

North East Face of Barrier Knob - Quiet Earth Slabs Darran Mountains

New Routes 2006-2007

Barrier Knob



Kristen Foley topping out pitch 3 of Forgotten Silver. North faces of Sabre and Marian in the background.

● **Forgotten Silver** (20, 130m)**

1. (16, 9 bolts, 60m). From single belay ring trend left up easy slabs past two bolts. Gradually diagonal back right and up ever-steepening scalloped wall past lots of bolts to belay. An awesome pitch on perfect rock.
2. (18, 3 bolts, 15m). Traverse left along ledge past bolt and then up short wall past two bolts to belay.
3. (20, 9 bolts, 50m). Climb narrow flaky wall past three bolts. Veer left below overhang and up flake/crack to bolt, step onto face and climb up knobs and smears past bolt. Move back left to arête/slab and follow this on left side past three bolts. At top of arete traverse right to belay.

Mark Watson and Kristen Foley, March 2007.

● **Utu** (25, 110m)*

1. (25, 5 bolts, 30m). Start at single belay ring. Up right-facing flake. Step left to bolt and climb up to thin crimping and tricky footwork on face (crux) past three more bolts. Move right to wire placements, back left and up past bolt. Trend right on easy ground to belay.
2. (22, 5 bolts, 30m). Move left from belay and diagonally up to cam placements (can be damp). Then up past two bolts to corner. Layback and step up corner (crux) past two more bolts, exiting to the left after 5th bolt. Up blunt arête to belay.
3. (24, 9 bolts, 50m). Climb face and flake past three bolts. Step right at 3rd and move up and back left to 4th bolt. Delicate and crimping moves (crux) lead to 5th bolt (loose flake). Climb easier ground to ramp (bolt) and up to overhung block. Step up onto block and climb slab past two bolts and RP placement to belay.

Mark Watson and Kristen Foley, March 2007.

● **Planet of My Dreams** (18, 130m)

Six pitches. A line directly up the centre of the north east face. Starts approximately 20m left of Quiet Earth, on the left side of the slabby bulge in the centre of the face. Line indicated was climbed by Tom Riley, Allan Uren and Mark Watson in March 2006, and claimed as The Navigator.

Calum Hudson and Rob Turner, 1987.

Adelaide Saddle

Quiet Earth Slabs

Access

The north-east face of Barrier Knob features high quality slab climbing on very good, water worn rock. The nature of the climbing on the harder routes is technical, steep slab and face climbing, with edges, divots and overlaps allowing progress, rather than being pure friction climbing. Forgotten Silver, Utu, Quiet Earth, Sleeping Dogs and Goodbye Pork Pie are mostly bolted, but you will still need a rack for the occasional natural pro placement. They are equipped for rappel descent.

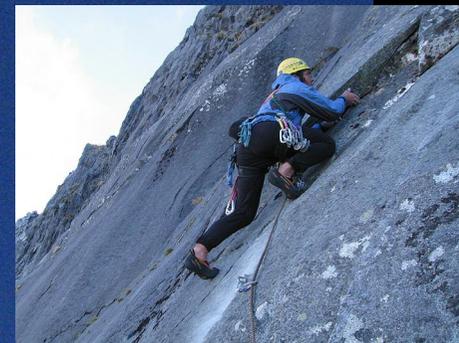
The routes can be accessed in two different ways:

1. If you are coming directly to the face from Homer Hut or Barrier Knob the face is best gained via the Barrier Knob-Barrier Peak Col. From Barrier Knob, descend to the col, and then scramble down slabs to the névé at the base of the face. To get to the Quiet Earth area of the wall; either don crampons and scoot along the névé, or skirt the bottom of the névé via rolling water-worn slabs.

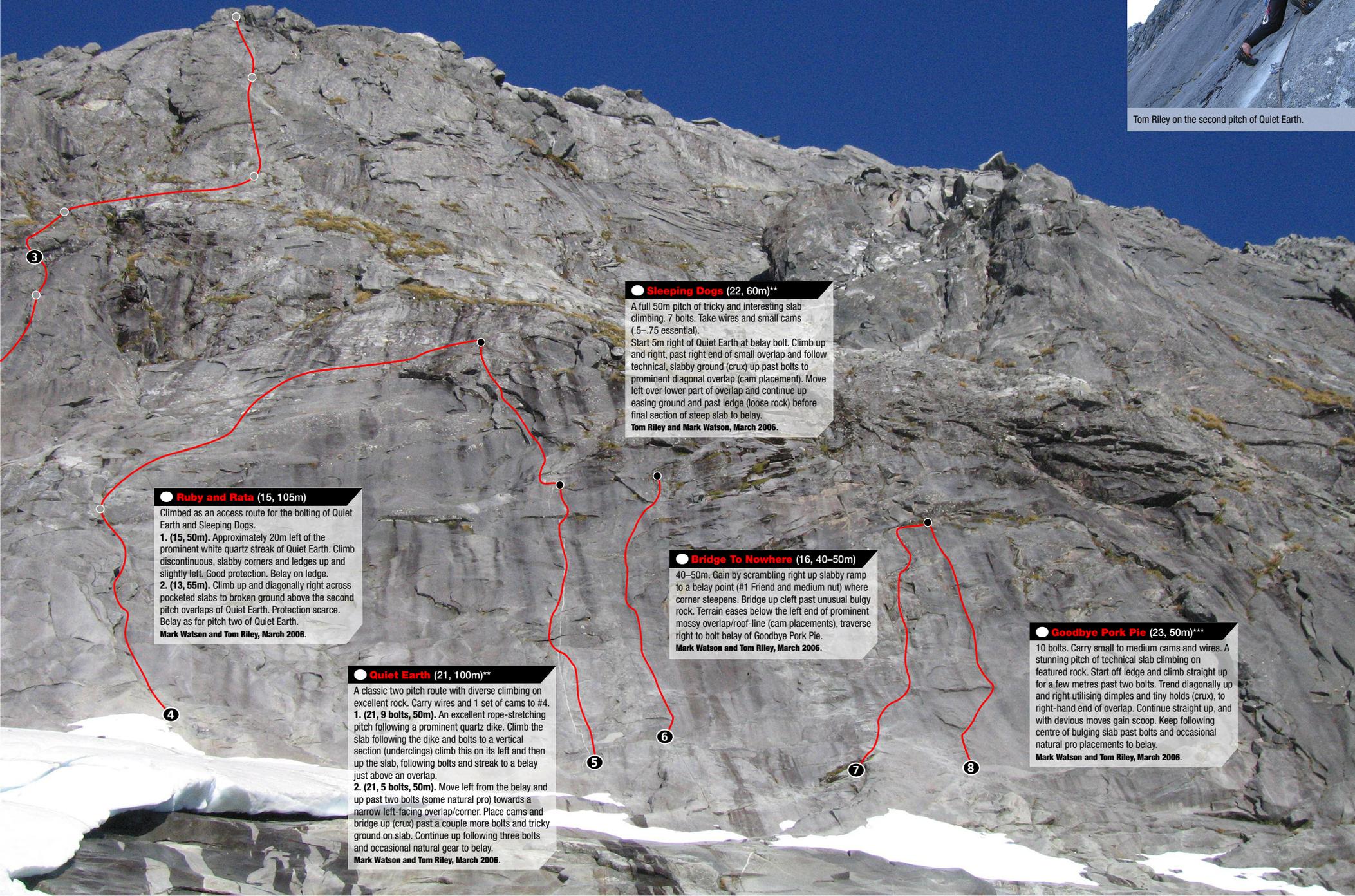
Note: Forgotten Silver and Utu can be accessed by rappelling from the ridge – look for double ring hanger belays.
2. To access the face from the Labyrinth area of the north face; traverse east over rolling, slabby terrain and scramble over a low angle ridge/arête that divides the two faces. Gain height once on the east side of the ridge to access the Quiet Earth section of the north-east face.

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Tom Riley on the second pitch of Quiet Earth.



● Sleeping Dogs (22, 60m)**

A full 50m pitch of tricky and interesting slab climbing. 7 bolts. Take wires and small cams (5-75 essential). Start 5m right of Quiet Earth at belay bolt. Climb up and right, past right end of small overlap and follow technical, slabby ground (crux) up past bolts to prominent diagonal overlap (cam placement). Move left over lower part of overlap and continue up easing ground and past ledge (loose rock) before final section of steep slab to belay.

Tom Riley and Mark Watson, March 2006.

● Ruby and Rata (15, 105m)

Climbed as an access route for the bolting of Quiet Earth and Sleeping Dogs.

1. (15, 50m). Approximately 20m left of the prominent white quartz streak of Quiet Earth. Climb discontinuous, slabby corners and ledges up and slightly left. Good protection. Belay on ledge.
2. (13, 55m). Climb up and diagonally right across pocketed slabs to broken ground above the second pitch overlaps of Quiet Earth. Protection scarce. Belay as for pitch two of Quiet Earth.

Mark Watson and Tom Riley, March 2006.

● Quiet Earth (21, 100m)**

A classic two pitch route with diverse climbing on excellent rock. Carry wires and 1 set of cams to #4.
1. (21, 9 bolts, 50m). An excellent rope-stretching pitch following a prominent quartz dike. Climb the slab following the dike and bolts to a vertical section (underclings) climb this on its left and then up the slab, following bolts and streak to a belay just above an overlap.

2. (21, 5 bolts, 50m). Move left from the belay and up past two bolts (some natural pro) towards a narrow left-facing overlap/corner. Place cams and bridge up (crux) past a couple more bolts and tricky ground on slab. Continue up following three bolts and occasional natural gear to belay.

Mark Watson and Tom Riley, March 2006.

● Bridge To Nowhere (16, 40-50m)

40-50m. Gain by scrambling right up slabby ramp to a belay point (#1 Friend and medium nut) where corner steepens. Bridge up cleft past unusual blocky rock. Terrain eases below the left end of prominent mossy overlap/roof-line (cam placements), traverse right to bolt belay of Goodbye Pork Pie.

Mark Watson and Tom Riley, March 2006.

● Goodbye Pork Pie (23, 50m)***

10 bolts. Carry small to medium cams and wires. A stunning pitch of technical slab climbing on featured rock. Start off ledge and climb straight up for a few metres past two bolts. Trend diagonally up and right utilising dimples and tiny holds (crux), to right-hand end of overlap. Continue straight up, and with devious moves gain scoop. Keep following centre of bulging slab past bolts and occasional natural pro placements to belay.

Mark Watson and Tom Riley, March 2006.