



Lost Buttress Climbing Guide

Krish Seewraj

Warning about Rock Climbing

Keep in mind that this is only a guide, it helps climbers to find out what climbs have been recorded and that is all. The information given is true and accurate to the best of the author's knowledge.

Remember climbing is an adventure sport and as such accidents may result in serious injury or death. The grades and descriptions may be subject to debate as many of the climbs have only had a few actual and/or known ascents. Therefore, be warned that you must exercise your own judgment with regard to the route location, description, difficulty and your ability to safely protect yourself from the risks of rock climbing.

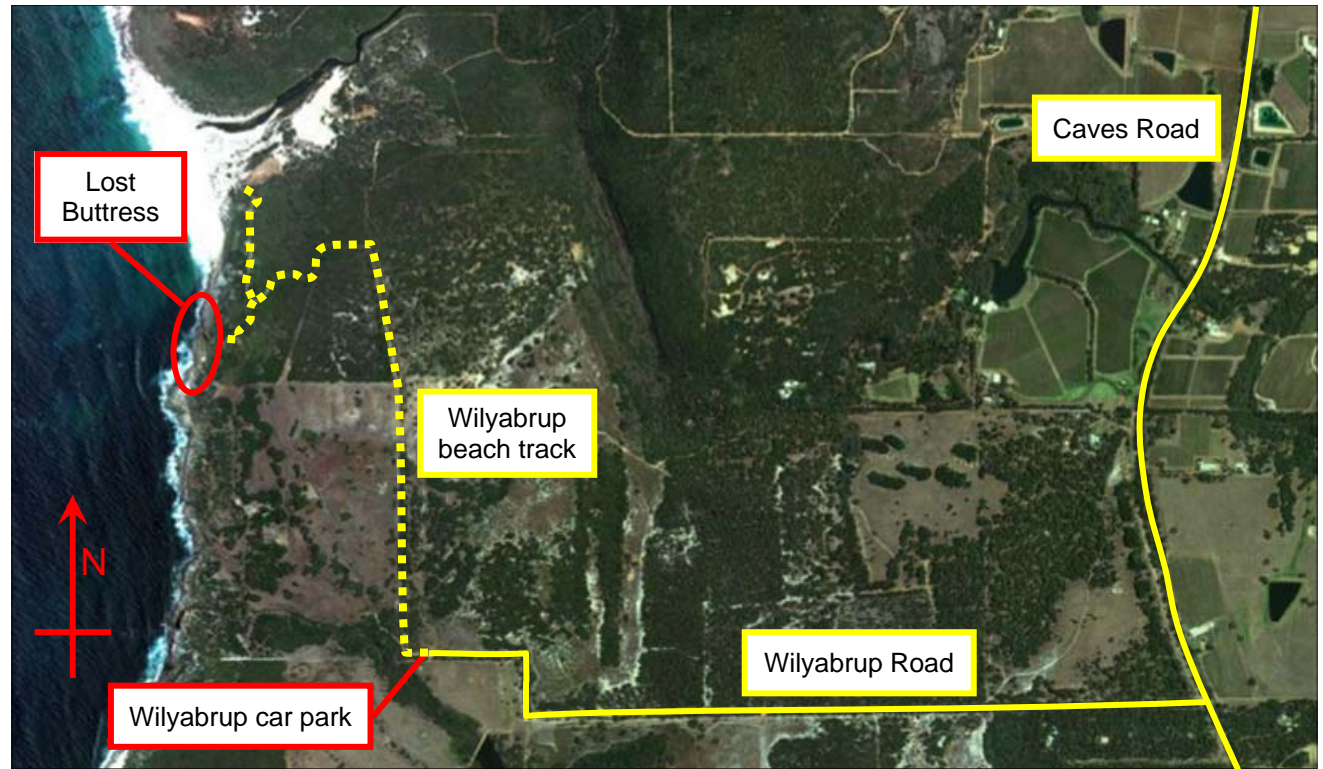
You should not depend on any information provided in this mini-guide for your personal safety. Your safety depends on your own experience, equipment and climbing skill. If you have any doubt as to your ability to safely attempt any route described in this mini-guide, do not attempt it. When you use this mini-guide, you accept and acknowledge the risk that it may contain errors. The responsibility for your safety is solely yours.



Krish Seewraj making his way up to the headwall on As the Crow Flies (22)

Introduction

There is evidence that this area has been previously visited by other climbers, however no written or verbal records of route descriptions or grades were available. During March 2013 Kym Hartley, Rob Crowder and Krish Seewraj visited this area and kept the records provided in this mini-guide.



Location and Access

The crag is approx 260km drive from Perth and as the crow flies is approximately 750m north of Wilyabrup's northern buttress.

Head towards Margaret River on the Bussell Highway. Approx 18km after the roundabout at Vasse Newtown turn right onto Metricup Road and when this ends turn left onto Caves Road. After 2.3km turn right onto Wilyabrup Road which is followed for 2.5km, where you will find the car parking area for Wilyabrup. From here Lost Buttress can be accessed either on foot or by driving practically to the top of the crag.

On foot hop over the sty and follow the walk path towards Wilyabrup. Before you reach the coast head north along the Cape to Cape walk trail. Lost Buttress is approx 15min walk from where the trail crosses Wilyabrup Brook just along from the northern buttress.

By car continue on the track that heads towards Wilyabrup beach, the track contains sections of soft and sometimes deep sand. Just before you get to the beach there is a sharp right bend, with a track heading off to the left. Follow this track for 150m to a small clearing above the crag.

From the clearing walk down the steep mostly sandy track being careful of loose limestone. Once at the bottom, the crag is clearly visible to the north, as is the playground to the south.

Rock, Protection & Grading

Lost Buttress is made up of gneissic rock with great holds, superb friction and generally solid rock. However, care is required when topping out and walking along the top. The crag is often subject to sea spray and the climbs have had few ascents so care is required, as loose holds may be encountered. While the crag offers only a small number of medium grade climbs, many of these are good quality offering great positions and exposure.

In addition to Lost Buttress one climb has been established on the wave washed wall just north of the crag. This wall may offer more lines, but it is usually wet so care is required. Several hundred metres south is the Playground, a 30m long boulder wall with long traverses, high top problems and a sandy landing.

All the routes in this guide have been ascended ground-up with natural protection, unless otherwise stated. A standard rack and a few bolt plates will suffice noting a full set of cams is advisable.

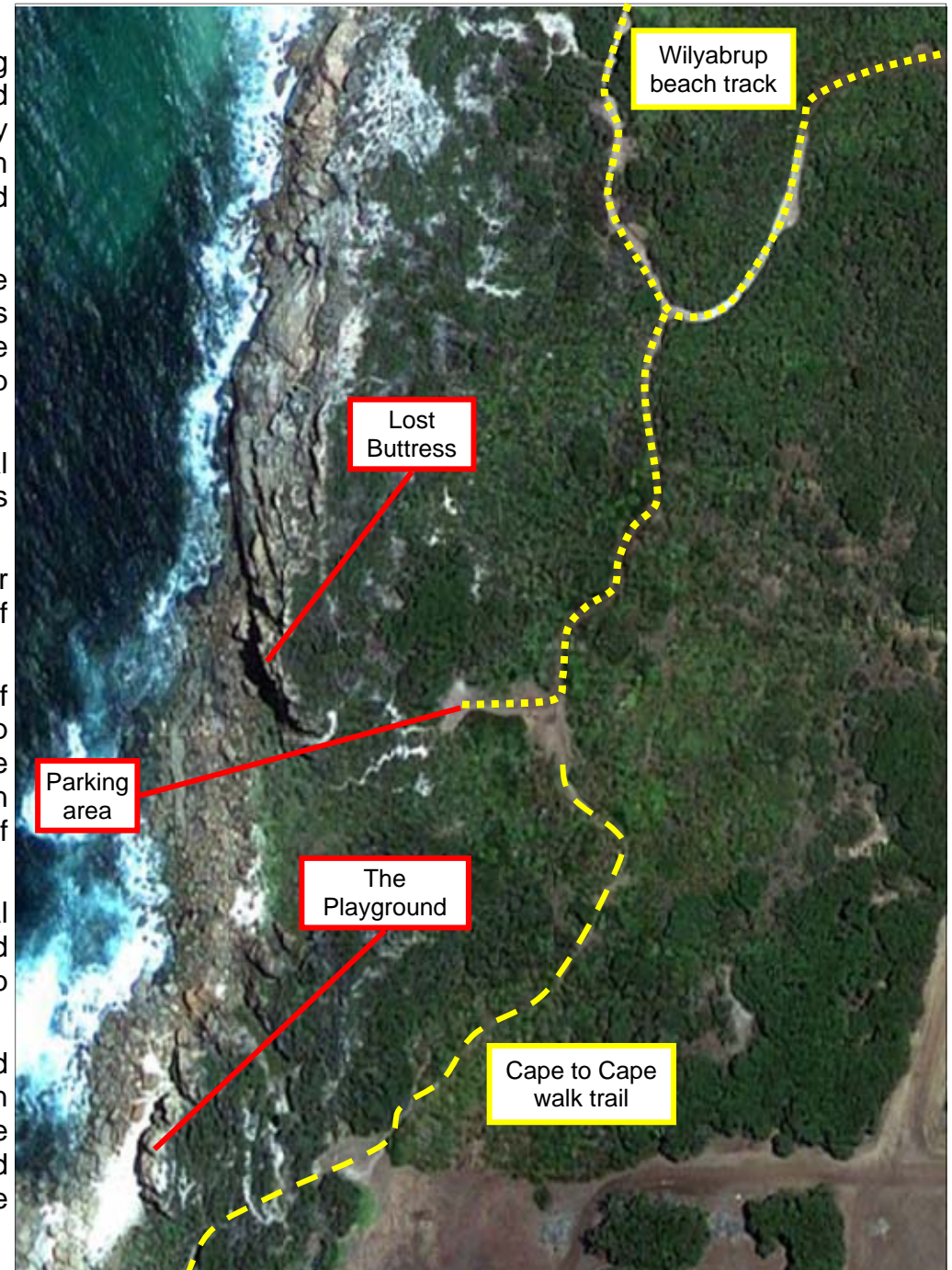
Several existing bolts were encountered at the top of the crag and their condition is unknown. These included one ringbolt (loose), a couple of fixed hangers and one GIMB.

Two new GIMBs have been placed on the slabby boulder at the top of Washing Away the Blues, Jenga and As the Crow Flies to make setting up the belay easier. There are also two ring bolts on the wall at the top of the gully between Airtime Over the Indian and Baby Shower, which makes an ideal abseil descent. Alternatively scramble down the gully to the north of the main crag.

Grading has and always will be a contentious issue, subject to personal preference, skills and stature. As such grades should always be treated cautiously and it is best to carefully read the description, look at the climb and make your own judgment before heading up.

Kym Hartley, Rob Crowder and myself had great fun in discovering and documenting this area. However, we knew the area had previously been visited by others so details recorded in this mini-guide do not claim to be first ascents. If proof of ascents made before these records were compiled can be provided, as well as any additional information or routes, then those routes will be renamed in future editions of this mini-guide upon request.

General Area Topo



Lost Buttress

Scarred for Life (7m 12)

Up the left hand end of the wave washed wall just north of Lost Buttress. Good horizontal breaks followed by small positive holds lead up the often wet wall. (Mar 2013)

10% Gym Junky (20m, 18)

Start low down at the base of the easy arête at the far left end of the crag. Amble up the arête to reach to ledge, then ape up the hanging arête. (Mar 2013)

Flashback (12m, 17)

Pleasant moves up the bottom wall, clip the BR followed by tricky moves to get established on the head wall. (Mar 2013)

St Patrick (12m, 12/10)

Weave you way up the lower wall heading left, right or over the bush. From the ledge the face provides great climbing (12) or alternatively bridge up the corner (10). (Mar 2013)

Washing Away the Blues (15m, 15)**

Enjoyable varied climbing. Head straight for and climb the face immediately right of the arête that offers a well protected out there feeling. (Mar 2013)

Jenga (15m, 14)**

A great consistent and airy climb, up the wall and then balance over the blocks before committing moves up the flake. (Mar 2013)

As the Crow Flies (15m, 22)***

The classic of the crag up the steepening wall with increasing difficulty before an outrageous move to get established on the final headwall. (Mar 2013)

Overexposed (18m, 16)**

A committing climb with good holds and gear. Up the slab and over the small overlap, then scramble up into the corner under the big roof. Traverse left into an exposed position and climb up into shallow corner. Step right along the horizontal break before finishing through the small three tiered roof. (Mar 2013)

Airtime Over the Indian (18m, 17)**

A route with lots of exposure. After the delicate slab pull through the off-width and into the corner until level with the BR on the left wall. Clip the BR before making a committing traverse to gain a stance on the hanging arête. Keep moving up and round the arête and pull through the overlaps. (Mar 2013)

Baby Shower (15m, 13)

Fun consistent climbing, up the unprotected slab, then make a bee line for the top on great holds. (Mar 2013)

No Nuts Required (15m, 13)*

A wonderful line, the bottom slab is protected by a BR after which the gear and holds come with some thought provoking moves in-between. Finish up the flake. (Mar 2013)



Krish Seewraj enjoying the positions on Airtime Over the Indian (17)

Lost Buttress





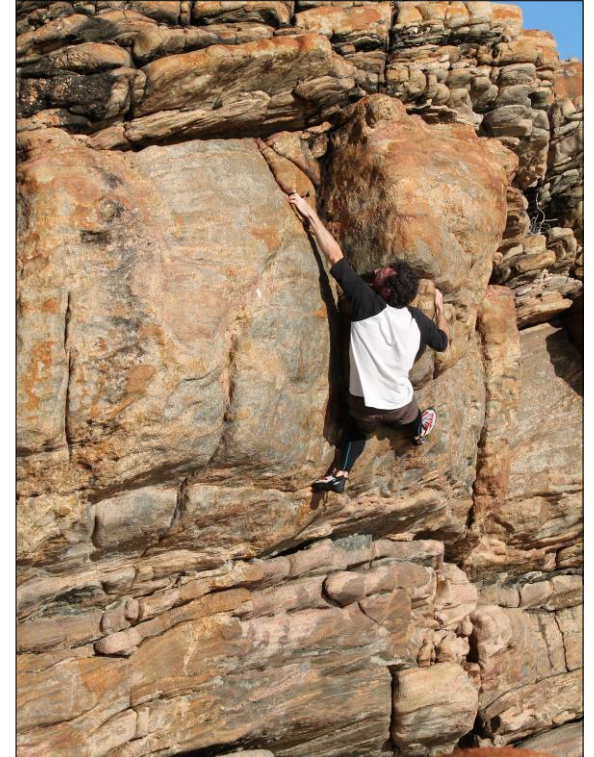
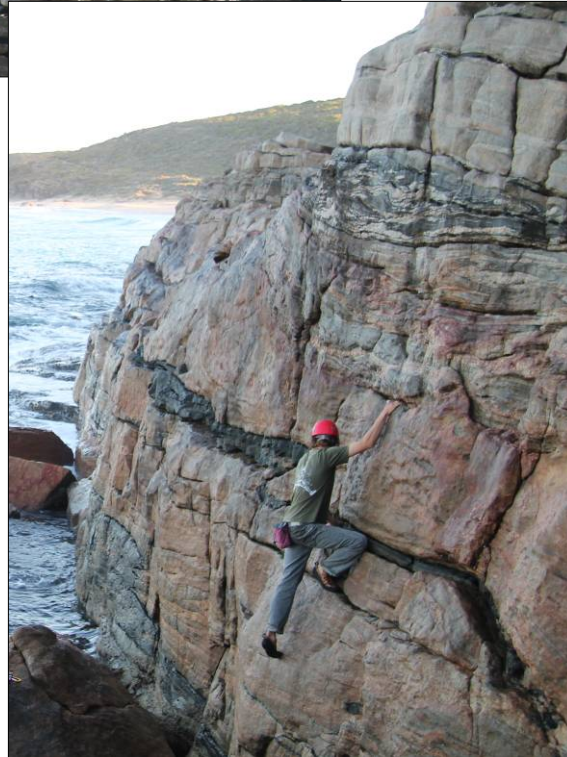
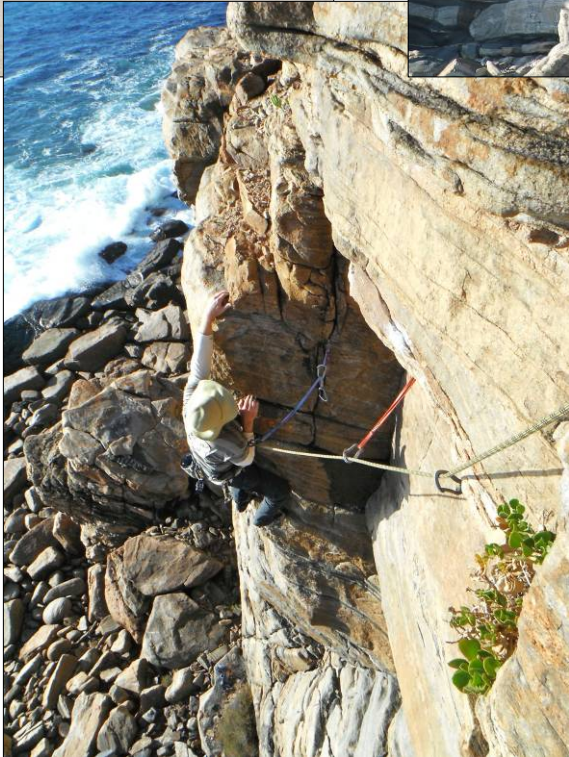
Top left: Leanne Dunlop testing out her new boots on The Playground

Top right: Steve Sterling enjoying the pleasant moves on No Nuts Required (13)

Bottom left: Rob Crowder following up the exciting Overexposed (16)

Bottom middle: Kym Hartley checking out the bottom moves of Scarred for Life (12)

Bottom right: Ryan Doe reaching out on one of the many good problems at The Playground





June 2013