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**Banks Peninsula
Climbing**

Holmes Bay
Tony Burnell
Rev. A (2023)



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



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

General

The Banks Peninsula Crag 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.

Holmes Bay Crag is not very tall but comprises good quality rock. The crag faces south and can be cold & damp, more so in winter. The initial development here was by Murray Cullen in 1990 who started with 13 climbs, Pete Cleary added a couple followed by Joe Arts in 1991 & 1994. Alan Hill & his team visited in 1994,1998 & again in 2004 adding several climbs. The grades at the crag were pretty stiff & were revised in by Lindsay Main & Tim Wethey in their 2004 edition of South Island Rock, despite the revisions grades still seem a little stiff.

Climbing Notes

Climbing is Dangerous - By choosing to climb at these crags 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.

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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

YELLOW

RED

PINK

GREEN

WHITE

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.

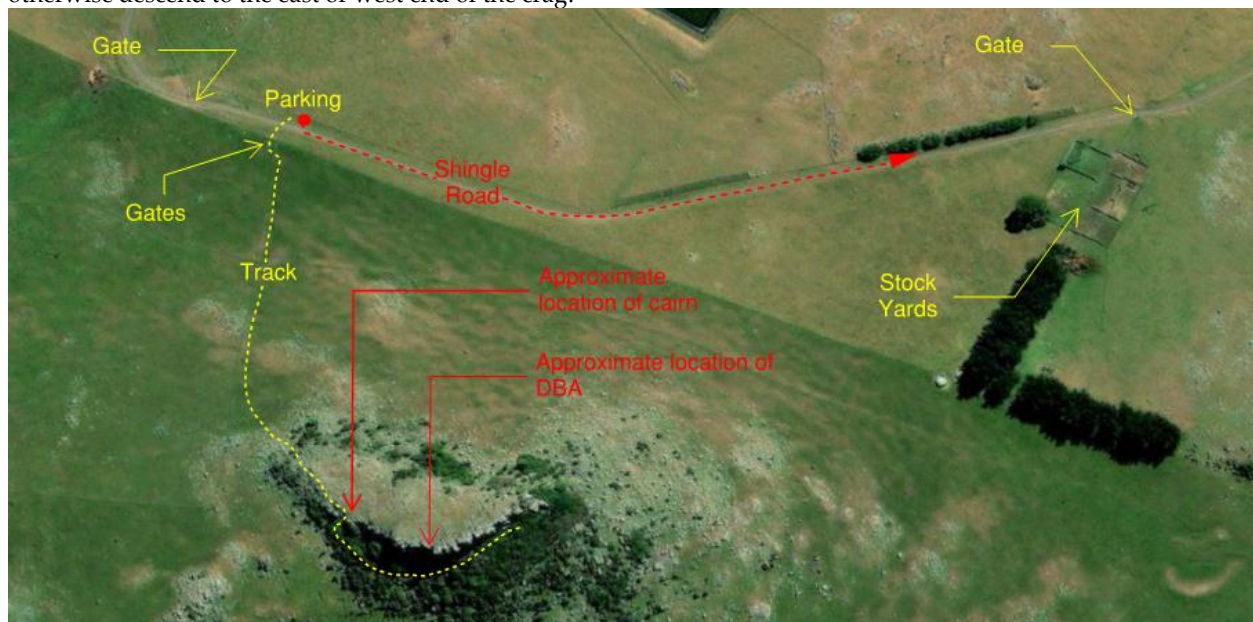
Access & Restrictions

Permission is required to access this crag; for access contact the owner Andy Richardson (Tel: 033046822). Unless you have permission to climb you cannot access this crag.

For driving directions to the parking use the GPS coordinates below.

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking Area	-43.657979, 172.869962	-	-	<u>Permission is required to go to this crag</u>
Crag	-43.659881, 172.870665	250mts	10 min	<u>Dogs are not permitted</u> <u>Closed for lambing from Aug to Oct</u>

The crag located just off Double Bay, as you approach along Little Pigeon Bay Rd bear L at the fork. Go through the gate across the road by the stockyard & park about 250mts past them at a gate on the L, go through this gate & immediately L through a second gate. The rise to your south with some bush on top marks the summit of the crag, follow the fence-line to the saddle then turn L uphill following the top of the crag uphill towards the summit, a small cairn marks the top of the descent scramble. There is DBA at the top of 'The Hump Lump' which can be set up as a rap point for the day, otherwise descend to the east or west end of the crag.



Climbing

There is, reportedly, a bolt protected route on the right side of the crag, I failed to find it.

The first climbs are at the left side of the crag, on the climbers R of the descent scramble.

BT Because it's There 10 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Not Shown on Topo Just R of the descent scramble when facing the crag, climbs a series of blocks with cracks choked with vegetation.

The next 2 climbs have a common start off a ledge 2mts up behind a native bush is, they are dirty & vegetated.

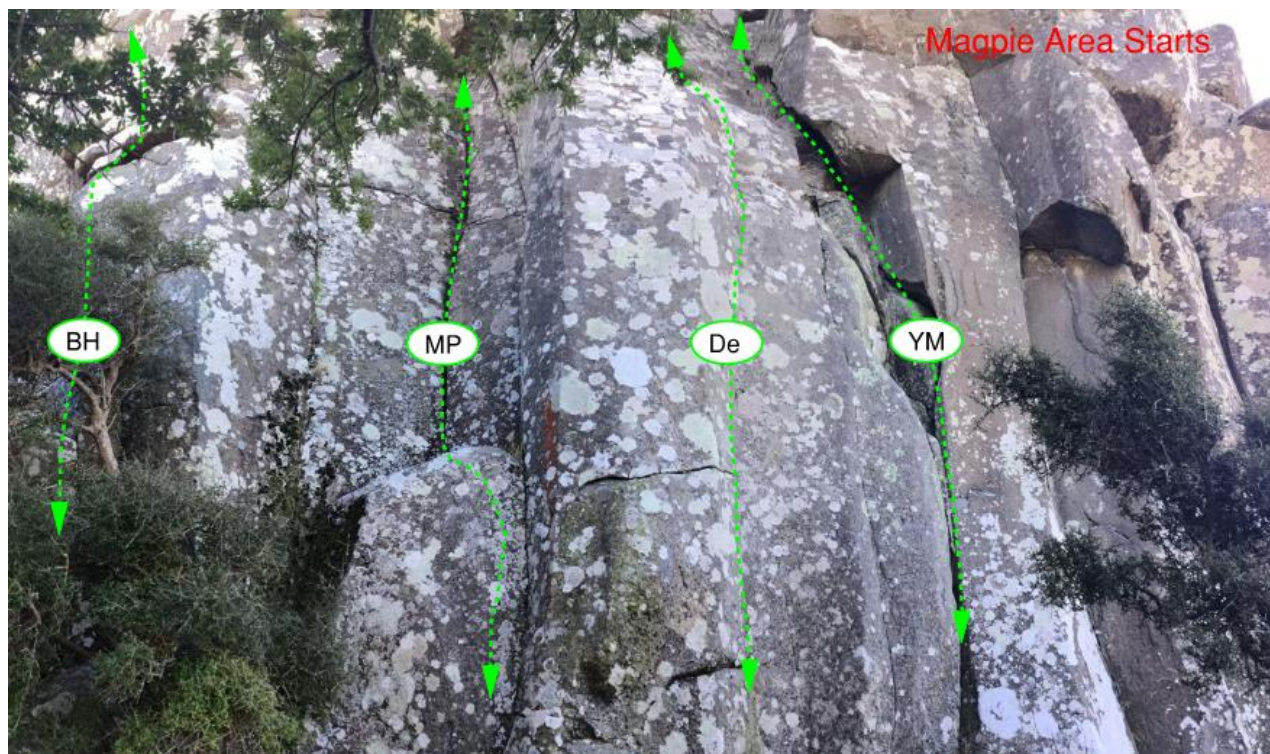
GC Guilty Conscience 13 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Not Shown on Topo. Climbs the 'V' groove that goes L from the ledge behind the native bush+

Bh Blockhead 12 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Head R from the ledge going up the L side of a pillar with some loose of blocks.

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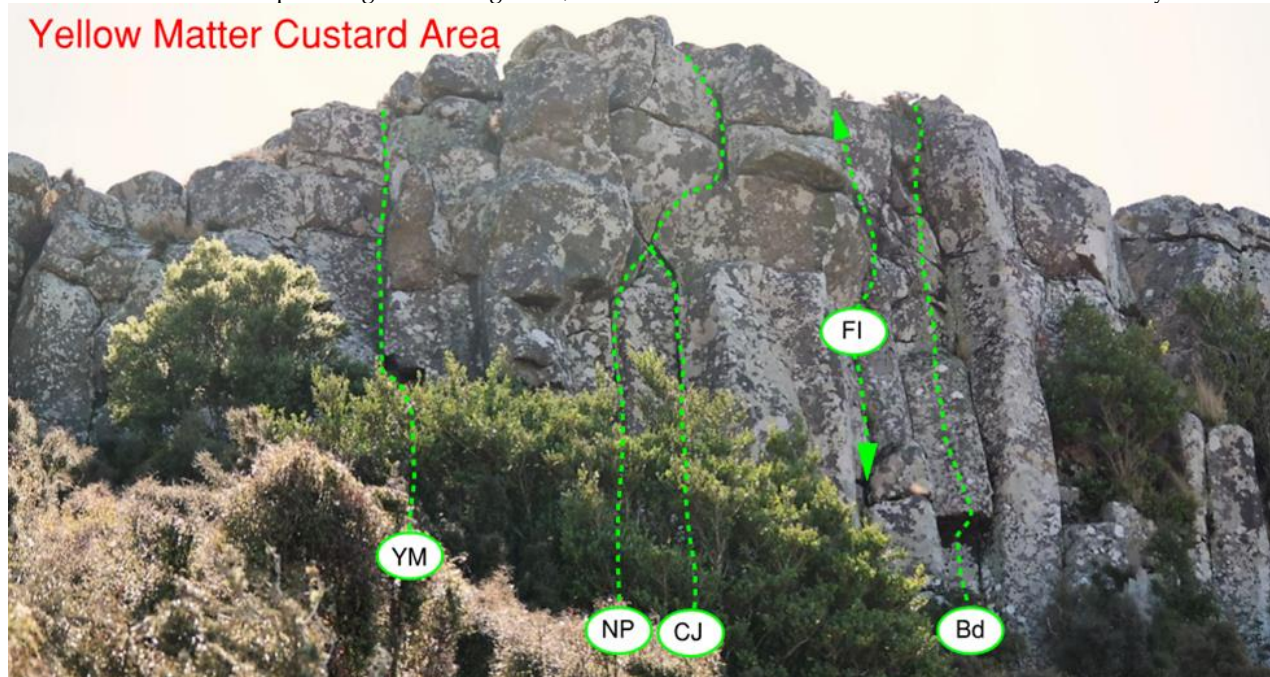
Mp Magpie 15 S2 Tr 0Br *Murray Cullen, 1990*

The dihedral with a ledge at 2mts, climb the groove to exit R & finish up the slab & wall above.

De Delusions 21 S2 Tr 0Br *Joe Arts, 1991*

Around the R side of the pillar is good looking crack, climb the crack for 5mts after which it relents to an easy finish

Yellow Matter Custard Area



YM Yellow Matter Custard 18 S2 Tr 0Br *Murray Cullen, 1990*

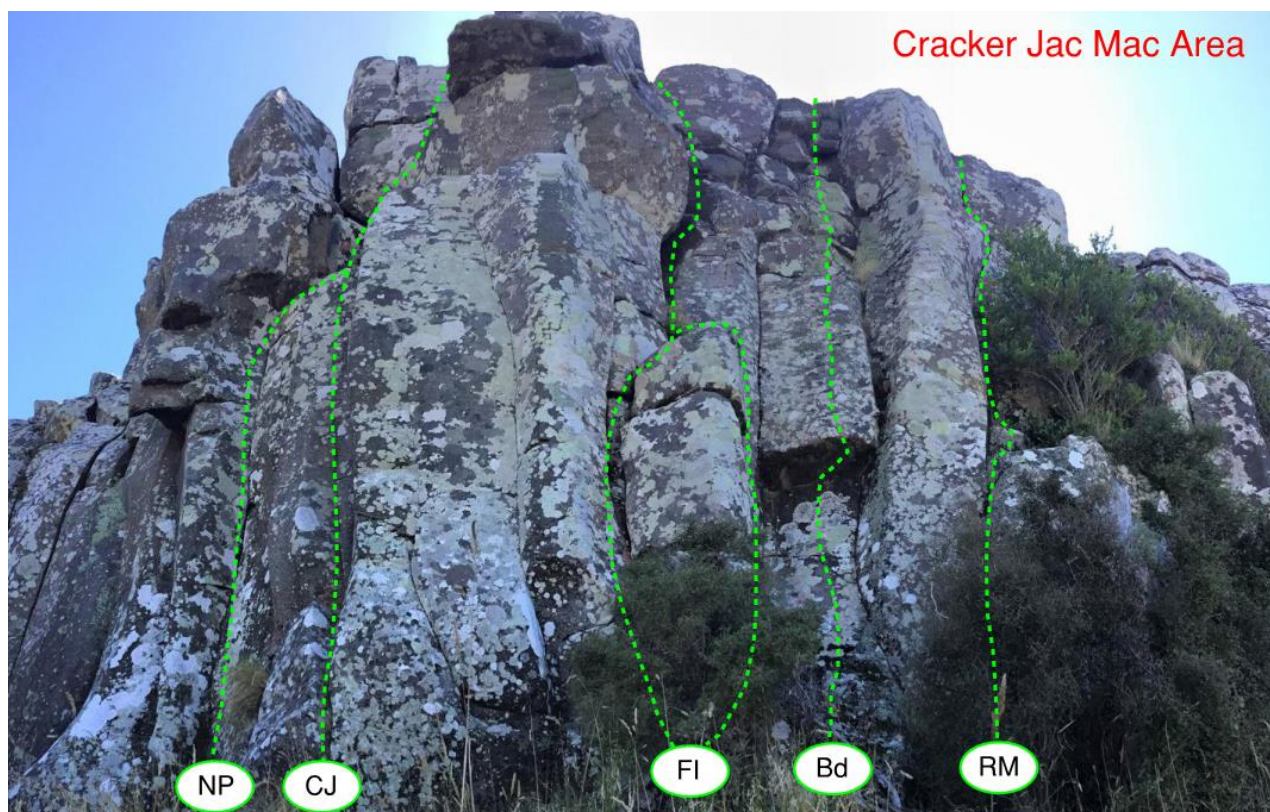
A pod at 2.5mts marks the start, up the face to the pod finish following the widening crack.

NP Northwest Passage 23 S3 Tr 0Br *Alan Hill, 1994*

The twin cracks with red lichen going R at the top into 'CJ', in reality a separate start to 'CJ'.

CJ Cracker Jack Mac 20 S2 Tr 0Br *Murray Cullen, 1990*

A great looking crack line to an easy finish.



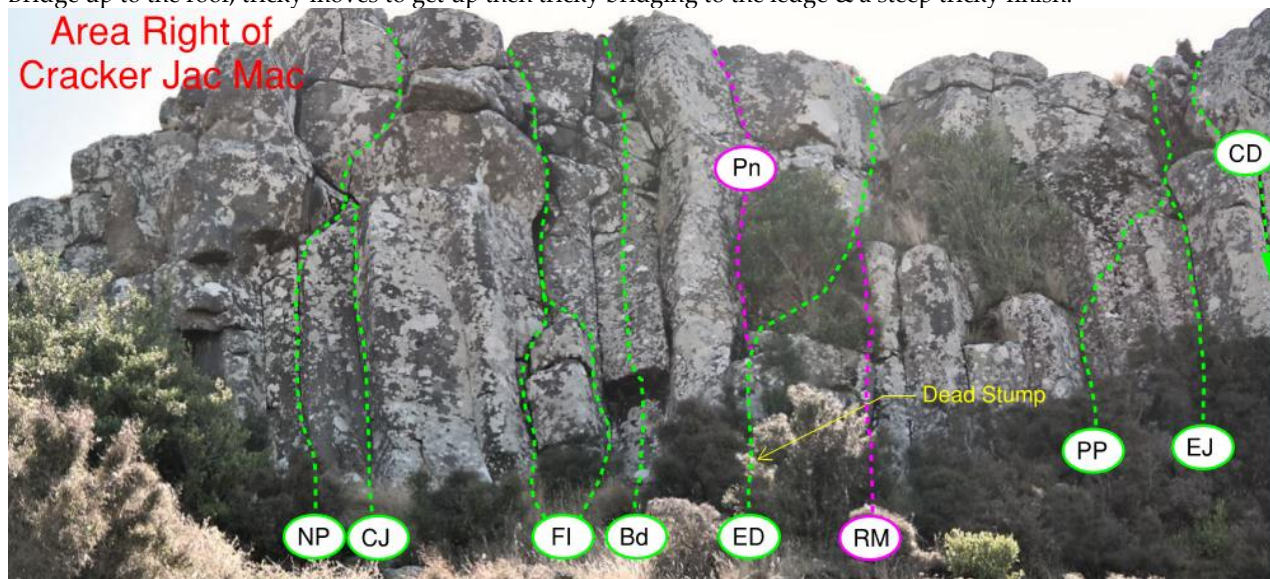
Cracker Jac Mac Area

FI Fallen Idol 15 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen Pete Cleary, 1990

Start up the broken pillar to a ledge from the L or the R, easy exit via the widening crack. There are alternative starts described in the old guidebook, but the interpretation is difficult.

Bd Bridg-ittle 20 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Bridge up to the roof, tricky moves to get up then tricky bridging to the ledge & a steep tricky finish.



Slightly to the R there are 2 broadleaf trees on a ledge system at about 3mts, there is a dead tree stump marking the start, Pn & ED have a common start up the wall to the left most tree.

Pn Pinocchio 20 S2 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1999

It is a bit unclear as to where this line is, so I have shown the most logical line & assume it starts as for 'ED'. Start as 'ED' from the ledge with tree head up the curving groove system on the L.

ED Easy Day for an Ageing Alpine Faggot 10 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Move up to the ledge & broadleaf behind the dead tree stump, wander up & rightwards across the ledge system to finish. Quite a bit of vegetation on this line.

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RM Reptilian Man 18 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Start between the 2 broadleaf trees up on the ledge, climb direct to join 'ED' & finish up this.

PP Pethidine Peace 15 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Climb up the 'V' groove to the right of the large Broadleaf tree and to the left of Escalade du Jour. Traverse right onto a small ledge before you get tangled in the vegetation and continue up the top half of Escalade du Jour. Have a nice trip! A better climb than it looks, though it could do with a bit of a clean

EJ Escalade du Jour 22 S3 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Start at the steep crack with an open flared chimney (crux). This is both steeper and more strenuous than you expect. The crack continues up an open corner to a small bush below a sloping ledge. Easy finish to the top



CD Crack of Delight 19 S2 TR 0Br Joe Arts, 1991

Jam your way up the great looking thin crack on a steep wall.

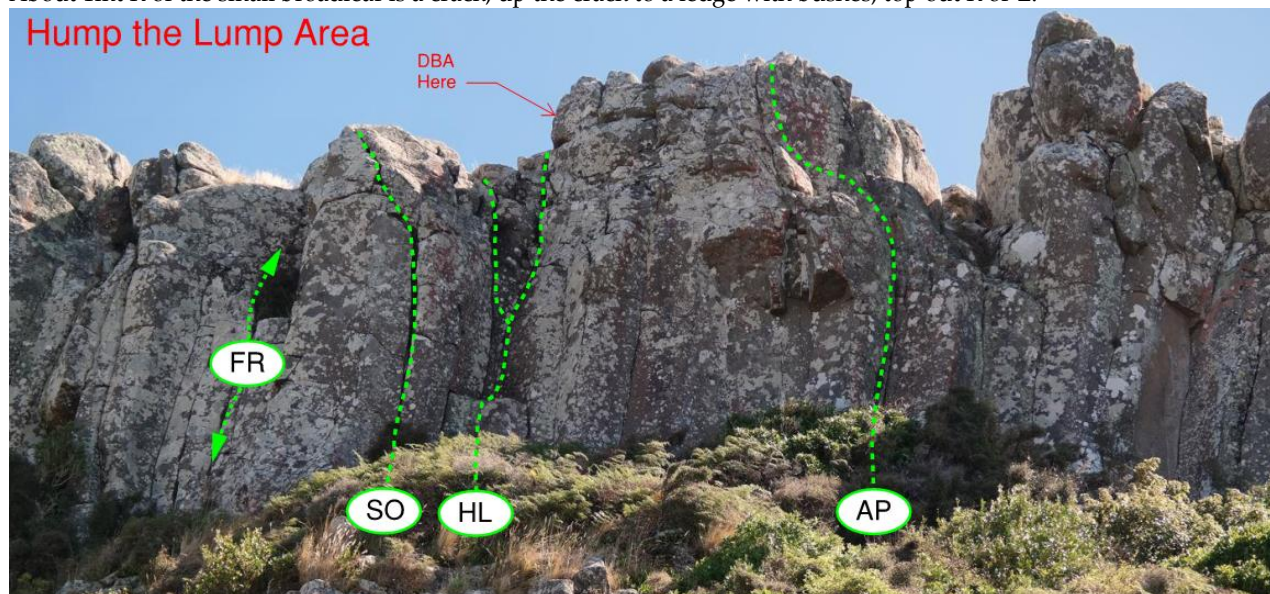
The next lines are approx. 4mts R at a bay with triple cracks, there is a small broad leaf.

FR Fox on Rocks 21 S2 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1994

Climb the centre of the wall past a block to a ledge with bushes, exit straight or R.

BL Broadleaf Lane 15 S2 Tr 0Br Pete Cleary, 1990

About 1mt R of the small broadleaf is a crack, up the crack to a ledge with bushes, top out R or L.



SO The Spies Are Out 20 S2 Tr 0Br Joe Arts, 1991

Start around the R side of the next pillar, a narrow crack at first which widens in the middle, exit L up the thinner steep

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crack to the top.

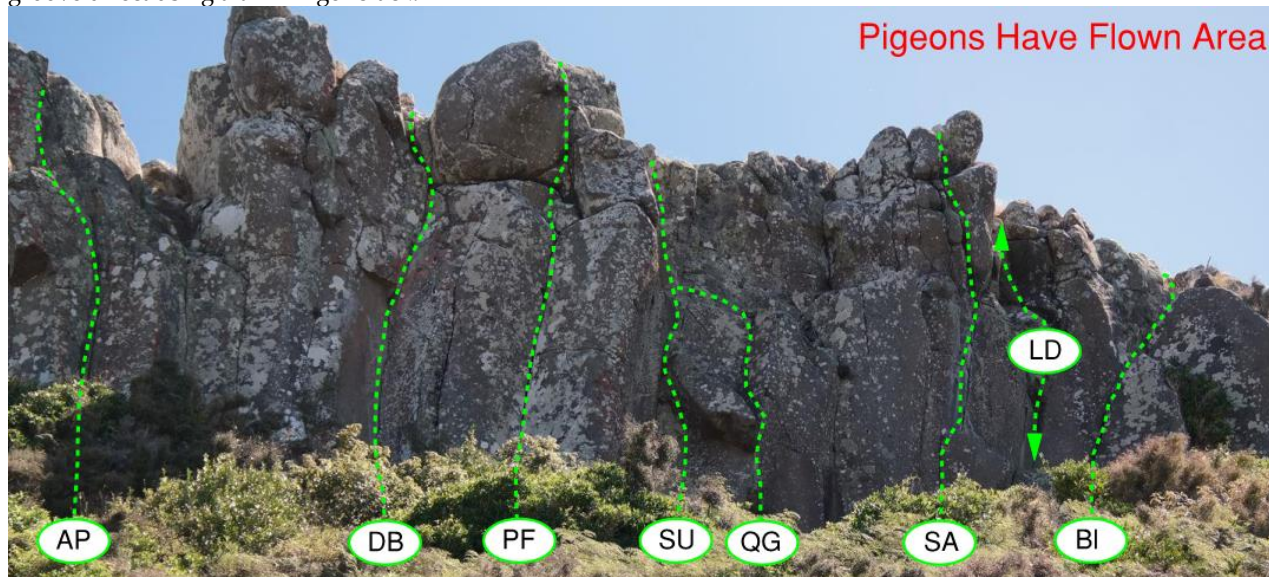
HL Hump the Lump 16 S2 Tr 0Br Pete Cleary, 1990

Mantle onto the ledge and jam and bridge the crack above. Excellent protection but quite awkward.

The next climbs start down & right in the area of native bush.

AP Abandon all Preconceptions 24 S3 Tr 0Br Joe Arts, 1994

Climbs a mossy pink groove, gear can be placed by leaning in from the pedestal on the L. Go back down & climb the groove direct using a thin finger crack.



DB Death by Blocklets 22 S3 Tr 0Br Joe Arts, 1991

Moving R in the bush there is a rock scar formed by a fallen column, get up onto the pedestal & climb through the scar, pass the overlap veering R then L to exit.

PF The Pigeons Have Flown 24 S3 Tr 0Br Joe Arts, 1991

The next undercut curving groove with a bulging block at the top. Climb & the R side of the large block to finish.

Su Supraspinatus 22 S3 Tr 0Br Joe Arts, 1994

Just around R is leaning roof, up the groove, over the roof at the L side onto a slab & join 'QG' to finish.

QG How Queen Guinevere Made Him a Nun 17 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

The R side of the roof, go up to a small shrub & through the notch at the R end of the roof, move across the slabby bay to exit up the R facing corner.

SA Space Age Medasin 18 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Move R about 3mts over some blocks, the climb follows the sinuous groove moving L at the top.

LL Les Liaisons Dangereuses 14 S2 Tr 0Br Murray Cullen, 1990

Go up a series of steps from the R, then into the steep blocky groove above.

BI Bodylength 14 S2 Tr 0Br Pete Cleary, 1990

Climb the blocks trending R to get to the slabby off-width, p the crack & through the notch to finish.

HA Holmes Alone 18 S2 Tr 0Br Hamish Reid, 1998

Not Shown on Topo. Located at the right-hand end, climb the V-corner L of a large block on the skyline.

