

DUMBELTON

A ROCKCLIMBERS GUIDELET

WARNING

Whilst every care has been taken to present accurate and correct information in this guidelet, mistakes undoubtedly exist. Neither the web site coordinator, editors, author, nor the first ascensionists will be held responsible for any incorrect or misleading information. Similarly, no responsibility will be accepted for the consequences of any action undertaken on the basis of information contained in this guidelet. It should be remembered that this is only a guide, and not a document of absolute fact. It is unwise to trust any guidebook implicitly. It is up to the individual climbers to exercise their own judgment and initiative in the interpretation of the information presented herein. Bolt placements and fixed protection cannot be trusted implicitly and are used at the individuals own risk. Climbing without adequate experience is not recommended. Novice climbers must be accompanied by a skilled mentor or guide. Remember, this guidelet was written in the past, you must decide what is appropriate for today.

WELCOME TO THE DUMBELTON GUIDELET

Dumbelton is a small sport climbing crag near the coastal city of Mackay. It is just a blip on the radar of Queensland climbing as a whole. Yet with its easy access and fixed hangers, it is a nice spot keep in shape. It is located just down stream of Dumbelton Weir and is also a popular swimming spot in summer. The climbs are short, and mainly sport. Two types of rock are present. The Water Wall has a hard water polished granodiorite that responds well to chalk. Wallaby Bluff is a water polished conglomerate with a soapy texture that can make holds strenuous. The best time to climb is in the afternoon after 2:30pm, when the crag goes under shade. Winter and spring generally offer the most comfortable conditions. This guidelet features a **Dumbelton in a Day Tick List**. Try ticking the selection in a day to make things interesting. If you have any suggestions for changes to this guidelet, my address is westernaipan@hotmail.com. Enjoy the read and happy cranking!

GETTING THERE

To get to Dumbelton first find the McDonalds on the north side of Mackay on the Bruce Highway. It is just off the highway on Heaths Rd and a Sportspower Superstore is opposite. OK, go on Heaths Rd, 1.5km to a roundabout. Go straight through the roundabout onto Sugarshed Rd. Go on Sugarshed Rd for 1.6km, turn left onto Pleystowe Rd, the sign here reads **Pleystowe 17**. Go on Pleystowe Rd for 7km, turn left on Mallia Rd. Go on Mallia Rd 200m, park on the verge at the left before the private residence. Walk up to the border fence of the private residence, then walk in left following the fence line around 150m. You will soon find yourself at the top of the crag.

CLIMBING GEAR

You can get by at Dumbelton with a sport rack. A rope, draws, a couple of slings and some static to extend the belays will have you climbing. No bolt plates are needed, as fixed hangers are the standard. A 2m stick clip will reach all of the first hangers. To draw out Dumbelton's complete potential, some trad gear is required. This is a set of wires and a range of cams. Having this trad gear will mean you can improve the sport protection already in place, and widen your options for belays. Some routes such as Lill' Dice, require a second rope to enable a rap down to a hanging belay start,

above the water. These routes are a feature of the Dumbelton experience so it is well worth bringing a second rope.

STYLE & ETHICS

To understand the style and prevailing ethic at Dumbelton a brief look at its older routes is helpful. Dumbelton has had some sport development in years past. These routes relied on 12mm cad-plated dynabolts. Some had fixed hangers, although others needed the hangers placed before you climbed, or a plate went on as if for a carrot. An unusual practice, but apparently that was the way it was done. These old routes were pure sport, or so it seems. Bolts were positioned along side cracks where traditional gear would go without a problem. An example of this is Azkaban, small to medium wires could protect it well, and cams would make it bomber. Yet Azkaban is a run out sport route. So a sport ethic forms Dumbelton's background and this style has been carried through to some extent with recent developments. What's been going on? Well, rebolting and new route setting. Many of the old bolts were completely rusted out, and the actual spacing of the bolts left a little to be desired. Logical lines have been rebolted using 10mm 316 stainless expansion bolts with fixed hangers that are camo painted. Several new routes have gone up and are bolted to this standard. One of the old bolts has been left intact to preserve the areas history. This can be found on Wallaby Bluff left of Hot Pink G Bikini, and is a dyna-bolt with a RP removable hanger.

In the interests of maintaining the peace with the local residents that overlook the area, keep your activities low key. Howling profanities from the crux of Lill' Ze, may give a brief satisfaction for the bedraggled climber, yet will likely offend residents enjoying a cup of earl grey on the patio. Now on to the routes.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GUIDELET

The climbs are not initialled and are listed from left to right. No star ratings have been given, all the climbs are OK, although my personal favourite is Lill' Dice. Refer to the photos to see the route lines. The route listings are in the following format:

Number / Name / Length / Grade

A brief appraisal.

The route description.

Climbers Names date

THE WATER WALL

The Water Wall is the upstream section of rock at Dumbelton and is so named because half of its length is the actual waterline. Two lines, Lill' Dice and Lill' Ze start at a hanging bolt belay above the waterline that is accessed by rappelling in. A bolt belay to service these two climbs can be found at the top, but look carefully as it is camoed and low to the ground. Azkaban is a nice climb at start with and it begins on solid ground.

1. Rockin' Rainbow 10m 11

All trad, with an unusual start

This climb starts at the very left hand side of the Water Wall. The belayer requires an anchor to prevent being drawn down the rock slope. This can be achieved with a medium wire and a medium cam. To begin the climb, scramble down the sloping rock near the water, then step across onto the face, where a medium cam can be placed. Once on the face, climb up to the tree. Good trad pro. Trad belay. Debbie Hyam, Aaron Kennedy 21/8/04

2. Lill' Dice 10m 17 sport

A lill' sporting excursion

This climb and the next starts at a hanging belay over the water. Two ropes are best, one to rappel, one to climb. Rappel over the water to a 2 hanger, hanging belay above the high water mark and beneath a small overhang. To start, clip the hanger to the left, this will prevent the belayer getting creamed. Pull up through the overhang, mantle the ledge, and proceed up the corner. Bolt belay. Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 12/7/04

3. Lill' Ze 10m 25 sport

The harder brother of Lill' Dice

This climb and the previous starts at a hanging belay over the water. Two ropes are best, one to rappel, one to climb. Rappel over the water to a 2 hanger, hanging belay above the high water mark and beneath a small overhang. The belayer is advised to keep their upper body in close to the face, as this line goes directly above the belay. The leader can clip the hanger to the right before beginning. Pull up through the overhang, reaching for crimpers. Up to finish. Bolt belay.

New bolts 14/7/04

4. Sweet Remedy 11m 21 sport

Smooth, fluid and strenuous

Starts just to the right of the Leichhardt tree. Up the textured features past the three hangers, tending to their left. A small cam protects the top if you wish. Trad belay.

Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 4/7/04

5. Azkaban 12m 13 sport

A good corner

Up the corner past 2 hangers. A medium wire, then a medium cam protects the finish if you wish, otherwise run it out. Trad belay.

New bolts 27/6/04

meters to the left of Hot Pink. The rock is conglomerate, this is rock formed of numerous small pieces of rock of many kinds that nature has mortared together. It is hard and stable. Banana Lounging is a good first climb for the day.

6. Hot Pink G Bikini 10m 18 sport

Looks good, is good.

Starts on the top of the boulder. Up the face, then right and up the arete. Trad belay.

Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 26/9/04

7. Invasion of the Fornicating Hyacinth 11m 9

A variant start to Hot Pink

Follows the right arete direct to the top. Links with Hot Pink for it's last hanger. Place a large cam, a small wire, and a sling, then clip the hanger at left. Trad belay.

Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam, Greg Duncan 7/8/04

8. Banana Lounging 11m 12 sport

Somewhat contrived, yet a fun climb.

Starts at the slab. Join the dots. Up the slab, through the small overhang, then up the next slab. Very well protected. Trad belay.

New bolts 26/9/04

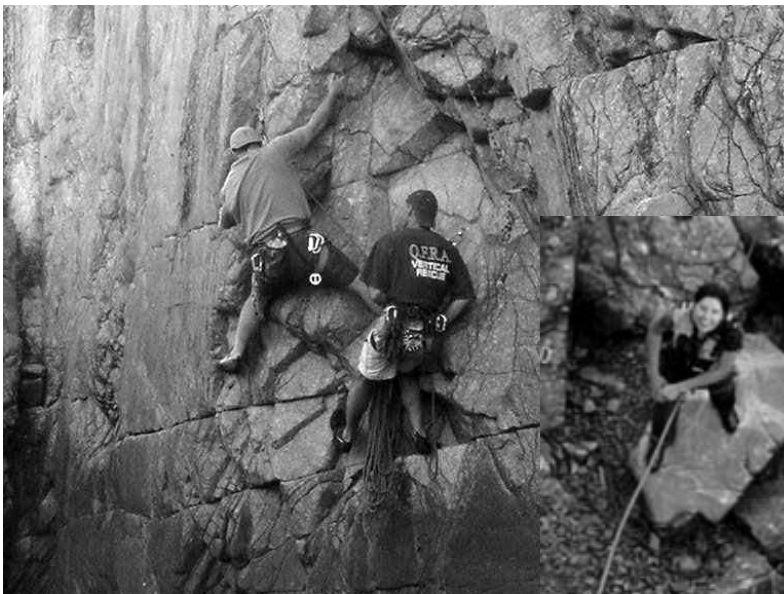
DUMBELTON IN A DAY TICK LIST

If you'd like to make more of your Dumbelton visit try the challenge of ticking the list. It equates to a 64m sport climb with 6 pitches, the downside is you can't link pitches to speed things up, the mind boggles!

- Banana Lounging 11m 12 8.
- Hot Pink G Bikini 10m 18 6.
- Azkaban 12m 13 5.
- Sweet Remedy 11m 21 4.
- Lill' Dice 10m 17 2.
- Lill' Ze 10m 25 3.

WALLABY BLUFF

Wallaby Bluff is the downstream chunk of rock and is named in reference to the beautiful rock wallabies that call the area home. Throughout winter a Taipan also has a home in a crack a couple of



The Water Wall



Wallaby Bluff

