

PEAK HEAD NEW ROUTES

Written By Mark Thake Version 1.0

RICH HARTHEN ON 'STORM IN A TEACUP' (PHOTO: GEORGE FIRTH)

INTRO The following routes have been developed in a modern abseil in/climb out style, and ensures any willing climber some breathtaking positions above the Southern Ocean. Most routes link cracks via technical faces and slabs, on generally excellent quality rock. Please bear in mind that these routes have only had 1 or 2 ascents, so there has not yet been a second opinion on grades. If you haven't been to Peak Head before, a copy of either Shane Richardson's 'South Coast Rock' or 'West Australian Rock' guides will fill you in on all the existing routes and access descriptions.

GETTING THERE From Albany, make your way to Frenchman Bay Rd via Hanrahan Rd or Princess Royal Dr. Follow Frenchman Bay Rd for about 20km, passing the turn-offs to the gap and the blowholes until you reach Stony Hill Rd on the right. Turn here and head uphill, taking the left turn into the short gravel road and carpark, just before the main carpark. The well-defined track takes you to the summit in about 40mins.

GEAR You will need at least a 60 metre rope and about 12 quickdraws, a trad rack (with a couple of extra medium/ large-ish cams for the top abseil). A 100m static rope is very beneficial to access the beginning of the routes, and can serve as a bail rope in case you crap yourself or if the weather turns nasty. All routes have been equipped with stainless steel chemical anchors where no natural protection exists.

SOUTH FACE

(1) ** Walking On Sunshine 100m, 20

Fantastic climbing on excellent rock, in a great position. Originally climbed in Andreas Roilo and Ken Bennet in 1992, with the aid of a knotted static rope for the leader's protection. This route has recently had 6 bolts added, so all you need is a standard rack of quickdraws, nuts and cams. This climb starts as for Albatross, at the far southern end of the West face, which is reached by skirting the slabs encountered on the approach around to the west and downhill.

- (1) 20m, 19** Start up the right-leading crack system as for Albatross, then after 3m climb the vertical crack. Continue up the face above past 2 bolts to belay off cams on right end of ledge.
- (2) 40m, 20** Up the short crack left of the belay, then step left into another crack and climb on to right leading ramp. Head straight up the headwall following 4RBs (crux at 4th), then through the overlap to belay on blocky ledge (same belay as for Albatross).
- (3) 40m, 15** Step off block onto short slab, then follow the easy right-leading ramp as for albatross.

(Equipped; Mark Thake, Andreas Roilo 07/11/2010)

To access the ledge at the top of the following routes, walk to the summit of Peak head, then head southwest and down to the boulders where the final belay of Albatross is (see photo below). Abseil off natural gear 25m (passing 3RB on the way- last pitch of Long Time Coming) to the obvious ledge (about 8m long x 2m wide) directly below. Routes numbered 2-6 end up on this ledge and share the same last pitch to the top.



Abseil from boulders...



....To this ledge

2RBB

(2) ***Long Time Coming, 80m 25

A memorable route in a spectacular position with some superb face and crack climbing. You will need about 8-10 quickdraws, nuts and cams to #2 camalot.

Locate 2RBB in wall above the left end (facing the cliff) of the ledge, and abseil 30m (angle slightly leftwards) past 5RB to next 2RBB on face (3m above top of a crack- watch the ends of your rope as this really is 30m!). From here, another abseil 20m down to the next 2RBB at left of long, narrow ledge.

- (1) **23m, 25** Step left from ledge and head up steepening face past 3 bolts, with crispy crux moves rightwards from 3rd bolt to the base of the crack. Climb the crack till it's end, then up face to 2RBB.
- (2) **30m, 20** Fantastic climbing up sustained face passing 5RB to ledge, then head right and up short corner to 2RBB on next ledge.
- (3) **27m, 15** Step left 2 metres from belay and climb slab passing 3RB to belay at boulders.

Equipped; Mark Thake, George Firth FA(pitch 1); Mark Thake (08/11/2009)
FA(pitch 2,3); Andreas Roilo, Mark Thake (03/05/2009)

(3) *Mist-Defied, 60m 18

From 2RBB on left edge of ledge, abseil slightly rightwards heading into the obvious wide crack. Follow it down to its base(30m), to belay in crack on ledge.

(1) 33m, 18 Climb the crack up to the left leading bongo flake, then teeter across till its end. Straight up the face from here, past a FH to ledge and 2RBB.

(2) 27m, 15 head left and up slab as for *Long Time Coming*.

(Equipped; George Firth, Rich Harthen FA; Mark Thake, Andreas Roilo 03/05/2009)

(4) *Mist Opportunity, 57m 20

From 2RBB on ledge, abseil slightly rightwards (facing cliff) and belay in base of crack as for *Mist Defied*.

(1) 30m, 20 Climb crack as for *Mist-Defied*, But instead of following the left-leading flake, head straight up crack till it ends. Continue up the face above passing 2 FH to ledge and belay off blocks, or head a few metres left to 2RBB.

(2) 27m, 15 Up slab as for Long Time Coming.

(Equipped; George Firth, Rich Harthen FA; Mark Thake, Andreas Roilo 03/05/2009)

(5) *Headwind, 97m 25**

Excellent face climbing up the centre of the head's south face. To access the start of this route, abseil as for ' *Mist-Defied* ' and ' *Mist Opportunity* '. Continue descending a further 25m following the bolt trail to the narrow ledge with a 2RBB on it (beginning of pitch 2). Pitch 1 begins at a 2RBB another 10 metres below and left (facing cliff) from here.

(1) 10m , 21 Move right from 2RBB to climb feature passing 2 bolts to ledge. Walk a few metres right to 2RBB.

(2) 27m, 25 The amazing face passing 6 RB, then an unlikely crux move to reach the short cracks. Follow these rightwards (nuts and sml cams) to belay in base of crack at the start of *Mist-Defied* ' and ' *Mist Opportunity* '.

(3) + (4) As for *Mist-Defied* ' and ' *Mist Opportunity* '.

Equipped; Mark Thake + FA; 08/11/2010

(6) * Storm In A Teacup, 55m 21**

A fantastic route with a great mix of crack and face climbing. You'll need cams from # 0.3 to #2 camalot, nuts and quickdraws.

Rig up an abseil off blocks about 6m right (facing cliff) of the 2RBB on ledge. Head down face passing a few RB's, then a prominent crack to a 2RBB about 4m below it. (30m-watch the ends of your rope!!)

(1) 30m, 21 Balancy moves past the first bolt get you established in the crack. Climb the crack until it's end, clip the bolt on the face above, then traverse left to another bolt and head up the scoop. Exit right from the top of the scoop and run it out up the juggy left-leading weakness to RB, then up heading slightly right past a last RB to belay ledge.

(2) 25m, 15 Walk left on ledge to 2RBB and climb slab past 3 bolts as for *Long Time Coming*.

(Equipped; Rich Harthen FA; Rich Harthen , Mark Thake 13/03/2009)



ON THE FA OF 'STORM IN A TEACUP'

- (1) Walking On Sunshine (19,20,15)
- (2) Long Time Coming (25,20,15)
- (3) Mist-Defied (18)
- (4) Mist-Opportunity (20)
- (5) Headwind (21,25)
- (6) Storm In A Teacup (21)

● = natural gear belay

xx = 2 ring bolt belay

x = bolt

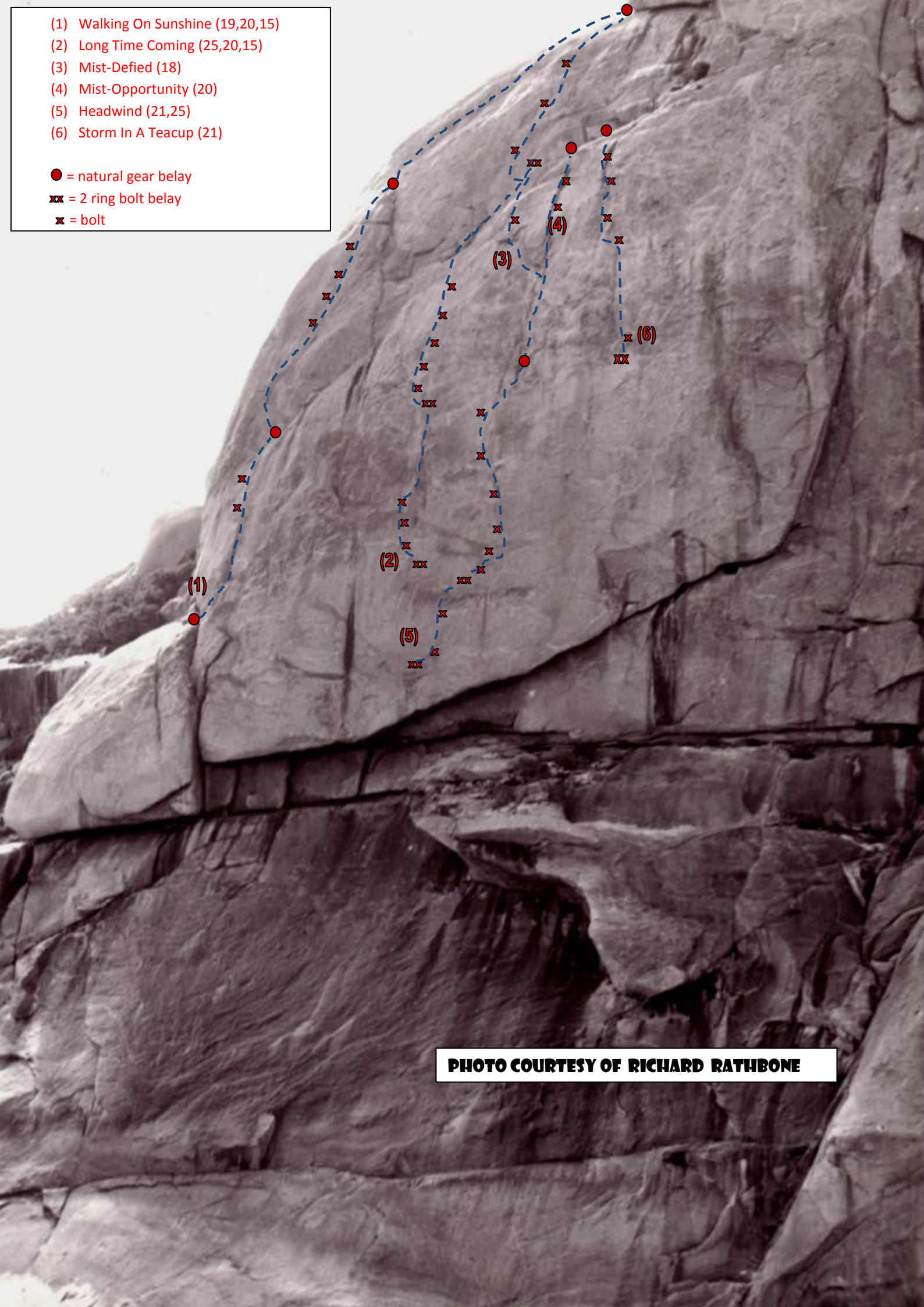


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD RATHBONE

The following routes begin on Stirling Terrace, to the east of *On The Lee Side Direct*.

Access: If you have a 100m rope and you want to abseil to the start of *Schizophrenia Face*, follow the cairns marking the tourist track towards the top of peak head. About 40m before you reach the top, veer to your left and scramble down the short slab into the scrub (see below). Skirt around and down the blocks to a cave/alcove.



Access To Alcove

Summit

Set your rope at the right end (facing uphill) off some cams in the horizontal break.

If you only have a 60m rope, you can rappel as for *Long Time Coming* to reach the west end of Stirling Terrace.

(7) *Oof-diddely-doof, 95m 23

Pitch (1) 40m, 22 Start up the crack as for *Farewell To Arms*, then at 4m step left onto face (RB) and head up to ledge. Walk left 2m to short vertical crack and some good gear placements. Up on great holds trending slightly rightwards past another 2RB to overlap (small-med cams). Highstep over this then blast up the face passing another 7RB to stance and 2RBB.

(2) 20m, 19 A Great pitch! Head up the thin finger crack and right trending hand crack to ledge, then take the steep layback crack to top. Scramble onto the large ledge to belay.

(3) 35m, 23 Climb the crack of *On The Lee Side Direct* till you can traverse left along the prominent dyke to clip RB. Ooze your way up and into the slick groove above (passing 3 more RB), then run it out to belay in the alcove.

(8) *Schizophrenia Face, 100m 23

Nice climbing involving some really varied terrain. You will need cams to #3 (camalot), nuts and quickdraws.

This route starts at the left of the prominent black-streaked face, about 15-20m right of Farewell To Arms, on Stirling Terrace.

(1) 30m, 23 Have some fun getting off the ground to clip first bolt, then thin moves diagonally rightwards to reach a welcome hold and 2nd bolt. Fantastic climbing up the steep featured face takes you past 3 more bolts, until you are forced to head right at the overlap. A crispy move past the final bolt brings you to a welcome hold. Mantle onto the slab to reach 2RBB. 7 Bolts and a nut/small cam between 2nd and 3rd bolt.

(2) 40m, 21 Step left from belay and climb the slab direct passing 6RB along the way until the angle eases, then run it out to the sloping ledge. From here, traverse left 2 metres and climb the short crack/flake (camalot #0.75-3 and nuts). Once on top, a couple of moves lands you on a large vegetated ledge (2RBB).

(3) 30m, 23 Climb steep corner crack, then reach right to clip RB. Step right and over bulge (crux) to reach good holds and nut placement. Easily up to face above past another bolt and some natural gear placements until you mantle onto a horizontal dyke. Move left 2m to clip the bolt at the crux of On The Lee Side Direct, then up the slab past one more bolt to reach 2RBB. Scramble left and up to alcove at the top.

Equipped: Mark Thake

FA: Andreas Roilo, Mark Thake 30/12/2009



SOME OF THE LOCALS

- (7) Oof-Diddely-Doof (22,19,23)
(8) Schizophrenia Face (23,21,23)

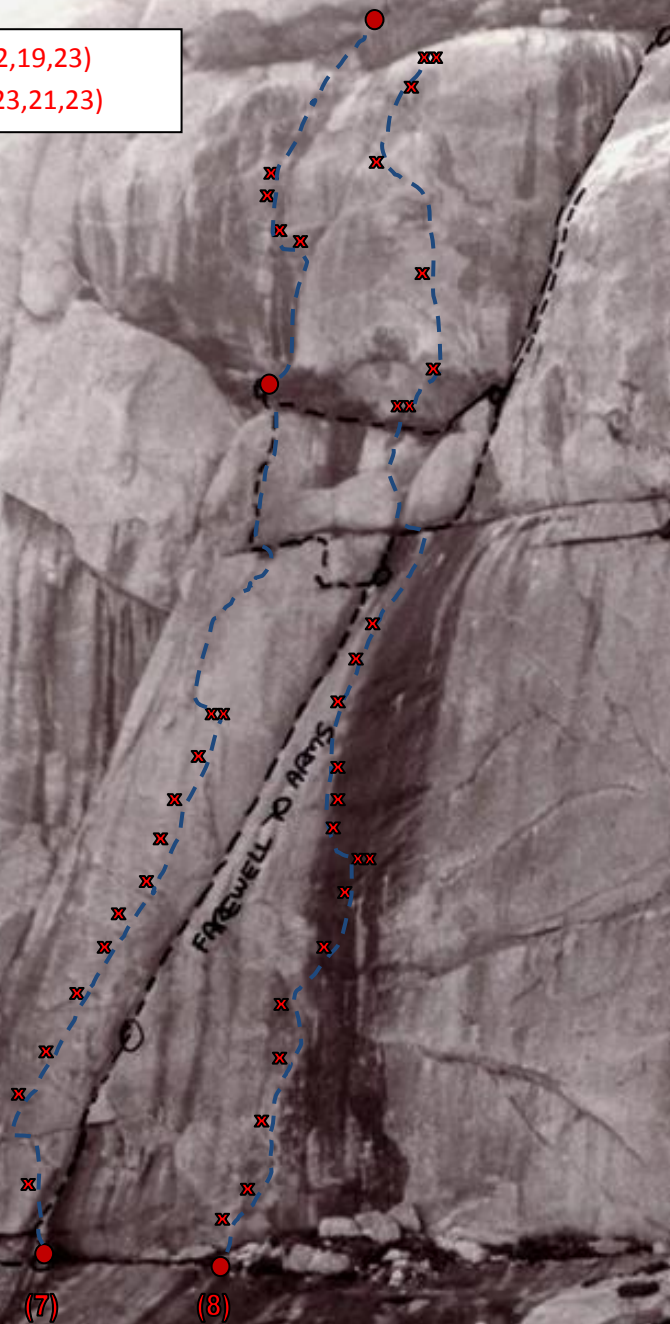


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD RATHBONE