



SLIPPERY NIPPLE

canyon v3a2III ★

Location

Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park

Character

Steep low volume stream suitable for intermediate canyoneers. Lots of rappels, some picturesque.

Map

BS24 Mount Robert, BS25 Severn.



Approach by Car

From the centre of St Arnaud, head south on Kerr Bay Rd for 500m to a DOC car park for the Lake Head track.

Approach on Foot

Follow the Lake Head Track approximately 3km to a footbridge over the stream. Just past this, follow blue triangles up the spur on the true left of the stream to the 1200m contour. The triangles stop around the 1000m contour but the bush remains open to 1200m. From here slide into the canyon at the major confluence marked on the map.

Rock

Greywacke. Not especially hard, so broken at times.

Water

Low flow in normal conditions.

Catchment

1.4 km²

Anchors

Predominantly natural anchors and one single bolt.

Gear

Minimum 1x60m and 1x30m.

Route Description

The canyon starts with a beautiful 30m rappel straight through the flow. This is followed by some easy downclimbs and short rappels before the main waterfall series (R4-R6) which is the most significant feature of the canyon. From the top of R5 there are great views over the lake below. The canyon continues all the way down to 770m elevation with many more downclimbs and nice rappels through the flow. The final section from just above R14 is enclosed with no escapes.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	2h30m
Canyon descent	3h30m
Return to Vehicle	1h
Total	7h

Flash Flood Danger

Low

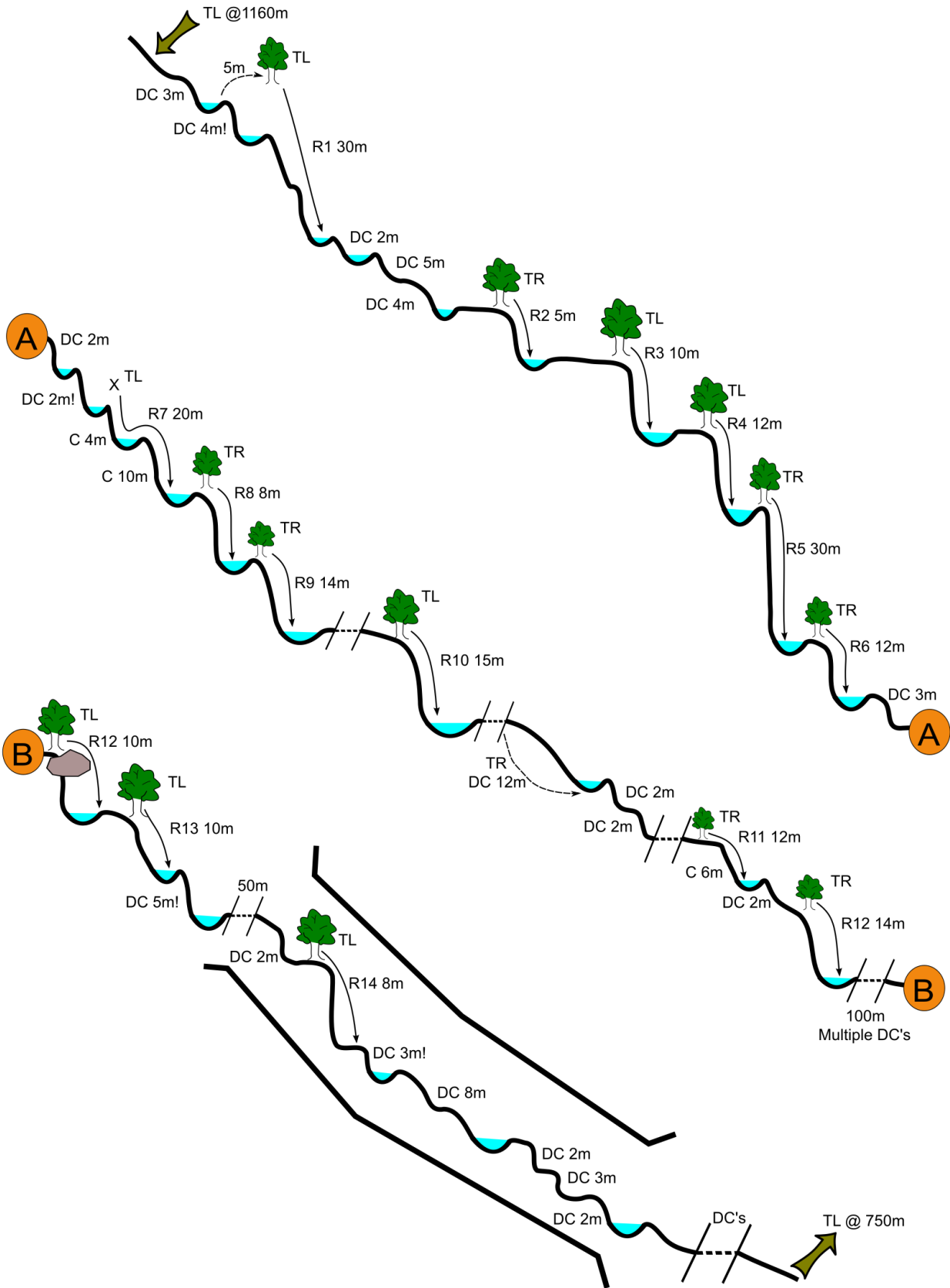
Escapes

Many escapes from the canyon on both sides, except for the short lower section.

Notes

First descent: Ryan Malcolm, Emma Malcolm, Richard Bramley and Fergus Bramley.

Fun to Effort Ratio: $(3.5+2)/3.5 = 1.6$



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Topo by Fergus Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org



*Emma Malcolm
descends R1.
Photo: Ryan Malcolm*



*Ryan Malcolm
descends R5.
Photo: Richard Bramley*



The view from atop R5. Photo: Richard Bramley

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