



THE NECK

Creek v4a2IV ★

Location

Lake Hāwea

Character

Steep waterfall stream. Back to back rappels in a gorge.

Map

BZ13 Haast Pass/Tioripatea



Approach by Car

From Highway 6 turn towards Kidds Bush campsite on Meads Road. Drive for about 2 km until you get to Neck Creek Bridge.

There is parking to view the waterfall on the left hand side just before the bridge. [Google Maps pin.](#)

Approach on Foot

Much of the surrounding land is private land (Lake Hāwea Station.) Research [WAMS.govt.nz](#) before you go, so you know exactly where the public access ends.

Follow the true left, fairly close to the stream to say in Hāwea Conservation park. Enter the canyon where the creek forks.

Rock

Schist. Decently solid.

Water

No swims. Most pools knee deep. Low flow.

Catchment

13 km²

Anchors

Natural anchors. Lots to choose from: boulders, trees and logs, but likely to move between floods.

Gear

50 m rope x 2

Natural anchor building materials.

Hand drill kit as a back up if logs get washed away.

Route Description

Begin with 10-15 mins of walking and easy scrambling.

R1 20 m. Anchor – tree on true left. Rapped right of main flow. Single cascade.

R2 20 m. Anchor - log. Single cascade.

Down climb 5 m true right.

R3 30 m. Anchor – boulder. Set of three cascades.

R4 20 m. Anchor – tree. Single cascade.

R5 10 m. Anchor – rock flake on true right. Single cascade.

R6 15 m. Single cascade.

R7 45 m. Set of three cascades.

R8 30 m. Anchor – log. Set of three cascades with gorgeous infinity pools.

R9 40 m. Set of three cascades.

R10 30 m. Set of two cascades.

R11 5 m. Single cascade.

Down climb true left and then walk 1 min to your car!

**Rappel lengths are estimated by a party using a 60 m rope + 60 m tag line.*

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	40 min
Canyon descent	5 hr
Return to vehicle	1 min
Total	5 hrs 40 min

Flash Flood Danger

Medium.

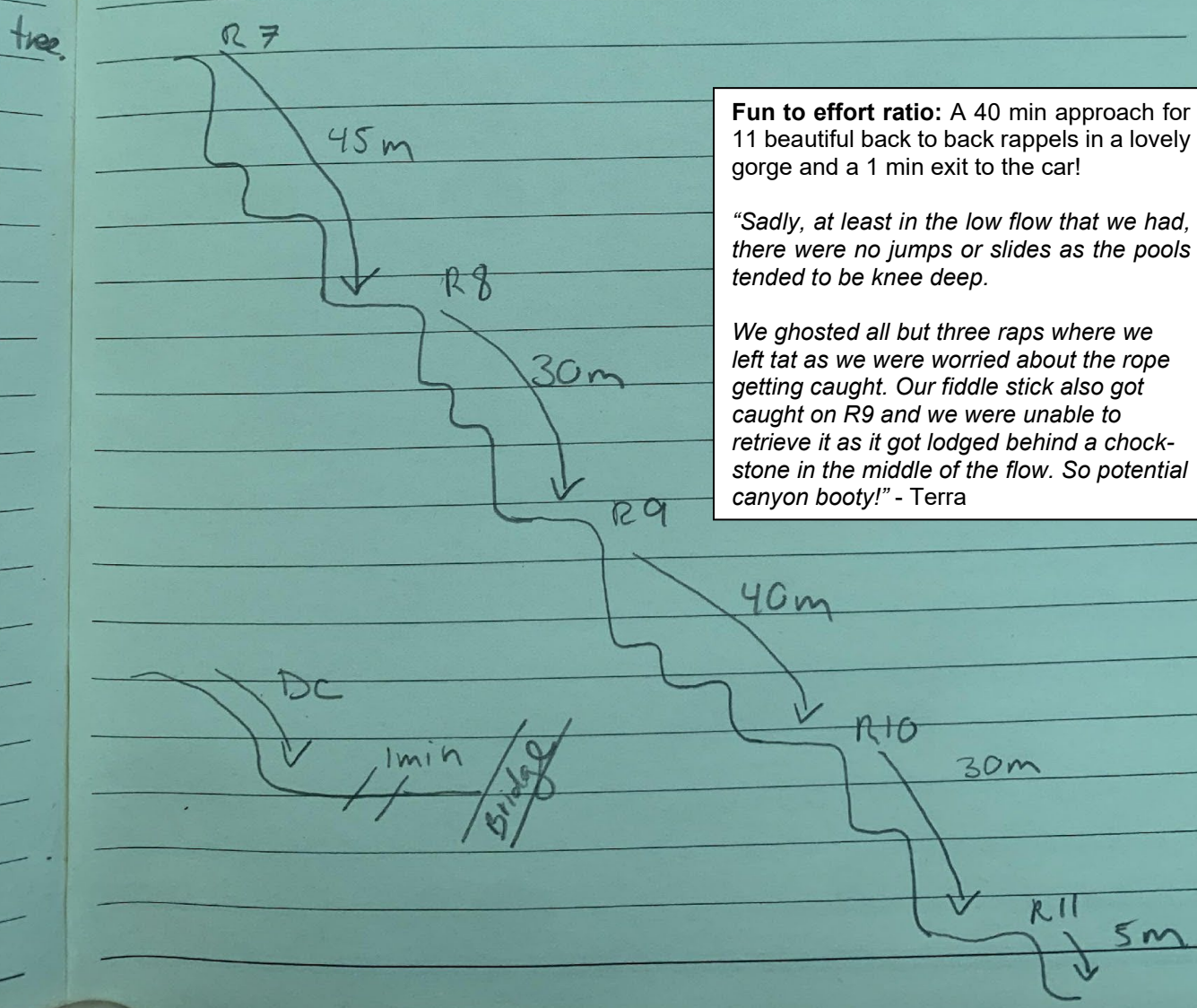
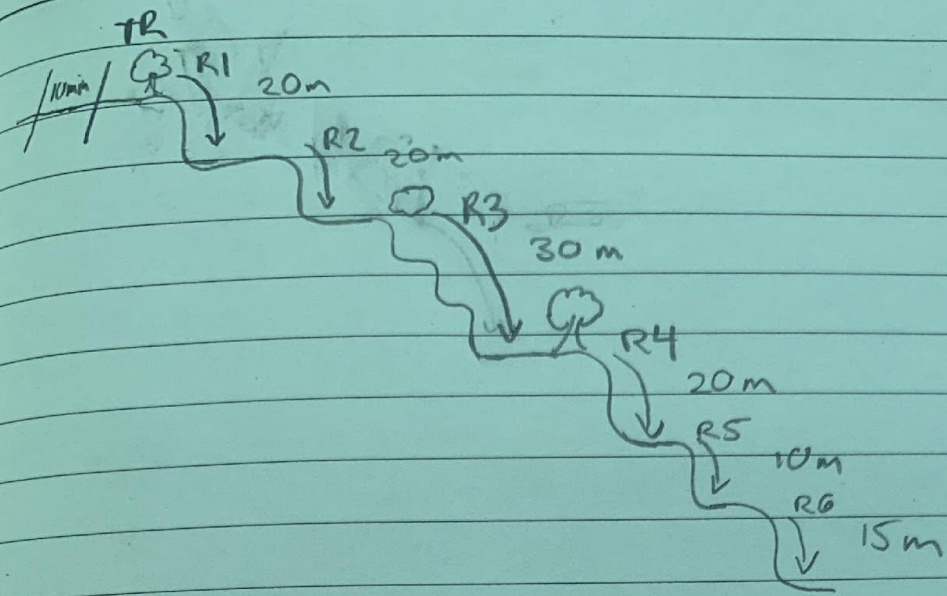
Escapes

None once you go down the first rappel. There are multiple places however that you could get to higher ground.

Notes

First descent: Dave Vass, solo, circa 2000, while looking for a location for a commercial trip.

Re-explored 2026 by Terra Dumont & Alistair Hammond



Fun to effort ratio: A 40 min approach for 11 beautiful back to back rappels in a lovely gorge and a 1 min exit to the car!

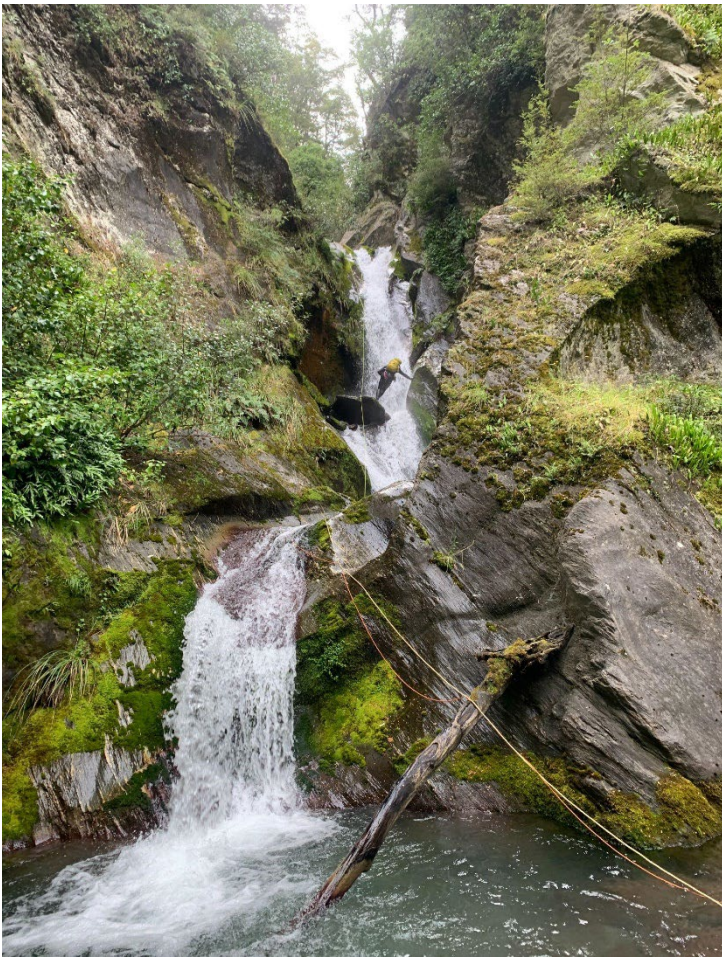
"Sadly, at least in the low flow that we had, there were no jumps or slides as the pools tended to be knee deep.

We ghosted all but three raps where we left tat as we were worried about the rope getting caught. Our fiddle stick also got caught on R9 and we were unable to retrieve it as it got lodged behind a chockstone in the middle of the flow. So potential canyon booty!" - Terra

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Topo by Terra Dumont
www.kiwicanyons.org



R7 Al Hammond



Big smiles from Al Hammond in the infinity pools on R8

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Topo by Author
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