

PORT HILLS CLIMBING

Rapaki Rock

Tony Burnell, 2016

RAPAKI ROCK

TONY BURNELL

Given a lack of available information, I have assumed that most of the easier, original uncredited climbs included in the various editions of the various guidebooks, were climbed by Don Hutton who produced the first guide (which I do not possess) to Rapaki Rock in 1968.

There is quite a lot of seismic damage across the crag, there is the obvious visible areas of rock fall, and the less obvious movement of large blocks and pillars. Despite the earthquakes Rapaki has some of the best rock in the area and some of the best middle grade trad climbs. Pre earthquake there were around 31 recorded routes at the crag with only 3 protection bolts between them, two on Penile Decay and one on Banalarama, recently some climbers have decided that they would like to climb some of these routes and that to do so they are entitled to add more bolts. I have included all lines (in red) and variations (in green) that I have climbed or that I know have been climbed.

Always viewed as a beginners crag Rapaki Rock can, on a fine day, be infested with people top-roping, but anchors are no longer as easy to arrange as they once were, so with any luck people might get back to leading. There are a number of 12mm galvanised bolts, possibly placed by geotech inspectors (as they are not where climbers would have placed them), so in some places if you carry a piece of chain and a spanner you can rig an anchor, you will definitely need long slings and at least one six metre cordalee.

Approach

240 mts

5 minutes

-43.592833, 172.752072 grid

Rapaki Rock overlooks Lyttelton harbour and the Maori settlement of Rapaki, it is located on the Summit Road at the top of the Rapaki Track, at the South end of the crag is an old quarried area.

Park either in the tar sealed parking area or in the gravel car park slightly closer to the crag. The approach is about five minutes, go through the old gate in the fence and follow the track which leads up and right through an area of debris then alongside the old quarry before traversing under the crag to a grassy area below Freakys Wall.



bivouac/outdoor

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

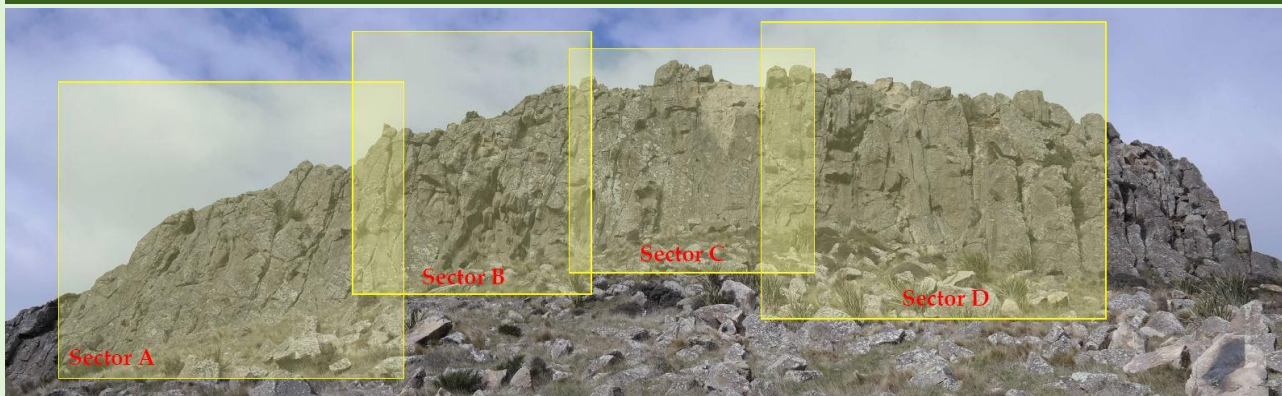
Street View



Seismic Damage



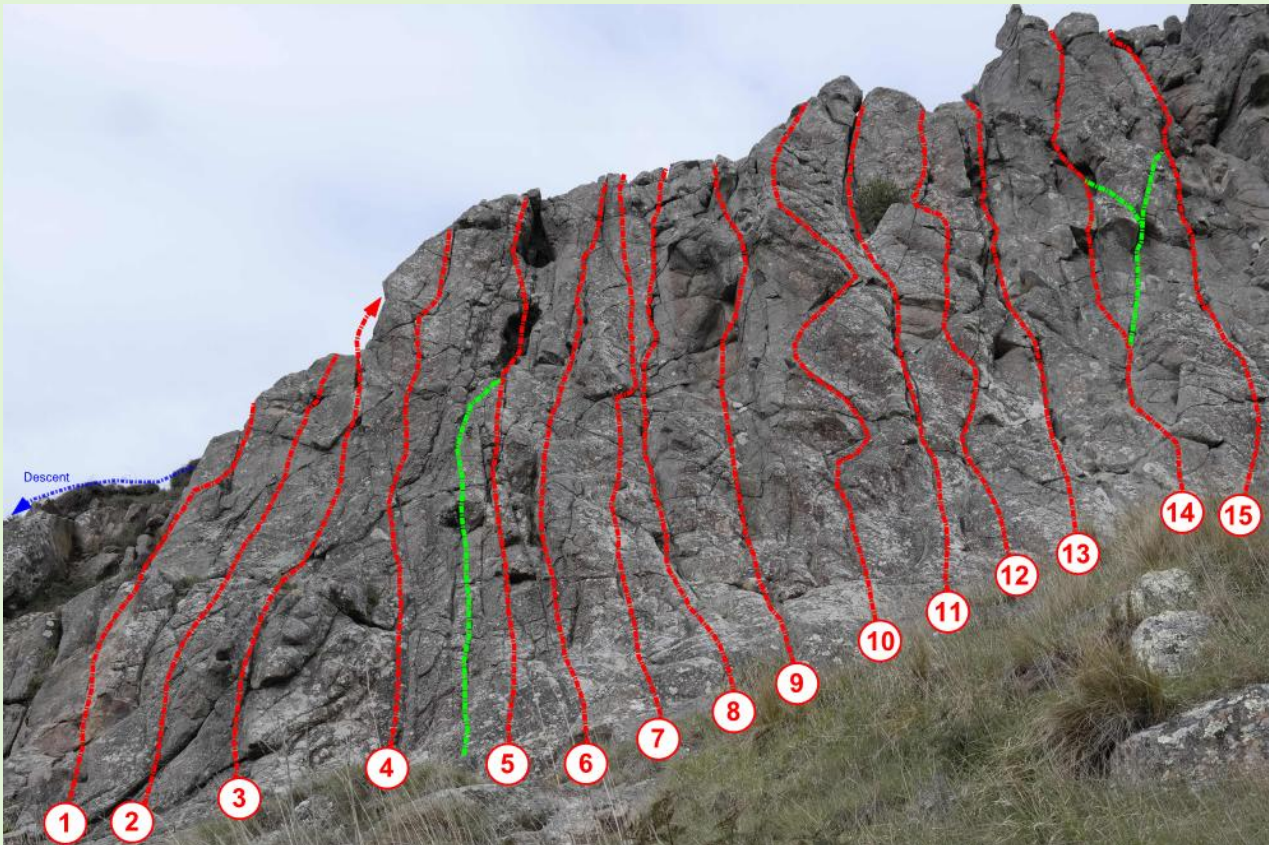
SECTORS



To make it easier the crag has been split into the 4 Sectors as shown

SECTOR A

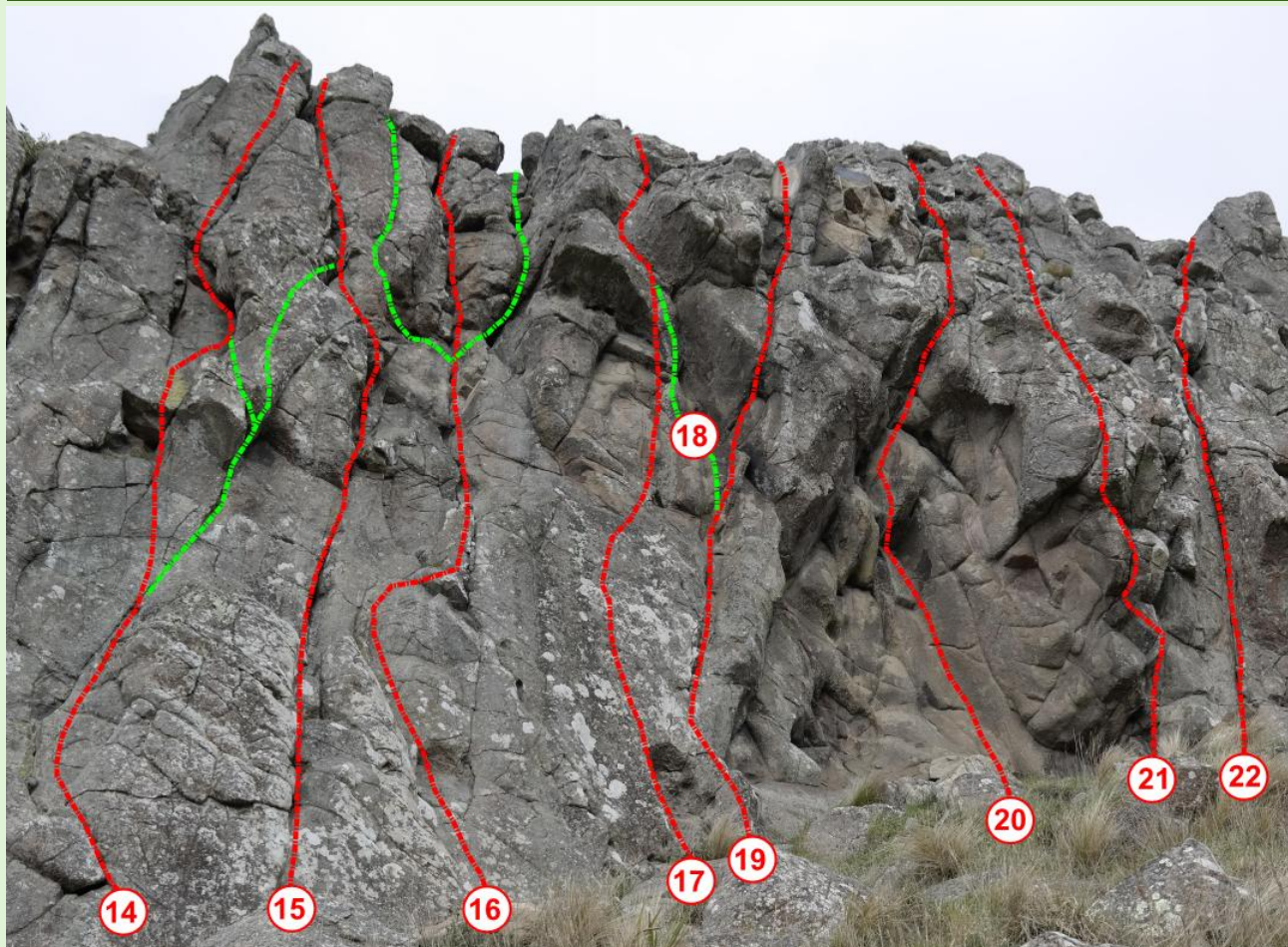
1. **Left arête**, start at a newly formed left facing corner approximately 4 Mts right of the old fence line. Climb the corner then the arête and crack to a ledge, move right and go up the newly exposed end wall to the top of the crag
2. **Left End 15** : On Left side of crag. Climb through the runnel to a ledge, move right and follow a short corner to a ledge then up the new arête.
3. **Left Face 16**: Start just right of the newly formed corner at the base of a short runnel, up the runnel & slab into a scoop, straight up to a short crack on the ridge, go up the newly formed slab on the right to the top.
4. **Face 16**: Climb the wall just left of the bulge where 'CN' goes, continue straight up the face using a flake and cracks.



5. **Crows Nest 12:** two small caves vertically spaced mark the exit point for this climb. Start on a small ledge just right of a vague slabby groove, climb the bulging wall and scoop to the lower cave, exit slightly on the left side of the top cave.
6. **Face Variation 16:** Just right of the start of 'CN', climb up through the obvious constriction, small ledge on right at top. Continue up the line of the same constriction to exit via a thin dogleg crack
7. **Variation 16:** Start up the slabbier wall L of 'BC', step left to join 'BC' at ledge, then go leftwards up the steepening wall to the top.
8. **Barricoe 15:** Start in the vertical runnel approximately 4 Mts right of the start of 'CN', straight up the runnel and the vertical crack above on the left side of a bulge, the crack has a hole and chock stone at its start.
9. **Variation 18:** Up the next shallow groove to the right, old iron spikes mark the start. Go up into the big recess, bridge up and turn the roof at the right side, finish easily to the top
10. **Pillar Torque 19:** Follows the natural zig-zag line up the face of the pillar, poor protection, there is an old peg in a small pod on the right just above the overlap
11. **Bosuns Chair 16:** The shallow groove system up the right side of the pillar, there is a vague pizza wedge scoop at six metres, climb the groove and right the side of the pillar to the broad leaf tree, then straight up the crack behind the tree.
12. **Slim Pickings 15:** takes a line between 'BC' & 'RL' start up the Horst diagonal groove then up left past the triangular shaped hole, then straight up onto a large ledge to end up just right of the tree, go up then follow the weakness diagonally right to the top.
13. **Ratlines 12:** The obvious wider crack system to the right of the broadleaf tree. Finishing left or right of the wedge.
14. **Fo'c'sle 14:** Up the easy angled corner and step left to a newly formed square hole with a thread on the left, up through here onto a ledge then up the leaning corner to exit left or finish up the prow.
15. **Scurvy 13:** start up the shallow crack from the base of the crag, at five metres the crack

becomes more defined. Above the small overlap keep trending left up the crack line

SECTOR B

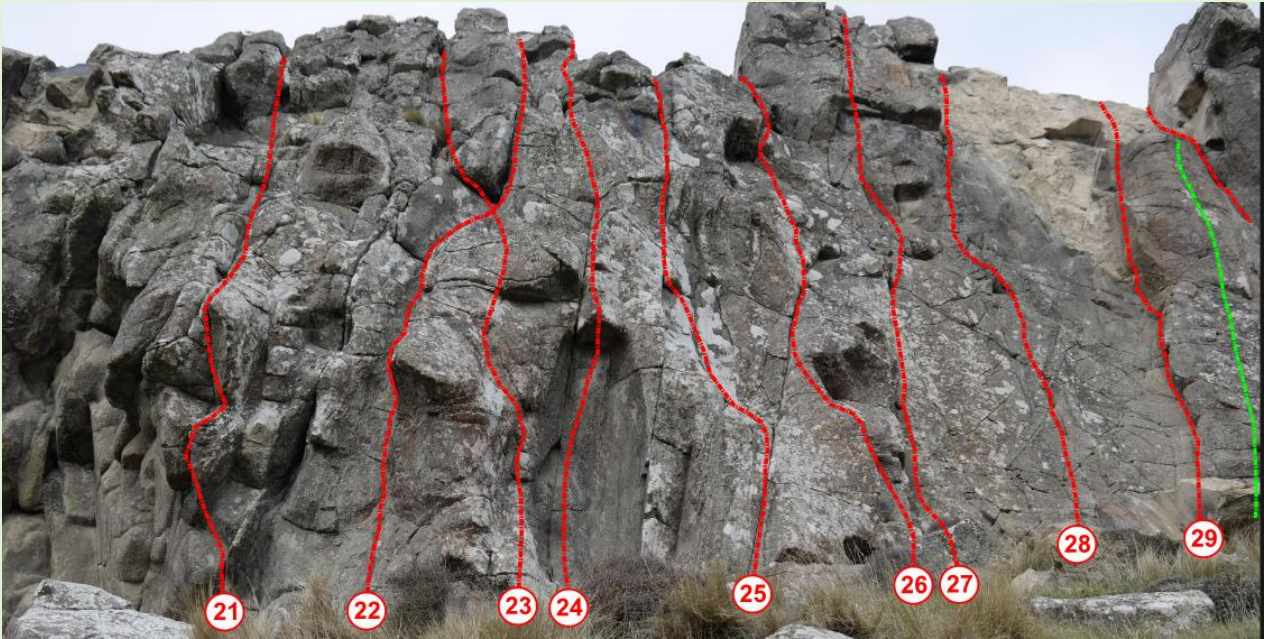


16. **Monkey Poop 13:** Follow the smooth rock up the left trending groove, then back right to the top of a small pinnacle, go straight up the vertical crack above. Alternative finish, at the top take the right side and fight your way up past the bush.
17. **Blankety Blank 24:** The steep mossy wall, with no pro. Step right and go over the roof via a thin crack. Tony Burnell '98
18. **Waives That Rules 23:** An easier start to 'BB', up the groove as for 'PD' but follow the left fork. Alan Hill 98.
19. **Banalarama 24:** Just right of the steep mossy slab is an obvious right trending groove that forms a 'Y' at seven metres, take the right fork past an old bolt. Subsequently sprouted an extra bolt. Dave Fearnly 1988.
20. **Penile Decay 24:** The next feature is the overhung left facing corner comprising yellowish scaly rock. Straight up the back and out the top passing two old bolts. Then follow the shallow groove above. Steve Elder '89.
21. **Mutinous Dogs 23:** Start round the corner rightwards from 'PD', up the overhanging, climbed direct. Alan Hill 99
22. **Galley Gully 16:** The obvious crack come groove at the back of a left facing corner, climb the groove, step right then the continuation crack above.

SECTOR C

23. **Anchors Away 22:** Right again is a four metre high scoop. Climb into the scoop, step left and exit up the slabby wall, then easier ground above. Alan Hill 99.
24. **The Bridge Too Far 22:** Straight up the scoop bridging to the high point, exit through the notch on the left to a ledge, then up the top wall. John Howard.

25. **Spinnaker 18:** A really thin crack leads up into a scoop, gain the scoop, then exit awkwardly up the deep curving runnel on the left. Lindsay Main' 79.



26. **Who's Turn in The Barrel 16:** A stepped rib leads up to a ledge at six metres, gain the ledge then move up to a an obvious square block, up and slightly left to a capped roof, turn the roof on the right then finish easily diagonally left. Lindsay Main 1979.

The next area has sustained significant rockfall but all routes, though now altered, have been re-climbed.

27. **Forecourse 16:** Climb the short corner at the left side of the slab, once on the ledge step right into the crack, go up, then left and up to the overlap, over this and up to the top.
28. **Main Royale 17:** The original classic climb now somewhat damaged. Climb the centre of the wall straight up to the right end of the overlap, then straight up newly exposed rock to the top.
29. **Yardarm 18:** Climb the next corner to the right, when you get to the corner system through the newly exposed rock the gear becomes scarce.

SECTOR D

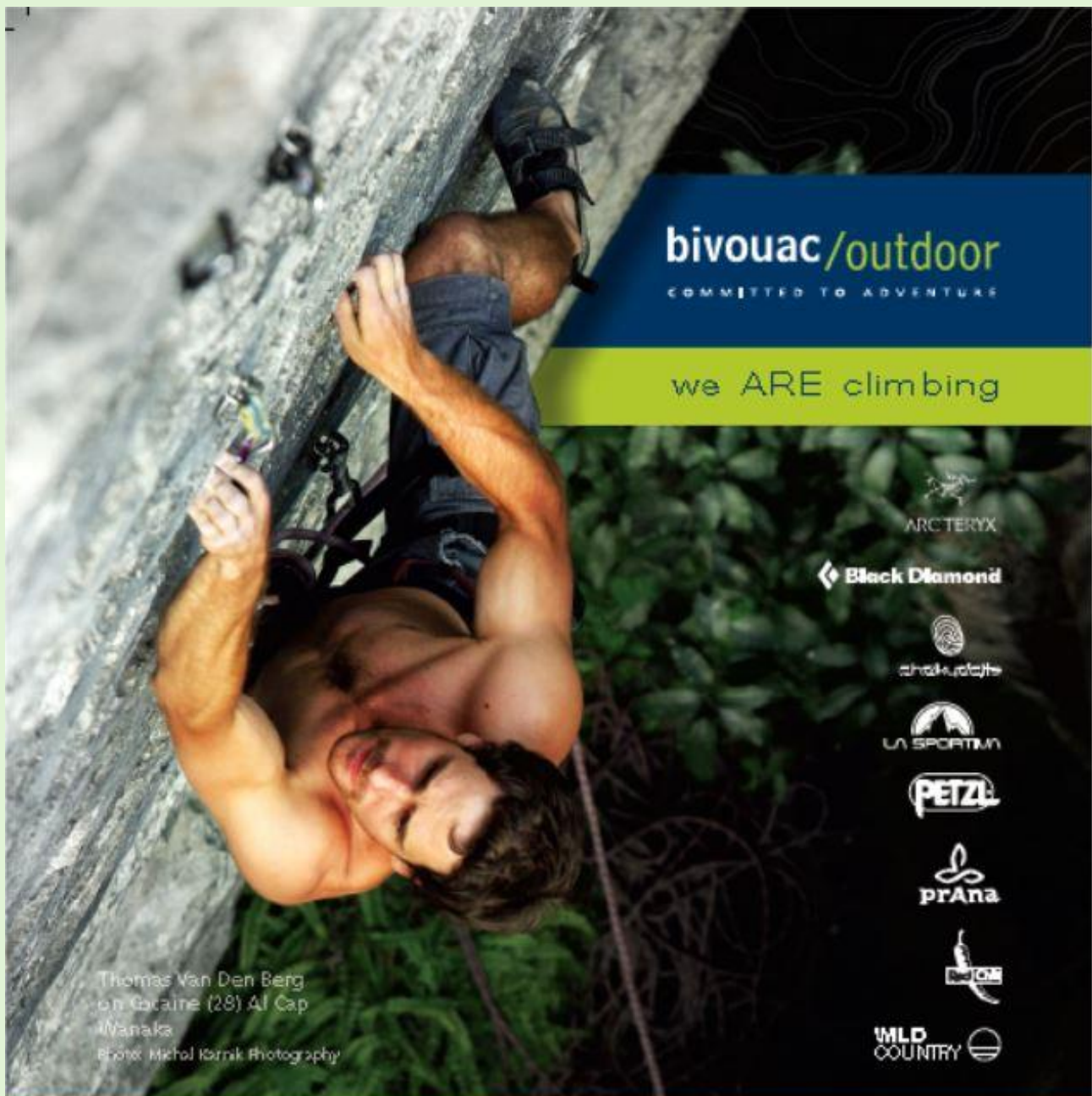


30. **Mizzen 18:** Just right if 'YA' a short rib buttresses the crag an above a shallow groove with

discontinuous cracks leads into the wider chimney. Start at the rib and head straight up.

31. **Brown Tongue 22:** Start at the crack, just right of 'MZ', straight up to a ledge on the left, move up the arête above then swing round onto the face go straight up to and over the roof. Tony Burnell '99
32. **Strawberry Box 17:** Start as for 'MZ', climb to the ledge, traverse diagonally right to exit up the groove above 'FW'. Graham Dingle 1971
33. **Feakeys Wall 22:** Climb straight up the wall to the hole, good gear, over the bulge to the horn on the right, finish more easily above. John Allen 1980
34. **Body & Soul 19:** Start below the left end of a roof at five metres, climb straight up past the roof and into the holes in the crack system, make a break for the top. Gavin Wills 1967
35. **Weevilly Biscuit 18:** Climb up to the roof by 'FW' cross the roof and go right under the second roof the diagonal groove system to join 'BG' at the top.
36. **Dr Rock & The Carbo Kid 22:** Climb up the pillar at the right end of the lower roof, cross the upper roof from the right using the vertical flakes poor pro at the start. Dave Macleod 1988
37. **Bilge 15:** A classic groove with an elegant solution, start up on the platform below the groove. Climb the groove bridging out of the top before moving left just below the earthquake damaged roof.
38. **Flying Jib 14:** Starts in the bay down and right of 'BG', climb straight up the parallel groove to where the angle eases, keep going straight up the thinner curving crack above.
39. **Black Hole 15:** Climb up to the black hole, go straight up the crack direct, finish up the right diagonal crack at the top.
40. **Parallel Lines 14:** On the right of the scoop are twin cracks, one with a small broadleaf, climb the cracks, move left below the block and go up to a ledge, step left again and finish up the scoop with the crack in the back.

Out to the right of 'PO' are numerous ledges, faces and corners which can be used as access to the top or as descents.



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we ARE climbing

Thomas Van Den Berg
on Gocaine (28) A1 Cap
Ivanaka
Photo: Michal Kárník Photography

ARCTERYX

Black Diamond

ahaukuroto

LA SPORTIVA

PETZL

prAna

NEWTON

WILD COUNTRY

PROUDLY
NZ OWNED for
25
YEARS

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RAPAKI ROCK - TICK LIST					
No.	Name	Grade		Style	Comments
01	Left arête	15	☺👉	(TR)	
02	Left End	15	☺👉	(TR)	
03	Left Face	16	☺👉	(TR)	
04	Right Left Face	16	☺	(TR)	
05	Crows Nest	12	☺	(TR)	
06	Face Variation	16	☺	(TR)	
07	Variation	16	☺	(TR)	
08	Barricoe	15	☺	(TR)	
09	Variation	18	☺	(TR)	
10	Pillar Torque	19	☺👉	(TR)	
11	Bosuns Chair	16	☺	(TR)	
12	Slim Pickings	15	☺	(TR)	
13	Ratlines	12	☺	(TR)	
14	Fo'c'sle	14	☺	(TR)	
15	Scurvy	13	☺	(TR)	
16	Monkey Poop	13	☺	(TR)	
17	Blankety Blank	24	☺	(TR)	
18	Waives That Rules	23	☹	(TR)	
19	Banalarama	24	☹💣	(TR)	
20	Penile Decay	24	💣	(MP)	
21	Mutinous Dogs	23	☹👉	(MP)	
22	Galley Gully	16	☺	(TR)	
23	Anchors Away	22	☹	(TR)	
24	The Bridge Too Far	23	☺	(TR)	
25	Spinnaker	18	☺	(TR)	
26	Forecourse	16	☺	(TR)	
27	Who's Turn in The Barrel	16	☺	(TR)	
28	Main Royale	17	☺	(TR)	
29	Yardarm	18	☺	(TR)	
30	Mizzen	18	☺	(TR)	
31	Brown Tongue	22	☺👉	(TR)	
32	Strawberry Box	17	☺	(TR)	
33	Feakeys Wall	22	☺👉💣	(TR)	
34	Body & Soul	19	☺💣	(TR)	
35	Weevilly Biscuit	18	☹💣	(TR)	
36	Dr Rock & The Carbo Kid	22	☺💣💀	(TR)	
37	Bilge	15	☺	(TR)	
38	Flying Jib	14	☺	(TR)	
39	Black Hole	15	☺	(TR)	
40	Parallel Lines	14	☺	(TR)	

☺ - Well worth doing ☹ - An OK route ☹ - Having done it I wouldn't bother 👉 Pokey

👉 - Fingery 💣 - Powerfull 💀 - Oh yes

(S) Sport Climb Bolt Protected (MP) Mixed Protection Bolts & Trad Gear (TR) Trad Gear