

TE OKA

Banks Peninsula
Climbing



Te Oka
Tony Burnell
Rev. B (2024)



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

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

General. *The Banks Peninsula Crag is home to rare species of geckos and native flora and 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 right of public access.*

Te Oka is not quick drying and after prolonged rain it takes a while for the seepage to disappear. The crag is situated about five hundred metres above sea level overlooking Little River and Lake Forsythe, it is sheltered and has a westerly aspect. The sun hits the crag around lunch time and stays till it sets behind the Southern Alps.

The crag was overlooked during development on the Banks Peninsula and apart from a fleeting visit by *Phil de Joux* and *Martin Clarke*. Only *Phil* stayed long enough to record a climb 'Dark Tower', but they did leave some abandoned projects. In 1997 *Alan Monox* introduced *Pat Deavoll* and *Tony Burnell* to the crag, that was his first mistake especially if he was harbouring any secret desire to put up some new routes. During June and July 1997 *Pat* and *Tony* set about the development and cleaning up of the bolted but unclimbed, projects. After several weeks work, their tally had risen to ten routes on the main crag, three of which were 'Last Night of the Poms', 'Orbital Smash' and 'Doing it by Degrees'. At the northern end of the crag *Alan Hill* added three trad lines.

Climbing Notes. *Climbing is Dangerous - By choosing to climb here 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 over 25 years old. The fixed gear comprises Galvanised tru-bolts, chain links and some stainless-steel hangers, all show signs of age. Neither the first ascensionists nor the author accepts any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment. Replacement of fixed gear is a costly and 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. 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.*

In this guide routes are described from Right to Left. 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, however there is not much information available, so the lines indicated are the ones we climbed and thought the most logical. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos. None of the climbs are longer than 30m therefore route lengths are not shown. Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them, check your placements and wear a helmet. It is a good idea to take a brush and 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

Unclimbed / Potential climbs are marked in

Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in

YELLOW

RED

PINK

GREEN

BLUE

WHITE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

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Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

Mp - Mixed Protection Route (bolts and trad).

right and left - Denote right and left.

DBA – Denotes anchor station/lower off point

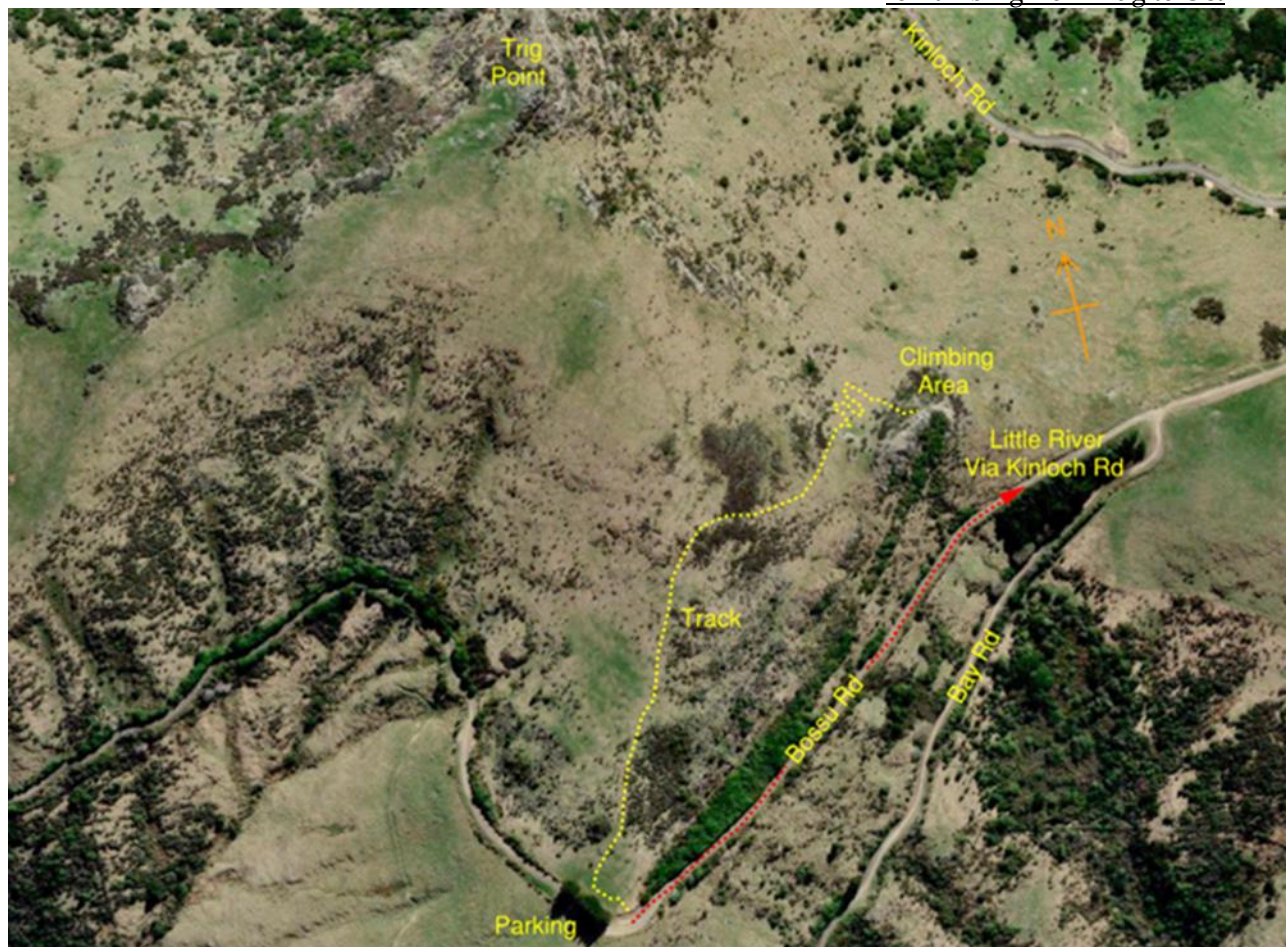
#Br - Denotes the number of bolt or chain links

Access and Restrictions Permission is required to access this crag; for access contact the farm manager Joe (Tel: 0212771188). Unless you have permission from the farm managers you cannot access this crag. If you call and do not get a response do not repeatedly call the farmer.

The crag overlooks Little River and Lake Forsyth, parking is located on Bossu Rd park opposite the sheep yards.

For directions to the parking use the GPS coordinates below.

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking Area	-43.819003, 172.784159	-	-	<u>Permission is required to go to this crag</u>
Crag	-43.815810, 172.787596	600m	20+ min	<u>Dogs are not permitted. The crag is closed for lambing from Aug to Oct</u>



Go through the steel gate, cross the stock yard and through the second steel gate, turn right and follow a vague 4WD track heading up hill following the ridge line, where the track levels out and before the trig point becomes visible, there is a small buttress to your right keep this in sight but continue along the 4WD track till it turns slightly left (the trig point is still not visible) leave the track at this point and contour to the right across the hillside till it levels out, the small crag should still be on your right at this point and you should be able to see the trig point about 300 m to your left. Head downhill toward Lake Forsythe crossing a low angled slab of rock just as you start to descend, work your way down between the small bluffs. If you get it right there are only two short, awkward steps, the descent is about 100m vertical and ends up in a shallow gut contour back to your right toward a large tree and the base of the crag

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 and are normally accepted as just the

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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

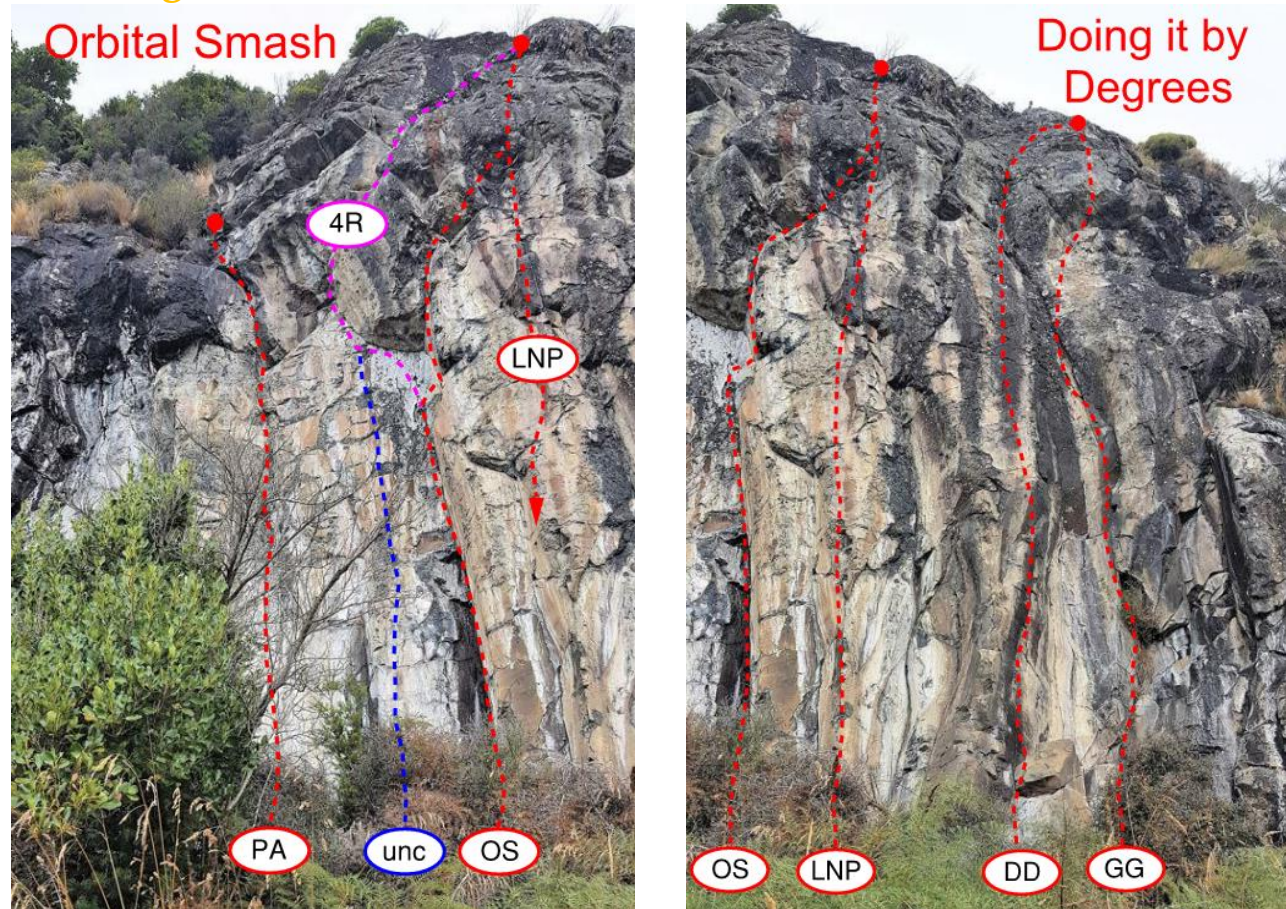
The grades given here assume that the climber is climbing on-sight and placing gear on lead.

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

- S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection and 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 and a fall could result in serious injury.

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

Climbing. The climbs are described from right to left starting with 'GG'.



GG Grumble and Grunt 24 S1 Sp 5Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

At the right side of the crag there is a hanging groove come chimney formed by the columns, start off a ledge at 3.5m, using undercuts on the right to get up into the chimney, climb it with difficulty. Exit the chimney slightly right to gain a standing position on a ledge. Move up to the bulging roof above and climb it directly on good holds, chain belay on the wall above.

DD Doing it by Degrees 25 S1 Sp 6Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

To the left of 'GG' is a steep black rib that fans out into a wall. Start on the left side of the rib, continue up the rib on layaway holds until you move out left onto the face proper. Climb the face on small positive holds to a good layaway hold, an awkward move past a Br leads to better holds before getting onto the not so welcoming ledge using rounded holds. Climb up the steep rightward trending crack to good holds then move over right to the chain belay of 'GG'.

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LNP Last Night of the Poms 25 S1 Sp 5Br

Pat Deavoll, 1997

Climbs the left arete formed by the second groove/chimney. Start in the groove and use it to make as much height as possible before you are forced out left onto the arete. Continue the steep wall with what feels like a long run out to get to Br4, hard moves passed the Br4 lead to a ledge and Br5, rest then up strenuously to belay over the roof. (Equipped by Martin Clarke)

OS Orbital Smash 25 S1 Sp 6Br

Pat Deavoll, 1997

Moving left the next feature is a recessed white wall bounded on it the right by a steep corner and capped by a bulging roof. Climb the groove with difficulty, there is a good rest at Br4. Continue up the hanging arete until your way is barred by the roof, which is avoided by moving right and finishing as for 'LNP'.

4R Fourth Rock from the Sun 25 S1 Sp 7Br

Pat Deavoll, 1997

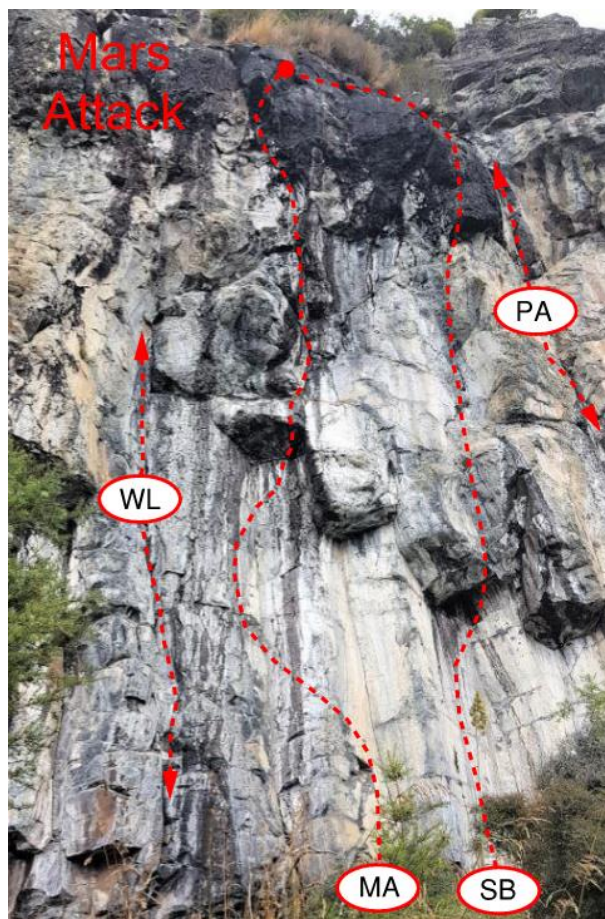
Start up the groove as for 'OS' to the resting hold. Commit yourself out left on to the wall and move up to a Br, small friable holds on the steep wall lead to a hanging wedge shaped groove; lay back strenuously up to good holds in the horizontal break. Traverse rightwards and up round the corner and pull into a steep groove, move right again to the same of 'LNP'.

A direct start to 'OS' was bolted (shown in [Blue](#)), there is a bolt with a tag on, this has not been climbed.

PA Paranoid Android 25 S1 Sp 5Br

Pat Deavoll, 1997

Climbs the corner and hanging groove to a lower off.



SB Sentry Box 24 S1 Sp 6Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

Start in the groove about 2m left of 'MA', easy first clip. Dynamic or reachy moves lead to a huge jug and Br2. Awkward moves round the bulge on small holds to Br3, then sloping holds. Move right then up to get a sort of rest in a short sentry box, Br4. Swing out right onto the arete, move up on good holds to the bulging black roof passing 2Br's. Strenuous moves over the bulge on the left onto the hanging slab, move right again to the belay of 'MA'.

MA Mars Attack 23 S1 Sp 6Br

Pat Deavoll, 1997

Takes the crack line at the left side of the white wall (Br1 is missing a hanger). Start to the right of the crack in a subsidiary crack, move back left at what would be the Br2. Climb the crack with difficulty, mainly because

the crack's no use. A sort of rest can be taken at the roof before you finish up the hanging groove round the left side of the roof.

WL Wanderlust

22 S1 Sp 8Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

The first route from 1997, bolted and climbed on the same day. Start about 1mt right of the boulder on the track below the long groove with bolts in its left wall. The route takes the line of least resistance up the centre of the cliff trending left. Climb the groove passed 3Br to a point where you are forced onto the left wall, move up the wall on reasonable holds until you can quit the groove round to the left to gain a standing position on a bulge and Br. left again and up to the roof, Br, then swing left over the bulge into an easy angled groove. Move up then out right to gain the exposed rib and climb straight up the rib passed another Br to a chain belay.

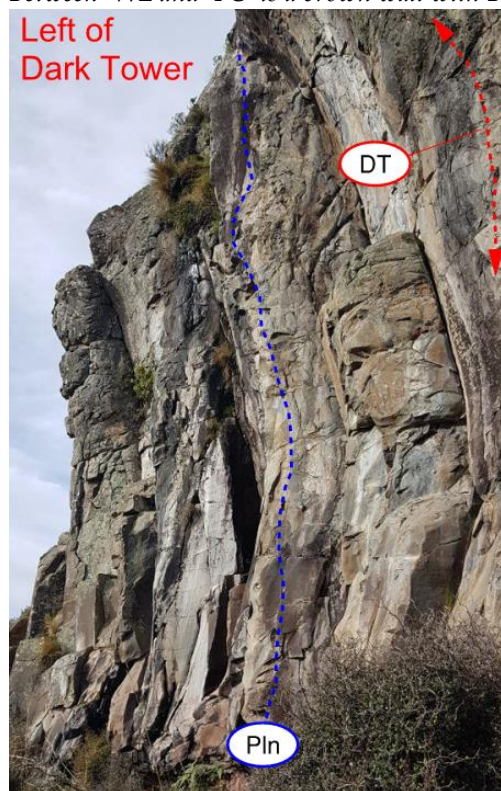
LBT Little Big Top

24 S1 Sp 8Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

Warning some gear is missing from this line. Start as for 'WL', up the groove and move left round the face onto the sloping ledge. Above you on the bulge is a Br the main difficulty is in clipping it. Move up and slightly right under the roof to poor undercuts and layaway's; above is a hanging crack come lay back with a good edge. Make some powerful moves round the bulge onto good in-cut holds. Pull up into the corner groove above; follow the groove past 2Br's till you can move out left to the belay of 'WL'.

Between 'WL and 'FC' is a brown wall with Br this is an old project from 1997.



FC French Connection

25 S1 Sp 7Br

Tony Burnell, 1997

An old unclimbed *Phil de Joux* line towards the left side of the crag, climbed and extended to the top of the crag. Start easily off the ground into a groove/corner climb past 2 Br before moving out right on small holds to gain a sloping edge on the left and a good hold on the right, up again to good holds and Br3. Continue easily up the bulging wall via a crack on the left and onto the halfway ledge. Move left and up the steepening wall on reasonable holds to the last, and a hidden Br before gaining the hanging corner and a chain belay.

DT Dark Tower

23 S3 Sp 3Br

Phil de Joux, 1994

The first route recorded at the crag climbs the broad pillar with grooves to right and left, it is steeper than it looks. There is a rest ledge before heading out onto the face on small dirty holds and tricky to stand up and reach the belay, the climb originally topped out but now has chains at the top of the initial pillar.

Pln Potential Line

Alan's Wall. The next three route are reached by contouring/scrambling around to the left for about 30 m along a ledge system, unfortunately there are no anchors on these climbs, from right to left the climbs are:



TG Tongan Groove 18 S3 Tr 0Br

Alan Hill, 1997

Start 6m right of 'Sup' climb the left facing corner. Climb the corner and step right, continue up over the bulge to exit up easier ground on the right.

Sup Supernatural 21 S3 Tr 0Br

Alan Hill, 1997

Start 5m right of 'CP' below a groove with a small shrub. Climb the groove to a V corner capped some jammed blocks. Surmount the roof on the left and continue straight up.

CP Childs Play 18 S3 Tr 0Br

Alan Hill, 1997

Start on the ledge and surmount the bulge above using the prominent, jagged crack. Dubious holds and dubious gear.