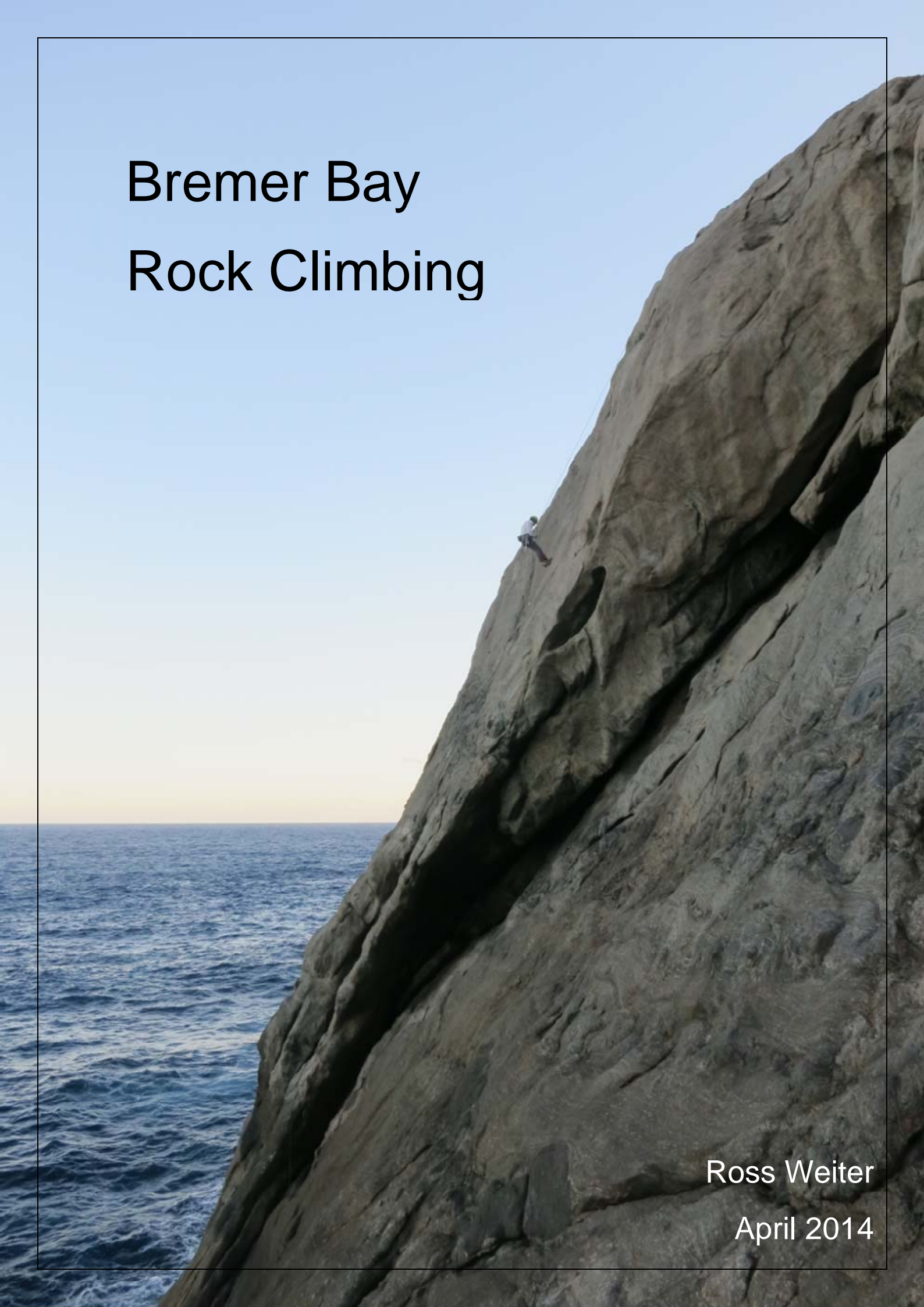


Bremer Bay Rock Climbing



Ross Weiter

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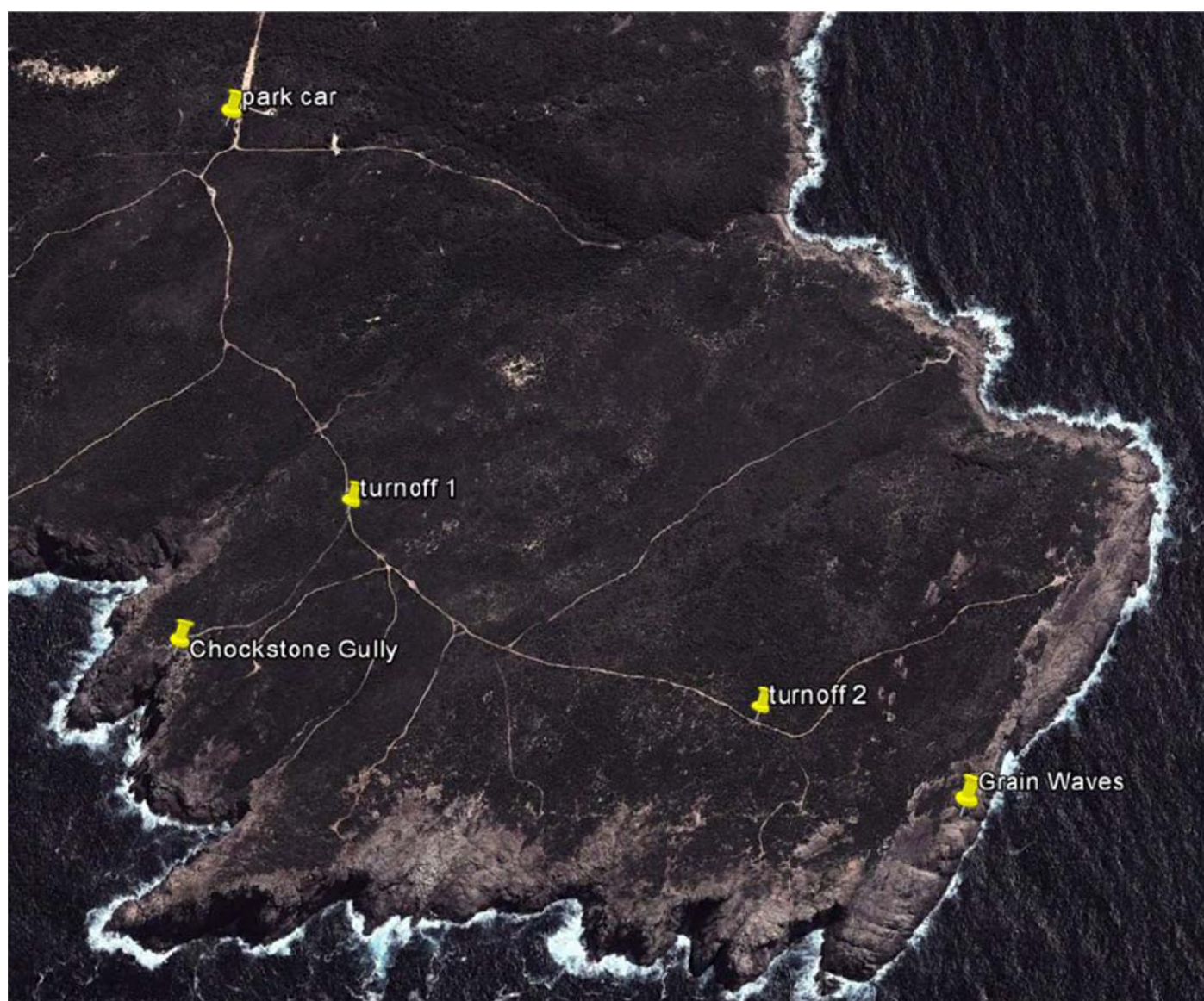
Cover photo: Peter Thomas abseils down the crag classic *Grain Waves* (20). The bottom single bolt belay is at the very bottom of picture.

INTRODUCTION

Six hours from Perth and two hours from Albany, BB is a long way to go for not much climbing, however it is a popular family camping and fishing spot so climbers may find themselves there for other reasons. It sports two caravan parks, a general store and one good clean expensive pub to have a beer and dinner – the Bremer Bay Resort.

There *are* vast expanses of steep rock here, but it is gneiss, rather than the better known granite. Its chief problem is mica (shiny small flakes) which weather easily and hence 99% of this rock is too crumbly for climbing.

The climbing is on the *Point Henry Peninsula* south of town. This peninsula appears to be Crown land. Two areas were found where the rock is of decent quality, with the *Grain Waves Area* being the better of the two. As a bonus, it has a number of beginner climbs. The approach is easy walking on sandy vehicle tracks, no bush bashing. No abseiling into the ocean is required either, all climbs are walk-ups. Bring a full rack, with Camalots to #4, only *Hangover* requires #5. Only two routes are bolted, *Grain Waves* and *Salvation*.



APPROACH

Drive along Point Henry Rd until the bitumen road takes a sharp turn R to Little Boat Harbour. Instead, continue directly ahead on good dirt road for 300m and park on right in front of chain gate.

Park and walk; after 300m you will cross a dip which leads to a large chasm, continue ahead, up sandy hill. To get to *Chockstone Gully*, after 700m from car (8 min) turn right at GPS S 34°28'43.9" E 119° 22'30.1" (turnoff 1) onto an overgrown but driveable vehicle track. This should be the second track you come across since leaving car.

To get to *Grain Waves Area* walk from car for 15 min or 1.5km to S 34°28'53.9" E 119 °22'52.2" (turnoff 2) and turn right onto overgrown and disused track just before the main track turns left sharply. Follow this to the cliff, and then walk left (east) for 400m.

CHOCKSTONE GULLY

GPS: S 34°28'49.9" E 119°22' 20.0" Ten minutes' walk or 1km from parking, this narrow gully is easily identified by a large boulder spanning it near its end. On the L (south) side of the gully are 3 short crack climbs. From L to R they are:



*** Hangover (19, 12m)** The somewhat strenuous first crack with a grainy start, yet the best of the three. Bring #4 and #5 Camalots. *Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.*

Legover (18, 10m) The broken crack in the middle of the wall. *Peter Thomas, Ross Weiter, Apr 2014.*

Pullover (17, 9m) The right crack. Trend R for 4m, then pull up to jugs and straight up to top. *Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.*

GRAIN WAVES AREA

GPS: S 34°28'59.4" E 119°23' 02.7" Twenty five minutes' walk or 2.5km from parking is this large rock alcove. Descend down the easy ramp on its west side and on its east side notice a "pink sausage", the pink mineral is called *plagioclase feldspar*.



***** Grain Waves (40m, 20)** See cover photo. Descend to the lowest point on the south side but only if the sea state makes it safe to do so. Locate the single FH 10m above the sea. Swing up and 2m L and climb the corner/crack above the R-facing corner, using Camalots to #4. When this ends tackle the awesome grey face above, past 7 FHs. Trad belay on large nuts and medium cams. Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.

*** Salvation (25m, 15)** Up L side of slab 6m L of *Slabulus* past 2 FH to ledge left of massive block. Clip FH, pull left then up L face past FH, then right along crack to fifth FH. 5FH all up, #1 Camalot is optional. The trad belay is fiddly so set it before starting. Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.

Slabulus (14m, 12) Climb the L edge of the white streak 5m L of *Cornerius*. The only gear is #2 and #3 Camalots half way up, crux is 3m above them. Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.

Cornerius (14m, 8) Up the L-facing corner at R end of slab. Peter Thomas, Ross Weiter, Apr 2014.

Superknobulus (15m, 20) Start 5m above *Knobulus* so belayer can see your efforts as you tackle the knobby wall by the crack for 5m. Finish as for *K*. #4 Camalot is essential for the top. Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.

*** Knobulus (20m, 17)** Use cobblestone knobs to start up the steep face but escape to the right and onto the slabby wall. Directly up to overlap, then high step to top. #4 Camalot is essential for the top. Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.

* **Chipolata off the Old Block (35m, 16)** The left (upper) side of the right-rising pink streak. Crux is the overhanging corner 5m up. *Peter Thomas, Ross Weiter, Apr 2014.*

* **Chorizolic (40m, 12)** The first climb done here. Follows the right (lower) side of the pink streak of rock. Great gear and huge holds. *Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Apr 2014.*



The enjoyable staircase of *Chorizolic (12)*.