

mt tinbeerwah climbing guide



▼ JJ O'Brien with an unusual feature on The Ricoh Destruction Test (23 M1) © P Box 2007



▲ Sam Coles on Avatar (19) © L Cujes 2007

Introduction

Mount Tinbeerwah (alt. 265m) sits just behind the Noosa-Tewantin area on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. The area is State Forest under the management of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the Ranger in charge is based at the Pomona office but the office is likely to be closed/relocated. Enquiries can also be directed to Q.P.W.S Noosa 5447 3243.

Getting There

Mount Tinbeerwah is between the towns of Cooroy and Tewantin/Noosa, each about 10 minutes away. From Brisbane drive North on the Bruce Highway (Highway 1) for 140km to the Cooroy turn-off on the L and loop under the highway (at the end of the 110km/h zone). Drive into Cooroy and follow the signs to Noosa/Tewantin. Just as you leave Cooroy you'll see the main wall of Tinbeerwah (100m high) straight ahead of you a couple of km's away. Five minutes down the road there is Tinbeerwah road on the L, (opposite Tinbeerwah Hall); the signs point to the Scenic Lookout. Follow Tinbeerwah Rd a couple of km's to the lookout car park, there's about 100m of dirt road along the way.

Facilities

At the car park there are toilets, a water tank, and picnic tables. At the lookout there is a water tank and a

shelter, good for shade but useless for rain as the wind blows straight through it. Great views to Noosa and the sea.

Access

The path to the lookout and main cliff is obvious, concrete, the first 100m takes you to the wheelchair lookout, after that there is one or two steps here and there. The path then follows the top of the cliff with intermittent fencing. At point where the path first meets the cliff there is the fenced off Abseil Instruction Area with obvious ring anchors

Permits –not required

The permit system at Tinbeerwah is no longer in use, climbing is open to everyone. The signs that say permits are required are out of date and no longer valid. The priority use system, which allowed certain commercial operators to have priority use of anchors and sites is also no longer valid.

Camping

Camping is not permitted at Tinbeerwah, the nearest camping caravan park is the Bouganvillia Caravan Park (07) 5447 1712 at Tewantin. Tent site for two people unpowered \$22.00 p/n +\$3.00 for power. Cabins start at \$50.00 p/n for two people. Camping is also available in Noosa Council Park at Munna Point.

Cafés/Supplies

New gear shop:

KiteSurf Australia at 203 Gympie Tce, cnr Gympie Tce & Thomas St Noosaville have all the gear plus guide books and DVDs.

Open Sept-Jan: 7 days 9-5

Feb-Aug: 6 days 9-5 closed

Sunday

Ph: 54556677 (2006 new owner not climbing savvy)

Cooroy: Bistro Bistro in the centre of Cooroy, across the railway lines, makes good coffee. There's a good supermarket, fruit shop, bakery, hotel, camping shop and ATMs.

Noosa: Best coffee and breakfast at Sierra bar in Hastings St. Noosa has all international and domestic tourist facilities. Tinbeerwah Shop is the closest general store, a few km's along Sunrise Rd. past the Tinbeerwah Hall.

Climbing

The rock is a pink-black volcanic trachyte that is columnar in places. The friction is good, chalk is rarely used. There is a fine dry alga especially in the shaded areas and the slightest hint of rain will make climbing dangerous/impossible, however it dries off fast. The main wall is under vertical by 10–20 degrees. The columns run a little off plumb so climbs sometimes have a tendency to cross a few columns along the way. Most of the columns are jointed too tightly to allow even the smallest protection so bolts have become standard, however

there are a few trad climbs. A band of overhangs or overlaps exist across the middle of the highest part of the main wall and also lower down, providing difficulties and interest. The Back Wall is the other side of the same structure, so columns and faces tend to be over vertical. There is still plenty of loose rock to be found on new routes, beware as usual.

Helmet Advisory

Wear a helmet. Tourists roam the lands above and mullet headed teenage boys and their beer drinking fathers throw rocks, bins and even washing machines off.

The Sun

The main wall faces west, as does the lower wall making it too hot for a sunny summer afternoon. All day winter is okay and in summer there is shade until midmorning. The first pitch of each of the 100m climbs can stay shaded all day from the big trees and have staple belays at about 35m, beware, you might need two ropes for rap off.

Mosquitoes

Anywhere in the shade is likely to be the home of the hungriest mozzies you are ever likely to find. Be prepared, or they'll ruin your day.

Anchors

The ring bolt anchors at the top of the wall are 20mm stainless steel. The rules are: Use only the anchors provided, no trees or fences. Always use two anchors and equalize them.

Ring Bolt History

The following information is purely trivial and prone to inaccuracies.

There has been some curiosity about the history of the big ring anchors at Tinbeerwah (and Brooyar). The story goes a bit like this. In the old days there were three sets of top anchors, they were called Forestry 1, Forestry 2 and Telecom. Forestry 1 and 2 had been installed by some unknown Brisbane climber at the request of the then Forestry Department. They were situated at the site of the current Abseil Instruction Area at 35m height and 20m further up the path at the 50m high site. These anchors were chain with 4 bolt style. The Telecom anchors were up near the lookout where the fenced off anchors are today, they were 4 big bolts with hanger lug thingys on them. Some time in the early nineties the Forestry or D.P.I. were looking at the liability issues and wanted to upgrade the safety of the area. They sought some cash input from frequent users and commercial operators, myself and about eight so others put in some cash and they installed the new ring bolts. The idea was those people on the list

got priority use of these sites, trouble was there was one operator who was willing to be a bit literal about it. Eventually to overcome this the now D.N.R. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services doubled up the number of anchors. So today you see the anchors are painted either Red or Yellow. The old ones, painted yellow were for priority users and the red ones for anyone. Since then D.N.R. has stated the original priority users have had their fair run and it's free use to all.

If you've ever wondered how the rings at Brooyar got where they are, it was that I used to live near there and often climbed there by myself. David Pengelly, from the Gympie Forestry, approached me for advice on where to place anchors for abseilers, he was keen to place lots of them so I went around with him marking abseiling sites and including climbing sites as well. Same at Tinbeerwah. Forestry also paid me to trundle loose rock from the abseil sites at Tinbeerwah, so I spent a couple of sessions on ropes moving tons of teetering rock.

LOWER WALL

The Lower Wall is below the L (small) end of the Main Wall. There is a vague track starting immediately after the obvious clearing at the start of "Me And My Dog" at the main Wall. The track heads down and to the R, over some rubble, then along the base of the wall, balance along the log to the clearing. As of July 2004 there are seven bolted climbs, all of about 20-25m in height and about grade 15 - 18. In general these climbs have about seven bolts each. There are new rap stations for most of the climbs.

Climbs are listed from L to R facing the wall.

Modified Milk 25m 17 (S)

7 bolts
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

Soup Kitchen 25m 16 (S)

7 bolts
3m R of MM. Finish at rap station.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

Malt And All 25m 18 (S)

7 bolts
3m R of SK - start under small roof.
Finish at rap station.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

Straight Up 25m 15 (S)

6 bolts
2m R from MAA - 1st bolt tucked in small corner. Finish at rap station.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

White With One 25m 15 (S)

7 bolts
3m R of SU - starts at the 1m pedestal. Finish at rap station.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

Dislocation 25m 15 (S)

8 bolts
5m R of WWO.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

Post Box 25m 15 (mixed)

3m R of D. 1st bolt is just below second rooflet. The letterbox pocket at 2/3 height takes a #2 or 2.5 SLCD.
Chester, G. Pearce 1995

MAIN WALL

The Main Wall has anchor ring bolts for abseiling/climbing. The ring bolts are for anyone to use, they are numbered from 1 – 24. To access the climbs go down the descent track at the start of the cyclone fence. The first landmarks are the boulder shelter, tree stump and the big detached boulder.

Abbreviations:

(S): Sport route=all bolts
DUBB: Double U-Bolt Belay
FH: Fixed Hanger
RB: Ring Bolt (very large & unique to Tinbeerwah & Brooyar)
UB: U-Bolt (otherwise known as a ringbolt at KP)

Climbs are listed from L to R facing the wall.

Genesis 35m 8 (!) (S)

7 bolts
 Climbing 101. Follow the nice features trending slightly R for the first 3 bolts then up. Possibly grade 6.

Revelation 35m 16 (S)

7 bolts
 Start at the small step under the bolt, thin crux moves take you to a ramp, climb up this to a black pocketed wall to another ramp, climb the white wall to another ramp and finish. Belay at rings.
 Gary Cobb, Aaron Fuchs 2008

Cruiser 35m 13 (S)

8 bolts
 Climb up the two sloping footers to the first bolted hanger (can be stick clipped), climb tending R and then up to a ramp, climb the black and white wall top. Belay at rings.
 Gary Cobb, Patrick King, Greg Zadro 2008

Cruiser Direct 35m 15 (S)

9 bolts
 Located just L of DOF, climb up the L side of the crack system past 3 bolts to join up with Crusier. Belay at rings.
 Aaron Fuchs, Gary Cobb 2008

Degrees Of Freedom 40m 14 (S)

7 bolts
 Located under ring 9. Start at the hand sized pocket at head height. Belay at rings.
 J.J. O'Brien, Sandra Phoenix 2004

The Day The Jugs Ran Out 40m 14 (S)

8 bolts
 Located under ring 8. Start 4m R of DOF at the pillar feature or harder direct start. Follows the brown water streak, infeasible when damp. Belay at rings.
 J.J. O'Brien, A Bailey 2004

Zircon Encrusted Tweezers 40m 18 (S)

9 bolts
 Starts at the mouth of the cave. straight up. Belay: Traverse R to the U bolts on TII or to the ring bolts atop UP.

J.J. O'Brien, Nathan Perkins 2004

* Thin Is In! 40m 20 (S)

12 bolts
 Start on top of the boulder shelter/cave (belay from ground). Step up to the 1st bolt, 2 more bolts through the overhangs (skip the 3rd) then up the slab. Tag a second rope to the seconder for abseil or continue climbing/walking up and R an extra 10m to the ringbolts. Very well protected by 12 bolts (3rd bolt almost is superfluous).
 J.J. O'Brien, Adrienne Dougal 2004

** The Opposability Project 45m 22 (S)

12 bolts
 How's your pinch? Starts a few m R from TII. Take care clipping the 2nd bolt, perhaps use a long sling first to shorten the danger. Plenty of hard moves and slick smearing. Belay at rings 11, 12 & 13.
 J.J. O'Brien 2004

* Uncertainty Principle 45m 21 (S)

13 bolts
 Starts at the tree stump and 1m R of the small box tree, belay at the rings 11, 12 & 13. Look for the malleon on the first overhang, this is the 3rd bolt. A bit tricky at the top overhang.
 J.J. O'Brien 2003

*** Stone-age Elevator 43m 24 (S)

11 U-bolts

Start at the big free-standing boulder under the overhang. Doodle up clipping 2 U-bolts, then unlock the hard sequence through the overhang. Some reprieve follows, then progressively harder up to and through the 2nd overhang. Then 3 more bolts, belay at rings #11, 12, 13.
 Quality rock, long sustained sequences and easy to find and clip U-bolts make this the best route at Tinnie. Let me know if you onsite this one.
 J.J. O'Brien 2006 (Thanks Brad, for the belay)

***Hobo Erectus 43m 24 (S)

11 U-bolts
 He walks like a man, he climbs like an ape, he sleeps in his car.
 J.J. O'Brien, S Allemann 2006

Pre Flight Departure 45m 23 (S)

11 bolts
 Starts just R of the big detached boulder. Climb to the overhang, the first bolt is on the wall about 4m from the R end of the overhang, second bolt is half way out the overhang, third is above it. Hard move to the hold on the lip, thin towards the top of the slab and tricky through the top overhang. Belay at rings 14 & 15.
 Nathan Perkins, J.J. O'Brien 2003

Peak Time 10m 24 (S)

3 bolts

Variant finish to PFD.

Go R under the roof, then over the widest part of the roof, straight up on U-bolts

Double U-bolt belay

J.J. O'Brien 2006

*** Avatar 45m 19 (S)**

9 bolts

Stays shaded in the afternoon.

Starts at the L of the flat clearing, below the R end of the overhang (probably where EFIG once started). Up past 5 bolts, then, before the 6th bolt, step L over the corner and onto the hanging wall past another 4 bolts, getting harder. Double U bolt belay on the grassy ledge 2m below the top, avoid the messy scramble on the L.

J.J. O'Brien, Jeremy Goble 2004

**** Me And My Dog 45m 15 (S)**

11 bolts

This is the most popular climb at Tinbeerwah, the hardest move is off the ground, then easy all the way. Its bolts are obvious starting at the flat clearing. Belay rings 16, 17 & 18.

Chester, R. Keep 1995

**** Sports Fan 45m 17 (S)**

11 bolts

More like grade 15 with one bolt-protected harder move at the overhang. Very well protected. Starts at the one-metre pillar. Straight up, trends a little L below the overhang. Belay at Ring #16.

J.J.O'Brien, Mat Reale, Alicia Bodaly 2004

By Myself 45m 16 (S)

Starts 5m R from MAMD just to the R of the flat clearing. First bolt at 4m. Belay at the ledge (FH, BR, and UB) then up and L 4m to the main ring bolts or up and over the fence. Chester, R. Keep 1995

Between The Posts 45m 17 (S)

Starts 5m R of BM. Climb up between the two small trees on the ledge at 2/3 height. To avoid the loose top out, clip the UB and traverse L 4m and belay as for BM. Very nice climb but the bolts are not always exactly where you might want them.

Chester, R. Keep 1995

Where's The Bolt? 45m 16 (S)

5m R from BTP. Warning - very high first bolt at 7-8m. Unpopular to say the least.

Chester, R Keep 1995

Gardening Oz Style 45m 17 (S)

11 bolts (+1)

It can only get cleaner. Start 10m past the 30m high pillar. Trend L to the scar at the 6th bolt then trend R. Double U bolt belay. Have the second tag a spare rope for abseil descent, or climb out (15m) past one bolt and a scramble to the path, slinging saplings on the way. Body belay? (Tree belay not permitted).

J.J. O'Brien, Todd Becker 2004

*** Trachyte Terrorism 35m 19 (S)**

11 bolts

Be alert but not alarmed. 11 bolts. Start 5m R of G.O.S. and 5m L of String Theory. Climb the wall and corner, overcome the bulge then trend R to ST's p1 belay. Abseil or finish up p2 of ST. Double U bolt belay on the ledge.

J.J. O'Brien, Todd Becker 2004

String Theory 70m 17 (S)

1) 9 bolts 2) 4 bolts

Start at the Bangalow Palm between the 30m pillar and TSSOT.

1) Follow the columns and through the bulge. 9 bolts to double U bolt belay at narrow ledge.

2) Nice moves up the slab past 4 bolts, tenderly over the top to double U bolt belay behind the saplings on big ledge. 5m scramble out.

J.J. O'Brien, A. Bailey 2004

The Canadian Theory 75m 20 (S)

Line of black hangers just L of SSoT. 2 pitches.

Use the SSoT belay ledge. A bit run out in places compared to other Tinbeerwah routes.

FA Unknown 2005

**** The Sacred Snakes of Tanahlot 75m 20 (S)**

1) 10 or 11 bolts 2) 6 or 7 bolts.

Who's counting?

Start at the big bifurcated Box tree 50m R from the flat clearing.

1) 40m (19) The first bolt sticks out with a neck as long and graceful as a swan. Climb up through the bulge (crux) to the ledge, U bolt and bolt belay.

2) 35m (crux) Straight up, take care at the top, touching the loose blocks for balance only. Belay at rings 19 & 20.

J.J. O'Brien (led all), Ray Phoenix 2003

Traverse Link to HtWT 15m 6 (S)

3 bolts

(Climb pitch 1 of SSoT)

Traverse and rise R past 3 bolts to bushy ledge, U bolt Belay and U bolt tie down.

Dave Barre, J.J. O'Brien 2004

Hunting the Wild Tofu 20m 20 (S)

5 or 6 bolts

Access via traverse link (see above) or abseil in to bushy ledge, from double U bolts located just below the cliff top at a small dip (just before it rises sharply) 15m uphill from the SSoT Ring Bolts (#'s 19 & 20). Very hard to the first bolt and very tricky to the second. Use the U bolt tie down for the belayer to minimise leader fall from first bolt. J.J. O'Brien, Bruce McDougal 2004

The Ricoh Destruction Test 100m 23 M1 (S)

Named after the camera that failed the test. Start in the rainforest just L of the big tree, 50m R from TSSOT.

- 1) 35m (crux) Climb to the overhang at 5m, first bolt is out on the lip. Aid move M1 (bolt) to overcome the lip. Free to the bulge, aid through the bulge M1 (4 bolts) to gain the rock above the bulge, free up to and through the next bulge to the hanging belay. U bolt & bolt belay.
- 2) 15m (19) Up trending R, then trending L to hanging belay at the bottom of a corner system and big pocket. U bolt belay, also small pro if desired e.g. #2 Rock.
- 3) 15m (23?) Straight up the slab to the overlap blocks, very airy position, watch for rope drag, slab finish. U bolt & bolt belay.
- 4) 35m (20) Layaways, crimps and mantles with heaps of atmosphere. Go up and over the ledge top to the ring bolts (21, 22 & 23)
FA (1,2,3) J.J. O'Brien, Nathan Perkins 2003
FA (4) J.J. O'Brien, Ray Phoenix 2003

Descent of the Machines 100m 21 M1 (S)

Located directly below the Lookout. Start at the burnt out tree 20m R from TRDT.

- 1) 22m (20) Trend R after the third bolt, up to belay, U bolt & bolt, hanging belay.

2) 12m (21) Trend L from the belay then up through the overhangs rejoicing in the two handed pocket, a few harder moves follow to get to the double bolts, if there's no rope drag continue with 2a.

- 2a) 10m (20) Traverse L staying just above the overhang to the hanging belay, U bolt & bolt.
- 3) 20m (21 M1) Straight up the slab, a few thin moves and pockets. Through the overhangs, (aid last bolt of the overhang) then sketchy free moves to finish at U bolt & bolt, hanging belay.
- 4) 25m (20) Follow the bolts straight up to the ledge, U bolt & bolt belay. This is the first ledge on the route.
- 5) 14m (19) Thin start, follow the bolts straight up to U bolt & bolt belay. Ledge. Choose to link 5a or not.
- 5a) 5m (10). Up! To stand in the lookout and belay from the overhead beam would be perfect, but that would be contrary to Q.P.W.S. policy.
J.J. O'Brien (led all), Ray Phoenix. 26/12/2003

Single Gun Theory 50m 20 (S)

- 1) 30m (20) 11 bolts use long draws under the overhangs. Straight up through the blocky overhangs and onto the slab DUBB, toe ledge only
- 2) 20m (20) 7 Bolts. DUBB Careful on the way down, one 50m rope is NO good.
J.J. O'Brien, Damien Ayres 2005

*Antipreneurialism 60m 18 (S)

- 1) 8 bolts 2) 8 bolts
Follows the line just R of the big corner system.
- 1) 30m (18) Two low bolts protect the sketchy start. Cross the corner at the 8th bolt, onto the ledge DUBB. 8 bolts
- 2) 30m (18) straight up, gets thin in the middle. Well bolted, solid rock. DUBB. 8 bolts
- Abseil off. Or:**
- 3) 12m (15) Climb up 3m then R carefully following the ledge (no pro en-route) to the UBB and B.
- 4) Walk off R
J.J. O'Brien, Sabina Allemann 2005

Pagan Nation 25m 19 (S)

- 8 bolts
Starts at the big Stringy Bark 50M R from DOTM as the ground starts to rise up steeply.
Straight up, Double U bolt Belay, lower off.
J.J. O'Brien, Terry Forbes 2005

The Runes of the Heretics 20m 16 (S)

- 5 bolts
The obvious corner. Some puzzling moves. Solid at the grade. Double U bolt belay/lower-off.
J.J. O'Brien, Aaron Shum 2005

Mmm... Slanty! 20m 20 (S)

- 5-7 bolts
Thin crimping up the low angled slab R of The Runes of the Heretics. Grade 20 if you don't use the corner. Shares any of the bolts on TRotH plus 2 more optionals, you

choose. A little contrived but worthwhile. DUBB/lower-off
J.J. O'Brien, Aaron Shum, Denis Gicquel 2005

Drew And A Sky Of Climbers 35m 15

The corner 3m R from the fourth pitch of TRDT. Abseil from the highest anchor rings 21, 22, 23 near the lookout. Descend to the bottom of the corner on the R. Hanging belay, one bolt & one small wire. Climb the corner, stemming, face features and laybacking. Medium sized natural gear and one bolt on the face to avoid some nastiness.
Chester 1995

BACK WALL

Nothing of great interest to report.

Other Climbs: Some climbers in the 60s did something with pitons somewhere.

New Routes & Updates

Please send any new information to John J. O'Brien at verticalearth@hotmail.com