

MAIDENWELL

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 MAIDENWELL GUIDELET

Maidenwell is a great little place to climb and boulder. It is characterised by short routes on granite around a popular swimming hole. If you're a beginner, Maidenwell will satisfy, and dedicated climbers of higher ability will find a suitable challenge within its confines. This guide is now in its third version and it has gradually evolved. Past ascents have come to light, contrivance in the routes has been slashed and some lines have been freed. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the guide, your information and feedback is very appreciated. If you would like to contribute to the next version or suggest any changes, my email is westermtaipan@hotmail.com. Enjoy the read and happy cranking!

GETTING THERE

The town of Maidenwell is situated in South East Queensland. It's the gateway town to the Bunya Mountains. To get an idea of its location on the map, the nearest towns are Yarraman at 32km, Cooyar at 40km and Nanango at 47km. Dandabah in the Bunya Mountains National Park is about 35km away. In relation to larger centres, Kingaroy is 71km away, Toowoomba is 105km, and Brisbane is 198km. To get there you can turn off the New England Highway between Cooyar and Yarraman or alternatively, you can turn off the D'Aguiar Highway near Nanango. Maidenwell is clearly marked on most maps and locals in any of the neighbouring towns will know the way there. Maidenwell has a general store, pub, public toilets and picnic area. The actual climbing location is at COOMBA FALLS, also called COOMBA WATERHOLE, which is 2km from The Maidenwell Trading Post, simply follow the signs. It is a good sealed road the entire way. From the car park walk the 70m track down to the water and the rock.

CAMPING

Maidenwell township has a rest area for travellers, where you can camp for 48 hours for free. It is at the end of the main street, 40 metres down from the Maidenwell Trading Post. There is a shelter with a water tank, a free barbecue and public toilets. There's no showers but the swimming is great at the climbing location, so no problem.

CLIMBING GEAR

A minimal rack is all you need to successfully climb the majority of Maidenwell's routes. A set of RPs, a set of wired nuts, a couple of hexentrics, a range of camming devices, a bunch of slings and quickdraws and you're there. A plastic brush and nut tool will come in handy to clean holds and placements that are very fresh. If you're top roping, bring an extra rope as good trees and boulders are often back from the top edge. Also bring some towel mats to protect any trees you sling. No need for twin climbing ropes, a single rope is fine. All bolt placements have fixed hangers so bolt brackets aren't required. It's a good idea to bring drinking water, as the nearest water tap is at the rest area in Maidenwell township 2km from the climbing. There is no public toilet at the climbing. You'll want your boardies or cossie for swimming in the warmer months, or you'll be missing out.

STYLE & ETHICS

The style at Maidenwell to date has been traditional climbing. Bolt placements are belay anchors only, and these are stainless expansion bolts with fixed hangers. There is some potential for bolting the listed routes and new routes. I hope that sanity and logic prevail in endeavours of this kind. Any sport route setter should first look at www.safercliffs.com and bear in mind that overt bolting may impact on access here. Time will tell. Note that climbs at Maidenwell are not red-tagged. Always give due regard to rock fall and work to reduce its incidence, as there may still be some loose rock on the listed climbs. The waterhole and picnic area have regular visitors on weekends, so be conscious of anyone in your climbing vicinity. Once the obvious loose rock is removed, the surface is very reliable.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GUIDELET

The climbs and boulder problems are listed together in this guide. They are listed from left to right in a general clockwise fashion around the waterhole and stream at the centre of the area. Some routes are initialled in light brown small print low to the ground (this practice is no longer advisable). The route listings are in the following format:

Number / NAME / Length / Grade / Star rating

A brief appraisal.

The route description.

First ascent details / Climbers Names / Date

These standard abbreviations are used:

FTRA First top rope ascent
FA First aid ascent

Climbs that are better than the rest have a star.

CHERRY WING

This shady wall is the first good thing you see when you get to the bottom of the stairs. It borders the picnic area and has lawn right up to its base. The decent trail is to the right of the wall.

1. THE HOUND OF THE BUMBERVILLES 15m 8

Climb the hound's face.

Up the small face at the far left of the wall that is shaped like a dog's head, continue up through the blocks. Good protection.

Peter Roehm, Debbie Taylor 24/10/03

2. BILBO BAGGINS 15m M1

A jamming problem.

Straight up the crack then through the overhang with some thoughtful moves. Continue directly up the slabs.

FA Luke Hyam 21/6/03

3. COOMBA CHIMNEY 18m 12

Fun chimneying with variety.

Directly up the chimney, top out at the ledge on the left. Poor protection.

Derek Platt, Michelle Platt 28/11/93

4. VERTICAL REALITY 18m M1 *

A distinctive, slightly overhung crack line.

Start at the straight up hand crack that splits the wall. Go directly up the crack, absorbing cams and donker nuts. Continue up the small face at the right. A section of this crack has crumbly rock, affecting protection placements, this may clean up over time. Moderate protection.

FA Derek Platt 18/9/94

5. I FEEL GOOD 20m M1

Finger jamming fun.

Starts left of the big boulder on the ledge above. Move up through the overhang to the ledge at the right; this section is shared with SINBAD. Go left past the tree to the finger crack and proceed up to a sexy completion with wondrous jugs. A section of this crack has crumbly rock, affecting protection placements, this may clean up over time. Moderate protection.

FA Derek Platt, Neil Walters 28/5/04

6. SINBAD 20m M2

Slippery, then gritty.

Start is shared with I FEEL GOOD. Start left of the big boulder on the ledge above. Move up through the overhang to the ledge at the right. Move left then straight up the crack. A section of this crack has crumbly rock, affecting protection placements, this may clean up over time. Poor protection.

FA Debbie Hyam 7/9/03

7. CRUCIFORM 17m 26 *

A magic climb climaxing with a shallow finger crack.

Starts right of the boulder on the ledge above. Up the varied crack, then up onto the boulder. Ascend the cruciform crack at right, passing the crux in the last few moves. Some possible protection at the start, then no protection to finish. Would accept a couple of camouflaged bolts.

FTRA Luke Hyam 11/5/03

8. COOMBA ARETE 20m 9

An arete originally soloed.

Starts at the right end of the wall, and is a rounded arete. Follow the arete with enjoyable slabby moves. No protection.

Derek Platt solo 17/6/95

THE SPEARHEAD

Good clean rock on The Spearhead. It's the dominant split boulder seen across the water hole from the picnic area. To get to it, simply walk clockwise around the water hole. There is a triangle of three bolts at the top. The top can be scrambled from behind.

9. HIDDEN VALLEY 8m 7 *

Caterpillar territory.

Straight up the body crack, jamming yourself in nice and tight, lovely juvley.

Terry Svignen solo 9/11/03

10. KISS OF THE CYBERMAN 8m 18 *

Delicate and cybery.

Zigzag up, keeping to the face.

FTRA Luke Hyam 6/9/03

11. FISH 10m 15 *

Flippery good fun.

Pull the blocks and proceed up the arete.

FTRA Debbie Hyam 6/9/03

12. THE SPEARHEAD 11m 20 *

Clean rock, a logical line, fantastic climbing.

Pull the overhung start and then the diagonal crack, finish up the arete at right.

FTRA Luke Hyam 6/9/03

MIFFY ROCK

Miffy Rock is a dome like stretch of rock crowned by a large round boulder. This large round boulder can be seen across the waterhole from the picnic area, but from this angle the majority of the Miffy Rock is obscured by The Spearhead. To get to Miffy Rock simply walk clockwise around the waterhole and a track runs between it and The Spearhead.

13. MIFFY V0-

First time bouldering? Start here.

This is behind The Spearhead. Go up.

14. AND THE AEROPLANE V0-

Done Miffy? Try this one.

This is behind The Spearhead. Go up.

MAIDEN WING

Maiden Wing is the length of rock that is clearly seen across the water hole from the picnic area. It is topped by a large jumble of blocks with a pronounced overhang. The routes here are slabs, cracks and corners with pleasing variations. Maiden Wing is separated by the waters edge so the base is approached in two ways. To get to the first selection of climbs make your way around the waterhole in a clockwise fashion, the rock will soon appear before you. To access the base of the second selection of routes you continue on to the top of the crag and then down the other side. The belay ledge and bolt belay for THE DARK SIDE and SHE OAK can be scrambled from this side by using an old chain on a dodgy bolt placed by swimmers. This ledge is called Lizard Rock. BEETLE BUSTER, DIAMOND DAVE and GWYLOW also have a bolt belay. This can be scrambled from their right.

15. THE CANADIAN 11m 5

A line chosen by a groovy Canadian girl.

Up the big chunky corner, then following the ridge of rock. Proceed over the blocks to top out. Moderate protection.

Luke Hyam, Hayley Ford, Debbie Hyam 9/11/03

16. BIRTHDAY GIRL 12m 9 *

An entertaining arete with a nice finish.

Starts 3m right of TC. Pull the recess, follow the arete, enter the slab, then breach the small overhang and blocks. Poor protection.

Luke Hyam, Hayley Ford, Debbie Hyam 9/11/03

17. DRAGONFLY 12m 12 *

A sustained slab with a recessed start.

Start by lining up the centre of the slab right of TC. Pull the recess, then proceed directly up the centre of the slab to breach the overhang at its highest point.

FTRA Luke Hyam 20/7/03

18. CANASTA 20m 11

A blocky face topped with a groovy slab.

Up the blocky face to vegetated ledge. Move right on ledge almost to corner, then crank up the slab following either of the diagonal cracks. Moderate protection.

Terry Svignen, Simon Inglis 9/11/03

19. ANY GIVEN SUNDAY 30m 9 *

A cruisey layed-back corner.

Start at the big corner. Layback the corner, then proceed up the slab ramp, tending left. Moderate protection.

Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 26/10/03

20. MAIDEN 35m 17 *

The full height of Maiden Wing.

Starts well right of AGS, below the small tree on the cliff face. Move up to the small overhang, traverse right beneath the tree then up the small overhang and onto the slab. Head straight up to the large overhang and pull through the blocks at its right to top out.
FTRA Luke Hyam 13/9/03

21. THE DARK SIDE 13m 16 *

The variety here makes for great climbing.

My favourite climb at Maidenwell. Starts at beginning of the ledge that is above the water. Mantle the large-flake/small-ledge, reach the jug at right then proceed up the crack to the belay ledge. A bolt belay is at the back of the ledge. No protection for the cruxy start, then good protection to finish.
Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 1/11/03

22. SHE OAK 13m 14 *

Parallel cracks.

Make your way out onto the ledge above the water and line up the parallel cracks, start at their right. Execute a few moves, positioning left, then head directly up the parallel cracks. A bolt belay is at the back of the ledge. Good protection.
Luke Hyam, Debbie Hyam 26/10/03

THE CLIMBS ARE SEPARATED HERE BY THE WATERS EDGE. THE FOLLOWING CLIMBS ARE ABOVE THE SWIMMING HOLE, ON A STRETCH OF WALL THAT FORMS THE STREAM BANK.

23. BEETLE BUSTER 8m 17

Bring on the bulge.

Start at the she oak tree and head up the little corner, go left pass the old chain then straight up to breach the bulge.
FTRA Luke Hyam 26/7/03

24. DIAMOND DAVE 8m 16

Do the diamond.

Starts on top of the protruding triangular block. Head straight up through the diamond shape in the cracks.
FTRA Luke Hyam 26/7/03

25. GWYLOW 8m 18 *

Engrossing little edges.

A contrived line, situated alongside DIAMOND DAVE. Just keep right of the diamond shape in the cracks and head directly up the tiny edges.
FTRA Luke Hyam 26/7/03

THE CONCH

The Conch is situated 35m upstream of the falls edge and forms a vertical bank to the granite streambed. It is on the same side as Cherry Wing; this is the car park side. It has the likeness of a whopper boulder, and will likely produce several lines. To get to The Conch from the picnic area, walk up the trail to the right of Cherry Wing, continue across the top of the crag and then down again.

26. THE GREAT TROUT HUNT V0- *

A ripsnorter deltoid warmer.

This beautiful piece of granite has been graffitied in painful blue paint reading "Fuck the Police"; some poor soul has been listening to far too much NWA. Begin at the right side of this long traverse and monkey arm your way 10m to the left, finishing in the corner.

GRADING INDEX

Grade	Name
V0-	MIFFY <i>Miffy Rock</i> AND THE AEROPLANE <i>Miffy Rock</i> THE GREAT TROUT HUNT * <i>The Conch</i>
M2	SINBAD <i>Cherry Wing</i>
M1	BILBO BAGGINS <i>Cherry Wing</i> I FEEL GOOD <i>Cherry Wing</i> VERTICAL REALITY <i>Cherry Wing</i>
26	CRUCIFORM * <i>Cherry Wing</i>
20	THE SPEARHEAD * <i>The Spearhead</i>
18	GWYLOW * <i>Maiden Wing</i> THE KISS OF THE CYBERMAN * <i>The Spearhead</i>
17	BEETLE BUSTER <i>Maiden Wing</i> MAIDEN * <i>Maiden Wing</i>
16	DIAMOND DAVE <i>Maiden Wing</i> THE DARK SIDE * <i>Maiden Wing</i>
15	FISH * <i>The Spearhead</i>
14	SHE OAK * <i>Maiden Wing</i>
12	DRAGONFLY * <i>Maiden Wing</i> COOMBA CHIMNEY * <i>Cherry Wing</i>
11	CANASTA <i>Maiden Wing</i>
9	ANY GIVEN SUNDAY * <i>Maiden Wing</i> BIRTHDAY GIRL * <i>Maiden Wing</i> COOMBA ARETE <i>Cherry Wing</i>
8	THE HOUND OF THE BUMBERVILLES <i>Cherry Wing</i>
7	HIDDEN VALLEY * <i>The Spearhead</i>
5	THE CANADIAN <i>Maiden Wing</i>