

MINOR CRAGS

Port Hills Climbing

**Bivvy Crag &
The Air Traffic Control Crag**
Rev. G
Tony Burnell (2020)



BIVVY ROCK AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL BUTTRESS

General

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

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

Both Bivvy Rock & the Air Traffic Control Buttress overlook the Governors Bay / Allendale area of Lyttelton Harbour.

The Port Hills fires of 2017 did considerable damage to the flora & fauna across the area & the heat even damaged the rock in places so expect some loose stuff, there is still a lot of ash & dirt around &, by carrying a brush (& using it) you can help keep the routes clean & in good condition, you can also help prevent the re-colonisation of broom, gorse & blackberry.

The rock is coarse grained & rough to the touch providing excellent friction on the slabs.

History

Simon Courtois started the development at Bivvy Rock back in 2007 & his route development continued after the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes.

The Air Traffic Control Buttress was also developed by Simon following the 2010/2011 earthquakes. The next wave of development was after the Port Hills fires with Simon Courtois back at the ATCB & Grant Piper & friends at Bivvy Rock. Most recently Simon & Tony Burnell have been back at both Bivvy Rock & the Air Traffic Control Buttress adding several lines including some steeper routes.

Climbing Notes

By choosing to climb at these crags you accept responsibility for your own personal safety & 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.

Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them & wear a helmet.

Tracks are marked in

YELLOW

Sport routes are marked in

RED

Variations are marked in

BLUE

Earthquake Damaged routes are marked in

WHITE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples

Sp - Denotes Sport Route

R & L - Denote Right & Left

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.

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.

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.

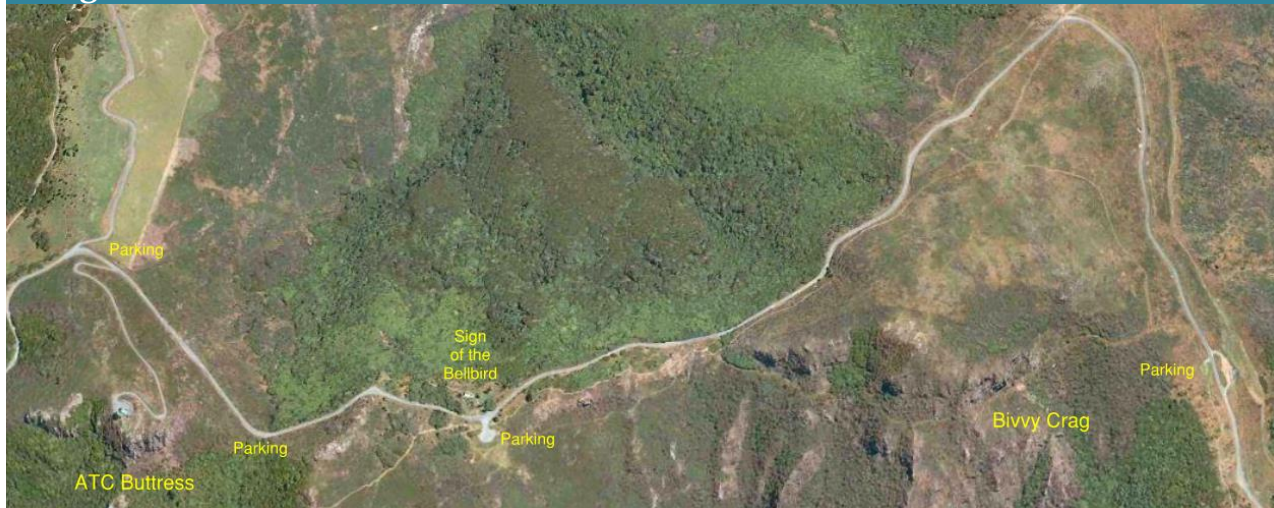
S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection & a low risk of injury from a fall

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.

Crag Locations



Bivvy Crag

Bivvy Crag is a collection of buttresses both steep & slabby located just above Ella Track opposite Kennedy's Bush on the Summit Rd approximately 3.0km from The Sign of the Kiwi. There was very little seismic damage & only one route was lost, that particular route description is in **RED** text. Access to the top of the crag is almost impossible without a great deal of bushwhacking or by climbing one of the existing lines. Grades are subjective, if people feel a change is required after comparison with other areas please let me know.

Approach



Parking at Kennedys Bush

Parking GPS Location: -43.6240018, 172.628438

Distance: Distance: 600 mts

Walk Time: 8 minutes

From the parking walk west along the Crater Rim Walkway, then turn L along Ella track &, contour round under the crag & past a land slip, at the end of the crag a short track leads back up R to the crag. To get to No.2 slab continue along Ella Track for 20m before cutting uphill to the base of the slabby wall.

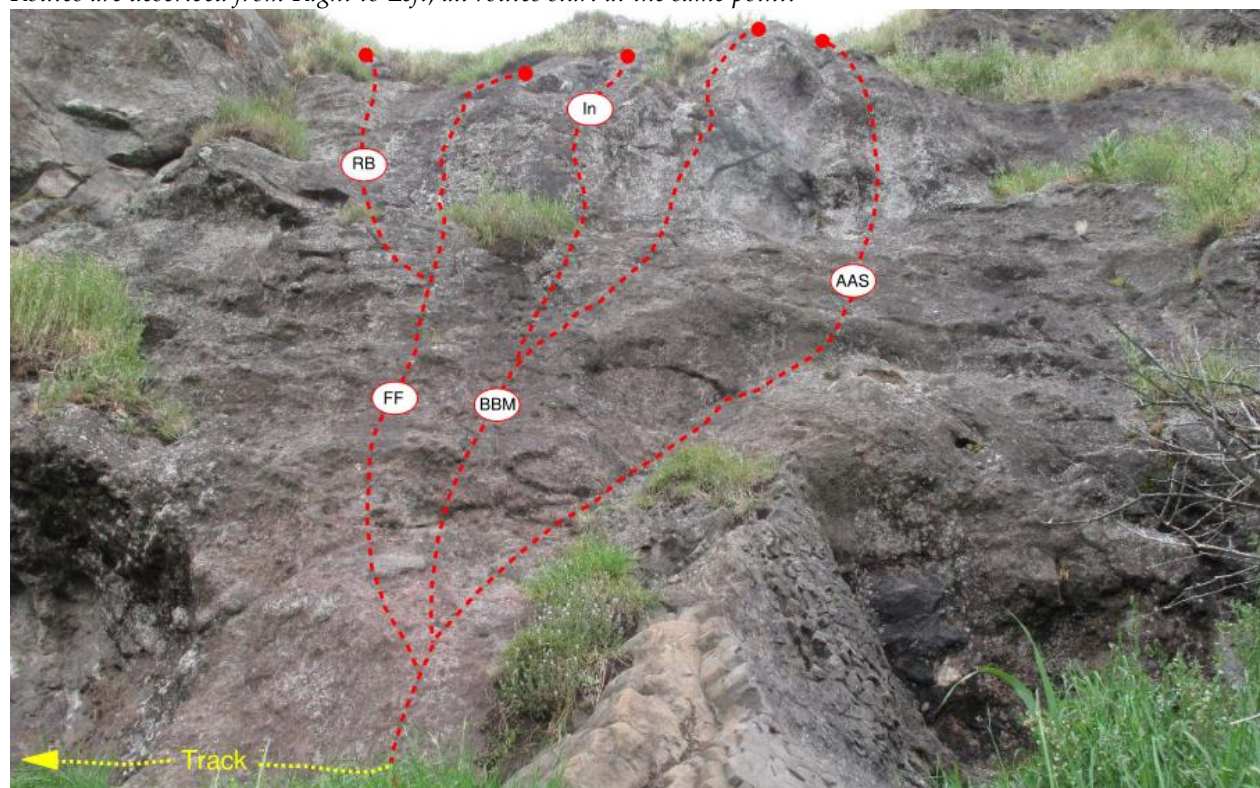
Bivvy Crag Overview



SiestaWall

From the steeper central area of the crag traverse R go up slightly & you will find a belay anchor low down by a slabby dyke.

Routes are described from Right to Left; all routes start at the same point.



AS Awake to Shake

17 S1 Sp 7Br

From the belay anchor on the slab, go diagonally R across the slab before heading straight up over a steep step near the top. *Simon Courtois*

BBM Broke Back Mountain

19 S1 Sp 7Br

Climb 2/3rds of the way up 'In' (the central line), move R then go up the open groove, grab the saddle horn & ride... move up & right on friction finish. *Simon Courtois*

In Insomnia

17 S1 Sp 7Br ★

Climb straight up the most central line of Br's passing the black streak, it gets steeper at the top. *Simon Courtois*

FF Faux Fur

17 S1 Sp 7Br ★

From the anchor on the slab veer L across the wall then straight up moving sharp R at the top to the anchors. *Simon Courtois*

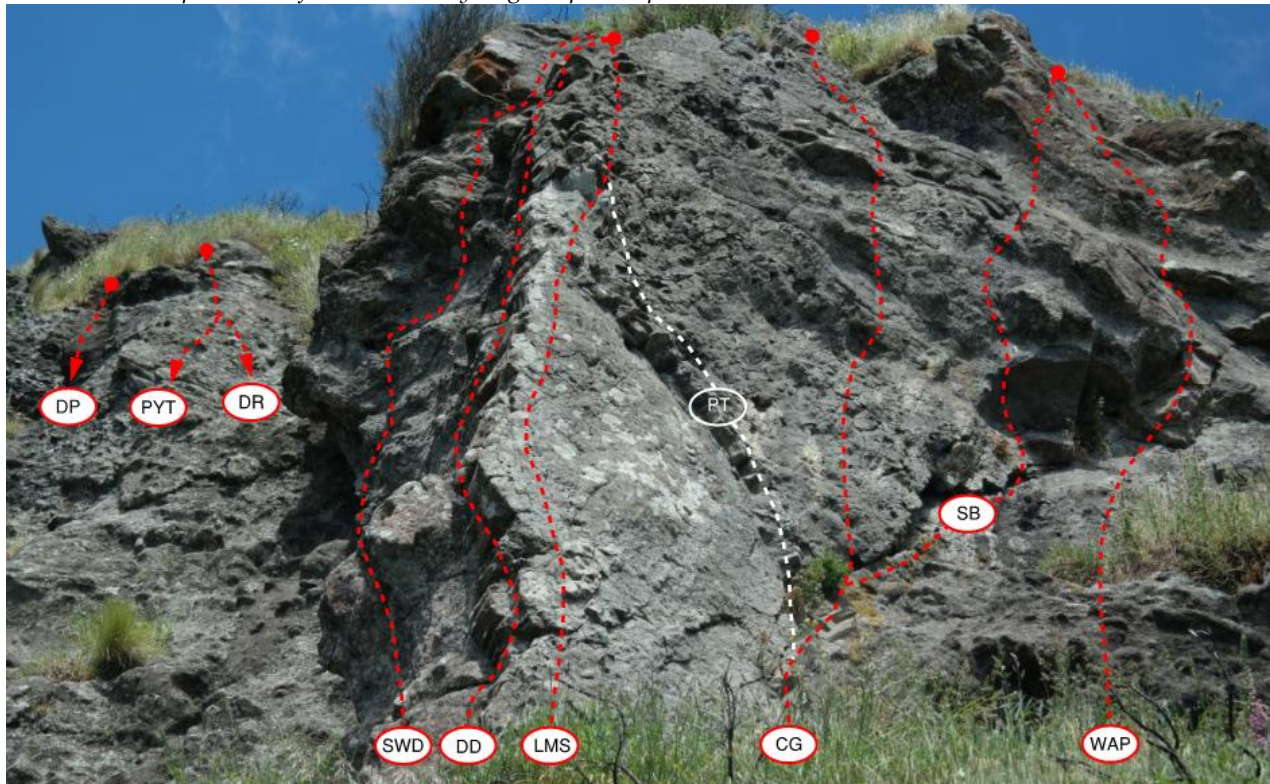
RB Rupert's Blanket

16 S1 Sp 7Br

From the anchor on the slab veer L across the wall as for 'FF', above Br4 go L & up past a water streak to the anchors, tricky finish. *Wendy & Simon Courtois 2007*

The Prow Area

This is the most prominent feature & always a great photo op.

**WAP We Ain't Playing Tiddly-Winks Mate**

20 S2 Sp 2Br

Pre-named before being climbed in 2012. Pull over the roof past a Br & a lot of grass, veer R round the steep section stepping back L to go up the scoop/groove. Subsequently all but one or two Br's have been removed by persons unknown. *Howie McGee, 2012*

SB Sleeping Beauty -

21 S1 Sp 4Br

Share first bolt with 'CG' then move right. Move up pumpy bulge and delicately move up the arête to double bolt anchor. *Owain Scullion & Tom Stubbs 2017*

CG Cold Ground

20 S1 Sp 5Br ★

(Cold ground was my bed last night, & rock was my pillow too). Run out, start up the groove & crack system, once below the featured wall step L & go up just R of centre, towards the top go back R then L to the anchor station. *Dave Shotwell 2008*

PT Pillar Talk

17

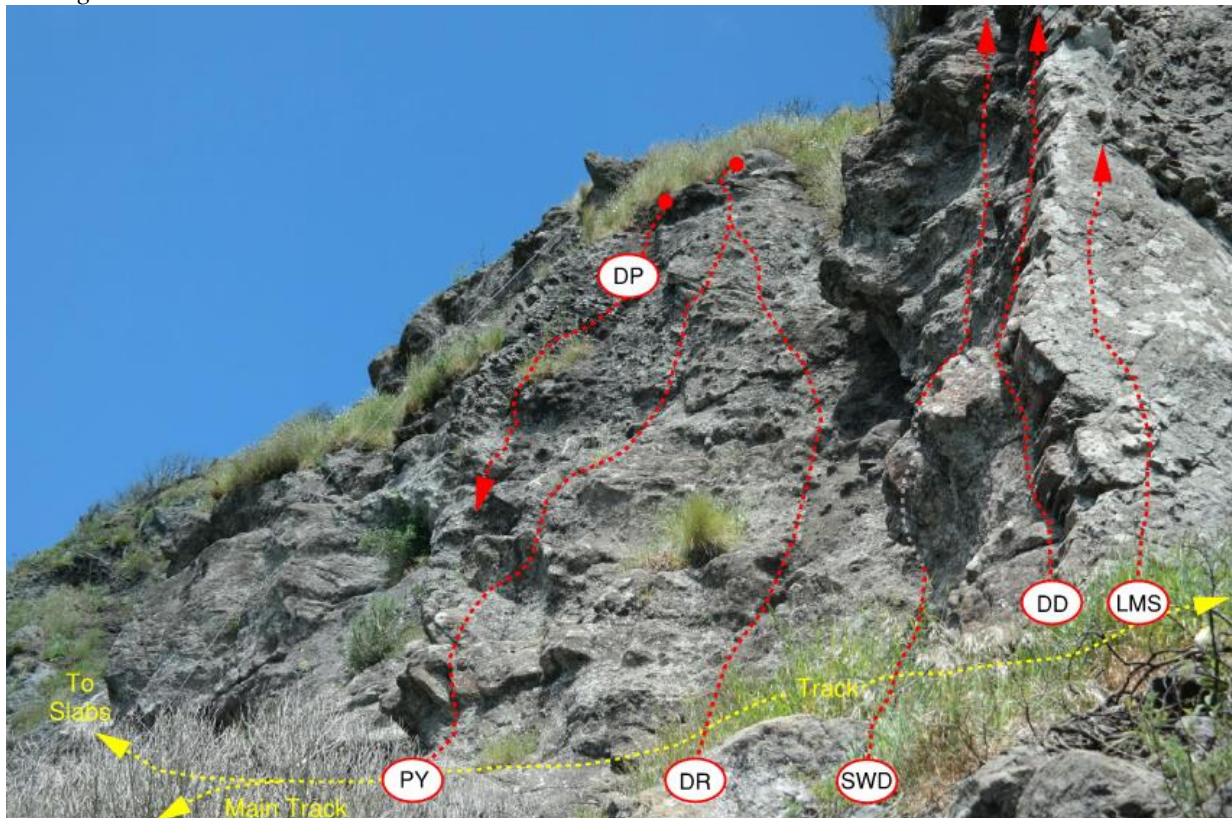
Gone courtesy of the 2011 earthquakes. *Simon Courtois 2007.*

LMS Let Me Sleep on It -

20 S1 Sp 6Br ★★★

One of the best climbs around this area. The bolted line on the R side of the prominent arête, veer slightly R when you hit the black cobbles. Shares an anchor station with 'DD' & 'SWD'. *Simon Courtois 2007*

Moving around the arete to the L are:



DD Dirty Dream

18 S1 Sp 8Br ★★

This route climbs the arête on its L side, at the last bolt go straight up the rib to the top. Shares an anchor station with 'LMS' & 'SWD'. *Simon Courtois 2012*

SWD Sleep When You're Dead

18 S1 Sp 5Br

A really dirty climb that starts in the shallow cave just L of 'DD', go L to the first bolt & up into the prominent groove system, carry on up the wide crack to the obvious V-groove at the top. The first ascent mantled over the bulge on the R at the start but it seems a bit contrived. Shares an anchor station with 'LMS' & 'SWD'. *Owain Scullion Tom Stubbs, 2016*

Main Face

The Main Face is steeply undercut & the start of the climbs is generally gymnastic.

DR Duncans Route

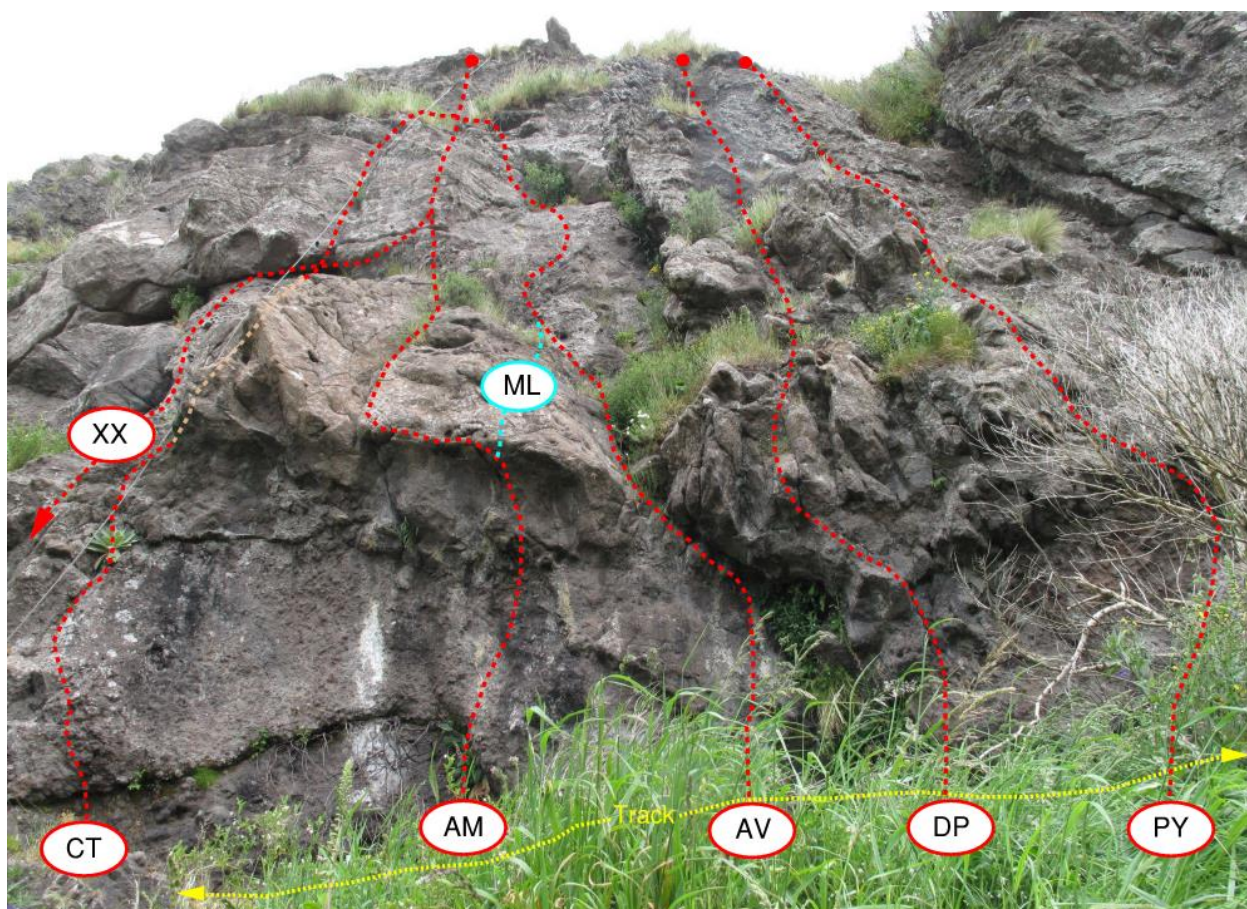
18 S1 Sp 7Br ★

Left angling line of bolts, with good climbing cranking through chicken-heads at the bottom, then cruise through the mid-section to enjoy the crux near the top. *Duncan Sherratt, 6 April 2012.*

PY Pyrotechnic

21 S1 Sp 9Br

It is a shame that this climb is dirty as it does deserve a star. Starts under the overhang, with a low first staple, bouldery onto the bulge then diagonally L to a hole Stp3. Straight up from here on improving holds, anchor station sharp L at the top of the crag as for 'DR'. *Warrick Matheson 2017*



We now get into the steep stuff

DP Dustpipe

21 S1 Sp 7Br ★

Start below the blocky looking overhanging groove to the R of 'AV', straight up, interesting moves through steep rock, go L of Br1 & R of Br2 before going back L to Br3 from here straight up the easier groove system to the anchors. *Tony Burnell, 28/03/2019*

AV Ash Vegas

21 S1 Sp 8Br ★★

Start at the R side of the roof area just before the end of the ramp. Move past Br1 to a good hold on the R, lean out to clip Br2 before going L & up through the notch. Continue up easier ground staying R of Br5 before moving L & clipping the last 2 staples on 'XX', go up to a common anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 23/11/2018*

ML Missing Link

22 S1 Sp 7Br ★

Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br continue up to the lip make a dynamic move over the roof to a good hold R of Br3, finish up 'AV' to a common anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 10/03/2019*

AM Annihilation Mix

24 S1 Sp 8Br ★★

Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br, continue up to the lip then traverse L to the flake crack, up this to easy ground before a tricky arete of 'XX' to a common anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 23/11/2018*

CT Compression Test

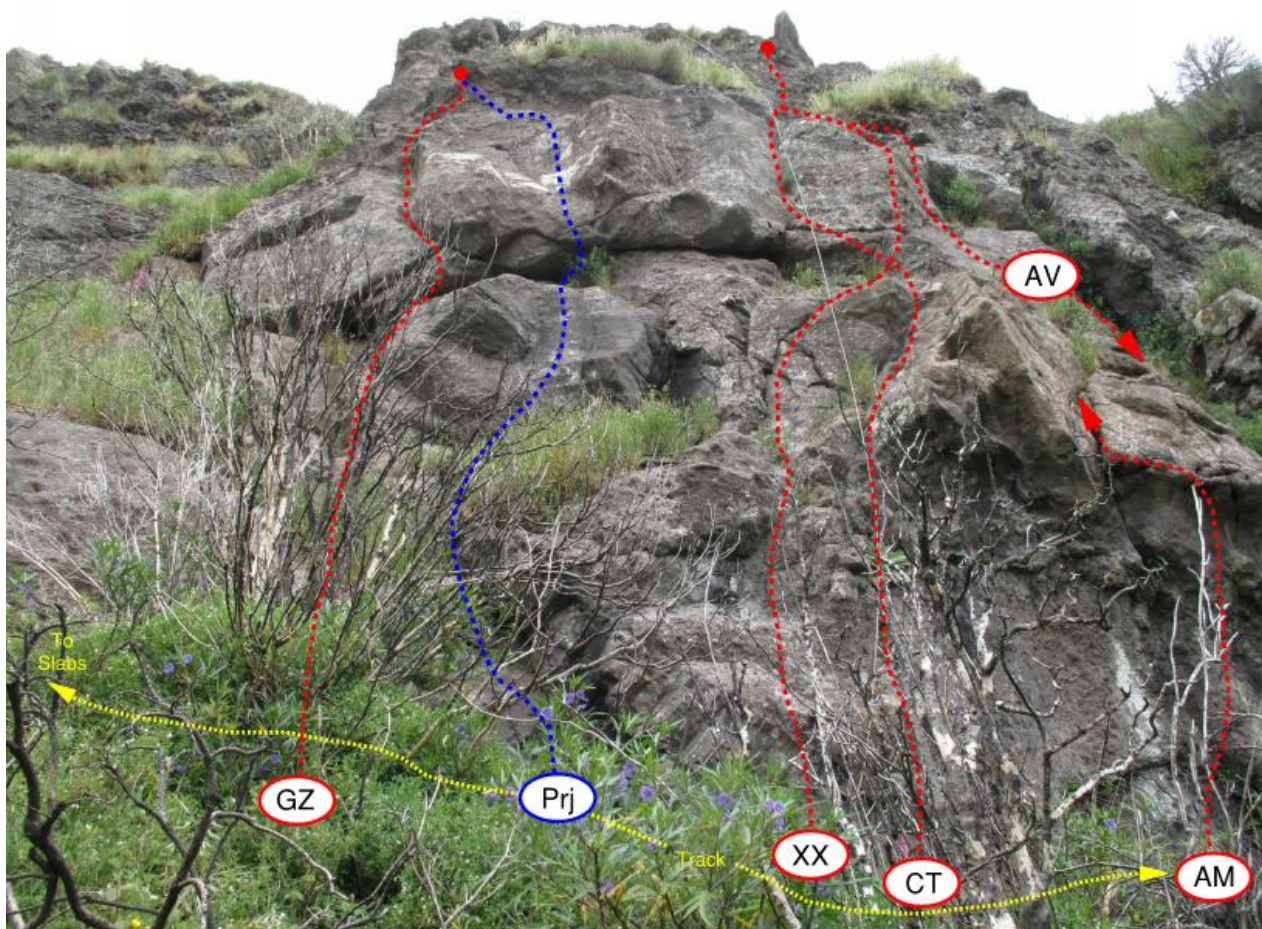
25 S1 Sp 5Br ★★★

Start at the very L end of the roof, make a difficult move onto the black face & go up the vague groove, cross the dyke & move R up a brown slab to a ledge. Climb the groove (crux) past 2Br, stepping R to finish at the common anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 14/12/2018*

XX XX

21 S1 Sp 8Br

We thought this climb was pretty dirty, it appears it had been bolted about 18 months previously but not climbed. Start up the slab just L of the end of the overhanging section. After a short traverse R there is a blunt rib with 2Stp, climb this direct with difficulty (crux) to another ledge then up the final slab to a common anchor station. *Equip - Grant Piper, Climbed - Tony Burnell, Nov 2018*



Prj Project

Closed Project Tony Burnell

GZ Ground Zero

19 S1 Sp 7Br ★★

Start 3.0m L of the overhanging section at a slab, go up past an overlap & follow the last corner system at the end of the crag. Grant Piper 2017

The Slabs

There are 2 long slabs, No1 slab is accessed by going uphill from the start of 'GZ'. No2 slab is accessed direct off Ella Track & is some 30mts L of the main cliff

No1 Slab

CC Christmas Curry

18 S1 Sp 8Br

Start by climbing "TCL" to Br2, step R & then go straight up past 2 big ledges to the final slab & an anchor point. Alexandria Natalia, 24 Dec 2018

TCL The Central Line

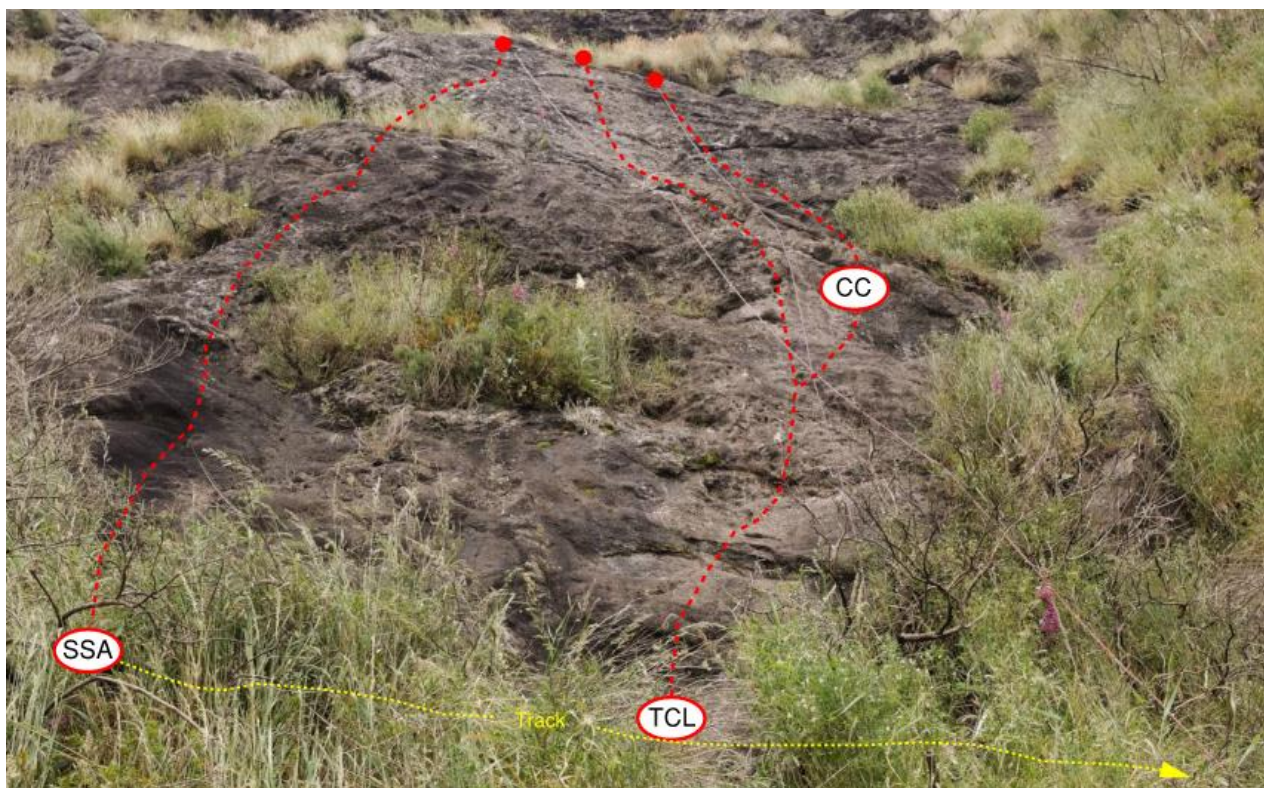
18 S1 Sp 8Br ★

The first climb on the wall. Climbs straight up the centre of the buttress, start at the single chain link belay point. Head R across the slabby wall before heading straight up through a groove to a large ledge. Continue straight up, steeply at first then the angle drops back & easier climbing leads to an anchor point. Tony Burnell, 8th December 2018

SSA Sleep Sliding Away

17 S1 Sp 8Br

Start approx. 3.0mts L of "CL", follow the R trending, brown black slab till it starts to steepen up. Move up into another shall R trending groove & continue straight up to an abseil station. Simon Courtois, 2018



No2 Slab

Walk along Ella Track past the main crag until you can bushwhack up the hill to this buttress, not the most popular climbs at Bivvy Rock.



RU **Round Up**

16 S1 Sp 8Br

Start on the R side of the face, follow the line of staples curving up & around to the L till the wall gets steeper & you reach an anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*

BH **Black Humour**

19 S1 Sp 7Br

The middle line. Head rightwards on the black wall, follow a series of shallow grooves, then veer R & go up to the anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*

SE Scorched Earth

18 S1 Sp 7Br

At the very L side of the slabs, move up to pass between two small roofs. When the angle eases continue up to the anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*

Air Traffic Control Buttress

Sign of the Bell Bird Access

Parking GPS: -43.624345,172.628721

Distance: Distance: 600 mts

Walk Time: 8 minutes

From the car park at the Sign of the Bellbird walk south along the Crater Rim Walkway through the bush for about 5 minutes until you can see the crag above, keep on the track until you can scramble up via a short slab to the foot of the climbing area.

To access the top of the crag, drive along the Summit Road from The Sign of The Kiwi past the Sign of the Bell Bird park at the pull in on the town side just after the T junction. Walk up the road, at the second hairpin bend contour round to the L (5 metres) & there is an abseil point on the rock just above head height.



Conditions

There is little seismic damage & little in the way of loose rock at the top.

Following the bush fires the crag is incredibly dusty/dirty & in need of a cleanup

Routes

Routes are described from Right to Left

UTD Under the Dome

22 S1 Sp 9Br

Climbs directly up the abseil route. Start in a bottomless groove with Br on L wall. Climb directly up into the scoop (crux) then up the pumpily leaning wall to exit up onto the top slab via a massive chicken head. Continue up past 2Br to the anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 09/11/2018*

ROR Radar O'Reilly

19 S1 Sp 8Br

Start just L of the second short groove at the base of the crag, Br1 is an extended chain. Mantle shelf start gets you into a short corner, up this exit R then go back L and straight up. Easier climbing through the lichenous scoop to finish. Anchor station in the centre of the back wall. *Simon Courtois, 2008*

CGT Ground Control to Major Tom

21 S1 Sp 9Br

Pretty much the centre of the buttress. Steep face climbing to past 3Br's, move leftwards then up easier climbing. Br7 is out of view round to the R, clip this then move back L & up the crux groove to finish. There is a joint anchor shared with ROR. *Simon Courtois 11/ 2013*

MA Malaise Airways**19 S1 Sp 6Br**

Starts at the L side of the buttress, just R of the continuous groove taken by **PE**. Move up the face thru steep steps, at Br4 move right & go up into overhanging groove, straight up go over directly up onto the slab, past Br6 to an anchor at the top of the slab. *Simon Courtois, 23/11/2014*

PE Pilot Error**16 S1 Sp 6Br**

Climbs the groove at the L side of the buttress, follow the groove straight up past a no hands resting ledge, pull into the final groove R of **MA** then go back R to the anchor of '**SP**'. *Anton Green, 09/11/2018*

SP Sky Pilot**19 S1 Sp 6Br**

The route was prepared by Simon Courtois but stolen from under his nose. Starts at the very L side of the crag just beyond the start of **PE**. Move L climb directly up the gritstone like face & pockets, continue in similar style to the base of the red arête, follow this before moving R onto the face at the top & exiting onto the ledge above. *Aleksandria Natalia, 24 October 2018*

