



WAIPEHI

canyon v3a2VI★

Location

South eastern side of Cattle Ridge, Tararua Ranges

Character

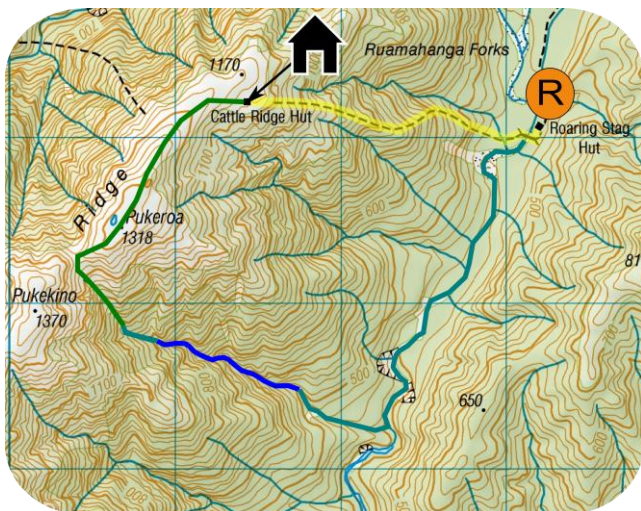
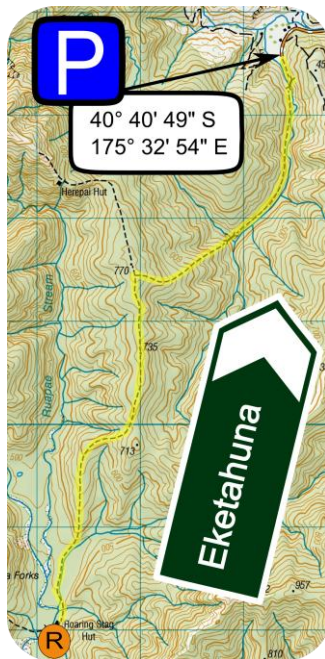
Waterfall tramping, Very long and remote adventure, with some nice canyon sections.

Map

BN34 Shannon

Approach by Car

From Eketahuna, leave SH2 heading west on Bridge St. Turn left into Stanly St, then right into Septimus St. Leave town on Nireaha St, then turn sharp left to stay on Nireaha St. Drive about 6km, then turn left at a T junction and follow Putara Rd to the DOC car park.



Approach on Foot

Follow DOC track, via Roaring Stag Lodge to Cattle Ridge Hut. After spending a night in the hut, follow Cattle Ridge to the south west, to a saddle between Pukeroa and Pukekino. To avoid the worst of the leatherwood, descend a very small spur that runs straight downhill, towards the center of the gully. Once in the stream bed, scramble down to the confluence with a tributary from the true left about the 850m contour.

Rock

Reasonably solid Greywacke.

Water

Low flows, some waist deep pools. This descent made with a reading of 10 cumecs at the "Ruamahanga at Mt Bruce" online flow gauge.

Catchment

1.4 km²

Anchors

Mostly easy to rig on leatherwood trees. Some slung boulders. R5 has a poor anchor.

Gear

Minimum of 2 x 30m ropes

Route Description*

On the first descent, R2 was not descended due to lack of suitable anchors near the lip of the falls. These falls were estimated to be 70-100m high, so bring a long rope and advanced anchor skills if you intend to do this drop. (Grade increases to v4a2VI)

Alternatively, exit the stream on the TR about 50m back from the big drop. Parallel the stream for about 100m before returning back to the main canyon via the first distinct side gully (3 rappels).

Back in the canyon, the remaining 9 rappels are closely spaced, with some short bedrock gorge sections alternating with very steep valley sides. The rappels finish at about the 500m contour, leaving some scrambling to reach the Ruamahanga River.

Return upstream (easy in low flows) via Roaring Stag lodge and the DOC track to the car park.

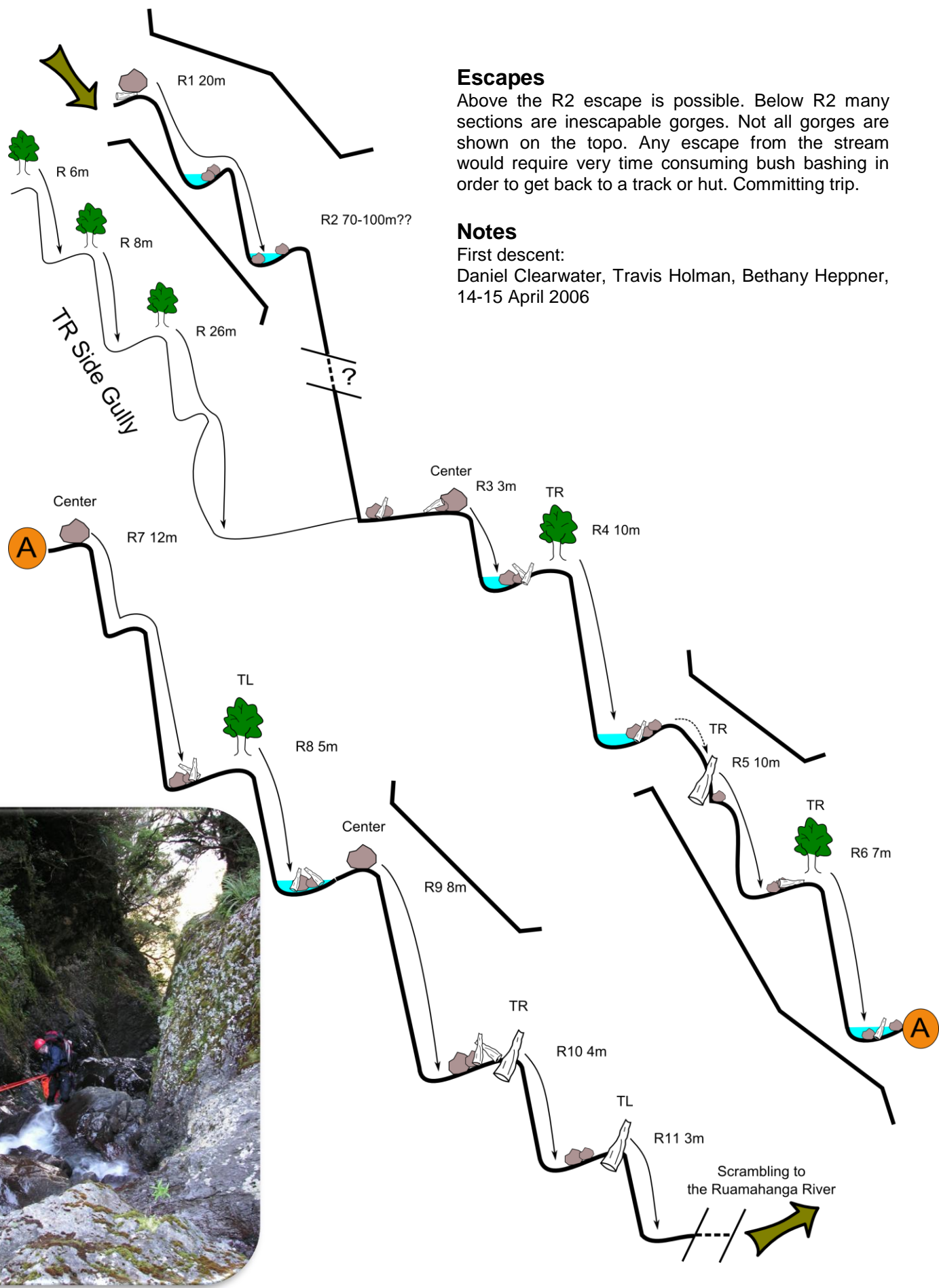
***Topo sketch was created from incomplete notes. It is only intended to give a general impression of the number and height of the non-downclimbable drops, but not the horizontal scale. Expect errors and more adventures.**

Time

Car park to Cattle Ridge Hut	5hrs
Cattle Ridge hut to Saddle	1hr.
Saddle to big waterfall	1hr
Big Waterfall to Ruamahanga	9hrs
Ruamahanga to Roaring Stag Lodge	1.5hrs
Roaring Stag to car park	3hrs
Total	20-21h

Flash Flood Danger

Low-Moderate. Small drainage, with some short narrow sections.



Escapes

Above the R2 escape is possible. Below R2 many sections are inescapable gorges. Not all gorges are shown on the topo. Any escape from the stream would require very time consuming bush bashing in order to get back to a track or hut. Committing trip.

Notes

First descent:
Daniel Clearwater, Travis Holman, Bethany Heppner,
14-15 April 2006



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater
www.KiwiCanyons.org