

The Dreamliner

275m, 28, 11 pitches. Airport Wall, Milford Sound, NZ.

Rack Doubles .3 – 3 Single .2 & 4. Single set of nuts 2 – 10 offsets handy. 14 quick draws.

FA Daniel Joll and a collection of partners James Hobson, Ben Mangan, Steve Fortune, Julian Goad. Beginning on the 22nd of November 2020 the line was finally completed mid April 2021.

FFA Daniel Joll & James Hobson 1st – 6th May 2021 which included 3 days of camping under the waterfall at the Sky Couch Biv while they waited for pitch 8 to dry so they could complete the full free ascent. The team had 24 hrs of very heavy rain on the night of their third day leading to a prolonged stay on the wall before the free ascent could be completed.

A special thanks to everyone else who came up and belayed , cleaned, worked pitches etc in preparation for the first free ascent (FFA) Llewellyn Murdoch, Lionel Clay, Rachel Knott, Anton Vestberg, Jon Sedon.

Establishing this route and its variations took around 30 – 40 days to develop and free climb spread over a 5 month period. Most pitches were established ground up with some of the variations bolted on rap.

Approach

Climb pitches 1 – 7 of The Mile High Club until you reach the departure lounge. From here make a short rappel down and west from the top of the slab and head into the bush. Pick up the rough steep bush trail and fixed lines. This will require a jumar and takes approx. 30 minutes to reach the “Business Premier” bivy at the base of the Dream Liner overhang. The route starts on the far right hand side of the ledge going straight up off a double bolt belay.

It is also possible to walk (see topo) into the departure lounge 2 hrs walking time if you don't want to climb the first pitches on Mile High Club. (the lower overhang has some great climbing though. Especially pitches 3 – 6 and is definitely recommended) If you can't make it up the lower overhang on Mile High Club then the Dream Liner is probably not the climb for you as its quite a bit harder.

The hand lines in the bush between the Departure Lounge and the Business Premier Bivy are to help you. They are old and one day will break..... they are there to help you get up to the base of the route. Don't assume they are in good condition and use you own rope as protection from falling if you have any doubts. The same goes when you descend this part of the wall.

DO NOT PISS OR SHIT on any part of the climb pitches 2 – 7 don't receive any water when it rains so make sure you piss away from the climbing line.

Pitch 1 32m 27

Bolts plus nuts and small cams. A 2&3 camalot are useful in a break below the 3rd to last bolt just before you get into the crux section. This pitch is mostly grade 22 climbing with a hard 3 bolt boulder problem at the end of the pitch. (AO if you need to pull through, the final bolt can just be clipped by standing high in a sling)

Three quarters of the way up this pitch before the crux you can break right to a belay on a grass ledge (21-22) another short pitch of 21-22 takes you to the belay at the end of the actual pitch 1. Small cams wires and bolts. Its better to just climb pitch 1 straight up though pulling on the bolts if you cant free the boulder problem.

Pitch 2 35m 22

Bolts plus cams 1 – 3. (optional .5&.75 between the top two bolts) Step left off the belay clipping the first bolt. A second bolt left is not the way to go this leads to an alternate pitch. Instead go straight up passing the Rata tree and big flake out right. (step carefully on this). Up past a bolt to a hand crack, near the small overlap step left then straight up to, two more bolts and a hanging belay.

Pitch 3 15m 24

Bolts and lots of them. Due to the fragile rock and sharp arete to the left this pitch was a bit tricky to bolt so we added a few extra bolts after the first ascent to make it an easy safe lead. It will look a bit of a mix up however two of the bolts left and close to the arete can be unclipped after you pass them. There is a hidden bolt up high above the roof which your belayer may need to guide your hand towards before stepping left and exiting the ramp around the roof. This is the only poor rock section on the climb. All pitches above offer 3 star climbing on amazing granite.

Pitch 4 35m 25

Bolts and finger size cams .2-.4. At each crux section on this pitch look for holds to the right of the bolts. Eventually you come to the final pumpy finger crack. When standing at the belay at the end of this pitch there is a big triangle block. We couldn't remove it but try to avoid pulling to much on it



Pitch 5 20m 24

Cams and wires basically your full rack. Step right off the belay (don't go straight up the loose corner above) head up the steep hand crack before traversing back left across a hand rail to the final slot. This pitch is much steeper than it looks.

Pitch 6 30m 24

Step left off the belay and follow the obvious wide crack. 2 bolts and your full rack.

Pitch 7 15m 25-26

Stunning and brutal finger crack. Step right off the belay and clip the bolt. Another move right takes you to a short section of hand jams before the thin finger crack. Wire and cams to #1. Belay on the ledge up and right when you exit the crack. Double hanger belay.

Pitch 8 35m 28

Steep and powerful climbing. All bolts except the #3 &.4 cam. Moving left off the belay place a #3 camalot in the horizontal before clipping one of the two ring bolts. After the second crux on the thin

white dyke you will find a good .4 and .2 cam in horizontal breaks before moving left across a rising traverse.

(this double ring anchor at the start of the pitch is here to help you rap down if you don't make it up this pitch, the first person will need to back place some gear to help you get back to the belay of pitch 7 if you bail here)

If continuing upwards move left into the bush ledge (bivy spot and 20L water drum x 2)

Bivy in bush. This great little bivy is perfectly positioned to help you work the crux pitches 8 & 10. It sleeps two on a nice flat ledge. There are also bolts to portaledge camp here. Please don't cut any tree routes on this ledge, the live trees are helping to hold it together. This bivy is in the fall line of a waterfall! We found out camping here in heavy rain and got absolutely soaked !

To find pitches 9 -11. Follow fixed lined across the bush ledge to a bolt belay.

Pitch 9 25m, 24

A few bolts plus cams to 1 and wires. There is an anchor at the top of this pitch, if continuing on for the final two pitches move right across the easy ledge and belay at the second double ring anchor.

Pitch 10 15m, 21 3

bolts plus cams to #3. Move up the short steep corner before stepping right across the face and friction slab to a ledge belay. Specifically for the cams a #3 followed by a black totum or red c3 before the final are all you need on this short pitch.

Pitch 11 25m, 24

6 bolts plus cams & wires - #1 camalot. A short steep section off the belay leading to a diagonal crack ending on the final two bolts of the Great White Dyke.

Pitch 10 direct finish 30m, 30

(**closed project** please respect the effort it takes to develop these lines and leave this pitch until the developers have had a chance to free it)

Follow the great white dyke. Stunning location and amazing dyke feature. A fantastic way to finish the climb. If we haven't freed this pitch by May 2022 then consider it an open project. Until then please leave it and give us a chance to send it 😊

Descent

Can be done with a single 60m rope. It is much easier to rap the dedicated rappel line than to rap the route. This does require you to at least make it to pitch 7. WARNING some of the raps are real rope stretchers so if using a single rope tie knots. Two ropes or a 70m rope will give you some margin but a single 60 works fine.

From the top of pitch 11. Rap straight down the Great White Dyke to the ledge with a 30m then 20m rappel. You will need to back clip a bolt or two on the dyke or you will find yourself hanging out in space. Head back via the fixed line and take the first set of rings. (unless you want to back clip every bolt of pitch 8, do not rap down the anchor where you top out on pitch 8, instead head down from the first set of rings as you exit the bush onto the belay ledge.)

WARNING Below

As you begin the rap here **ensure you bounce** off the wall. Clip both re belay bolts. Grab the tree then clip the second re belay bolt. The anchor is just below you on a ledge (climbers right) Make sure you have some equipment on the first person so they can ascent the ropes if they stuff up clipping the re belay bolt. Otherwise you will find yourself hanging in space. A good idea would be to fix the rope in hard to the anchor for the first person on this and the next rap which would allow the first person to jug back up if needed so they can try again. These first two raps are steep !!! Rap down placing a cam in the horizontal break just below the anchor. Then swing right to clip a bolt in the corner. Make sure you can spot the re belay bolt before rapping to low. From here head down to the ledge. (rap anchor climbers right of the small dirt ledge. This was the portaledge camp position we used during the first ascent.

After the first two raps the line is less steep and you no longer need to re belay the rope on your way down.

From this anchor (the porta ledge camp) 5 x 30m raps take you down to the Business Premier Bivy. On the second to last rap around the 25m mark you will have to look to your right on the face to gain the final rap anchor located on a small ledge.

If you don't make it up pitch 8 and need to bail.....From the belay at pitch 7, look down and left (20m below) to locate the small dirt ledge (the portaledge camp). This was the site of our original porta ledge camp when establishing the line. A double ring rap anchor is located here. From the double ring anchor (first bolts of pitch 8) rap down clipping a re belay bolt then the first bolt of pitch 7 and the anchor under this bolt. This will allow you to reach the ledge and rap line. (28m rap from base of pitch 8 – ledge and rap line)

All belays have either double or triple bolt anchors. We placed triple bolt anchors for the hanging belays to help with gear organisation. All rap anchors are double rings.

Water & Bivy info

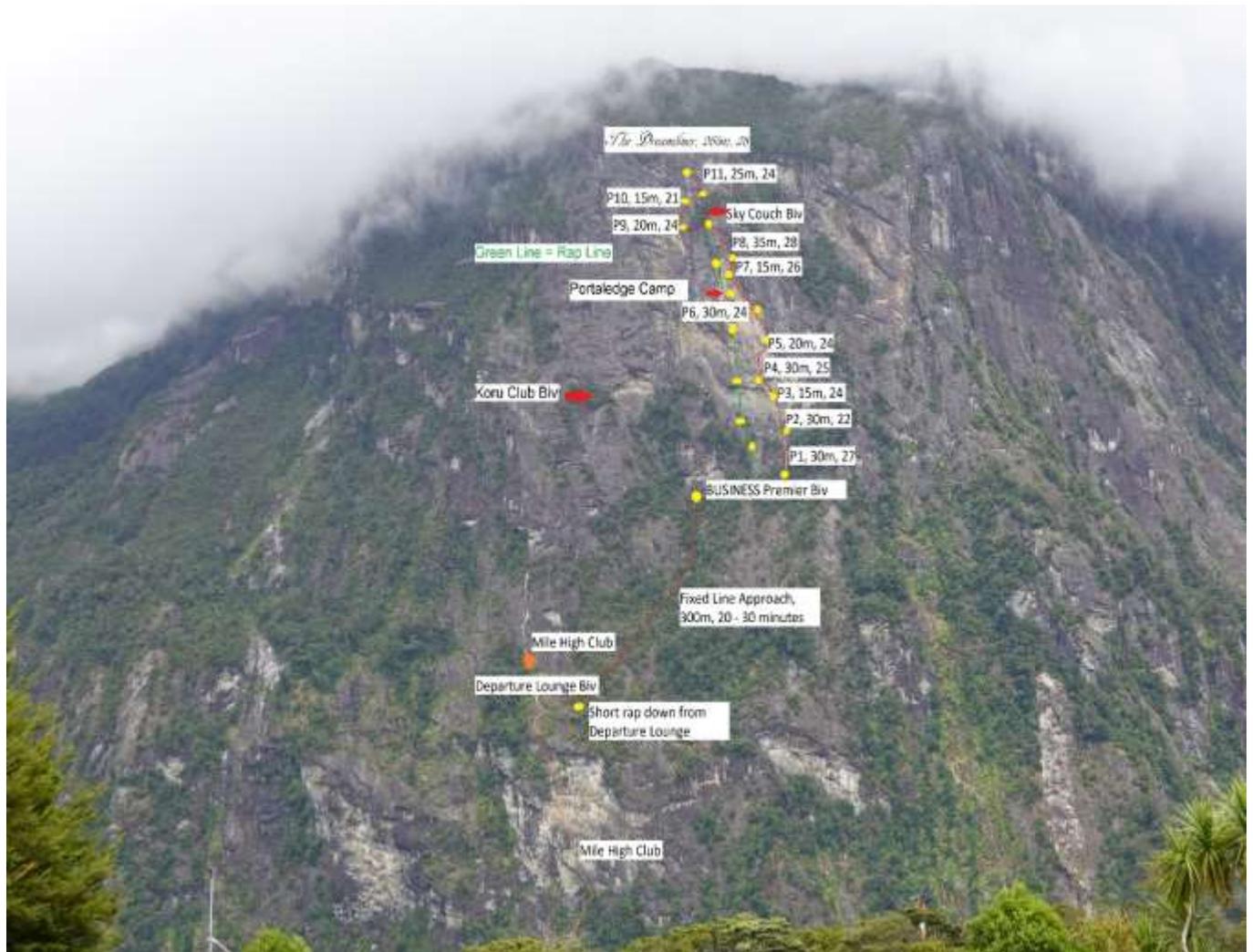
Departure Lounge 100L water drum. Tent platform x 3

Business Premier Bivy 120L water. Tent platform x 1 plus several single person bivy spots. There is a tarp to hang above the bivy platform encase you arrive and it's a bit wet at the bivy. The route is usually dry even if its wet at the bivy.

Sky Couch Bivy. Flat platform for 2. Single sleeping spots possible on small ledge below pitch 9. Water 20L x 2 between pitches 8-9. Be careful where you shit at this bivy. Please either take it down with you or head along the ledge towards the start of pitch 9 and shit off the side so it washes away. Leave the bivy clean and tidy to ensure it doesn't attract rats in the future.

We had a really cool porta ledge camp on the small ledge below the anchor of pitch 7 during the first ascent. If you want to take a ledge up and camp in the overhang this is a great spot to do so.

Route Topo – Full Cliff View



Upper Wall View



Walking Approach

Cross the river above Milford Lodge, head up a small stream till around 75m elevation. Look on your left for an orange track marker then follow this well marked trail through the bush all the way to the departure lounge. Approx. 2 hrs.

