



WHITE

Creek v4a2II ★

Location

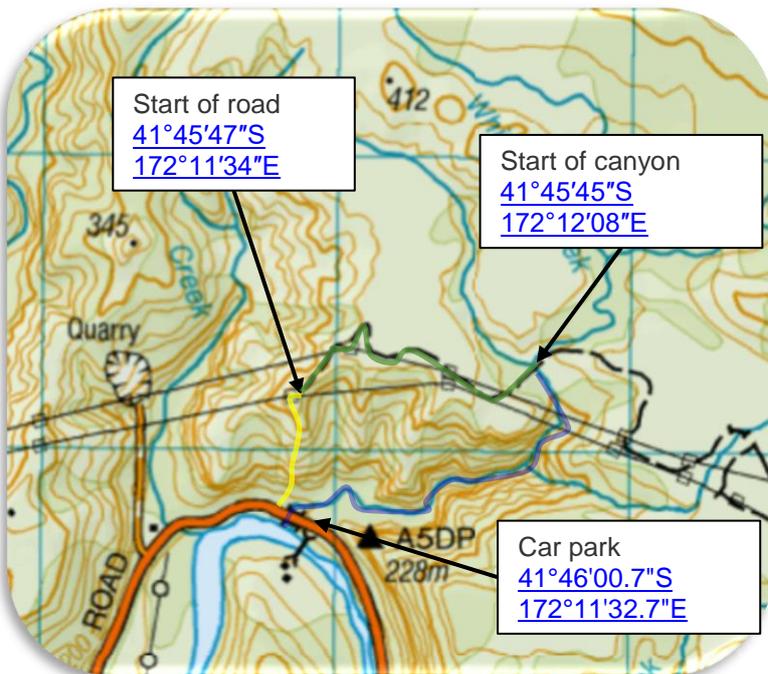
Upper Buller Gorge, near Murchison

Character

Nice easy half-day canyon trip. Fairly open, granite waterfalls. Low volume, so not many pools. Highlights are a nice 50m waterfall and a jump into the Buller river to finish!

Map

BR22 Lyell.



Approach by Car

Park at the car park for the Buller Swing Bridge tourist attraction. It is on the state highway, 15 minutes from Murchison when driving towards Westport.

Approach on Foot

From the car park, walk down the state highway towards Westport for a hundred metres or so until the "Upthrust of Faultline" sign. Enter the bush near here and follow the spur up to the transmission tower at the top of the hill, staying as close to the spur's ridge as possible. Enjoy great views of the swing bridge and the Buller oxbow. Once at the transmission tower, head down towards the next tower. The road, marked on the map, starts after 50m or so. Follow till it crosses White Creek.

At the end of the canyon, jump into the Buller River (if flows are not up). There are multiple places to exit, the easiest is probably to swim upstream around the corner and you are back at the swing bridge path.

Rock

Granite

Water

Low flow

Catchment

5.1km²

Anchors

Mostly tree anchors. Double bolt anchor on the big waterfall.

Gear

Minimum of 2 x 50m ropes.

Route Description

The canyon starts with a nice cascading 14m waterfall, rigged from a rock island that separates the flow. There are then a series of shorter waterfalls.

The 50m waterfall is a beautiful cascading waterfall. Be a wary of rub points on the way down. Be sure your rope is definitely 50m long.

After another short waterfall, there is a long section of walking downstream until you reach the highway. At this point you can exit if you wish, but it's better to stay in the canyon (which slots up again) and descend the last couple of waterfalls. The last one is a beautiful clean jump into the mighty Buller River.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1h
Canyon descent	3h
Return to vehicle	0m
Total	4h

Flash Flood Danger

Low.

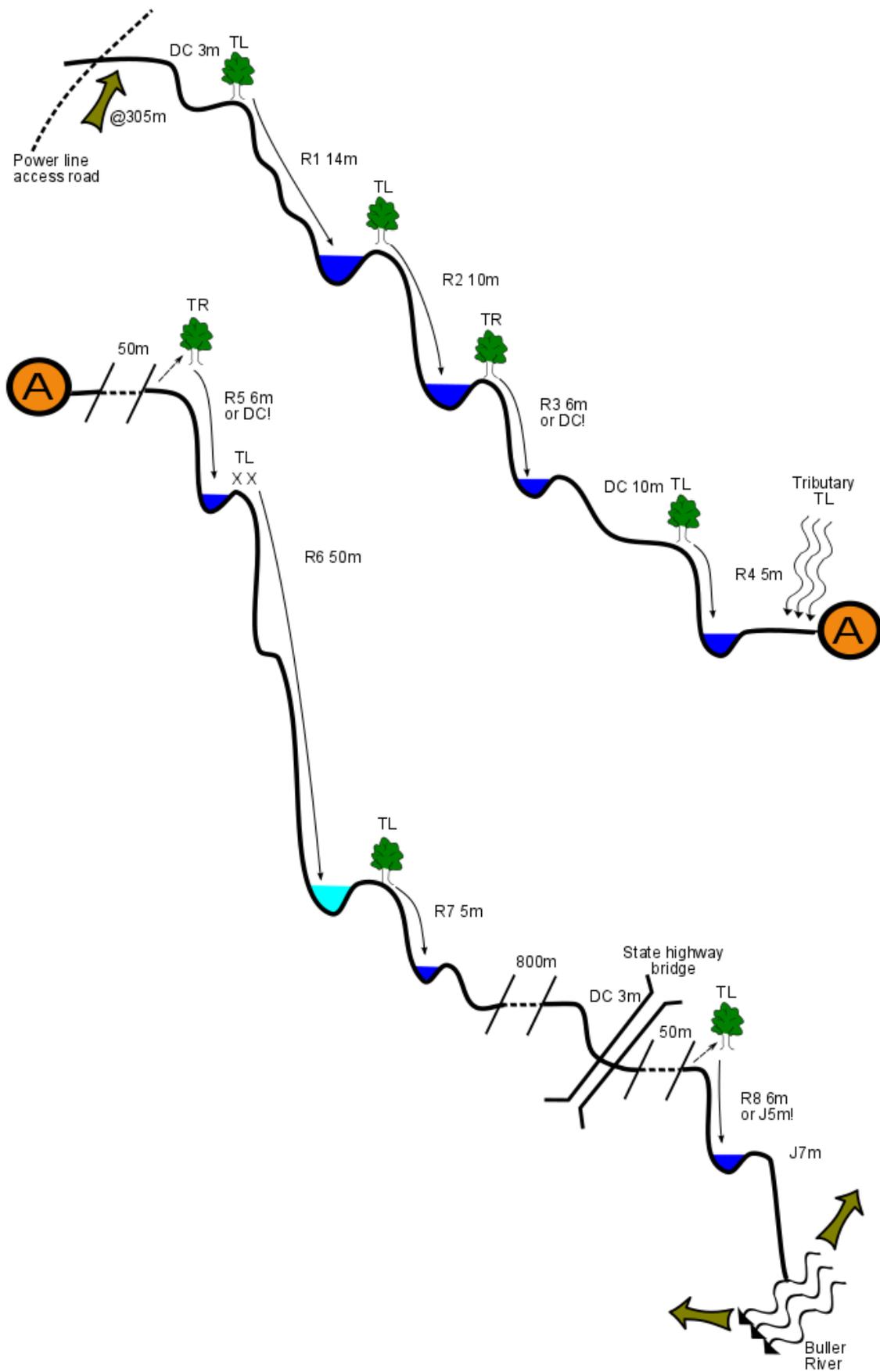
Escapes

You can easily escape the creek throughout. Bush is very steep near the 50m waterfall, so full retreat likely difficult.

Notes

First descent: Benoit Gourgues, Richard Bramley, 11 June 2017.

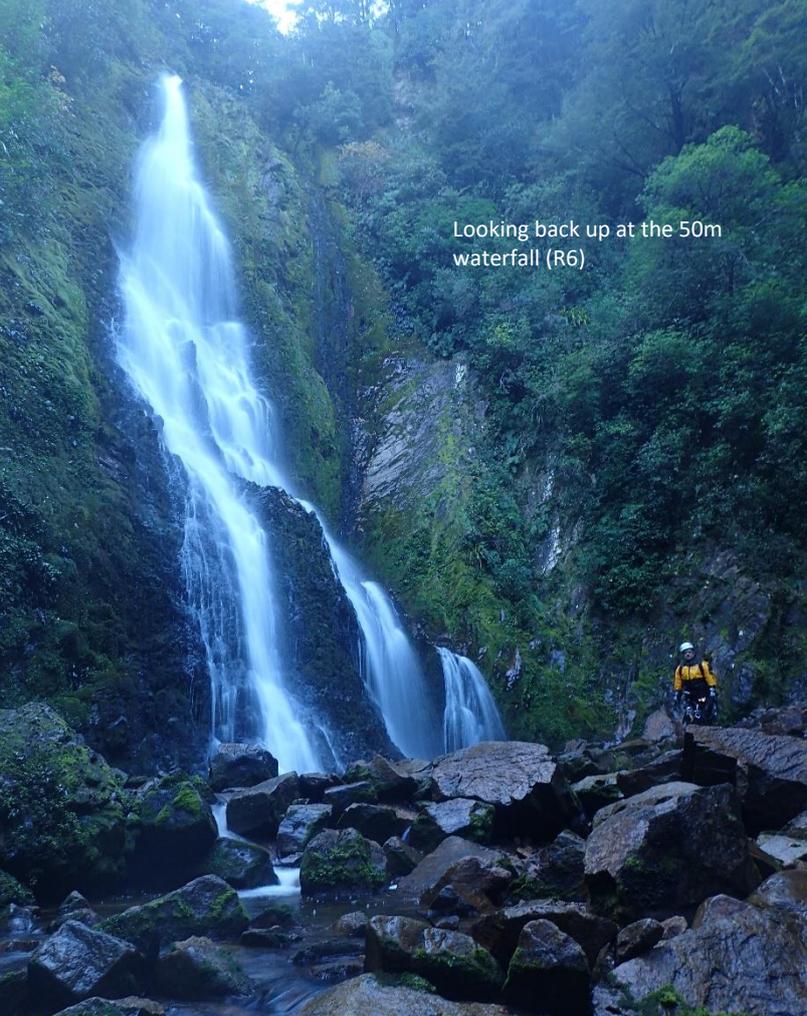
Fun to effort ratio: (3+2)/1=5



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Topo by Richard Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org



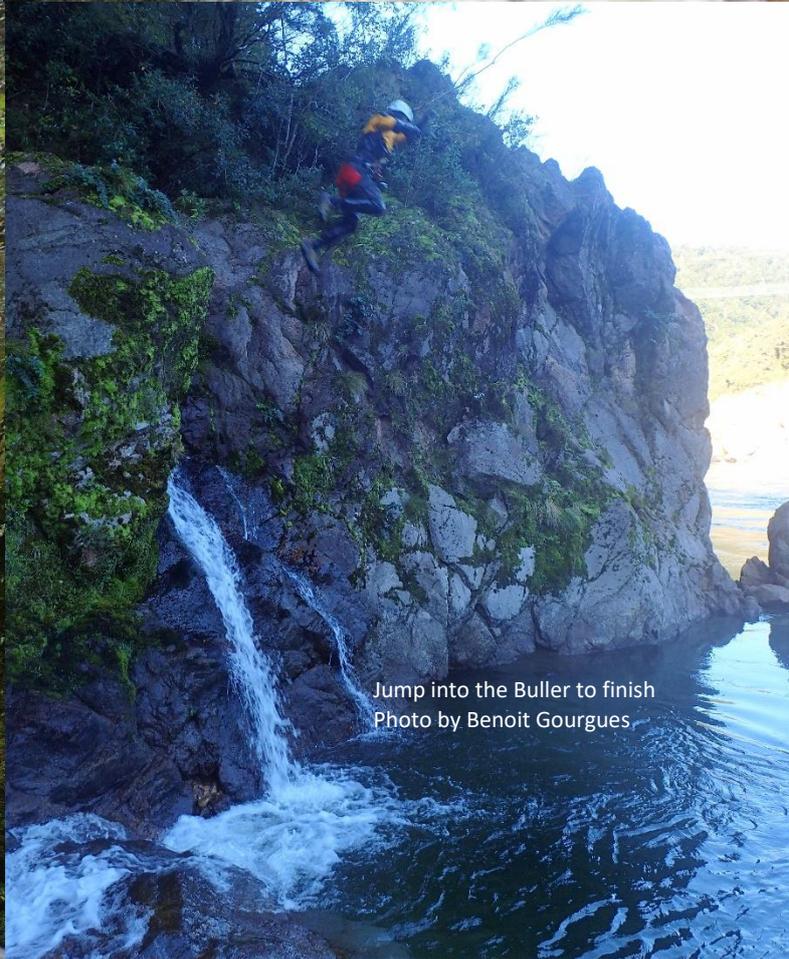
Looking back up at the 50m waterfall (R6)



The first waterfall (R1)
Photo by Richard Bramley



The second waterfall (R2)
Photo by Benoit Gourgues



Jump into the Buller to finish
Photo by Benoit Gourgues

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