



HEART THROB

canyon v4a4IV ★

Location

Matakitaki Valley, Nelson Lakes National Park

Character

A medium to high volume canyon with some impressive waterfalls. A committing trip but a less stressful day out than its neighbour Peak Creek, thanks to being able to easily stay out of the flow.

Map

BS23 Matakitaki



Approach by Car

Drive to the start of the Lower Matakitaki Track which is 40km from Murchison (via Mangles Valley Road).

Approach on Bike and Foot

From the carpark cycle or walk (access times assume cycling) 8km on the 4WD track (easy riding) until it

crosses the Heart Throb canyon Creek. Leave bikes here and head up the creek to the base of the hill. From here follow the regenerating spur on the true left (quite close to the canyon rim) and climb to 750m elevation. Sidle around and down into the creek, rappelling in off a tree at 700m elevation.

Rock

Hard greywacke (semi-schist).

Water

Medium to high volume in normal conditions.

Catchment

9.7 km²

Anchors

Natural anchors throughout.

Gear

1x 60m, 1x40m ropes minimum.

Route Description

After dropping in the canyon becomes enclosed with very few escapes. The upper canyon is beautiful, with two rappels and a great 6m jump. Be aware that if the log in the DC 10m! washes away, this drop will also need to be rappelled. R3 is rigged away from the flow and is free hanging for a large portion of its length. The final waterfall is done in two rappels, the first crossing the flow to access the tree anchor for the second part on the true right. There is then few hundred metres of stream walking with downclimbs back to the river flats.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	2h30m
Canyon descent	2h30m
Return to Vehicle	1h
Total	6h

Flash Flood Danger

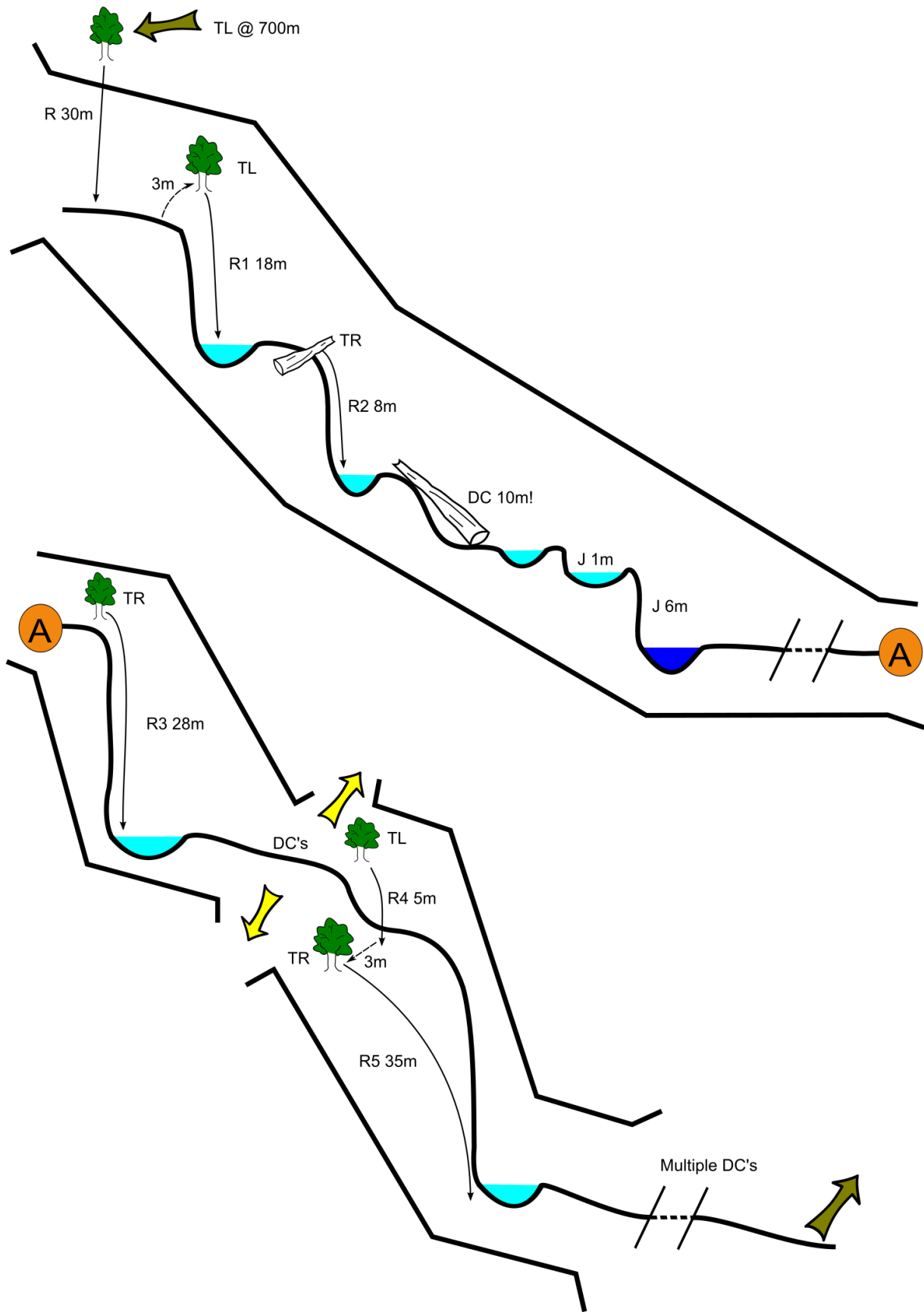
Moderate

Escapes

The only potential escapes are between R3 and R4.

Notes

First descent: Toine Houtenbos, Drew Gallacher, Richard Bramley and Fergus Bramley
Fun to effort ratio: $(2.5 + 3) / 3.5 = 1.6$. Better if you cycle in.



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Topo by Fergus Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org

Fergus Bramley descends R3.
Photo: Drew Gallacher



The R4/R5 waterfall from below.
Photo: Drew Gallacher



The J6m. Photo: Drew Gallacher



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