

JANE FONDA

Port Hills Climbing



JANE FONDA  
Rev. E  
Tony Burnell (2020)



# JANE FONDA

## General

*Inclusion of any climbing area or climb in this guidebook does not mean that there is any R of public access.*

*The Port Hills Crags are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants.*

Always one of the best crags on the Port Hills but even more so as it sustained very little damage during the 2010/2011 earthquakes. Everything about Jane Fonda gives you that feeling of exposure, from the amount of fixed gear on the routes, to the crag's situation; stuck to the steep hillside high above Lyttelton harbour. The classic routes at Jane Fonda are around that 22/23 grade, but there are a few harder & easier routes. The climbing is deceptively steep & usually sustained. Approach all routes with care as the protection, even bolts, are few & far between. Jane Fonda is subject to every cold wind going but provides shelter from both the Nor-west & Nor-east, if the weather is dry & there is no wind you can climb there year-round.

(Front Cover - Grant Piper on Resurrection - photo Tony Burnell)

## History

I've no idea where the crag got its name, but the first recorded routes were by Lindsay Main & Henry Mares in 1977. At that time "*Debauchery*" was probably the pick of the bunch although now, due to the recent seismic activity, it is pretty much nonexistent. L alone for almost a decade the crag was rediscovered in 1986 & between 1986 & 1989 crag came of age with a surge of activity & a glut of classic routes such as, "*Armitage Shanks*" (23), "*Video Nasty*" (22), "*Activated Sludge*" (22), "*Purity of Essence*" (21), "*Meat Injection*" (22), "*Cleansing the Stone*" (22), "*L'Actic Ingredient*" (22), "*Flock To The Rock*" (26), "*Penetrator*" (21), "*Spanking Wendy*" (22) & "*Melting Point*" (25) among others by local climbers such as Dave Fearnley, Bill McCleod, John McCallum, Roger Parkyn, Guy Cotter, Gavin Tweedie, Richard Thomson & Simon Middlemass. Since 1996 In 2004 Joe Arts threw in the instant classic "*Whacking Moles*" (22) a fully bolted, but not quite, full length feature Tony Burnell has been picking away at the crag, climbing several routes including some alternative starts to existing routes, thereby creating some totally bolted variations that do not encroach on the existing lines or affect their original style.

The route names in general are not at PC but are part of the areas climbing history.

## Seismic Damage

The crag stood up pretty well to the 2010/2011 seismic activity sustaining only minor damage, some rock fall between *The Artful Dodger* & *Cinder Path* & the L end of the main cliff where the climbs *Jane Fonda From Behind* & *The Penetrator* went, there was also some damage on the adjacent arête where *Debauchery* finishes. The routes shown in **red text** have been damaged or have disappeared since the recent earthquakes.



## Approach



800 mts

15 minutes

-43.594566, 172.763582 Grid

The crag overlooks Lyttelton Harbour.

From Sumner drive up to Evans Pass & turn L along the Summit, after about 3km there is a parking area on the R (south side) of the road overlooking Whakaropa (Lyttelton Harbour).

Cross the stile & follow the wire fence westwards for about 50 meters before taking the lower faint track that contours around the hillside to the top of the decent gully. The descent gully is the second gully you come to that gives a direct view of the end of the crag, head down the gully passing an old fence midway down at the base head directly across to the crag carefully avoiding the Onga-onga. The access track was improved during 2017 by the NZAC.

## Climbing Notes

*By choosing to climb here you accept must responsibility for your own personal safety & you must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment.*

*Neither the first ascensionists or the author accept any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment. Replacement of fixed gear is a costly & time-consuming exercise so please do your bit, lower or top rope off your own quick draws. Only use fixed gear for abseiling, by doing this you will extend the life of the equipment considerably.*



The grading at Jane Fonda (Workout Wall) really shows the failings of the Ewbank grading system when applied to mixed pro or "boldly" bolted routes. Most of the routes were climbed pre 1996 & are sparsely bolted, even by Port Hills standards, they generally require some trad gear even though that gear may be poor. With regard to the technical difficulty don't come here to flatter your ego, when compared with the rest of the Port Hills crags, you can usually award yourself an extra point on the grade to get a fair comparison with other areas, that being said, grades are pretty consistent at the crag & I love it & I wouldn't change it.

Tracks are marked in

Sport routes are marked in

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

Variations are marked in

Routes that were damaged by earthquake are marked in

*The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:*

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners

Sp - Denotes Sport Route

Tr - Denotes Trad Route

Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad)

So - Denotes solo route unprotectable

R & L - Denote R & L

YELLOW

RED

GREEN

PURPLE

WHITE

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 above grading systems provide 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.

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. If you are familiar with the period when the first ascent was done & the person who did it then you will have some knowledge of their ability & their style of climbing (bold, hard grading, soft grading, etc).

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

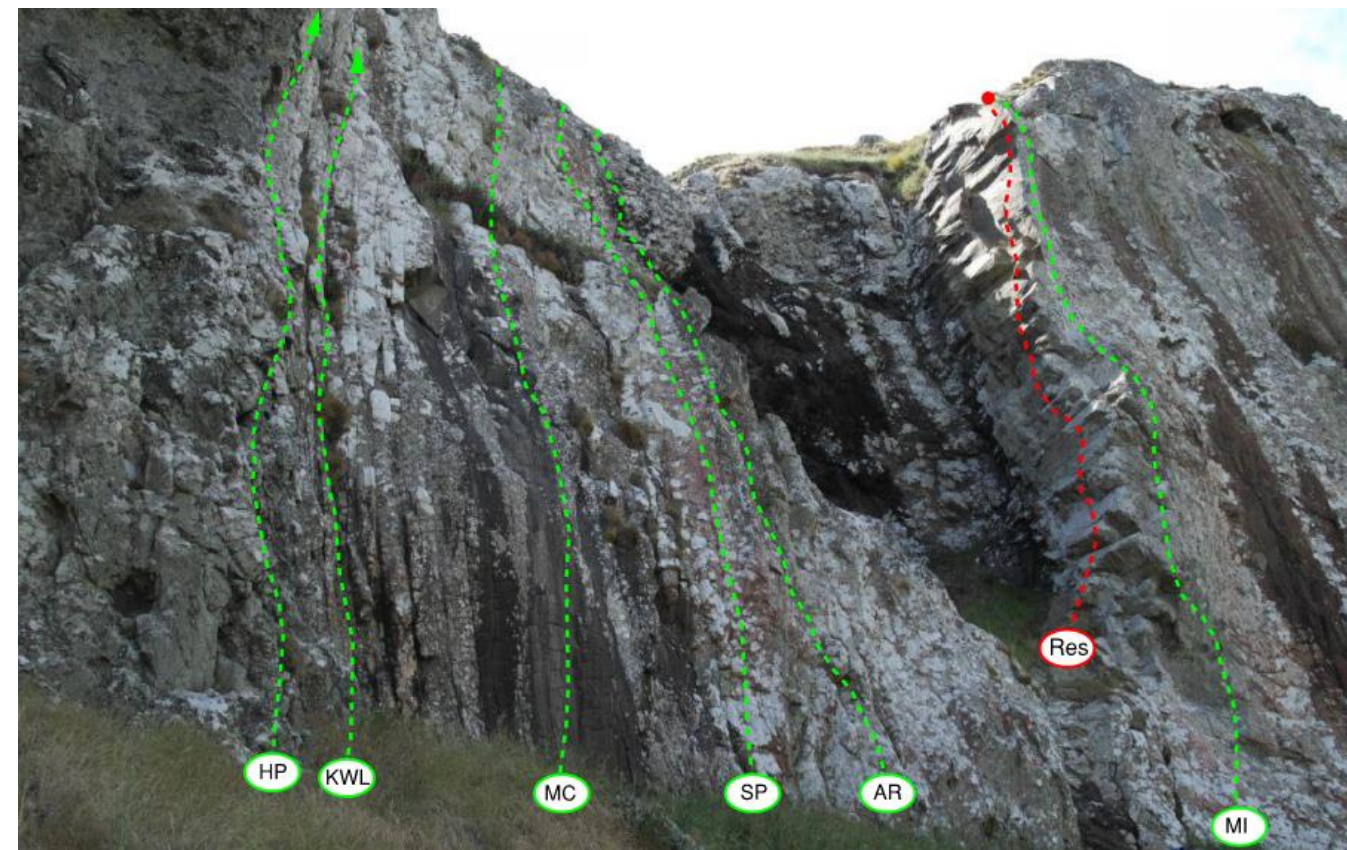
Climbers should remember that this additional suffix to the grade is my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can



fail & any fall can result in injury

**Little Left Wall**

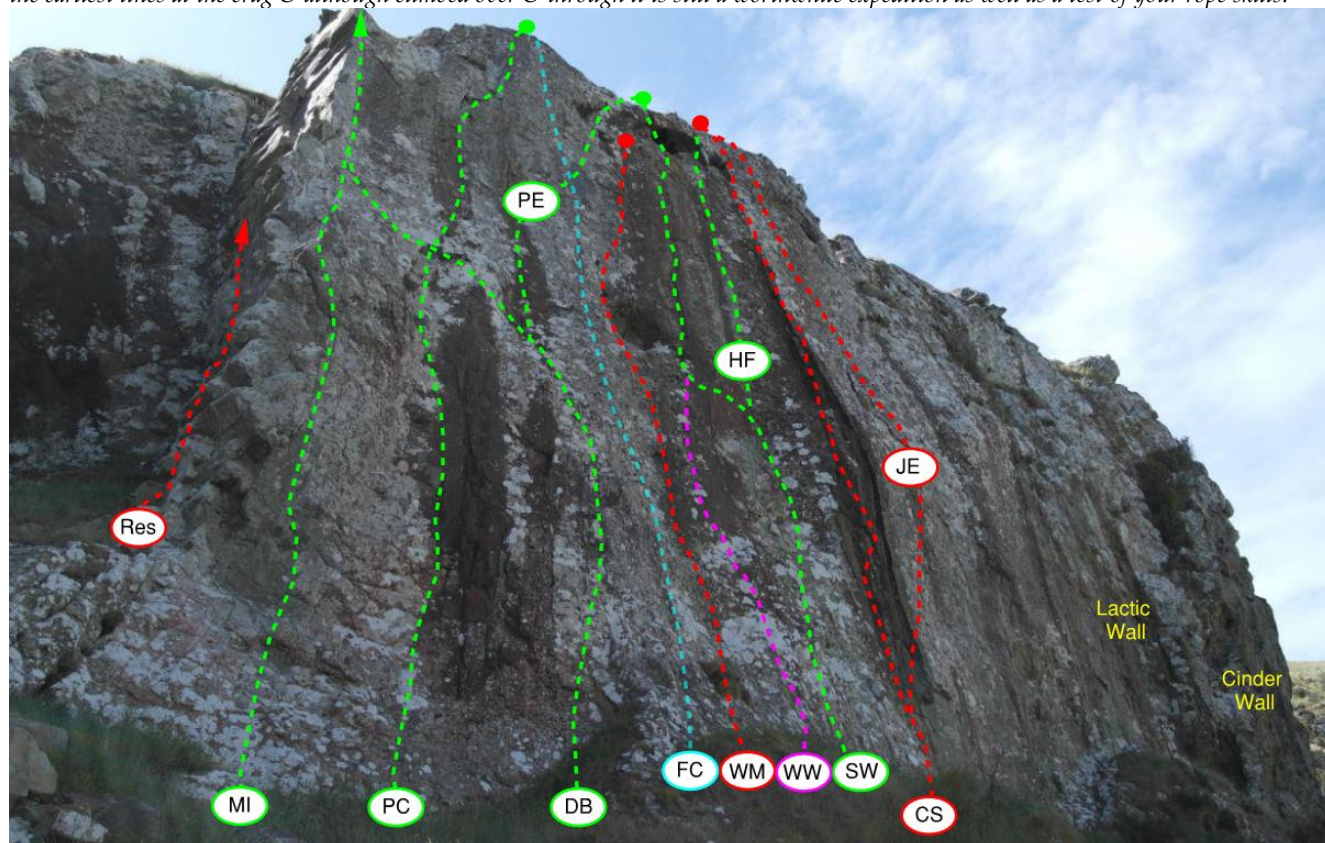
The wall at the very L side of the crag beyond the wide gully that leads into an upper bay. There are no anchors at the top of this wall.



<b>HP</b>	<b>Hocus Pocus</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Lindsay Main, 1977</i>
Starts at the L edge of the good wall, climb the arête into a steep corner, move R into another corner then back L & straight up to finish.						
<b>KWL</b>	<b>Knights in White Lichen</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Stu McConney, 1996</i>
Climbs the obvious L facing full length corner.						
<b>MC</b>	<b>Magic Carpet</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Lindsay Main, 1978</i>
Start on the R side of the black wall climb up to good holds then up the slab & groove, very little protection.						
<b>SP</b>	<b>Supped Pig</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>James Jenkins, 1989</i>
Start to the R of MC & L of two cracks on the arête, climb the L side of the pink & white wall to a ledge, move onto the arête to finish.						
<b>AR</b>	<b>Arete</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Lindsay Main, 1977</i>
Climb either of the two cracks on the arête, follow the arête to the top.						

## Main Cliff (L)

On the very L side of the main face is the prominent arete of 'MI' which is also now the finish of 'DB'. Climbed in 1977 'DB' was one of the earliest lines at the crag & although climbed over & through it is still a worthwhile expedition as well as a test of your rope skills.



These following routes started (or ended) around to the L of the main crag & were severely damaged during the 2010/2011 earthquakes. *'Jane Fonda from Behind'*, Stu McConney, 1996 & *'The Penetrator'* Guy Cotter, 1989.

**Res Resurrection** 21 S2 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2015  
Starts in the hanging bay at the L side of the main cliff. Straight up the ledge system to the new rock, finish straight up on the L of the arête.

**MI Meat Injection** 22 S3 Mp 4Br John McCallum, 1986  
Part of this route (the arête) collapsed in the 2010/2011 earthquakes & now has a new finish with a bolt to protect it. Start in the scoop & as for 'PTC' but move L & up a line of bolts over a bulge onto easier ground, continue up the wall just R of the arête. (Post-earthquake finish, Kester Brown 2012)

**PtC Polish the Cucumber** 19 S2 Mp 3Br ★★ Roger Parkyn, 1986  
Start on the easy angled rock L of the brown streak about 3 m R of the arête. The move up to the first bolt is a little freaky, best approach to the bolt is from the top R of the scoop. Continue up past 3 bolts to gain the crack system above, good pro in the small cracks before moving up into easier ground created by rock fall during the earthquakes.

**Deb Debauchery** 19 S2 Mp 1Br ★ Henry Mares, 1977  
A wandering line that starts R of 'PTC' & finishes up the newly formed arête. Start as for 'POE' & climb this to half height, move L on the sloping ledge system past 'PTC' to finish up the wall just R of the arête, post earthquake finish. Kester Brown, 2012.

**PE Purity of Essence** 21 S3 Tr 0Br Richard Thomson, 1986  
Start below the long brown streak, follow the R edge of the streak to where the cracks start to close, place good pro high & R before traversing R through a scarred area of rock, a tricky moves up & L into a scoop before gaining the horizontal cave like feature up & L of the anchor of 'WM' exit over the L side of the roof to a DB lower off.

**FC Fonda Climbing** 24 S2 Sp 6Br Tony Burnell, 2012  
A direct line up the wall L of 'WM' finishing up to the highest point of the crag, crux at the top. De-bolted due to complaints online from old Chch climber, subsequently climbed on trad gear but is both technical & bold.

**WM Whacking Moles** 21 S1 Sp 8Br ★★★ Joe Arts, 2004  
Classic Jane Fonda climbing, crimpy & technical with each section harder than the last. Start up a white slabby wall to the hole at half height, exit on the L direct up to a difficult finish & DB lower off.

**WW Whacking Wendy** 22 S1 Sp 7Br ★★★ Tony Burnell, 2012  
A bolted variation-start to 'SW', start just R of 'WM' climb the scarred wall past 4Br to the large hole. Step R & continue as for 'SW'.

**SW Spanking Wendy** 22 S3 Mp 5Br Guy Cotter, 1989  
Climbs the unappealing green mossy wall to a bolt in a scoop at around 8m, at the second bolt move up & L to a stance at



the R side of the hole, technical climbing straight up past 3 more bolts to gain another horizontal cave just below the top of the crag exit easily over the top to a lower off on top of the crag.

**HF Half Fact Half Friction** 22 S3 Sp 4Br *Gavin Tweedie, 1992*

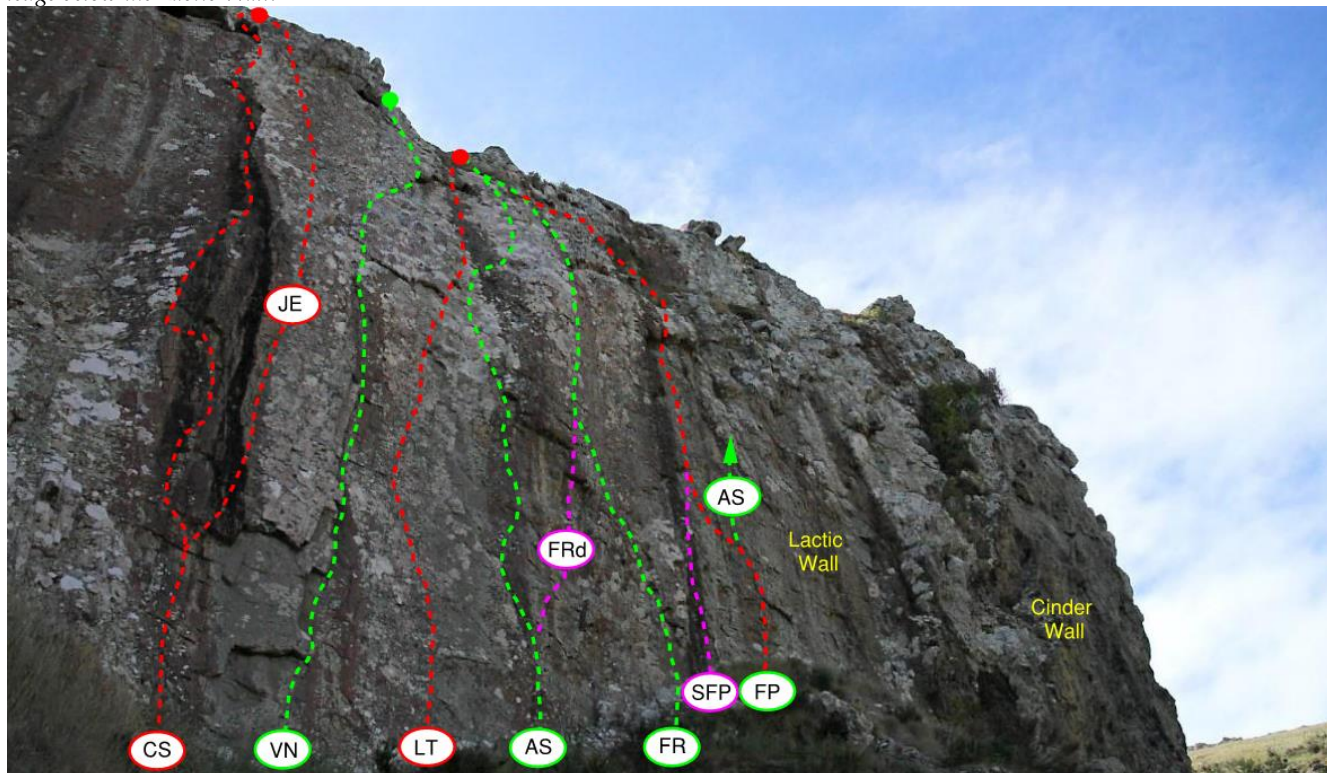
Half fact, half friction, half bolted, a scary undertaking that climbs up past the first 2Br on 'SW' then carries on up the technically hard wall past 2 more Br, at the top you could clip the last Br on 'CS' when you reach easy ground there is an anchor out L below the final roof.

**CS Cleansing the Stone** 22 S2 Mp 4Br ★★ *John McCallum, 1986*

Fantastic climbing. There is a prominent black, brown wall near the centre of the Main Cliff, the L arête & groove system of this is 'CS'. Originally had exposed technical climbing protected by uninspiring runners now there is the option of Roland's first 2 BR's on 'JE', (or the recently placed 8 or 10 mm dynabolt with a hanger on at the start, its use is not recommended).

## Main Wall (R)

Moving R from the obvious black streak of 'CS' is the corner taken by 'VN', after a short flat area of ground the track goes up to the ledge below the Lactic Wall.



**JE Joint Enterprise** 27 S1 Sp 11Br ★ *Roland Foster, 2016*

Initially climbs the arête that forms the corner of 'CTS' before going up the centre of the black, brown wall, head up the white rock just L of 'CTS' to finish over the top at the same anchor, originally graded 25.

**VN Video Nasty** 22 S2 Mp 4Br ★★★ *Roger Parkyn, 1986*

The sister route to 'CTS', sustained & technical, start below a small roof. Climb the wall to gain the groove above, up the groove to a difficult exit into a flake system on the white all above. Move R & go up to another small roof, cams, continue straight up to the top.

**LT Lard of the Thighs** 26 S1 Sp 6Br ★★ *Tony Burnell, 1996*

Thin, hard technical climbing between 'VN' & 'AS', weave your way up the seemingly blank wall past 4BR, above the roof veer away from 'AS' & continue up past bolts 5 & 6 to easier climbing.

**AS Armitage Shanks** 23 S2 Mp 5Br ★★★ *James Moar, 1986*

Brilliant climbing, the crux is having the ability to clip & getting past the second bolt. Follow the L trending ledge system then go up to BR2, move L with difficulty through a shallow groove before moving back R to an easier finish up the white slab to an anchor at the top of the crag.

**FTd Flock to the Rock Direct Start** 27 S2 Sp 5Br *Derek Thatcher*

Hard climbing but a bit of a link up. From the 1st BR on 'AS' move up & R past another bolt, over the overlap to join the original route.

**FR Flock to the Rock** 26 S2 Mp 3Br ★★★ *Dave Fearnley, 1988*

Run out, start off the staircase, climb boldly up the wall past a couple of small wires to gain BR1. Steep technical climbing up the wall past 2 more BR to DB anchor on the white slab.

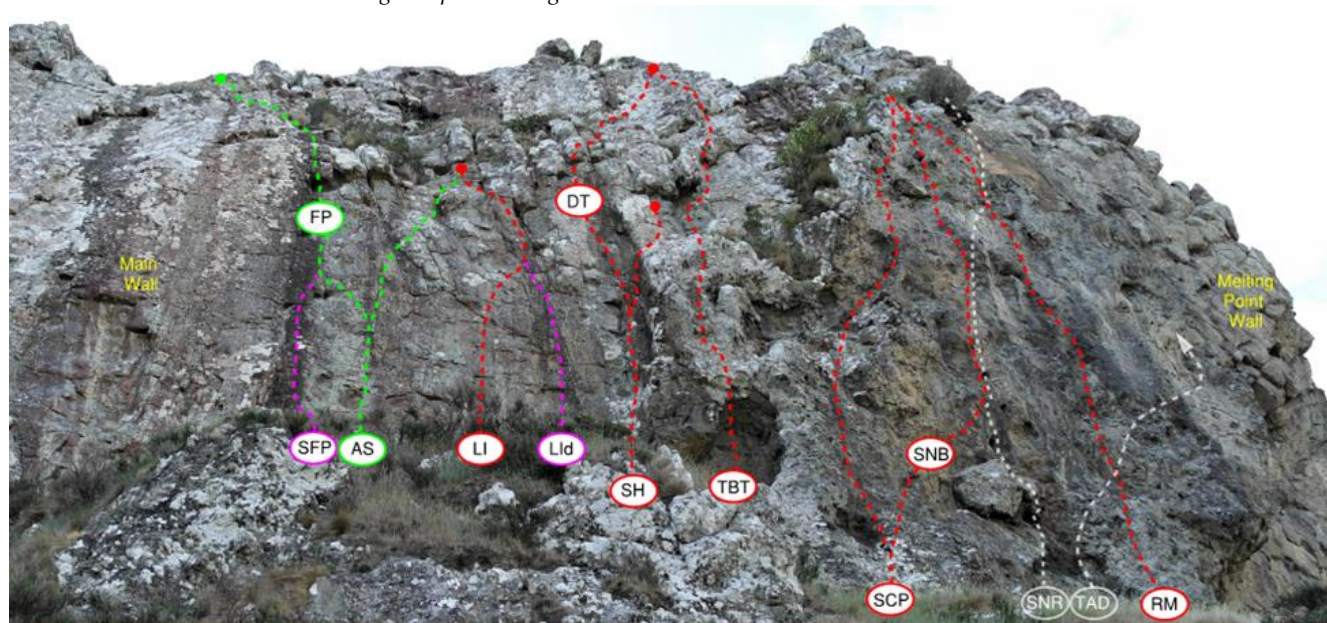
**SFP Straight into Feminine Positions** 22 S2 Sp 6Br ★★ *Tony Burnell, 2012*

A more obvious bolted start. Bridge out onto the black/brown column, climb straight up past 2BR's to join the original route. Tricky moves lead into a scoop followed by slopey moves over the roof before the final run out on easy ground to the anchor of 'FTTR'.

## Lactic Wall

Lactic Wall is located on the flat terrace at a higher level after passing Melting Point & Cinders Wall, the wall is smooth with bulbous features, there is a belay chain at low level.

The lines shown in WHITE are the original quake damaged lines.



**FP**      **Feminine Positions**      22    S3    Mp    3Br      *Ton Snelder, 1986*

Best done with the direct start, previously described as "Sustained, balancy, obscure & a bit contrived" originally started by going to Br1 of 'AS'.

**AS**      **Activated Sludge**      23    S3    Mp    2Br      *Richard Thomson, 1986*

Desperately hard, sustained, not particularly nice climbing that is nowhere near its given grade of 23. Climb straight up the wall past two bolts then place a wire place a good wire, before hard moves take you up and right to the lower off. The second bolt replaced a fixed copperhead ripped out by *James Moar* on a ground fall.

**LI**      **L'Actic Ingerient**      23    S2    Sp    3Br    ★★      *Dave Fearnley, 1986*

Start at the belay point on the ledge, climb up and right past three bolts to awkward moves up steep rock, move straight up to a separate anchor point.

**LIId**      **L'Actic Ingredient Direct Start**      24    S3    Sp    3Br      *Paul Tattersall, 1986*

A direct start up a vague groove line L of the corner. *There is also a direct finish from the second bolt 24 (Dave Fearnley 1988).*

**SH**      **Spliff Hanger**      14    S2    Sp    3Br      *John McCallum & Chris Owen, 1995*

An unsatisfying climb that goes nowhere, climb the left facing corner to the right of the direct start to 'LA', move right onto the arête and up to a ledge with anchors.

**DT**      **Day Tripper**      20    S1    Sp    6Br    ★      *Tony Burnell, 2015*

Start as for 'SH' to the 3rd bolt, instead of moving R onto the arête climb directly up the brown streak to a bolt on a nose, move R and up before finishing up the slabby white wall to an anchor.

**TBT**      **The Big Trip**      20    S1    Sp    6Br      *Tony Burnell, 2015*

Start in the alcove just R of 'SH'. Bridge up the alcove & out over the roof to climb the wall to the belay ledge of 'SH'. Three bolts lead the way across the white slab to gain the bottom of a groove, straight up the groove past 3Br to an anchor up to the L.

## Cinders Wall

Cinders Wall is the ugly looking buttress of rock to the L of 'MP', this area of the crag suffered some damage during the earthquakes. The damaged routes were The Artful Dodger, Snot Gobblers Revenge & Cinder Path, the lines these climbs followed has been shown (in white) on the topos for accuracy & historical record.

The topo for this area is split between Lactic Wall & Melting Point Wall

**SCP**      **Snap Crackle & Plop**      20    S2    Sp    8Br      *Tony Burnell, 2016*

Start at the L side of the crazy paving wall L of the R leaning ramp/groove. Climb straight up to a scoop then the steeper wall to another R trending ramp, go up this stepping R onto the face at the top, straight up past a couple of gargoyles to the anchors.

**SNB**      **S'not that Bads**      23    S1    Sp    9Br    ★      *Tony Burnell, 2016*

Start as for 'SCP' after Br1 move R & up onto the large protrusion, go straight up the wall, initially on pockets then balancy through a steep section, finally go R around some big gargoyles & out L to the anchors of 'SCP'.

**SNR**      **Snot Gobblers Revenge**

Shown in White on the topo, damaged during the earthquakes & not reinstated. *Steve Elder, 1990*

**TAD**      **The Artful Dodger**

Shown in White on the topo, damaged during the earthquakes & not reinstated. *Simon Middlemass, 1989*



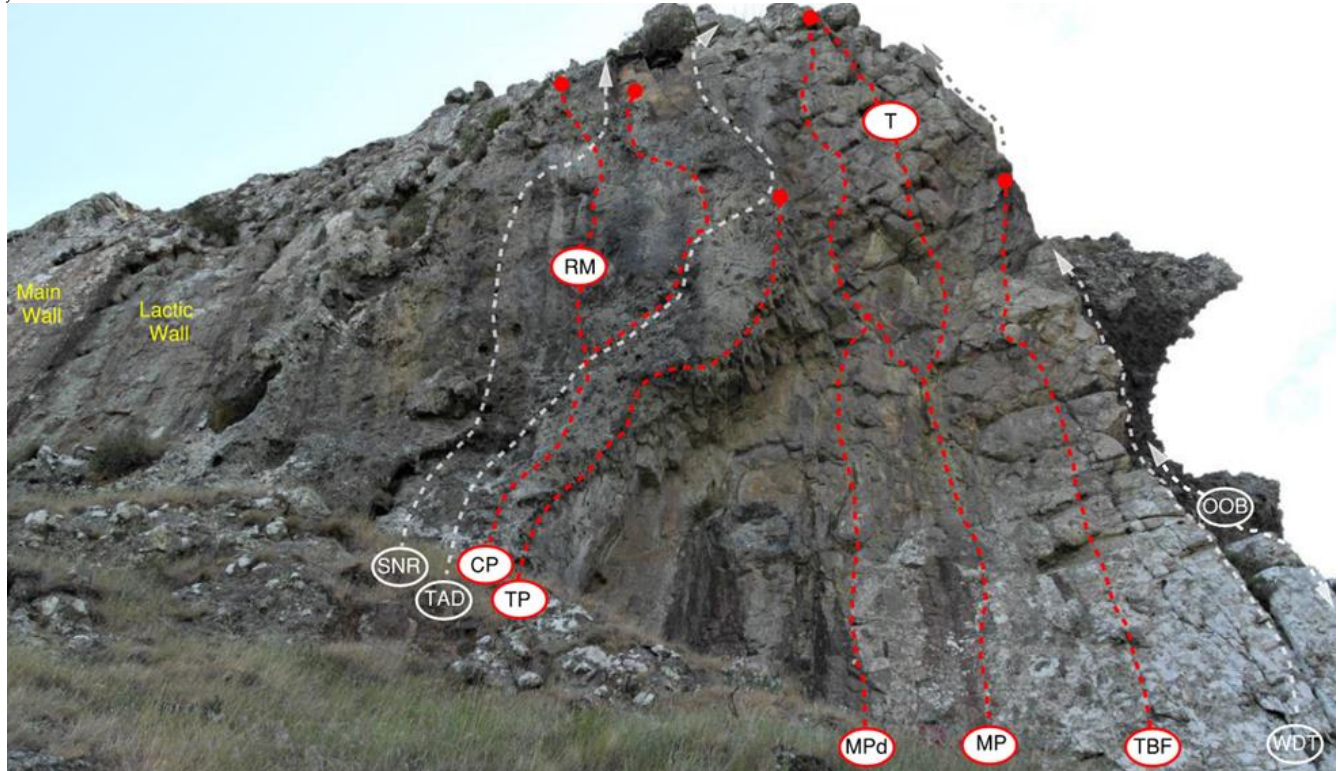
**RM Rigor Mortice** 25 S2 Sp 9Br ★ *Tony Burnell, 2016*  
 Start to the R of the R leaning ramp/groove, straight up crossing the ramp towards a short white streak. Straight up the steeper wall to 2 gargoyles surmount the gargoyles then go up & step L to the anchors of SCP. A bit stiff.

**CP Cinder Path** 24 S2 Sp 7Br *Tony Burnell, 2016*  
 Originally climbed by *Tony Burnell* in the 1990's but damaged during the Christchurch earthquakes, the climb was cleaned up & had anchors installed but is significantly harder than the original climb. Start as for 'TAD', go up to the ramp then head R towards the arête, go straight up the steep wall then L across the upper wall to a dogs head feature, up again & step R to a ledge & belay

## Melting Point Wall

*The first wall you come to when walking in, there was some damage to some easier routes that climbed the R rib & wall on the end of the dyke Out of the Blue & While Your Down There, the lines these climbs followed has been shown (in white) on the topos for accuracy & historical record.*

*Melting Point is an absolute classic & was considered a local test piece, it has now suffered from a severe case of retro bolting to make it just another consumer line to be added to the tick list.*



**TP Triple Point** 26 S1 Sp 6Br *Sefton Priestley, 2018*  
 Climbs the steep underside of the steep arete L of the obvious corner that forms the end of this section of the buttress.

**MPd Melting Point Direct** 26 S1 Sp 12Br *Tony Burnell, 1998*  
 Hard & technical, climbed as a direct start with bolts into 'MP', go much straight up from the ground to the large resting ledge, continue up 'MP'.

**MP Melting Point** 25 S1 Sp 12Br ★★★ *Bill McLeod, 1989*  
 The route of the crag & one the best grade 25 on the Port Hills. Climb the slabby bottom wall to where it steepens. Tricky moves up & R get you to the first no hands rest (there are 3 if you can find them). Climb straight up the steepening wall moving R at the last bolt to finish over a bulging roof.

**T Tantra** 27 S1 Sp 11Br ★ *Martin Clarke, 1995*  
 An alternative finish to 'MP.', follow 'MP' till a line of bolts leads you L & up to a stance on the arête. Swing back L onto the face & carry on up the head wall on slopey holds.

**TBF The Biscuit Factory** 24 S1 Sp 10Br *Tony Burnell, 2014*  
 Takes a line R of MP & Ta, direct up the white slab & onto the biscuits. Through the rest on Ta to finish on the arête.

*The next two lines are L of the & on the arete that forms the end of the dyke, the 2010/2011 earthquakes damaged the arete severely & there are some huge blocks that have become loose.*

**WDT While You are Down There**  
 Shown in White on the topo, damaged during the earthquakes & not reinstated. *Stu McConney, 1990*

**OTB Out of The Blue**  
 Shown in White on the topo, damaged during the earthquakes & not reinstated. *Lindsay Main, 1977*



## The Devils Staircase

DS      The Devils Staircase

16

S1

Sp

9Br

★

Tony Burnell, 2018

When you arrive at the crag on the walk in this climb is located up the slope behind the arete that forms the end of the main crag.

Climb the L wall & corner at the back of the recess, after Br5 move up onto a ledge, a tricky move up then continue up the slab above to a lower off.

