



# CLEARWATER

Stream v3a2III ★

AKA 'THE RED BARON'

## Location

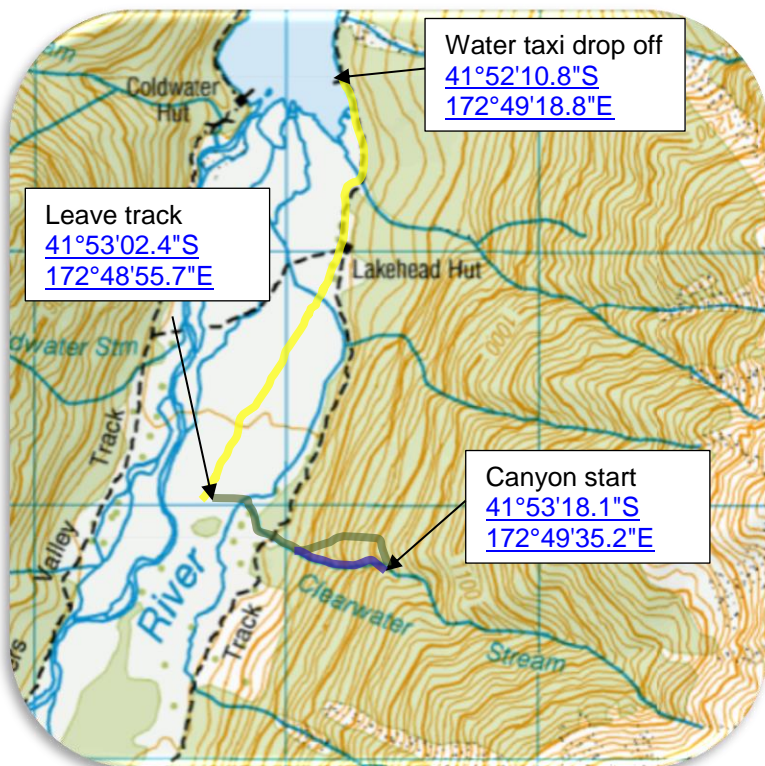
Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park

## Character

Clearwater Stream is a steep and continuous canyon with many quality rappels up to 30m. A great beginner to intermediate trip to practice rigging.

## Map

BS24 Mount Robert. Note that the walking track up the east side of the valley is marked incorrectly on the Topo50 map.



steep grunt up but the 260m of climbing is over pretty quick.

## Rock

Greywacke. Pretty good quality.

## Water

Low flow in normal conditions.

## Catchment

1.6 km<sup>2</sup>

## Anchors

Natural and double bolt stations.

## Gear

1x40m and 1x20m ropes minimum.

## Route Description

The canyon starts abruptly and, except for one short walking section, is pretty much back to back waterfalls throughout. It's a low flow canyon, so unfortunately there are no deep pools, but the number of nice, clean waterfalls makes it a great trip. It's possible to stay out of the flow on all the rappels if desired, so it is doable in higher than normal flows.

## Time

Lakehead Hut to start of canyon	1h
Canyon descent	3h30m
Return to Lakehead Hut	15m
<b>Total</b>	<b>4h45m</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Low to Moderate.

## Escapes

Reasonably easy to get out of the water in most places. Limited places where full escape is possible.

## Notes

First descent: Richard Bramley, Fergus Bramley 11/2/2017.

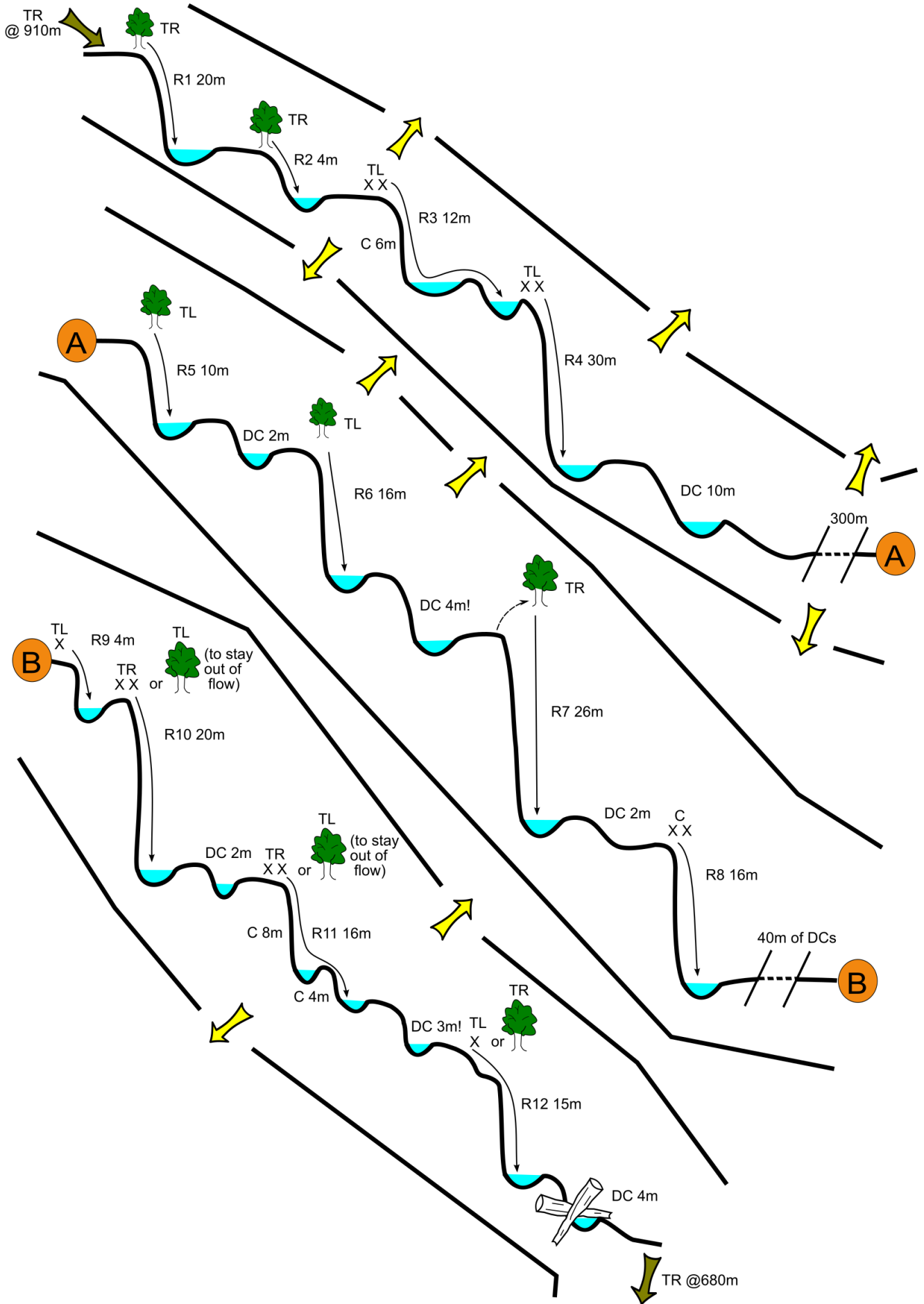
Fun to Effort Ratio: (3.5+1)/1=4.5.

## 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/](http://rotoitiwatertaxis.co.nz/)) to Lakehead Hut jetty 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 Lakehead Hut follow the track up the Travers Valley until you are directly opposite Clearwater Stream. Head up the stream until you reach the last waterfall of the canyon. From here head up the canyon rim on the true right in steep open beech forest to 910m elevation where there is an easy way back into the stream. It is a



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Topo by Fergus Bramley  
[www.kiwicanyons.org](http://www.kiwicanyons.org)



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