



MATHER

Creek v4a4III☆☆☆

Location

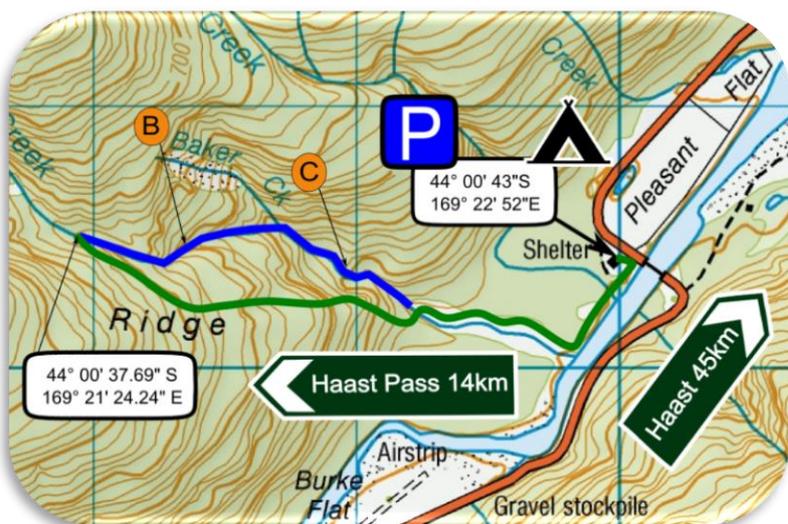
South of Pleasant Flat campground off SH6.

Character

A long day out with plenty of variety: high jumps, down climbing, perfect slides, back to back abseils and beautiful narrows.

Map

BY13 Lake Paringa.



Approach by Car

Travel on SH6 to Pleasant Flat campground beside the Haast River.

Approach on Foot

There is Didymo in the Haast River, so wear spare footwear for the 10 minute walk & wade to Mather Creek. From the campground follow the Haast River past Muir Creek, to Mather Creek. Its easy to walk past Muir Creek without noticing. At Mather Creek's mouth you should still be able to still see the highway bridge.

Walk upstream keeping an eye on the TR bank. Not too far below the arch, and just before the bank gets vertical, scramble up onto the TR rim. Climb the ridge on good deer trails through reasonably open bush for about 1 hour to reach the 500m contour. Sidle for about 20 minutes through thick ladder fern and lots of tiny streams towards the canyon rim. Follow the rim upstream until you can easily walk into the streamway.

Rock

Solid Schist

Water

Moderate volume in normal flows..

Catchment

5.2 km²

Anchors

Natural anchors and some bolted stations.

Gear

Minimum of two 30m ropes.

Route Description

Upper Section

Initially, there are a series of small jumps and a couple of excellent slides. Then the canyon steepens with a series of 4 back to back rappels, before opening abruptly at a large slip.

Middle Section

This section is long, and more open. There are several 10-14m jumps, some landing in wide deep pools, others with relatively shallow and narrow pools. Check each pool carefully and if in any doubt, just rappel. There is lots of down climbing to be done. The rock type changes temporarily to greywacke after the 14m jump.

Lower Section

Beautiful, narrow and moderately deep. Higher flows can create water hazards in this narrow section. The Arch pool is spectacular and can be rappelled down the middle of the flow, completely dry or jumped if the pool is still deep.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1hr45min
Canyon descent	4-5hrs
Return to Vehicle	15min
Total	6-7hrs

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Reasonable drainage, but only a few sections where you could not get higher than the flood levels.

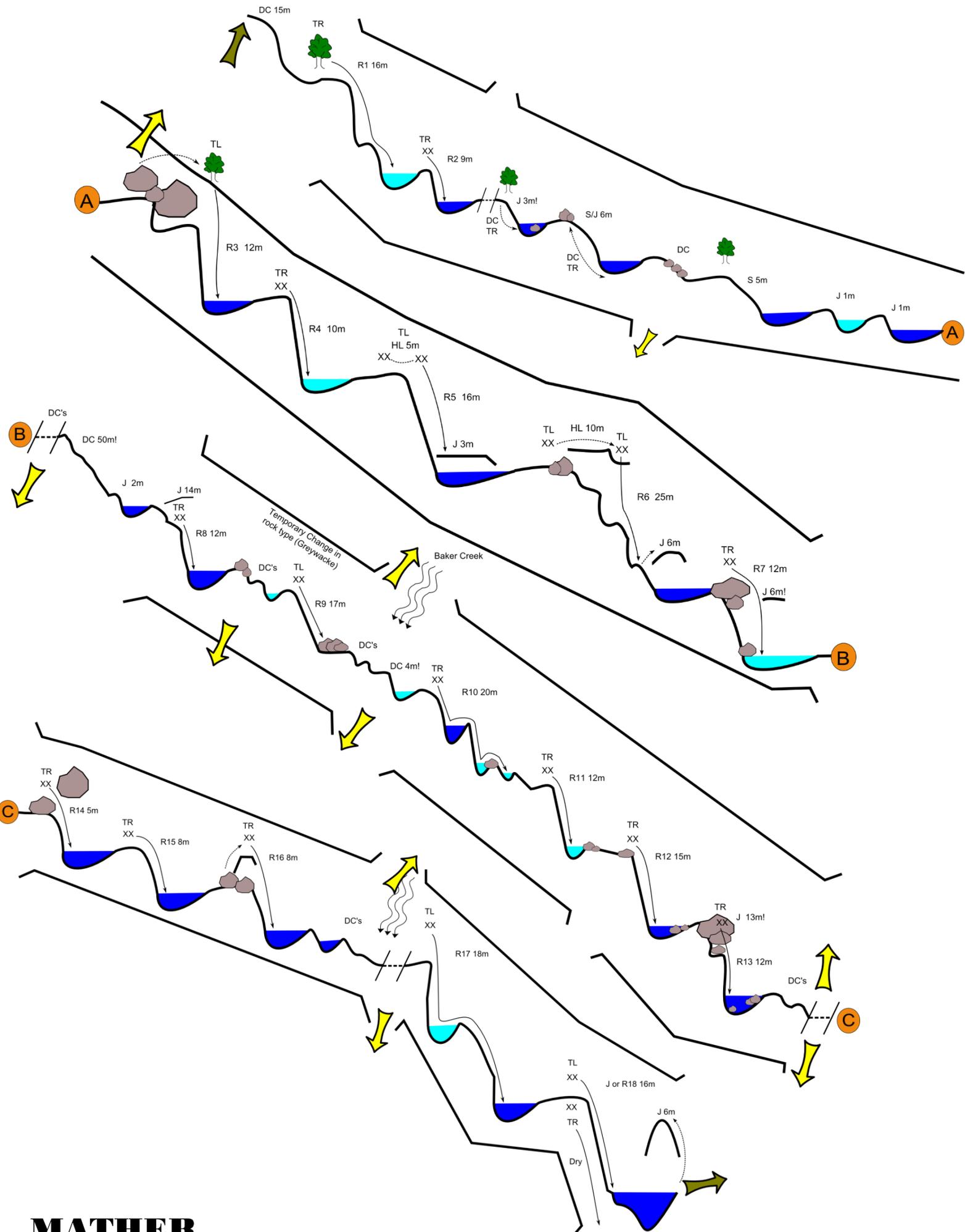
Escapes

Noted on the Topo. Escape from the stream is easy between the sections, but it in places it would be very steep and difficult to climb out of the greater valley and return your car.

Notes

First descent: Daniel Clearwater, Jethro Robinson, Nic Barth. 29 Dec 2009.

First full descent: Dave Vass, Scott Hall. 13 Mar 2010



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater. Updated 7 Feb 2022

www.KiwiCanyons.org