

KAWAKAWA BAY

by Stephen King

Introduction

Kawakawa Bay is a new climbing area on the northern shores of Lake Taupo. The crags are located 5kms west of Kinloch within the Kawakawa Bay Scenic Reserve. There is a mix of trad and bolted routes that will appeal to the beginner to intermediate climbers, wanting to push their boundaries or learn climbing on pro. For anyone wanting to camp over, there is a grassy campsite 50m up the beach from the long drop. The rock is Rhyolite.

Access

To get there follow the Kawakawa Bay Walkway from Nisbet terrace in Kinloch. The walk takes around 1 ½ hours.

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GEAR

The gear you will need - a full rack of cams and wires plus hexes if you have them, and 11 quickdraws. For each line a recommended rack is given. Trad gear abbreviations are

SCD = Small Cams. Smaller than 1 Friend.
 CD = Full set of Camming devices, size 1 to 4 Friend or equal
 Cam size quoted as Friend sizes.
 W = A full set of wires.
 Hex = A set of Hex's



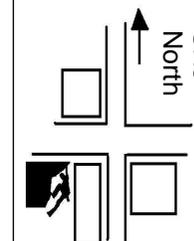
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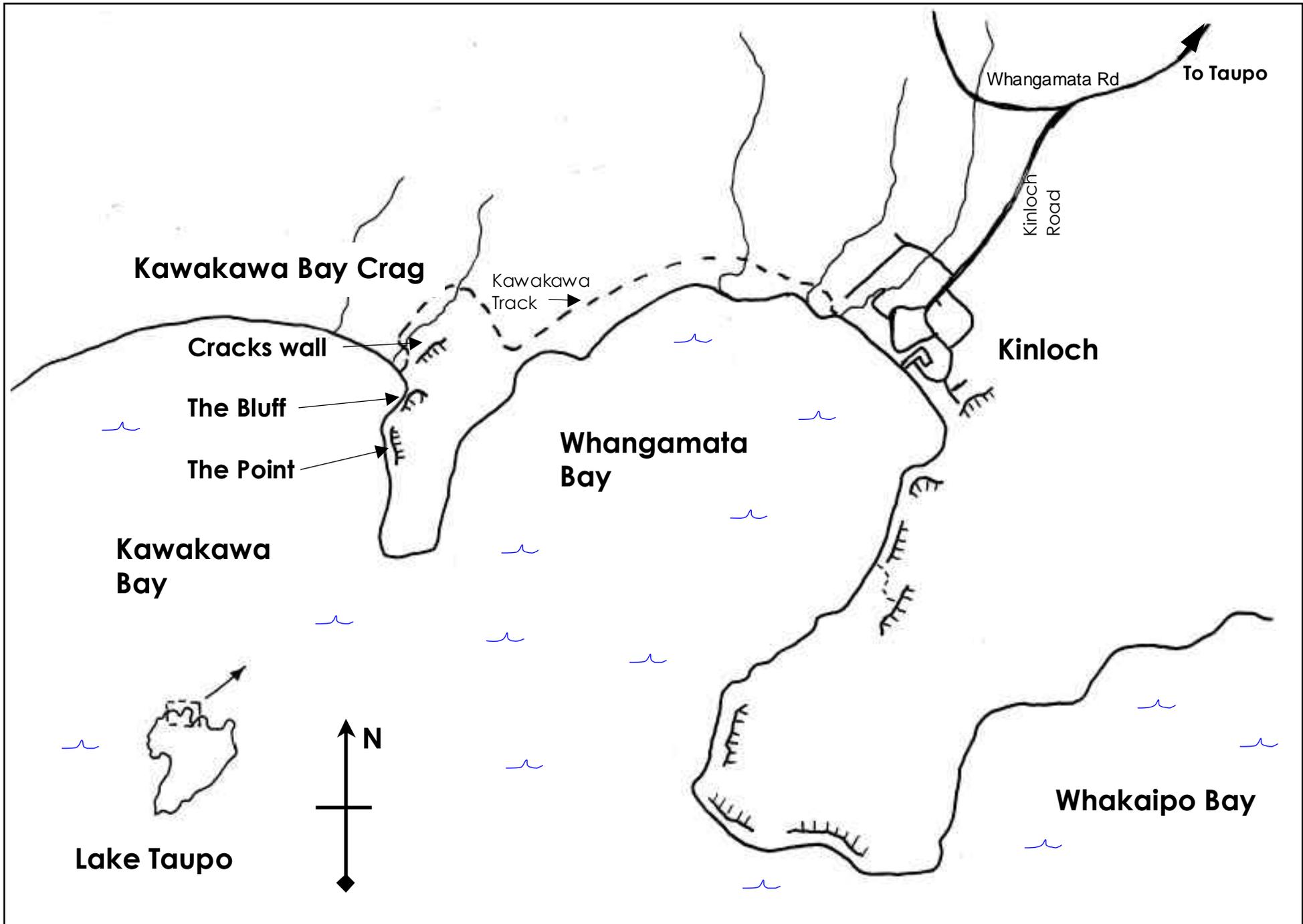
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Figure 1: Kinloch Area & Kawakawa Bay



Cracks Wall

The Cracks Wall is the most convenient of the crags, being two minutes from the lake, toilet and campsite. The trad climbing here is excellent with a number of high quality cracks in a tranquil location making this crag the first choice for most climbers. The rock stays shaded till mid-day.

Access

From the lake walk back towards Kinloch for 1 minute to where a rock cairn marks the track leading up to the crag. The track meets the crag at the base of "Rohans Arete" a great place to hang. The routes are described from right to left, and just round the corner from "Rohans Arete" is,

* Rohans Little Sister (16) 12m

Up to the right is a short arête. A good little climb. Stays shaded till long after the other climbs are in the sun. [Pro 4 Bolts]

Heather Brockway 28-8-05

Mr Bastard (20) 12m

Climb the thin crack up to the slab & DBC belay. [Pro Mid to small CD ,W]

Stephen King 17/9/06

Back To The Future (25) 20m

Climb the face right of the arete. [7 bolts]

Martyn Owen 27-8-06

** Rohans Arete (22) 28m

The long arête at the right hand end of the crag. Stay right of the bolts, DBC belay. Wicked Climbing. [Pro 11 Bolts]

Stephen King 23-10-04

***The Gecko Groove (16) 28m

The right hand crack system 3 meters left of the arête. Save your big gear for the top section. An excellent climb. Tree belay. [Pro SCD, CD,W]

Stephen King 3-10-04

Blindmans Bluff (17) 28m

The left hand crack line. Poorly protected through the crux.

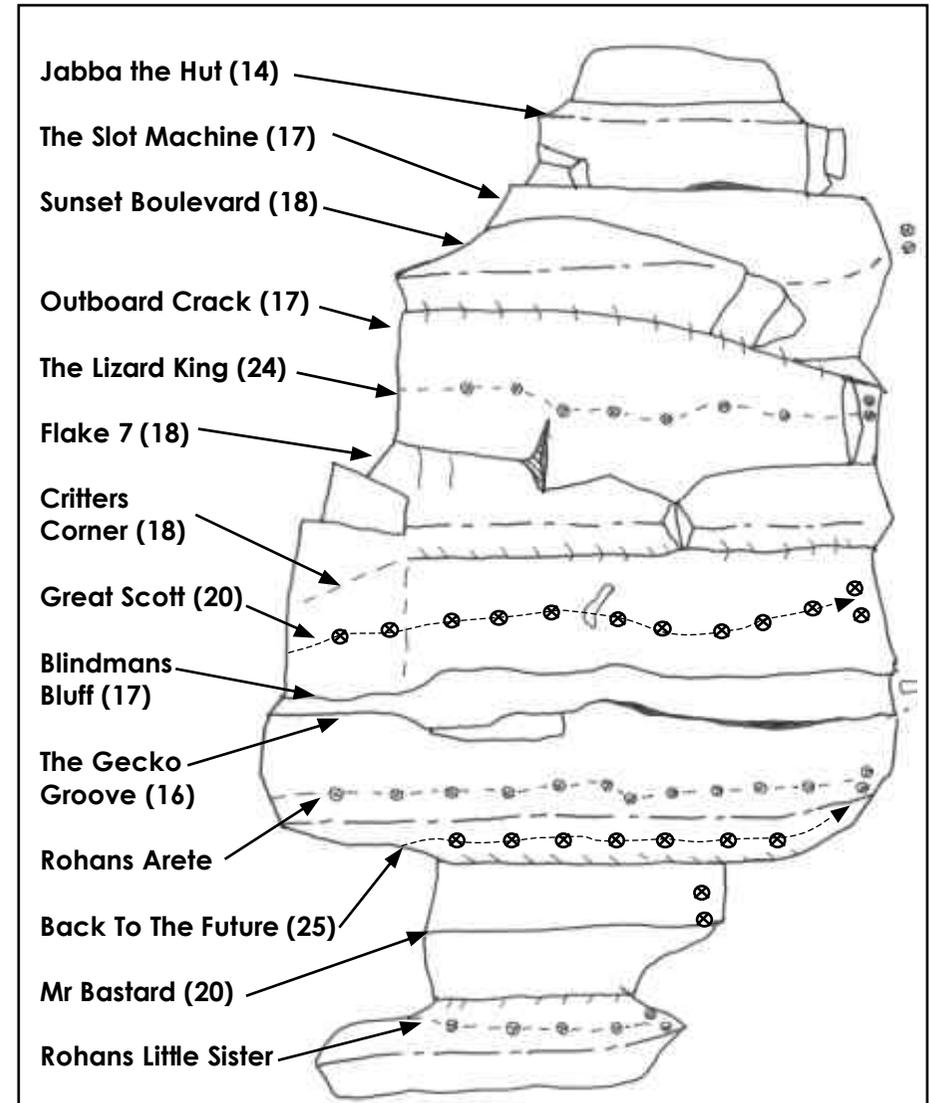
Matt Thom 30-7-05

Great Scott (20) 27m

Climb the face to the left of the crack [10bolts]

John Dawkins 23-8-06

Figure 1: Cracks Wall



Critters Corner (18) 25m

The long open book corner. Start up the slab with no gear until you reach the corner go left just below the top to a small ledge to belay.

Stephen King 30-7-05

*****Flake 7 (18) 20m**

The flake/crack system with a small roof near the start. Once at the roof move right around the roof and onto the face, the moves above mark the crux. From here easy climbing to the DBC belay. Great moves with a balancy and well protected crux. [Pro SCD, CD to size 1.5, W].

Stephen King 28-8-05

*** The Lizard King (24) 20m**

The steep and scooped face to the left of Flake. Crux is moving past the 3rd and 4th bolts. [Pro 7 bolts]

Stephen King 24-10-05

****Outboard Crack (17) 20m**

Fun climbing up the right tending crack system. Finish right onto ledge. [Pro CD to size 2, W]

Matt Thom, Kevin Barratt 6-8-05

Sunset Boulevard (18) 18m

Starts at the Five Finger. The left trending layback that turns into a right trending flake. Finish up the face, protection a bit thin near the top. [Pro CD,W]

Matt Thom 23-10-05

*** The Slot Machine (17) 15m**

The obvious hand crack. [Pro CD]

Stephen King, Cliff Ellery 6-8-05

Jabba the Hut (14) 15m

Start in the corner near the Kanuka tree. Traverse right near the top and finish up T.S.M [Pro CD, W]

Heather Brockway 23-10-05

The Bluff

"The Bluff" is the set of cliffs that can be seen from the beach. Most routes are shaded from mid-day onwards when the other areas are in the sun.

Access

Follow the track past the long drop toilet for 2 minutes until you reach a rock cairn at the top of a small rise. From here walk uphill, then turn right at the overgrown slab until you reach a small overhanging buttress.

*** Predator (22) 12m**

The line of bolts up the middle of the buttress. Steep and sustained. Go right after the 1st bolt. Finishes on top of the pinnacle. [Pro 5 bolts].

Stephen King 6-11-04

If you scramble up to the left of the buttress you'll arrive underneath a huge featured overhang.

*** Aliens (21) 20m**

Crumbs. Takes a line up through the overhangs. Traverse right to the first bolt and then again after the last bolt. DBC belay. The steepest climb at Kawakawa. [Pro 6 bolts]

Stephen King 30-7-05

There is a short bolted line up the pinnacle.

Pointy Bit (15) 6m

A nice view from the top. [Pro 2 bolts]

Stephen King 23-10-04

*** Ayahuasca (18) 45m**

Pitch 1: On the wall opposite aliens, Start in the corner and follow the crack up the slab to you get to the under-cling roof. Trad Belay. [Pro Trad]

Pitch 2: Follow the crack right then climb the thin crack to the top. belay off tree. [Pro. Trad]

Ryan Von Haesley, Carsten Rabe 24-11-06

Back down to Predator then head up and left for 5 metres to the start of.

*** Don't Hurt My Kowhai (18) 55m**

Pitch 1(18) 35m.

Climb the featured start past 1 bolt to a crack. Follow the crack to a ledge then climb the obvious arete past 6 more bolts stepping right at the belay. [Pro: small CDs, 7 bolts]

Pitch 2 (17) 20m.

Climb up and left to a bolt then head up to the big corner with a roof. The line goes up the corner then traverse right through the roof past 1 bolt to the TBC belay [Pro: CDs, W, 2 bolts]

Steven McNally, Stephen King 30-7-06

*** The Medicine (18) 45m**

Start up *Don't Hurt My Kowhai*, move right around the corner before the bolted Arete. From here gain the big gigantic diagonal under-clink flake, then climb this to the right finishing as for *Ayahusca*. This climb may need to be broken into two pitch's to avoid rope drag. [Pro 1 bolt + Trad]

Ryan Von Haesley (solo) 26-11-06

Iboga (17) 30m

Start as for *The Medicine* but go left at the big flake. Belay off tree roots.

[Pro 1 bolt + Trad]

Ryan Von Haesley, Matt Thom 25-11-06

To get to the next routes go left instead of right at the overgrown slab. Follow the rock around until you reach a clean looking slab. The next route climbs the left side of this slab

*** Jug Addiction (16) 20m**

Start in the corner up to the left and ascend the face just right of the edge to a DBC belay. [Pro 8 bolts]

Heather Brockway 29-7-06

Bi'lingual (17) 20m

Climb the crack left of *Jug Addiction*. Move back right and join *Jug Addiction* at the 4th bolt. [Pro Trad & 4 bolts]

Erick Johnson 5-11-06

Continue left from *Jug Addiction* until you find a small valley leading uphill. Climb up the valley until a rock cairn is reached, a marked track leads to the base of the following climb.

*** Sex Panther (18) 40m**

Sixty percent of the time you'll enjoy it, every time. This climb is better if climbed in one pitch but there are anchors half way up if you choose to climb on only this first bolted pitch.

Pitch 1 (18)20m

Move left after second bolt. Don't stop at the happy belay continue up onto second pitch with shear delight. [Pro 6 bolts]

Pitch 2 (17.5)20m

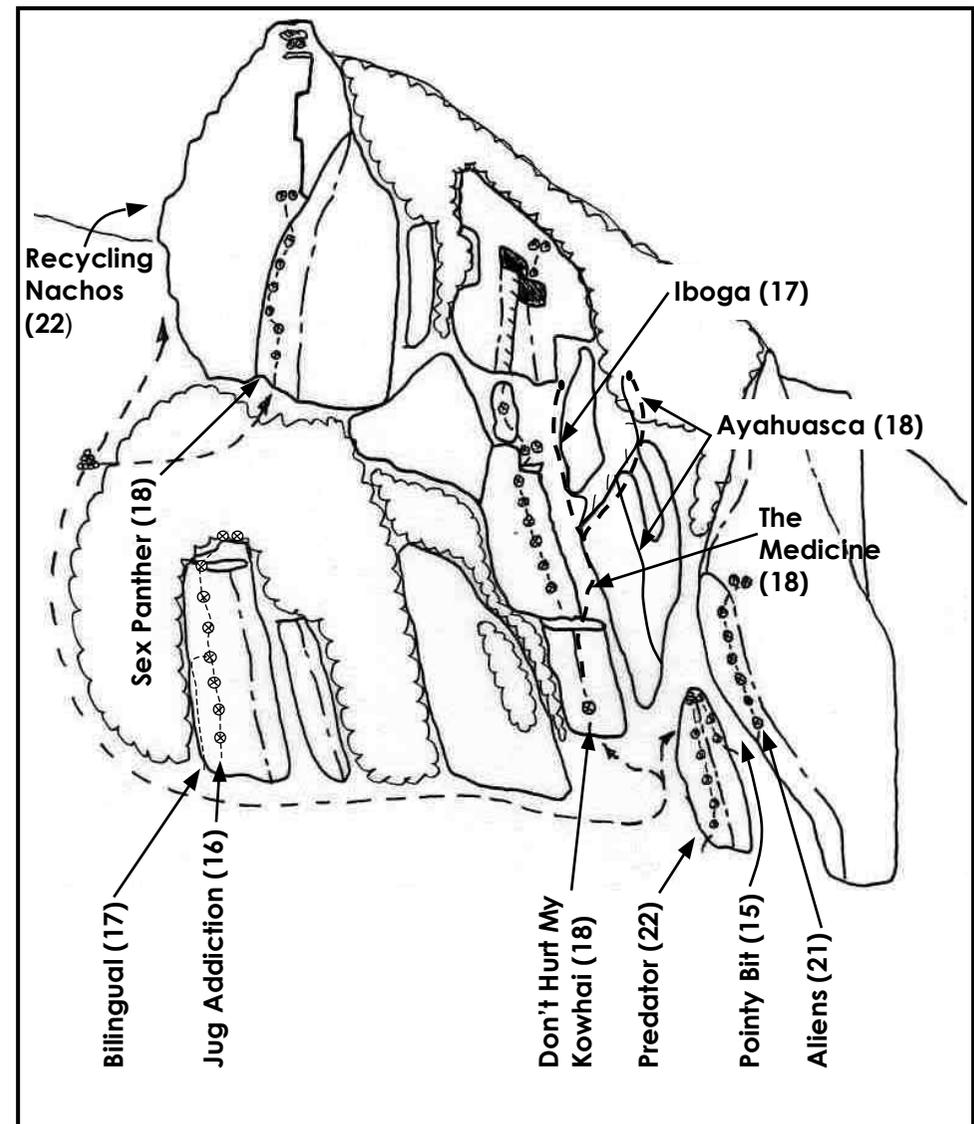
No bolts. All trad, baby. There are several variations to end this route. a) finish at the anchors and ledge, second ya buddy up and rap down etc. b) Once both climbers are at top belay, traverse right under overhang. There is even a bolt so you can safely get to the top of the bluff, (recommended – great views, bring your lunch and some water c) Do it completely naturally by following the crack left before the mantle. [Pro CD, W, H]

Jono McDonald, Stephen King 22-4-06

Recycling Nachos (22) 20m

On the track on the way to the top of the Bluff is a bolted line. Starts in a short corner with 2 bolts. [Pro 6 bolts]

Steven McInally 12-1-07

Figure 2: The Bluff

The Point

This is the newest area to see development and has the most potential for new routes. There are loads of corners, cracks and arêtes awaiting first ascents. For anyone interested, the rock is very dirty, so bring a wire brush and expect black booger's! The Point is a spectacular place to climb, with most routes being long and exposed, starting on narrow ledges perched high above the lake. On a clear day Whanganui Bay and the mountains of the Tongariro are visible. In summer trout can be seen below. The Point stays shaded until mid-day.

Access

The walk to the point from the beach takes around 10 minutes. Follow the track past the long drop toilet, staying close to the shoreline. Follow the track through the rock ravine and on to a small beach. Once you leave the shoreline the track winds through blocky ground. *(Just up from this point a track leads up to the base of "Snake Charmer")*. The main track follows the lake at high level before rising up steeply just before you reach the "The Point". At the end of the steep section there is a large boulder. Just left of this point is a small steep cliff with a couple of routes *Bouldering on Trad* and *Ringbolt roof*.

Snake Charmer (19) 15m

A steep track winds up the hill to an isolate buttress. A single bolt belay marks the start of the climb. From the belay stance traverse left out onto the buttress then climb the crack onto the head wall. Climbing the head wall, crux. DBC belay [Pro 4 bolts]. A bit out of the beaten track but a pleasant little climb in a great location.

Stephen Burrows, Cliff Ellery 19-11-06

Back to the Point

Bouldering on Trad (19) 6 m

The short crack just right of the corner.

Matt Natti 19-11-06

Ring Bolt Roof (22) 8m

The steep ring bolt route.

Steven McNally 19-11-06

To the right of the Access track

* Mellow Yellow (15) 35m

Pitch 1 (14) 8m

A short right tending pitch to gain the ledge. [Pro 3 Bolts]

Pitch 2 (15) 12m

Jump over the garden and ascend the slab, traversing right after the third bolt.

[Pro 3 Bolts]

Pitch 3 (14) 15m

Climb straight up the slab to the top. Pitches 2+3 are good done as one, just clip the belay with a sling, 8 bolts 27m. [Pro 4 Bolts]

Stephen King, Steven McNally 16-4-06

Follow the rock south until you reach-

** The Sweet and the Savage (18) 30m

The wide corner crack with the large arching roof section.

Pitch 1 (18) 20m

Follow the crack up and through the roof, being careful not to use your big gear too early, then mantle onto the ledge for a trad belay. [Pro CD, W]

Pitch 2 (16) 10m

Climb the obvious corner up to a cosy ledge and lower off, a rope stretching 25m abseil gets you back down. Trying to combine both pitches as one as on the first ascent, only results in hideous rope drag. [Pro CD, W]

Stephen King, Matt Thom 5-11-05

Fistula (19) 28m

The direct start to *The Sweet and the Savage*.

Daniel Joll, Ruben Hull 27/8/06

Continue along the track for 10m until a small airy ledge is reached. The crack left of the arête is the start of-

* All Aussie Adventures (15) 35m

time to hit the road!

Pitch 1 (15) 27m

Start up the crack moving left onto the arête after 10m. Climb the arête past 5 bolts and a large wire placement then finish up the top crack of T.S.A.T.S. [Pro CD, W]

Pitch 2 (15) 8m

A short pitch. [Pro 3 bolts]

Stephen King, Ben Scrimgeour 26-3-06

The arête is-

Raw Umber (15) 15m

5 bolts, A better start to the previous route.

Heather Brockway, Stephen King 19-3-06

The next long arête is-

*****High Hopes (16) 45m**

An outstanding route, one of the best climbs at K Bay.

Pitch 1 (16) 23m

From the right hand end of the ledge step up carefully to the 1st bolt. Step right onto the arête after clipping the 3rd bolt, climb past 4 more bolts then step right to the belay ledge, DBC belay. [Pro 7 Bolts]

Pitch 2 (16) 22m

7 bolts. Climb back onto the arête and follow 7 more bolts to the top. Double absail. DBC belay. [Pro 7 Bolts]

The route can be done as one long awesome pitch

Stephen King 27-12-05

Past this point the track gets a bit more difficult, so best leave your harness on for clipping into the fixed rope on the traverse sections. At the end of the fixed rope is

**** Human Intervention (18) 28m**

The arete just right of the large bush filled gully. Start just past the log, traverse diagonally left to the first bolt then follow the rest of the bolts to the top & DBC belay. [Pro 9 bolts]

Stephen King 7-05-06

*** Natural Selection (18) 26m**

The crack right of to "Human Intervention". Move left near the top to the DBC belay. [Pro W, Cd's]

Stephen King, Bredon Elimiger 30-07-06

A few metres further a long is the "Jump rock". This is the top of-

*** Out Of The Blue (14) 18m**

A deep water solo. The best time to do this climb is on a hot day in summer. Descent "JUMP", Make sure you get a descent run up. If you don't have the balls, rap down from the tree.

Stephen King 18-12-05

*** Side Winder (21) 60m**

Pitch 1 (19): Climb the arete and face. DBC Belay [Pro 8 Bolts]

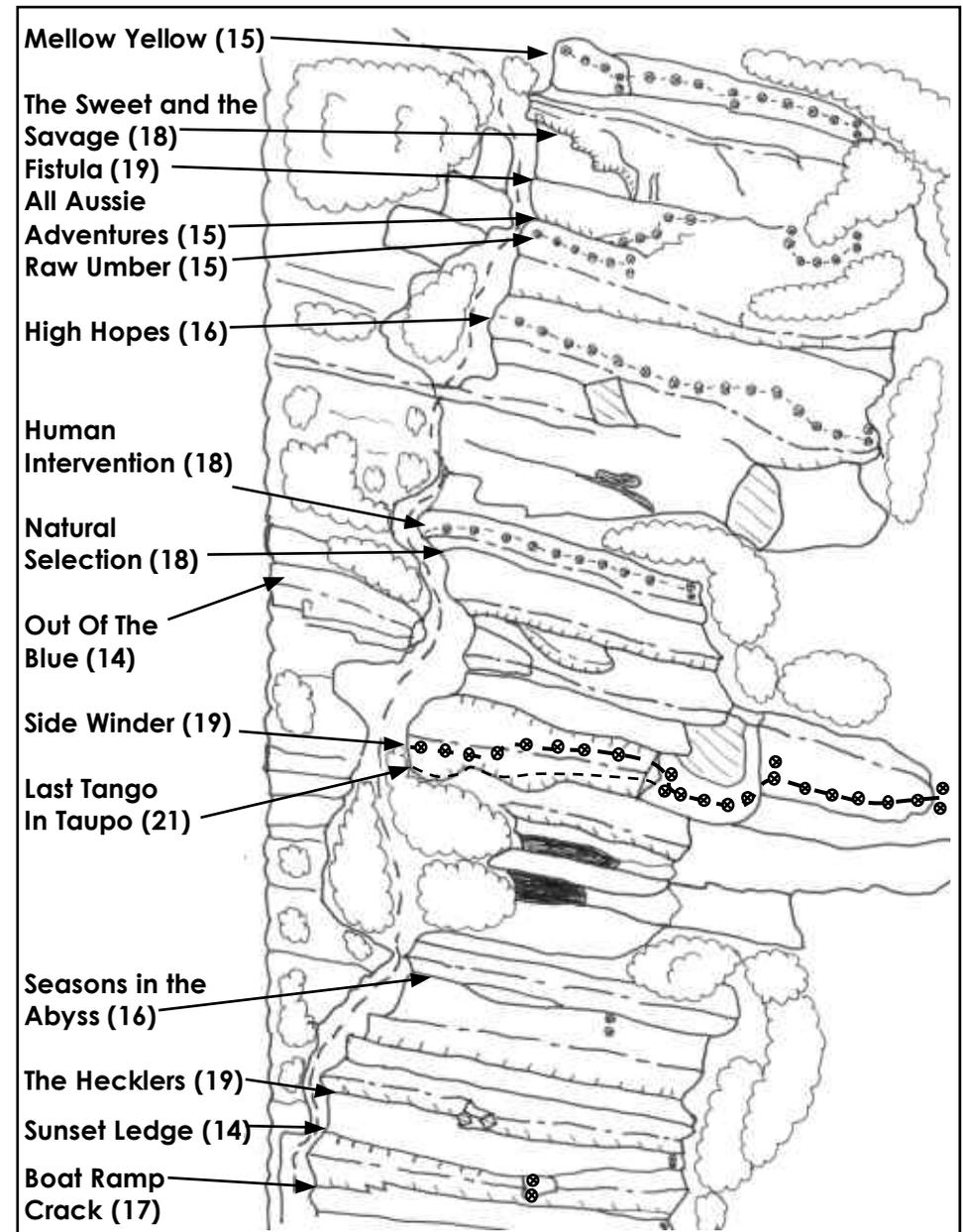
Pitch 2 (19): Move right and climb the face. DBC Belay [Pro 4 Bolts]

Pitch 3 (17): Climb the face. DBC Belay [Pro 5 Bolts]. Absail descent .

Matt Thom, Stephen King (alternate leads) 26-11-06

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Figure 3: The Point



* **Last Tango in Taupo (21) 30m**

The crack and thin seam 2m to the right of Side Winder. Finishes at the first belay of Sidewinder. Thin gear, a bold lead, needs a 60m rope.

[Pr : smal W, Cd's]

Matt Thom 3-12-06

Seasons in the Abyss (16) 25m

The corner with the huge honeycomb. Unfortunately not as good as it looks. Protection only in the first and last 5m of climbing, so a 15m runout on easy ground. [Pro CD, W]

Stephen King, Matt Thom 12-11-05

For this next section of track, there is a knotted rope and a fixed rope. Don't let this put you off too much as it is worth it to get to the next climb. Continue down until you reach an aesthetic shady ledge.

*****The Hecklers (19) 45m**

The obvious long clean corner crack with a small roof part of the way up. Take plenty of gear and you may also want to tape your hands. Sustained, well protected classic climbing. Possibly the best trad route at Kawakawa Bay. To get down absail straight down to a loweroff in the alcove on the arête to the right. [Pro, 2 sets of CD W, H]

Matt Thom, Stephen King 12-11-05

** **Sunset Ledge(14) 28m**

Climb the obvious easy angled corner crack 5m right of the Hecklers. DBC belay. [Pro W]

Brendon Elimiger, 28/07/06

* **Boat Ramp Crack (17) 45m**

A few meter to the right is a long open book corner with some staggered overhangs near the start. Descent. Absail down to ledge and DBC belay of Sunset Ledeg. From here rap to ground. (Pro 2 set CD,W, H)

Brendon Elimiger, Matt Thom 21/05

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