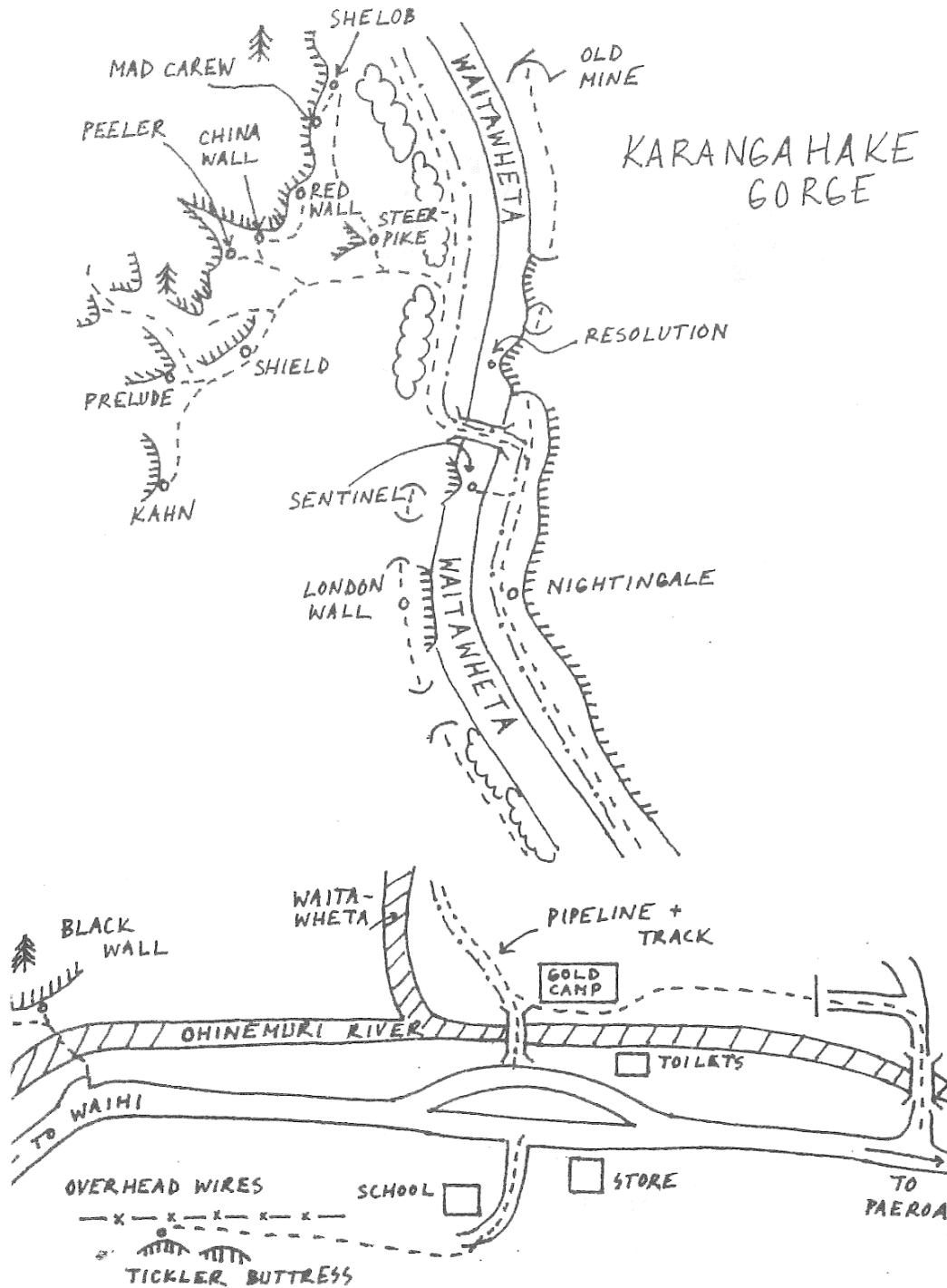


Karangahake Gorge

Karangahake Gorge is located 130 km south of Auckland between Paeroa and Waihi on National State Highway 2 to Tauranga. From Paeroa continue in the direction of Waihi for some 10 km to the gold camp and picnic area at the site of the old Karangahake township. The Ohinemuri lies between the picnic area and the gold camp, and the main climbing area is up a side stream, the Waitawheta, which flows into the Ohinemuri beside the gold camp.



Access:

Access to the climbing areas up the Waitawheta is from the gold camp up the track beside the pipeline. This is reached either by crossing the bridge which the pipeline follows, or by crossing the road bridge a kilometer downstream, and following the road and track on the true left of the Ohinemuri up to this point. A quarter of an hour's walk along the pipeline leads to a bridge and a tunnel, which can be used for overnight camping. Most of the climbing areas are visible from this point.

Downstream and on the true right of the stream, below a tunnel and gallery, is the slabby area of the London Wall, recognizable by the large overhangs low down on the left. The easiest access is to cross the stream further down and follow the vehicle track, climb the bank at the end to the tunnel and traverse the tunnels until an abseil can be made to the foot of the wall. There is a piton in place at the top to indicate the abseil point, but it would be wise to back this up.

Just below the bridge on the true right is the steep buttress taken by Sentinel. When the stream is low it can be crossed immediately below the climb.

On the hillside above can be seen, from left, the isolated buttresses of Kahn, Prelude and the Shield, leading up to Back of Beyond and Rolf's Folly. To the right is the long rib of Preface, with the wall of the Peeler above it.

A steep gully separates these areas from the main walls on the right: China Wall, merging into the Red Wall, with a slight break before the Skyline Buttress. The approach to all of these areas is by following the pipe across the bridge, turning left up a track leading into the bush. Halfway up the hillside a track leads off to the right to the small buttress of Steerpike. The continuation of this track leads also to the Skyline Buttress. The main track can be followed straight up the gully to the base of the China and Red Walls (a ledge system leads round to the right to the base of the Red Wall routes), or one can turn off left to reach the base of the Shield, with the track continuing to Prelude and Kahn.

The track system in this area is rather rudimentary, and may be difficult to follow.

The climbs:

Of the three areas in this guide the climbing at Karangahake Gorge is the most serious. The routes are longer than those at the Quarry and Ti Point, and they have an increased feeling of exposure due to their situation high on the hillsides above the stream.

In a number of cases the line of the route may be indistinct, and protection may be sparse. For this reason it is advisable to carry a hammer and a selection of thin pitons on most of the climbs. It is to be hoped that where a peg is deemed necessary it will be left in place to reduce damage to the rock. But do test in situ pitons before relying on them, especially for abseils.

LONDON WALL

SHAFTSBURY AVENUE (14) 20m: Climb the right-hand side of the slab for 10m by the easiest line to the obvious ledge. Climb the scoop moving out left near the top to finish by an awkward move to gain the highest point on the wall. First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, 1973.

THE STRAND (16) 20m: Start as for Shaftsbury Avenue and traverse left at 7m to continue in a parallel line to it. The crux is the last 3m and is very delicate. First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, 1973.

THE BOW STREET RUNNER (16/A1) 30m: Start at a large tree below the left-hand overhangs on the wall about 5m above the stream. Climb the tree until it is possible to step onto the wall. Climb up to the undercut flake, traverse right for 3m to a small tree stump and climb up until under the overhang. With the aid of a peg above the overhang (awkward to place) gain the bottom of the obvious niche at the base of the groove running to the top of the wall (crux). Climb the groove and slab above. First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, 1973.

TONY'S WALL (16) 30m: Start lower down to the left of the Bow Street Runner. Ascend the line of good holds, trending left, until below a niche under the overhang. Pull out right onto the slab using a good jug (crux). Climb the slab finishing up the Bow Street Runner. First ascent: Tony Lilleby, Geoff Shekell, 1973.

PIPELINE WALL: Two routes break through the overhangs above the pipeline at the last bend before the bridge.

NIGHTINGALE (14/A1) 35m: Aid through the overhang using an expansion bolt and the iron spikes. Climb the short slab to the second overhang, which can be turned on the right. Follow the groove and slabs on the right by the easiest line until you can break out left to easy ledges. These ledges are shared by Berkeley Square. Descend by abseil to the pipeline from pegs in place (25m).

BERKELEY SQUARE (14/A1) 70m: One of the longest routes in the Gorge.

Pitch 1, 10m: Aid through the overhang, as for Nightingale, and traverse delicately left for 7m below the large overhang to a good flake. Hanging belay on nuts.

Pitch 2, 20m: Climb the flake for 3m and pull up and right onto the lip of the overhang. Traverse the slab up and right (delicate) to good ledges. Climb the awkward looking groove on the right and step out right at the top. Easy climbing to good belay ledges (the top of Nightingale) and pegs in situ.

Pitch 3, 40m: Climb out left to the rib and make a committing swing round onto the slab. Good hidden holds appear around the rib. Climb the slab keeping left of the flax bush. Stay just left of the obvious groove to finish at the highest point on the slab. Descend to the right by two abseils

from pine trees (20m and 35m), or back to the second belay and a 25m abseil. First ascent: Cliff Smith, Robbie McBirney (varied leads), 11 August 1973.

TEN DOLLAR GROOVE (14/A1) 45m: This route, which is loose and unpleasant, begins at an obvious groove system with a hanging iron spike, some 20m left of the previous routes. Climb up to the spike and aid the groove above for 8m until a traverse left can be made to sloping ledges. Either belay or continue by a traverse up and right to join the main groove. Climb the groove to the large overhang and either abseil from here or continue out right and finish up the rib. Descend by abseil or continue to the track above and descend to the gold camp. First ascent: Pete Jemmett, Robbie McBirney, 1971.

RESOLUTION (16) 35m: Upstream from the bridge and starting almost at water level is an obvious blocky buttress. Climb with difficulty for 8m to loose ledges. Ascend the steep groove above, past an in situ peg (crux), until one can step right onto the rib, Climb more easily to the top. Descend by scrambling down the bushy gully on the right until a single abseil will reach the ground. First ascent: Geoff Shekell, Glad Emerali, 1972.

ANTEATER (14) 20m: The obvious high-level rib overlooking the large pool upstream. It is reached by following the pipeline past the bridge to the old mine workings, Continue traversing to the large pool where the gorge narrows. Cross the stream and scramble up through the bush to the right-hand side of the rib, Step left for 3m to a small cave. Exit above the cave and climb the shallow corner to an in situ peg, Step right and finish on easier ground. Descend by abseil. First ascent: Stu Braithwaite, Cliff Smith, 1972.

SENTINEL (13) 40m:

Pitch 1, 30m: Either climb up and left for 7m until a traverse can be made hard right onto the rib proper, or climb directly up the rib from the bottom starting up a short steep groove. Continue up the rib on good holds to a small belay ledge on the right. Pitch 2, 10m: Step left and climb the steep wall above to good ledges. Descend by abseil or continue up through the bush to the track above.

TRANSITION (not graded) 45m: A low-level traverse from Sentinel to the bridge. First ascent: Bill Nagle, D. Atkins, 1973.

A traverse has also been done on the other side of the river, from Resolution to the bridge.

SHIELD AREA: The climbs on the Shield are good introductory routes to climbing at the Gorge, and are well suited to beginners.

THE SHIELD: One can wander at will over the wall, but the following four climbs are recognized as being the most popular:

Route 1 (12) 20m: Climb the left side of the slab, commencing up a short steep wall, and finishing left of the rib at the top.

Route 2 (10) 20m: Climb the obvious shallow groove right of the previous route, finishing **out** right at the top.

Route 3 (13) 20m: Start in the middle of the wall and climb to the small cave at half height. Leave the cave on the left and continue up and left to the top.

Route 4 (11) 20m: Climb the wall right of the cave route. Belay on the ledge n the right-hand edge of the wall and finish up the rib.

BACK OF BEYOND (12) 30m: The rib directly behind the Shield.

Pitch 1, 15m: Gain the wall to the left of the rib. Step right and ascend the rib to the pine tree.

Pitch 2, 15m: From the tree climb the rib on the right to bushy but easier ground. Descend by the gully on the left.

BLUE DANUBE (12) 20m: The steep wall over-looking the gully between the Shield and Prelude provides a most delightful moderate route, Find the single jug at the foot of the wall and follow good holds to the top, finishing near the top of Back of Beyond.

ROLF'S FOLLY (12) 25m: The rib at the top of the gully between the Shield and Prelude. It is difficult to arrange a good belay at the top.

PRELUDE BUTTRESS

TOXOPHILUS (15) 40m: Climbs the wall to the left of the arete, further left than Prelude Direct.

Pitch 1, 25m: Climb the wall over a bulge. Continue up a groove leading towards bushy ledges until a traverse can be made left onto a bulging wall. Climb the bulge (crux) to ledge and belay.

Pitch 2, 15m: Climb the groove on the 2nd pitch of Prelude until a traverse left can be made to the top of a pedestal, Finish easily up the wall above. First ascent:

Rick McGregor, Bill Atkinson (alternate leads), 5 April 1975.

PRELUDE (14) 45m:

Pitch 1, 20m: Climb the rib to a small tree stump, Step out left and up over an awkward block to belay ledge,

Pitch 2, 25m: Step out left below the bulge and climb the groove (crux) past a peg runner in situ, Descend via the track over Rolf's Folly and down the gully on the right.

PRELUDE DIRECT (14/A1) (free grade unknown) 40m: Climb the wall left of the rib to join the ordinary route at the groove of the second pitch. Free-climbed by Jarrad Israel, December 1979.

KAHN BUTTRESS

KAHN (14) 25m:

Pitch 1, 15m: From the base of the obvious chimney on the left of the buttress make an awkward step right (crux) onto the rib proper. Ascend on good holds to ledges and continue up the rib to good belay ledges.

Pitch 2, 10m: Step left and finish up the rib and face.

TROLL (14) 30m: Some 8m to the right of Kahn is a steep crack and chimney system, Pitch 1, 15m: Climb the crack to a small ledge right of a large spike at the bottom of the chimney. Step left and climb the chimney (crux) to a good belay ledge.

Pitch 2, 15m: Finish as for Kahn.

First ascent: Peter Jemmett, Robbie McBirney, 1972,

The rib left of the crack and chimney can be climbed direct.

SPIDERMAN: The shallow crack and groove system on the right has been climbed, possibly by Fraser Clark, but no description exists.

STEERPIKE BUTTRESS

STEERPIKE (16) 10m: The climb commences on the left side of the buttress. Climb easily up a crack to a small tree. Step out right onto the rib and climb this until a difficult pull-up right can be made onto the face of the buttress. Climb to a small ledge and continue up the rib above to good belay ledge. Protection is scarce. First ascent:

Cliff Smith, Robbie McBirney, 1972.

STEERPIKE DIRECT (Ungraded) 10m: Starts at the base of the overhanging rib a few meters right of Steerpike. Climb the rib direct, joining Steerpike for the last few moves.

COMMENCEMENT CRACK (13) 15m: This and the following route lie above the last two, and lead up to the ledge system from which the Red Wall routes start. The route begins to the left of a small but prominent pine tree. Climb the crack up the left-hand wall, reach up round the corner to the left (crux) and continue up the slab above, finishing through the notch at the top. First ascent: Rick McGregor, Phillip Wicks, 28 April 1973.

PROCRASTINATION SLAB (Ungraded) 15m: The slab to the right, finishing through the same notch, has been top-roped.

PREFACE (15) 50m: The long rib to the right of Shield and Back of Beyond.

Pitch 1, 35m: Start on the left side of the rib. Climb onto the rib and continue to the foot of the steep section. Climb onto a small ledge and pull onto the sloping ledge above. Continue straight up a small groove to belay ledges. The next pitch begins after a short bush scramble.

Pitch 2, 15m: Bridge up the groove, pull over bulge (crux), and move out right onto sloping ledges. Climb steep broken section to the top finishing on good holds. First ascent: Rick McGregor, Robbie McBirney(alternate leads), 19 May 1973,

THE PEELER (16/A1) 35m: Climbs the steep wall across the gully from the China Wall, pitch 1, 20m: Climb the obvious wide groove for 7m until a step-out left can be made to a sloping ledge. With the aid of a peg (difficult to place) ascend the bulge above and make an awkward pull into the scoop (crux). Step out right onto the steep wall and climb up and right to a flax bush. Belay a little higher below the obvious upper chimney.

Pitch 2, 15m: Climb the series of blocks behind the belay until at the highest one the chimney can be gained from the left. Climb the chimney, move right at the top, and climb a short wall to a large belay tree on top of a large block. Descend by abseil down the wall, First ascent: Cliff Smith, Robbie McBirney, November 1973.

CHINA WALL

GRENDEL (15) 50m: Climbs the wall left of the 1st pitch of the China Wall Climb, and finishes up the steep wall left of its 2nd pitch.

Pitch 1, 25m: Start from the gully between China Wall and The Peeler. Climb the gully for 10m to a ponga tree from which a traverse can be made horizontally right to join the ramp of China Wall. Belay near the top of the ramp, where a traverse line can be seen leading diagonally right.

Pitch 2, 25m: Traverse diagonally right to a peg in situ (as for China Wall). Then trend left to a large spike runner. Continue up the steep wall, moving right to a crack then back left to finish at the high point of the wall. Descend by a 45m abseil or by track round to the Back of Beyond. First ascent: Bill Atkinson, Rick McGregor, 5 April 1975.

CHINA WALL CLIMB (14) 65m: Not a recommended route.

Pitch 1, 25m: Start at the obvious twin cracks at the very left end of the Red Wall. Climb the cracks and continue up the grassy rib above to a peg (in situ), and belay at the next higher ledge.

Pitch 2, 20m: Continue up the groove to good belay ledges below the final wall.

Pitch 3, 20m: Cross the wall on the right and continue in a diagonal line to easier ground.

SHADOWFAX (18) 50m: One of the finest routes in the Gorge, steep and exposed.

Pitch 1, 25m: As for the China Wall. Climb to the 1st belay ledge.

Pitch 2, 25m: Move up from the belay to the base of the wall, below a flax bush. Pull up onto a small ledge (peg in situ). Step right with difficulty onto the white streak and move up to the horizontal break and peg runner. Make an awkward pull-up into the crack above and continue up steep rock to the top. Descend by abseil (45m), or by track. First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, 30 September 1973 (previously top-roped: Jim Sawers, January 1973).

RED WALL

RED WALL SUPERDIRECT (16/A1) 25m: The slab and rib dividing the China and Red Walls has been climbed to the small cave at half height. From the start of the China Wall Climb move out right onto the rib. Climb the rib, which becomes progressively more difficult. A sling is used on a small spike high up on the left to reach good holds above, leading up to the cave. Good natural thread, with a peg above (the high point of an unfinished continuation). Desend by abseil, First ascent: Cliff Smith, Robbie McBirney, Rick McGregor, 25 November 1973.

GAMBATAGWA (21) 55m: This route, and the next two, which share the same start, begin from ledges to the right of the preceding climbs. The starts are marked by a square on the rock.

Pitch 1, 40m: Ascend the slab on the left slanting slightly left to a small ledge and in situ peg at 20m. Continue up the wall above to the obvious groove. Climb the groove, move left (crux) where the groove runs out, and exit left onto the sloping belay ledge at the top of the left-hand groove.

Pitch 2, 15m: Climb the crack at the back of the ledge, step left onto the rib, and continue to the top of Shadowfax.

First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Pete Jemmett, 16 September 1972; first free ascent: Robbie McBirney, Pete Jemmett (varied leads), 30 June 1974.

JUNKET (18/A1) 55m:

Pitch 1, 30m: As for Gambatagwa to the start of the steep groove. Move up the groove a short distance until a traverse out right can be made across the steep slab. From the end of the traverse drop down a little to belay ledges some meters left of the belay on the 2nd pitch of Gollum.

Pitch 2, 15m: From the belay climb the groove above and gain the sloping ledge on the left (crux). Continue up 2m then tension traverse (the second pendulums) out onto the right-hand rib and pull onto bushy ledges.

Pitch 3, 10m: Move up left on the ledge for 3m then climb straight up, avoiding the bulges, to the top of the wall.

First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Pete Jemmett, 26 November 1972.

GOLLUM (18) 55m:

Pitch 1, 30m: As for Gambatagwa to the small ledge and piton. Step right and make an awkward mantelshelf onto hidden ledges. Traverse right across a slab in a niche then round the rib to belay above a flax bush.

Pitch 2, 10m: Ascend the overhang and groove, and belay below the obvious chimney.

Pitch 3, 15m: Climb the chimney (crux), and step right across a steep slab and round a rib to good belay ledges and in situ piton. Descend by abseil or continue up a grassy gut and ledges trending left to the top. First ascent: Cliff Smith, Stu Braithwaite, Geoff Shekell, 1972.

BISHOP'S RIB (16) 40m: To the right of the start of the preceding routes is a rib, marked with a triangle.

Pitch 1, 30m: From the ledge, step out right onto the slabby rib which is climbed slanting right for 8m, then move up to the left-hand end of the prominent overhanging roof. Climb the groove to the overhanging flake above, and traverse out right, above the overhang (high peg runner in situ), almost to the rib (crux). Climb straight up to bushy ledge and insecure belay.

Pitch 2, 10m: Probably best combined with the 1st pitch. Ascend the bulging slab on the right,

trending left, until a narrow ledge leads left to the belay at the top of Gollum.
First ascent: Jim Sawers, Stu Braithwaite, Cliff Smith, 1972.

FLYTRAP (15) 45m: Some 8m right of Bishop's Rib, at a lower level, is the start of a V groove with an obvious tree in it. The start is marked with a star.

Pitch 1, 20m: Climb the V groove to the tree then step up and right onto the rib. Continue up the rib to belay ledge and tree on the right.

Pitch 2, 25m: Climb the wall below the obvious flake. Surmount the flake and step right and climb the rib to ledges and trees. Descend by two 20m abseils off trees back down the climb.

First ascent: Glad Emerali, Geoff Shekell, 1972,

CENTAUR (16) 55m: A line beginning between Flytrap and Mantrap which then moves left to the grooves between Flytrap and Bishop's Rib, The 2nd pitch could be combined with the 1st pitch of Flytrap as a more direct route.

Pitch 1, 15m: Climb the wall to the left of the flake at the start of Mantrap, then the V groove above. Traverse left above the overhang at 5m to join the rib of Flytrap. Pitch 2, 40m: Step left from the belay and climb the groove on the left, moving left to climb the white streak above, past an in situ peg. When holds run out move onto the rib on the right and up to an open-book corner.

Climb the corner and wall (crux), moving left onto the top of Bishop's Rib. Continue up to the belay at the top of Gollum. First ascent: Rick McGregor, Clive de Vos, 2 March 1974.

MANTRAP (16/17) 40m: Some 8m down and right of Flytrap is a large flake with a shallow groove above. The start is marked with an arrow. The upper pitches of Mantrap are hard to distinguish from Flytrap, but the 1st pitch, combined with the 2nd of Flytrap, makes a good composite route at (16).

Pitch 1, 15m: Climb the flake and shallow groove, moving left to a tree belay, as for Flytrap. One can also start the groove from the right at the same standard.

Pitch 2, 15m: Step right from the belay ledge and climb the wall left of the nose. A difficult pull-up (crux) gains a small ledge. Move left and up a steep wall to belay ledges.

Pitch 3, 10m: Traverse right from the ledge and climb a bush-filled groove, move out right onto the rib at the top, and climb it to the ledge and tree belay. Descend by two 20m abseils down Flytrap.

First ascent: Pete Jemmett, Robbie McBirney, 1 October 1972.

GIRDLE TRAVERSE OF THE RED WALL (17) 75m:

Commences up Mantrap and meanders to the left across the Red Wall.

Pitch 1, 15m: As for Mantrap.

Pitch 2, 30m: Step down and left. Cross the groove of Centaur and traverse the slab below the overhang of Bishop's Rib. Ascend the groove on Bishop's Rib until a traverse left for 3m can be made. Drop down where the traverse runs out and traverse further left to a sloping ledge. Climb up to the left end of the obvious overhanging flake. Make an awkward step left into the belay on Gollum above the flax bush. Alternatively drop down slightly and cross to beneath the flax bush and climb up to the belay ledge. Pitch 3, 30m: Reverse the top of the 1st pitch of Gollum by traversing left across the slab in the niche, and by reversing the mantelshelf move. Drop down for 5m and make for a small obvious ledge on the rib on the left. From the ledge do a semi-hand traverse until the holds run out. Make a long bridging move into the crack on the 1st pitch of the China Wall (crux, difficult to follow), and climb the crack for 5m to a tree belay. Abseil, or do Shadowfax,

First ascent: Cliff Smith, Stu Braithwaite, 16 September 1972.

SKYLINE BUTTRESS

MAD CAREW (16) 20m: Breaks through the overhangs 20m left of Shelob and Windfall.

Pitch 1, 20m: Some awkward moves lead up to the obvious fang of rock, Turn this on the left and continue up the groove to good belay ledges. Descend by abseil, First ascent: Pete Jemmett, Cliff Smith, Greg Pickford, 14 July 1973.

Two more pitches have been done, raising the grade to (18), but they are not recommended:

Make some poorly-protected moves left and up, and continue up to the base of the rib and belay.

Climb the crack until it is possible to escape right. Abseil from the tree at the top of Shelob.

First ascent: Jarrad Israel, Heinz Jakob, December 1979.

WINDFALL (16) 55m: Works its way up the steep wall of the Skyline Buttress proper.

Pitch 1, 20m: Climb the groove to the left of the rib for 10m to a small tree. Traverse left from the tree across a slab, round a corner and continue up a steep wall (peg in situ) to tree belays below the black overhangs.

Pitch 2, 10m: Traverse right across the wall, past a large flake, making a long step-across (crux) to reach the ledge halfway up the 2nd pitch of Shelob. Peg belay at the right-hand end of the ledge.

Pitch 3, 10m: From the left end of the ledge climb straight up through the overhangs past an old peg at 3m to loose belay ledges (common with Shelob) below an obvious short corner.

Pitch 4, 15m: Climb the corner, past 3 old pegs, and bear right at the top to finish as for Shelob.

Abseil from the pine tree. First ascent: Cliff Smith, Pete Jemmett, 25 March 1973. (Parts of this

route may have been done by Tony Nemeč in the sixties.)

SHELOB (16) 50m: Follows the line of the arete.

Pitch 1, 20m: Climb the steep rib direct, or step left at 8m and then return to the rib. Belay on ledges to the right (peg in situ).

Pitch 2, 15m: Step left to the base of a shallow groove which is climbed (crux) past a peg in situ until a swing out left can be made on good holds to the belay ledge on Windfall. Swing out right onto the rib and climb this to good belay ledges.

Pitch 3, 15m: Climb the shallow groove to the right of the final corner of Windfall, and finish up the rib above. Abseil from the pine tree, or continue up to Sprog and Redeye Rib.

First ascent: Cliff Smith, Jim Sawers, 1972.

SKYLINE BUTTRESS (14) 100m: Climbs the skyline ridge by the easiest line commencing to the right of Shelob. Descent is by abseil

REDEYE RIB (14/A1) 35m: Starts level with and across the gully from the pine tree at the top of Shelob. Either climb Shelob or more easily the gully left of the skyline ridge until the lower cleaned-out section of the rib can be reached.

Pitch 1, 15m: Climb the rib for 3m to a groove on the right. Climb the groove, step left at the top and climb up to a tree belay on the right.

Pitch 2, 20m: Move left 2m to an in situ peg. With its aid gain the steep rib on the left. An extra sling used on a spike on the rib has since been eliminated. Climb the pleasant exposed rib more easily to a tree belay. Descend by abseil. First ascent: Cliff Smith, Martin Hill, April 1975.

SPROG (14) 15m: The crack above the Skyline Buttress, prominent from the bridge.

From the top of the Skyline Buttress follow the ridge up and move round left to a manuka tree at the foot of the crack. Climb the crack with the help of holds on the right and exit right at the top. Descend by abseil. First ascent: Rick McGregor, Bill Atkinson, Len Gillman, 30 November 1974.

BLACK WALL: This cliff is situated on the true left of the Ohinemuri River, on the far side from the road, about a kilometer in the direction of Waihi. It is easily identifiable by the Kaimai Forest Park sign prominent partway up it. It is possible to park opposite the Black Wall, and the stream, when low, can be crossed at this point. Otherwise one can cross at the railway bridge further upstream and bush-crash along to the crag.

BLACK WALL (12) 40m:

pitch 1, 2am: Start at the left-hand side of the left rib and climb steeply until a move out right can be made onto the front of the buttress. Continue up to the cave.

Pitch 2, 20m: Leave the cave on the left and ascend solid but easy rock to the top. Descend by abseil down the left-hand end of the cliff.

NNAY (14) 40m: Avoid the nose of the 1st pitch of Black Wall by following the track to the right for 10m. Ascend the shallow groove for 7m then step right and climb the wall to rejoin the standard route. (Note: some confusion exists regarding this route, so treat the description with suspicion). First ascent: Geoff Shekell, Glad Emerali, 12 November 1972.

ABERRATION (14) 60m:

Pitch 1, 20m: As for the standard route to the cave.

Pitch 2, 40m: Instead of leaving the cave on the left as for the standard route, exit right.

Traverse into a shallow groove and climb this for 5m, Traverse right across a slabby bulge (tree runner), ascend the bulge and the short groove above. At the top of the groove pull out left onto good ledges. This should be the belay ledge for the standard route.

First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Jim Sawers, 12 November 1972.

BLACK LEG (17) 60m: To the right is a vegetated overhanging corner. On its right is a shallow scoop and a 7m thin crack.

Pitch 1, 30w: Step right past the vegetated crack and climb the steep wall for 7m to a peg at the top of the crack. Traverse delicately right almost horizontally for 7w and up to a small ledge (crux). Climb up to the scoop above, The Forest Park sign should be nearby to the right. Move up right to leave the scoop, Up more easily to ledges and tree at right end. A poorly-protected pitch.

Pitch 2, 15m: Step right awkwardly to below a small overhang. Climb the overhang and groove above past a pine tree to good belay ledges higher up. Alternatively, climb the bush-filled groove left of the overhang. Peg belay.

Pitch 3, 15m: Step left from the belay and climb the line of a thin crack just diagonally to the pine tree. Delicate and poorly-protected. Descend by 45m abseil from sling on spike down from pine tree, or as for Black Wall. First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, 30 November 1974.

Another route has been done in this area but the details are unknown.

TICKLER BUTTRESS: This outcrop is on the hillside on the true right of the Ohinemuri, approximately opposite the confluence with the Waitawheta. From the picnic area take the road which leads up to the Karangahake school. Go through the gate on the left, and follow the overhead wires and track which lead up-valley on the right some 400 meters to the Tickler Buttress. The Buttress is marked by a cave on the left side, its characteristic ochre colour and the fact that it overhangs the wires.

LAST LAUGH (16/17) 25m: Starts 3m left of the Tickler and take a direct line finishing over the final overhangs.

Climb steeply for 5m, move right into a shallow cave then up and out right before moving back left to a small bush (natural thread runner). Move left and up to the final overhang and surmount this direct by the crack which splits it. A strenuous pitch.

First ascent: Robbie McBirney, Cliff Smith, August 1974.

THE TICKLER (16) 20m: A steep climb on good rock.

Start on the right side of the buttress directly below a small shallow cave, Climb straight up to the cave on steep but solid rock. Move out of the cave and up to the base of a rightwards slanting crack. Climb the crack to a flax bush which is turned on the left, Finish more easily up steep rock above. Descend to the right.

