



Mount Rowe

Canyon v3a1 III

Location

Coromandel Forest Park, Kauaeranga River

Map

Topo 50 BB35 Hikuai
Car park at road end 375948
Upper section start 376978
Upper section finish 379972
Lower section start 379972
Lower section finish 386968

Character

Upper :Steep stream over grown with ferns
Lower :Steep stream in native bush

Access

Drive to the car park at the end of the Kauaeranga Valley. Follow the track towards Moss Creek Hut site. hut .Half way up the climb from the Kauaeranga river the terrain flattens at an insignificant creek. This is the start point for the lower section and the end point of the upper section. For the upper section continue up to Mt Rowe.

Rock

A mixture of hard and soft rocks.

Water

No jumps no swims.
Wetsuits :optional in summer.

Catchment

Small catchment from a steep bush clad range

Anchors

Slings around trees (all retrieved)

Gear

Upper one 60m rope
Lower two 60m ropes

Route Description

Upper. From Mt Rowe head back toward moss creek hut 300m and drop off the ridge. Lots of bush bashing. There are 5 different tributaries within 300m at this upper section of the stream, only one tributary is shown on the topo. Your trip may differ from ours depending on what tributary you hit.

Lower: From where the track crosses the stream continue downstream 5 minutes to the remains of the first dam. Stream exits at Kauaeranga River. Follow the river or track back to the carpark.

Rappels

Upper section: 3 abseils up to 25m
Lower section: 10? abseils up to 25m.Note:The slot/waterfall/waterfall combination was completed by using a second rope, placed at the second waterfall before entering the slot.

Time

Upper	
Car park to start of upper canyon	3hr
Upper canyon	2hr
Upper canyon to car	2 hr
Total	7Hr
Lower	
Car park to start of lower stream	2hr
Lower canyon	4hr
Lower canyon to car	1hr
Total	7Hr

Flash Flood Danger

Our descent was completed with ease during heavy rain. The nearby sleeping god was impassable. The approach track has wire bridges over the Kauaeranga River.

Escapes

The stream bed can be exited at most points All waterfalls can be bypassed however a rope would be advisable as the terrain is steep

Notes

First descent: Probably miners or Kauri loggers in 1870s to 1920s. Evidence of kauri log extraction is still visible in this stream. Significant Kauri dam remains were found 5 minutes downstream from the lower section start. Numerous kauri logs were found stuck in the lower section of the stream.

Canyoners: Philip Beech and Jerry Prendergast
2010

Trip report 2010

Mt Rowe Kauaeranga Valley Coromandel Forest Park

An unnamed Stream starting near Mt Rowe/Table

Mountain ending at the Kauaeranga River

With over 500m of vertical decent in under 1.5km this is steeper than Sleeping God so it had to have some waterfalls, even though none were shown on the new topo50 maps. An old kauri dam map suggested a 60m waterfall and 3 historic dams.

It was raining and Sleeping God was going to be in flood.

From the Kauaeranga River road end we headed up to the Billy Goat Creek look out. The falls were spectacular to view in flood from this distance and definitely a place to avoid when raining . We continued toward Moss Creek hut and half way up the climb the terrain flattens and we arrived at an insignificant creek. This is the start point for trip 1 and the end point of our second visit.

Within 5 minutes we arrived at the first of 2 Kauri dams on this section. A reasonable amount of the remains were still visible, the water volume in the creek never got much bigger even though it was raining heavily. Plenty more falls to come, most could be by passed but that's not we were here for. At the second dam site we were confronted with a slot and two consecutive 20m waterfalls. Fearing a lack of anchors at the last waterfall we pre-rigged it from a tree above the gorge before entering the slot .This slot/fall/fall combination was probably the 60m waterfall described in the Kauri dam book. It was probably 10 abseils before we exited and floated down the Kauaeranga River in flood back to the car. (7 hours car to car)

Worthy of a repeat and someting to do when Sleeping god is flooded.

Trip 2 same stream, upper half

It's a big climb up to Mt Rowe. It took a lot of bashing in thick bush and an abseil to get to the stream start. Once in the stream it was so full of ferns I could not see my feet (or the 2m waterfall my feet found before I did) In one place it was like an Indiana Jones movie with a huge fallen tree spanning the gorge hundreds of feet above the stream. Found a few 25m abseils. Not much in this upper section worthy of a revisit due to all the bush bashing, (unless you are mad and want to cross or abseil off the rotting tree bridge) (7 hours car to car)

All abseils off retrievable slings around trees

Phil Beech

