

MANGAOTAKI

By Cliff Ellery (Dec /2010)

Location & Access

Pio Pio is situated on SH3, 20 km south of Te Kuiti. From Pio Pio turn down Kaka St which is sign posted to Waitanguru Falls and the Mangaotaki bush walk (by the BP station). At the end of Kaka St turn left onto Mangaotaki Road and after 8 km you reach the Mangaotaki reserve, at the base of the valley. The "Back on the Road" crag is 2 km down the road on your right. The main climbing area is a further 4 km down the road on the left hand side of the valley, the largest of the cliffs in the valley.

The main cliff is situated on Warrick and Suzie Denize's place (07) 877 8399 and the farm house is about 1km past the crag on the left. Having gained permission to climb park your car at the farm gate, by the large Macrocarpa trees, and walk 500m up the hill to the base of the cliff. Access will not be granted during lambing, 1st August through to 31st of October. Note. If Warrick and Suzie are unavailable please Ring Gramme Denize on (07) 877 87018.

History

The first climb in the area was put up by Robbie McBirney and Bryce Martin in 1975, while on a trip around the North Island to discover new rock. They drove down the Mangaotaki Valley, raced up to the largest of the cliffs and climbed the most obvious line, a 2 pitch chimney/crack "Shogun" grade 18. Later that year Bryce returned with Rick McGregor and completed the second ascent of Shogun. On a later visit Rick was to put up the climb "Stink Crack" on a neighbouring crag, a climb that hasn't been found let alone repeated to this day. In 1984 Bryce keen to show off this mass of unclimbed rock, returned with Phil Roberts and Graeme Aimer. However faced with the scale of the place, the effort required to put up a new route, and the lack of continuous crack systems, Mangaotaki couldn't compete with an "Easter at the Bay". On the drive out however Bryce spied an obvious hand jam crack, jumped out of the car raced up to the base of the cliff and put up "Back On The Road Again". This was the sum total of the climbing done in the valley at the time Central North Island Rock was published.

On a wet and windy spring day in 1992 Bryce and I arrived at Mangaotaki. Egged on by Bryce I rapped down the obvious corner to the right of Shogun, after all the CNI guide stated that the line had already been cleaned by McBirney in 1975. I learnt 2 valuable lessons that day, how to abseil when gale force winds are blowing your rope up round your ears and never trust a guidebook. After a few more visits in more favourable weather conditions and a full days cleaning I put up "Valium and Arithmetic", grade 19. This set off a frenzy of activity (in Mangaotaki terms) with Dean Maxwell and myself putting up 3 more climbs, all of them 3 star routes "Don't Get Mad Get Even", "Hasta La Vista" and "Enthusiastic Blues". Dave Garrity, Mike Camilleri and Bryce kept the momentum going over the next couple of years putting up "Third Time Lucky" and "Fathers Day Out" on the Main Cliff as well as numerous climbs on the boulders at the base of the cliff. After 3 years abroad I returned to Mangaotaki with Bryce and Dave and over the following summers we put up another 20 routes and developed a new crag "Leach's" further up the valley. With the addition of routes such as "Hakuna Matata", "Year in Year Out", "Third Generation" and "Walking the Dogs" as well as numerous other two and three pitch routes, Mangaotaki had now become the North Islands premium multi-pitch climbing destination.

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The Wellington Alpine Club and a number of Rotorua based climbers have made several trips to the area, most have been content with repeating existing routes but a few have left their mark. David Hood after accompanying me on a number of first ascents put up a couple of routes on the boulders then added "Dave by Name and Dave by Nature" which although not a three star classic typifies the adventurous style of climbing Mangaotaki has to offer.

The Main Cliff still has dozens of unclimbed routes, there are boulders at the base and top of the cliff that we have yet to lay eyes on let alone climb. Bouldering has also taken off here recently with the H-town boys putting up some 60 plus problems grade V0 to V6.

INTRODUCTION

The Main Cliff is about 800m long and ranges in height from 50m to 100m. Most of the rock is very steep, between 80 to 100 degrees with a number of large roofs and ledge systems. There is acres and acres of unclimbed rock, some ripe for climbing a lot of it smooth and blank. The limestone in the valley is divided into several distinctive layers. The lowest level is a soft but sound whitish limestone which is capped by a band of very soft sandstone. This layer of sandstone varies from 1/2m to 10m thick through out the valley but is only 1m to 2m thick on the main cliff. The majority of the 50m routes start above this sandstone belt. The top layers are all good quality limestone and become more weathered the higher up you go. As a result the crux for a lot of the climbs is negotiating the smooth rounded holds on the lower section followed by easy climbing on the pancake rock type formations nearer the top. The Main Cliff faces north east so is great for climbing on those autumn and winter mornings or on those long hot summer days shade can be found from about 2.00pm on.

Success at Mangaotaki is never guaranteed, you have to be committed determined and hungry to tick off a big route on the main cliff, half hearted attempts just won't cut it. To date there are relatively few climbers that have mastered climbing at this crag. So if you want to push the grades or climb a dozen routes in a day either stay in the boulder field at the base of the cliff or head to any one of the other crags posted on this site. Don't get me wrong there are no death routes at Mangaotaki, all the routes are well protected as long as you keep a cool head and you know your trade. The hard graft starts with the approaches a number of which are very steep scrambles up to the base of the cliff. It is also hard to get a fix on where you are in the bush. There are also a number of routes that are approached from the top on abseil. Twin ropes are recommended and a big rack is also required for most of the routes, see the gear section below.

Now with all that out of the way, its time for the author to rave a bit. Mangaotaki is an excellent crag. There is no where in the North Island that gets near it for quality multi-pitch climbs. Although not an alpine crag, attempting a route on the Main Cliff will almost guarantee you an adventure. So live a little and if on your first attempt you don't succeed show a bit of nail and come back and give it another try.

GEAR

To date all the climbs on the Main Cliff are predominantly on natural gear with bolts covering the ground between crack systems. Due to the height of the place and the "fear factor" the routes tend to eat gear, so a recommended rack is:

CD x 2 Double set of Camming devices, size 1 to 4 Friend or equal
(including 1/2 sizes)

LCD Large Camming devices, a number 4 & 4.5 Camalot or equal.

ELCD Extra Large Camming devices, 5 Camalot.
(Only required on a few of the routes)

W A full set of wires.

Hex A good selection of Hex's

(Don't laugh, while your cams are rattling themselves loose in the rippled limestone cracks the simple Hex will be locked solid and bombproof.)

Plenty of quick draws and slings.

Disclaimer

The author, publisher, and landowners take no responsibility for damages, injury, disability, or death resulting from the use of this guide. This guide does not guarantee any of the fixed gear, including bolts, peg, or belays mentioned in this guide. All fixed gear is to be used at the climbers own risk. Ownership of the guide does not grant you entry onto the property or crag. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of the information in this guide. Climb at your own risk. This property is a commercial farm and as such has hazards associated with such a property. Access is at own risk.

The Main Cliff

Third Time Lucky (17) 45m

Access: From the far left hand end of the cliff, walk up to the base of the cliff via a steep gully just to the left of a large boulder. Scramble up the fixed rope moving left at the top onto the large ledge, *Fathers Day Out*, *Third Time Lucky* and *Come Again* all start from here. Alternatively you can gain the ledge by abseiling in from the T.B.C belay off *Third Time Lucky*.

Pitch 1 (17) 15m

This climb starts at the left-hand end of the ledge system. Climb up the right facing corner past 5 bolts exiting out left onto a large bush covered ledge. D.B.C belay on the rear wall. (Pro 5 bolts)

**Pitch 2 (15) 25m*

Scramble up and around the flax bush then climb the crack and corner system above, belay off the T.B.C belay station right on the edge, (Pro W, CD, Hex)

Bryce Martin, Mike Camilleri, Anthony Willmott & John Waldmen 29/4/95

Fathers Day Out (19) 45m

Pitch 1 (16) 20m

Climb up the obvious left facing corner 10 m to the right of Third Time Lucky. At the top of the ramp climb up onto the sloping ledge. Belay off natural gear. (Pro; W, CD x 2, Hex)

Pitch 2 (19) 25m

Climb straight up from the belay, then move left across the wall onto a large ledge, crux, (poorly protected). From the ledge easy, very pleasant and well protected climbing to the top. Belay off natural gear. (sling bollards). To descend use T.B.C rap station of TTL. (Pro; W, CD x 2, Hex)

Dave Garrity, Bryce Martin & Mike Camilleri 3.9.95

Come Again (18) 30m

Climbs the large left facing corners at the right hand end of the ledge. The crux is the last few moves near the top where the angle steepens and the crack widens to rattley fists. Finish on a large ledge complete with D.B.C. belay. Abseil descent. (Pro; W, CD, LCD, Hex)

Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity Mike Camilleri & Mary 7/12/97

* Dawn Till Dusk (22, A1) 75m

Access: The large right facing corner system 100m from the left-hand end of the cliff. Access is from the left-hand end along a rough track at base of the cliff.

Pitch 1 (21) 20m

Climb the prominent bolted arete that leads up to the start of the corner system just right of the large roof. The first pitch climbs the arete to about ¾ height, a great sports route in its own right. (Pro; 6 bolts, DBC Belay)

Pitch 2 (19, A1) 15m

Aid up the bolt ladder through the soft sandstone layer till you reach the bottom of the corner and the harder limestone rock. A couple of hard moves to get established in the small overhanging corner are followed by another 10m of easier climbing to a series of large ledges. Belay off natural gear. (Pro; 8 Aid bolts, W, CD, 1 x ELCD)

Pitch 3 (22) 15 m

From the belay climb the crack out on the left wall, gain the ledge then continue up the crack till you strike a small roof. Layback out and around the roof (crux) and up the twin cracks above to the large belay ledge. (Pro; W, CD x 2)

Pitch 4 (19) 25m

Climb the crack out on the left wall then traverse right into the corner just below the roof. Climb the crack and corner system above, top out and belay off the large double bollard. The top section is slow to dry after rain. (Pro; W, CD x 2, hex)

Cliff Ellery & Dave Garrity 4/1/98

While my Belayer Gently Weeps (22, A1) 75m

Access: From the base of "Dawn till Dusk" continue along the base of the cliff for another 30m till you reach a rock buttress between 2 large Rata.

Pitch 1 (22) 30m

Climb the face on the left-hand side up past 4 bolts before crossing onto the right wall. Climb up and to the right of the next 3 bolts till you reach the ledge and sandstone layer. Clip the bolt then pull up and get established on the limestone above. Continue past 2 more bolts and a number of wire and small friend placements. Once you have gained the large ledge with your hands, traverse right, past a bolt, then mantle the ledge and belay by the large crack. A sustained and difficult pitch. (Pro; 11 bolts, W, CD)

Pitch 2 (18, A1) 20m

Climb the right tending crack above till it tapers out, then climb the rippled wall above past 3 bolts & a horizontal 4 friend placement. On the first ascent the top bolt was used as a hold to gain the belay ledge/tree. (Pro W, CD)

Pitch 3 (17) 25 m

Climb the crack above then traverse right at about 15m height to the second crack and corner system. Climb up this crack to the small roof just below the top then traverse out right onto the main wall and top out. Belay off trees 10m back. (Pro; W, CD x 2, H)

Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 30/12/97

** Enthusiastic Blues (20) 35m

Access: The large right facing corner 50m to the left of Hasta La Vista (see below). From the base of H.L.V continue along the base of the cliff till you reach the large distinctive corner.

Pitch 1 (20) 15m

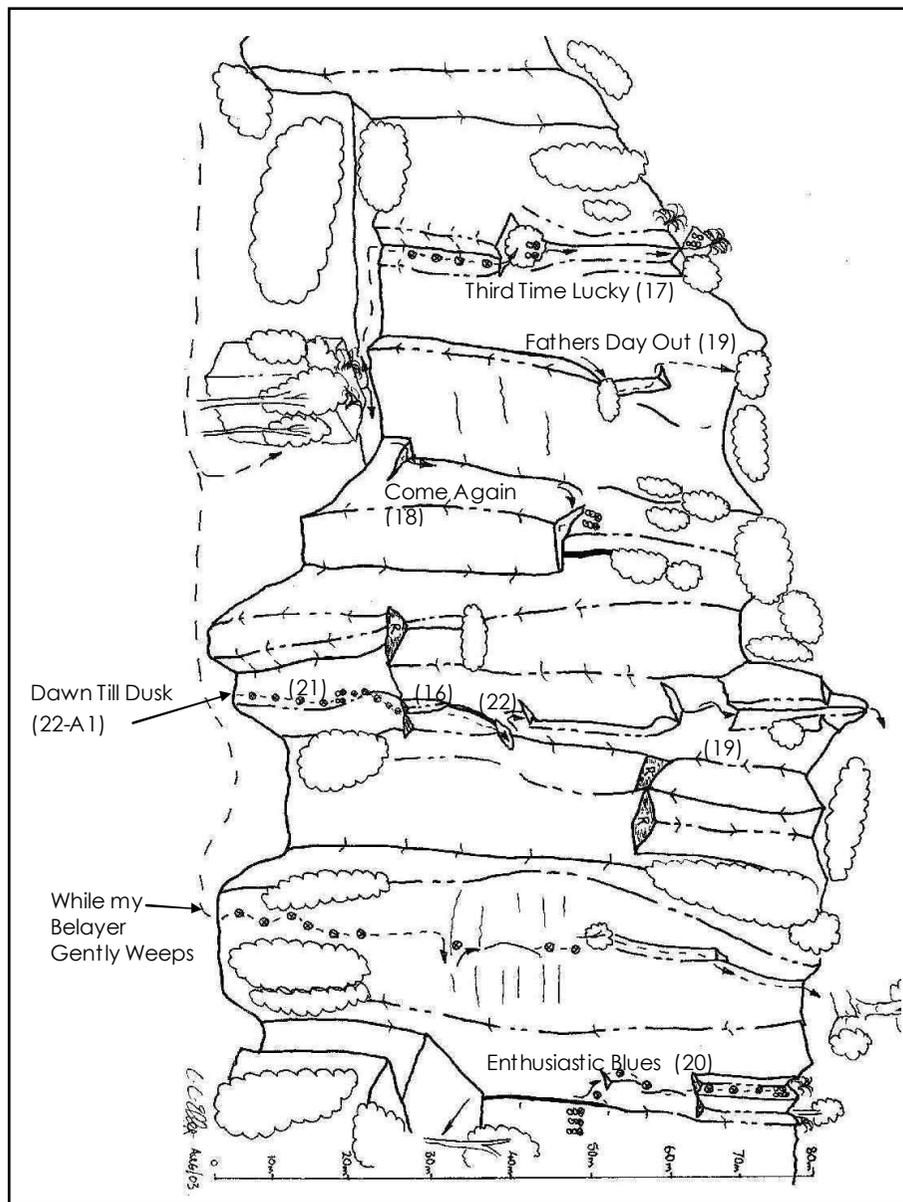
Climb straight up the corner crack on fists to a triple bolt hanging belay or for a more comfortable belay stance continue up to a small ledge on the left wall and belay off a bolt and a number 2 friend, an excellent pitch. (Pro; 2 x CD, Hex)

Pitch 2 (20) 20m

Continue up the steep corner system then into a large chimney/corner DBC belay. Either abseil 35m to base, or if you wish to top out scramble out right. (Pro; 8 bolts, W, small CD).

Dean Maxell, Dwayne Harris 12.12.93

Figure 3: Main Cliff, Left-hand End Topo



** Hasta La Vista (22) 50m

This climb follows a discontinuous crack system that starts behind a large rock outcrop and finishes up through a right facing corner capped by a series of roofs. A rough track starts from behind the Joy Ride boulder (look for the white markers). The track takes you straight up to the base of the cliff. Head left along the base of the cliff till you reach a large rock outcrop, scramble up a muddy gut between the outcrop and the cliff to the start of H.L.V.

1st Pitch: (21) 25m

Traverse left to the 1st bolt, then climb the crack above. At the second bolt move right continuing up along the line of bolts past a couple of difficult mantles. At the 5th bolt head right, clip the 6th bolt, then the crux move gets you standing on the sloping ledge above. Gain the large ledge above then continue up the crack for another 5m to a small ledge, One bolt and natural gear belay. (Pro; 8 bolts, W, CD)

2nd Pitch (19) 25m

Climb the face and crack past 2 bolts. Traverse left below the 3rd bolt into the hanging corner, then continue up the corner/crack system till you strike the first large roof. Traverse right, under the roof to a bolt, then top out through the small chimney above. Belay off the large bollard 3m back from the edge. (Pro; 5 bolts, W, CD)

Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 24/4/93

**** Trifixion (27) 25m

The sport route that leads up the left hand end of the spectacularly clean and blank yellow wall. A great sport route in a fantastic location. (Pro 7 u bolts & DB belay)

Stephen King 6/2/07

* Twins!!(20) 50m

Distinctive twin parallel cracks directly behind the Joy Ride Boulder. Three days after climbing this twin crack system my wife and I were told that we were having Twins. So be careful out there.

Access. Take the same track as for H.L.V but head right for about 15m once you strike the base of the cliff. Scramble up onto a large sloping grassy ledge at the foot of the cliff. From here traverse out left round the arete and scramble up the bushy corner (fixed ropes). Follow the 2nd fixed rope which traverses out left before gaining a second ledge system and the start of "Twins".

1st Pitch: (16) 20m

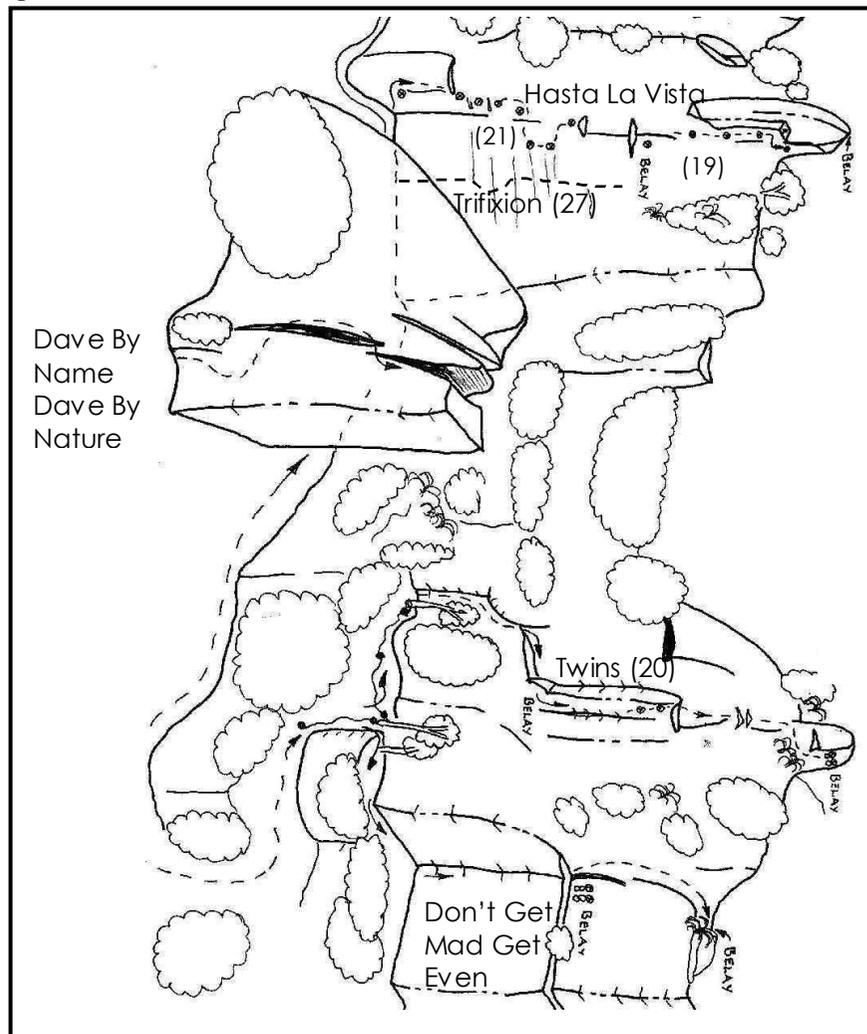
Climb the right facing corner and crack for 10m then traverse right 2m into the adjacent crack system. Climb this for a couple of metres then traverse right onto the large ledge. Climb the crack at the right hand end of the ledge for a couple of metres before traversing right into the base of the second crack and belay on the micro ledge. (Pro CD, Hex, W)

2nd Pitch (20) 30m

Climb straight up the crack above move left past a bolt then up onto a large ledge. Continue up the crack above, then blast your way through the overhanging ground, mantling the large dinner plate. Great moves with 2 lovely bolts to help calm your nerves. Continue up the crack above then move right under the small roof and climb the right arete. Move right onto the small grassy ledge and a DBC belay. (Pro; (LCD optional) CD HEX, W)

Cliff Ellery & David Hood 7/2/99

Figure 4: Main Cliff: Hasta La Vista – Don't Get Mad Get Even.



* **Don't Get Mad Get Even (18) 45m**

The large open book corner easily visible from the track below.

Access. The same as for "Twins" except at the top of the first fixed rope move back right onto the grassy ledge. Traverse right, back around the arete to the base of the large corner crack.

Pitch 1 (18) 25m

Once at the base it's pretty hard to get lost, just climb straight up the corner, bridging jamming and lay-backing. (Pro; W, CD, DBC belay)

Cliff Ellery, Bryce Martin & Dave Garrity Jan/93

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Pitch 2(15) 20m

From the belay bridge up the chimney just to the left of the belay, 2 bolts runners, then climb the twin cracks above exiting to the left of the large flax bush. Belay off natural gear up behind the flax bush. (Pro; 2 bolts W, CD) From here you can scramble up the grass bank to the top of the crag, best to stay roped in.

Cliff Ellery & Mike Camilleri Jan/97

Manana (19, A1) 50m

Access. This Climb follows a large left tending corner to a large ledge, then climbs a wide crack on the left head wall. In 2002 a large slip washed down this line so it may be a little dirty. A well marked track leads through the bush directly below the base of the climb, scramble up a bushy gut then up another dirty corner with a fixed rope attached, to a DBC belay on a small ledge.

Pitch 1 (19, A1) 35m

Clip your ettriers or numerous slings into the bolt on the lip and then get established in the corner above (A1). From here climb up the corner till the crack closes off, the next section through the tight corner, protected by 2 bolts, is the crux. Once past the crux continue up easy ground to the large belay ledge with a D.B.C belay on the back wall. (Pro; 5 bolts, ELCD, LCD, CD, Hex)

Pitch 2 (16) 15m

Climb the crack on the left hand head wall and belay either on the edge or continue up the bush covered ledges and belay off the larger trees higher up. (Pro; LCD, CD, Hex)

Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery & Dave Garrity 4/1/98

* **Hakuna Matata (16) 65m**

Access. From the base of Manana continue around the ledge (fixed rope) till you reach the base of a corner/groove.

Pitch 1 (16) 20m

Easy climbing up the crack and corner system leads to a large overhanging block, climb up and over the block into the chimney (crux), belay on the narrow ledge inside the chimney. (Pro; CD, Hex, W)

Pitch 2(16) 15m

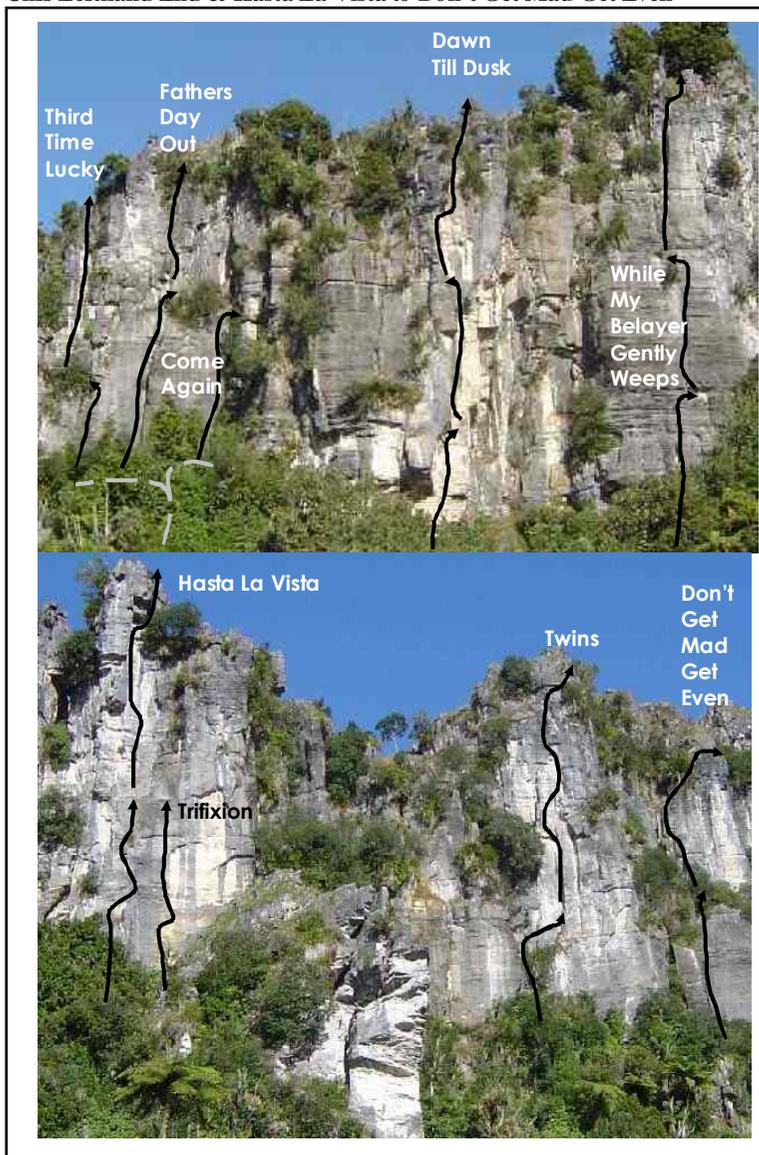
Climb out of the chimney onto the left face, climb straight up the face arranging pro in the corner crack and in the thin crack on the face. Follow the crack system through the overhang to the belay ledge under the roof. Pitch 1 and 2 can be done as one pitch. (Pro; CD, Hex, W)

Pitch 3(16) 30m

Traverse right, across the small wall to the flax bush, then climb the arete and face. Climb the face staying to the very right hand edge till you reach the base of the pinnacle. The original line climbed up the rather loose chimney summitting on top of the pinnacle then climbed down the other side to the belay. Alternatively escape out right up the grassy ramp and belay between the two pinnacles. (Pro; CD, Hex, W)

Dave Garrity & Bryce Martin 5/1/98

Main Cliff Lefthand End & Hasta La Vista to Don't Get Mad Get Even



Access to the next 7 routes (Year to Year – Valium & Arithmetic) is by abseil, all routes finish within the immediate vicinity of the large Totara Tree situated at the top & centre of the Main Cliff.

** Year to Year (16) 40m

A left tending crack system. Abseil off a DBC rap station in front of and to the right (true left) of the large Totara tree. A 40m Abseil puts you on a small triangular belay ledge at the bottom of the crack system.

**Pitch 1 (16) 30m

Climb the jam crack and face. A difficult section at the bottom leads to easy pleasant climbing up the face and crack till you're at the height of the belay ledge. After arranging protection traverse right onto the belay, crux. (Pro; LCD, CD, Hex, W)

Pitch 2 (16) 20m

Climb up left across the face and up a narrow bush filled chimney. (Take care this pitch still has a lot of loose rock) (Pro; LCD, CD, Hex, W). See "Trilobite" for the recommended second pitch.

Dave Garrity & Bryce Martin 3/1/95

** Trilobite (18) 20m

The recommended second pitch of Year to Year.

From the second belay ledge of Year to Year move straight up, then traverse right onto the arete, crux. From here easy and pleasant climbing up the arete and hanging corner to the top. Belay off the trees at the top of the crack or go further back and belay off the rap station. (Pro; Small CD, Hex, W)

Dave Garrity, Bryce Martin, Mike Camilleri and Mary. 7/12/97

** Late In the Day (17) 45m

Scramble round the right hand side (true left) of the rock bollard immediately in front of the large Totara tree, then drop down onto a small ledge and the DBC belay of "Late in The Day". From here a 45m Abseil gets you onto a large bush covered ledge, 5m to the left is the obvious corner and crack system of "Late in The Day".

Pitch 1 (17) 30m

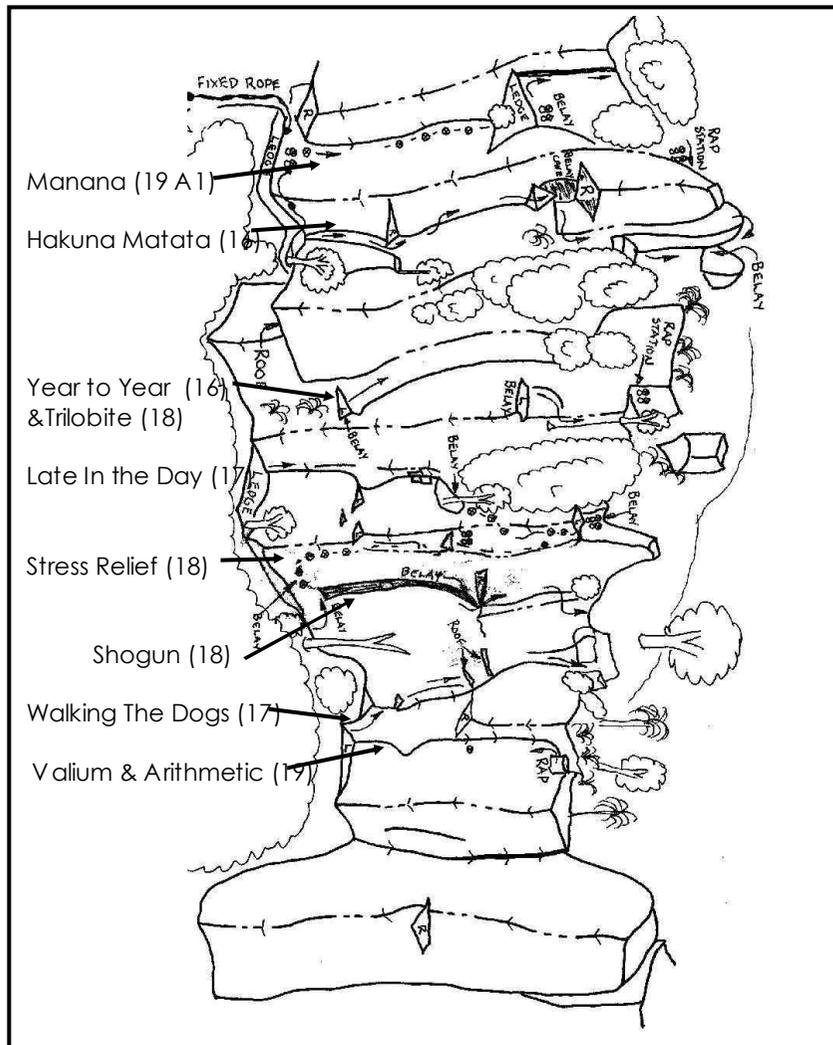
Climb the corner using both the corner crack and the crack on the lefthand wall. Difficult moves up to the corner roof are followed by easier moves onto the large ledge system out right. From here continue up the finger corner crack then up the blocky corner above. Scramble onto the bushy ledge above and belay off the trees and bolt on the back wall. (Alternatively use the DBC belay of *Stress Relief*). A nice pitch with technical climbing. (Pro; LCD, CD, Hex, W)

Pitch 2 (17) 15m

Climb the pancake style wall pulling right onto the arete after the 2nd bolt. Easy climbing from here, in a great position, gets you to the base of the final head wall. Muster all your strength and power up the wall to big holds on the lip. DBC belay (Pro; W, CD & 5 Bolts)

Cliff Ellen & Richard Knott. 25.1.03

Figure 5: Main Cliff : Manana – Valium & Arithmetic



Just to the right and sharing the same belay station is

**** Stress Relief (17) 45m**

Abseil in (45m) to a DBC hanging belay.

Pitch 1 (17) 30m

Climb the face and arete to the large ledge. Continue up the crack system above then through the small roof moving right onto easy ground and up to the DBC belay. (Pro CD, W, 4 bolts)

Pitch 2 (16) 15m

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Move out right onto the arete (bolt), and climb up the arete to the top. The top bolt of *Late in the Day* can be clip to protect the top move. (CD, Wires. 3 bolts)

Cliff Ellen, Kevin Barratt, Niklas Werner 28/03/04

*** Shogun (18) 45m**

The large chimney in the mid section of the cliff. The line is easily visible from the right-hand end of the crag.

Access : There are a number of variations to the start of this route. For the brave, the original line climbs the face and tree 5m to the right of the chimney before traversing across at about 5m height (20m above valley floor, no pro). For the not so brave, traverse down low at the same height as the belay ledge then climb up the bushy gut to the base of the chimney (Tree and root runners). And for all those that can't be bothered, simply rap into the base of the chimney thus avoiding the terrifying traverse or the vertical jungle.

Pitch 1 (18) 23m

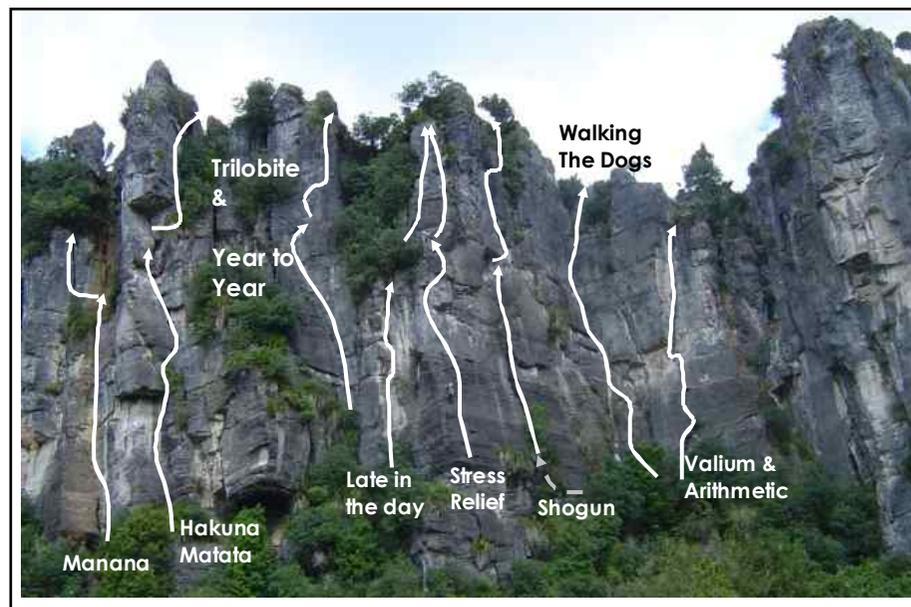
Climb the chimney using large chockstones as runners as well as the odd friend and wire, belay where the chimney closes off, good runners in roof. (Pro; CD, Hex, W)

Pitch 2 (18) 22m

From the belay move out through the roof, and climb the corner crack above. Move right, then top out up the short head wall, (Great Pitch). Belay off the Totara tree 8m back from the edge. (Note CNI guide photos are incorrect) (Pro; LCD x1 optional, CD, Hex, W)

Robbie McBirney, Bryce Martin 1975.

Figure 6: Main Cliff: Manan to Valium & Arithmetic



* **Walking The Dogs (17) 50m**

The large corner to the right of Shogun.

Access: Rap down the line of Valium and Arithmetic (see topo)

Pitch 1 35m (17)

Climb the corner and face past a couple of ledges till you reach the first of the 2 small roofs. With a couple of high step ups, bridging out into the corner where possible, climb up and over the two roofs.(crux). Continue up easy ground to the hanging belay. (Pro; 2 pegs, 2 x CD, W). Originally there was a hanging flax bush, this has long since gone and as a result this is not such a great belay. I would strongly recommend running these two pitches together.

Pitch 2: 15m (16)

Bridge up the corner to the large ledge then scramble up the corner between the tree and flax bush. Belay off the large Totara tree 15m back from the edge. (Pro; CD, W)

Bryce Martin, Michael Camilleri & Cliff Ellery 3/1/95

* **Valium & Arithmetic (19) 25m**

A Distinctive line consisting of a crooked crack leading into a right facing corner.

Abseiling in off the large bollard right on the edge of the cliff.

From the large ledge climb the curving crack and pull round the small over hang onto the main wall, crux, continue up the crooked crack, then traverse across into the corner. Bridge up the corner to the top. The original ascent did not have the bolt, a bit of a calculated thrill. (Pro; 1 bolt CD, Hex, W)

Cliff Ellery and Dean Maxwell 29/12/92

*** **Third Generation (21) 80m**

About 100m to the right of Shogun just to the left of 2 large roofs is a crack system which starts from a large bushy ledge at 1/3 height. This is the top 2 pitches of "Third Generation". The bottom pitch climbs the face and arete out to the right. A rough track leads straight up to the base of the cliff.

Pitch 1 (21) 30m

Start in the corner directly below the lower roof. Climb the face and arete past 9 bolts moving left at the 8th bolt around the arete and up to the large bushy ledge and DBC belay. (Hint, A few carefully placed mid sized friends in horizontal breaks can help fill the voids of rock between bolts) (Pro; 9 Bolts, CD)

Pitch 2 (20) 15m

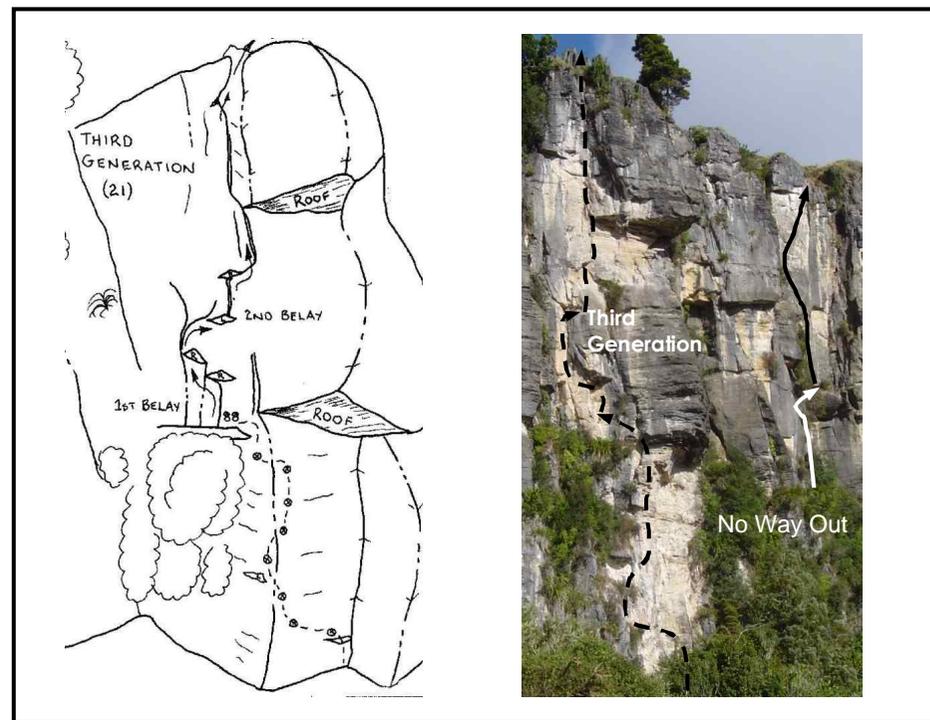
Climb the corner system directly above the DBC belay till you get to the roof, traverse left into the adjacent corner then move out over the roof through the large crack, (crux). Climb up the crack moving right after 5m and belay using the adjacent crack and pillar. (Pro; LCD, CD, W)

Pitch 3 (19) 35m

Follow the crack system, which runs to the left of the large roof. Climb past the hanging tree, top out then move right and belay off the large bollard and tree. This pitch is Mangaotaki at its best, steep clean rock, exposed but with plenty of good gear. (Pro; ELCD, CD, Hex & W)

Cliff Ellery, Bryce Martin & David Hood 8/11/98

Figure 7: Third Generation



No Way Out (21, A1) 50m

30m to the right of "Third Generation" is a white face capped by a small grey roof. The line of "No Way Out" climbs this face starting in the corner crack below then crossing the face and exiting to the right. Access is by abseiling in. From the top of the cliff head down the small gully on the left (true right) of the peak to a double bolt chain belay. Take care on this accent and if the grass is wet it may be best to arrange a belay in the top rock outcrop before descending the gully. 50m abseil into a bush covered ledge. Take a large cam and thread for the belay. This line lends itself to double ropes.

Pitch 1(18)15m

These cracks are made for jamming. Climb the double crack through the first roof then continue up till you reach the large roof. Step left placing pro in the roof crack then skirt around the roof onto the small face out left. Continue up the small slab to the DBC belay. [Pro: 2 x CD, W)

Pitch 2(22, A1)35m

Climb the face above the belay then move left into the chimney. Climb this onto the ledge then step out right onto the face. Climb up to the roof then move left and pull over the roof onto the face. A boomer wire can be placed on the edge of the roof prior to making this move. Continue up the crack taking the left crack to the ledge system above (awkward). From here the line switches to a steep sport route. Positive holds on steep rock gets you at the last bolt just short

of the ledge and belay. The first ascent aided the last move at A1, may go free at 23+. [Pro: CD, W, 4 bolts]

Cliff Ellery, Kevin Barrat March 2005.

* **0 to 70 in 5 hours (19, A1) (21) 70m**

The gently over hanging buttress in the middle of the large roof system at the right hand end of the crag. The line follows a series of cracks and corners topping out at the highest point on the cliff.

Access: From below Year in Year Out, by the large boulders, a track leads to the base of the cliff. Continue left along the base until you reach a large grassy ramp. 0 to 70 starts from the grassy ledge 15m above this point. Gain access to this ledge from the left hand end to a 1 bolt belay.

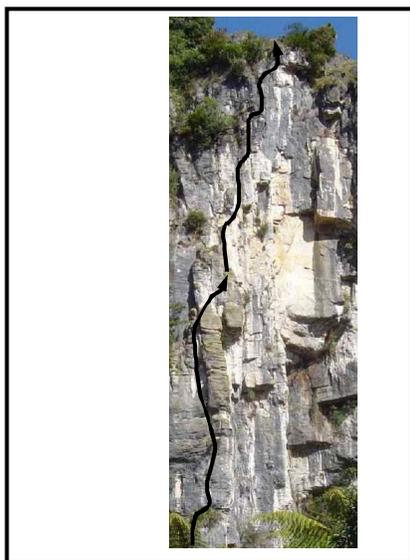
Pitch 1 35m (18,A1) or (21)

Climb the short left facing corner exiting right at the top onto the flax covered ledge. Climb the small steep wall at grade 21 (watch out for the bee hive on the left), then after a couple of difficult mantles the base of the crack system is gained. This last section can be aided reducing the overall grade to 18. The climb can be split into three pitches using the DBC belay at this point. From here climb the left facing corner above for about another 20m before traversing right across a large ledge to the adjacent crack system. The belay ledge is another 5m higher up and out to the right. (Pro. 4 bolts, 1 x LCD, 2 x CD, W, H, large gear required for belay)

Pitch 2 35m (19)

The theme for this pitch is "if in doubt move right". Easy climbing to the ledge above is followed by a committing move to gain the higher sloping ledge. Once on the ledge arrange gear in the horizontal crack then move right 2m into the base of the crack and hanging corner. Follow this crack until just below the large busy ledge then move right into the adjacent crack. Continue up until you reach the large thread, move right 2m then just below the top of the cliff, traverse right and top out through the opening in the undergrowth. Belay 8m back. Pro(2 x CD, H, W)
Cliff Ellery & Dave Garrity 29/5/2000

Figure 8: 0 to 70 in 7 hours



*** **Year In Year Out (20)70m**

The distinctive crack line and roof system, complete with stalactites, at the right hand end of the main cliff.

Access. A fixed rope leads up a dirty corner, 40m to the right of Y.I.Y.O onto the large bush covered ledge. Traverse back around the ledge (narrow in places, stay high) till you can't go any further, at this point there should be a bolt down low above a small overhang. This is the start of Y.I.Y.O.

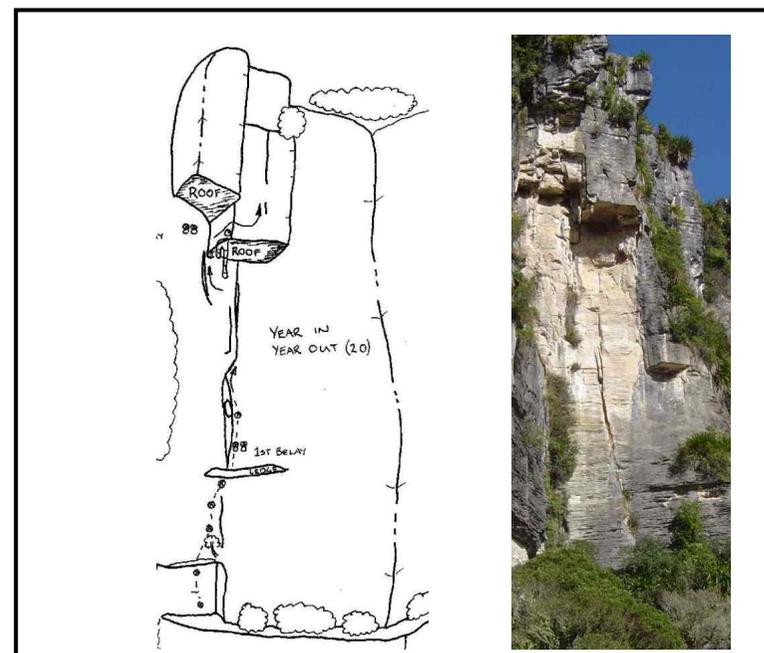
Pitch 1 15m (20)

A hard move off the ground leads to easier climbing on the left-hand wall past 2 bolts and a Number 4 friend in a large horizontal break. A difficult mantel then continue up till you reach the belay ledge at the base of the crack\chimney. DBC belay. (Pro; 6 bolts, CD).

Pitch 2 30m (19)

Climb the shallow chimney past 2 bolts then climb the jam crack above. Move right and follow the crack till you reach the large roof. Traverse left 4m into the adjacent crack system and climb this through the large bulge above. Move left below the stalactites to the D.B.C belay. The belay can be backed up behind the stalactites and adjacent crack (Pro; 2 bolts, LCD, CD & Hex, W)

Figure 9: Third Time Lucky – Year In Year Out



Pitch 3 25m (20)

Traverse out right on the small head wall above the roof to the bolt on the arete (thread runner in middle of traverse). Climb up the face to the left of the bolt, place a 4 friend up high in a scoop, before moving right, around the arete and onto the head wall. Climb up the crack

system in the middle of the head wall to the large ledge then finish up the easy corner above. Belay off the large Totara tree 6m back from the edge. You'd be hard pressed to find a more exhilarating pitch. (Pro:1 bolt, CD, W)

Cliff Ellery & Dave Garrity 1/1/97

* **Midnight Express (18) 40m**

Approximately 80m to the right of "Year In Year Out" is a 50m high section of cliff with a large chimney on the left hand end. Midnight Express climbs this chimney and the crack system above.

Access. A rough track leads up through the bush to the right of Midnight Express before traversing back left along the base of the cliff to a steep bush filled gut directly below the chimney. Scramble up the gut to the base of the chimney.

Pitch 1 20m (18)

Climb the back wall of the chimney through easy ground till you hit the roof. Arrange good pro in the roof crack before traversing out of the chimney. There is a bolt half way out but even so these moves require a good head and strong nerves. Once out of the chimney climb the crack above to the large bush covered belay ledge. (Pro 1 Bolt, CD, H, W)

Pitch 2 20m (16)

Climb the crack above taking the left tending crack round the bulge. Continue up the easy ground above. (Pro CD, H, W)

Dave Garrity Bryce Martin & Cliff Ellery 29/12/98

I Can Fly (16) 35m

"I Can Fly" starts 15m to the right of the large chimney of "Midnight Express" up the distinctive crack system.

Access. Abseil in and belay on a small ledge at the base of the crack, a number 5 camalot is required for the belay.

From the belay climb up the face to the left of the crack, pro can be arranged in a few small scopes and pockets but the first 10m is pretty well run out. Bridge up through the chimney section (pro in the back of the chimney) then climb out and over the large block and onto the face. Climb the wide crack through the roof onto a large ledge above. Blast up the head wall on big holds and belay of the bollard and trees at the top. (Pro; ELCD, CD, Hex, W)

Dave Garrity & Cliff Ellery 18/4/98

* **Scorpion (19) 25m**

A further 100 m to the left of the Midnight Express cliff is another 30 to 40 m high cliff with a large distinctive corner crack and roof. 20m to the left of this corner is a bolted face route "Scorpion".

Abseil in. To the left of the large roof is a large bollard with a huge crack down the middle. This is the finish and belay of *Scorpion*. Once at the bottom just follow the truck load of bolts to the top. There are 2 cruxes the first at the bottom climbing through the overhanging bulge and the second the left traverse at the top.

Bryce Martin & Dave Garrity 31/1/98

THE BOULDERS

The Boulders at the top and base of the cliff sport numerous climbs and countless Boulder Problems, however this guide does not include any of the boulder problems (future project) Starting down the left hand end of the main cliff is

EENE MEENE MINIE MOE BOULDER

On a small rock outcrop at the far left-hand end of the cliff, just to the left of the access track is the E.M.M.M boulder. From the left-hand end of the boulder.

Eene (14) 7m

(2 bolts) Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity 26/8/95

Meene (16) 7m

(3 Bolts) Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity 26/8/95

Around the corner is

Minie (17) 7m

(2 bolts) Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity 26/8/95

Moe (19) 7m

The nicest of the 4 problems. Mantle onto the small ledge.

(1 bolt) Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity 26/8/95

PYRAMID BOULDER

Effortless (19) 7m

Climb the highest part of the pyramid faced boulder which is situated along side the fence at the left hand end of the crag just up from the gate. Diagonal slots except a 2 friend down low and a 4 friend up high.

Cliff Ellery, April/93

Dave by name Dave by Nature (16) 20m

The large boulder with distinctive chimney/crack, at the foot of the main cliff just in front of Hasta La Vista. Make your way to the foot of the boulder either by scrambling down the side of the boulder from the foot of the main cliff, or walk directly into the base picking your way through the maze of boulders.

Climb the crack 6m to the right of the bush filled chimney to the large block (loose), from here traverse left across the face into the chimney, exposed. After arranging some gear climb the chimney exiting left about 4m from the top of the chimney onto the face and a fist crack. Pull up and over the large bulge and continue up the chimney for about 8m to the top. (Pro; ELCD, CD, Hex, W)

David Hood & Cliff Ellery, 11/12/99

JOY RIDE BOULDER

The largest of the boulders at the base of the cliff, situated 100m from the base of the cliff and right along side the stock track.

*** Sleeping With The Enemy (20) 15m

On the north east corner of the boulder. Climb up the corner then transverse out left below the roof, arranging pro in the horizontal crack, watch for rope drag. The crux is climbing out over the roof at the far left-hand end. There is a definite trick to this one as many a fine climber has found out to the detriment of their ego. Delicate slab climbing up past 4 more bolts to the top. Belay of the tree 6m back.

Dean Maxwell & Cliff Ellery April/93

Lentil Ribs (15) 10m

The face just right of the start of "Sleeping with the Enemy". All natural gear with a thread runner low down belay of the trees over the back. A little over grown.

Pete Swanson, Bryce Martin, Pete Manning, Gavin Mora. 29/12/93.

Just to the right is the arete of

* Jack and Drill (17) 12m

Climb the arete and face past 5 bolts and belay of the DBC belay of "Boom Boom"

Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery. 30/12/97.

* Boom Boom (18) 12m

Climb the face just to the left of the large corner of "Joy Ride" past the scoop at half height. Five bolts DBC belay.

Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery. 30/12/97.

Joy Ride (16) 12m

Climb the right facing corner crack on the north west side of the boulder. Pro, full rack and belay of trees at southern end of boulder. This route could do with a bit of gardening but it is well worth your effort.

Dean Maxwell, Cliff Ellery. April/92.

Luxury Flake (17) 12m

The right tending crack system on the face just to the left of Joy Ride. After a few hard moves follow the line up and out right. Good pro (large wires and small friends) can be arranged under the flake. Climb up the protruding rock rib to the top. Belay off the trees 10m back. The Hebe that provided a vital finishing hold has since died. This route is slow to dry.

Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity & Mike Camilleri 13.3.94

Open Project

Round the corner from Luxury Flake some dreamer with a bolt gun bigger than his biceps has put a line up the over hanging wall. Rumour has it that his high point is some 2 feet off the deck.

THE NURSERY

About 20 metres to the left (East) of the Joyride boulder and 20m further away from the main cliff lies a large boulder, the eastern side of which is a large slab with deep water runnels.

** Through Your Hands (23) 10m

On the southern side of the boulder, closest to the main cliff. Climb up past 3 bolts, the move from the pockets at half height to the water runnels above marks the crux. Belay off trees.

Bryce Martin 23/1/95

Centipede (16) 12m

Start up the deep left hand flutting, and follow it up to half height (takes a 6 or 7 Rock). Head right to a tapered pocket that takes friends 1 ½ to 3, then head for the top. Belay off trees.

Dave Garrity 2/4/94

Millipede (19) 12m

Up the slab starting off at the tree. Protection consists of three bolts and a few slings slung over spikes, and if you think that's scary the first lead was done without the bolts.

Dave Garrity 2/4/94

The Family Album (16) 15m

The deep runnels just to the right of the vegetation. A hard start move, then climb up the runnels past 4 bolts.

Bryce, Wendy, Craig & Ian Martin 23/1/97

Runnel Runner (16) 15m

A couple of metres right of "The Family Album". A hard start move, then straight up the runnel to the top. (5 bolts with hangers)

Bryce, Craig & Ian Martin 23/1/97

Squeeze Me (16) 15m

A couple of metres to the right of "Runnel Runner". Starting from the horizontal tree and climb straight up past 4 bolts all with hangers. (Belay of DBC belay of Pinch Me)

Bryce Martin & Mike Camilleri 1.1.97

Pinch Me (16) 15m

Just to the right of "Squeeze Me". Step off the block and move right to the 1st bolt. Follow the line of bolts to the DBC belay. (6 bolts all with Hangers).

Bryce Martin & Mike Camilleri 27.8.95

Chained Around (17) 15m

Either traverse in from left clipping the bottom bolt of "Pinch Me" or abseil in to bottom bolt. 5 bolts all with hangers.

Bryce Martin David Hood & Cliff Ellery 10.1.99

SPELL CASTLE BOULDERS

Fifty metres left of the "Joyride Boulder" and 30 metres closer to the main cliff there is a large boulder right on the bush line.

* Feeding the Dog (18) 10m

A left tending line on the west side of the boulder 4 bolts and belay off the trees over the back. Pleasant climbing with one difficult move right at the top.

Bryce Martin & Cliff Ellery 13.4.97

Spell Castle (14) 6m

A short route on the south side of the boulder (nearest the main cliff), 3 bolts and a tree belay.

Bryce Martin, Ian Martin 1/97

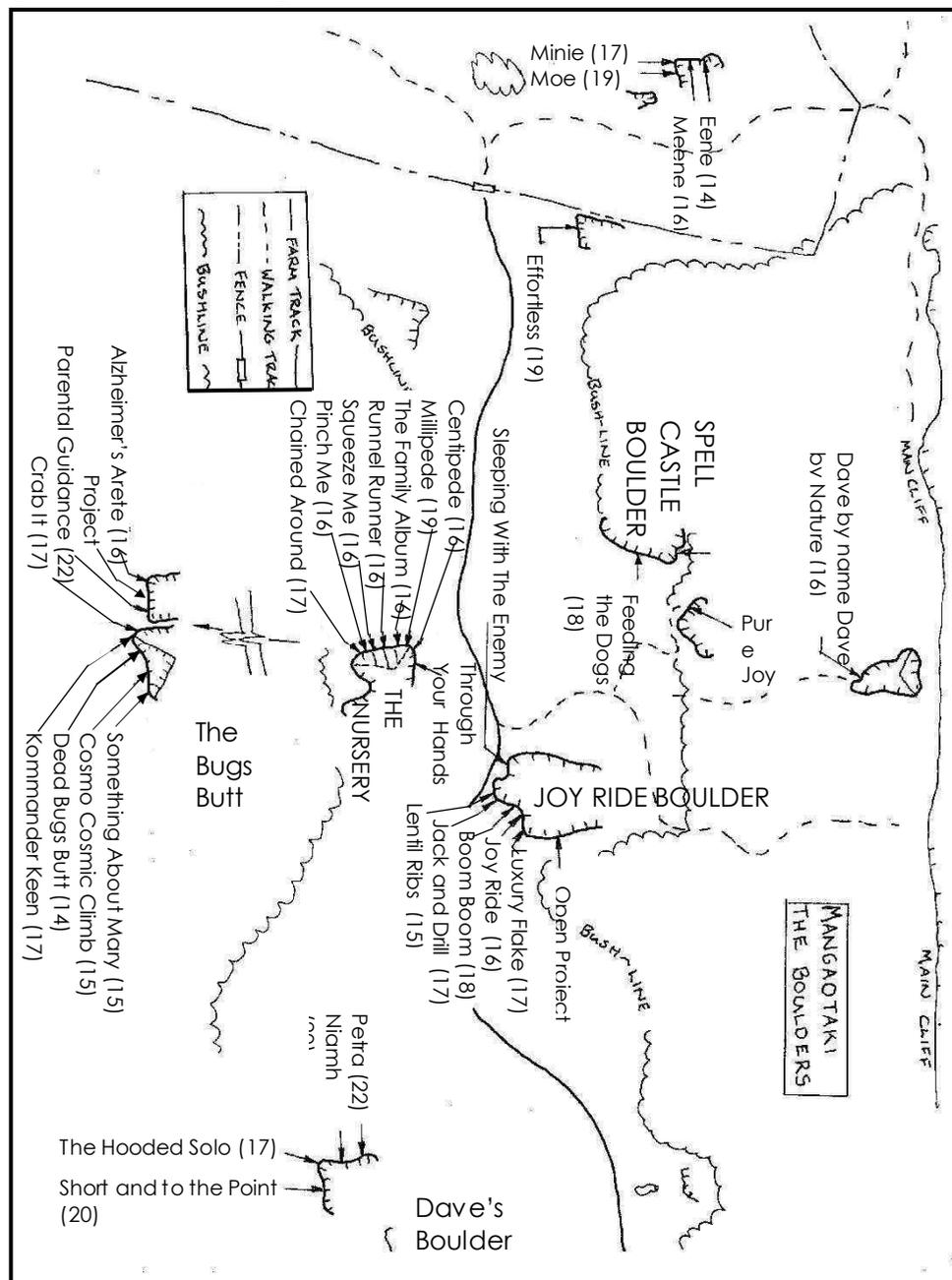
Twenty meters to the right and tucked away in the bush is another boulder. On the north side of this boulder is;

** Pure Joy (19) 12m

Starting right on the north eastern arete move around onto the face and climb up past 4 bolts tending right the whole way. Nice climbing on pockets and fossils.

Bryce Martin, Dave Garrity & Mike Camilleri 3.9.95

Figure 20: Boulder Field Topo.



DAVE'S BOULDER

Further along the main cliff, about opposite Valium & Arithmetic, and below the main track is a large boulder with a climb on the east and north faces.

* Petra (22) 8m

Powerful moves up the short steep wall to the large flutes. The start hold has an 80 kg weight limit, so no fat bastards! 3 bolts, belay of tree or large block, walk off.

Cliff Ellery & David Hood 11/12/98

* Niamh (20) 8m

Three metres to the right of Petra. Hard moves at the start and a bit of a tricky second clip. 2 bolts, belay of tree or large block, walk off.

Cliff Ellery & David Hood 11/12/98

* The Hooded Solo (17) 8m

Climb the arete and face. 2 bolts, belay off the hole in rock or tree, and walk off.

David Hood Solo 8/11/98

With bolts David Hood & Cliff Ellery 11/12/98

* Short and to the Point (20) 8m

Short and to the Point both a name and a route description in one. Two bolts, and belay over the back through large hole in rock.

David Hood, Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 8/11/98

* Aspirations of Youth (21) 8m

Down the far end of the crag directly opposite "Year in Year out". A large boulder in the bush behind the 2 pyramid shape boulders. Climb the twin diagonal cracks system on the east face of the boulder. Start from ground, do not step off adjacent boulder, belay off tree at top.

David Hood & Cliff Ellery 12/03/00

THE BUGS BUTT

Half way up the hill 70m below The Nursery and just on the bush line are a couple of large boulders. One has a very steep overhanging face the other is a very low angle slab.

Alzheimer's Arete (16) 8m

The left hand arete of the steep over hanging face, 3 bolts. Belay off the trees 5m back from the edge. Some people forget where they've put their house keys or wallet, Bryce managed to forget a 8m height piece of limestone. Having cleaned and bolted it 8 months earlier he found it again and this time with the help of a close friend remembered to climb it.

Bryce Martin & Dave Garrity 8.12.97

* Parental Guidance (22) 8m

The far right hand end of the overhanging face. Climb up past 3 bolts on large holds, dynamic moves. Belay off the trees 5m back from the edge.

Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 13/4/97

Crab It (17) 15m

The over hanging and left tending face of the large slab boulder. Climb / traverse up past 5 bolts on large holds, Belay off the trees back from the edge.

Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 13/4/97

Kommander Keen (17) 15m

The overhanging left hand arete and face of the slab boulder. Start as for "Crab It" then pull up around the arete onto the slab just past the first bolt, 5 bolts in all.

Bryce Martin 21/1/97

Dead Bugs Butt (14) 10m

A 5 bolt slab climb on the left hand end of the large low angle boulder. Easy climbing on good clean rock, belay off the trees at the top.

Bryce, Craig & Ian Martin 22.1.97

Cosmo Cosmic Climb (15) 10m

A diagonal line crossing from the bottom left hand end of the boulder to the top right, 5 bolts, belay off the trees at the top.

Craig & Bryce Martin 22.1.97

Something About Mary (15) 10m

Climb the right hand end of the slab, 4 bolts, belay off trees. The crux is getting off the ground.

Mary ?, Mike Camilleri and Cliff Ellery 8.12.97.

The Slabs

About half way up the right hand end access track is a series of slabs. The line 3m left of the fence is.

The slab? (17) 12m

Delicate moves lead to a hard high friction slab move to the first of the horizontal break (Large Cams) A mantle up to the second break then easy climbing to top. A line that would be at home at Stanage Edge.(All natural pro)

Stephen Barratt, Eric Duggan & Cliff Ellery 26.11.05

The Summit Boulders

At the top of the cliff directly behind the line of Enthusiastic Blues there is a large rock outcrop complete with its own cave.

Black Diamond Bay (14) 12m

On the western side of the outcrop. Bridge up the chimney climbing over the large chock-stone then continue up the groove above to a tree belay. (All natural pro)

Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery & Mike Camilleri 4.1.97

Sorcerer's Apprentice (15) 12m

Thirty metres north east (closer to the cliff and on the right) from the rock outcrop of B.D.B. A distinctive U groove with several horizontal breaks. Climb up the groove taking the crack on the left at the top. All natural gear and a tree belay.

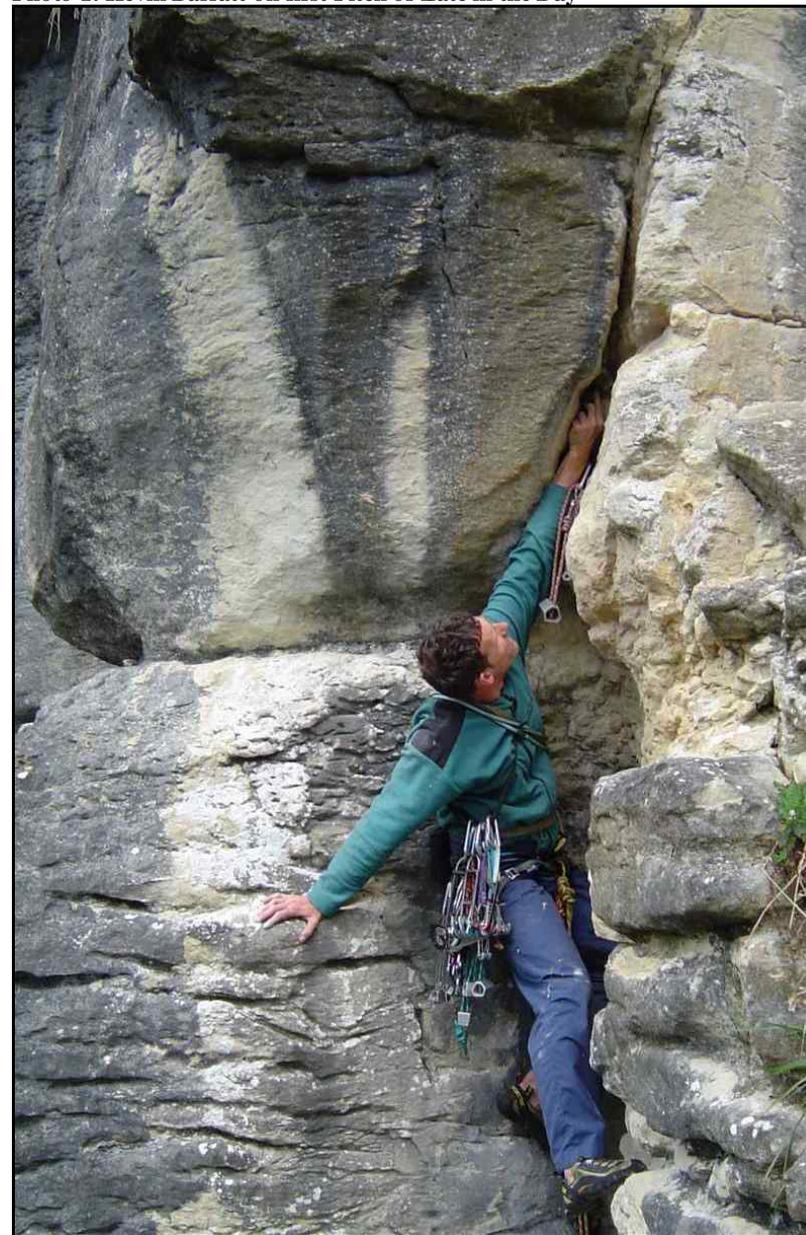
Mike Camilleri, Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 16.2.97

The History of Space & Time

Right down the left hand end of the crag past Scorpion Bite on a boulder on top of the cliff

Dave Garrity and Bryce Martin 31/12/98

Photo 1: Kevin Barratt on first Pitch of Late in the Day



LEACHS ROAD

From the Denzie's place continue driving up the valley for about a kilometre till you reach a "T" junction, turn left up Leachs road. One kilometre up the road and on your right is Alan Nicholson's place (07) 877 8765. The crag can be seen high up on the hill to your right. Ask at the house for permission to climb then slog your way up the hill. It may look a long way up but the cliffs are at the same elevation as the rest of the cliffs in the valley.

The routes are described from left to right

Kevin's Climb (16) 20m

Roughly in the middle of the crag. A crack line lead on sight.

Kevin Barratt & Bryce Martin 25/10/98

* **Batteries Not Included (19) 30m**

The route goes up the highest buttress at the right hand end of the crag. Start up the short crack in the middle of the buttress. A couple of hard moves up past the first and second bolts (crux) leads to easy and pleasant climbing all the way to the top, about grade 16. Stay to the right of the line of bolts until you get to the second to last bolt. 9 bolts and a DBC belay. Either rap off (double ropes) or scramble onto the ledge above, best to stay tied in for this move, then down the access track at the right hand end of the crag.

Cliff Ellery & Bryce Martin 6/12/98

On the next buttress to your right is

* **Rule of Thumb (20) 25m**

Start on the right hand arete till you reach the second bolt then climb directly up the line of bolts. 11 bolts in all and the crux is in the middle section, this route is pretty much solid 20 all the way. Lets see those thumbs in action, pinching those lovely ripples (yes ripples) all the way to the top. DBC belay, abseil off.

Bryce Martin & Cliff Ellery 6/12/98

On the next buttress to your right is

* **Ripple Control (18) 30m**

The bolt line at the right hand end of the cliff 3m to the left of the crack line of "What You See Is What You Get". Start up the short crack section to the left then traverse right at the first bolt. Climb up past another couple of bolts into the large scoop, climb out of the scoop and onto the face above and up into the wide groove. The Technical crux is at the bottom 2 bolts although you may find that the sustained climbing makes the top section the hardest. Belay off the trees over the back and walk off. (Pro; 12 Bolts)

Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery & Mike Camilleri, David Hood, Dave Garrity, John Waldmen 4/98

What You See Is What You Get (18) 20m

At the right hand end of the cliff is a deep groove and crack which run to half height. Climb the crack then the head wall (crux) and belay at the ledge at $\frac{2}{3}$ rds height. Belay using Natural gear and one of the bolts of Ripple Control. From the belay step across the gap out right then down the track to the base of the cliff. (Pro, CD, W, Hex)

Dave Garrity, Bryce Martin, Cliff Ellery David Hood, 4/98

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