

# KINLOCH

By Cliff Ellery

Aug/2023

Kinloch is on the shores of Whangamata Bay on the Northern side of Lake Taupo, about 15 minutes drive from Taupo. From Taupo head north across the Waikato river then at the top of the hill turn left down Poihipi Rd. After about 10 km turn left onto Whangamata road, then left again onto Kinloch Road.

There are 4 separate crags in the Kinloch area. The first is in Kinloch itself, at the eastern end of the bay. The other 3 are on the same eastern peninsula but further out in the bay and can be accessed via the W2K mountain bike track or by boat. Access details are given in the introduction for each crag.

The crags are on Ngāti Te Kohera land and we ask all climbers to respect the cultural significant of the land. In particular the Iwi have asked climber to avoid area with Kokowai (red ochre markings that indicate a tapu site). For this reason "Buckets in the Belfry" and "Where to from here" are closed.

## Disclaimer

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## GEAR

A recommended rack is given for each line. Trad gears is given as

SCD =	Small Cams. Smaller than 1 Friend.
CD =	Full set of Camming devices, size 1 to 4 Friend or equal (+½ sizes)
LCD =	Large Camming devices, Larger than 4 friend.
W =	A full set of wires.
Hex =	A set of Hex's



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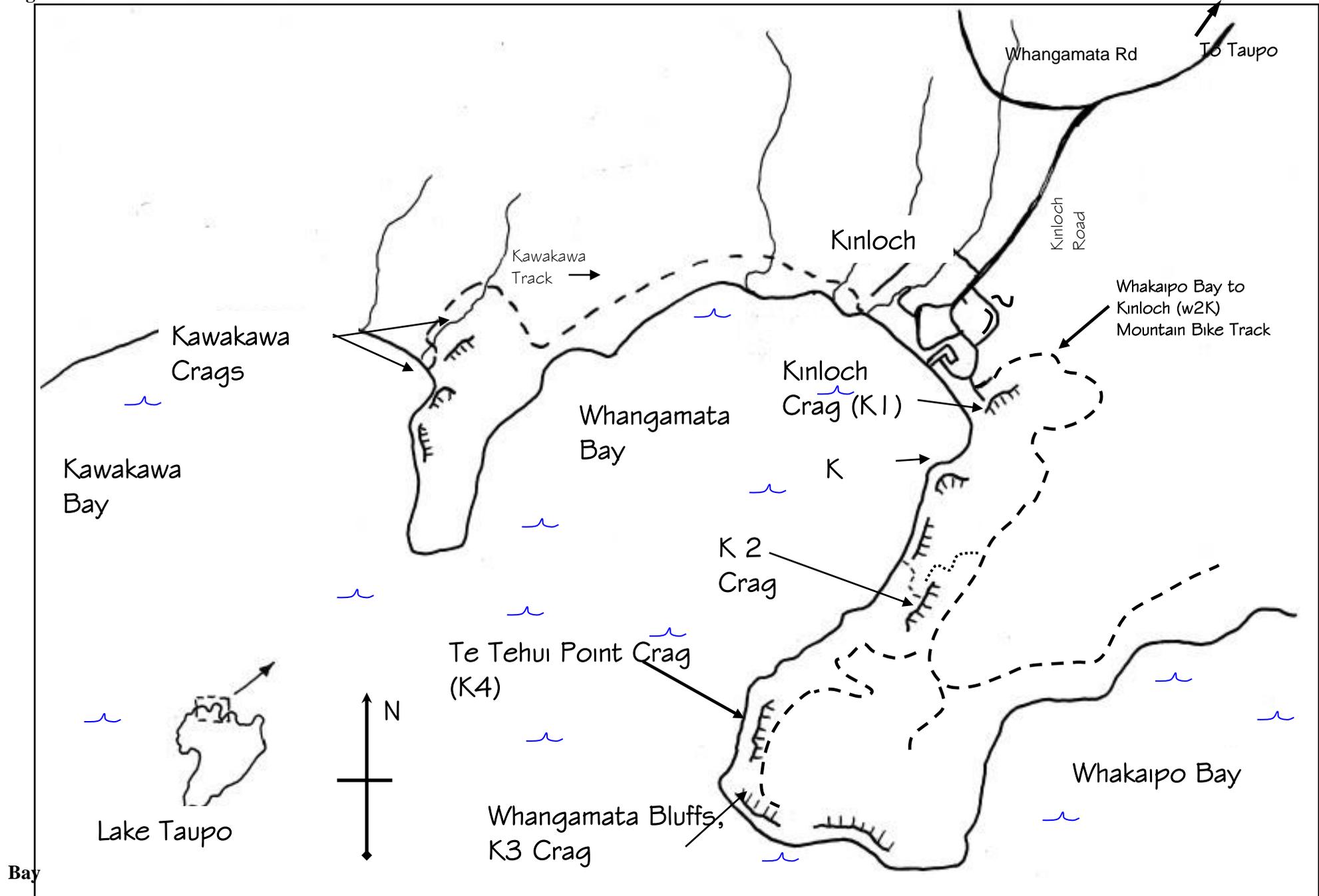
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Figure 1: Kinloch Area & Kawakawa



Bay

## KI - Crag

Once you have reach the settlement of Kinloch drive straight past the golf course veering slightly right onto Marina Terrace then left down Ketha Place. Park you car at the far end of Ketha place. The crag is a 1 minutes walk from here. The rock is riolite and very solid and the routes are generally all high quality. Kinloch is not a very large crag with less than 20 routes in total, however offer a great days climbing with easy access and suburb easy to moderate climbs. It gets the sun late morning so in winter the afternoon is best while in summer you can spend the afternoon swimming after a mornings climbing.

Climbing first started at Kinloch in October 1991 when Mark Jones along with others based at the Tiho Venture school started to develop the area. The crag has been developed with an effort to minimise the visual and physical impact of climbing. Native trees have been preserved and naked bolts used on the most visible parts of the cliff, so bring along your key hole hangers or a set or wires. (A lot

### Main Cliff – Right Hand End

The main Cliff is split in two, with the climbs on the right hand end being out in the open while the left hand end of the cliff is tucked away in the bush. When you arrive at the crag most people park their bags adjacent to the large right facing corner of *Where to From Here* just right of a small boulder that has a selection of belay bolts. So for no other reason than it seems most logical the routes are described from this end going right to left.

#### Summer at the Beach (14) 10m

The small corner groove at the far right hand end of the crag . Climb the slab & arete then pull over the small overhanging section onto the slab above. From this point climb the twin crack's in the head wall and belay further back in the bush, DRB bealy. (Pro CD, Wires, Hex)

*Richard Dunn , Robyn Wayne, Nov-91*

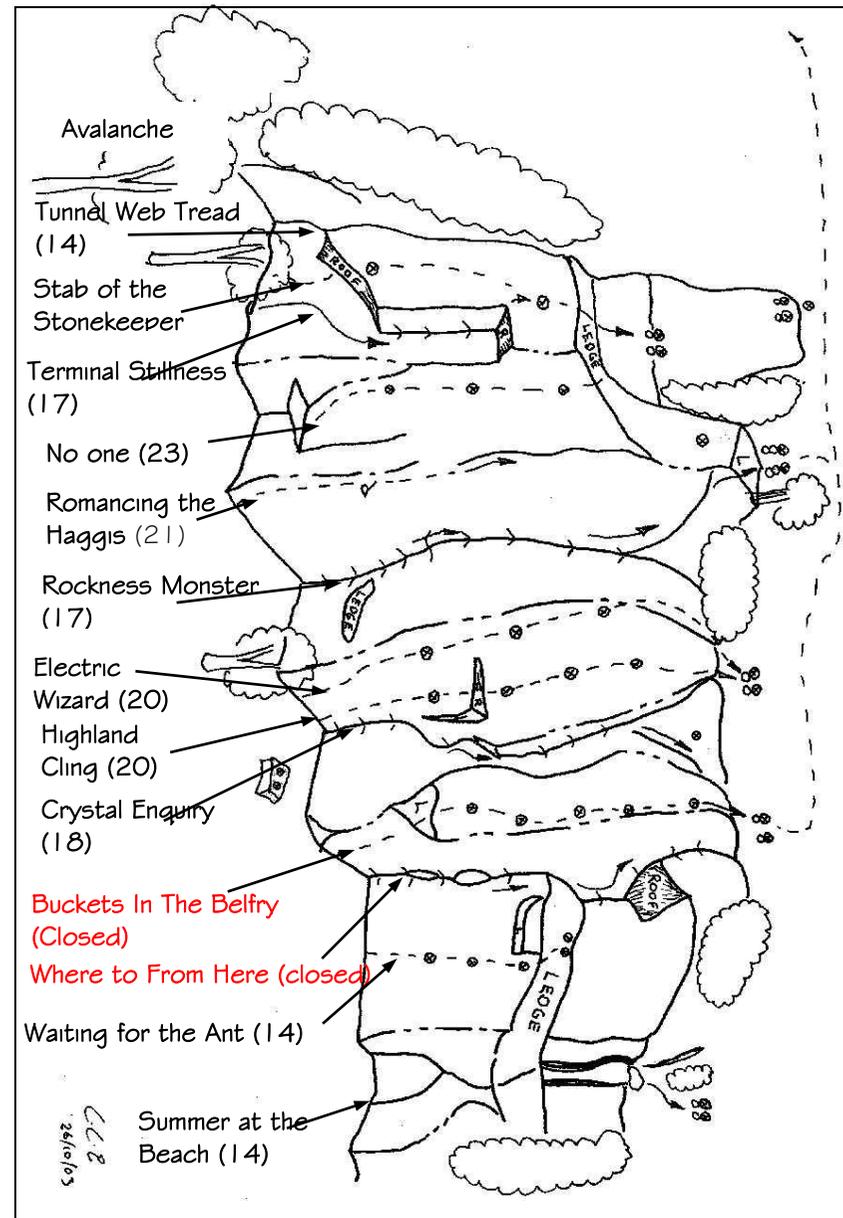
3m to the left in the middle of the face is:

#### \*Waiting for the Ant (14) 7m

An awkward start move leads to easy climbing up the middle of the face past 3 naked bolts then mantle onto the large ledge (crux) and belay off the DBC belay. One of the nicest 14 around.

*Richard Dunn , Robyn Wayne, Nov-91*

Figure 72: Main Cliff Topo – Right Hand End



The large right facing corner to the left is

**Where to From Here CLOSED**  
**Buckets In The Belfry -CLOSED**

The next corner system is

**Crystal Enquiry (18) 15m**

Climb up the steep right facing corner then through the small over hang, crux. Continue up the crack and groove system above, then break out left higher up onto the head wall (bolt) and the DRB belay of *Where to From Here*. The gear placements are a little difficult to arrange but sound. [Pro: CD, Hex, W, 1 bolt].

*Mark Jones, Allan Kane – Nov 1991.*

Immediately left

**\*\* Electric Wizard (20) 15m**

Climb up the face left of the corner to the small roof, pull through the roof, crux, then continue up the face. After the top bolt you can either escape out onto the left arete or move over right, both are difficult and both are much of a much ness grade wise. 4 Bolts and a DRB belay.

*Mark Jones – Nov 1991.*

Immediately Left.

**Highland Cling (18) 15m**

Climb the face and blunt arete. Pull over the bulge then continue up the face and arete to the belay of *Electric Wizard*. [Pro 3 bolts].

*Mark Jones, Allan Kane – Nov 1991.*

The next large corner 3m to the right is

**Rockness Monster (17) 17m**

Climb the obvious corner straight up and over the bulge. This is the crux but it is well protected with fail safe bomber wire placements. Continue up the groove above. Move left near the top and finish on the large belay ledge. DBC belay and the protection is good if you take your time arranging it. [Pro: CD, W]

*Mark Jones , Sally Rowe Oct 1991.*

The face arete and face immediately left is

**\* Romancing the Haggis (21) 17m**

Either start out right or do the pleasant little boulder problem start straight up the arete. Clip the peg then continue up on easier ground till you reach the finger crack proper, a cool head is required and a few micro cam

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placements can be found. Pleasant climbing up the crack to the DBC belay ledge of *Rockness Monster*. [Pro: Small & Med CD, W]  
*Mark Jones, Allan Kane –Oct 1991.*

**No one (23) 16m**

The bolted route up the shallow corner immediately left of the arete.

Just to the left is a large flake , the route up the right hand side is:

**\* Terminal Stillness (17) 8m**

A superb route up the right-hand crack of the flake. Protection is good round the flake then one bolt in the face. Belay at the chains or keep going to the higher belay of *Tunnel Web Spider*. (Pro CD, Wires)

*Mark Jones, Sally Rowe – Oct 1991*

**Stab of the Stonekeeper (21) 8m**

Takes the flake and over hang directly up the middle. Pull over onto the face above then continue up to the DBC belay out right. [Pro 2 Bolts].

*Mark Jones Oct 1991.*

**Tunnel Web Tread (14) 19m**

Immediately left of the overhanging flake. The crack and face above, a little over grown these days. TBC belay.

*Mark Jones, Sally Rowe – Oct 1991*

**Avalanche (11) 20m**

A deep crack studded with stumps. Steep at first then angles off at the top and another bolt chain belay. *(I haven't been able to find this climb so can only conclude that it has been swallowed up by the bush)*

## Main Cliff – Left Hand End

The next section of cliff is 10m to the left tucked away in the bush, once again routes are described from right to left.

### **BillyBob (18), 15m,**

Follow the gently curving corner up to 2 bolt belay. 5 bolts, double bolt belay.  
*Scott Taylor, 16 Nov 2013*

### **From the Editor (15) 20m**

The obvious groove at the right hand end of the wall. Then climb the corner and head wall, D.B.C belay. (Pro 3 bolts, Wires )  
*Pete Manning, Jo Willet, Bryce Martyn, 2-June-92*

### **Holiday Mode (19) 15m**

The face and arete immediately right of the crack line of *There's Wetas in my Porridge*. Climb past 3 bolts then onto the top ledge, continue up easy ground to the DBC belay of *There's Wetas in my Porridge*.  
*Bryce Martyn, Jo Willet 2-June-92*

### **The elephant goes toot (17), 20m**

Clip the first three bolts then go either left or right. A couple of more interesting moves leads to easier ground. , 7 bolts + double bolt belay  
*Marcus Manning, Catherine Moger, 16 Nov 2013*

### **There's Wetas in my Porridge (14) 12m**

Climb the prominent crack line to DBC Belay.  
*Allan Kane, Richard Dunn, Robyn Wayne, Nov -1991*

### **Wait until tomorrow (17) 20m**

Start left of the tree and move up the easy slabs to a ledge. Continue straight up the face and top out onto a ledge. 6 bolts + double bolt belay  
*Shane Harrison, Cécile Glorot, 16 Nov 2013*

### **Les femmes et les grimpeurs d'abord (19) 15m**

In the middle of the face, follow easy climbing to reach the three-moves crux after the third bolt. 6 bolts + double bolt belay  
*Vincent Zintzen, Cécile Glorot, 16 Nov 2013*

### **Working Holiday (16) 12m**

Climb the face past 5 bolts and a DBC belay.  
*Bryce Martin, Craig Martin 21/7/97*

### **Wine Trail (15) 10m**

The obvious crack at the far left hand end of the crag. DBC Belay.  
*Allan Kane, Richard Dunn, Robyn Wayne, Nov -1991*

## Figure 73: Main Cliff Topo – Left Hand End

## Kinloch Crag (K1) Index of Climbs by Grade

Star	Name	Pg
	GRADE 11	
	Avalanche	3
	GRADE 14	
	Summer at the Beach	2
*	Waiting for the Ant	2
	Tunnel Web Tread	3
	There's Wetas in my Porridge	4
	GRADE 15	
	From the Editor	4
	Wine Trail	4
	GRADE 16	
*	Where to From Here	3
	Working Holiday	4
	GRADE 17	
**	Buckets In The Belfry	3
	Rockness Monster	3
*	Terminal Stillness	3
	GRADE 18	
	Crystal Enquiry	3
	Highland Cling	3
	GRADE 19	
	Holiday Mode	4
	GRADE 20	
**	Electric Wizard	3
	GRADE 21	
*	Romancing the Haggis	3
	Stab of the Stonekeeper	3
	GRADE 23	
	No one	3

## Whangamata Bay Crag.

### K 1.5 – Boat Anchorage Crag.

Directly out from the Kinloch beach above the boat mooring. After a 5 minute paddle and a 150m crash through the bush you should be at the base of the crag. At present there is only one line, the obvious crack line of.

#### **Smoking Crack (20) 17m**

Climb the widen crack to the offwidth, easier than it looks. Belay & Abseil off tree. (Pro CD 3+, Hex).

*John Dawkins, Freddy Gates*

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## K2 –Crag

K2 is fearsomely steep overhanging crag that rises out of the bush above Whangamata bay. It is a riolite cliff with a fully welded conglomerate layer which produces large holds and makes climbing at this angle possible.

The crag is situated on the eastern side of Whangamata's (Kinloch) bay eastern peninsula and about 800m from the lake. It is **not** the series of lake side cliffs that can be seen from the Kinloch beach.

### Access

Walking (or better still Mountain bike): - Take the Mountain bike track "W2K" that goes right past Kinloch crag and up onto Boujomdel Crs, continue along the W2K mountain bike track up the hill and out onto Whanagamata Peninsula. After about 30-40 minutes you come to a large pine tree plantation (with views of lake). From here continue along the track for another 10 minutes till you reach a rough track heading down the hill and marked with cairns. If you come to a point in the track that folks around a tree, you have gone too far, head back 300m. Take the rough track down the hill to the crag, (Track not suitable for Mountain bikes)

By boat - Head out into the bay, about 2 km from Kinloch, and on the left hand side is a small beech just past the lake side cliffs. Just up from the beach is a small cliff & cave with a few steep boulder problems. Head round the right-hand side of the cliff where you'll find a rough track. The track leads up the hill to the base of the crag. Routes are described from left to right. The large roof at the left hand end has the following lines

**\*\* Puku Master (22) 10m**

Climb the left side of the face to the roof, pull through the roof on large holds. 6 Bolts DBC belay.

*Berdon Elinger, Stephen King Jan-09*

**\* Eat the Meat (25) 10m**

Climb the right hand side of the face. Delicate moves up to roof (some soft rock) then big moves through roof, moving left and finishing up Puka Master.

*Stephen King 4-Jan-09*

**Project (21) 10m**

Climb the  
*Dan*

**Project 20m**

Climb the  
*Dan*

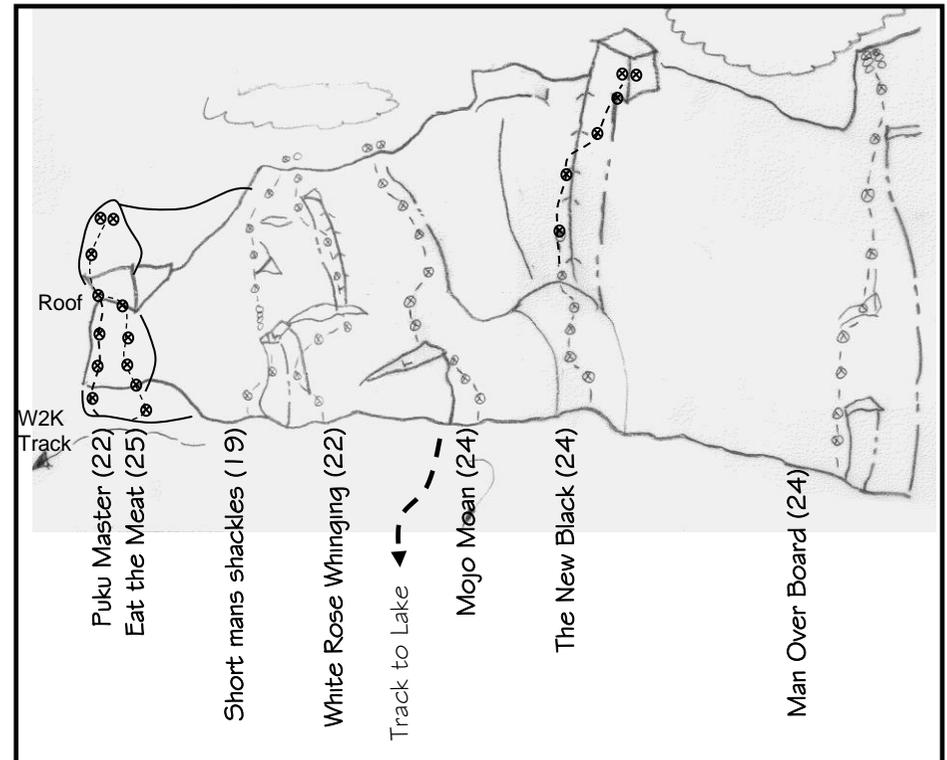
**\*\* Short mans shackles (19) 25m**

Climb the left hand side of the lower pinnacle past 2 bolts. From the top of the pinnacle clip the bolt/chain (it has now been lengthen for her pleasure), then blast through the steep ground. The angle then eases and the holds get smaller. Climb to the left of the small roof (crux) then top out moving right. DB belay. (Pro: 7 Bolts, 1 Large hex or cam optional between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bolt)  
*Cliff Ellery, Kevin Barratt, & Stepehn Barratt, 29-Nov-05*

**\*\* White Rose Whinging (22) 25m**

Climb the right hand side of the lower pinnacle. From the top of the pinnacle traverse right, then at the 4<sup>th</sup> bolt pull through the overhang and into the right facing corner. The steep climbing may be over but the crux is the delicate bridging higher up. Move left at the top of the corner (bolt out on left face). Climb the arete and face above to the DBC belay of SMS (Pro: 8 Bolts, 1 medium hex or 2 friend between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bolt)  
*Cliff Ellery, Stephen King, 30-Nov-05*

### K2- Left Hand-end



**\*\* Mojo Moan (24) 25m**

Climb the conglomerate layer to the right of the buttress then move onto the top of the buttress and the large ledge. From here move up the steep wall past 3 more bolts (difficult) then traverse right into the small corner. Climb faint corner and arete system, the crux is at last bolt. (Pro: 8 Bolts & DBC belay)

*Cliff Ellery, Kevin Barratt, 31-Sep-06*

10m to right

**\*\*\*The New Black (24) 30m**

Climb the steep overhanging face on big jugs. Climb through the lip (crux) and into the left facing corner. Continue up corner moving right at the top. 10 Bolts TBC belay

*Cliff Ellery, Stephen King 4-Jan-09*

**Close Project 30m**

First 4 bolts of "The New Black" then move right up face.

**\*\* Man Over Board (24) 25m**

The jury is still out on this one, it may be 25. Climbs the steep bulgy ground to the left of the arete. Difficult start up the corner then easier climbing through the steep and bulgy ground. At the 4<sup>th</sup> bolt move right via a difficult sequencing including jamming the horizontal break, crux. You may be through the crux but the climbing doesn't let up, continuing up the steep ground above till you can step right onto the arete.

*Rick McGregor & struggling on behind Bryce Martin & Cliff Ellery, 11-Jan-06*

On the other side of the arete 10m to the right of Man Over Board is the crack system

**\*\* Tricks of the Trad (23) 25m**

Climb through the steep bulge & crack, moving right onto the large ledge. Climb the corner crack then move into the hanging corner and crack system out left. Gear can be placed high in the right arching crack and flake before making this move. Climbing the step little corner with an awkward mantel onto the ledge followed by a delicate move to stand up on this ledge. Place a 4 friend up high in the shallow parallel sided scoop, then move up and into the chimney. Easy climbing to the belay. A must for the trad climbing guru, double ropes recommended. (Pro: CD x 2 , W)

*Cliff Ellery, Kevin Barratt Feb-06*

**\* Chapel of Ghouls (26) 25m**

Far right-hand end of main cliff. 2 bolts to large ledge system. From the ledge move right to 3<sup>rd</sup> bolt then back left past 4<sup>th</sup> bolt (crux) to easier ground. Tricky climbing to roof then traverse right under roof, to arete and DB belay.

*Stephen King- 18 Jan 09*

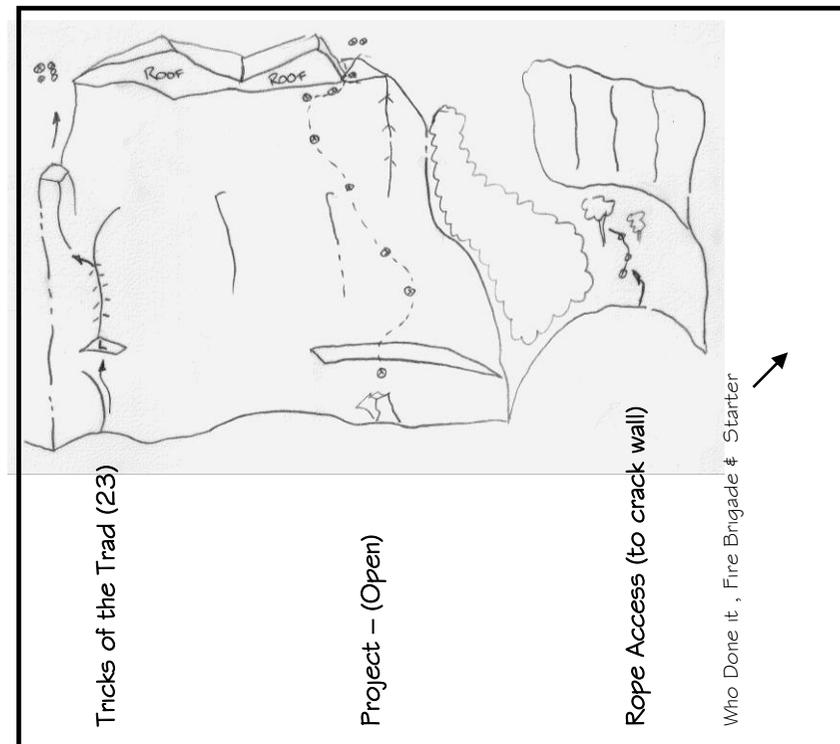
Down the far right hand end of the crag, past all the steep overhanging stuff , is a wall at a more climber friendly and reclined angle

**Who Done it (17) 20m**

A very hard move to get established in corner and crack system (22). May need stand on a handy places boulder or log to negate start move. Follow corner through a couple of bulges to a tree belay. Belay and rapel off tree. This line was lead on site so it is a little dirty in places, but is cleaning up nicely. (Pro. Trad)

*Stephen Barratt, Kevin Barratt 29-Nov-05*

**K2- Right Hand-end**



\* **Fire Brigade (16) 15m**

Start in the middle of face then traverse out to left arete. Climb through steep ground and onto face just left of arete. Climb arte and face to top. DBC belay. (Pro. 6 bolts-staples)

*Cliff Ellery and Jess Dobson Oct-08*

\*\* **Fire Starter (17) 15m**

Start at the right-hand end of the face then climb up bulgy ground past 3 bolts then more left around roof and onto head wall. Climb head wall moving right to arete and up to DBC belay (Pro. 6 bolts-staples)

*Cliff Ellery, Jess Dobson & Dylan Oct-08*

**Causal Slabby Rake (19) 20m**

Crack just right of Fire Starter. Poorly protected start moves lead to easier climbing higher up. Belay off trees. (Pro. Trad)

*Stephen Barratt, Kevin Barratt 29-Nov-05.*

Photo: Rick McGregor on the 1st ascent of “Man Over Board”.



## Te Tuhi Point Crag

### Access

Walking or Mountain bike: - From Kinloch take the w2k Mountain bike track past K2. At the top of the hill you will get to the outer peninsular loop and "Kinloch look out" track. Take this track and follow it down into the saddle then out onto the outer peninsular. After 30min to 40min you'll get to a view point looking out over the western bays. Back track about 200m then take a rough track out towards the lake and to the top of the Saddle Sore bluff. Abseil off trees down Saddle Sore or the chimney of Mountain Bike Madness.

By boat - Head out into the bay, about 5 km, then crash up through the bush to the base of Pines and Needles.

### \*\*\* Saddle Sore (20) 30m

The obvious splitter hand crack in the middle of the buttress. Climbed "on site" this is one of the best crack lines in the N.I. Traverse into the crack from the ledge out right (Direct start though roof has yet to be done). Climb to ledge then up the steep crack line above. Belay off trees.

*Cliff Ellery, Richard Knott 7-Jan-09*

### \* Mountain Bike Madness (12) 30m

Scramble up gully on left side of buttress. Then up the chimney till you pop out onto a ledge 10m from the top. Bridge up corner above chimney to the top (some loose rock).

*Cliff Ellery Solo 2-Jan-09*

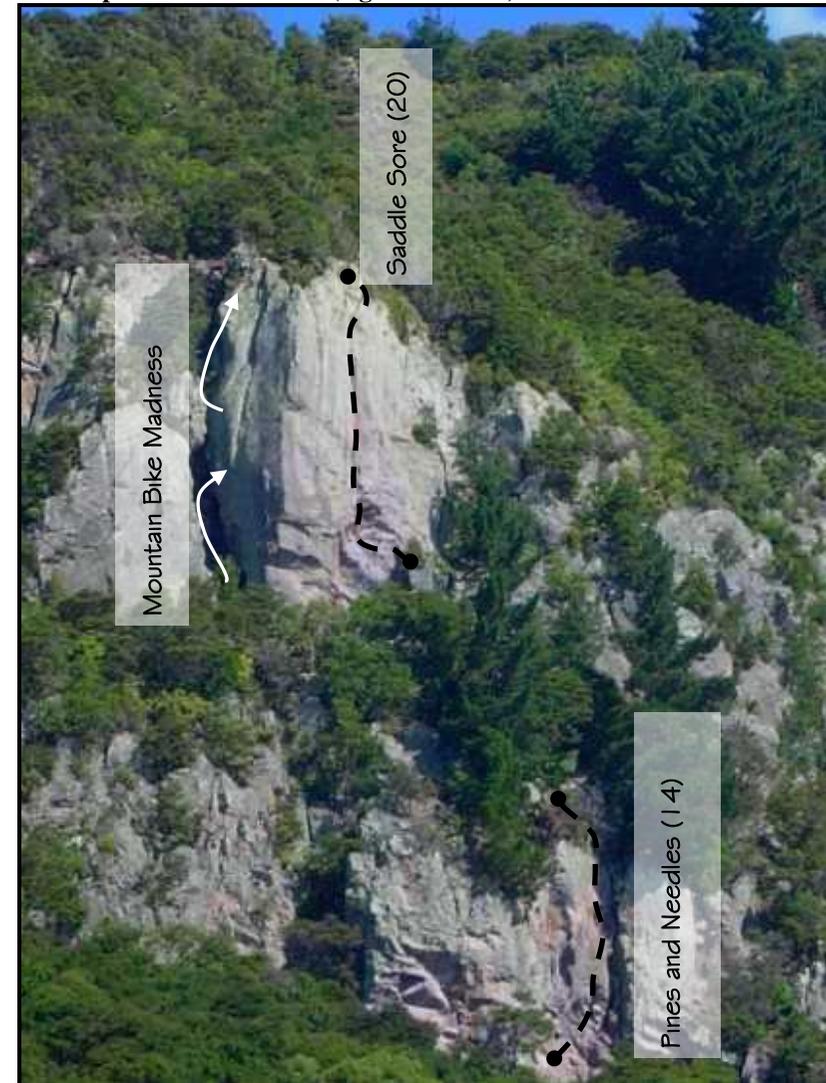
From the base of "Saddle Sore" either scramble down ledge system to the right or abseil down to lower tier.

### Pines and Needles (14) 20m

Climb the obvious wide corner system at the right hand end of the cliff. From the top of the corner cross the pine needle covered ledge then up the small head wall to the top. Trad Belay.

*Richard Knott, Cliff Ellery 7-Jan-09*

Photo Topo 1: Te Tuhi Point (right hand end)



## K3 -Whangamata Bay Heads

On the very southern tip of Whangamata Bay eastern peninsula, is a large series of cliffs. The south facing lower wall, is a riolite crag with a multiple crack lines. Access to this crag is by boat only, there is no beach and you therefore require a fairly charm day or one with winds from the north. In a howling south westerly getting onto the rocks would be fairly trechous. Never the less there are a few places you can pull your small tinny (boat) out of the water and onto the rocks. Crash through the bush to the base of the cliff, 100m from the lake shore. So why bother, well this crag is in a fantastic location over looking the lake and central plateau with some of the best crack lines around.

The lines are described from left to right.

### Project (Hard)

Finger crack 2<sup>nd</sup> crack from the left hand end of crag.

### \*\* German Lessons (19) 35m

*Pitch 1 (19) 25m:* About 10m in from the left-hand end of the crag and the second obvious crack line. Climb up through broken ground then follow the crack through the steep wall above (crux). From here continue up to belay ledge at about half height. DB belay. (Pro CD, Wires, Hex)  
*Kevin Barratt, &, 23-Jan-03*

*Pitch 2 (17) 10m:* Step right from the belay and continue up the obvious crack and groove. Move left at the top onto ledge and DBC belay. [Pro CD, Wires, Hex]

*Cliff Ellery & Kevin Barratt, 31-Sep-06*

### \*\* Finger Bridging (22) 50m

*Pitch 1 (22) 30m:* The finger crack and right facing corner immediately right of German Lessons. Start as for G.L but move right at 2m through broken ledges and into corner and finger crack. Sustain climbing to slopping ledge, either continue to top or belay here. The first ascent rested on gear in upper section. (Pro CD, Wires, & Wires)

*Pitch 2 (18) 20m:* Continue up the crack through blocky ground then follow crack as it traverses right (crux) to large ledge, DB belay (50m abseil). (Pro CD, Hexs)

*Cliff Ellery & Eric Duggan, 15-Feb-09*

### \*\*\* The Fridge Block (21) 30m

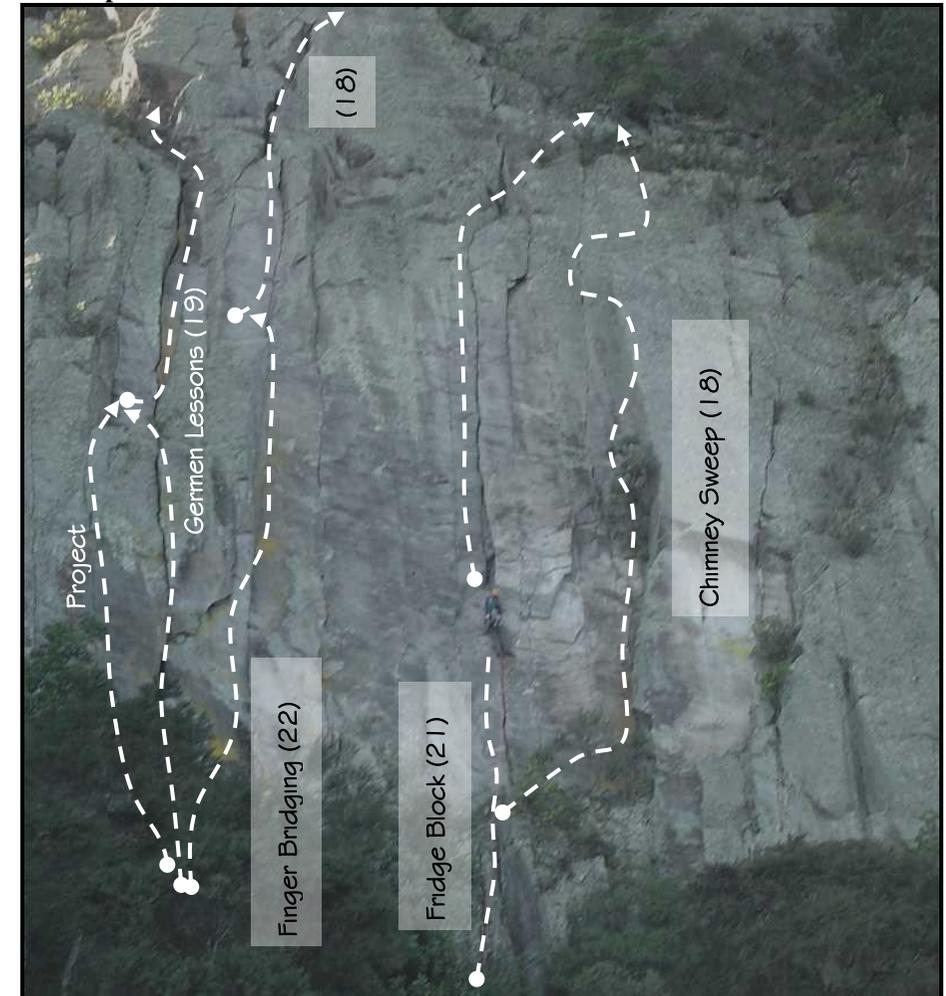
The centerpiece of the crag, the obvious crack line right up the middle of the face. Start up a small corner to gain the large ledge. From here just blast up the crack, no rests and few face hold makes for 25m of pure sustained jamming. At the top of the face continue up the crack for another 5m then

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traverse out right to the large pine tree (belay). (Pro CD, Wires, Hex). The name comes from the fridge size boulder I removed from the overhanging section just prior to leading the climb.

*Cliff Ellery, Richard Knott, Bryce Martyn, Miles 23-Jan-03*

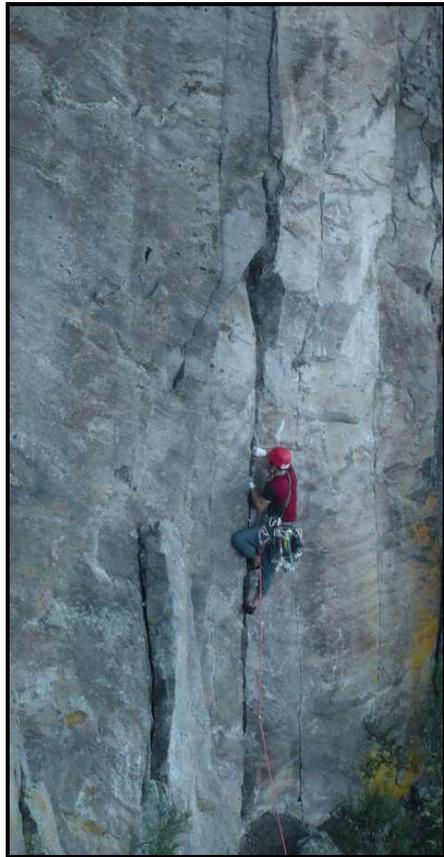
Photo Topo 2: K3 Main Cliff



**Chimney Sweep (18) 30m**

5m to the right of *The Fridge Block* is a large pinnacle. Having gained the large base ledge (see *FB*). Start in the left facing corner climb past the small tree to the bottom off-width section. Bridge up the next section using the crack on the left hand wall. Then move back into the chimney/offwidth. Sling the chockstone then move up an into the chimney proper, crux. Once in the chimney pro can be placed in a thin crack in the middle of the pinnacle. Climb out and over the top boulders/roof. Once on top of the pinnacle climb up the face to the pine tree & belay.  
*Richard Knott, Cliff Ellery 23-Jan-03.*

**Photo: Dan on Fridge Block**



**Whangamata Bay Index of Climbs by Grade**

Star	Grade	Pg
	GRADE 12-16	
*	Mountain Bike Madness	9
	Pines and Needles	9
*	Fire Brigade	8
	GRADE 17	
	Who Done it	7
**	Fire Starter	8
	GRADE 18	
	Chimney Sweep	11
	GRADE 19	
**	Short mans shackles	6
	Causal Slabby Rake	8
**	German Lessons	10
	GRADE 20	
***	Saddle Sore	9
	GRADE 21	
***	The Fridge Block	10
	GRADE 22	
**	Puku Master	6
**	White Rose Whinging	6
**	Finger Bridging	10
	GRADE 23	
**	Tricks of the Trad	7
	GRADE 24-26	
**	Mojo Moan	7
***	The New Black	7
**	Man Over Board	7
*	Eat the Meat	6
*	Chapel of Ghouls	7