

# New Climbs at West Cape Howe

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**Cover:** Brian Tan not on a new climb but the oldie-and-goodie *Dancing the Deep Blue* (26).

**Contributors:** all Jim Nevin routes by Jim, all Ross Weiter routes by Ross, all Conrad Slee routes by Conrad, description of *Havana* by Brett Dennis, description of *Zeus* by Logan Barber, corrections to *Better Than Chocolate* by Scott Camps. All photos by Ross Weiter.

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Throne of the Gods - The Throne Room

## OLD MAN AREA

Immediately north of the Old Man of Torbay sea stack is a cliff topped by an overhanging nose above a large wave-cut platform. From near the nose abseil 20m down to the platform.

### Glass Staircase (19, 26m)

The wall L of the nose. Climb a shallow off-vertical open book with cracks for several meters to vertical rock. Move L over a small overhang onto a L rising ramp beneath an overhanging wall. From a resting spot on the ramp continue L along an overlap with a jam crack. Ignore the first crack/corner that vertically splits the top half of the wall. Where overlap curls upward step L and pull up desperately to sit in a small awkward corner. Up corner to ledge and 3m corner to top.

*Conrad Slee, Lord Jim, Dec 2002.*

### Blow Wave (14, 15m)

The face and arete to the R and around corner from the prow. From the R end of the platform step 2 m R onto the face. Follow the vertical seam that trends slightly L 1m R of the arete.

*Conrad Slee, Mr Kurtz, Dec 2002.*

## THE SWALLOW

### \* The Devil Direct (18, 20m)

Starts from the broad ledge where pitch 2 of *Little Devil* (not Little Devil as stated in the guide) starts.

(i) 13m. From the start of the right trending crack a direct line up past 2BR's then steeper wall above protected with small to medium cams and a BR at the crux(hangers required).

(ii) As for *Little Devil*.

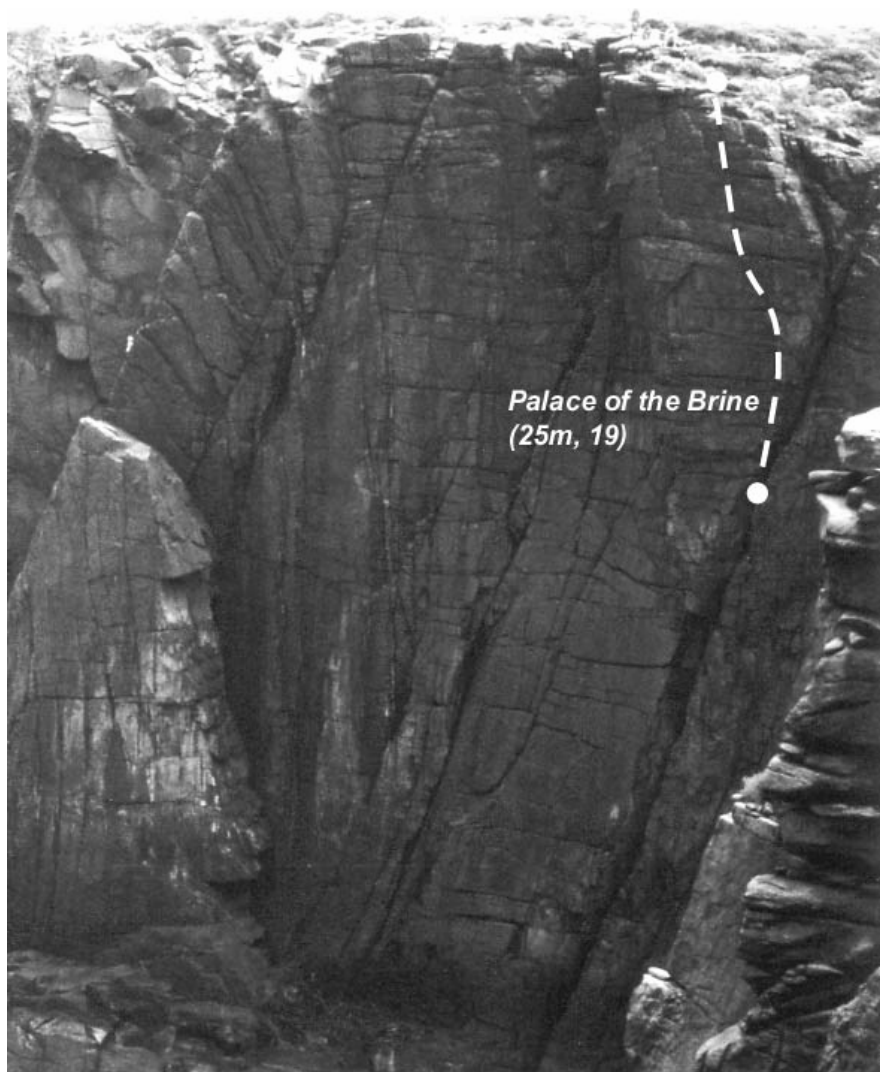
*P. Maher, J. Nevin, Nov 2013*

## BLACK WALL

### \* Palace of the Brine (19, 25m)

Abseil to belay ledge. Up crack system on R side of the *Dreaded Lurgy* buttress.

*Ross Weiter, Jon Gregg, Dec 2000*







## SOUTHERN OCEAN WALL

The next two climbs are on the undercut slab just right of the corner of The Black Wall and Southern Ocean Wall.

### Happy Clam (16, 22m)

Starts from the left of the rising horizontal crack about 22m down. Climb slightly left of the centre of the slab. The crux is just past the BR at half height. DBB (hangers required). *J. Nevin, P. Maher, Nov 2013.*

### Shellfish Bastard (13, 22m)

Belay right of H.C. and climb the arete. *P. Maher & J. Nevin, Nov 2013.*

### Schatz (11, 27m)

Just right of the slab there is a broad wall (2nd from B.W. & S.O.W. corner). At the right of this wall there is a wide crack which runs about 27 m down to a belay ledge. Bridge up either side of the wide crack, then slightly left through a steeper section. Bring larger protection up to Black Diamond #3 & #4 cams for bottom section. *J. Nevin, R. Watson, Jul 2012.*

### \* Anthrax Ripple (13, 37m)

This older climb on the **Carousel Wall** has had 2 BRs and top belay added. It takes the slab right of *Dairymilk Dive*. Excellent protection in the horizontal cracks & 2BRs. *J. Nevin, D. Egeland & D. Algie, Dec 1997.*





The **Red Back Buttress** (photo above) sits on the east side of the chasm east of the **Stooges Wall**. Rap down from the single bolt at top (situated at **YBEYW**), backed up by a cam. The first route needs a bottom belay, others have good stances.

**\* Have a Go (20, 15m)**

This route is where the 1998 *South Coast Rock* guidebook wrongly shows *Red Back*. The steep start with a thin finger crack looks unlikely but the crux is at the second bolt half way up. Two bolts with fixed hangers; bring a #3 C4 Camalot for bottom belay and small cams and nuts for route. *Conrad Slee, Ross Weiter, Dec 2013.*

**\*\* You Better Eat Your Wheaties (21, 18m)**

Start at flake with right-facing "ear", 5m below small overlap. Up to overlap, turn this on left, then trend left to roof. Clip the bolt and pull through using climbing-gym power. The biggest cam needed is #0.75 C4 Camalot. *Ross Weiter, Conrad Slee, Dec 2013.*

**\* Black Widow (19, 20m)**

Start as for *Red Back* at left end of low roof; #3 Camalot is essential to protect the start, another one (or #4) for top. Up left-trending corner/crack to half height. At this point *RB* traverses right to platform and continues up horrible choss and final corner. Instead, continue trending left to finish up steep but easy wall. Excellent trad route! *Ross Weiter, Conrad Slee, Dec 2013.*

The next climb is in the **First Route Gully**.

**\*\* Havana (19, 40m)**

Start 3m right of *An Easy Day for Gentlemen*. The climb heads up superb orange/black rock on the bulging blunt prow which runs parallel to *AEDFG* and is slightly overhanging for much of the route. The climb is conspicuous for its glued in stainless U-bolts, there are at least 6 well-spaced U-bolts plus some natural pro. *R. Tyson, 1998.*

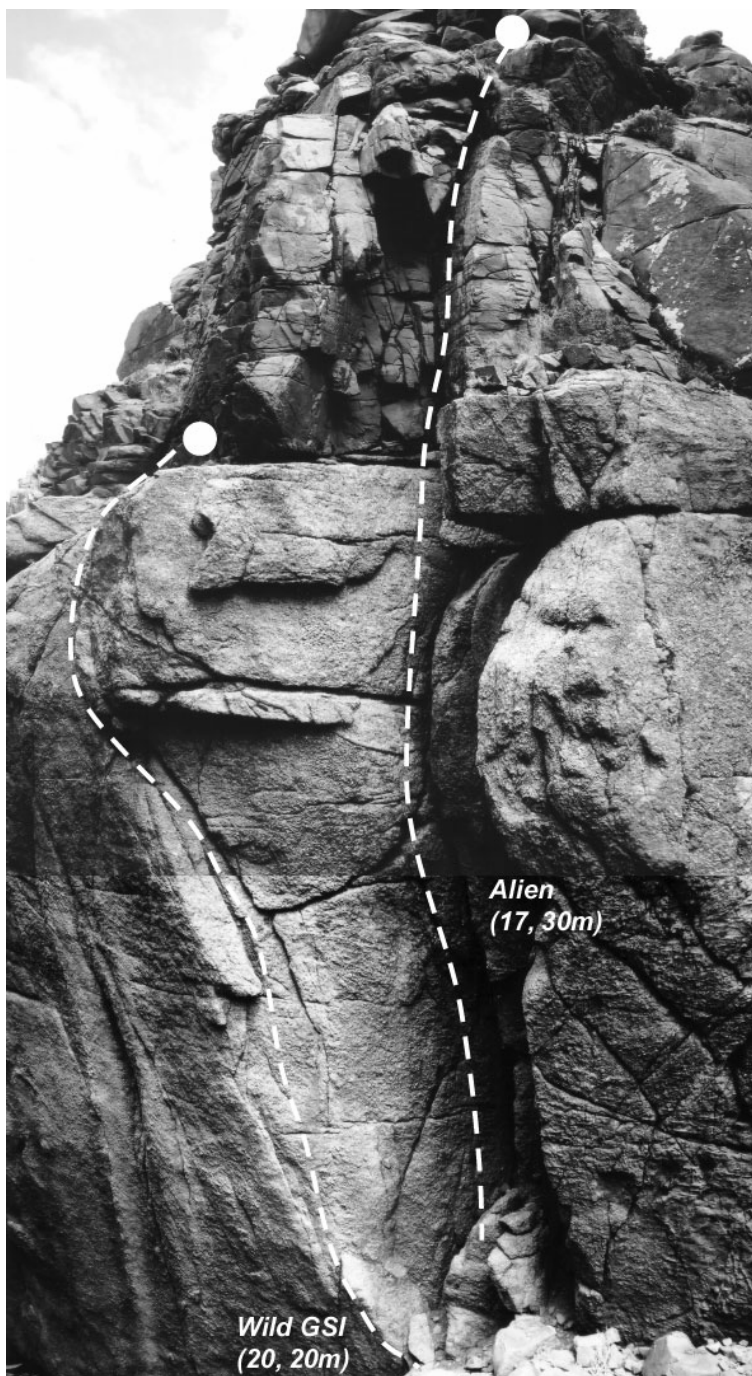
## THE RAFT

### \*\*\* Better Than Chocolate (75m, 21) – correction of route description

from email by Scott Camps, May 2013: I clarify a route I climbed at West Cape Howe back in 1993 *Better Than Chocolate* which I then graded 19. It is incorrectly reported in Shane Richardson's South Coast Rock guide to the left of its actual position. When it should have actually been described as the shallow finger crack corner immediately to the right of description in the guide, then ascends the middle of the beautiful chocolate wall left of The Mincer. In 2006 I repeated this route and believed it to be more like 21 but was appalled to find it had been mindlessly retro bolted?

### \*\* Dark Arts (15, 25m)

Takes a steep line up the wall around the arête right of *Vulture Street*. Belay below the overhanging corner and take a direct line to the DBB just right of the arête. 4 BRs and small to medium cams plus large ones for the bottom belay. J. Nevin, K. Hartley & J. O'Herlihy, Jan 2011.



## STYX GULLY

### Alien (17, 30m)

No one will hear you scream...5m R of *Wild G.S.I.* are two cracks. Start up the left one for 15m to gain black rock, then up the narrow wall and arête right of shallow corner to top. Somewhat gnarly low down.

Ross Weiter, Jon Gregg, Sept 1998.



## Red Back Buttre



## THRONE OF THE GODS

The first two climbs are on **Claw's Wall**. The descent gully at the left end of Claw's Wall is dicey near the bottom and some parties may want to abseil it. This wall is in the shade all afternoon, is shielded from western and southern winds and does not get sea spray (is high above and recessed).

### \* Gatling (19, 30m)

Follow the left edge of the Pistolero buttress. Absorbing face climbing all the way, 9 fixed hangers and a #1 C3 Camalot between bolts 1 and 2. Lower-offs at top (60m rope). *Ross Weiter, Conrad Slee, Dec 2013.*

### \* Pistolero (18, 30m)

Up the finger crack 5m L of *Delicatessen* to an excellent memorable finish trending left through cracked roof on jugs. Rock looks chossy but isn't. Trad gear; use lower-offs of *Gatling*. FA was done on sight. *Ross Weiter, Jon Gregg, Dec 2002.*

The next climb is in **The Throne Room** (see page 2) and needs reasonably calm seas.

### Zeus (A1/A2, 20 obligatory, 80m)

This direct line goes up the main wall on the left side of the Throne Room. The crack goes directly up for 80m through several roof cracks. Done on trad gear aid, with only minor free climbing. It was done in 6 pitches due to drag from the all the roofs. A committing adventurous outing and will be a test piece free route at ~26/27? Bolted anchors were placed before and after the first major roof so people can bail and to make things user friendly as a variant in this roof is being worked that hopefully people will jump on as a separate single pitch route. *Logan Barber, Scott Boladeras, Jan 2010.*