



UPPER CHANDLER

Stream v3a3III ★

Location

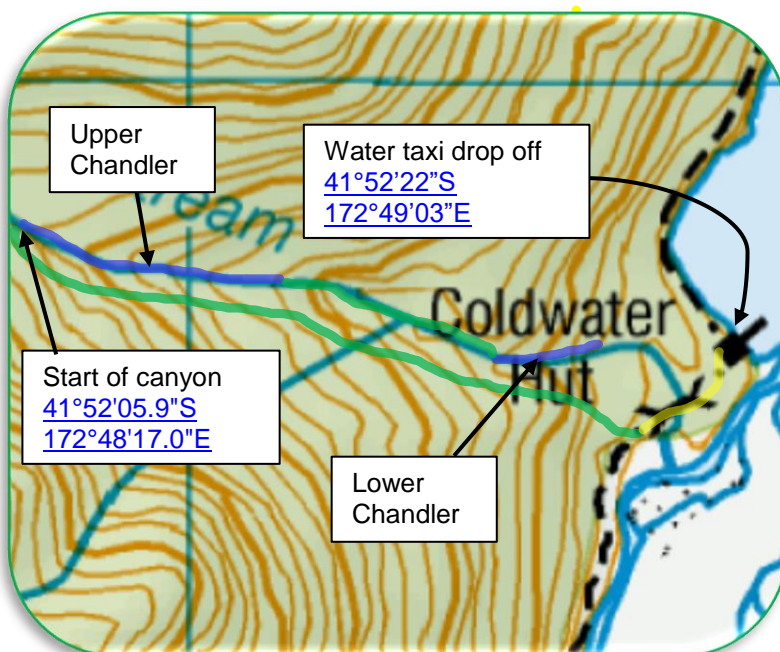
Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park

Character

The upper section of Chandler Stream is of lesser quality than the lower section (see separate topo), but there are still some very nice rappels and enclosed sections that make it a worthwhile addition.

Map

BS24 Mount Robert.



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).

Approach on Foot

From Coldwater Hut start on the track up the Travers Valley. Two minutes later it crosses the Chandler Stream bridge. Head up the true right of the stream, staying close to the canyon rim. At 920m altitude, find a suitable tree to rappel into the canyon.

Rock

Greywacke. Moderate quality.

Water

Medium flow in normal conditions.

Catchment

6.1 km²

Anchors

Mostly tree anchors. One bolted station.

Gear

Minimum 2x 40m ropes.

Route Description

The canyon starts slowly with a jump and small rappel before becoming enclosed. R2 is notable as there is an undercut on the TL that should be avoided. The section between R4 and R7 is mostly enclosed and is the most enjoyable piece of Upper Chandler. R8 to R10 is quite messy. There is then 500m of downclimbing to Lower Chandler.

Time

Coldwater Hut to start of canyon	1h30m
Upper canyon descent	2h
Walk/downclimb to Lower Chandler	30m
Total	4h

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate to high.

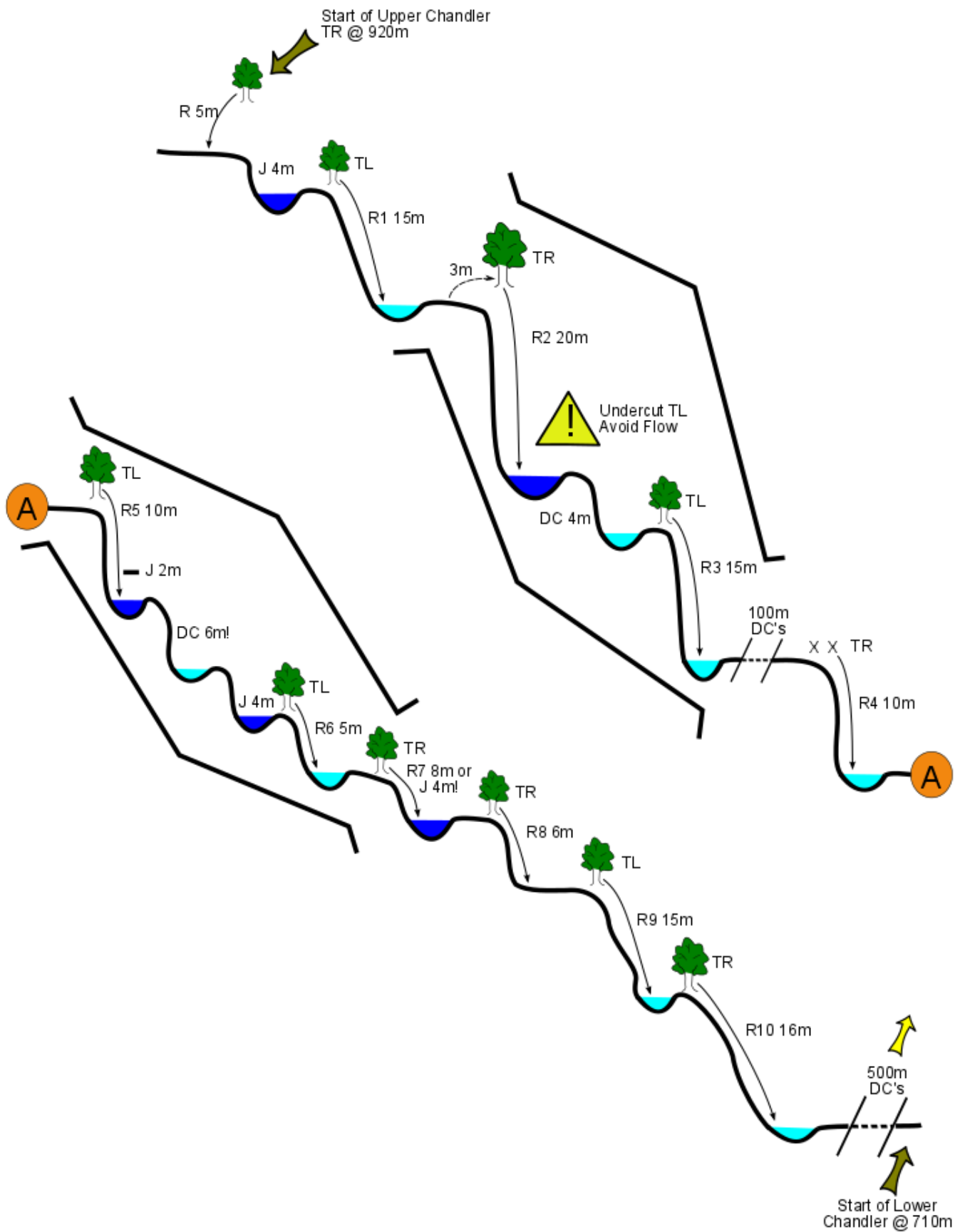
Escapes

Numerous escapes.

Notes

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

Fun to Effort Ratio: $(2 + 2) / 2 = 2$.



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Topo by Fergus Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org

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