

# Winter Gem

by Cliff Ellery Aug 2025

Located in the Broken Hills DOC reserve, Tairua valley area gets its very own sun-soaked winter sport crag. Single-pitch sport routes on steep, clean andesite, and only a 20-minute walk from the car.

## Directions

From State Highway 25 turn down Morrison road, opposite Prescott's Garage. Go straight onto Puketui road for another 5km. Drive past the car park for the Tairua and Hikuai crags, continuing along the road for 1km until you reach the Broken Hills DOC reserve. A further 1km you reach the **Gem of Boom Creek track on your left**. 500m before you cross the Bridge to the Broken hill campground.

Park, then follow the Gem of the Boom creek track for 500m. At the second bridge branch left up an old mining road that follows the creek. Follow the creek and the old road up for another 20-minutes. The track crosses the stream once but for the most part stays on the right-hand side of the creek. After 15-minutes take a climber's track up a right-tending gulley (marked) and scramble up to the base of the cliff.

The valley is home to 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](http://www.kauridieback.co.nz)

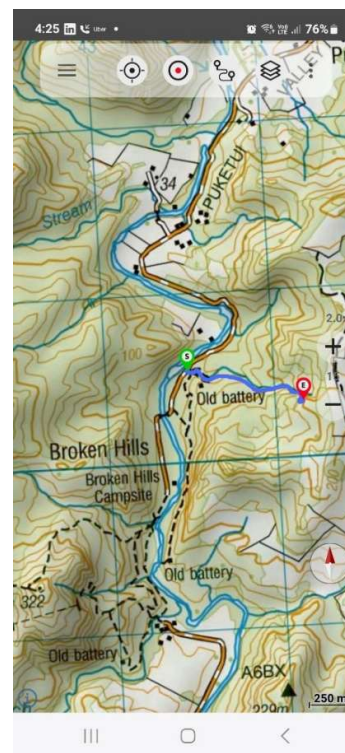
## Gear

All routes are sport and you will need at least 15 quickdraws. A couple of the routes are 35m so you need a 70m rope or a second rope for the descent.

[www.freeclimb.co.nz](http://www.freeclimb.co.nz)

Number One, for up to date Rock Climbing Information

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## Right hand End

The track leads up to the left-hand end of the Crag, where a small via ferrata gets you to the ledge at the base of the cliff. Move left to the middle of the cliff. All lines are described from left to right.

### \*\*\* Guilt Trip (22) 35m

Start beneath the big tree. Climb the overhanging rock on big holds. At the 5<sup>th</sup> bolt move right and mantel the ledge before moving back left again. Climb up to a small roof section in the middle of the wall. The crux sequence is moving right of the roof before crossing left. Then continue up to the DBC belay of "Cliff Does Sport". 15 Bolts

*Cliff Ellery & Rachael Mayne 10/Aug 2025*

### \*\* Cliff Does Sport (21) 35m

Climbs the centre of the wall. Crux is at half height at the last overhanging section although there is plenty of climbing past the crux. Great line on great rock. 13 Bolts.

*Cliff Ellery, & Rachael Mayne. 27 July 2025.*

### \*\* Broken Thrills (24) 25m

Climbs through a series of overhangs and then through the roof. The rock for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3m is a little sub-par but once you reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> bolt the rock is steep and solid all the way. An interesting all-body chimney (the butt move) in the middle is followed by a technical crux with a hard and pumpy finish through the roof. 12 Bolts.

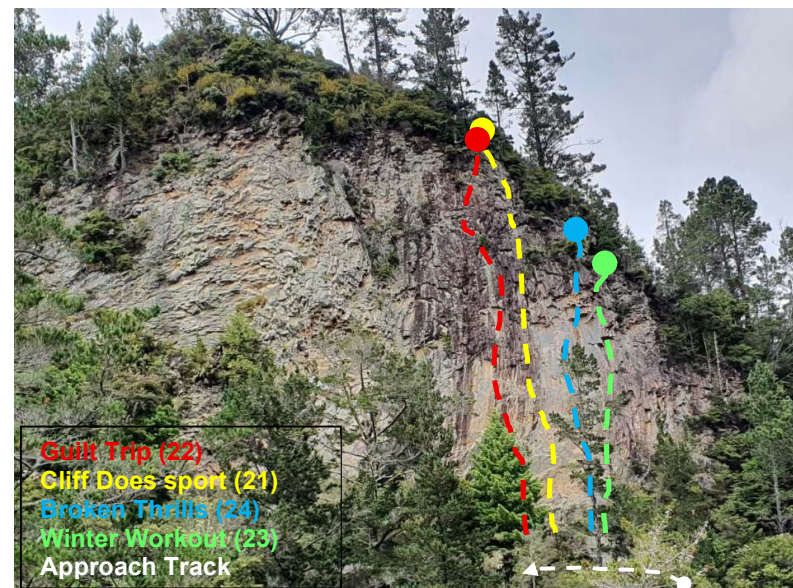
*Cliff Ellery, Rachael Mayne. 2 August 2025*

### \*\* Winter workout (23) 25m

Climbs steep ground then through the roof on the left-hand end. The rock down low is a bit soft, but great after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bolt. Steep, juggy climbing before some interesting undercling moves through the roof. 10 Bolts.

*Cliff Ellery, 16/Aug/2025*

## WINTER GEM TOPO



RACHAEL MAYNE LEADING "CLIFF DOES SPORT"  
PHOTO CLIFF ELLERY