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Banks Peninsula
Climbing



Diamond Harbour Crag

Tony Burnell Rev. A (2023)

Banks Peninsula, Diamond Harbour Crag:2023



Thanks to **Conor Boyd IT** for creating & hosting the website (www.porthillsclimbing.nz).



Thanks also to **Aspiring Safety Limited** for their continued support, get along & see them for all your climbing needs

General

This guide is based on information produced & provided by James Geddes & Asher March & is reproduced with their kind permission. The Banks Peninsula Crags are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants, do not cut down any native trees or shrubs. Inclusion of any climbing area or climb in this guidebook does not mean that there is any R of public access.

The cliff is within Stoddart Point Recreation Reserve and accessed via the cliff top walking track. The area was developed by James Geddes & Asher March in consultation with the Christchurch City Council. This is a newly developed, east facing beginner's crag with climbs in the 10 to 19 range, there were at least two climbs here prior to this development but the origins are unknown. Climbs are still somewhat dirty & lichenous so having a brush, & using it, would really help clean the lines. The first bolt on these climbs is quite high & climbers are advised to use a clip stick, some of the grades shown on ClimbNZ have been changed after climbing them on-sight. The crag is sheltered from most winds other than the easterly, there is very little run off after rain & therefore dries quickly.

Note there is evidence of minor earthquake damage so climbers should take care.

Climbing Notes

Climbing is Dangerous - By choosing to climb at this crag you must accept responsibility for your own personal safety, you must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment. Neither the first ascensionists nor, the author accept any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment which is now around 30 years old. At this crag trad climbing skills & the ability to construct & equalise your anchors is essential. Respect the existing climbs, do not add bolts, when doing new climbs make sure you know where the existing lines are before getting your drill out. Routes are described from Left to Right. The route identifier at the bottom of each climb shown on the topos is normally that of the earliest recorded route.

As far as possible all known routes have been included in this guide. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos. The climbs are all short therefore route lengths are not shown. Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them, check your placements & wear a helmet. It is a good idea to take a brush & clean the routes, it will be appreciated by the next visitor to the crag.

Routes are described L to R at the crag.

- Tracks are marked in
- Sport routes are marked in
- Variations are marked in
- Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in
- Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in



The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

- Sp - Denotes Sport Route.
- Tr - Denotes Trad Route.
- Mp - Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad).

- R & L - Denote R & L.
- DBA - Denotes anchor station/lower off point.
- #Br - Denotes the number of bolt or chain links

Grading

The 'Ewbank Grading System' is not the best grading system when applied to mixed pro or 'boldly' bolted routes as it provides little in the way of information & are normally accepted as just the technical difficulty of a particular climb, it can be tricky to use these grading systems when trying to assess the actual seriousness of any climb.

NZ	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
American	5.8-	5.8	5.9	5.10a	5.10b	5.10b	5.10c	5.11a	5.11b	5.11c	5.12a	5.12b
Euro	4c	5a	5b	5c	6a	6a+	6b	6b+	6c	7a	7a+	7b

The grades given here assume that the climber is climbing on-sight & placing gear on lead.

In this guide you will see a suffix to the grades (S1 - S3) this is to provide the climber with additional information on

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the overall seriousness of the climb.

- S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection & a low risk of injury from a fall.
- S2 - Reasonable protection, but a fall could result in injury.
- S3 - Protection is marginal or non-existent & a fall could result in serious injury.

Climbers should remember that this additional suffix to the grade is my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can fail & any fall can result in injury.

Access & Restrictions

Permission is not required to access this crag. For driving directions to the parking use the GPS coordinates below.

This crag was developed in consultation with Christchurch City Council; no further route development or vegetation removal is to take place without express permission.

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking Area	-43.63021, 172.74287	-	-	<u>Permission is not required for this crag.</u>
Crag	-43.62896, 172.74268	300mts	10 min	<u>Dogs should be on a lead.</u> <u>No further route development permitted.</u>



There is limited parking on Purau Ave, & it can be dangerous with the constant flow of traffic along the road, the better option is park by the Diamond Harbour Croquet Club (shown below as alternative access), there is ample parking here & it is a pleasant walk along the Clifftop Track to the crag (approx. 750mts).

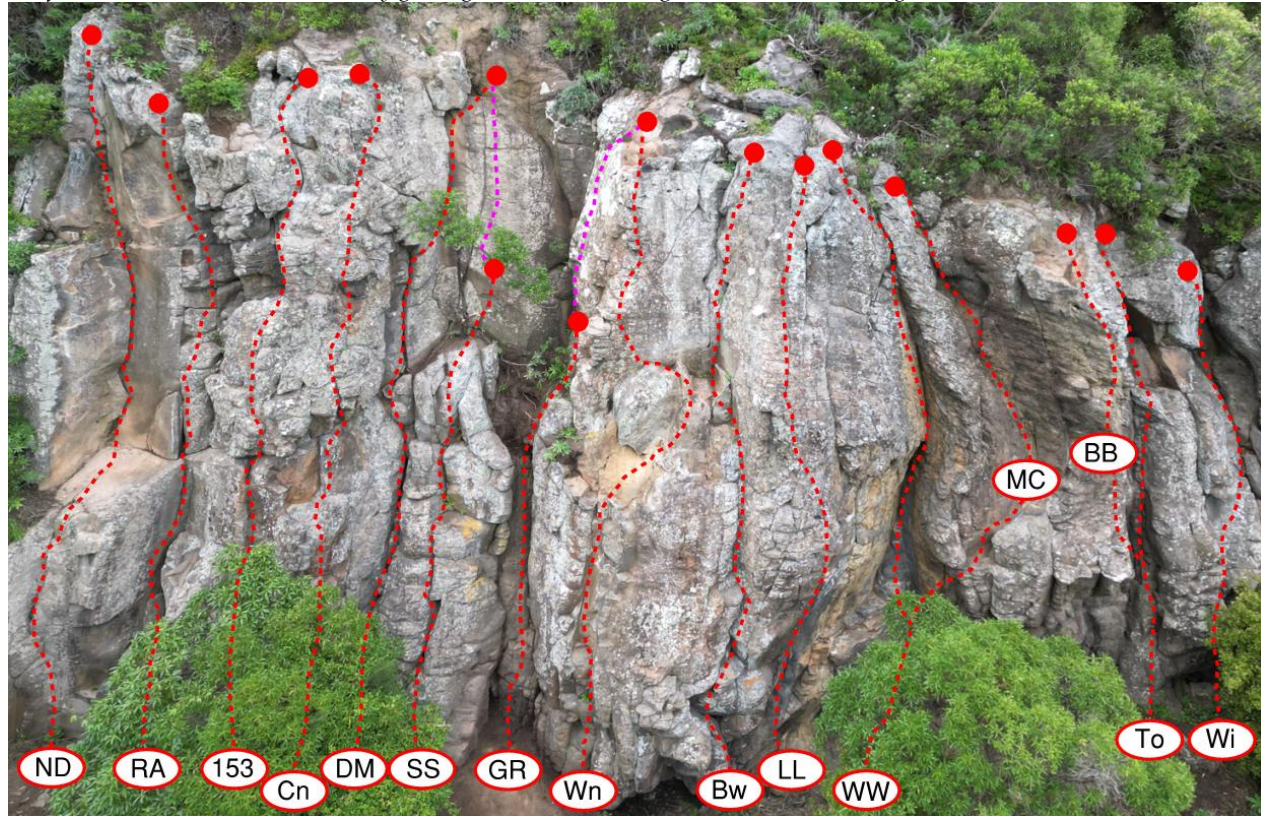
There is a short scramble up to the crag with two fixed handlines.



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Climbing

The first climb (North Doodle) starts by gaining the cleaned-out ledge two metres above the ground.



ND North Doodle 14 S1 Sp 5Br James Geddes, Asher March
At the south end of the cliff, start in the first groove (somewhat green) to get to a large ledge, follow the corner crack to DBA.

RA Rarified Atmosphere 14 S1 Sp 5Br James Geddes, Asher March
Start in the second groove just down & R of the large ledge, climb the leaning corner & widening chimney crack, exit L to DBA.

153 153 Feet 15 S2 Sp 5Br James Geddes, Asher March
Bouldery start up a short, capped corner, step R at mid height & weave your way up the head wall to a DBA on the R.

Cn Constant 17 S1 Sp 5Br James Geddes, Asher March
Climb the steeper wall to a ledge, exit direct & climb the head wall to 'DBA'.

DM Dr March 14 S1 Sp 6Br James Geddes, Asher March
Climb the R leaning groove & cracks up to the L of a small Ngaio tree, follow the natural line lay-backing at to exit out R to the DBA.

SS Short but Sturdy 11 S1 Sp 4Br James Geddes, Asher March
Climb the face L of the open chimney direct to the Ngaio tree & DBA, as an alternative finish climb the centre of the rear wall direct to the DBA of 'DM'.

GR Gastrointestinal Rumbles 11 S1 Sp 3Br James Geddes, Asher March
Up the open chimney to the midway ledge & 'DBA'. Alternative finish up the L side of the rib to join 'Wn' near the top, use DBA on 'Wn'.

Wn Wanderer 13 S1 Sp 5Br James Geddes, Asher March
Up blocky terrain to a ledge system, move R over a large block then back L & up the arete to DBA.

To the climbers R is a jumble of blocks on the ground 'Bw' starts off the L end of these blocks.

Bw Bowman 15 S1 Sp 7Br James Geddes, Asher March
Start just Rt of arête, a bouldery start up bulges to a good stance, follow the weakness in to the final corner, exit up the slabby R wall to DBA.

LL London Lassitude 21 S2 Sp 4Br James Geddes, Asher March
Climbing straight up the wall to Br1 is harder than the grade shown on ClimbNZ as this is how I climbed it I have changed the grade, there may have been some rocks come off here. If climbed from the L of the Br1 i.e., laying off the rib out L then it would be about 19. Straight up the steep wall to Br1, dynamic moves from the big jug gets you onto the balancy wall with vague parallel lines, follow these to DBA.

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WW	Wharton's Warple	18	S2	Sp	5Br	<i>James Geddes, Asher March</i>
Climb the L curving corner feature which starts as a chimney & ends as a crack, DBA at the top.						
MC	Medicinal Champagne	16	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>James Geddes, Asher March</i>
Start as for 'WW' but move R into the large scoop, follow around L in the scoop to the DBA on 'WW'.						
BB	Binders Butter Beans	19	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>James Geddes, Asher March</i>
Start as for 'To' but move L into the large scoop & follow the steep rib to DBA.						
To	Totter	12	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>James Geddes, Asher March</i>
Start in chimney & follow the weakness on the R of the arete formed by the large scoop, DBA at the top.						
Wi	Wish	15	S1	Sp	3Br	<i>James Geddes, Asher March</i>
Start in the cave & jam your way to the ramp then follow the crack system to a DBA						