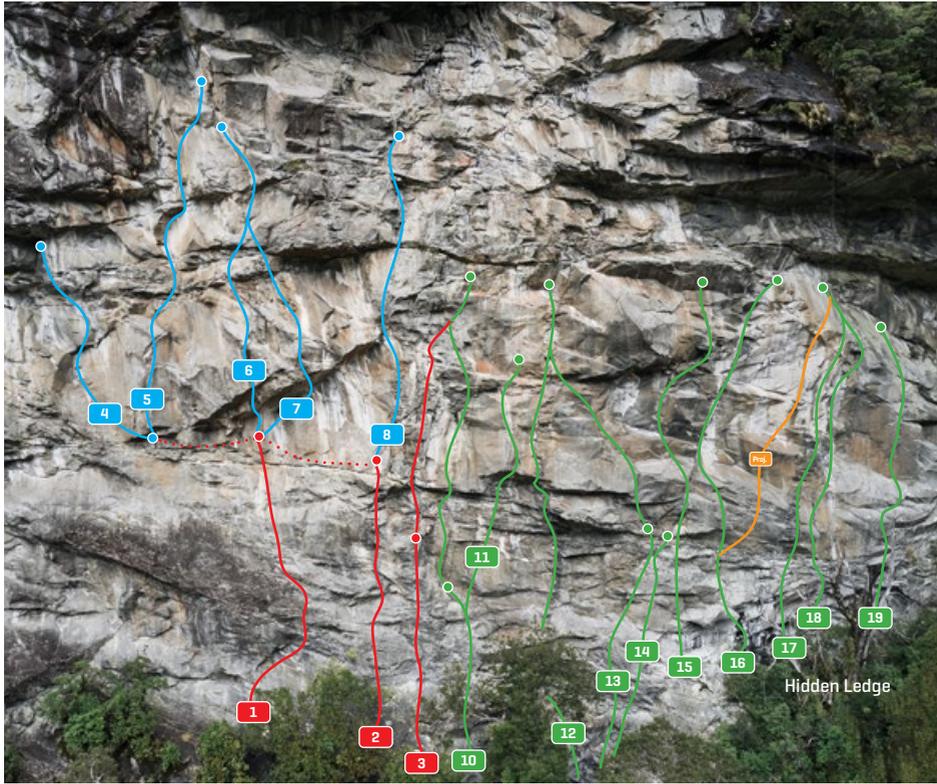
9 Start to the right of the tree, and take a 0.3 cam. Climb to a flake clipping bolt, then continue up a weakness to the anchor. The base of this route can sometimes stay damp. Troy Mattingley, December 2005

28 Power Trip 3P 65m 25 ★

9 A real journey of discovery. You'll need a bit of power to move through the steep section. Starts 10 metres right of the *Zola* belay. Mostly bolted, but take a standard rack with cams to #3.
P1 18m (23) From the right-hand end of the ledge move up to good underclings. Thin moves up and right lead to the crux – a pink and white streaked roof system. Continue up past a bolt to a belay under the roof. Above and right a line of bolts lead to a project.
P2 12m (25) Traverse out right into big exposure then crank wildly up past two bolts to belay in a corner on the left. Spectacular climbing! From here it's a 50 metre abseil to get off. Luke Bardsley, Paul Rogers, April 1993



📷 Tom Hoyle enjoying an excursion on the Chasm classic, *Day Tripper* (24). JOHN PALMER



THE HIDDEN WALL

This is accessed via Track Two, or by following the base of the crag for 60 metres from the Left Side to a large area of water-worn boulders. This is a great place to scope the crag. The Hidden Wall area is reached by the trail that runs along the foot of the crag left of the start of *High Ideals & Crazy Dreams*. Move left and up, hugging trees for 20 metres or so.

1 Proximity Infatuation 20m 21 ★

7 Good varied climbing on fantastic holds. From the tree, head up the slab using opposing side pulls. Rock straight through the bulge to easier ground. Tackle the small flake and move through to the anchor. Paul Rogers, April 2002

2 Safety in Numbers 15m 22 ★

8 Climb the steep slab past three bolts. Devious moves go slightly right to a hard sequence over the bulge. Climb straight through to the last bolt. Mark Sedon, April 2002

3 Retrosexual 2P 35m 23

7 First climbed on natural gear, this climb was retro-bolted by one of the first ascensionists in 2004. It makes an engaging, sporty outing. The biggest holds you'll ever fall off!
P1 18m (22) Starts as for *Safety in Numbers*. At the 3rd bolt, traverse right through edges and ledges. Mantle over to the anchor.
P2 15m (23) Bridge into the corner and then balance your way over to the arête. At the top of the arête, move right onto the slab and suck it up to finish.
 Don't swing around when back-cleaning or abseiling the route so that you don't cut your rope on the abrasive edges. It's happened before!
 Paul Rogers, Hugh Barnard 1993

The following climbs start off a large ledge which can be reached via either Proximity Infatuation or Safety in Numbers.

4 The Unknown 18m 23

8 From the belay of *Groove Armada*, hand traverse left, then mantle into the large corner. From the top of the corner move right and up. Steep laybacks lead to more moves right then up to a ledge and belay. Take some wires and small cams.
 Paul Rogers, Steve Walker, April 1993

The easiest way to get to a good belay for Groove Armada and Balancing Buddha is for the belayer to clip the first bolt of Balancing Buddha then traverse left to the first bolt of Groove Armada. Clip this, then lower to the belay ledge.

5 Groove Armada 29m 23 ★★

9 Fantastic climbing up a series of grooves, to the very top of the crag. Paul Rogers, Will McQueen, November 2002

6 Balancing Buddha 27 ★

8 Steep cranking through the roof then delicate face climbing above. Barn door hell!
 Jon Sedon, April 2002

7 Tardomania 20m 26

5 This open corner, roof and groove line was originally climbed at grade 20 with a couple of aid moves, but has since been freed with a direct start straight from the belay. Clip the bolts, but take wires and cams to #3. Equipper: Mark Sedon, April 2002; FA Derek Thatcher 2003

8 On the Prow 12m 24 ★★

5 This climb starts off the right-hand end of the ledge. Use a #0.5/0.75 cam to protect initial moves off the ledge. Climb the blunt prow through a small overlap moving left then up to the belay. Sustained and pumpy. Paul Rogers, Jon Sedon, November 2002

THE RIGHT SIDE

The next climbs are reached by heading straight into the bush at the head of the creek-bed, to a brown slab.

To reach the next three routes, head seven metres up *High Ideals and Crazy Dreams*, then traverse sharply left to two separate belay anchors. *The Vertically Challenged* anchor is higher and further left. These are great wet weather options.

9 Au Natural 18m 22 ★

8 The shallow corner and prow left of *Vertically Challenged*. Take small wires and cams to #2. This route requires good and quick runner placement.

Use the belay on *Vertically Challenged*.
 Hugh Barnard, Paul Rogers, 1993

10 Vertically Challenged 18m 25 ★

8 Straight up the wall moving right at the second bolt. Back left at the third, using a longer clip to protect moves over the roof. Up on good holds to the crux, ring bolt, then the headwall to finish.
 Kevin Nicholas, Paul Rogers, January 1995

11 Fridge Lifter 30m 27 ★

8 Don't put your back out!
 Derek Thatcher 2010

12 One Way Ticket 25m 24 ★★

9 Start as for the previous climb, then move left to the belay ledge where you will find a single bolt. Fantastic face climbing leads to the roof. Place a #1 cam in the horizontal break to protect the initial steep moves below the roof proper. Turn the roof and climb the dyke above to finish as for the previous route. Paul Rogers, Steve Walker, 1993

13 High Ideals and Crazy Dreams 2P 35m 22 ★★

2 This was the first climb completed at the crag, and it's well worth doing. Take wires and cams to #3.
P1 2B 15m (19) Climb the left-facing corner and then rock over on good holds to the right. Stack some good gear into the horizontal break. Steep moves up and left lead to a lay-away, follow this trending right to a small belay ledge at the bottom right of an obvious flake.
P2 2B 19m (22) Move left and crank the flake. Laybacks left lead to a dyke, which is climbed past two bolts to a belay bay. A 30 metre abseil will put you back on the ground.
 Paul Rogers, Steve Walker, 1993

14 Roaming Warrior 20m 25

7 Relatively easy climbing to the crux, then do a hard boulder problem involving minimal feet and big moves. Owen Davies 2012

WATERFALL LEDGE

The far right end of the crag is accessed from a short track at the left end of the hedge under the waterfall.

15 Piropiro 27m 26 ★

9 Starts off the left end of the ledge behind the hedgerow. Sally Carter, Aaron Ford, April 2004

16 Day Tripper 25m 24 ★★

5 A right-facing pink and white streaked corner offers steep technical climbing on perfect stone.

Start at the jutting block. Climb the slab past two bolts on good incuts then move left and up the slab to the corner. Climb the corner above to a good rest then up the steep wall to exit right.

Paul Rogers, Steve Walker, 1993

17 Doobious Tendencies 25m 27 ★

7 Weave through the scoop and over onto the ladder-like slab which will escalate you to the challenging top bit. Weasel your way through the edges to a climactic finish. Take 3–4 long quickdraws, as well as the usual short ones.

Ivan Vostinar, 2004

18 Stoned Immaculate 25m 23 ★

9 This is the first climb on the right. Up the steep wall past three bolts. A tricky rock-over move then leads you up and right into a left-facing corner. Steep cranky moves to finish up a slab.

Paul Rogers, Hugh Barnard, 1993

18 On the Perimeter 25m 23

4 Take some long runners, and small fingers.

Sally Carter, Aaron Ford, April 2004

The more intrepid among you may wish to explore a bit further down the valley, where you might find the ramparts of Castle Grayskull. Just one route there at the time of writing, but there could be room for more.



“Out here on the perimeter there are no stars. Out here we is *Stoned Immaculate*” (23). JOHN PALMER

BABYLON

The Babylon crag is most easily seen looking up the valley from Milford Sound. Look for an orange wall with a large waterfall cascading down its left-hand side. If approaching the crag from Homer Hut, pull over 1.7 kilometres past the bridge over the Donne where the verge allows.

The approach is marked at the point where you jump the ditch into the bush. Follow a steep and occasionally muddy track for 15 minutes to reach the right-hand end of the crag. Go left here or continue up and right to Little Babylon.

You're exposed to objects dropped from above as you approach the crag, so try not to hang around in the bush.

HISTORY

It took quite a while for development at Babylon to start in earnest, despite a number of early ventures by various parties. Bruce Dowrick and Gwilym Griffiths-Jones bolted *Birdsong* on lead in 2002 and made access to the surrounding walls possible. The old campaigners Bruce Dowrick and Jon Sedon ventured onto the steep and exciting walls between *Birdsong* and the obvious broken corner to produce *Twotogo*, *Dream Liberator* and *The Obvious Weakness*, while *Fading Grail* was bolted by Paul Rogers; all classic and sustained multi-pitch climbs.

The right-hand wall received a line of bolts which was eventually climbed by Derek Thatcher and dubbed *Fuel*. Late summer 2003 saw an explosion of activity by Derek on the featureless and slightly overhanging right-hand wall. The result was three of the hardest climbs New Zealand has to offer: *Requiem*, *Katalepsis* and *Rage*. Bruce completed the stunning three pitch route *Project Aqua*, then with Jon explored and bolted lines on the left-hand end of the wall. The results were *Leftism* and then, later in 2005, *Tufa Dub*. Some of Derek's projects on the right-hand wall remain for future generations, while *Nebuchadnezzar* was climbed by the German visitor Roland Hemetzberger, which at the time gave New Zealand its first grade 35 route.

CLIMBING NOTES

The diorite in this section of the valley is extremely rounded and weathered. Most of the cracks are fused, providing limited natural protection. Because of this, plus the extremely steep nature of the climbing, most of the routes have been bolted. A single rope will be more practical and reassuring, a second rope will come in handy for descents. Be careful – some cunning is required in descending from most routes.



 Tom Bauer on *Project Aqua* (24), Babylon.
JOHN PALMER

THE LEFT WALL

1 Leftism 70m 23 ★

5 In fine weather the afternoon breeze blows the waterfall across the first two pitches, so it's best to get onto this early. Take a rack. Access Pitch 15m (14) Begins up a black slab to an overhanging corner beneath steep rock – to the left of the bush and to the right of the waterfall. Head up the corner past three bolts to a scrubby left-trending ramp and the belay. **P1** 20m (18) Climb up and left past a bolt then up the clean wall on gear and past a bolt to a ledge under the roof.

P2 25m (22) Left to a bolt, up the crack placing wires, then on to the face past three bolts and into an obvious crack. Continue to a natural pro anchor in the corner behind the tōtara.

P3 10m (15) Continue up the crack.

P4 15m (23) Move left up the slab then up the corner past five bolts.

To descend from the top of *Leftism* abseil down and right for 20 metres to a DBB at the top of *Tufa Dub*, then 55 metres to the ground.

Bruce Dowrick, Jon Sedon, 2005

2 Surface Tension 30m 27 ★★

10 Begin at the belay of the second pitch of *Leftism*, directly up past ten bolts to the belay. To escape, climb across the slab past one bolt to the abseil at the top of *Leftism*. Bruce Dowrick, October 2005

The next two routes start at the belay on the ledge at the top of the access pitch.

3 Babbleon 25 ★

7 **P1** (23) Trend up and left 3 metres to a bolt. Head up past six more bolts to the small roof, then onwards to the anchor.

P2 (25) Continue up steep country to the anchor.

Bruce Dowrick, Troy Mattingley, September 2005

4 Tufa Dub 2P 50m 24 ★★

8 Possibly the best route on the cliff, but you'll have to climb it to find out.

P1 7B 25m (23) Straight up from the belay, following the line of bolts. Pumpy.

P2 8B 25m (24) More of the same fantastic climbing, including the famous tufa.

Jon Sedon, September 2005

From the top there is an easy scramble left past a bolt to the top of the third pitch of Leftism.

5 Epifright 4P 70m 26 ★

7 **P1** 16m (21). Start up *Tufa Dub* for three bolts then move right along the break past two bolts, before heading up to belay.

P2 15m (23). Climb the tree to the very top, placing cams and wires. Swing onto the rock and climb the roof crack!

P3 15m (20) Weave up face to belay on natural gear.

P4 25m (26) Fantastic face climbing up the buttress above, all the way to the top of the crag.

Bruce Dowrick, Jon Sedon, Sep 2006

6 Metallophyte

7 An open project. Throw the horns and have at it.

Equipped by James Morris and Derek Thatcher, 2009

7 The Groper 40m 24 ★

7 **P1** 12m (17). Start at the first bolt along the ledge. Move up on good holds to a small overlap. Trend left before stepping onto the ledge-end.

P2 28m (24). Traverse left up into the white corner, tackling the steep bulges on your way left. A no-hands rest awaits at half height before a devious top-out. Belay out right. Craig Jefferies, 2004

8 PSI 75m 25 ★★

7 **P1** 6B 12m (21) Move right from belay chain on solid holds to flake and overlap. Head right then straighten up on some slopers and hit the end of the ledge.

P2 26m (25) Climb directly up the overhanging groove.

P3 15m (23) Move left and up on massive holds through the roof then straight through the headwall.

P4 20m (26) Straight up to the crimping headwall.

Jon Sedon, Bruce Dowrick 2005

9 Whirling Dervish 29 ★

7 A variation to *Project Aqua*, starting at the second pitch of PSI. Equipped: Thomas Adamson; FA Derek Thatcher, 2007

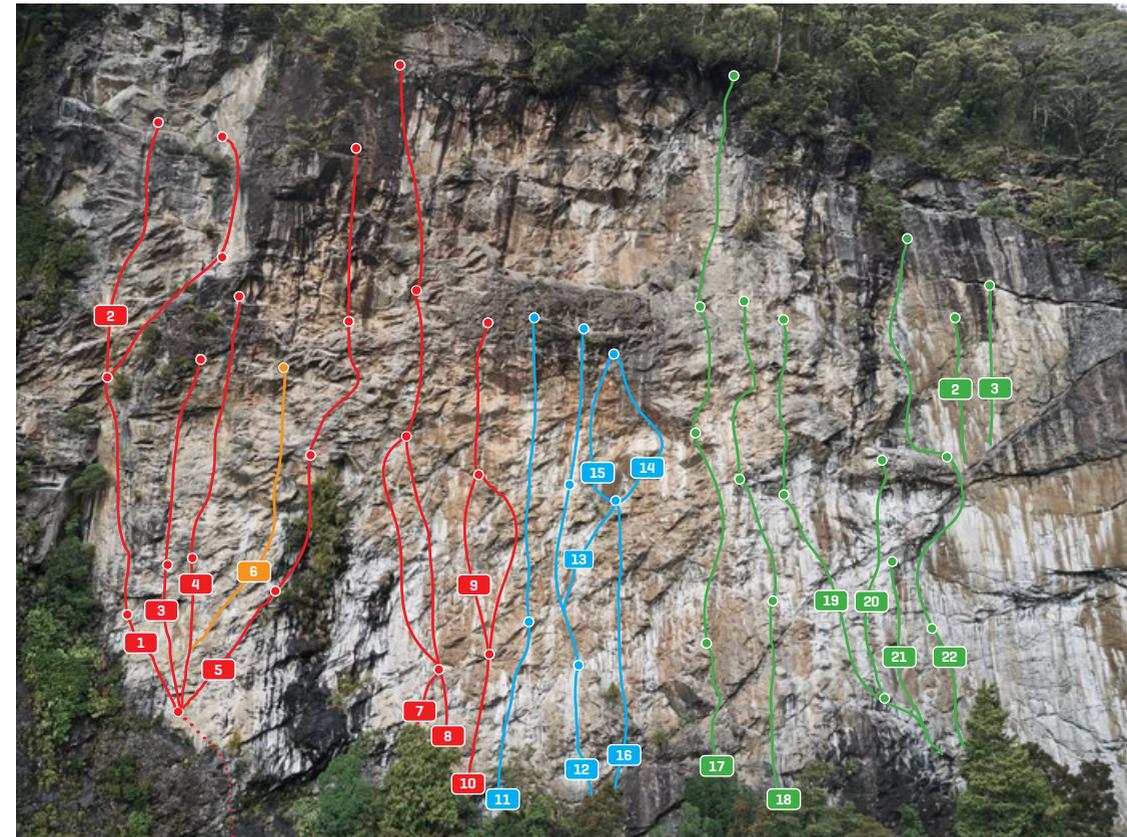
10 Project Aqua 60m 24 ★★

7 Start at the small right-facing corner/alcove 20 metres to the right of the cave, under the rimu.

P1 7B 20m (24) Up and right to a bolt then follow four more to the ledge.

P2 6B 20m (24) Tricky, then pumpy.

P3 5B 20m (24) More of the same, not that you'll mind. Abseil off. Bruce Dowrick, Lionel Clay, 2004

**11 Piopiotahi** 60m 28 ★★

9 A really good route up the middle of the left wall. **P1** 9B 28m (25) Execute some staunch moves down low to reach pleasant rambling to the anchor. **P2** 8B 30m (28) Sustained and powerful climbing straight up the guts. A beautiful pitch.

Bruce Dowrick, Jon Sedon, 2007

12 Nature's Melody 23 ★

7 Starts about ten metres left of *Birdsong*. **P1** (21) Starts on a ledge with a large hanging block above. A couple of cams protect moves up to the first bolt. Climb past the second bolt then traverse out left to the double bolt belay.

P2 (23) Straight up groove then pull through the overhang to belay.

P3 (27) Keep on heading up! **P1** & **P2**: Sally Carter, Aaron Ford, 2005; **P3**: Derek Thatcher, Mayan Smith-Gobat, 2007

13 The Right Groove 24

7 A variation to the second pitch of *Nature's Melody*. After clipping the third bolt of *Nature's Melody*, follow the right-trending groove on fat slopers to the belay. Sally Carter, Aaron Ford, 2005

14 Madāsura 30 ★

7 Starts from the *Method Acting* anchor. Two hard boulder problems on a short steep wall.

Derek Thatcher, 2011

15 Tigris 30 ★

7 Probably best climbed from the anchor of *Method Acting*. One hard boulder problem on your way up another steep wall. Derek Thatcher, 2007

16 Method Acting 24 ★

7 To the right of *Nature's Melody*. Could do with being re-routed to avoid the large block at the start. Equipped: Derek Thatcher; FA David Haylock, 2007



CORNER AREA

17 Birdsong 55m 26 ★

Take some extra wires for the first pitch.

P1 25m (19) Starting beneath the prominent rata tree, climb the initial bulge onto the slab then up the corner system left of the buttress.

P2 15m (23) From belay, climb past three bolts, then over the bulge. Quick moves will see you to the top.

P3 25m (26)

P4 30m (22) Follow the bolts up the initial corner to the hand traverse right and then up the buttress trending back left to the ramp under the big roof. Chin up into a huge rata tree at the very top of the crag and belay. Easiest to walk off. It's a short walk from here to Little Babylon, too. Bruce Dowrick, Gwilym Griffiths-Jones, Richard Brailey, Swenja Stellfeld, 2002

18 Twotogo 60m 25 ★

Take some extra wires for the first pitch.

P1 22m (21). Starting from the slab right of *Birdsong*, move up face past 4 bolts to the top end of the large left-tending crack; clip the bolt over the bulge before cranking to the belay.

P2 20m (25) Continue straight up to below the roof and then move left and up a steep corner on good holds.

P3 16m (23) A devious move right after the second bolt then up through the corner. Bruce Dowrick, Swenja Stellfeld, January 2003

19 Dream Liberator 45m 24 ★

P1 3B 16m (18) Starting on the slabs below the main corner system tend up and left to single bolt and belay. Take care of falling onto the sloping ramps.

P2 6B 16m (22) Move up past two bolts to overlap. Pull through the overlap, then tend left into a small alcove below the roof section.

P3 6B 12m (24) Powerful moves on good holds through the overhanging corner lead to steep face climbing and belay out to the right. Watch for loose rock. Murray Ball, Paul Rogers, April 2003

20 Fading Grail 47m 25

P1 15m (16) Starts on the slabs below the main corner.

P2 32m (25) Straight up the steepening wall before a short slabby move leads to a dyno finish.

P1: Paul Rogers, Jon Sedon, May 2003; **P2:** Rowan Druce, 2005

21 Monsoon 19 ★

Starting on the slab below the main corner, climb a slab past three bolts to a small overlap. Cut loose through the overlaps, then head directly up to the top. Craig Jefferies, Jon Sedon, January 2006

22 The Obvious Weakness 36m 26 ★

P1 8B 18m (17) Directly off the ledge, just left of the corner.

P2 7B 18m (26). Right-tending diagonal corner and roof; big holds and pumpy. A 35 metre abseil to the ground. Bruce Dowrick, 2004

There are three routes on the upper triangular wall. Get there by climbing The Obvious Weakness or abseiling from a point on the access track to Little Babylon (just before you climb the bare white rock with fixed rope).

THE RIGHT WALL

1 The Fire Escape 25m 21

From belay at the top of *The Obvious Weakness* scramble left to continuation of the corner above. Bolted. Bruce Dowrick, Jon Sedon, September 2005

2 Fire 27 ★

Climbs the middle of the triangular upper wall above the big corner between the walls. Hard, technical moves right off the sloping ramp, so make sure your belayer is in a position to give a soft catch. First climbed at grade 25, a crucial hold has since fallen off. The route is now quite a bit harder and with big fall potential. Could do with rebolting. Equipper: Tom Hoyle; FA Derek Thatcher, 2005

3 Smoke 28 ★★

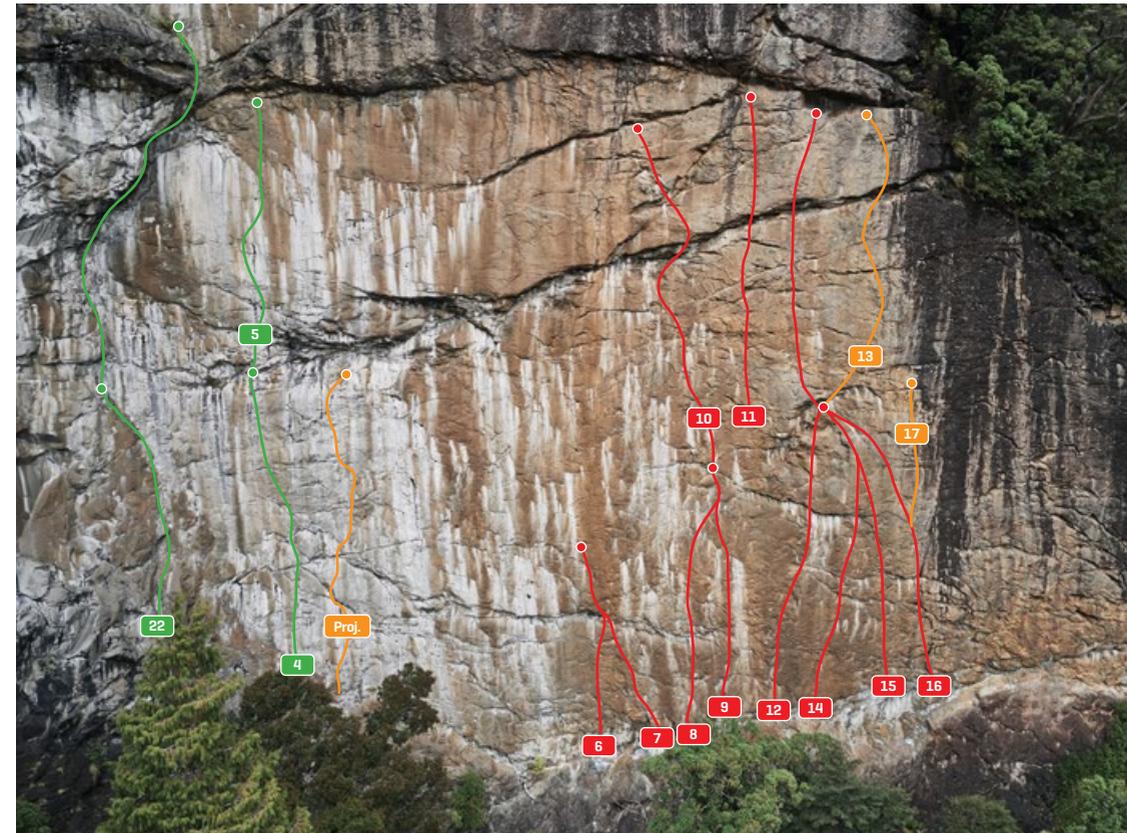
To the right of Fire. Relentlessly technical climbing at the top of a big blank wall. Jon Sedon, 2005

4 Euphrates 20m 29 ★

An accessible entry point to climbing on the right-hand wall, relatively speaking. Brilliant technical climbing on relatively good holds leads to a crux right where it hurts. Belay from the ramp as for *The Obvious Weakness*. Equipper: Bruce Dowrick; FA Mayan Smith-Gobat, 2008

5 Pegasus 18m

An open project. The pitch above *Euphrates*. A blank-looking wall, easier if you can fly. Equipped by Derek Thatcher, 2008



6 The Random Element 6B 15m 28 ★

A few difficult moves bring you to the weakness, which can be followed right via a weird sequence on bad feet to join the crux of *The Whore of Babylon*. Derek Thatcher, 2012

7 The Whore of Babylon 16m 27 ★

Start at the base of the big orange streak and head diagonally left to a big jug. Committing moves lead to a break then up to a crux finish. Great friction moves. Jonathon Clearwater, Derek Thatcher, 2004

8 Nebuchadnezzar 25m 34 ★★

Briefly New Zealand's first 9a, bolted by Derek Thatcher and eventually climbed by visiting German Roland Hemetzberger. An intricate and delicate sequence leads to an anchor at the break. Could be climbed into *Rage* or *Sinanthropus* for a very hard extension link. Equipper: Derek Thatcher; FA Roland Hemetzberger 2016

9 Red Dawn 25m

An open project. Belay at the rata tree. Straight up easily, then full-bore the whole way after that. Likely to be a grade harder than *Nebuchadnezzar*. Equipped by Derek Thatcher, 2000s

10 Rage 18m 30 ★★

Start from the *Nebuchadnezzar* anchor. A high step and then some. From the rest at the break go rightwards to the bolt, then left through one more hard section. Unrepeated. Derek Thatcher, 2004

11 Sinanthropus 18m 28

Move straight up from belay. Think about your position and pay attention when belaying, as there is big whipper potential. Derek Thatcher, 2004



12 Fuel 2P 40m 29 **

P1 24m (29) Move up and right from the rata tree. Pull through a series of left-hand underclings and sidepulls.

P2 16m (26) Interesting moves after the first bolt, leading up and left. Some natural gear (#1–3 cams) can be placed between the second and third bolts.

Pitch 1 equipper: Bruce Dowrick; FA Derek Thatcher, 2003

13 Darius 20m

7 An open project. Go right from the *Fuel* anchor and weave your way up the wall to a desperate finish. Equipped by Mayan Smith-Gobat, 2003

14 Hammurabi 24m 32

6 Starting from just right of *Fuel*, then finishing with the last two bolts of *Katalepsis*. Derek Thatcher, 2005

15 Katalepsis 20m 32 **

7 Build an anchor for the belay out right by a small tree. Seven hard underclings in a row require a firm grasp for success.

Derek Thatcher, 2003

16 Requiem 26m 31

6 Hard moves off the deck lead inexorably up. Eventually the line heads left following some occasional holds to the *Fuel* belay.

Derek Thatcher, 2003

17 9b MF 25m 37-ish

6 Start up *Requiem* and go straight up to the anchor. Could easily be grade 37.

Equipped by Derek Thatcher, 2005



📷 Josh Cornah deposes *Nebuchadnezzar* (34), King of Babylonia.
TOM HOYLE



📷 Jean Jack on the deservedly popular *Moses*. (27). TOM HOYLE

LITTLE BABYLON

The most popular sport crag in the Darrans, thanks to the steep-but-friendly climbing, the immaculate rock, and the fact that the crag stays mostly dry in all but the nastiest weather.

Jon Sedon, Max Farr, and Thomas Adamson put up the very first routes here, closely followed by Bruce Dowrick and Derek Thatcher. To get there, start by following the track to Babylon. At the point where the track heads left just as you reach Babylon, continue up and right and keep climbing through the bush for another 20 minutes. You'll emerge more-or-less at the middle of the crag, pretty much under *Bish Bosh Bash*. You'll see a waterfall to your left, from which you can usually gather water.

CLIMBING NOTES

This is as modern as crags get in the Darrans. A big pile of quickdraws and a 60 metre rope will see you right.

To minimise impact at Little Babylon, please:

- Don't pee within the drip-line at the base of the crag. Head into the bush instead.
- Take your rubbish and your other gear with you when you leave.
- Avoid excavation or destruction of vegetation around the base of the crags, and keep to the formed tracks. The bush here is slowly regenerating.

The first two routes are on the far left side of the crag, just past the waterfall.

1 Ulysses 24 ★
 8 📍 The leftmost route. Left of *Dionysus*.
 Owen Davies, February 2013

2 Dionysus 26 ★
 7 📍 Traverse in from the left and climb the immaculate rock behind the waterfall.
 Equipper: David Bunn; FA Zdenek Racuk, 2007

3 Weta-cide 23
 7 📍 P1 20m (23) A mixture of bolts and gear, starts near

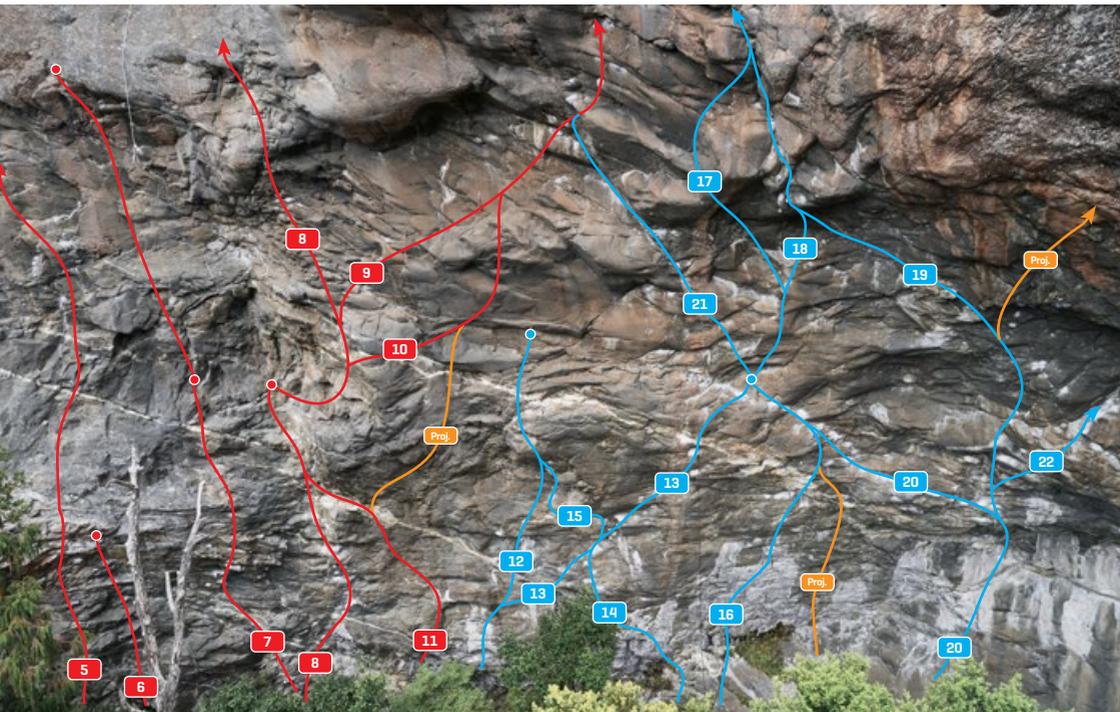
the waterfall and traverses up and right towards a broken corner. The first route completed at the crag, was established in order to gain access to the large belay cave above.
 P2 13m (16) Climbs the vegetated corner using natural protection. Jon Sedon, Max Farr, 2007

4 Red Bull [aka Little Lucifer] 2P 20m 25

5 📍 P1 4B 10m (25) A short and crimpy pitch on the red wall at the left end of the crag.
P2 5B 10m (23) Can be climbed as an extension to the first pitch. Fun climbing, but without the immaculate rock of the rest of the crag.
 Troy Mattingley, Thomas Adamson, Jon Sedon, 2007



📷 Lans Hansen on the three star *Xerxes* (30). TOM HOYLE



5 Solitude 25m 25 ★★

10 🧗 Climb the short overhang to a good stance and then the long, aesthetic face to the upper cave. Probably the best way to access the climbs in the upper cave. Brooke Sandahl, Bruce Dowrick, 2007

6 Multitude 9m 21

5 🧗 An intricate sequence leads to a hard last move to the jug on the lip. Erin Stewart, 2014

7 Bish Bosh Bash 2P 22m 27

5 🧗 P1 4B 12m (23) Cruxy climbing on the short steep wall leads to a single bolt anchor above the ledge. A popular warm-up, shares the first bolt of *Rua Tahi*. P2 5B 10m (27) Best climbed as an extension from the ground, rather than a second pitch. Rest up after the lower section of climbing then charge up the face to a hard last move. Clipping the anchor is desperate but at least the anchor is the drop-in type. P1: Al Ritchie, 2007. Extension: Derek Thatcher, 2008

8 Rua Tahi 2P 24m 25 ★★

5 🧗 P1 5B 12m (23) The most common warm-up, this route offers excellent flowy climbing on big holds with a distinct crux.

📷 Sybille Baldenhofer on Solitude (25). TOM HOYLE

P2 5B 12m (25) As for *Bish Bosh Bash*, this is best climbed as an extension rather than a second pitch. You will need to unclip from the anchor of the first section to avoid excessive rope drag. Go hard right, then wander up ledges to a hard bulge with a long reach. Not as popular as the bottom section.

Jon Sedon, Max Farr, 2007

9 Traverse of the Titans 30m 27 ★★

12 🧗 Climb the first pitch of *Rua Tahi* and then head off rightwards up the hanging slab to join the top of *Tantalus*.

Derek Thatcher, 2013

10 Traverse of the Gods 30m 28

11 🧗 A harder version of *Traverse of the Titans*. After the first pitch of *Rua Tahi*, climb the hard boulder problem at the top of *Odysseus*. Derek Thatcher, 2013

11 Here Come the Romans 30 ★

6 🧗 Start just to the left of *Xerxes* and finish up on the last bolt of *Rua Tahi*. Hard starting 3 bolts and then a very cool section of edges.

Josh Cornah, 2021



12 Odysseus 18m 33 ★★

8 🧗 One of the original bolted lines, but it took a while to get climbed. Start by the small tree with intricate climbing to head up and slightly right. A desperate boulder problem through the obvious undercling leads to easier climbing above.

Equipped by Jon Sedon. FA Josh Cornah, 2020

13 Xerxes 20m 30 ★★

9 🧗 Climbs the diagonal line from the bottom of *Odysseus* into the top of *No Country For Old Men*. Bring your power endurance. Deservedly popular.

Derek Thatcher, 2008

14 No Country For Old Men 20m 29 ★★

9 🧗 A New Zealand classic at the grade. Start at the very left end of the slab and climb left and then up through a fingery crux on immaculate sloping edges. Power endurance to the top.

Bruce Dowrick, 2009

15 Hey Zeus 18m 29 ★

8 🧗 Start as for *No Country for Old Men*, then cross into the top of *Odysseus*. Big spans! Jon Sedon, 2008

16 Hercules 18m 29 ★★

8 🧗 Powerful climbing on big holds.

Matt Evrard, 2008

17 Tigerblood 30m 33 ★

15 🧗 Climb *Hercules* and rest, then go up the headwall through bulges to the left of *Xena*.

Derek Thatcher, 2013

18 Xena 30m 33 ★★

14 🧗 Climb *Hercules* then straight up through the big roof.

Equipped by Derek Thatcher. FA Chris Muench, 2008

19 Blood of Olympus 30m 35 ★★

12 🧗 One of the first lines bolted. Start up *International Turkey Patrol* to a very hard boulder and dyno, then do the crux of *Xena*.

Equippers: Aaron & Sally Ford; FA Josh Cornah, 2017

20 International Turkey Patrol 18m 25 ★

7 🧗 Excellent fun climbing on friendly holds. Start 10 metres to the right of *Hercules*. Climb the slab to a bolt where the wall gets steep (this is best unclipped after the second bolt has been reached), then head straight up the steep weakness until a line of bolts lures you out on a pumpy traverse left all the way to the anchor of *Hercules*.

Equiper Tom Hoyle; FA Thomas Adamson 2007

21 Tantalus 35m 28

12 🧗 An extension of *International Turkey Patrol*, and an epic voyage. After a shake at the *ITP* anchor, continue left and up following the vague corner/ramp feature to double bolt belay by some jugs.

There is even an extension to this extension, which hasn't been climbed yet.

Thomas Adamson, 2008

22 Fly My Pretties 18m 25

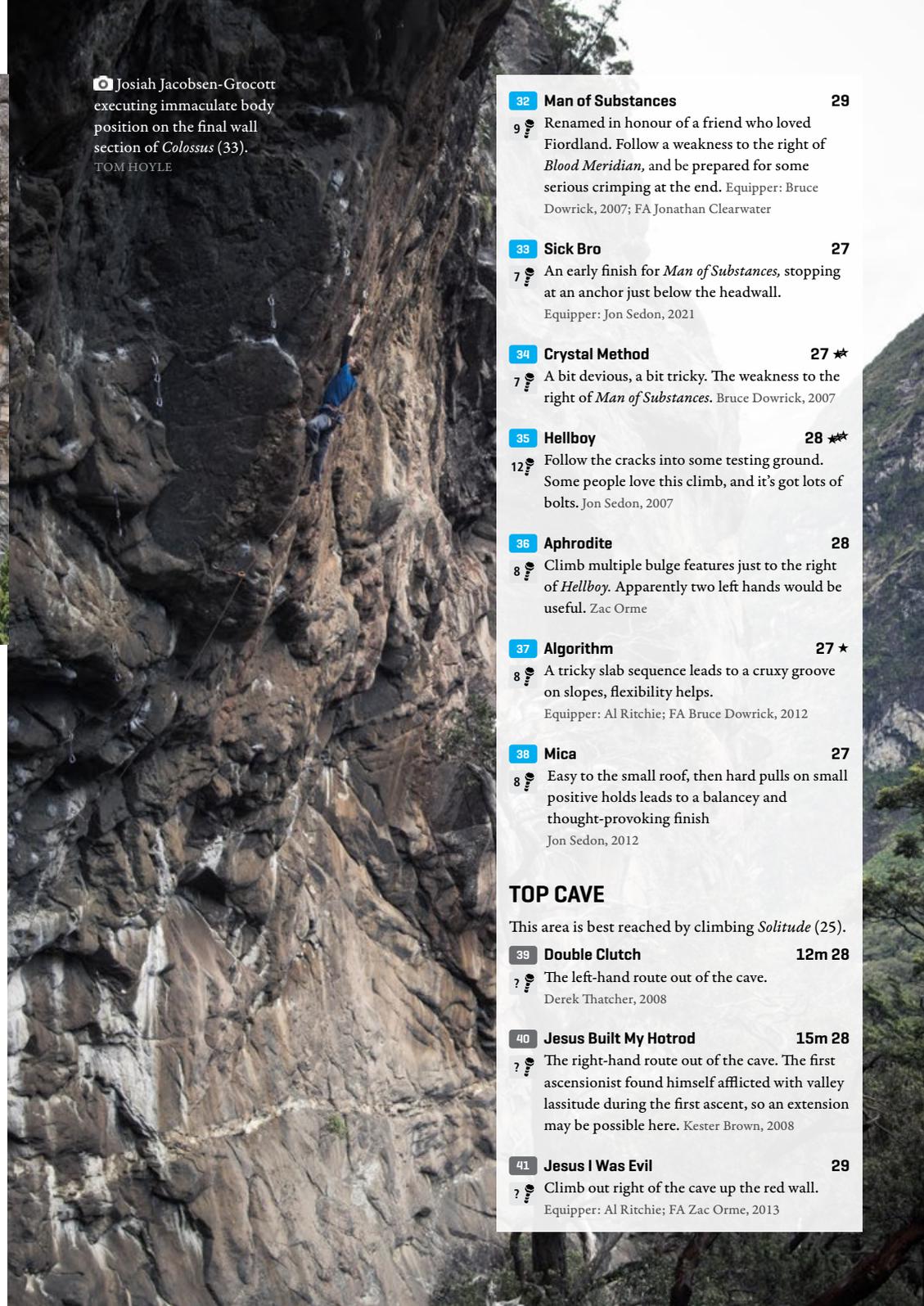
6 🧗 Start up *International Turkey Patrol* and link into *Jugular*.

Kester Brown, 2008





📷 Josiah Jacobsen-Grocott executing immaculate body position on the final wall section of *Colossus* (33).
TOM HOYLE



- 23 Jugular** 18m 26 ★★
10👤 Up the jugs to a single ring. Probably better to finish at the *Moses* anchor.
Thomas Adamson, 2007
- 24 Moses** 20m 27 ★★
10👤 A super popular route. Climb up to the little hollow and then head left following underclings.
Jon Sedon, 2007.
- 25 New Testament** 6m 34 ★★
👤 Extends *Moses* with a tricky boulder problem.
Josh Cornah, 2021
- 26 Prowess** 28m 29 ★
12👤 Start up *Moses*. After resting at the big jugs, traverse right and then climb the prow to the top anchor.
Equipper: Thomas Adamson; FA Mayan Smith Gobat, 2008
- 27 The Giving Tree** 25m 31 ★
14👤 Follow a truckload of bolts up the slab, then through steep terrain to finish up the prow at the *Prowess* anchor. Equipper: Max Farr & Thomas Adamson; FA Mayan Smith Gobat, 2008

- 28 Colossus** 25m 33 ★★
10👤 Excellent steep climbing for 17m, then through the roof and up the prow below and to the right of the upper section of *The Giving Tree*. Hard compression moves that may well make your biceps explode!
Derek Thatcher, 2008
 - 29 Cyrus the Great** 25m 30 ★★
9👤 A brilliant climb. Shares the first 17m of *Colossus* then tackles the large mammary feature to the right. Equipper: Thomas Adamson 2007; FA Derek Thatcher 2007
 - 30 Cyrus the Virus** 30m 32 ★
11👤 Climb *Cyrus the Great*, clip the anchor and then do a crimpy V10 boulder problem past two more bolts.
Derek Thatcher, 2009
- The following routes are all on the section of cliff to the right of the big overhang.*
- 31 Blood Meridian** 25m 32 ★
10👤 Make some weird slab moves, then head through the overlaps. Don't forget to save some energy for clipping the bolts. Derek Thatcher, 2009

- 32 Man of Substances** 29
9👤 Renamed in honour of a friend who loved Fiordland. Follow a weakness to the right of *Blood Meridian*, and be prepared for some serious crimping at the end. Equipper: Bruce Dowrick, 2007; FA Jonathan Clearwater
- 33 Sick Bro** 27
7👤 An early finish for *Man of Substances*, stopping at an anchor just below the headwall.
Equipper: Jon Sedon, 2021
- 34 Crystal Method** 27 ★
7👤 A bit devious, a bit tricky. The weakness to the right of *Man of Substances*. Bruce Dowrick, 2007
- 35 Hellboy** 28 ★★
12👤 Follow the cracks into some testing ground. Some people love this climb, and it's got lots of bolts. Jon Sedon, 2007
- 36 Aphrodite** 28
8👤 Climb multiple bulge features just to the right of *Hellboy*. Apparently two left hands would be useful. Zac Orme
- 37 Algorithm** 27 ★
8👤 A tricky slab sequence leads to a cruxy groove on slopes, flexibility helps.
Equipper: Al Ritchie; FA Bruce Dowrick, 2012
- 38 Mica** 27
8👤 Easy to the small roof, then hard pulls on small positive holds leads to a balance and thought-provoking finish
Jon Sedon, 2012

TOP CAVE

This area is best reached by climbing *Solitude* (25).

- 39 Double Clutch** 12m 28
?👤 The left-hand route out of the cave.
Derek Thatcher, 2008
- 40 Jesus Built My Hotrod** 15m 28
?👤 The right-hand route out of the cave. The first ascensionist found himself afflicted with valley lassitude during the first ascent, so an extension may be possible here. Kester Brown, 2008
- 41 Jesus I Was Evil** 29
?👤 Climb out right of the cave up the red wall.
Equipper: Al Ritchie; FA Zac Orme, 2013