

## **Albert Terrace, original climbs**

Located at the end of Albert Terrace in St Martins, Christchurch. Drive to the end of the street, and there it is 200m across the paddock, nestled at the end of a ravine in the west corner of Mt Vernon Park. A volunteer group cleared vegetation from the approach and at the terrace at the base of the crag about 1997, and later extended the track up the ravine. A bit of tidying up by the crag developers revealed the climbing possibilities on the faces for numerous short routes. The rock is the ubiquitous Banks Peninsula basalt, but of variable quality due to weathering. Maximum height is about 15 m.

The Climber #22 listed most of the climbs below, as did Lindsay Main's Port Hills Climbing. Routes were first climbed as trad except for Naked Ape and Peggy Peggy Phew where fixed pro was used. A few years later instructors at CPIT requested approval to bolt and add lower-off anchors on selected main cliff climbs. Bolts and anchors and top-roping on the main cliff proved popular, and more bolts and anchors were added, but other areas Caves, Terrace 2 were neglected, and some climbs are now partly overgrown. Christchurch earthquakes shook the place up a bit and steel pins were inserted in the giant 50 cent piece to keep it in place. Ducks on Stilts now seems unrecognizable.

### **Before the Ravine.**

Four boulders on the walk to the crags. Two or three reasonable scrambles.

### **Potato**

Climb up the right side of the spud shaped rock. About grade 12.  
Ross Cullen, July 1997.

### **Cave 1**

On the east side of the Ravine, at the large cave visible from the roadend.

### **Pigeon Dance**

Step carefully to avoid the pigeon droppings, reach up to the ballroom ceiling, and climb out over the roof at the right side. Move up, cheek to cheek, with hands on either side of the dark marked pillar and pull over the top. A tallish solo, but protection is available on the pillar.  
Grade 17.  
Ross Cullen, July 1997.

### **Cave 2**

Eighty metres further up the ravine, and just before a large cave, is a 14m x 10m crag with room for four routes. There are large boulders on top providing solid anchors for top roping. The cave just beyond, has room for a couple of short routes, and the bluffs continue in 20-30 m sections as you travel up the ravine. Routes from left to right:

### **No Secateurs**

Begin from the track at the lower left corner of the rock and follow the prow to the top. Good protection, and excellent moves on solid jugs at two thirds height. Grade 15  
Ross Cullen, August 1997.

### **Oasis**

Climb the crack on left centre of the face, place large piece of protection below midheight, then bold climbing to the top. Grade 17  
Rob Blackburne, September 1997.

### **Its a Date**

Begin at the crack line on the right of the centre on the face, two wires en route, layaway to the left, use the protruding block near top for left hand and foot and palm onto the top. Grade 16.  
Ross Cullen, September 1997.

### **Non Sequitur**

Begin at the base of Its a Date, but veer right, and climb the right-hand profile to the top. Grade 14  
Ross Cullen, August 1997

### **Mrs Brown Goes Left**

Start at the base of the slab, and climb the pillar, good protection in the diagonal crack, move left and up on excellent rock. Grade 15  
Geoff Gabites, September 1997.

### **Victoria**

The straight version of Mrs Brown. Good juggy holds on top. Grade 15.  
Ross Cullen October 1997.

### **Lemming Polka**

Cross the ravine on the Last of the Mohicans bridge, to climb the prow at the east end. A Moac can be placed after 2 metres, and further gear higher up in the crack. The mixed quality rock, and the verticality, makes this a thoughtful challenge. Grade 17  
Ross Cullen, September 1997.

### **Radiata**

Near the top end of the plantation, climb just left of the arete without using the pine tree for assistance.  
Ross Cullen, January 1998.

### **Party Starter**

3 metres right of Radiata, climb through the bulge and follow crack line up to crest. Plenty of gear placements.  
Ross Cullen, April 1998.

### **Bouldering further up the Ravine.**

Four boulder areas/problems along the way, 3 of them fairly bold and up to 13m high, about grade 15.

### **Terrace 2**

Across the ravine from Cave 2 and about 40m up the ravine from the main cliff is a small crag about 8 m high which provides some short climbs and some bouldering opportunities.

### **Ducks on Stilts**

The obvious left - trending line. Start from a block lying beside the track, stem for a metre then layback up to place first protection under the roof. Traverse left, place some gear then ascend the corner to the top. Grade 18.  
Ross Cullen, October 1997.

### **Gumboot Nonsense**

Climb near the left edge on the continuous overhanging section. Excellent moves, solid jugs at key points, but strenuous. Two bolts appeared in May 1998. Grade 19.  
Ross Cullen, top rope, October 1997.

### **Clean and Jerk**

Climb the centre of the continuous overhang. Excellent moves, solid jugs at key points, but strenuous. Use same two bolts as previous climb. Grade 18.

Rob Blackburne, top rope, October 1997.

### **Main Cliff**

The obvious rock visible from the carpark. Climbs from left to right:

#### **Small Boys**

A short climb at the left end of the crag. Climb up over the first roof, and around left side of second roof. Grade 13.

Ross Cullen, August 1997.

#### **Pygmy**

A short grunt of a climb. Mantle over the first bulge, two gear placements near the roof, muscle through the notch, and onto palming holds. Grade 16.

Ross Cullen, August 1997.

#### **Black Mamba**

Use the doorstep to reach holds on the roof, swing up and over, then follow the snake diagonally upwards and exit via the big fissure. Grade 13.

Ross Cullen, June 1997.

#### **Baboon**

Begin just right of the doorstep, pull over the roof, and climb up underneath the second roof. A # 7 wire can be inserted into the deep pock, and a # 2.5 camming device goes into the depths of the channel 3m above. Superb handholds for the moves over the roof and to the top. Grade 17.

Ross Cullen, September 1997.

#### **Panther**

Muscle up over a bulge, climb up and past the shallow cave, and mantle over the top just to the right of the big fissure. Grade 13.

Ross Cullen, July 1997.

#### **Black & White**

Climb diagonally leftward on the black-white boundary, and underneath the ducks cave. A sling on the natural hook, and a wire up higher provide useful protection. Finish to the left of, or up the smallish fissure. Grade 14.

Ross Cullen, September 1997.

#### **The Glimmerman**

The mid area of this climb joins Rongbuk. Follow the crescent shaped crack line up to the roof, then a nice move to break left up the gully. Grade 17.

Rob Blackburne, September 1997.

#### **Rongbuk**

Begin at left edge of lighter coloured face, and climb on good ledges up to and through a small roof, to finish on spike. Some good gear placements in upper 10m. Grade 17.

Ross Cullen, June 1997.

#### **Naked Ape**

Climb just left of the triangle on the face, with first protection in a pocket. Bold moves over bulge to reach upper section. Two bolts and good protection in top gully. Excellent climbing. Grade 21.

Paul Roberts, September 1997.

### **Peggy Peggy Phew**

The climb deviates a little to the right of the perpendicular from the headwall, sliding around the bulge. One peg, one piton, and solid moves to finish. Grade 18.

Paul Roberts, September 1997.

### **Quacker**

Climb obvious natural breaks 3m left of Defenced. One piton, and 3 gear placements make this an attractive leader climb. Grade 14.

Ross Cullen, September 1997.

### **Defenced**

Obvious central gully line, two gear placements. The old wooden post from the remnant fence lies at the bottom of the climb. Grade 13.

Ross Cullen, May 1997.

### **Kinny**

Three metres right of Defenced. Glide up the apron on incut holds to reach a good stance at the top. Nice right handhold for the mantle over the lump to the right of the gully. Grade 14.

Ross Cullen, August 1997.

### **Itbeckonstan**

Two metres right of Kinny, climb up past the left edge of the giant paua shell then slightly left to reach the top stance. Two so-so wire placements en route. Ascend the bulge, place good protection in the gully and exit. Grade 16.

Ross Cullen, August 1997.

### **Ramahana Road**

Just right of big cave, nice moves, sparse pro at top, but a # 2 Friend out high at left does the trick. Grade 15.

Ross Cullen, June 1997.

### **50 Cents Worth**

Up and over small overhang to reach left edge of C crack, pro in crack, then straight up to the top. Grade 15.

Ross Cullen, May 1997.

### **In Tims Backyard**

Good juggy holds to reach a ledge and slip a sling around the boxthorn stem. Good holds en route to the positive top edge. Grade 16.

Ross Cullen, June 1997.

### **Dirty Washing**

Climb the blocky rock, staying 3m right of the boxthorn bush. Grade 16.

Rob Blackburne, July 1997.

### **Leone**

Bridge up the corner, reasonable pro placements at small roof, but test the holds before surmounting the roof. Grade 16.

Ross Cullen, July 1997.

**Kopus Edge**

Good incut holds up the left edge of the attractive buff coloured block. A balanced solo climb. Grade 14.

Rob Blackburne, June 1997.

**Chinese Ladder**

Nice incuts up the centre of the buff coloured block to merge with Kopus Edge near top. Solo, or possible shaky gear placement at mid height. Grade 14.

Ross Cullen, June 1997.

**Weak Excuse**

Begin a metre right of CL and climb close enough to reach over and clip the three bolts. Friend under lip of scoop, climb out of scoop on right side then up to top out over the turret. Grade 15.

Ross Cullen, February 2005.