

**‘Under the Influence’ (21) 45m+**  
*Lower Bellbird Wall, Pulpit Rock, Blackheath.*

A fantastic two pitch (or long single pitch) mixed route on the lower cliff below the Bellbird Wall near Pulpit Rock Lookout (see *Blue Mtns Climbing* 2010 ed.). A little more effort to get to but rewarded by enjoyable technical climbing on stellar dense, white sandstone. The route starts up a perfect finger crack with great pro, followed by thoughtful moves on bolt protected face to an exposed and delicately thin blunt arête finish. Afternoon shade in summer, and early morning sun in winter.

Be warned, the only practical way out from here is climbing, although a retreat to the half way ledge is possible with some dodgy scrambling up a gully a few hundred metres left (facing in) almost directly below the lookout. From the half-way ledge you most definitely need to climb out to the top via something on Bellbird Wall. I’ve graded this route 21, but was tempted to call it 20.

**Access:**

From the 12<sup>th</sup> timber gutter along the track down to Pulpit Lookout, take foot pad on left (cairn) downhill to a double u-bolt rap station above Bellbird Wall. Rappel twice (50m each) to the half-way ledge. Walk left (facing in) around the alcove on loose, dusty ground, hugging the cliff. This traverse is easy walking but on sloping loose stuff. Not a bad idea to rope up and get a loose belay off the big tree near the rap touchdown (there’s enough shrubs and saplings around the alcove edge that the rope would probably run around something if you slipped, preventing catastrophe). At the other end you could belay your partner across off another tree anchor.

From the end of the alcove the cliff-top heads out perpendicular to the main Bellbird wall. Traverse around the slope while dropping slightly, to where the cliff-top swings back parallel to the main upper cliff. When you are at the top of an obvious blocky gully you should see double u-bolt rap anchors on your right, on a short slab of rock. This is only about 50m or less from the alcove. Rap or downclimb (25-30m?) the gully past several bolts (used for the exit scramble) to a flat block on the cliff edge proper with another double u-bolt rap/belay station. Don’t get the rope stuck when pulling and watch out for dislodged rocks.

You are now at the top of the route. Rap to climber’s right of tree (2 ropes, or single fixed is better - about 35m?) to start of route on the short flat-topped pinnacle next to a tree fern.

**Route Description:**

***Pitch 1:*** (single 0.3-0.75 Camalots; 5 bolts to semi hanging DBB).

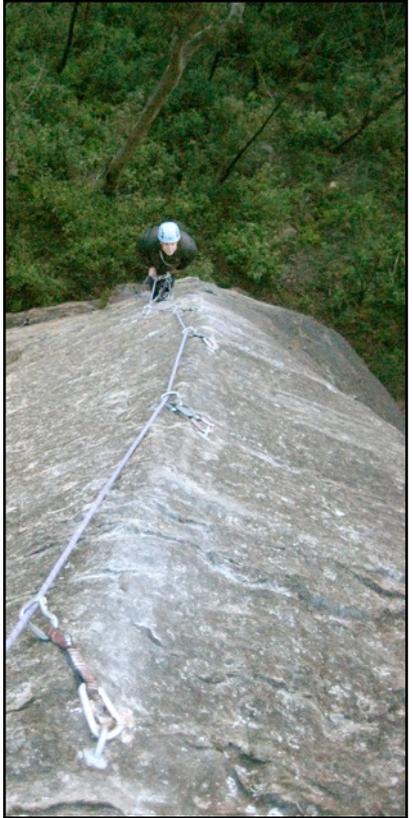
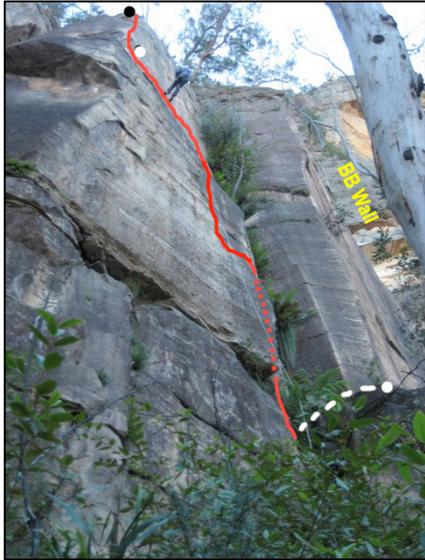
Anchor belayer. Clip first low bolt, then step off pinnacle into a perfect finger crack that takes a range of small cams. When the crack closes, stem and crimp past 2 bolts to rest on a steeply angled ramp. Step back down onto the face for a rising hand traverse left past 3 more bolts to blunt arête and double bolt belay. You can split the pitch here (semi-hanging stance) or if you’ve had your Weetbix, clip one of the belay bolts as a runner and continue (15 draws total).

***Pitch 2:*** (9 bolts to DBB).

Thin and delicate climbing on, and just left of, the arête. When the holds get better near the top, step across onto the right-hand face for a few moves before moving back left and up final short block (stay left of small tree) to top and belay/rap anchors.

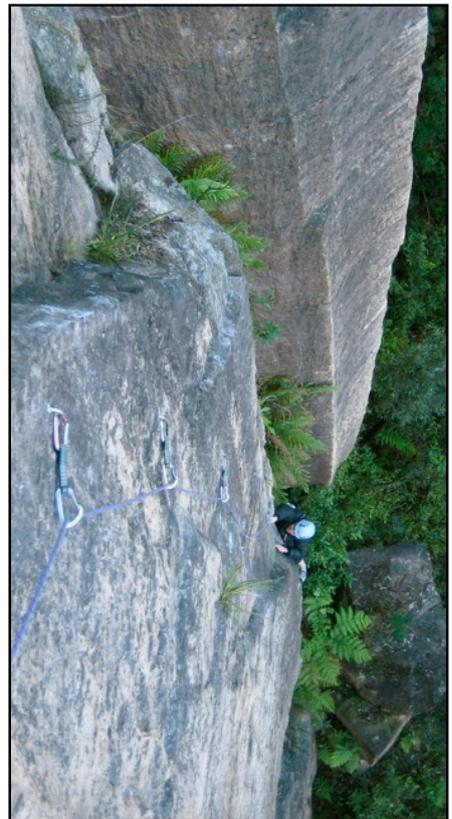
FA: Tom Hepner, Hannah Hepner July 2010

*After bringing up your second you can scramble/climb back up the blocky rap gully. There are 4 optional bolt runners to the rap anchors, if staying roped up, but take care – they will only help you so much on this low-angled terrain. Then up to alcove on half-way ledge and around to base of Bellbird wall and top-out routes.*



(topo photos very foreshortened)

Pitch 2



Pitch 1