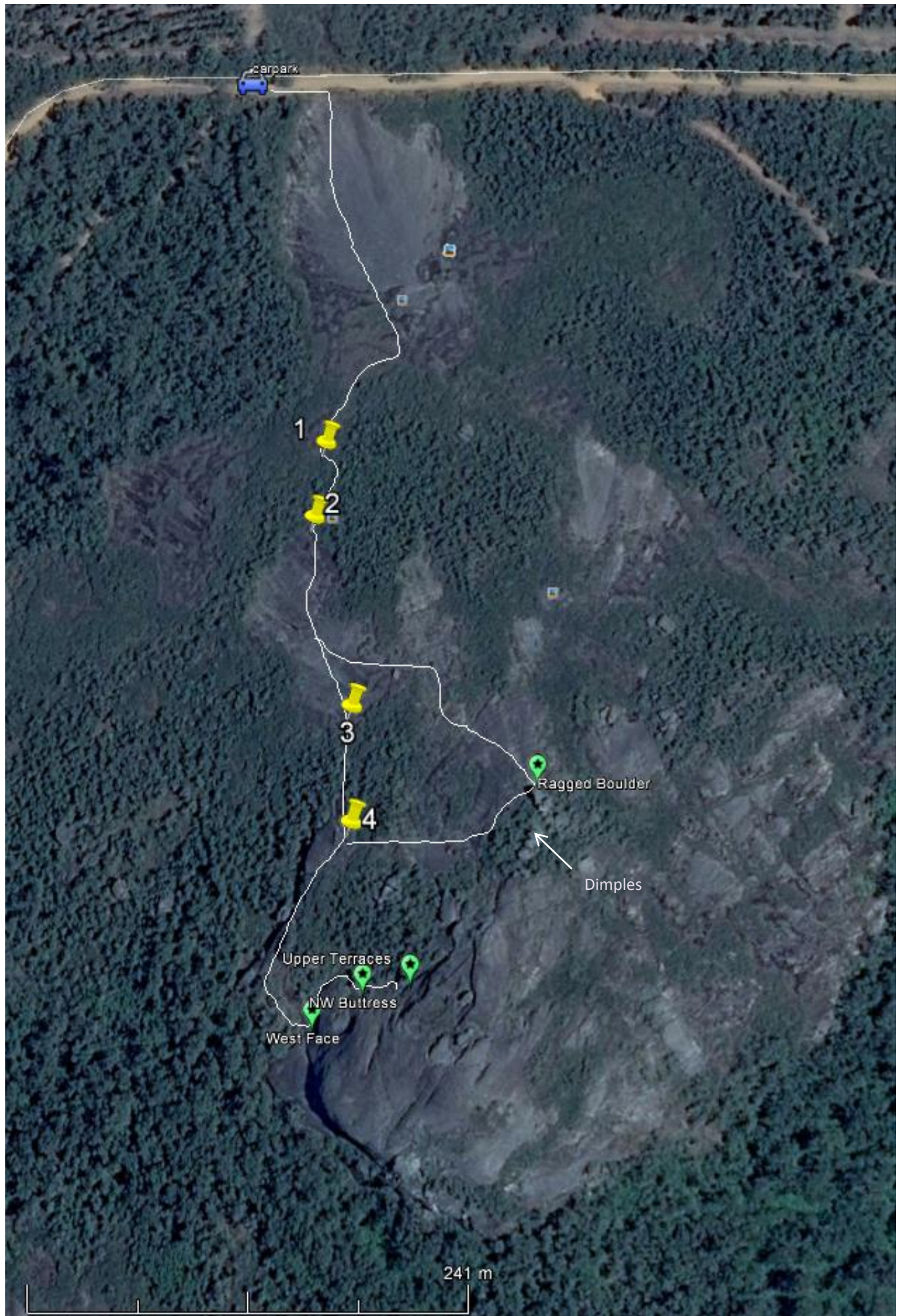


Angwin Peak
(the Porongurups)
Rock Climbing Guide

Ross Weiter

March 2018



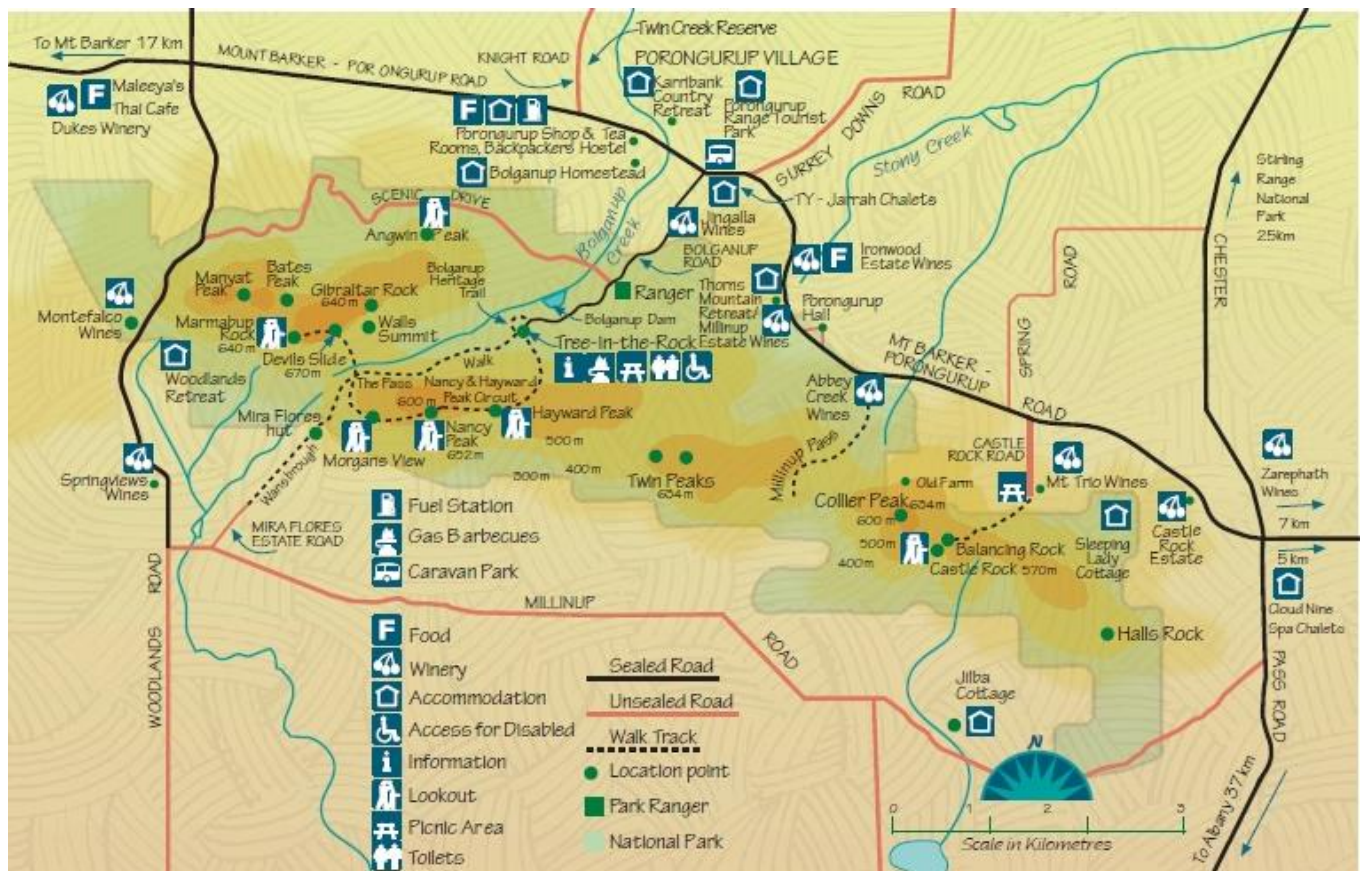
History

Although it is clearly visible from and close to the Scenic Drive, climbers have for decades ignored the climbing potential of Angwin Peak (el. 519m), preferring the much larger Gibraltar Rock just 600 metres away to the south-west. Many have had a look, me included back in the 90s. When development finally started, some bolts (with large Petzl and Metolius fixed hangers) were discovered above the climbing faces – who placed them and why, is a mystery.

Logistics

After rain the approach slabs are wet, making them very slippery. On hot days you will be frying in the pitiless sun (aim for Mount Barker forecast below 28°C). If the weather is poor, there are some walks (Devil's Slide, Nancy Peak, Castle Rock) and a handful of wineries/restaurants (see map). The caravan park is cheap, nice and clean, but does not usually accept arrivals after 7pm. The Tearooms do good meals and rent out rooms.

Approach



The approach is easy if you go the right way, and can be very frustrating if you get lost, so it is best to pay attention.

Drive from Perth for 4:15 hours, via Mount Barker. Park off the Scenic Drive as for Gibraltar Rock at (-34.66231°, 117.85885°). Walk east up the road for 20m, then up 200m low-angled slab, skirting to the right for 50m to avoid the scrub at the top. A 20m kangaroo track will take you through the low bushes (cairn). Enter the tall scrub here: (1: -34.66406, 117.85937) and after 30m you will exit at a cairn (2: -34.66441, 117.85934) at the bottom of the second, steeper slab. Traverse this to its top right-hand corner (3: cairn, -34.66527, 117.85970), then a second 30m bush section to the top of the Lower Tier (4: -34.66577°, 117.85977°). Continue along the top of the Lower Tier until you see the bottom of the West Face to your left (5: -34.666585, 117.859664). The approach to the West Face is 800m long and takes 15 minutes (20 if you get a bit lost). The North-West Buttress is 50m further left and uphill and Upper Terraces another 30m up and further left.

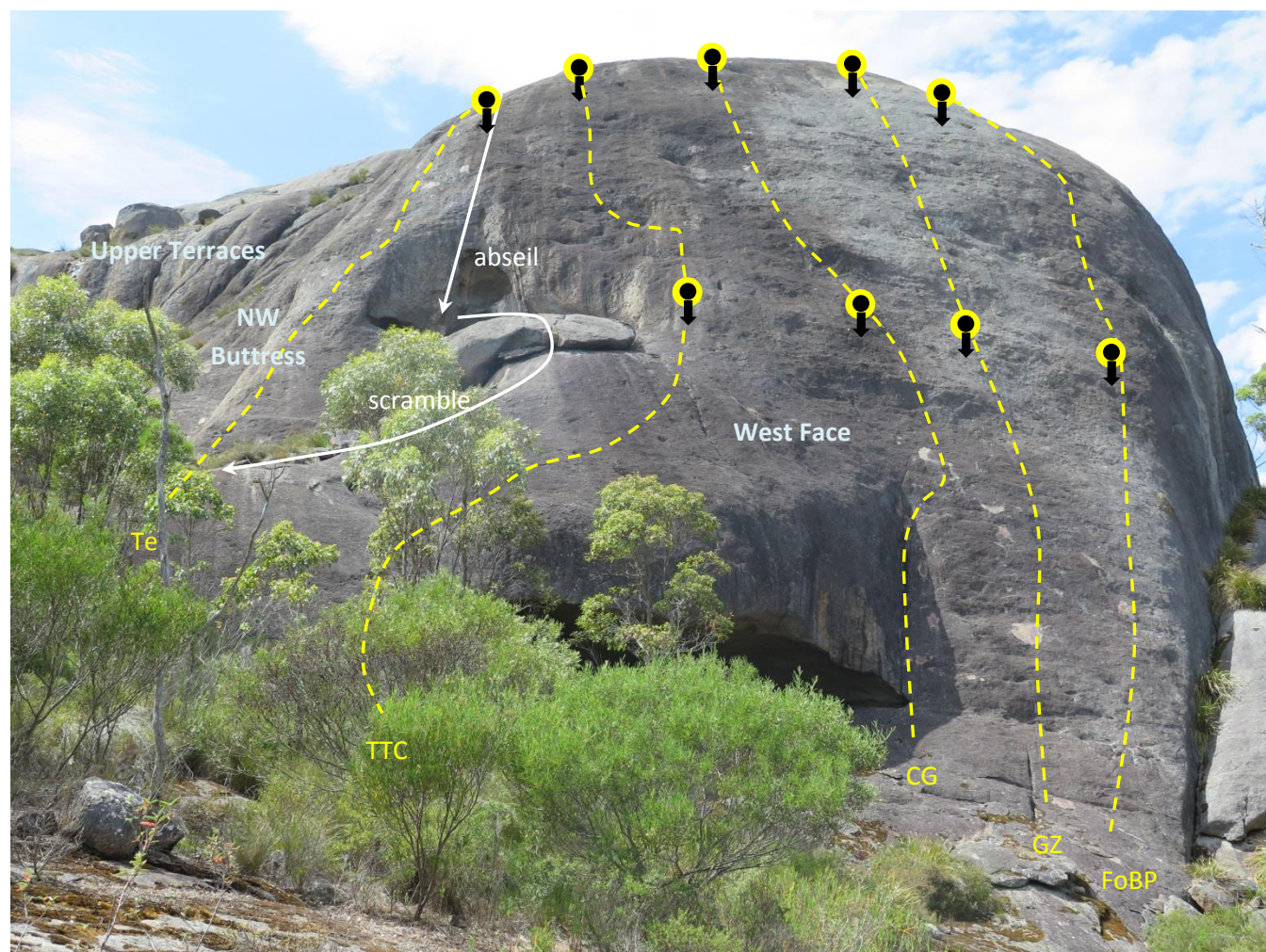
To get to the Ragged Boulder, from the cairn (waypoint #2) head to the top of the steep second slab, and then keep heading in the same direction, you cannot miss it (-34.66554, 117.86083, see photo on p.7). Reaching the summit by walking is not recommended: it is difficult to find the route, overgrown, strenuous and not necessary. Climbing is more fun and rapping off is lower impact.

The Climbing

Angwin Peak offers mostly edgy low-angle face climbing (not pure slab climbing), with good quality rock which bites into shoes well. All climbs are described from left to right when facing the climbing. For the West Face and NW Buttress, bring a 60m rope, 8 hangers and large/very large nuts for *Cave Groove*. For other places read the description.

West Face

This is the face above the large cave. All pitches have ring bolt belays (RBB). All the routes below were abseiled in 2 parts with one 60m rope, but **put knots on ends!**



**** Tale of Two Caves (65m, 15)**

An interesting and varied line with many features, an adventure.

- (i) (35m, 12) Start just L of the cave, then wander right to DBB just R of loose blocks. 7 GIMBs.
- (ii) (30m, 15) Up from belay, traverse horizontally L after 3rd bolt, then up (crux). 7 GIMBs.

FA: Ross Weiter, Dena Rao, Dec 2016

**** Cave Groove (60m, 16)**

Just R of the massive cave there is a 10m high groove.

- (i) (30m, 16) Up groove, placing large nuts. Exit groove to right, then trend left, through overlaps. 6 GIMBs.
- (ii) (30m, 14) More face climbing, passing to right of some abseiling chains near the top. 6 GIMBs.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

Green Zone (60m, 15)

Face climbing galore, the second pitch is a tad mossy but not revoltingly so.

- (i) (30m, 15) Wander about looking for edges, pull through overlap. 8 GIMBs.
- (ii) (30m, 14) In between the two green mossy water runnels. 6 GIMBs.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

*** Fear of a Blank Planet (60m, 18)**

Enjoyable and absorbing, with a great second pitch.

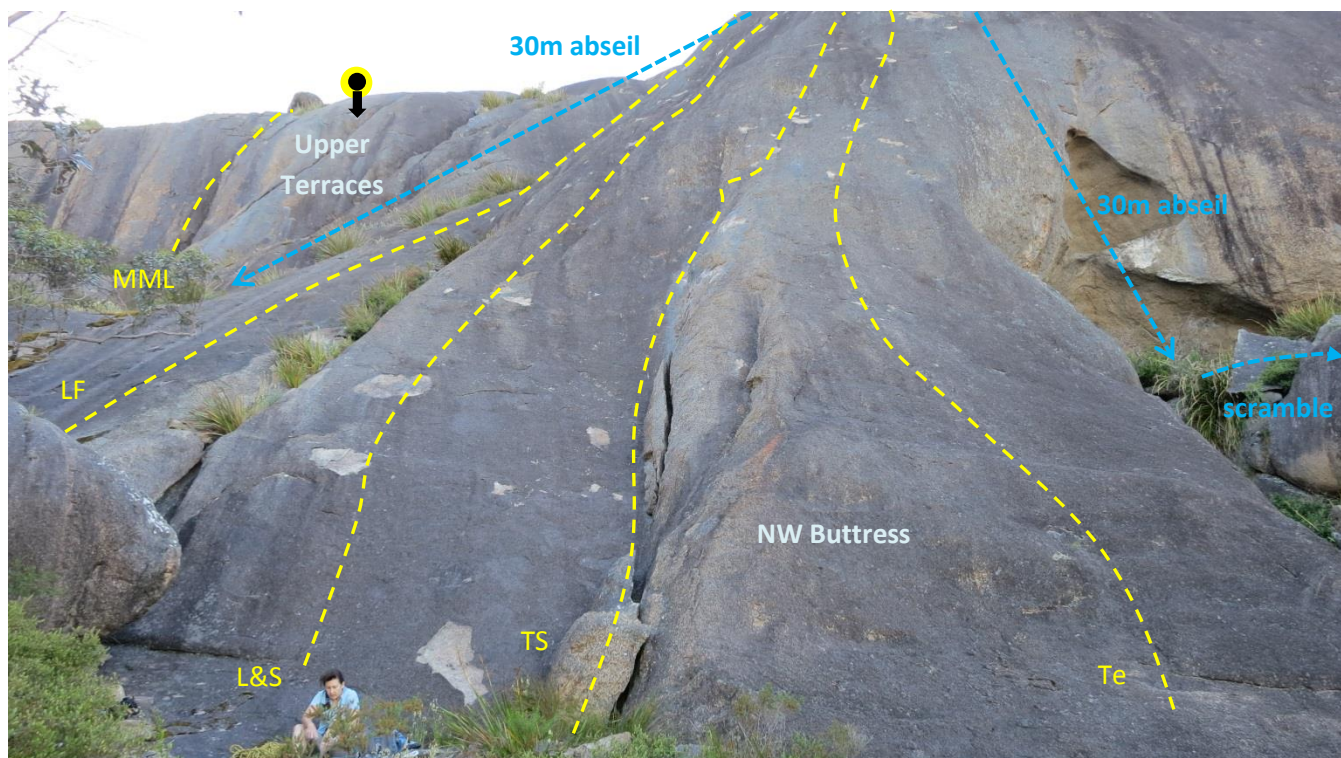
(i) (30m, 15) Cruise up the right side of the face, trending right to a tricky finish. 7 GIMBs.

(ii) (30m, 18) The nicely featured climbing abruptly ends at a steep section with sparse holds. Hmm...7 GIMBs.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

North-West Buttress

The routes below all converge on the same RBB; 5m above the RBB is a large platform featuring two fixed hangers (placed by unknown) at the back of it. From here it is easy to scramble to the summit for a great view. Descend from RBB by a 30m abseil to the top of the boulder R of *Tenacity*; then easily scramble down the crack in the front of boulder (not down the vegetated gully). Alternatively rap down the *Left Flank* gully and then traverse off to gain the forest.



Left Flank (45m, 10)

Up the easily angled face left of grassy gully, then right above the grass and finish up the deep groove L of *L&S*. Ends at the same belay as *L&S*. 8 GIMBs. FA: Ross Weiter, Dena Rao, Dec 2016

*** Lizards and Spiders (40m, 14)**

Nice clean rock. Initially up centre of the face 4m L of the corner, then cross left to cruise up the scenic arête/shoulder next to a vegetated gully. 8 GIMBs. FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

*** The Spear (40m, 15)**

The crumbly yet memorable corner with a long rock flake up its first 5m ("the spear"). The GIMBs are just R of the corner to stay out of its way. Exit R where the corner ends, then up the face through niche to top. 8 GIMBs.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

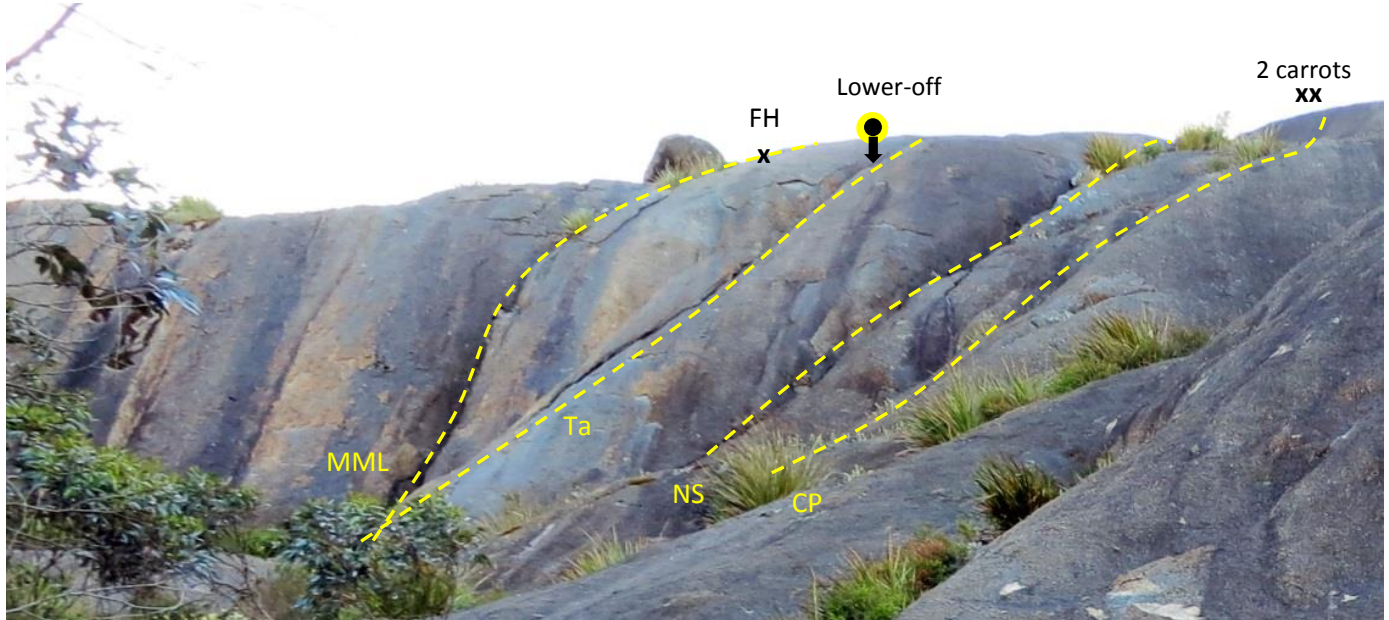
**** Tenacity (40m, 17)**

Start 4m R of *The Spear*. Some bulges half way up provide the entertainment. Sustained and absorbing, with 8 GIMBs. FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Feb 2016

Upper Terraces

This area is further L and uphill from the base of NW Buttress. To get to the bottom of these trad climbs below, either approach from right by climbing up the first 20m of *Left Flank* and then traverse left, or alternatively go left along the base until it gets easy and then scramble up. All the routes are fully trad and have some loose flakes on them.

There is a single fixed hanger (FH) above *MML*, two carrots on the slab above *NS* and *CP* and a lower-off at the end of *Tarp*.



Mega Mega Litres (20m, 15)

Climb the groove to the boulder on top. There is a 1 FH for belay just R of gully. FA: *Nat Cole, Dirk Klicker, Mar 2016*

Tarp (25m, 16)

Up the gully and then the R-trending crack to slabby top and lower-off. FA: *Nat Cole, Dirk Klicker, Mar 2016*

Not Sure (25m, 14)

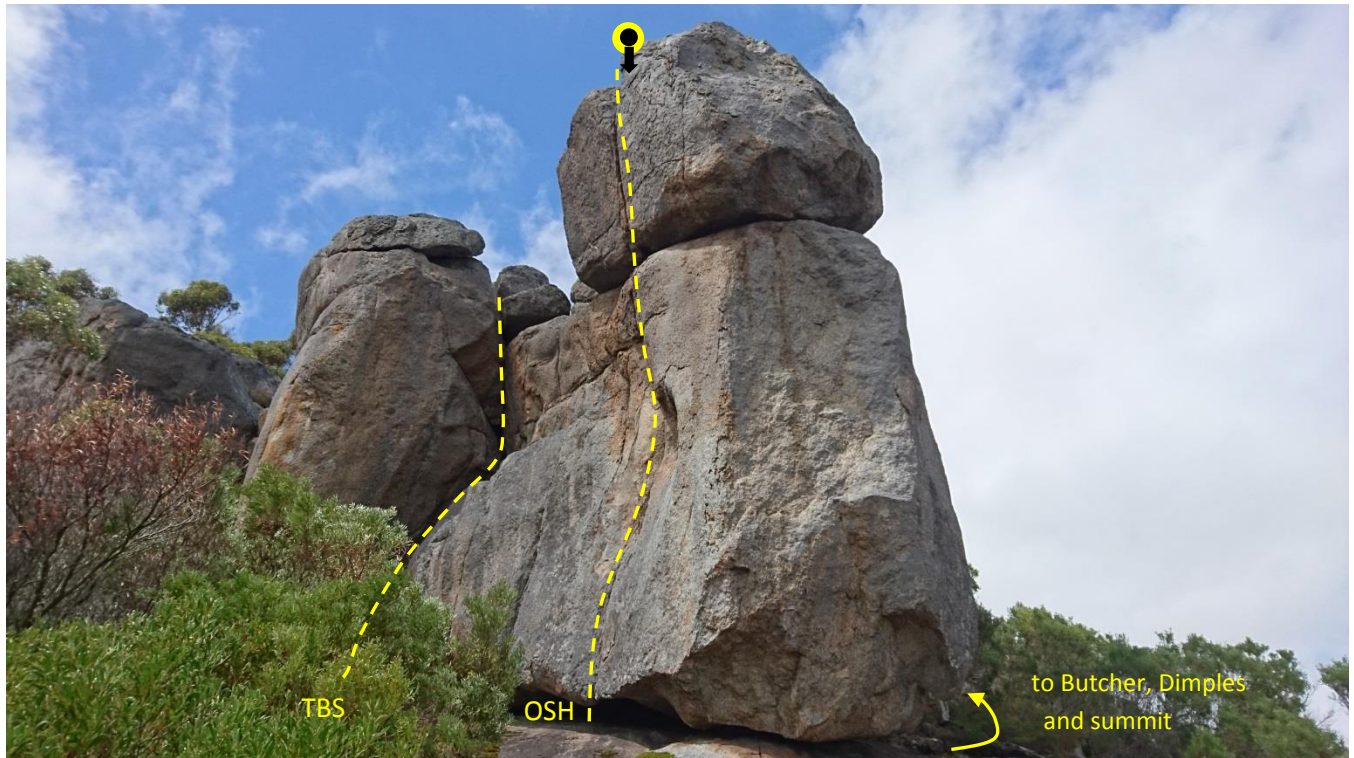
Follow the left one of the two grooves to vegetation on top. FA: *Nat Cole, Dirk Klicker, Mar 2016*

Cow Pattie (25m, 12)

You can go up the initially-grassy R-trending groove but it is better to climb the crack on the shoulder R of it, and once that runs out traverse L into the groove. Look for a 2 GIMB belay about 10m after the angle eases off, at the back of scoop. It is easy to go past it. FA: *Nat Cole, Dirk Klicker, Mar 2016*

Ragged Boulder

This prominent boulder has East and West Faces, thus giving shade (and wind) for almost all day on one side or the other. Access to the top (3 FH with maillons) is far easier from West side.



The Big Squeezy (10m, 15)

6m uphill from *Old Shatterhand*. Worm up the 6m body jamming chimney to ledge, then stem up the overhanging corner above. Good trad gear. Wrap rope around boulder for belay. FA: Ross Weiter, Rick Allen Mar 2016

****** Old Shatter-hand (12m, 20)***

This short but wildly impressive climb is on the East Face. It starts as fun face climbing and finishes as burly jamming. 2 fixed hangers (FH) then medium cams for horizontal break and top crack. Lower-off from top, but it is also possible to scramble down along the ridge toward the summit. Be fit. FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Rick Allen Mar 2016

**** Butcher (11m, 22)***

On the other (West) face of the boulder from OSH is this thin groove/crack. Technical balancing gets harder and more desperate and just when you think you have it in the bag.... 3 FH, and #1 Camalot for top (optional, easy).

FA: Ross Weiter, Dena Rao, Mar 2018

Dimples Wall

Walk up the west side of Ragged Boulder, past Butcher, then 10m right and uphill to get to a small face with a vertical line of pockets, this is *Dimples*.

Dimples (10m, 18)

Up vertical pockets, clip FH, swing right to jug and then up. Bypass boulder to right, placing #2 and #3 Camalots. Single FH and some backup bushes for belay. FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Rick Allen Mar 2016

Fashionable Alterations (10m, 14)

The wide crack that becomes a chimney, 10m R of *Dimples*. Bring #3 and #4 Camalots. Same belay as *Dimples*. Trad.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie, Rick Allen Mar 2016



Kate Swain leads *Fear of a Blank Planet (18)*. Gibraltar Rock in the background