

The Playgorund & Lost Buttress (Wilyabrup) Climbing Guide

Krish Seewraj



Warning about Rock Climbing

Keep in mind that this is only a guide, it helps climbers to find out what climbs have been recorded and that is all. The information given is true and accurate to the best of the author's knowledge.

Remember climbing is an adventure sport and as such accidents may result in serious injury or death. The grades and descriptions may be subject to debate as many of the climbs have only had a few actual and/or known ascents. Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgment with regard to the route location, description, difficulty and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing.

You should not depend on any information gleaned from this mini-guide for your personal safety. Your safety depends on your own experience, equipment and climbing skill. If you have any doubt as to your ability to safely attempt any route described in this mini-guide, do not attempt it. When you use this mini-guide, you accept and acknowledge the risk that it may contain errors. The responsibility for your safety is solely yours.



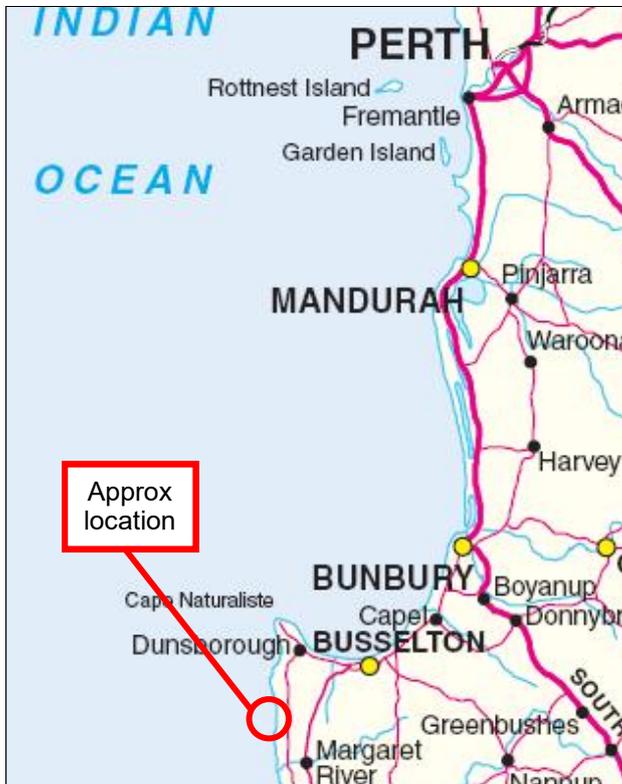
These crags are a perfect place to first sample climbing, above Pat Ridley is also learning to overcome his fear of heights

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Front cover image: Rob Crowder belayed by Kym Hartley, on the first ascent of St Patricks Day (12)
Rear cover image: Peter Howard eyeing up the final holds, with disproportionate exposure below, on Overexposed (17)

Introduction

Wilyabrup is the most frequented climbing area in the South West of Western Australia. The biggest walls of the main area are well documented on The Crag, and also in three climbing guides if you are lucky to find one as they are all out of print. This mini-guide provides information on one of the lesser frequented and smaller crags all of which lie north of the main area of Wilyabrup. These stretch for some 1.2km along the coast, and all are best accessed from the car park that is used to get to the main cliffs.



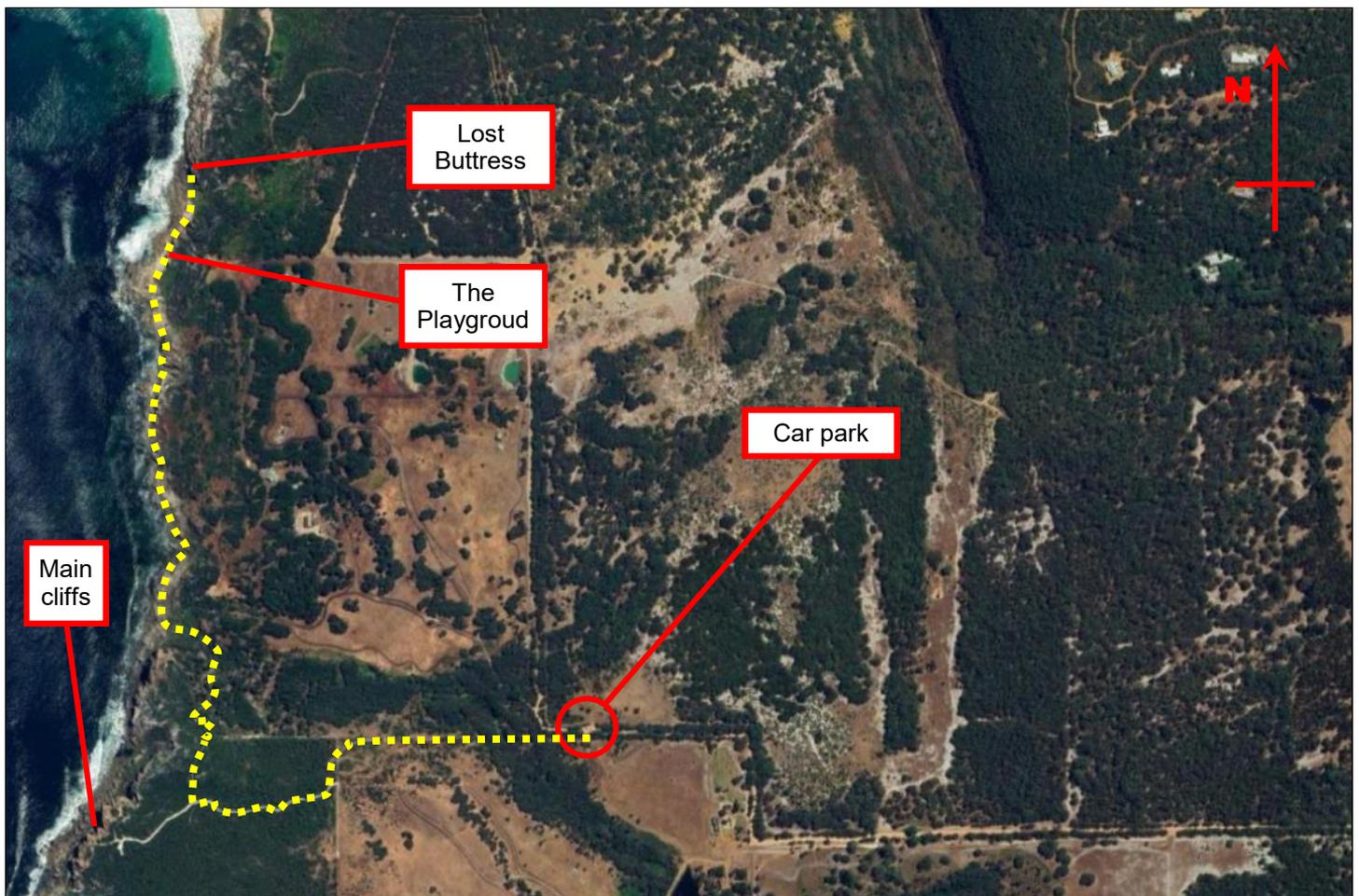
Location and Access

The crag is approx. 260km drive from Perth. From Busselton head south on the Bussell Highway, towards Margaret River. Approximately 18km down this road turn right onto Metricup Road. Where it ends turn left onto Caves Road, and after 2km right onto Wilyabrup Road. Follow this gravel road for 2.5km and just after a couple of 90 degree bends you'll find a parking area from where you can walk to all of the crags.

It is approx. 2km from the carpark to this crag. Follow the Cape to Cape track to the big gully after the metal staircase. From here rock hop along the coast, taking care as during high tide and days with bigger swells there is one section that can become wave washed. The alternative approach is to drive down the sandy track to the beach and walk in from the north.

Future Development

If anyone would like to share their past or future experiences in this area, details of new or listed routes as well as any reference issues, typos or mistakes in this mini-guide email them to kermi@iinet.net.au.



Rock, Protection & Grading

The Willyabrup cliffs comprise gneiss, a layered hybrid of granite and sedimentary rock, so has a smoother feel than the granite outcrops to the north and south, such as Moses Rocks and Cosy Corner, which are detailed in other mini-guides. The rock is well featured so there are plenty of holds, however there are several routes which rely on small friction holds that take a little getting used to. Being a lesser used crags there may be some loose rock, as such care is required.

Lost Buttress generally has solid rock. However, care is required when topping out and walking along the top. The crag is often subject to sea spray and the climbs have had few ascents so care is required, as loose holds may be encountered. While the crag offers only a small number of medium grade climbs, many of these are good quality offering great positions and exposure.

Several existing bolts were encountered at the top of Lost Buttress and their condition is unknown. These included one ringbolt (loose), a couple of fixed hangers, and one glued in machine bolt (GIMB).

Two new GIMBs were been placed on the slabby boulder at the top of Washing Away the Blues, Jenga, and As the Crow Flies to make setting up the belay easier. There are also two ring bolts on the wall at the top of the gully between Airtime Over the Indian and Baby Shower, which makes an ideal abseil descent. Alternatively scramble down the gully to the north of the main crag.

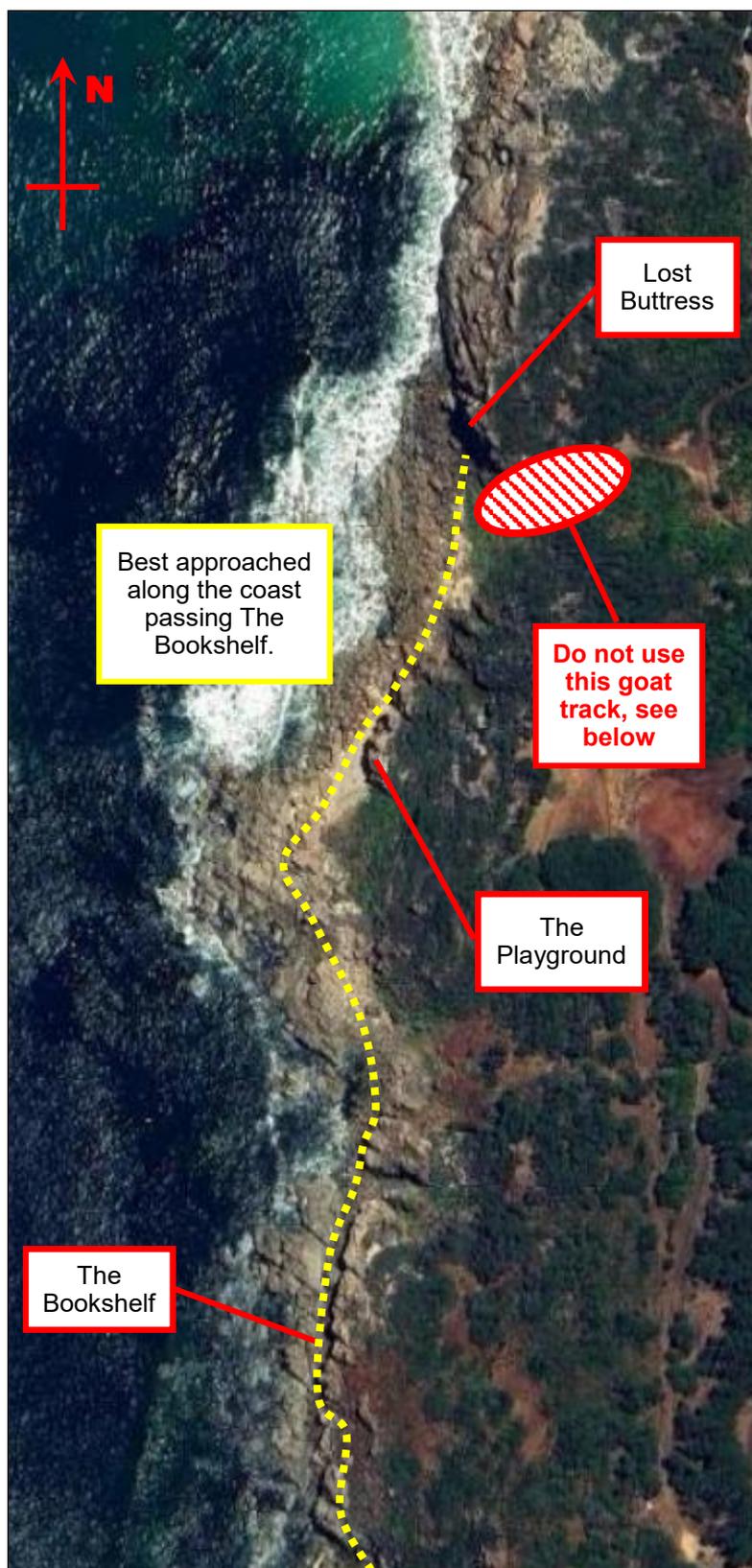
In addition to Lost Buttress one climb has been established on the wave washed wall just north of the crag. This wall may be usually wet and the base wave washed so a low tide and care is required.

Several hundred metres south is the Playground, a 30m long boulder wall with long traverses, high top problems and a sandy landing. Since the original climbs were established, the place received visits from others who established a few boulder problems, and assigned bouldering grades to some of the original lines that seemed a bit in conflict.

No attempt has been made to further investigate these difference's, and all details are listed in the route descriptions. There are also lots of other very fun problems not shown that have been climbed on The Playground, including a wicked long low level traverse.

A full rack is recommended, and a few lines include a single GIMB so bolt plates are required.

General Area Topo



Do not approach Lost Buttress via the goat track from the Cape to Cape track, marked above. This has become extremely eroded and should be avoided to prevent the erosion getting any worse.

The Playground



The Tower of Pisa (7m, 12)

The flake wall leans overhead, good holds get you to and past a short wide corner, for the brave keep moving up and left or escape easily to the right (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2013).

Chimpanzee (7m, 9)

Originally climbed on trad up the wall to a horizontal break, step left and finish up the obvious crack (Tom Warren, Morgan Apr 2015).

Stand Tall V0

Sit start then up the wall using cracks and ledges (unknown).

Cookie Monster (7m, 12)

Originally climbed on trad, aim for and climb a vertical crack, then trend right to the top. This is listed on the crag as a V0-1 boulder problem, no doubt because they used a sit start (Tom Warren, Morgan 2015).

Cookie Monster Left (V2)

Sit start aiming for the large underling flake, which for best value should be followed leftwards rather than short circuiting the line by going straight up (unknown).

Master of the tricams (5m, 13)

Up the chimney until you pop out of the top (Steve Sterling, Alan Browne 2020).

Tubular Swells (7m, 18)

Starts just left of the big hanging rock. Sustained climbing up the steep wall and left trending finger crack, finishing up the overhang on in-cut jugs (Kym Hartley, Lou Fischer 2015).

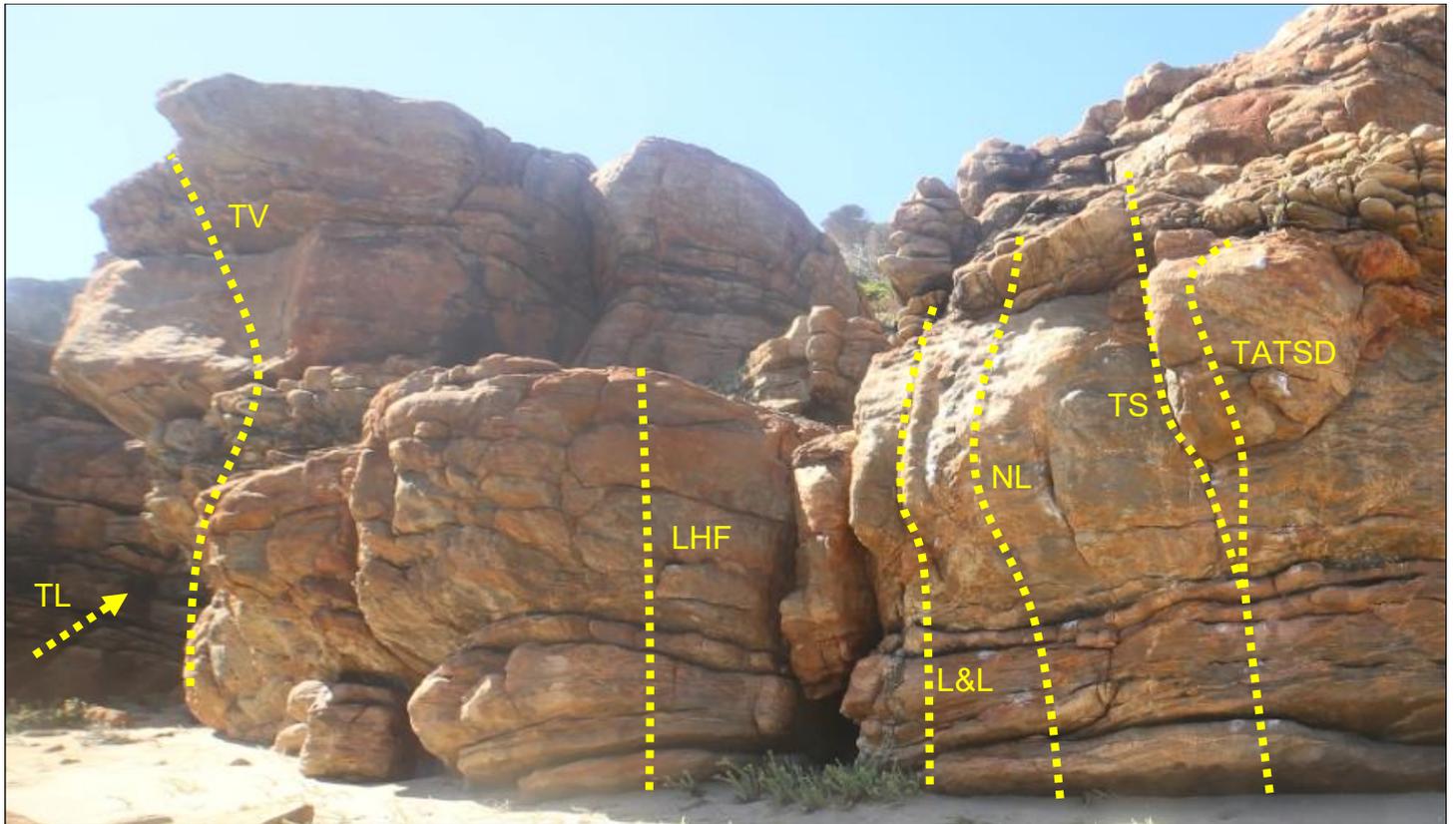
Slime Ball (7m, 19)

Dynamic moves to gain a lip under the boulder, then trend right on the rounded under cling the to finish up the horizontal breaks. Originally given a standard lead climb grade, which is what has been used here, but is now listed on The Crag as V3 included a sit start (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2013).

The All Time Super Duper (V4)

Sit start going straight over the slopy block between Slime Ball and The Slicer (Andy Lampard 2020).

The Playground



The Slicer (7m, 21)

From the lip under the boulder, head left on sharp holds before gaining the horizontal breaks.

Originally given a standard lead climb grade, which is what has been used here, but is now listed on The Crag as V3/4 included a sit start (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2013).

No Locking (V5)

Sit start before compressing up the two parallel cracks before slopers, a bit contrived (Andy Lampard 2020).

Locked and Loaded (7m, 20)

A feisty finger crack. Originally given a standard lead climb grade, which is what has been used here, but is now listed on The Crag as V4 (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2013).

Low Hanging Fruit (VB)

Sit start and then up (unknown).

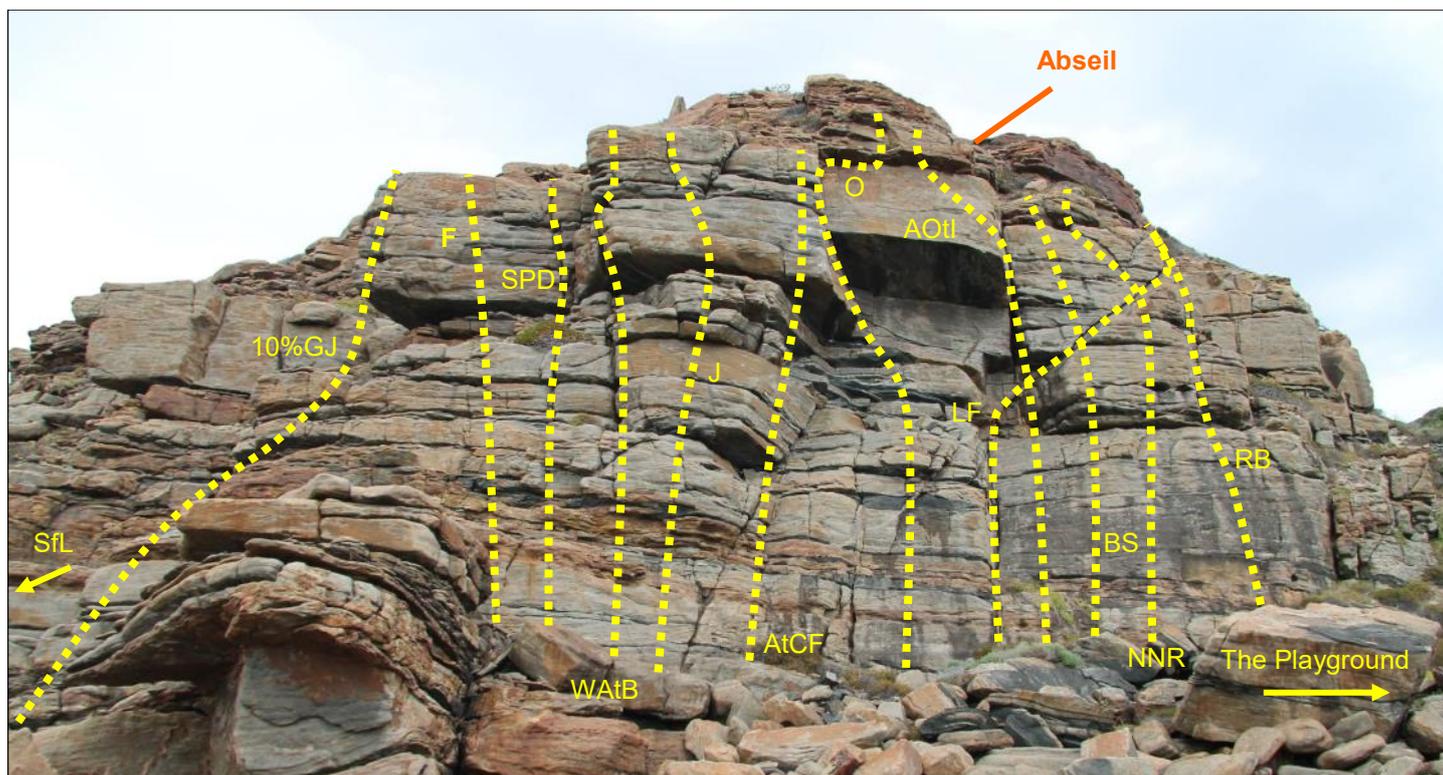
Tunnel Vision (8m, 18)*

The most obvious line with a clean face leading to a fun looking roof. A steep to start with good holds and gear, mantle and fingerlock your way past the thin crack before climbing the small roof (Kym Hartley, Lou Fischer 2015).

Thug Life (6m, 12)

Starts on the short face on the right wall of the gully at the northern end of the crag, finishing up the left facing corner crack (Lou Fischer, Kym Hartley 2015).

Lost Buttress



The Rambling Buoy (15m, 7)

The flake at the far right of the crag, head for the large triangular block near the top and use this to finish up the arête (Craig Johnson (solo) 2024).

No Nuts Required (15m, 13)*

A wonderful line, the bottom slab is protected by a BR (plate required) after which the gear and holds come with some thought provoking moves in-between (Rob Crowder, Kym Hartley 2013).

Baby Shower (15m, 13)

Fun consistent climbing. The unprotected slab allows you to access the wall which provides great holds and gear (Krish Seewraj, Kym Hartley 2013).

Airtime (18m, 17)**

A route with lots of exposure. Head for and pull through the off-width and corner until level with the BR on the left face. Clip the BR (plate required) before making a committing traverse to gain a stance on the hanging arête. Keep moving round the arête before stepping up to and through the overlaps (Kym Hartley, Rob Crowder 2013).

Leap Frog (18m, 12)

Provides a very relaxed pace with one tricky move. Start up the vertical weakness before making a rising rightward traverse that has an awkward move to get established in the crack line (Lou Fischer, Ryan Doe 2015).

Overexposed (18m, 17)**

A committing climb with good holds and gear. Aim for the corner under the big roof. Traverse left into an exposed position to access the shallow corner above. Step right along the horizontal break before finishing through the small tiered roof (Kym Hartley, Rob Crowder 2013).

As the Crow Flies (15m, 22)**

Another great climb with a committing crux. The steepening wall yields with increasing difficulty before an outrageously exposed move to get established on the final headwall (Krish Seewraj, Kym Hartley 2013).

Jenga (15m, 14)**

A great consistent and airy climb. The wall leads to a series of blocks before committing moves up the flake (Rob Crowder, Kym Hartley 2013).

Lost Buttress

See the topo on the previous page:

Washing Away the Blues (15m, 15)**

Enjoyable varied climbing. Head straight for and climb the face immediately right of the arête that offers a well-protected out there feeling (Krish Seewraj, Kym Hartley 2013).

St Patrick (12m, 12)

Weave you way up the lower wall heading. From the ledge the face provides good climbing or alternatively bridge the corner at grade 10 (Rob Crowder, Kym Hartley, Krish Seewraj 2013).

Flashback (12m, 17)

Pleasant moves on the bottom wall, clip the BR (plate required) before tricky moves to get established on the face (Kym Hartley, Krish Seewraj 2013).

10% Gym Junky (20m, 18)

Start low down at the base of the easy arête at the far left end of the crag. Amble up this before aping through the hanging arête (or alternatively tackle the wall to the left at 14) (Krish Seewraj, Kym Hartley 2013).

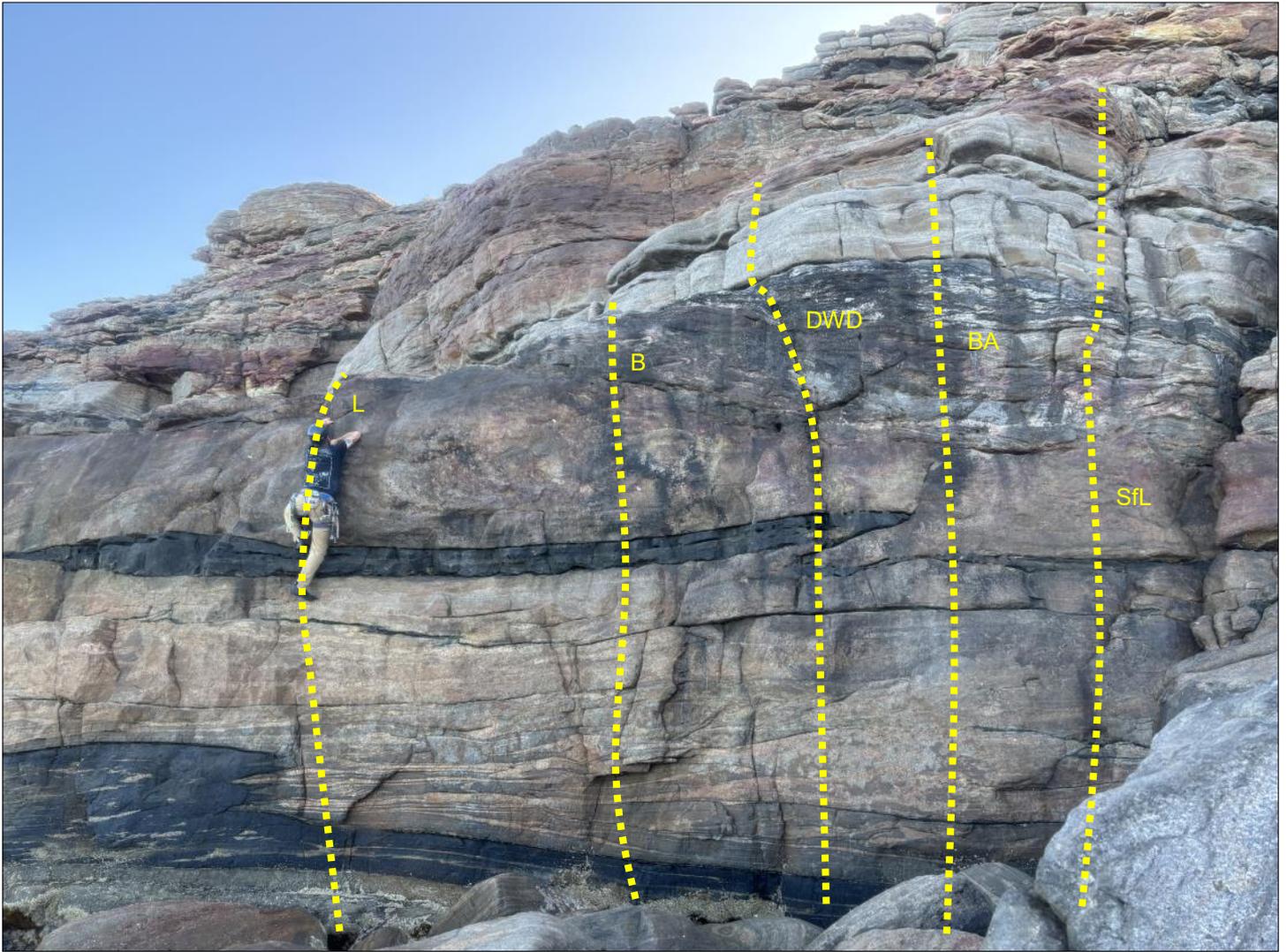
Scarred for Life (7m, 12)

The right hand end of the wave washed wall just north of Lost Buttress. Good horizontal breaks followed by small positive holds lead up the often wet rock (Kym Hartley (solo) 2013).



During his introduction to lead climbing Sam Avery looks in astonishment, or is it disbelief, at the Australian bolt plate while leading No Nuts Required (13)

Lost Buttress



Scarred for Life (7m, 12)

Good horizontal breaks followed by flakes and cracks lead up the enjoyable wall Kym Hartley (solo) 2013).

Band-Aid (7m, 12)

The blank looking wall between Scarred for Life and Dealing with Demons has a nervous reach to top out with no gear in sight (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2026).

Dealing with Demons (7m, 10)

Head for and up the very fine slight left tending crack (Krish Seewraj (solo) 2026).

Barnacle (6m, 13)

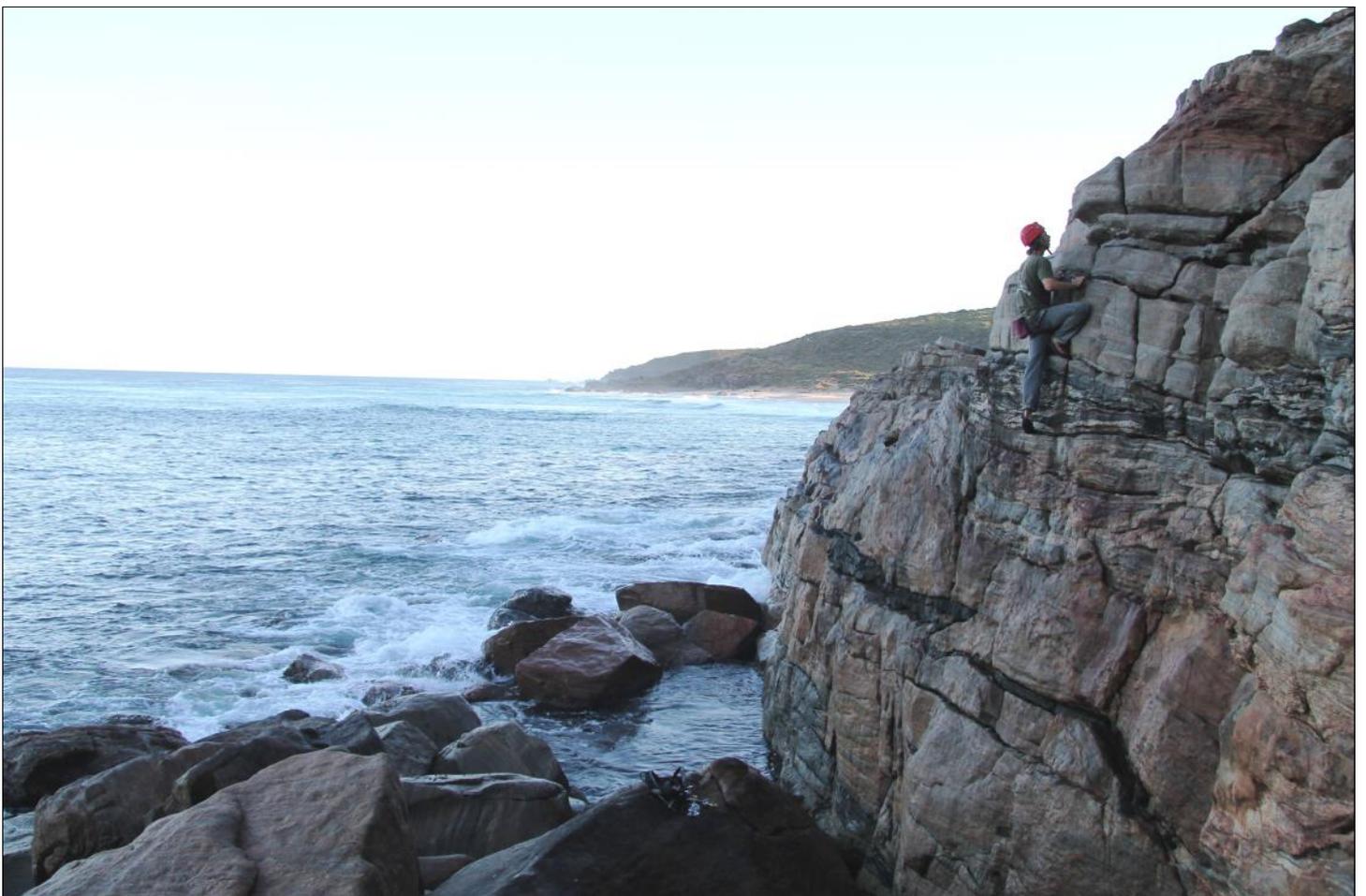
A bold line, with a delicate move on the upper wall that makes you want to cling on hard. Not that there is much to hold onto (Chris Howe (solo) 2026).

Limpet (6m, 6)

Just a pleasant stroll even when you are not firing on all four cylinders (Chris Howe (solo) 2026).



Mikie Howe finishing his challenge on exactly 10,000m with his hardest trad lead at the time on Tunnel Vision (18)



Kym Hartley's first ascent that I followed and took a 6m ground fall from when a large block came of, Scared for Life (12)



Josh Hobby preparing to commit to the final layback on the excellent Jenga (15)



Chris Howe preparing to load the uncomfortable lock on Locked and Loaded (20) or is it really a V4?



David Brosman sporting his best flat cap as he retrains his brain to trust his leading ability on The Tower of Pisa (12)



Ryan Doe digging deep and about to find out there is not much to hold onto at the crux of As the Crow Flies (22)



Steve Sterling enjoying a romp up the fun No Nuts Required (13)



Craig Johnson on the first ascent, with the namesake find that we hauled out, on The Rambling Buoy (7)



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