



Bush Stream Ice Climbing Guide



Please Send new route information to
info@verticalresources.org

Location: Bush Stream is located one valley west from Twin Streams, along the State Highway 80, leading into Mt Cook

Access: Helicopter flight from Glentanner (approx \$280 for load)
Or 2 ½ - 3hrs walk from road (leave cars on eastern side of bridge in small pull out.

Permission: Bush stream is part of a pastoral lease hold and permission must be gained to go climbing as other user groups also use the valley.
Contact: Helen or Ross Ivy
Glentanner Station, Mt Cook

Hazards: This is an alpine environment and in winter the usual hazards exists. Besides falling / or bad ice there are also a number of avalanche areas that should be avoided after recent snowfall / rapid changes in temperature etc. Use your own judgment. The south side of the valley has the same general aspect and elevation as the ridges below Mueller hut and the avo conditions there can be a good guide to conditions in Bush stream. During storm events all major flows have had avalanches.

General : The camp site is located directly at the helipad in the middle of a raised creek bed. There is also a bivvy rock located under the largest rock on the eastern end of the valley on the other side of the creek. Works well in winter after packing walls with snow..... named The Grovel by Dave Williams. There is also another campsite just slightly upstream from the creek entrance to The Grotto Area. Look for a large boulder that is right next to the creek at the start of an active scree slope ... The large rock serves well as a shield!

Environment : The environment in bush stream will be heavily impacted by over use if we're not careful. To minimize the human effect it would be helpful if climbing parties carry out ALL their waste. DOC now has a system of individual Poo Pots which can be used. Please visit the DOC visitor Centre for further information.



Topo of Bush Stream showing locations of campsite / helipad & bivvy rock

Grading : Most routes have either had only 1 or two ascents. Grades are given as for the water ice grading system used throughout North America and Europe etc. The grades of the routes will vary according to conditions and remember that ice is always steeper than it looks from the approach!

WI 1:
Frozen lake or streambed. Nothing.

WI 2:
Good relaxing climbing on Ice up to 80 degrees. Good stances to place protection and generally good ice throughout.

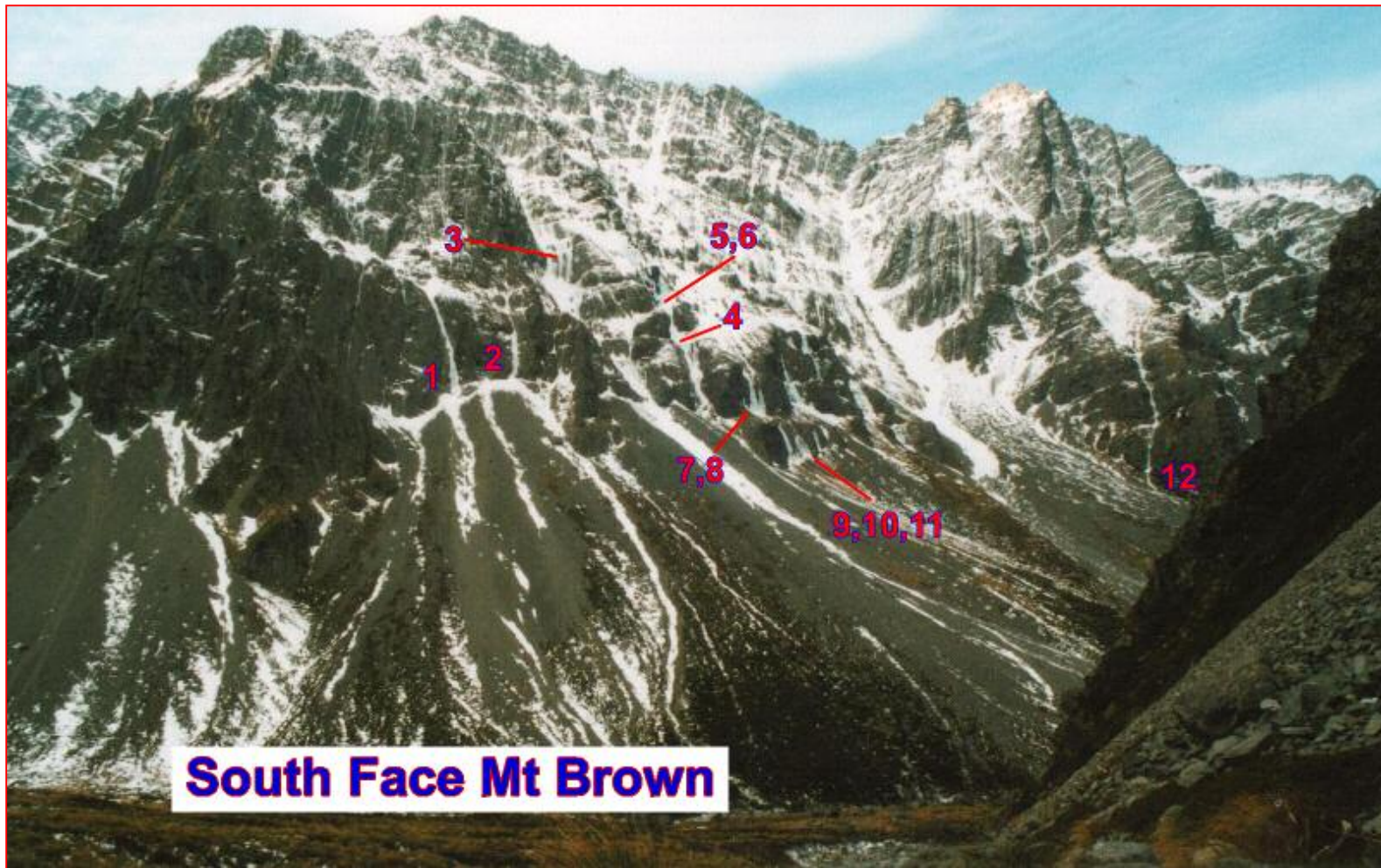
WI 3:
The ice will generally be sustained up to 80 degrees. Developed skills at placing ice protection required. Shorter steeper sections of ice will have good resting places after them. Ice is generally good.

WI 4:
40-50m of off vertical or shorter lengths of vertical (15-20m) ice. Protection needs to be thought out and the ability to quickly and efficiently place screws is essential. Ice quality can range and technical sections of chandeliers or mushrooming maybe experienced. Finding rests begins to require more finesse.

WI 5:
Now the mind games really begin. A full pitch of 88-90 degree ice on good ice. A shorter pitch of 25-30meters of climbing on poor ice with technical aspects. Resting places are few and far between whilst the placing pro will require a calm mind, forethought and excellent technique.

WI 6:
A bit of a mind bender. 50m of completely vertical ice, with few rests, long runouts and minimal pro. Also try a shorter pitch of around 30m with bad features, overhangs etc. Pro will require imagination and trust.

Descents : Unless otherwise shown or stated, all routes require abseils / abalacovs.



South Face Mt Brown

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|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1.1 Leaning Tower | WI 4+ | 1.7 Diving / Deep End | WI 3+ |
| 1.2 Not Named | WI 3 | 1.8 Malformed | WI 3+ |
| 1.3 Gateway | WI 3+ | 1.9 Beginner's Luck | WI 2+ |
| 1.4 Even Flow | WI 2 | 1.10 Whatever | WI 2+ |
| 1.5 Jaws | WI 3+ | 1.11 Urinator | WI 2+ |
| 1.6 Cadbury Moment | WI 3 | 1.12 Thin White Line | WI 3+ |

The Routes :

Routes are described left to right.

South Face Mt Brown

1.1 Leaning Tower 130m WI4+ 3P ☺☺☺

The imposing line directly above the campsite. Possibly the first route to form. Crux is the first pitch, the route steepens again on second pitch. Possible to do in 2 long pitches. Rap off

Erin Hawke, Jim Spencer '02



The Leaning Tower



Not Named

1.2 Not Named 60m WI3+ 1 or 2P

In lean/thin conditions climb the chimney on the left. Take some wires, pins and a small hex or two. Expect to have to search for pro. Otherwise in good conditions go directly up. 2nd pitch crux. Possible to link pitches. Rap off

Erin Hawke, Jim Spencer '02



Dave Williams, Alex Cottle Rapping off Gateway



Dave Williams Belaying at the start of Gateway

To get to route #3. Trudge up the first couloir to the right of route #2. There maybe 2 short approach pitches. 2nd approach pitch can be avoided by going around to the left. **Beware avalanche danger here. Do not approach this climb after a storm. Check Stability.**

1.3 Gateway 55m WI3+ 1P

The middle line of three. Enter the narrow gully that widens and steepens towards the top. Climbed in thinish conditions.

Mal Haskins, Dave Williams, Alex Cottle July '03



Dave Williams playing in Unfriendly Territory (unfinished)

Access for routes 4, 5 and 6.

Climb up the next couloir. First short pitch in couloir is route 4 – Even Flow.

The first flow on the left is Jaws

**Beware avalanche danger here. Do not approach this area after a storm.
Check Stability.**

1.4 Even Flow 55m WI 2 1P

A nice low angled pitch – nominally an approach pitch to routes #5, #6. Soloed generally. Probably first climbed by Erin et al in '02. Maybe covered in high snow seasons

1.5 Jaws 65m WI 3-3+ 2P

The first steep, sustained curtain.

P1. Climb up the flowing steps moving over some vertical areas to a comfortable stance.

P2. The final 20m to the top. Beware water flowing under the ice or be ready for a shower! Rap Off

Erin Hawke, Jim Spencer '02

1.6 Having a Cadbury Moment 45m WI 3 1P

At the right end of the gully. 45 m of fun climbing to the shoulder. Steeper at the bottom. Climbed with nice chandelier and curtain on the right hand side that was most useful for stemming onto. Rap Off

Mal Haskins, Brad Miller August '03



Brad Miller on Even Flow



An as yet unclimbed Pillar – Jaws is on the left



Rob Dunn at the top of JAWS

Mal Haskins – Having a Cadbury Moment



1.7 Diving in at the Deep End 35m WI 3

Gain the routes either over the small shoulder at the base of the couloir OR climb BL as a first pitch. Straight forward to the top. Beware thin ice near the top of the route. Generally in better condition than it may appear. Rap Off.

Mal Haskins, Paula Roberts, Rob Dunn July '03



Tshering Sherpa – Diving in at the Deep End

1.8 Malformed 35m WI 3+

Immediately to the right of DIADE. Climbed in thin conditions with hollow ice at the top of the route. Descent of route via ice thread at top of DIADE. Natural anchor possible at top using small wire / pitons

Mal Haskins, Damien Gildea, Chris White August '04

1.9 Beginners Luck 50m WI 2,3

Top roped late in the afternoon after climbing DIDE, FFA done in August '03. The route would be WI2 if climbed on the true left or WI 3 if the short vertical curtain on the right is climbed instead.

TR Mal Haskins, Paula Roberts, Rob Dunn July '03

FFA Mal Haskins, Brad Miller Aug '03



1.10 Whatever 20m WI 2

The middle set of flows on the lower tier of routes on the South Face. Good intro climb. Snow / Ice sake may be of use as a belay instead of a ice thread.

Peter MaWhinney, Jono July '03

Damien Gildea in front of DIADE and Malformed



Mal Haskins playing on Malformed

Damien Gildea on Beginners Luck



Johnny – taking the piss on Urinator

1.11 The Urinator 20m WI 2+

The first time this little flow was climbed it leaked like a sieve – hence the name. A fun flow 20m to the right of Whatever.

Erin Hawke et al '02

Other Side of the Couloir

1.12 The Thin White Line 160m WI 3+ 3P ☺☺☺

The other route you always look at from camp! Approach by walking down bush stream for about 300m and then climbing through the scree and scrub to the base. The obvious line bisecting the buttress.

P1. Climbed in very thin conditions with detachable ice. Pitons and some natural gear required. Belay of natural pro/boulders above.

P2 up and into the gully. Ice narrows towards the top. Quite thin ice. Belay under cave / roof above.

P3, straightforward to the top. Continue to climb to full rope length.

The get off. Walk above route to the first large prominent rock tower. Descend below tower on easy slopes to ramp leading down of shoulder. Beware of Avo danger in this area.

Mal Haskins, Brad Miller Aug '03



The Thin White Line



Brad Miller at the top of the 2nd pitch



The Hot Aches are SOOO much fun

The Sunny Side (South side of the Valley)

This side of the valley gets the sun. It's most likely the area in which routes will form first due to the sun and extra melt-freeze action. Take care with avalanche danger as the slopes above the cliffs get a lot of sun and load in a SW storm. These slopes would have the same aspect and elevation as the slopes above Seally Tarns in Mt Cook. Reality Bird Bath is able to be seen from the road and is a good indicator of conditions in the rest of the valley.



- 2.1 Wasted Moments WI 3
- 2.2 Toto we ain't Canada WI 4
- 2.3 The Portal WI 2
- 2.4 Planet Tourism WI 4+
- 2.5 The Reality Bird Bath WI 5
- 2.6 Space Cadets WI 3+

2.1 Wasted Moments 70 m WI 3+ 2P

The bottom left of the sunny side. Tucked away around a corner, there is also a considerable amount of other ice in this area that is as yet unclimbed.

P1. Either go straight up the corner (depending on conditions) or use the ramp on the right hand side. Belay out of the way of potential ice fall from the chandeliers above.

P2. Take the line of least resistance up the flow avoiding the long steep pillar (not quite in condition at time of first ascent). Belay off abalacovs.

Scott Standen, Mal Haskins August '04



Dave Williams – Approaching Wasted Moments

2.2

No More 160m WI 3+,4 3P ☺ ☺

The obvious right hand book corner at the bottom centre of the face.

P1. Straight up the gully / corner over thin ice to belay at full rope stretch.

P2. The corner above. In good conditions this corner could be avoided by heading out to the right but ultra thin ice may make this a more unappealing option. Otherwise climb the left hand side of the corner, stemming onto the rock face where needed. Belay was constructed from 3 knifeblades and a knotted tape due to thin ice and no more rope!

P3 Climb the pleasantly vertical and generally well formed short curtain above. Belay from rock above (slings and pitons). Rapp off

Toto We Ain't in Canada



Mal Haskins, Saul Dixon July '03

2.3 The Portal 20 m WI 2 1P

This small pitch is the access to TRBB and Planet Tourism area. It is located at the bottom of the main gully splitting The Sunny Side. There is generally a generous amount of avalanche debris at the bottom of this couloir and at times this route maybe covered. Careful consideration to the avo conditions and the stability of the surrounding ice must be taken into account when approaching this area. Climb the short pitch and belay off to one side. Rap off or down climb

Mal Haskins, Thomas Shaovitts July '03

2.4 Planet Tourism 120m WI 4+ 2P ☺☺☺

A hidden gem up the top end of the gully. Be very conscious of avo danger in this area.... Climb up the stepped flows on the right to reach the top flow. There is another route to be done here continuing straight up the gully

P1. 60 meters of fun going up and over a series of vertical steps. Belay out on the right.

P2. The second pitch consists of a interesting vertical to overhanging curtain which eases off to give a good rest and ½ height before you launch into the remaining 30 meters of vertical steps. Good rests can be found on this route. Belaying from the top may require t-slots and rapping off can be problematic.



Looking Up The gully towards Planet Tourism



Dave Williams on the Steep stuff!

2.5 The Reality Bird Bath 150m WI 4+,5 5P ☺☺☺

A really great line. Pitch 4 and 5 are able to be seen from the road. This route is a good indication of the condition of the rest of the valley. Access the main gully via The Portal. The route starts up on the right hand side.

P1. A Series of short, rolling steps leads to a corner and curtain system. Climb the corner with great stemming. Look out for the overhanging mushrooms and chandeliers near the top. Belay on snow slope above.

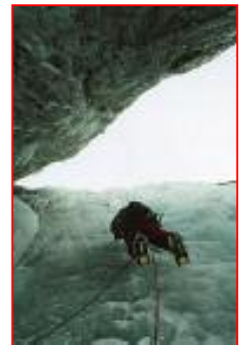
P2. Short step up to another snow slope. Climb either the ramp or the vertical curtain. Can be avoided by walking up the snow ramp to the right.

P3. Up and into the 'Grotto'. Another great pitch in a nice setting, belay of screws in corner.

P4. A full 40 meters of vertical to near vertical ice. Look out for some overhanging technical ice near the top. Pitch 3 & 4 could be combined out on the right – would be WI6?

P5. The pleasant flow above leading to the upper terrace of The Sunny Side. Rap Off

Mal Haskins, Thomas Shaovitts July '03



2.6 Space Cadets 60m WI 3+ 2P

When you get out of bed it pays to actually have a plan.....

P1. A visually unimpressive pitch which quickly makes you reassess why you climb. Moves through some technical ground before easing off.

P2. Continue up and around the corner. Straight forward



Mal Haskins P1 Space Cadets



Dave Williams P2 Space Cadets

The Portals

This area can be found where the Bush Stream creek first splits and open out into the broader Bush stream Cirque. The routes here seem to require a significant amount of precipice to form since any snow deposited during a storm gets stripped in a NW gale. The routes have a north facing aspect. Beware of rock fall in this area. This area appears to have very little accumulation of snow above them so maybe a good place to play during or after a storm.

3.1 Hanging Curtain 60M WI 2+ 2P

A fun short route without much fuss. Beware of rock fall in this area.

P1 Climb the hanging curtain until it eases off and make a belay up on the left.

P2 The moderate groove above. Gets a bit steeper than it looks.

Mal Haskins, Chris White August '04



The Portals



Hanging Curtin



David Betts – P1 Hanging Curtin

**Chris White, climbing P2 of
Hanging curtain in a storm**

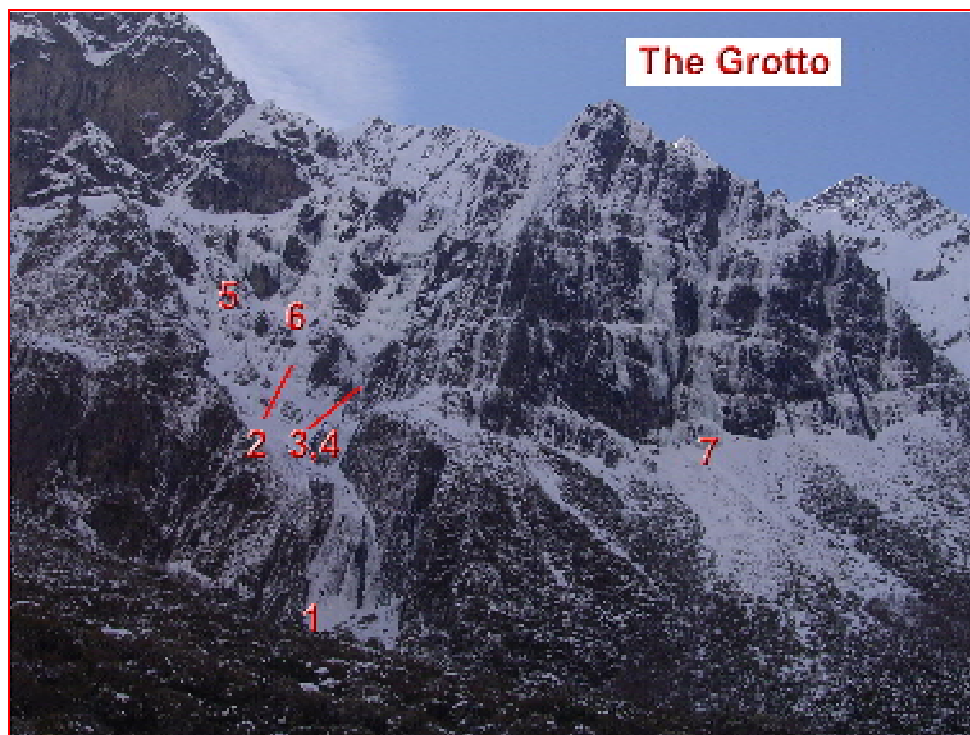


The Grotto

This region seems to require a cold winter to form well. There are many potential routes available to climb ranging from moderate routes to overhanging horror fests and perhaps future mixed routes?

The hazard in this area seems to mainly come from collapsing routes although there is a large bowl above and should be avoided after a large storm.

To enter the grotto area walk up the stream which leads to the base of **Welcome to the Jungle**. To get to **Bushwacked** walk up the stream and then enter the bush and bash your way through to the bottom of the route. 100m up past the creek entrance is a large rock with a flat gravel bed beneath it which makes a good place to set up camp, however there is a large unstable wall above so hiding behind the large rock is a good plan.



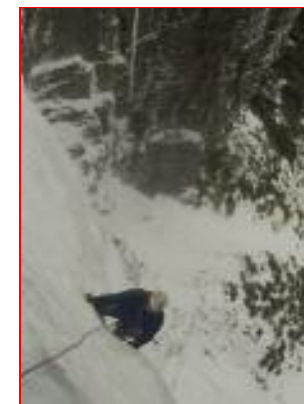
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|---------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 4.1 Welcome To the Jungle | WI 3 | 4.4 Curly | WI 3 |
| 4.2 Dos Loco Sin Cuerta | WI 2+ | 4.5 Pillar of Salt | WI 4+ |
| 4.3 Viva Chile Merrda | WI 3 | 4.6 Motion Drain | WI 4 |
| | | 4.7 Bushwacked | WI 4+ |

4.1 Welcome to the Jungle

60m WI 3

This is the entrance pitch to the grotto area. It is a wide gully which even in the coldest of conditions so far as had water running down the middle of the flow. Climbed on the left.

Scotty Standen, Matias Petris, Mal Haskins August '04



4.2 Dos Loco Sin Cuerta

25m WI 2+

Two crazies without a rope Soled on the way to the Pillar of Salt. The obvious flow in the center of the grotto below Motion Drain.

Matias Petris, Mal Haskins soloed August '04



Matias – un loco amigo!

4.3 Viva Chile Merrda 30m WI 3 ☺☺

On the right hand side of the grotto, tucked away in the corner 20 meters to the right of DLSC. The initial easy flow leads into a sort steep section of ice.
Scotty Standen, Matias Petris August '04



Looking down Viva Chile Merrda and Curly – Matias on lead

4.4 Curly 20m WI 3

Climbed to get to the top to take pictures of Scotty and Matias – a short route best climbed quickly as it sits under a potentially rotten route with large amounts of hanging ice which has deposited a large amount of debris at the base of Curly and VCM.

Mal Haksins Solo August '04

4.5 Pillar of Salt 40m WI 4+ ☺☺☺

This little gem can be found at the top left hand side of the grotto. A free hanging pillar of superb quality. The first 15m of the route is vertical with nice formations and durable ice. Climbed in a race to beat a southerly front.

Matias Petris, Mal Haksins August '04



4.6 Motion Drain 120m WI 4 2P ☺☺

The main route that bisects the grotto... The original name for this route was proposed as Emotional Drain due to its effect on the climbers. Climbed on a very cold day. Awesome exposure on the top pitch of vertical ice.

P1. Climb through the steps for about 50m to find a belay – a possible belay position from a small ice cave was avoided on the first ascent due to dripping ice!

P2. Step off the belay and into awkward territory! The top pitch is wildly exposed and steeper than it looks. Eases off near the top of the route. Descended by walking off left and finding an ice dribble to allow a rap down past Pillar of Salt.

Scotty Standen, Matias Petris, Mal Haksins August '04



Motion Drain



Stepping out onto the awkward top pitch

4.7

Bushwacked

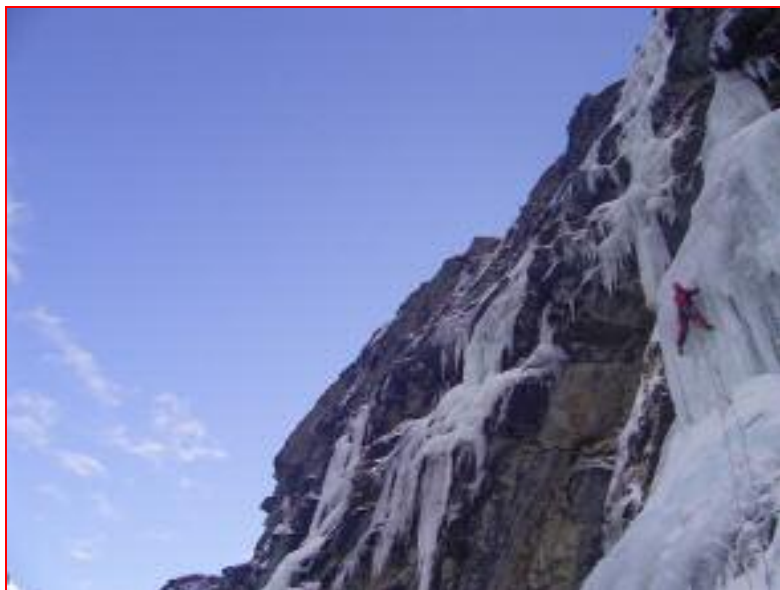
120m WI 4+ 2P ☺☺☺

The middle of the right leaning ice columns on the black triangular face to the right of the grotto. Walk up the creek/gully toward Welcome to the Jungle and spear off into the bush. Climbed in a spirit of mad adventure after a late walk in from the road.

P1. Jump straight into the vertical world on the first 10m! After this the route eases off and narrows down until a broad ledge is reached which makes an excellent belay ledge. (other routes are possible from this ledge to both the right and left)

P2. Up the rounded flow and onto the fin of ice until you reach a short shallow gully. Continue up easy ice until a suitable belay position is reached. This route may continue up the gully on alpine ice in certain conditions.

Scotty Standen, Matias Petris, Mal Haskins August '04



Pitch 1 of Bushwacked



Bushwacked takes the central line up the black wall.