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MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY  
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



# RESOLUTION: A NEW ROUTE ON AORAKI/MT COOK

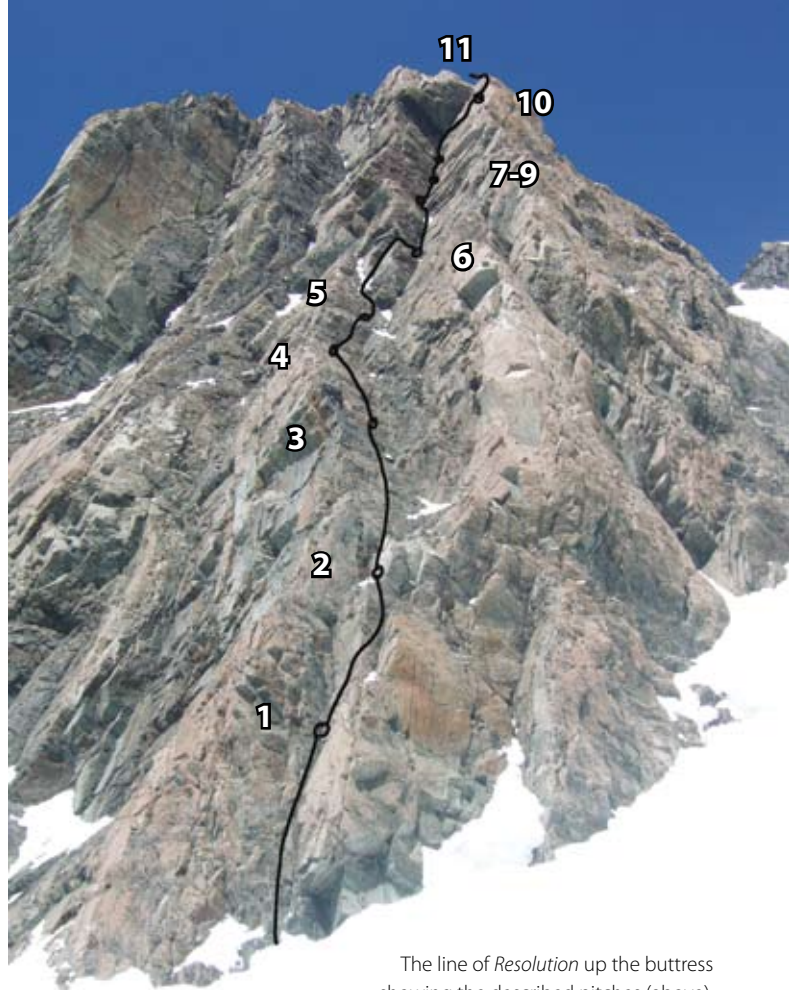
BY STUART HOLLAWAY  
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY LACHIE CURRIE

**Resolution** climbs the big corner running all the way up buttress from the base of the Bowie Couloir to the crest of Zurbriggen's Ridge.

480m of rock to the crest climbed in 11 pitches, crux 19/20, then continue across the snow arete and up Zurbriggen's; NZ 6. High quality rock and climbing on a big mountain route—strongly recommended. This corner line would be a spectacularly good mixed route and the whole buttress offers excellent scope for further climbing.

**Start:** Below the roof and hanging corner just left of the right arete of the buttress.

- 1) 30m, 14. Up hanging corner to small alcove of dark rock.
- 2) 30m, 15. Work up red wall and arete to climb hanging corner on right to big ledge. (Pitches 1 and 2 could be combined.)
- 3) 60m, 14. Climb right hand corner then continue up ledges and walls left of the main corner.
- 4) 50m, 16. Slabs and walls of pink rock left of the corner. Belay near the arete below a steep wall.
- 5) 30m, 18. Traverse up and right towards corner. Climb overhang into groove left of main corner (which is blocked by loose flakes).
- 6) 60m, 18. Up easy ground then left below roof in main corner into subsidiary corner (snow). Weave up pink wall (~20m) with cracks to cross arete and make slopy traverse back to main corner. Belay off hand and fist size cams.



The line of *Resolution* up the buttress showing the described pitches (above).

7) 90m, 12. Up nice corner, then long chimney; finally scramble to belay below steepening in corner. (There are potential belays in this pitch but they are not very sheltered.)

8) 30m, 16. Climb corner (or wall on right—corner may be wet) to awkward belay below next overhang. Piton high on left. (This belay is dry but the ropes will get wet—best to combine pitches 8 and 9 to get past wet section.)

9) 30m, 17. The *Waterfall* pitch—climb overhang using chockstones and continue up corner and right wall to a stance on the left.

10) 30m, 13. Up corner to gain obvious diagonal weakness heading up across right wall. Belay on flake/pedestal below smooth, steep wall with cracks heading diagonally up left and right. (Pitches 10 and 11 could be combined.)

11) 40m, 19/20. Tricky moves up right leading crack and the wall beyond to crest. Continue up easy arete of buttress to snow.

**Gear:** Approx. 7 cams finger to fist, a full set of nuts, 1KB & 1LA (optional), draws, full alpine kit to continue up mountain or double ropes and extensive tat to rappel buttress.

**FA:** Stuart Hollaway and Lachie Currie. 18-19 January, 2010.

This trip was supported by the inaugural MUMC Adventure Grant and the NZAC Australian Section Expedition Fund, both of which are gratefully acknowledged. ☺



Clockwise, from above:

The north-east aspect of Aoraki/Mt Cook—the line indicates the buttress taken by *Resolution* to join Zurbriggen's route to the summit;

Returning through the icefall after reconnaissance of access to the buttress;

Another view of the icefall;

Lachie climbing out of the icefall;

Lachie changing boots at the bottom of the route—full alpine kit in the pack makes for heavy climbing...





The opening moves (above left).

Lachie pulling through the overhang on pitch 5 (inset).

Stuart starting up the corner of the long chimney, pitch 7 (above).

Top of the wet corner, pitch 8 (left).

Looking down the line from the crest of the buttress (below).







Traversing the snow arete to join Zurbriggen's Ridge (below left).

Stuart in the morning after a sitting bivvy in a crevasse high on the mountain (right), and the magnificent views of Mt Tasman from the bivvy site (above).

A happy man on top (below right).

