



LOWER CHANDLER

Stream v3a3II ★★

Location

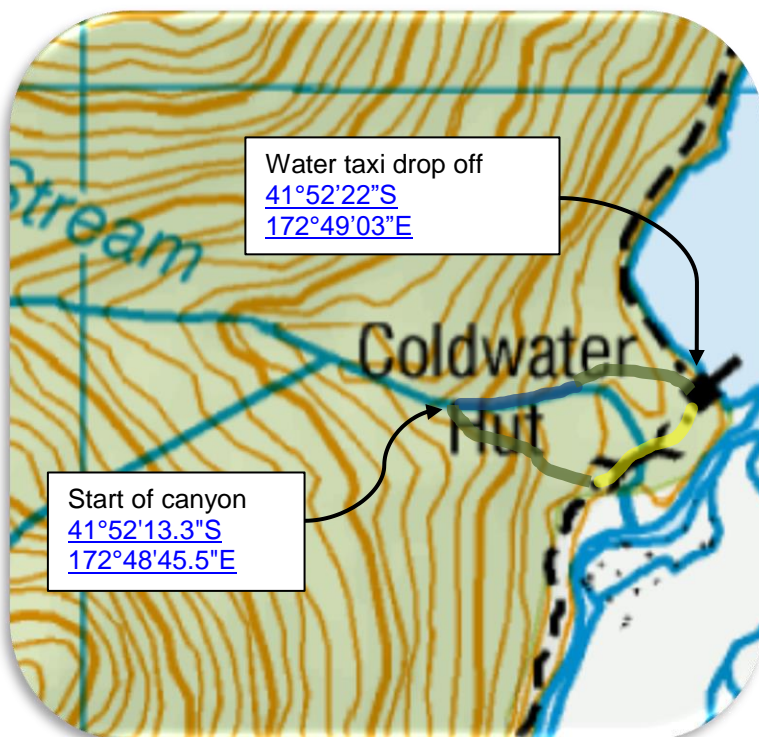
Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park.

Character

Probably the best bang for your buck trip in the region. The lower section of Chandler Stream is quite short but of high quality: continuous, beautiful and enclosed. Reminiscent of Haast Past canyons. See separate topo for description of Upper Chandler Stream.

Map

BS24 Mount Robert.



Enter the canyon at 710m, directly above the three back-to-back waterfalls.

At the end of the canyon, walk downhill and you'll soon arrive at the track/hut.

Rock

Very hard greywacke.

Water

Medium flow in normal conditions. At high flows it would get significantly trickier. Cold.

Catchment

6.1 km²

Anchors

Double bolt stations.

Gear

Minimum 2 x 20m ropes

Route Description

The canyon is enclosed and is reasonably deep and narrow throughout. The highlights are R2 and R7, both of which are beautiful waterfall with good jumps. You can repeat jumps from the bottom of R7. There are several other small jumps dotted throughout the canyon.

Time

Coldwater Hut to start of lower canyon	20min
Canyon descent	2h30min
Return to Coldwater Hut	5min
Total	3h

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate.

Escapes

There is only one escape between the top of R1 and the bottom of R7.

Notes

First descent: Toine Houtenbos, Mitch Craig, Patrick Higgins, Richard Bramley and Fergus Bramley. 31/1/2017.

Fun to Effort Ratio: $(2.5 + 3) / 0.5 = 11$

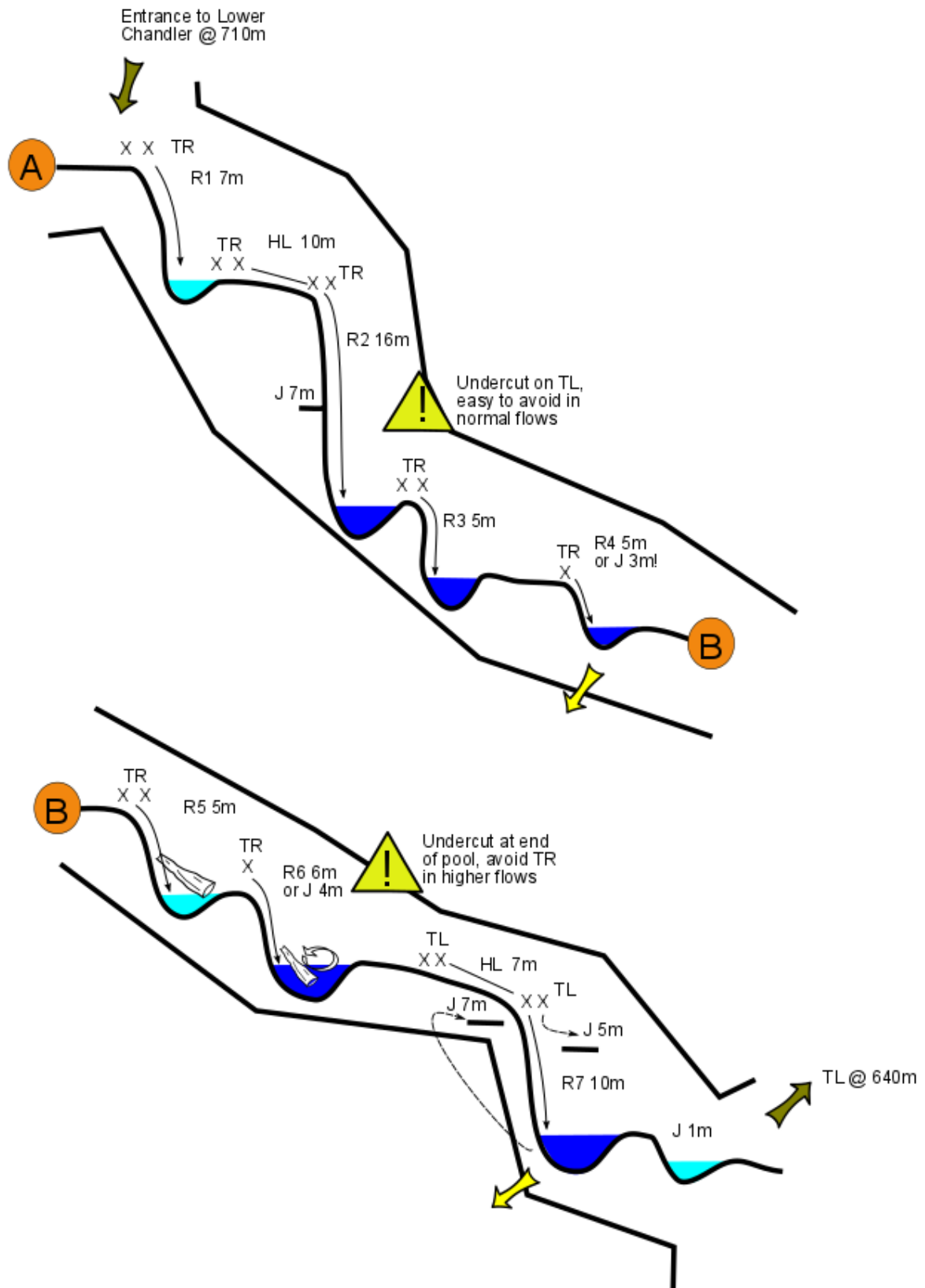
Approach by Car and Water Taxi

From the center of St Arnaud, drive 500m south on Kerr Bay Road to the [lakefront](#). Take a water taxi (rotoitiwatertaxis.co.nz/) to Coldwater Hut at the head of the lake (15min). The water taxi is typically flexible with times if you have a sizeable group. Alternatively, it's a 1h kayak or 2h walk (7km).

Coldwater Hut makes a great base for doing the nearby canyons (Chandler, Clearwater, Shift, Barefoot).

Approach on Foot

From Coldwater Hut start on the track up the Travers Valley. Immediately after crossing Chandler Stream bridge, head up into the bush, staying close to the creek. You will get good views of the main waterfalls en route.



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Topo by Fergus Bramley and
Richard Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org



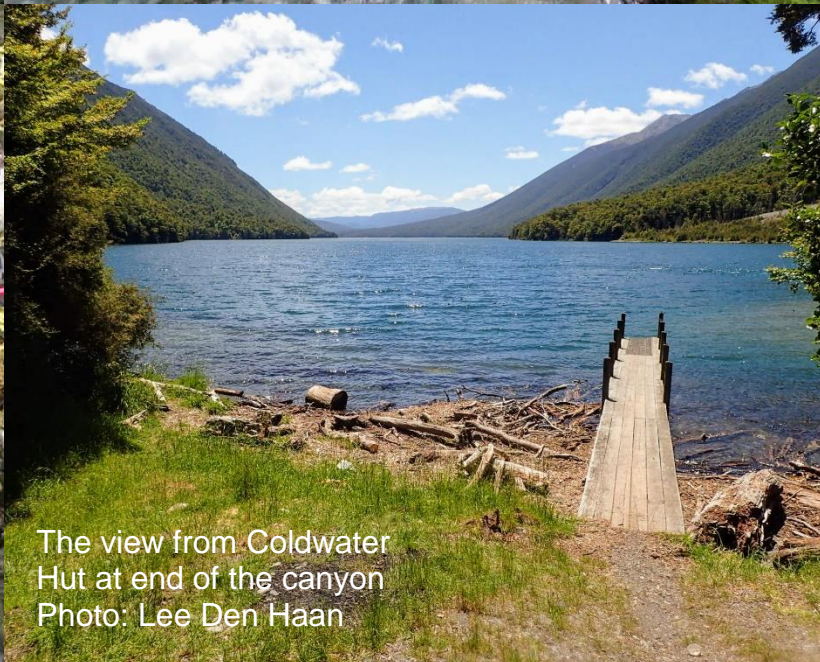
The first three waterfalls (photo taken from outside the canyon rim) Photo: Richard Bramley



Fergus Bramley jumps into the R7 pool after climbing up outside the canyon rim. Photo: Richard Bramley



Richard Bramley on R2 Photo: Lee Den Haan



The view from Coldwater Hut at end of the canyon Photo: Lee Den Haan

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