

Tairua

by Cliff Ellery Feb 2025

Tairua is the one of the North Island's premier 'adventure' crags'. It was originally spotted from the Pinnacles track, and received its first visit from Greg Kolbe and Robert Scott after a seven hour bush bash down steep canyons. Greg and Robert put up the first line, Are We Tramping Yet? ground up on trad, and then convinced Edwin Sheppard to tag along on the next mission. A track followed and so did many more epics on the wall in pursuit of new routes.

The rock is rhyolite from the Kapowai Caldera, a volcanic complex that was active around 9 million years ago. It is tall, steep, and has something for everyone – from moderate bolted wombles to hard trad routes.

So why spend 2 hours hiking along a rough bush track that you will get lost on 2 to 3 times every trip just to get to a remote crag? Climbing here takes commitment, but that's one of the things that makes it special. We need wild places and this one is in our backyard. Personally, it wasn't until I started to see the walk in, getting lost and rough bivies as part of the experience that I really started to enjoy the place. If you are still not convinced, Tairua is one of biggest and tallest chunks of rock in the North Island, the rock is solid, routes 3 star and the location is 5 star. A big thanks to all those that have put in the hard yards to develop this crag. Having developed routes here myself, I can only conclude, that like me, you are extremely keen and a little crazy.

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.

Gear

There is a variety of trad, sport and mixed routes. For most trad routes take a standard rack with a few large cams and at least 12 quick draws. Most abseils are set up for 30m so you can get back down with 1 x 60m rope.

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For more information visit:
www.rockclimb.co.nz
 Email: bryce@rockclimb.co.nz
 Telephone 07 8722533
 1424 Owairaka Valley Road
 Wharepapa South,
 RD 7, Te Awamutu



Climbing Information



Location and Access

Tairua crag is located near the second branch of the Tairua river, at the intersections of Camp and Scots stream, within the southern sector of the Coromandel Forest Park.

The valley is home many mature and juvenile Kauri trees. In an effort to reduce our environmental footprint and prevent the spread of Kauri Dieback Disease while enjoying this crag it is essential that you arrive with clean gear. Ensure your walking and climbing boots are scrubbed clean of dirt and seeds before you leave home. Wash your rope and other equipment between crags if spending time in other Kauri forests. For more information visit www.kauridieback.co.nz

The track starts from a farm at 373 Puketui Valley Road. The owners are great and allow climbers to park on their property down by the river, just right of the first bridge. We have installed a sign and register book, and you do not need to contact the owners in advance as long as you fill in the book. **So fill in the book!!** The owners do want to know who is crossing the farm so please respect this.

DRIVE WAY ENTRANCE AND SIGN IN BOX. PLEASE COMPLETE



THE WALK IN

Directions

You can Google Map your way to 373 Puketui Valley Road.

Manual directions: head to SH25A that runs between Kopu and Hikurangi. Along this road there is a turn off opposite the Waitomo gas and service station onto Morrison Rd, with a sign reading "Community Hall." Follow this for 1km, at the end of Morrison Rd is a bridge over the river, at which you turn onto Puketui Valley Rd. Follow this for 3.8km. You will have arrived at the farm when you see a cinderblock cattle station on your right.

Climbers may park on the farm down by the river, just right of the first bridge. Do not drive over the bridges or across the farm. Please make sure your vehicle is not blocking the farm road. From the parking area, walk down the farm road over two bridges, past the house and into a large field where the road ends, leaving all gates as you found them. The start of the track is on the far right side of the field.

The track is an old kauri logging route that goes up the valley, beginning from the marked location in the farm. Either follow a track up the left hand side of the river. About 20 minutes up the track crosses the second side stream, continue up left bank and cross the main river, the way across is marked by cairns.

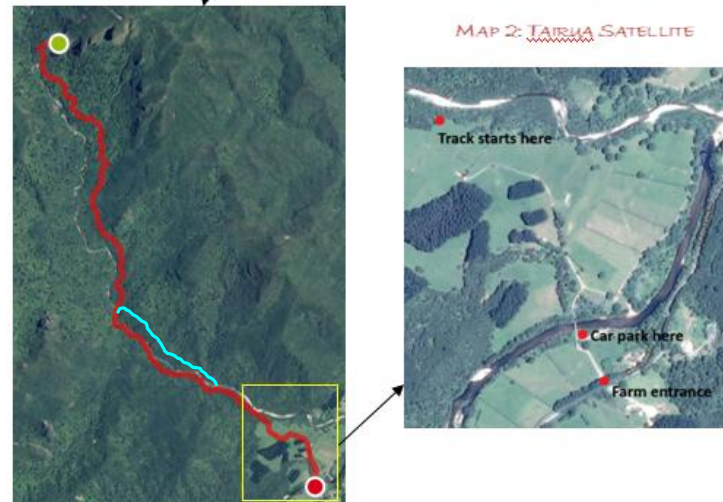
A quicker alternative is to cross the river 5mins after leaving the farm at a "Dry Island" Having crossed the river follow an old hunter track up the right hand side over a ridge and back down to river and the , .

From here it's about 1hr 30mins hike up hill to the crag. The track is marked with white markers. There is a big cairn and a sign when you get to the campground/crag turnoff. The campground is down by the river 5mins while the crag is 5mins up the hill.

MAP 1: COROMANDEL



MAP 2: TAIRUA SATELLITE



Main Cliff

The track meets the main climbing area 20m down hill (right) of the line *Are We Tramping Yet?* 40m back down the hill from this climb is the (current) far right route at the crag. Routes are described from right to left, up the hill.

** Bad Debts and Belayers (23) 33m

Found at the far-right side of the cliff, between the large rata patches under the huge white roofs. Bolted ground up over the course of 6 hours... hence the name! Very techy climbing. 12 bolts.

Edwin Sheppard Oct 2018.

**Daylight Dilemma's (24 or A1,19,21,17,21,18,19) 170m

Put up in winter, there was never enough daylight to get the job done resulting in a number of walks both in and out, in the dark. One of the N.I longest rock route goes at;

Pitch 1 (24 or A1) 25m, 11 bolts. Climb the step over hanging wall on jams, under clings, ledges, chicken heads and the odd jug. 20m of sustained grade 24 climbing to a DBC belay or Aid up the bolt ladder at A1, if you haven't got a set of etriers fashion some from slings otherwise thug your way up from bolt to bolt. At the hanging belay at the lip, transfer to freeclimbing mode and continue up past 2 more bolts to the belay, 5m higher goes at grade 20. *The left bolt line goes at A2 and requires trad gear as well as bolts. (6 Bolt + Cams)*

Pitch 2 (19) 25m. From belay either traverse left at 1st bolt or climb directly up to 2nd bolt then follow corner crack on Trad to DBC hanging belay. Single rack of cam and wire even the odd Hex. (2 bolts + Trad).

Pitch 3 (21) 30m. Continue up corner past 3 bolts. You can place a few cams in the crack in this section to reduce the run out between bolts. At 4th bolt traverse left and climb face above. Move left again into corner then pull over the small roof (palm down). Continue up ramp traversing left to DBC belay Ledge, (9 Bolts + a few mid cams). You can leave your trad gear here.

Pitch 4 (17) 20m. Climb low angle slab and arête, Traverse left at the 4th and 5th bolt across to the DBC belay.

Pitch 5 (21) 28m. From belay move back right and climb steep ground above, continue to trend right before moving back left to 5th bolt. Move right again and climb directly up to belay ledge at the top of wall. An out there pitch and location DBC belay (Pro 8 Bolts)

Pitch 6 (17) 27m. Move left off belay and meander your way up the slab to a DBC belay, plenty of climbing in this pitch. (7 Bolts).

Pitch 7 (20) 15m.

Cliff Ellery & Jess Dobson 14/Oct/18 – A1 and 1st 6 pitches – alternate leads.

Cliff Ellery & Richard Knott, 10/Jan/19 all 7 pitches – alternate leads

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You can abseil back down the line with one 60m rope. Warning, 60m twin rope can get snagged. There are a number of hanging belays and abseil that are 30m. Tie knots in the end of your rope and make sure you are equipped with 2 x safety lanyards on you hardens. Take your time.

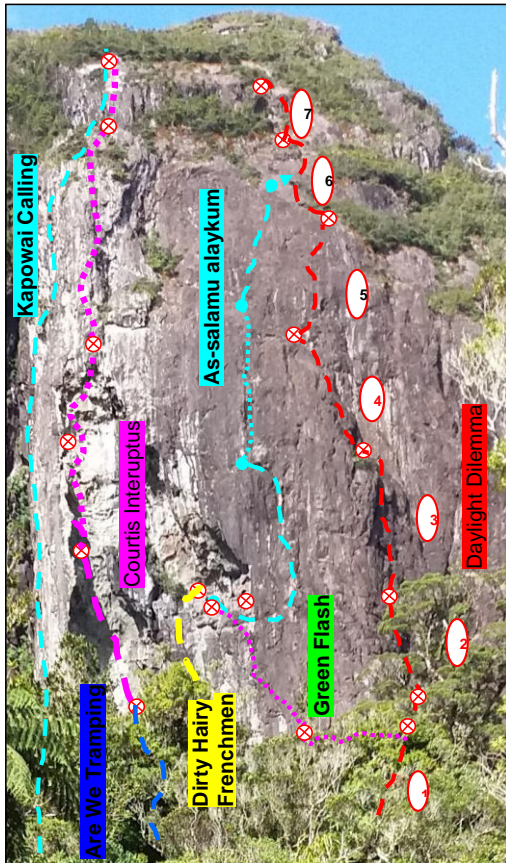
PHOTO 1 – CLIFF ELLERY ON PITCH 1 OF DAYLIGHT DILEMMA



PHOTO 2 – RICHARD KNOTT ON PITCH 5 OF DAYLIGHT DILEMMA



TOPO 1: RIGHT HAND END



Open Project (30/31ish) 30m
The bolted route on the impressive overhanging arête. (9 bolts)
Bolted by Daniel Krippner

****Green Flash (24, 24, Project) 90m**

Pitch 1 (24) 25m Climb the 1st pitch of Daylight Dilemma (DD) to the lower hanging belay.

Pitch 2 (24) 25m. From belay climb the first 2 moves of DD to bolt (extend). Then traverse left past 20m past 6 bolts. The majority of the traverse is low 20's but the last move around the arete is the crux, stay very low. Once around the arete climb overhanging groove to belay. 8 bolts DBC belay *C. Cliff Ellery 1/2020*

Pitch 3 () 20m. Closed Project

Pitch 4 (21) 30m. Climb the grove and left facing corenr to the Lounge ledge.

Not Here To F* Spiders (23) 30m**

A moderately technical first crux leads to a narrow bombay chimney. Jam a #4 or #5 camalot over your head and then squeeze, wiggle, grind and grunt your way through an overhanging off-width to a well-deserved rest. Make sure you keep a few medium cams for the top section and mind your rope doesn't get stuck in a groove as you descend. (Trad: Double rack to #3 plus a #4 or #5)

Edwin Sheppard Apr 2016

*** Are We Tramping Yet? (19) 20m**

Start up the slabs broken by 2 small overhangs (cruxes). Then up the short headwall to a chain belay on sandy ledge. This was the first route at Tairua and was climbed ground up on the first reccie to the crag. It has since been bolted in order to create a friendly access route. (9 bolts)

Greg Kolbe, Robert Scott Feb 2015

Lover's Ledge

The next routes all start on the large second-tier ledge (Lover's Ledge) and can be accessed by climbing *Are We Tramping Yet?*, *Not Here F*** Spiders*, *Classic 22* or *Jam*. Routes are described from right to left. From the top of *Are We Tramping Yet?* follow the fixed rope right to the belay of...

* **Dirty Hairy Frenchmen (22) 20m**

2nd tier. Starts from the anchors at the top of *Not here to Fight Spiders* (far right side of Lover's Ledge). Rad moves out right lead to a stiff crux sequence into a cave. Top out on the enormous Living Room Ledge. 7 Bolts.

Descent: Either rap back down route (difficult), or climb up onto the Alien Head and rap off the *Space Ape* anchor. There are 2 other Abseil stations at middle and right hand end of the ledge/cave there is another abseil station, 50m to ground. *Max Hutchinson, Edwin Sheppard, Feb 2017. Bolted by Romain Albert.*

Or continue up

*****As-salamu alaykum (19,22,20,20,19,18,19) (160m)**

"Peace be upon you". I re-named this climb following the Christchurch Terrorist attack. It is probably the best climb I have helped put up and is in a very peaceful and beautiful part of NZ, a fitting tribute to all those Kiwis and visitors that lost their lives. As with all climbing at Tairua this route is the combination of many climbers efforts, thanks to you all, we are one, Kia Kaha,

Pitch 1 (19) – Are we Tramping

Pitch 2 (22) Dirty Hairy Frenchmen

Pitch 3 (20). Transfer to the Belay in the middle of the "Living Room Ledge" located on the south side of the middle bollard. From here traverse right slinging one of the large bollards then drop down and traverse right along a ledge system for about 15m past 4 bolts to a stance, optional belay. From here head straight up the grove then move back left and climb the bollard (wild). Once level with bushy ledge traverse left back to a DBC belay. An absolute stunning heart in your mouth pitch. (10 bolts)

Pitch 4 (20). Hard moves off the ledge then straight up groove, sustained climbing before angle easers up past 5th bolt then continue up to low angle e ramp and DBC belay. (8 bolts)

Pitch 5 (19) – Climb the head wall following the right tending groove and corner, trickery than it looks. At the 7th bolt move right, across the slab to the DBC belay of Daylight Dilemma. (8 Bolts)

Pitch 6 and 7 (18,20) – Top 2 pitch's of Daylight Dilemma.

Descent: Abseil back down the route. Clip the chain on the top bolt on the 5th pitch and abseil off the left-hand side of the 3rd pitch ledge. You will also need two ropes to abseil off the lounge ledge. Alternatively abseil down the line of Daylight Dilemma.

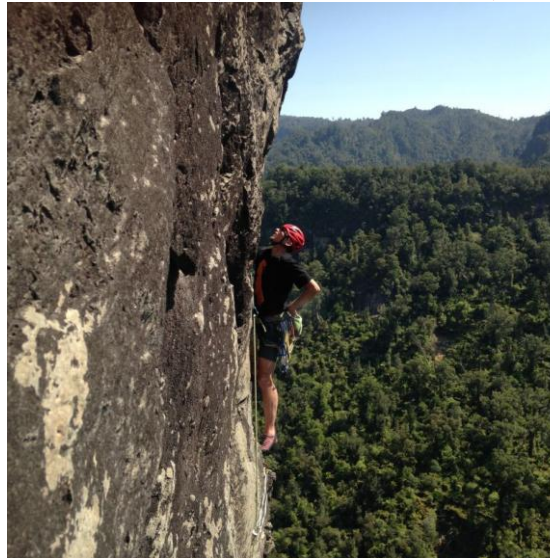
Greg Kolbe, Robert Scott Max Hutchinson, Edwin Sheppard, Romain Albert.

FAA, Cliff Ellery & Jess Dobson, alternate leads, March 2019.

PHOTO'S 4. SARAH TASSELL ON THE 3RD PITCH TRAVERSE OF AS-SALAMU ALAYKUM



PHOTO'S 5. CLIFF ELLERY ON PITCH 3 - AS-SALAMU ALAYKUM



Back to Lovers Ledge

Farcical Aquatic Ceremony (25) 20m

You will need a very special set of skills for this - suitable for caver/crack climber hybrids that like running it out on gear. This is a roof crack that is usually running with water but occasionally dries out in summer. Extreme quantities of dirt add to the experience. If it is ever cleaned it might lose a grade or two. Enjoy!

FA Edwin Sheppard & Max Hutchinson, Feb 2017.

FFA Edwin Sheppard, Feb 2019

Boulderer's Day Off (26/27) 12m

Straight up from the anchors at the top of *Are We Tramping Yet?* Great bouldering on a rope. 4 bolts.

Edwin Sheppard Feb 2019

From the left-hand end of Lover's Ledge:

***** Coitus Interruptus (19,22,18,26,21,16) 140m**

This is the Tairua classic! Accessible from lover's ledge.

Pitch 1 (19) – Are we Tramping

Pitch 2 (22) Climb easy honeycombed rock to the 2nd bolt, then power through the crux which consists of a series of good underclings with long reaches to small slopey edges.

Pitch 3 (18) The rest of the route is delightful stemming up the steep corner to the large chickenhead visible from below. Can be done as one long pitch or two short pitches at 22/18

Pitch 4 (26) 15m. Up thru scoop and then consistently hard moves to the anchor.

Pitch 5 (21) 30m . Nice moves on good rock to bushy ledge.

Pitch 6 (16) 30m Up slabby ground to rap station just below bushline.

Pitch 1 to 3 Greg Kolbe; Edwin Sheppard Nov 2017

Pitch 4 to 6 Edwin Sheppard, Max Nov 2020

**** Space Ape (23) 22m**

Absolutely wild! Start at the same bolt as *Coitus Interruptus* but then trend right up the delicate slab before traversing right over ledges to the steeply overhung alien feature. Take a deep breath before launching up the inside of this outrageous feature. Clip the green thread before you mantle out. DBC belay,

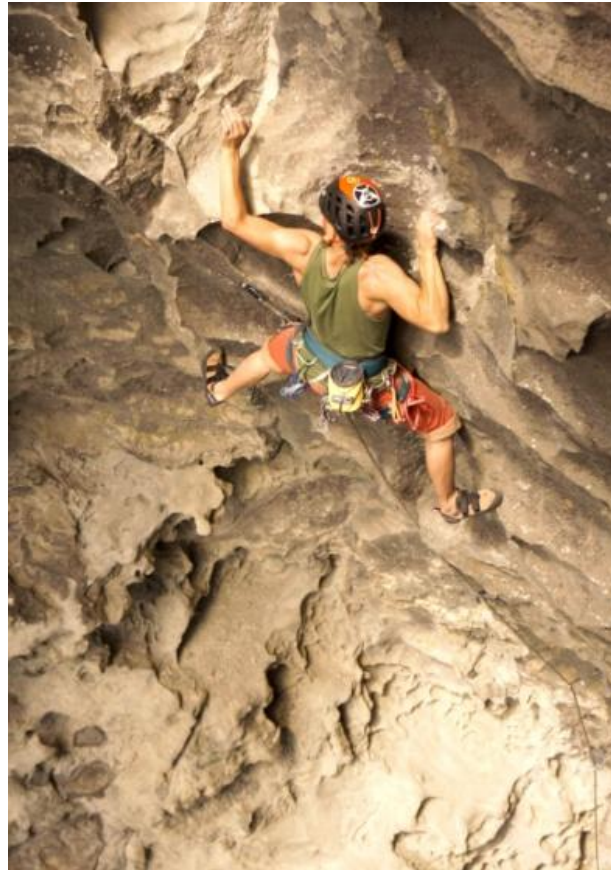
Edwin Sheppard Nov 2017

**** Feral bush lawyer (24) 12m**

Short but sweet. The line starts from a belay on the 'Alien Head' feature above Lover's Ledge. Climb Space Ape or Dirty Hairy Frenchmen to access the belay. (Pro 6 Bolts)

Edwin Sheppard, Feb 2017

GREGOR KOLBE ON THE FIRST ASCENT OF COITUS INTERRUPTUS



TOPO 2: LOVER'S LEDGE

Back on the ground:

Up the hill from *Are We Tramping Yet*.

* **Classic 22 (25) 20m**

Up the steep bolted line starting a few metres to the right of *Jam*. Staunch climbing with a sting in the tail. 11 bolts.

Max Hutchinson, February 2019

* **Jam (22) 25m**

Cranky moves off the deck to a couple of okay placements, then straight up the steep groove (crux). It really helps if you know how to jam! Stay right after the ledge and cruise up the wide crack toward the belay on the right.

Rack: Double rack of cams to #3, one #4 and #5.

Edwin Sheppard, Greg Kolbe, Selena Thyssen Mar 2016

*****Kapowai Calling (21,19, 23,19, 16) 130m**

Pitch 1 (21) 25m Start up the blocky ground leading to a sloppy ledge. From there launch into the overhanging flaring groove (crux) which leads up to easier slabs to the DBC belay. Trad.

Pitch 2 (19) 25m Climb up the obvious left leaning crack then move left across wall (committing) past 2 bolts then continue up crack system out left past a series of small caves (don't belay in 1st cave with the 2 bolts belay). Trad and 2 bolts.

Pitch 3 (23)30m Up past 3 bolts to the epic right-tending crack / corner system. Wild. Extend the second draw, climb face (crux). If you move further left the grade is 22 but it takes a bit more effort to get established in the crack. From here blast up on one of the best crack in the NI using underclings, jams and stemming. When the crack runs out head LEFT to the anchor. Ignore the abandoned belay out right. Trad and 3 bolts.

Pitch 4 (19)30m Great jugs lead the way through some steep climbing. 9 bolts.

Pitch 5 (16)20m Up the groove to the arête then traverse right across the slab to a sling anchor in the trees. 6 bolts, tree belay.

IMPORTANT: BACK UP THE TOP ANCHOR WITH YOUR OWN SLING WHILE BELAYING. THE FIXED SLINGS ARE DUE TO BE REPLACED.

Descent: Rap the route or walk off. All the raps are 30m or less and require some traversing to get to the next anchors. The 3rd rap is a big traverse left into cave, the 4th is big traverse right to the "Home Again" belay anchors, it is recommended on both these raps the 1st assenter clips some gear on the way down. Take your time, back up abseil device with a prusik and tie knot in ends of the rope.

Rack: Wires and a double set cams to #3 + 1 off #4, 10 draws.

Pitch 1 – 2 Greg Kolbe, Shafiq Lalloo April 2016.

Pitch 3 – 5 Max Hutchinson and Edwin Sheppard, Feb 2019

* **Home Again (20) 20m**

Starts on the block just left of Kapowai Calling, on the edge of the large gully that splits the face. Nice grade 17/18 moves up to the crux up the small crack at the top. Generously bolted to make for a comfortable lead. 11 bolts. For an easier grade 18 variant, traverse up and right before the final steep section, past a single bolt, to join the first pitch anchors of Kapowai Calling. This variant is called *Home is Calling*. *Dave Spooner, Dec 2017*

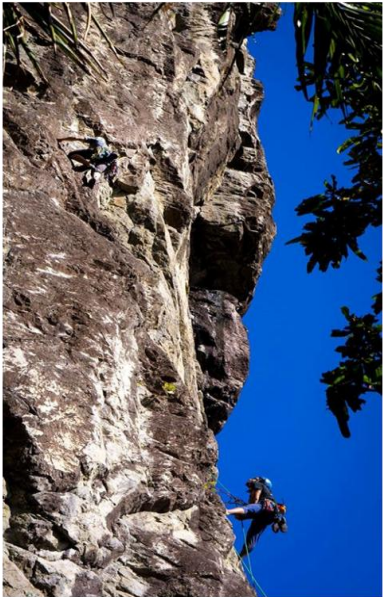
Chockaholic (23) 30m

Start as for *Home Again*, before splitting off at half height following crack trending up and left. At the chocked block bust out left to flake feature before moving up to another chock (novel #4 camalot placement here). Sustained climbing follows with just enough gear to keep you going before joining Kapowai Calling at the bolt at the end of its second pitch. Rack: wires, full set of cams to #4, doubles #0.3-1. Save the #0.75s to place after each chock.

Sam Waetford (on pre-placed gear), Dec 2017. Awaits ground-up FA.

Greg Kolbe & Shafiq Lalloo on the ground-up FA of Pitch 2, Kapowai Calling

Richard Knot on 2nd Pitch of Kapowai Calling



Left of the vertical bushy gully:

*** Walking the Plank (23) 110m

Follows a giant crack/chimney up the left side of the large central gully which splits the buttress. The first two and a half pitches were climbed ground-up on trad, but there is now a couple of bolts at the crux on the first pitch. Every pitch of this route is worth doing in its own right... no boring bits! Note the hardest moves (3rd pitch) are on bolts. All anchors are bolted. Rack: Doubles to #4, one #5 or #6.

Descent: Great rap line - all pitches are less than 30m so it can be done with a single 60m rope. Every rap leads you directly down to the previous belay, except for the first anchor which is slightly right of the rap line but is easy to swing across to.

Pitch 1 (22) Slabby left-hand rising traverse leads to a few tricky slopy side-pulls protected with one bolt. This establishes you in a corner/chimney system which you power up to the first belay.

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Pitch 2 (19) A lovely hand crack turns into a mildly overhanging off-width, this pitch is awesome, bring big cams (could even use a no. 6 Camalot! Note the thrutchy crux is run out ~7m if you do not have anything bigger than a #4 camalot.

Pitch 3 (23) Continue up the corner system on good gear until it runs out and you hit bolts halfway up the pitch. Try to find a bit of a rest before you hit a challenging sport crux (hard 23). Mantle out to the belay.

Pitch 4 (21) Follow the bolts up the shallow corner and then traverse right to the steep but juggy arete. Some small holds bring you back left to the belay on a bushy ledge.

Pitch 5 (18) Pure fun! Up the short wall with awesome features, mantle over onto a low-angle friction slab leading to the anchor a few metres below the bush line.

Pitches 1-2: Edwin Sheppard, Greg Kolbe Mar 2015.

Pitches 3-5: Edwin Sheppard, Dave Spooner Dec 2017.

JESS DOBSON ON 1ST AND 3RD PITCH OF WALKING THE PLANK



Make like a goat and head up the steep track up the left-hand end of the crag. Climb up a series 3 fixed ropes to a ledge system and the distinctive crack of

** Five-legged Goat (24) 30m

A wildly overhanging, left-leaning hand crack! Rope stretcher - use a 70m rope or tie knots in your 60m. Located at the far left-hand side of the crag up the access ramp with a white fixed rope. Start up the block just left of the main crack, placing a good cam off the ground to protect the start moves. Span across to the main crack and then blast upwards. The crux is hand jams.

Rack: Single rack of wires and small cams, double rack of cams from #0.4 - #3, one #4. Hexes work great too! Make sure you keep a #.5 and a #.75 camalot for the top section where the gear options get a bit limited.

Edwin Sheppard, April 2018

Further up the hill up another a series of fixed rope gets you to the far left-hand end of the cliff.

** El pollo loco (16, 19, 18, 18) 120m

Pitch 0 (16) 20m For the full on multi pitch experience abseil into the route from the upper access track. The left most line of bolts up the low angle slab, 5 Bolts & DBC belay.

Pitch 1 (19) 45m 16 Bolts. From the small ledge with chain belay. Climb the right wall and corner, tree is in. At the 2nd bolt one hard move up the right arete then a smeary traverse right past 2 more bolts to a DBC belay. Either belay here or clip the belay and continue traversing right on easy ground past 3 more bolts. From here climb the steep head wall above into the corner then move out onto the right arete. The route now turns to lower angle and smeary. Moving up and 3 top bolts is the crux. Grab the tree and move up to large ledge system.

Pitch 2 (18) 25m 10 Bolts. Move right 4m to wider section of ledge and a single bolt belay. Climb the steep head wall above on big holds. Having clipped the 4th bolt traverse left, staying low to 5th bolt. Continue up and left and climb steep head wall on large chicken heads. Then up slab to DBC belay.

Pitch 3 (19) 30m 10 Bolts. Up easy ground to another steep section on more crazy chicken heads then up slab above. The slab gets harder the closer you get to the belay. Enjoy the mantel.

4x abseils (less than 30m each) gets you to the ground. The last abseil station is on the wall below the 1st pitch traverse.

Cliff Ellery, Jess Dobson & Rachael Mayne. Nov-Dec/2019.

* Zac-Track (22,21) 65m

The brother to El pollo loco. From the base of "Walking the plank" (do not go up ramp with fixed rope) follow rough track around base off crag to rock corner that cuts through the vegetation.

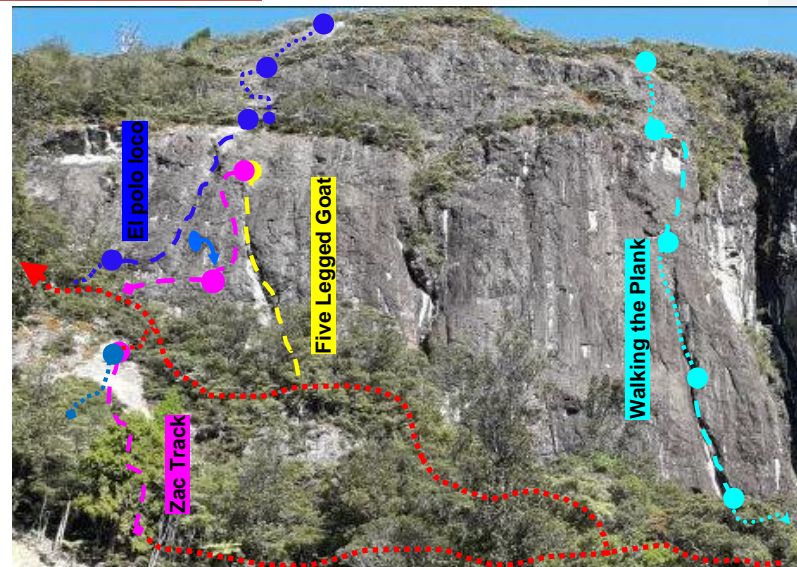
Pitch 1 (21) 30m. Climb corner then up a series of slabs (crux) tending left before climbing easy slab to DBC belay. This pitch is probably easier split in two. Belay on BD belay before slab section starts.

Pitch 2 (20) 15m 5 bolts. Can be accessed from the roped ledge track and start between FLG and EPL. Start at fare left hand end of ledge, bolt chain belay. One hard move gets you up and on to the ledge, then a easy stroll along the to DB belay.

Pitch 3 (21) 20m 8 bolts. From belay traverse right, on to over hanging face (crux). Then more hard moves up steep head wall immediately left of Five Legged Goat. Traverse right at the top to the DBC belay of FLG.

Cliff Ellery & Rachael Mayne May 2024.

TOPO 3: LEFT HAND WALL



Lost Gulley Spire

The Lost Gulley spire is located in the gulley behind the main cliff (to the east of the main cliff). Access is via a rough climber track that take about 30mins from the base of the main cliff. Follow the track that skirts the base of the cliff past past "Bad dept and Belayers. Follow this over the first ridge and drop into a dry gulley. This is the lower gulley of "Lost Gulley Spire" You can struggle up the gulley or climb the left or right ribs, all are steep vertical jungle bashes. Alternatively follow the track heading east and climb the hill on the eastern flank. Cut back west on to the main rib and climb this to the base of a pinnacle (unclimbed). Skirt around the west side of this pinnacle down a fixed rope and back into the lost gulley. Continue up the gully to the base of the Lost Gulley spire, then ascend a fixed rope on the western flank of the gulley and continue up the bushy gut to the western face of the pinnacle. A fixed rope leads to the northwest ridge. Well done you have done the hardest part!

Warning the Access to the base of the spire is committing. There are a series of fixed ropes to allow access to the base of the pinnacle, I would suggest you attach yourself to them with a prusik or jumar. The ropes are to be used at your own risk. Examine the condition of them before using them and if you think they need replacing then replace them, safety is your responsibility. Although the rock on the spire itself is solid there is a lot of loose rock around the base of the spire and the topography directs any dislodge rock straight back down the access track. So take care and watch out for others in your party. So if that hasn't put you off and you are up for an adventure then the routes up the western and northern faces are

* In-Spired (20) 30m

Climb the west face. Traverse in from the left arete past 3 bolts then climb the crack on trad to the ledge at half height. Move around onto the north face. Difficult move to get established on the wall, helps if you are tall, then continue up past 3 bolts to DBC belay.

Cliff Ellery & Jess Dobson. 3 Feb 2019

Putusuci (16) 20m

The original line climbed onsite to get to the top of the pinnacle. Continue up the loose gully to the saddle between the pinnacle and the main land. Climb the north side and east arete of the spire on trad. Topo dotted line depicts route on opposite side of spire.

Richard Knott & Cliff Ellery. Jan 2019

TOPO 3: LOST GULLEY SPIRE



Commented [CE1]:

The Whare

If your life is feeling a bit dull and the other crags in the Tairua valley are not adventurous enough for you, then The Whare is for you. its the NI biggest rock climbing day out" 12 hours car to car.

The Whare

The large house (whare) shaped cliff, that sits above the main Tairua crag and is highest point in the valley. Solid rock but the climbing and approach is definitely alpine in nature.

Access. Is via the Tairua Crag Track. From the Car park continue along the Tairua track for a 1 1/2 hours (5 km). Once you have climbed up on the steep hill section, with fixed ropes, follow track from another 50m to the large boulder. The track to the Tairua crag continues left around the boulder. From this boulder the track to the Whare heads right up the hill. A rough track winds up the hill through the bush for about 1km and 300m elevation gain. The track finishes at a boulder field at the base of the Whare.



Tairua Crag

* **The Big Day Out 185m (24,10,20,22,21,18,18)**

The first pitch can be by-passed by climbing/scrambling up a number of ledges and fixed ropes higher up the valley. Take care and a jumar or similar to clip into fixed lines.

Pitch 1. 30m (24). Climbs the lower wall to the large lower ledge. Make you way to the far left hand (uphill end) of the lower wall. Scramble up to a belay ledge. From here climb and traverse right past 4 bolts to you are in the middle of the wall. Climb the steep head wall past 6 more bolts to a hanging DB belay

Pitch 2 20m (10) Scramble up the ledge to DB Belay, move right 15m to the base of the 2nd pitch and a single chain belay.

Pitch 3. 25m (20) Climb lower wall tending left till past the 5th bolt then straight up the steep wall to the a large bush cover ledge, clip the bolt then traverse right along ledge, clip high last bolt then climb head wall to DBC belay (*April 2022*)

Pitch 4 20m (22). From belay move left then up corner before moving left out onto arete (crux), then up steep arete and head wall before gaining large ledge system. Traverse further left to DBC belay.

Pitch 5. 20m (21) Move left around arete and up head wall, at third bolt move back left on small ledge directly above the belay. Climb right facing corner and groove to bushy ledge and the main right hand arete of the Whare. Move up easy ground past 2 more bolts to BDC belay

Cliff Ellery & Rachael Mayne 4 April 2023

Pitch 6. 35m (18). Climbs the south east arete and southern face. Mostly an easy scramble, 15ish, but a few hard move traversing across the face. BDC belay

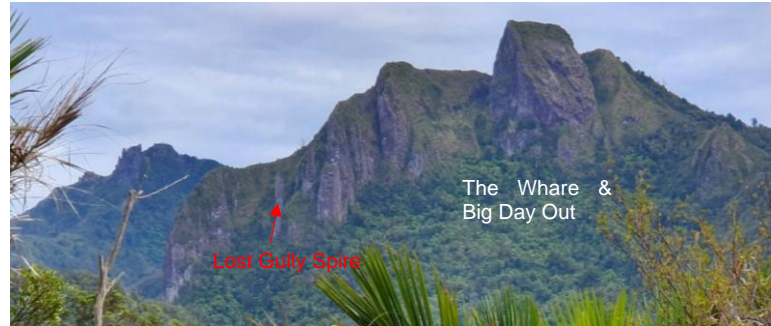
Pitch 7. 35m (18) Move back left onto face and up broken ground then up step wall and groove to gain arete. Climb arete to DBC belay.

Cliff Ellery & Rachael Mayne 8 Feb 2025

Descent

If backing off Individual pitch's

- Pitch 1. 30m Straight down from hanging belay.
- Pitch 2, access to top pitch 1. Walk along left along the ledge then 15m abseil down blocky ledge from DBC belay.
- Pitch 3. 25m
- Pitch 4. 20m (traverse 5m right)
- Pitch 5. 20m
- Pitch 6. 35m abseil down line large traverse and will need to back clip bolts. Or abseil to abseil station 2 (see below).
- Pitch 7. Abseil down vertical scrub to the right of the route



If abseiling from very top.

Due to the nature of the descent and line you will need to traverse, swing way right on each abseil, so have a prusik or breaking devise to allow a 2 handed traverse.

1. If you want to top out it is possible to scramble up and down steep scrubby face from the top of pitch 6 to the true summit. There is a fixed rope in place but stay roped in and clipped into the belays, do not rely on fixed rope alone.
2. Pitch 7 to abseil station 1. 30m abseil down southwest face to DBC abseil station. Straight down and right 5m. (not down the route)
3. Abseil station 1 to Abseil Station 2. 30m, 25m down and traverse 15m right to the very end of the bushy ledge system to DBC.
4. Abseil station 2 to Top of pitch 3. 20m abseil and 10m traverse to the right.
5. Pitch 4. 20m (traverse 5m right).
6. Pitch 3. 25m
7. Pitch 2, access to top pitch 1. Walk along left along the ledge then 15m abseil down blocky ledge from DBC belay.
8. Pitch 1. 30m Straight down from hanging belay.

PHOTOS - RACHAEL MAYNE ON BIG DAY OUT



