

Whaleback Mini Guide

First Edition May 2005

INTRO

Waves crash over the back of an ancient whale long fused to the bedrock. A lone climber is poised at the crux in a classic highstep pose, a dark silhouette against the gold of the settling sun. A gentle breeze infused with the subtle but unmistakable aroma of the sea cools his sweat and calms his nerves before the final lunge to the last hold...Are you the lone climber?

The combination of idyllic settings and great bouldering makes Whaleback a special bouldering experience and should not be missed.

ACCESS

Follow the access maps. A 4WD vehicle is required to drive within 25m of the main boulders. Do not be discouraged if you only have 2WD as the walk from the 2WD parking area is not too severe. For interstate and international visitors, numerous road maps are available from service stations etc to help you find your way from Perth to Margaret River

STYLE

Varied climbing on solid grey-orange metamorphic gneiss with perfect texture and flat landings.

SCOPE

27 problems listed plus numerous warm-ups, variants and fun contrivances. Grades range from V0-V8 with potential for a few more in the harder grades. The LONE BOULDER has nice lines including potential roof problems. There is also some trad climbing on the walls above the main boulders

CREW

Ben Fleming and Marc Edwards put up the first problems early in 2002. An assault in 2003 by Andy Lampard & Chris Jones captured most of the harder classics. Few of the harder problems have been repeated.

RECOMMENDED

Everything!. A Crab Called Wanda (&Direct), Bad Boys, Lost in Atlantis, The Long Road Home and Gentlemen Prefer Lobster are must-do's (tries?)

TIMING

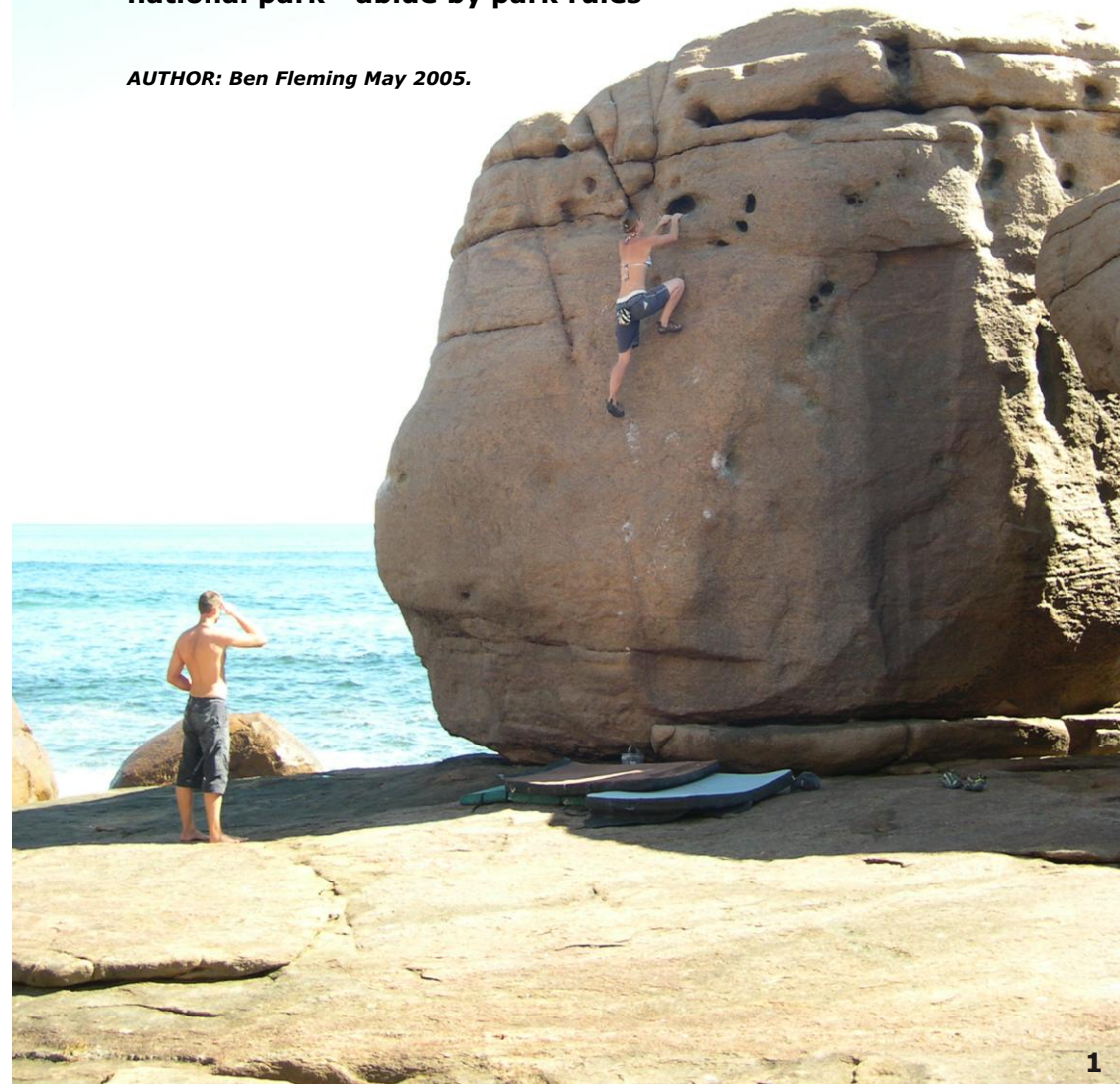
Best on cold, calm and dry winter days - the friction is fantastic. Due the proximity to the ocean temperatures rarely exceed 30°C and climbing in relative comfort is possible all year round. Calm days are best as the boulders can become spray-soaked. The boulders dry very quickly after rain.

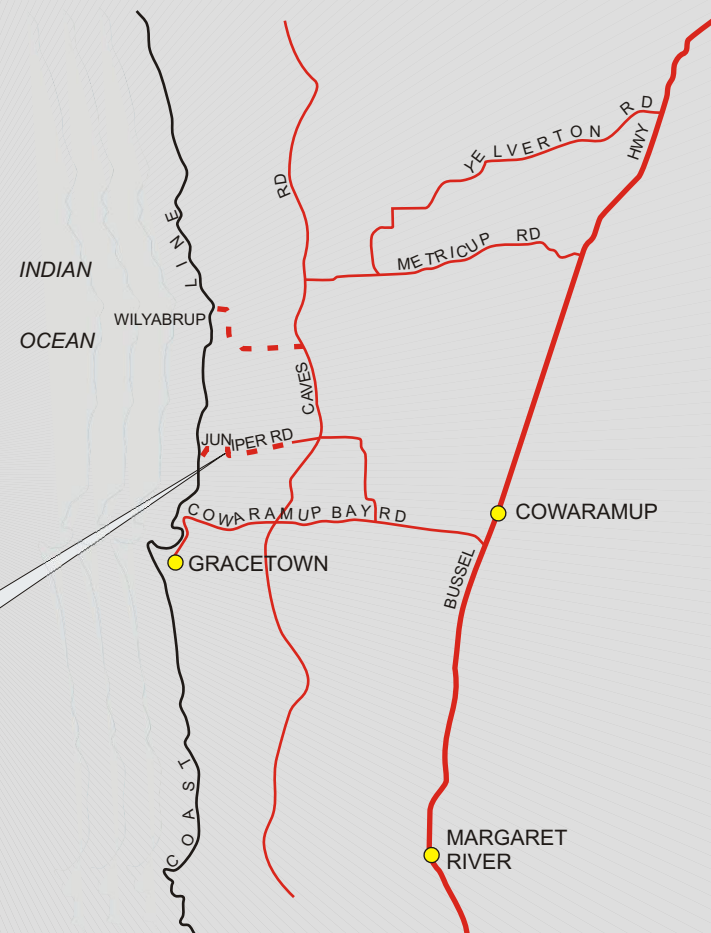
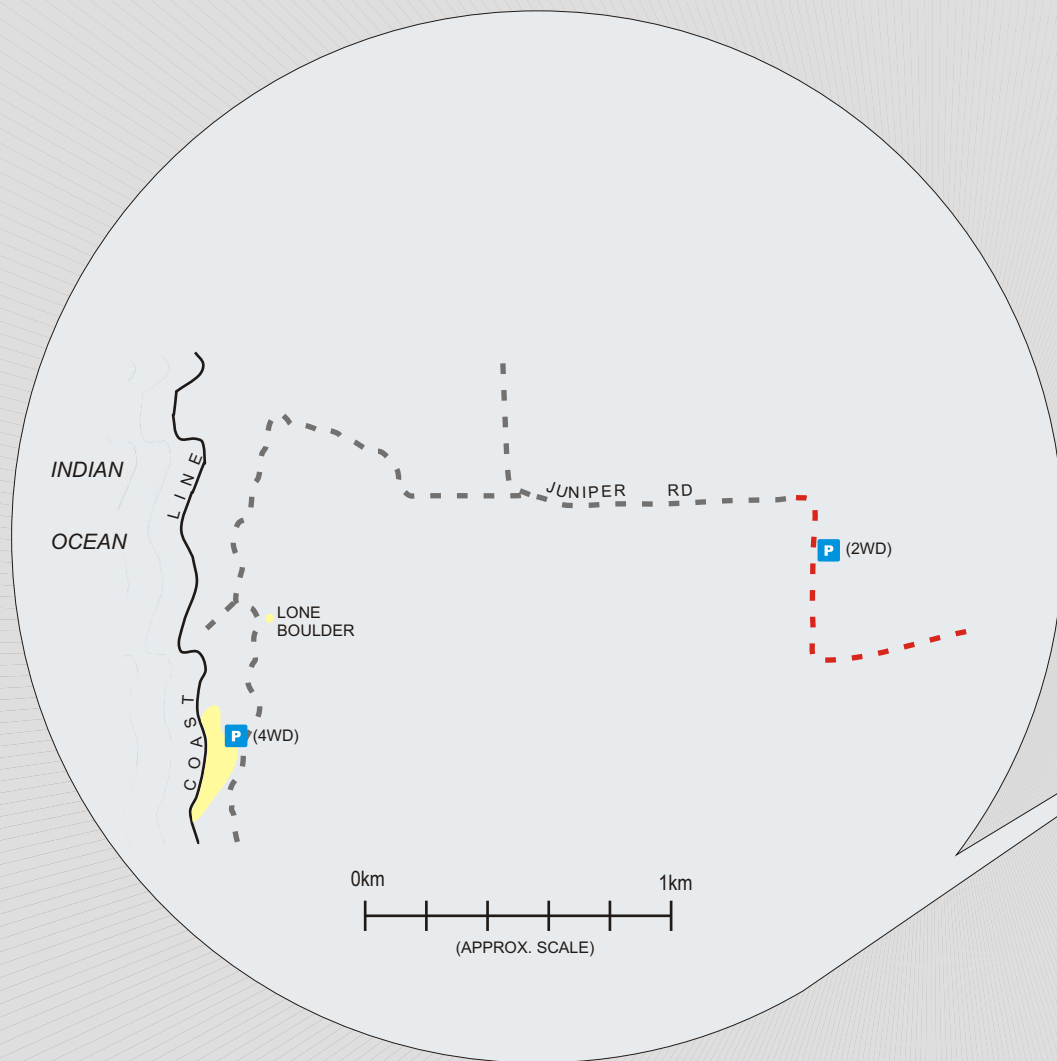
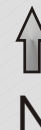
Note: Sunset bouldering on a calm Summer day is MAGIC!

ETHICS

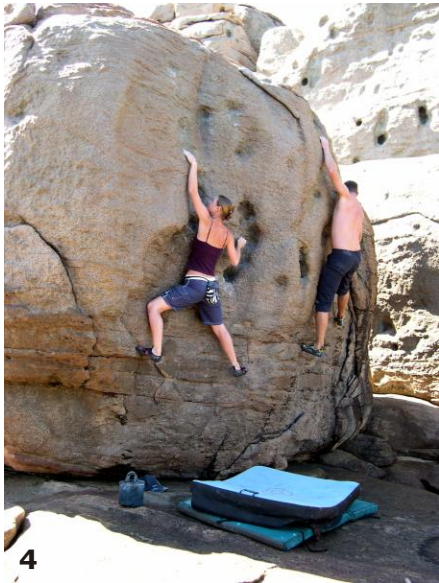
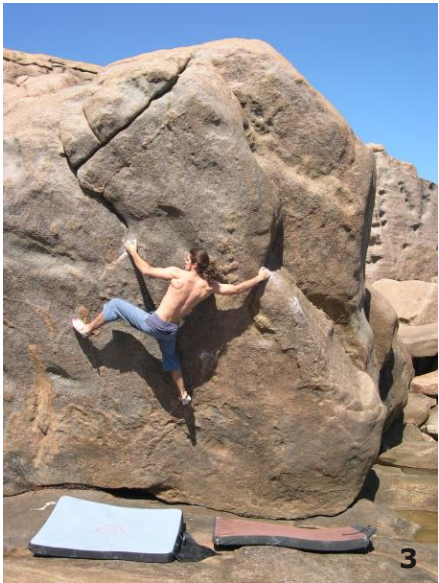
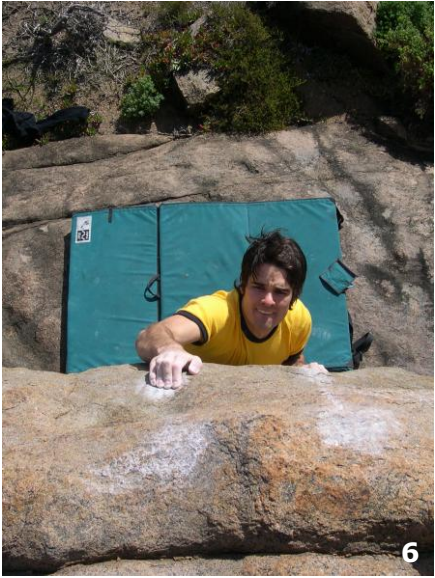
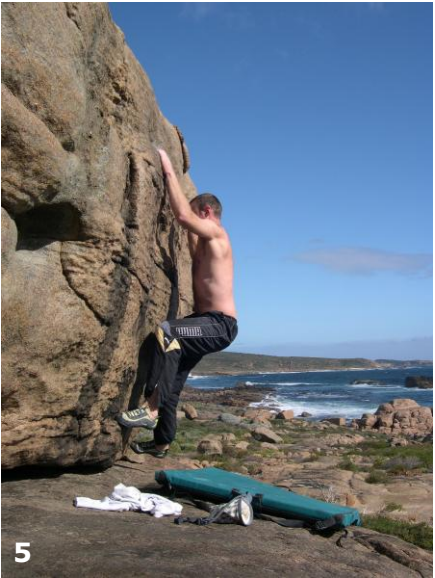
Absolutely no bolting! Problems you think could use a bolt have more than likely already been soloed. The bouldering is in a national park - abide by park rules

AUTHOR: Ben Fleming May 2005.





WHALEBACK ACCESS MAP


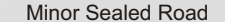


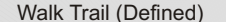
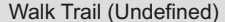







PHOTOS





1. Kate nearly home on The Long Road Home (Lost in Atlantis starts 2m right). 2. The boulders, note whaleback in the top left, boulders visible (from left) are 5,3,1,4 with 6 in the foreground. 3. Andy strikes the classic pose on Bad Boys. 4. Kate on Slippery Crab and Steve on Bacon Balls. 5. Steve playing on boulder #7. 6. Andy pulling on a 'slimper', boulder #7. 7. Kate cranking on Bad Boys. 8. The classic line of A Crab Called Wanda.

AUTHOR: Ben Fleming May 2005.

MAP LEGEND

 Major Sealed Road	 Minor Sealed Road
 Gravel/Dirt Road 2WD	 Gravel/Dirt Road 4WD
 Walk Trail (Defined)	 Walk Trail (Undefined)
 Watercourse	 Boulder Problem (photo)

 Parking Area	 Gate	 Bridge
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	Boulder Cluster (Overview Maps)
	Boulder With Problems (Topo's)
	Cairn (used for marking trails)
	Prominent tree or bush

