

mixed route at 4 M5 WI3. The route is apparently “short and sweet” and provided “some very good, hard, and interesting climbing.”

The other side of the Divide has seen little more new route activity. In March 2005 Michael Madden and Tshering Pande Bhote (Nepal) climbed a direct and obvious new line on the south face of Aoraki Mt. Cook (3,754m). Sherpa-Kiwi is graded 5. In late October Marty Beare and Johnny Davison climbed the prominent right-hand ice fang on 3,070m Mt. Haidinger's east face headwall, high above the Tasman Valley. Stealing White Boys is graded 5. A parallel left-hand line was climbed during winter 2004.

Just down the road from Mt. Cook, Nina Conradi, Thomas Evans, Mal Haskins, and Jason Tweedie climbed three new ice routes up the Bush Stream Valley. January 2006 saw Nico Hudak and Mark Watson head into the Reay Valley, east of Tasman Valley, in search of quality red rock. The pair climbed a prominent stepped buttress dubbed Max Johnson (seven pitches, 17) on a 2,235m outlier of Mt. Johnson. Later the same day the pair climbed a classic, sharp arête, Tim Fin (15, pitched and simul-climbed).

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*Canterbury region, summary.* Showing that there are still plenty of new things to do in the Southern Alps, if you are motivated, Guy McKinnon ventured alone onto the northwest face of Malcolm Peak (2,512m) to make the first ascent of this 500m greywacke face, at 14. Malcolm Peak is on the Main Divide between the Lyell Glacier and the Heim Plateau.

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*Rock climbing, brief summary.* Working from south to north, this report mentions only sample highlights of New Zealand crag climbing. Starting with the Darrans, where a lot of activity focused on Babylon and Chasm Crag, Derek Thatcher made the first ascent of Hammurabi (32) at Babylon, while Mayan Smith-Gobat made the first ascent Akathesia (28), a line previously bolted by Paul Rogers at Chasm Crag.

The Queenstown area has seen a lot of activity, both up high on the Remarkables and at Wye Creek, with the most notable event being Derek Thatcher's ascent of a long-time project named Homage (32) at Wye Creek.

In Wanaka, Guy Cotter and Ed Nepia finished a long-time project, to produce Taniwha (220m, 9 pitches, 24/25), a great-looking route that has already seen one onsite repeat, by Bruce Dowrick and Jon Sedon. There has been lots of other local cragging activity in Wanaka, as well as the release of a new, larger edition of the local guidebook

In Christchurch, Derek Thatcher ticked off a project linking terrain between Hung Like Elvis (26) and Bogus Machismo (29). This currently unnamed line weighs in at around 32. Kaz Pucia made the prestigious second ascent of Ivan Vostinar's testpiece, Centrifuge (32), while Mayan Smith-Gobat has been impressing everyone with some staunch sends, most notably Troglodyte (30), the hardest grade yet climbed by a Kiwi woman.

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