



# MEMORIAL CANYON

canyon v4a2II ★

## Location

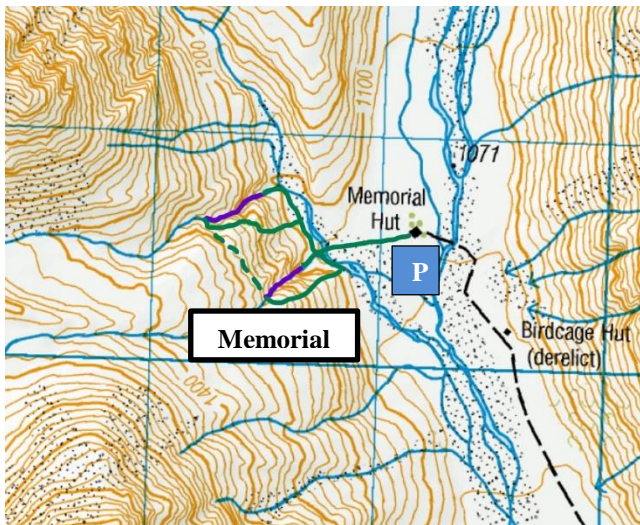
Cass Valley; overlooking Memorial Hut and the confluence Ailsa Stream and the Cass River.

## Character

Multiple rappels in an open lower flow canyon. The obvious must do canyon when viewed from Memorial Hut. A great morning warm up before tucking into Birdcage Canyon in the afternoon & all you have driven in to Memorial hut later in the evening.

## Map

BX16 Mount Elie De Beaumont.



## Approach by Car

From Tekapo, drive South and soon take the right turn off for St John Observatory. Go past the observatory onto the gravel road and after a while turn left into Glenmore Station. **Note Glenmore Station, the huts and canyons are on private property; phone Emily & Will on 03 680 6752 early for access permission. From the station farmhouse access by vehicle is by high clearance 4wd and includes several crossings of the Cass river.** From the station drive approximately 25km up the Cass valley parking by the front door of Memorial Hut. Tekapo to Memorial Hut 2.5 hours.

## Approach on Foot

Climb the spur on the TR of the canyon starting at a small slip. After approximately 200m of height gain sidle in just above where the mountain stream makes its first drop. 45 minutes from Memorial Hut.

## Rock

Greywacke, generally good quality where water worn.

## Water

Low flow in normal conditions mid-summer.

## Catchment

5 km<sup>2</sup>

## Anchors

Generally Double Bolt & Thread and Ring Anchors.

## Gear

Longest drop 50m (Use 60m ropes in order to retrieve ropes from a safe distance)

## Route Description

R1 (8m) sling round tree TL.

R2 (20m) TR DBA has a rooster tail / slide feature for the final 5m for which you need to stay on rope as the pool at the bottom is shallow.

R3 (25m) TL sling and ring from boulder pinch.

R4 (20m) TL sling and ring from boulder pinch.

R5 (20m) TR DBA.

R6 (15m) TL DBA, has a HL anchor to access it.

R7 (15m) TR sling and ring from tree.

Hand line (15m) TR SBA to assist with a scramble down a couple of short drops in narrows.

R8 (5m) TL sling and ring from boulder pinch. This leads into the final rappel. Suggest one stay's on rope until the next anchors bolts are reached.

R9 (50m) TR DBA on the lip of the final falls.

## Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	45min
Canyon descent	2hr
Return to vehicle	15min
<b>Total</b>	<b>3hr</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Low

## Escapes

One verified escape on the TR after R2. Several potential escapes on the TL thereafter.

## Notes

First descent: 02 February 2020 (Justin Hall, Gabriela Scheufele, Hamish Castle, Steve Bruerton)

Fun to effort ratio: High when combined with the other Cass Valley canyons making the drive in worthwhile. This canyon has a remote feel in a stunning Canterbury High country setting, with a 15-minute walk back to a hut filled with everything you have driven in.

Access: Private land, Glenmore Station is run by Emily & Will who welcome adventurers and have established huts and maintain 4wd access in the Cass Valley. **Show your appreciation of their hospitality by ensuring you have access permission & use the huts at the base of the canyon (\$30 per person per night; 2020).**

For a video of the Cass valley canyoning trilogy first descents:

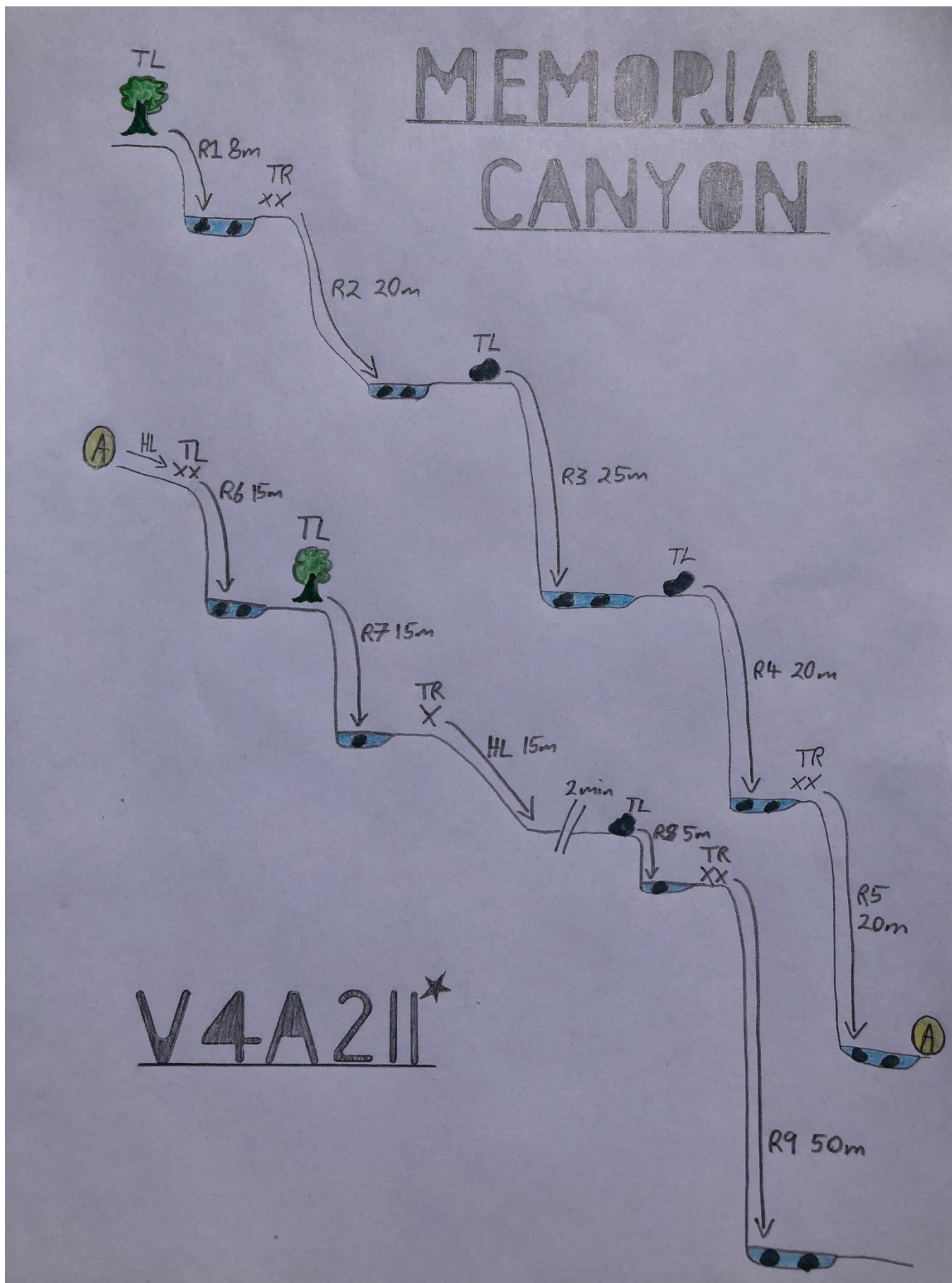
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MPllqWSracLOWiZAv8vKdteqbQfOmlKi/view>

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*Topo by Justin Hall*  
*www.kiwicanyons.org*

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