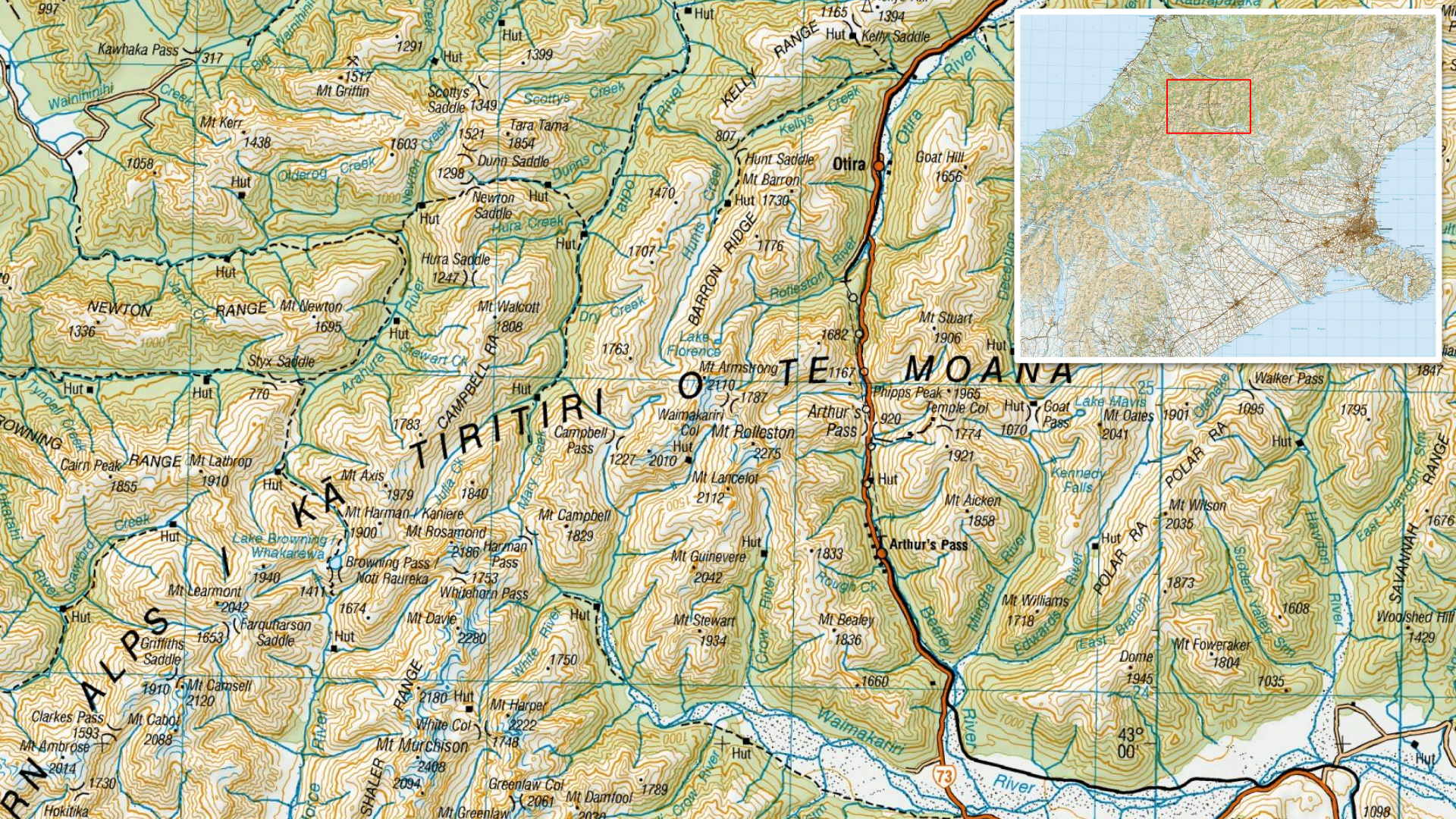


Arthur's Pass National Park



Nine Days of Adventure and Misadventure





Arthur's Pass National Park



Nine Days of Adventure and Misadventure

Arthur's Pass National Park



Nine Days of Adventure and Misadventure



75%

25%

Arthur's Pass National Park



Nine Days of Adventure and Misadventure

A walk in the south island



Nine Days of Adventure and Misadventure

A walk in the south island

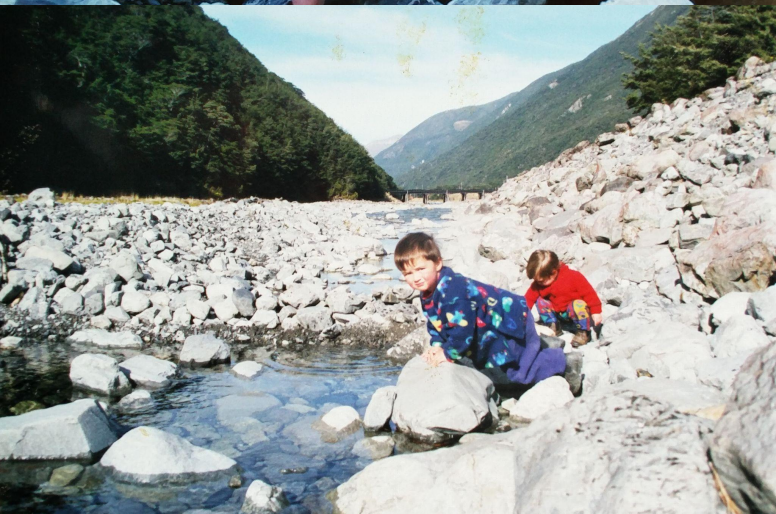


8.25 Days of Adventure and Misadventure

What is this talk?

- A trip report
- Some pretty pictures
- Inspiration for some trips to do in a cool part of the country
- Not necessarily filled with best practices or great advice
- Some lessons I learned

MOTIVATION



MISADVENTURE #0

“Rats”



WTMC Talks: A Traverse of the Peel and Lockett ranges

Wed 16 Nov @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

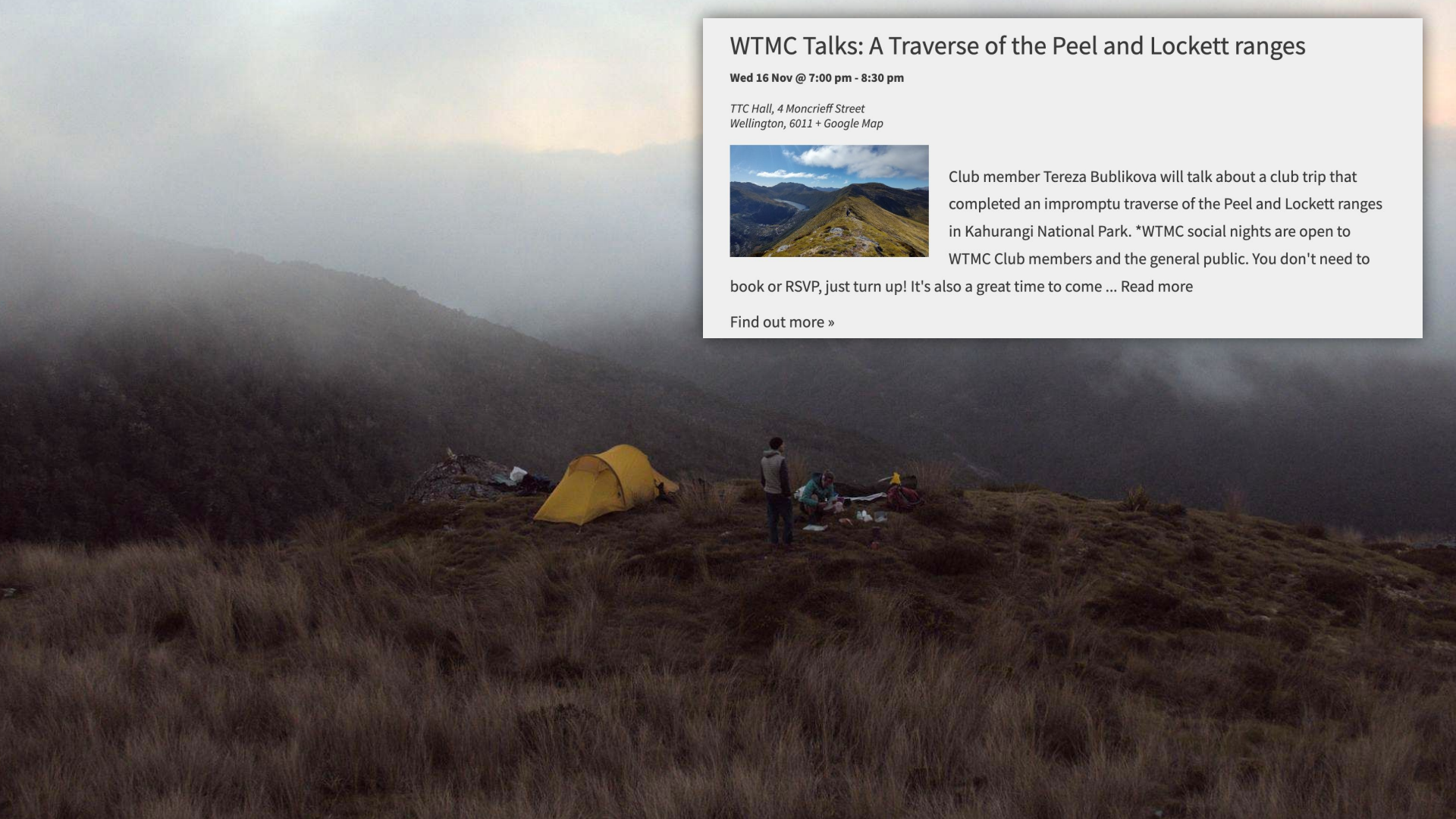
*TTC Hall, 4 Moncrieff Street
Wellington, 6011 + [Google Map](#)*

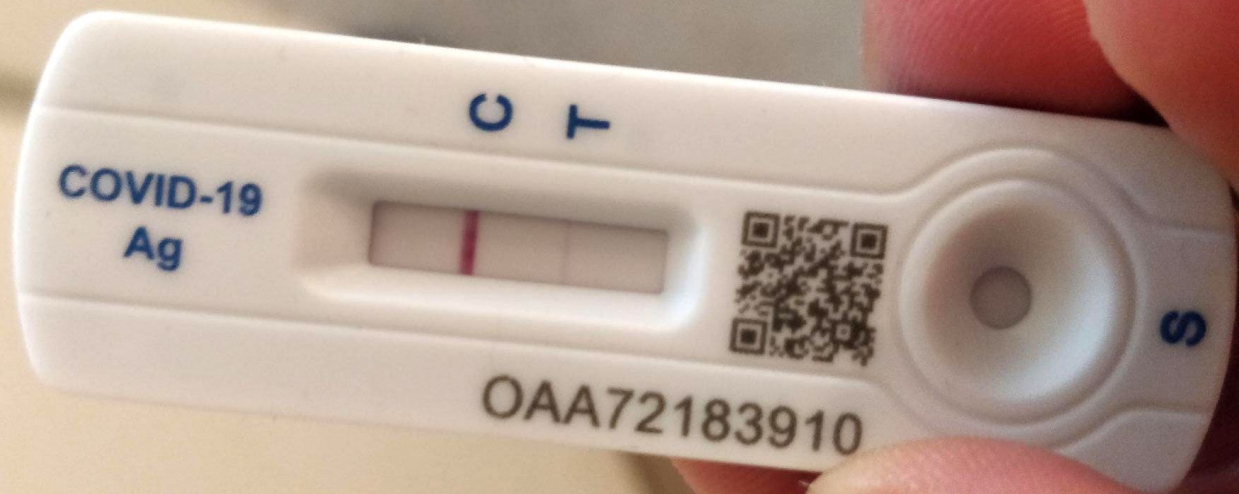


Club member Tereza Bublikova will talk about a club trip that completed an impromptu traverse of the Peel and Lockett ranges in Kahurangi National Park. *WTMC social nights are open to WTMC Club members and the general public. You don't need to

book or RSVP, just turn up! It's also a great time to come ... [Read more](#)

[Find out more »](#)





I

Avalanche Peak



TRANZALPINE

GREAT JOURNEYS NEW ZEALAND

A map of the South Island of New Zealand, with a dark green line tracing a route from the west coast to the east coast. The route passes through several key locations, each marked with a black dot. The locations are labeled in bold, black, uppercase letters: GREYMOUTH, MOANA, ARTHUR'S PASS, SPRINGFIELD, and CHRISTCHURCH. An inset map in the bottom right corner shows the entire New Zealand archipelago, with a small rectangle highlighting the location of the South Island.

GREYMOUTH • MOANA • ARTHUR'S PASS • SPRINGFIELD • CHRISTCHURCH







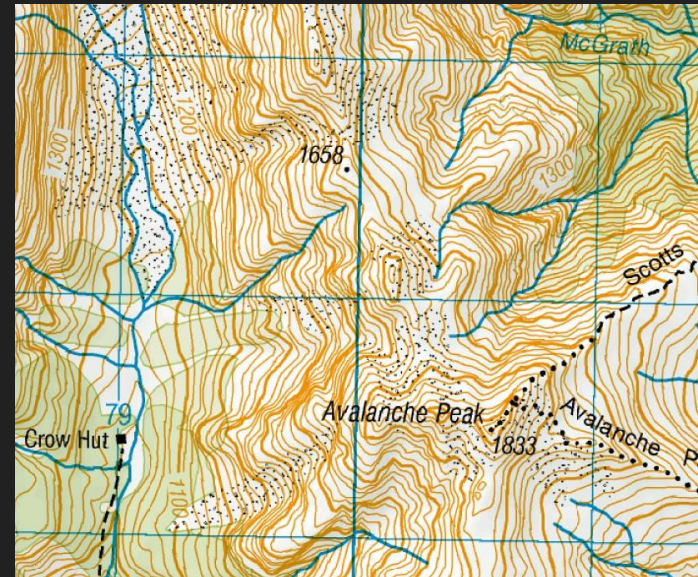








“The route to the main ridge behind Avalanche Peak starts in the opposite direction from that you would expect. From the summit, drop down the south side of Avalanche Peak onto the top of a shingle scree [...] From the shingle scree, head north-west under the main peak to a saddle between Avalanche Peak and the main Rolleston ridge. From the saddle, sidle on the eastern (village) side of the ridge, down to the main ridge towards Mount Rolleston.”







“Dropped down scree shortly after pt 1658. Average scree for 500m, but some small sections of excellent scree mixed in there. Reached hut at 3:30.”



<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/images/places/canterbury/arthurs-pass/crow-hut/crow-hut-wide-1200.jpg>











II

The Waimakariri



“Easy but tedious last few kms to Carrington hut (which is cold)”



<https://www.doc.govt.nz/thumbs/hero/contentassets/bc5e7f9ea1514e4aa5cc5bb35cc138a7/carrington-hut-1920.jpg>









“Really neat hut, thanks CMC!”





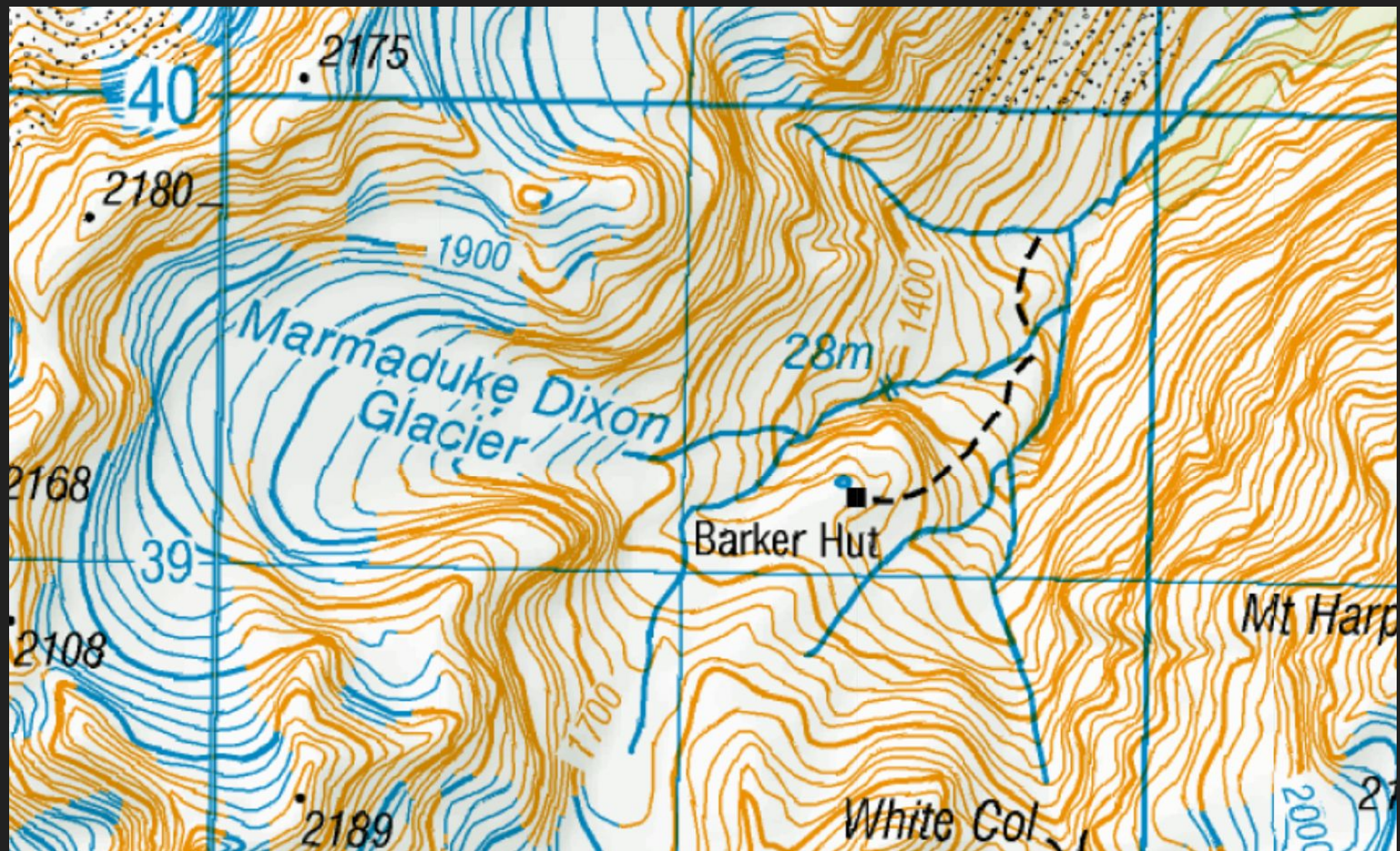




MISADVENTURE #1

“Clag”





“At this point it was almost dark, and rather claggy. Eventually got a GPS signal which confirmed my mistake. Made to cross towards the hut but had to go higher to cross a very chasm-y river. Gashed my leg somewhere along the line... The closest I've ever been to pulling a PLB”







Lesson

A PLB can help, even if you
don't use it

III

Two passes





“Discovered my raincoat isn't so
waterproof”









“Followed river until
I reached snow. Here
it abruptly
transitioned to type
two fun”









IV

A Wilberforce Adventure





“Sometimes it is nice for the terrain to make the difficult decisions for you”



V

Browning Pass

























MISADVENTURE #2

“Trusting the map”



“Went down, up, down, up, down, and eventually just down the creek”

“At one point I angrily swore at a stick that was holding me back and had a moment of clarity”



03/4/95 4

2009!

Zac Robinson
Adam Breeze
Bushy Davidson
Neill McFarlane

Hoki
Hoki
Hoki
Hari Hari

(Doc)

Cut, sprayed and marked from Newton Creek hut
too Newton six wire bridge and re-routed track from
Bridge up to Arahura track. (3rd gorge track is no
longer useable.)

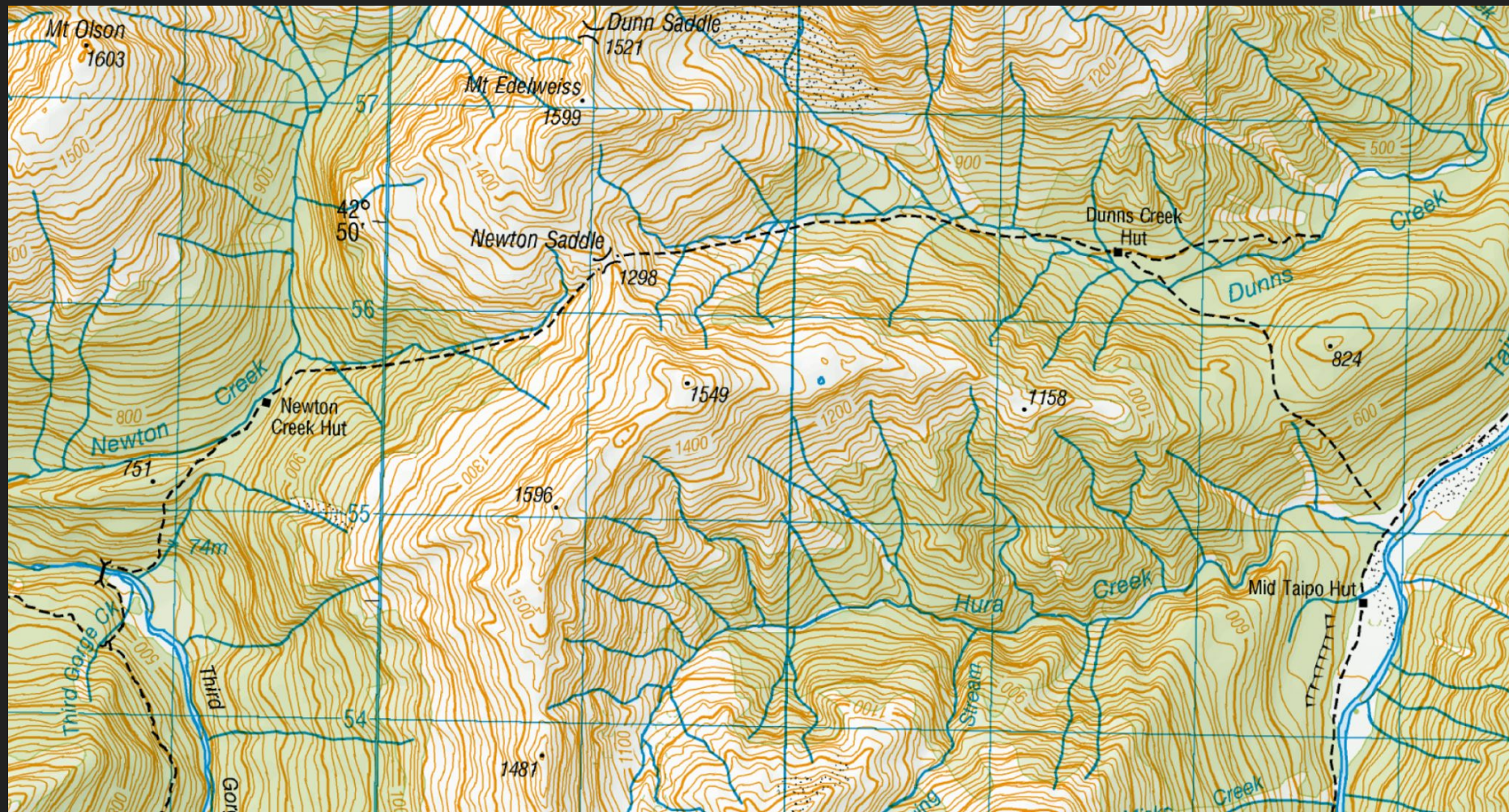


“Boulder hopped upstream to the steep track up to Newton Creek Hut. In parts it was less track, and felt more like someone's attempt to cultivate hook grass.”



VI

Newton Saddle

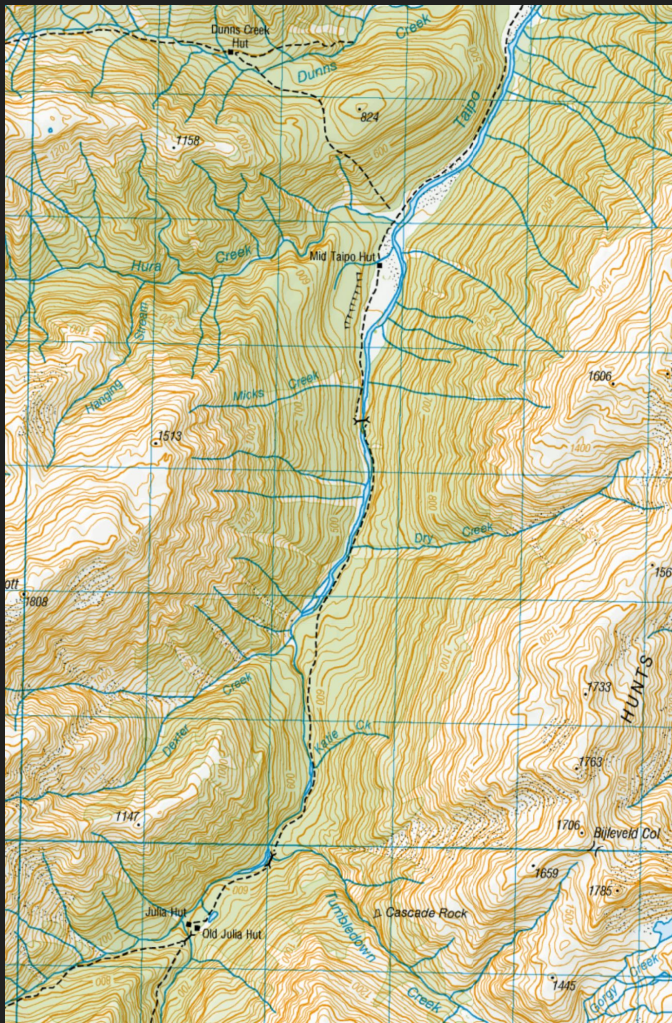






Date of arrival at hut	No. of nights at hut	No. in party	Port or club	Names of those in your party	Hometown (or country)	Expected duration of trip	Principle activity on this trip (eg. tramping, climbing, hunting etc.)
17/5/91	0	3	Gr	Rob Arnold, Alan Jenkins, Warren Knight	Chch	9	Tramping
17/5/91	1	3	PA	Jo Stewart Shaun Barnitt Steve Baker	Chch	9 days	Tramping
25/5/91	3	1		DAN CRONE	Wairarapa USA	Flays	Tramping, fasting two trainings that DON'T mix.
<p>Upon reflection It was breaking the mirror that let my beer Upon reflection there was no me.</p>							
10/7/91	0	2	PA	Grant O'Brien Bruce James	Chch	6 days	Tramping
2-11/92	1	2	PA	Dave Bellard and W. Bellard STUART TROSBY, IAN AUGUST	Chch U.K.	4 6	waiting Tramping
6.3.92		1		NE 2305 CA 3906 Sion Perri	Wales		out via Styx Over Newlands Glen a
12/12/92	0	2	DOC	Ralph White & Phil Mulligan	Wairarapa London	5	Inspection of tracks, and bats sheds etc.

Planned route and destination from this hut including expected date out of bush	C	Comments on facilities and wildlife
<p>Arrived from Newton Crk Hut 2.15 pm in cold conditions. Supper going up the creek.</p> <p>Departed 3.20 pm, heading down to Taiapa Mt</p> <p>Out Oct 11/91 at Kellys Creek</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean food cupboard • clean soap " " • tin on floor • sweep floor mattresses area • nothing gutting
<p>Arrived from 7 mile hut in wet weather. Today (11/11) is great day - heading over Newton Saddle to Newton Hut beyond.</p>		
<p>Up the Taiapa fr. Tangle - over Newton Saddle and out via the Styx</p>		<p>My mind reached out beyond the stars and into myself. Why am I here? Why am I depriving my body of food? Why am I at</p>
<p>home watching <u>Sales of the Century</u>? The moth had darted through the candles flickering flame told me. The rational mind is not the source of new insight. It can be expanded to accommodate new learning but does not undertake new learning. It is a cataloguing & comparing mechanism. It sees only what it contains. "So down to the creek I went, to undertake and experience the flow of the water. As it cascaded over the tops of boulders and continued its journey, I realized, that the secret of the struggle is to remain above the contest. The water does not go through the rock, but over it."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">please eat something</p>		<p>10 ch's red is Crapo.</p>
<p>Morning Tea Here. On day trip from Mt Taiapa up to Newton Saddle and maybe Mt Edwards.</p> <p>arrived last night - hiked up - took back to Pelly - walked back exhausted - heading out (Crisis permitting) today but in over Newton Saddle. Good weather, a great Sat. Keep up the hut Doc.</p> <p>from Newton Creek hut via Mt Edwards. Just called in for a 7 mile hut 3.30 out tomorrow via Kellys Saddle or down the Taiapa</p>		
<p>05. Come up from Mt Taiapa, will now go over Newton Saddle to Newton Creek Hut. Out tomorrow via Newton</p>		<p>← Way out is OK Nothing with tracks not since 1934! newton creek track good</p>



“The valley track begins very easy. A bit rougher after swing bridge, with quite a few historical washouts. Once the track returns to the river above the Dexter confluence it is in mostly good condition, albeit with a sulphurous smell permeating the bush.”



hot Pools

Follow path past toilet until you reach the river.

Follow the river down stream about 100-200m until you reach the hot pools.

There are some pots and shovel to dig out the pools or adjust the temperature by letting more or less cold water into the pool.

~~*FOLLOW BLUE MARKERS THE WHOLE WAY TO THE END
ALONG RIVER BANK
(THIS IS NOT THE TRACK TO DILLOW HUT)~~

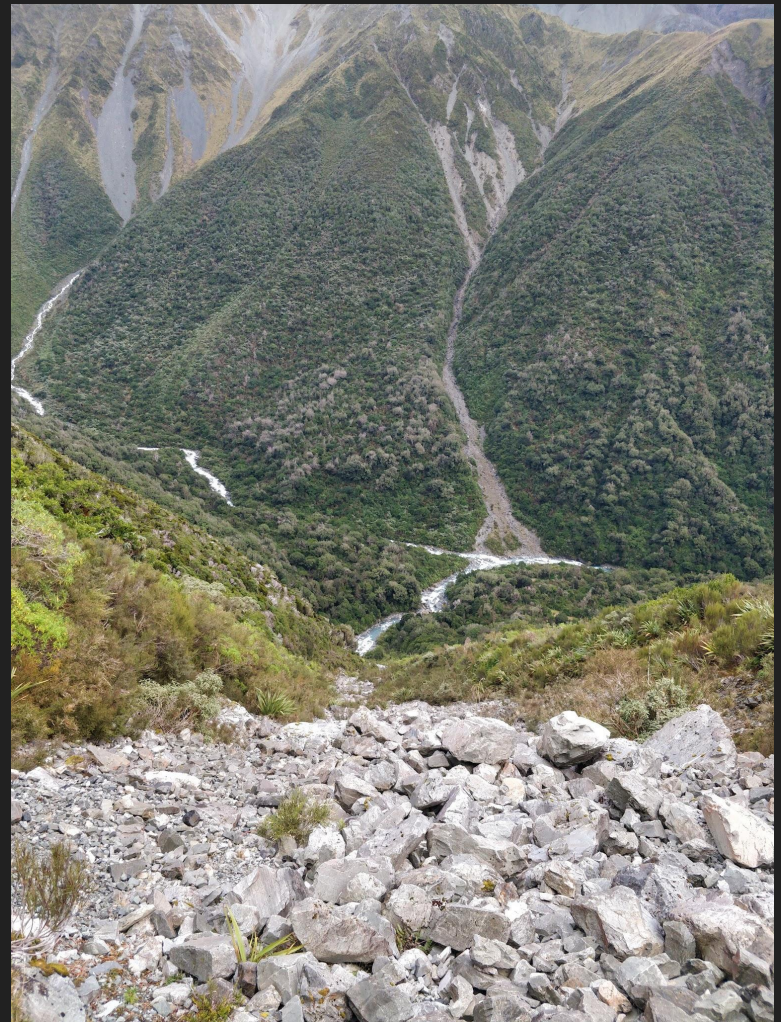
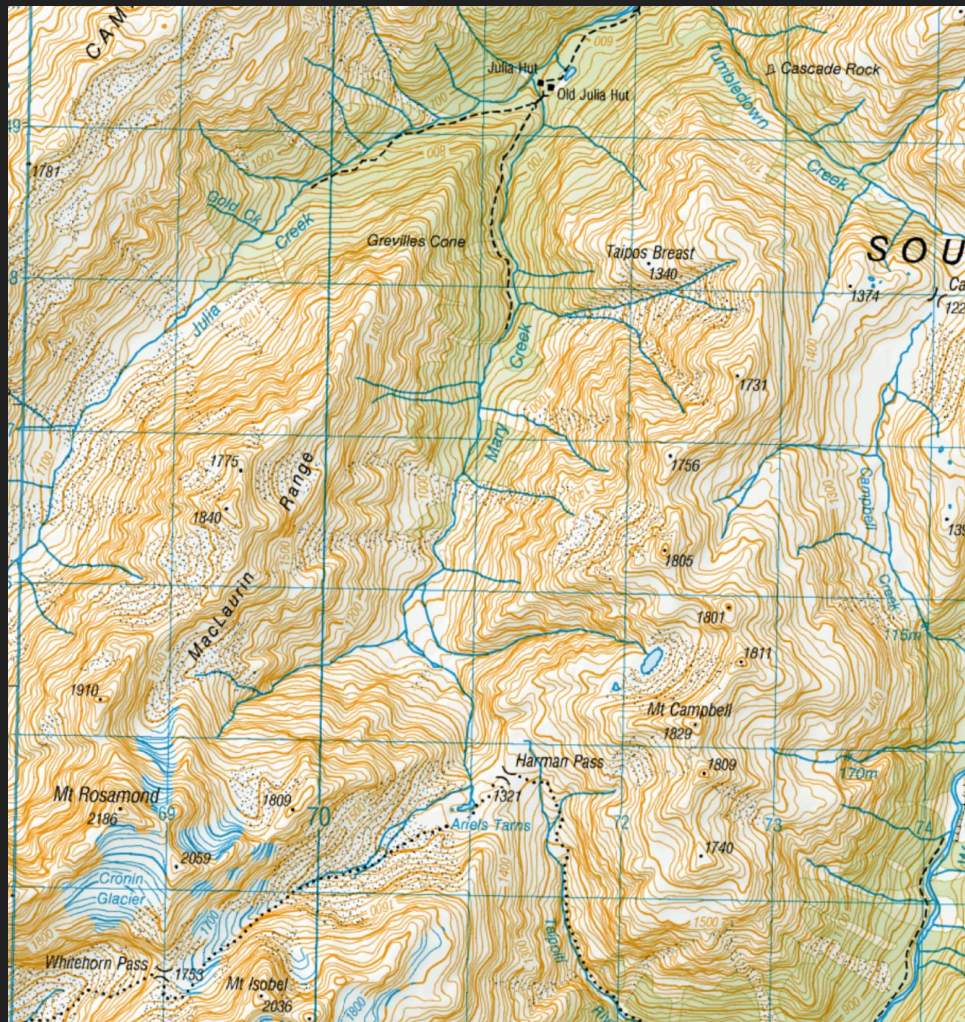


A man with dark hair and a beard, shirtless and wearing black shorts, is crouching on a rocky riverbank. He is looking back over his shoulder at the camera. His arms are crossed over his chest. The background features a waterfall cascading over rocks, surrounded by lush green foliage. The foreground is filled with dark, wet rocks and pebbles. The overall scene is outdoors in a natural, rugged environment.

MISADVENTURE #3

VII

A return to Harman Pass













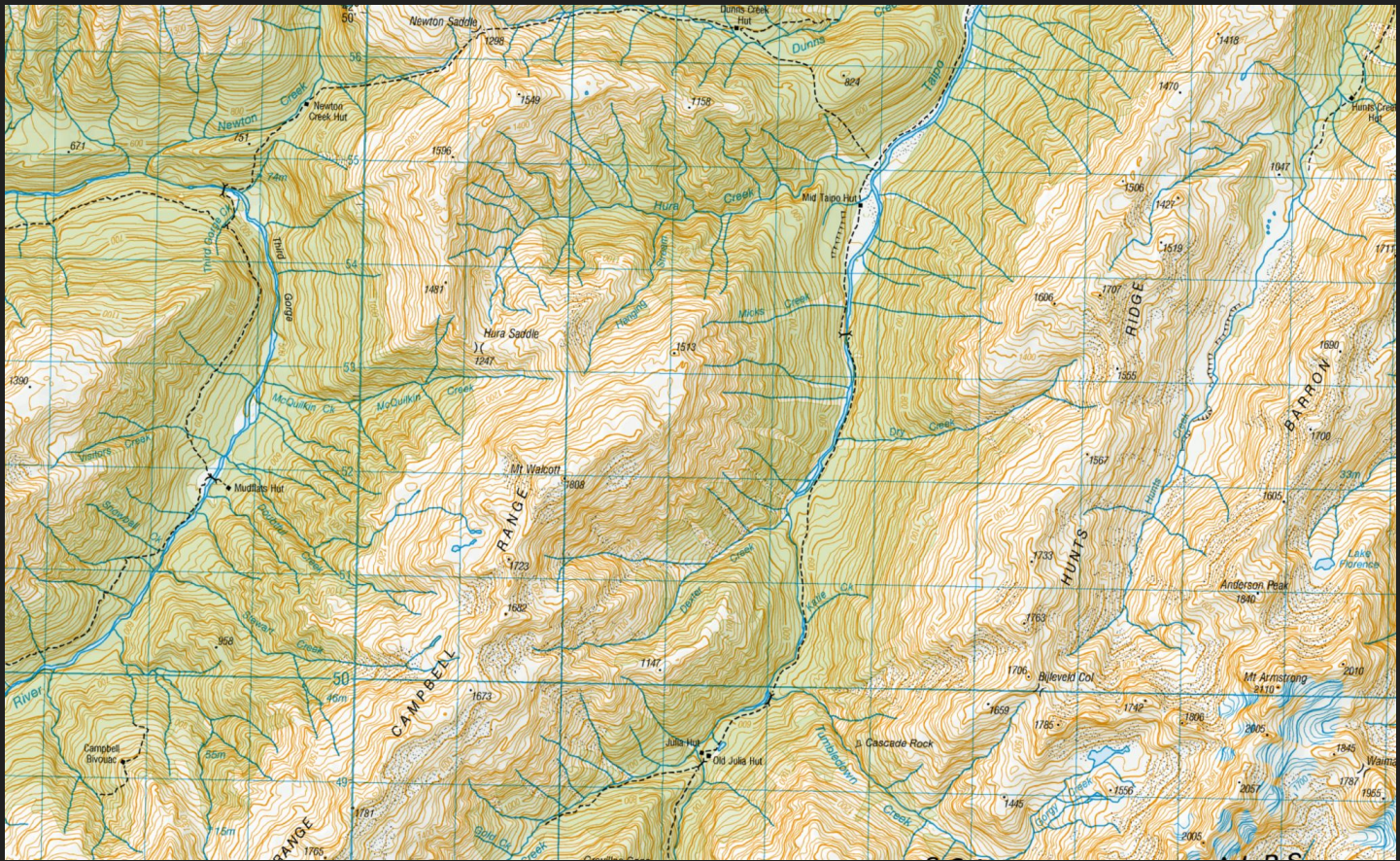








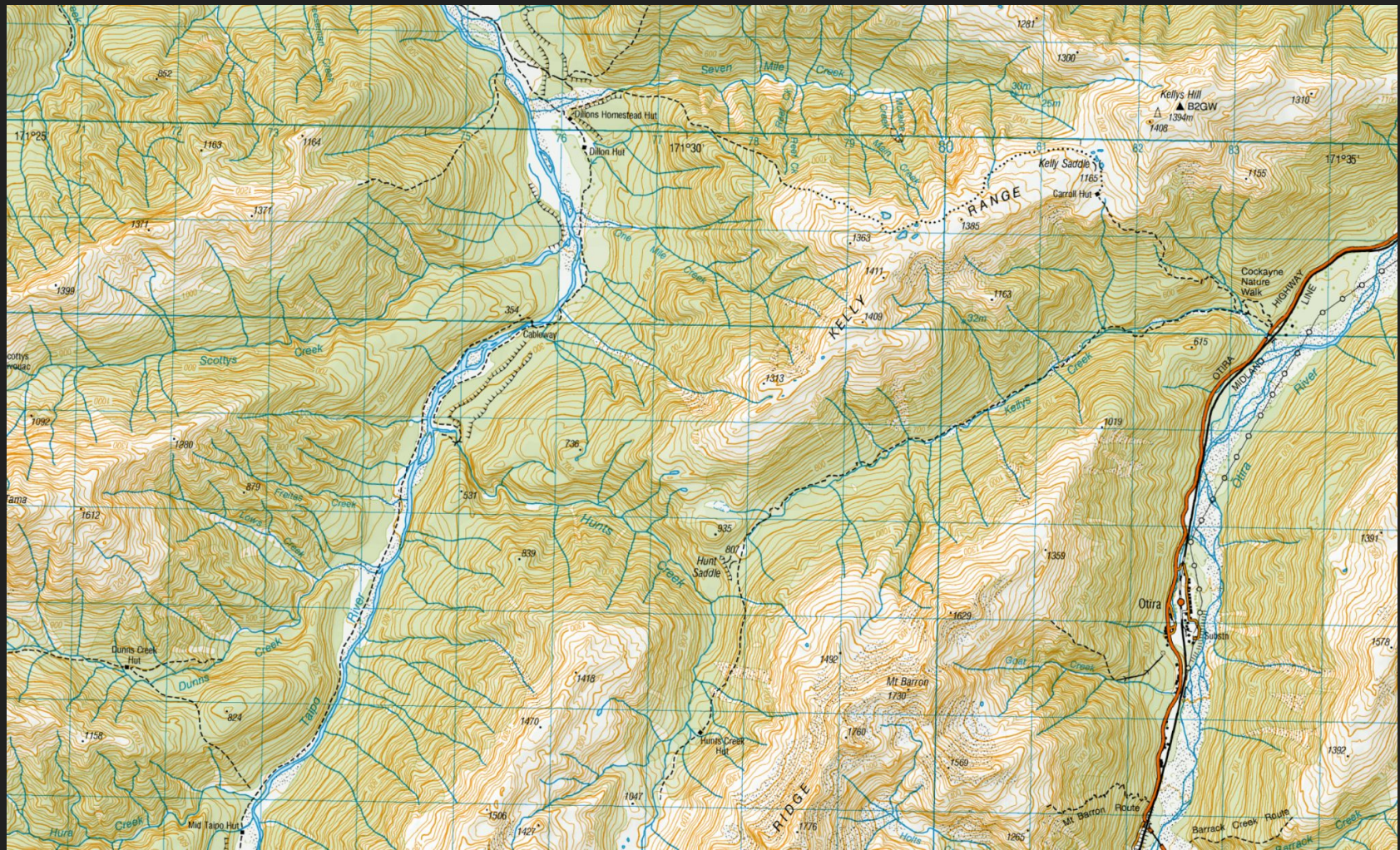




“Tedious plod back down the river”

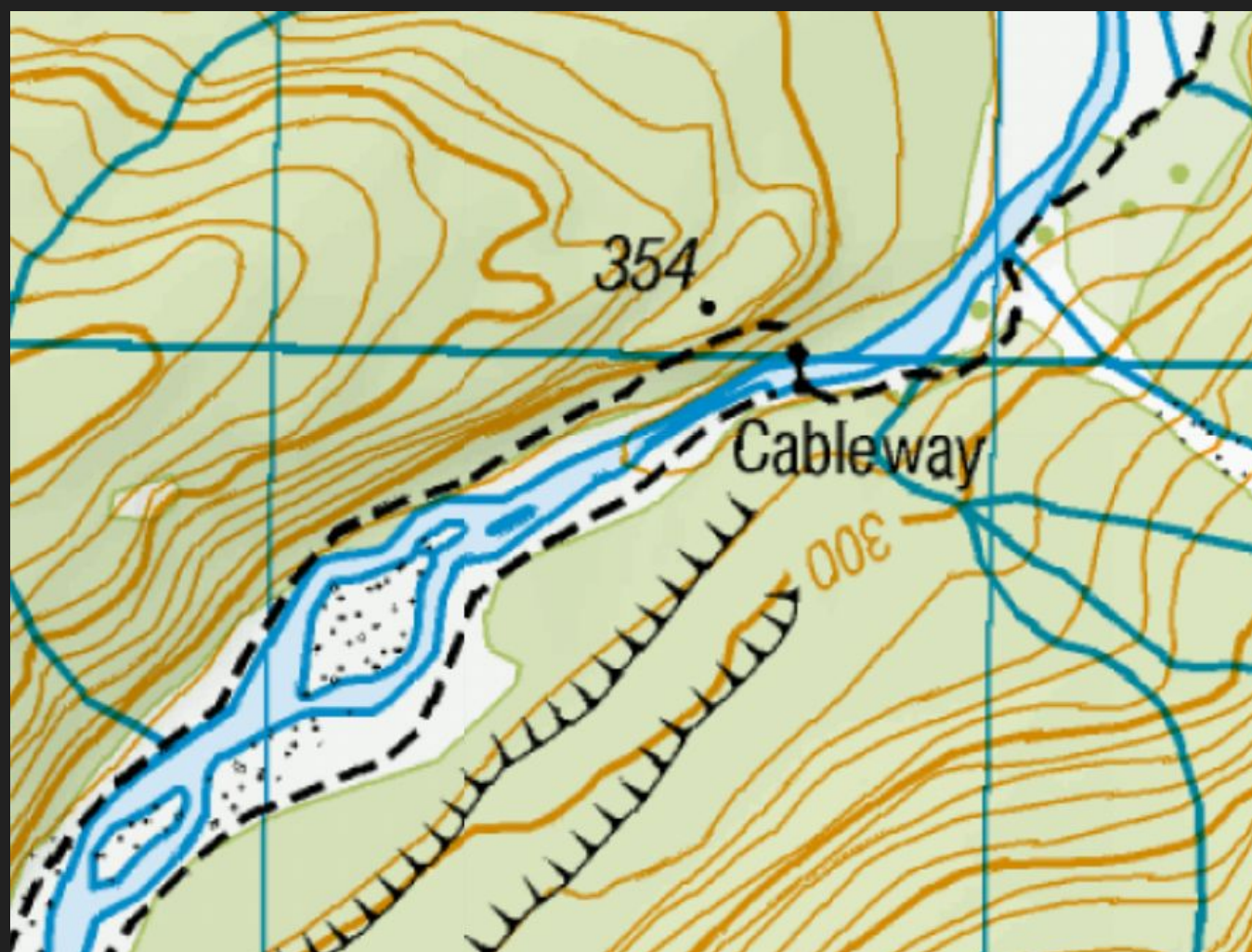
VIII

The Kelly Range



MISADVENTURE #4

“Not learning from misadventure #2”



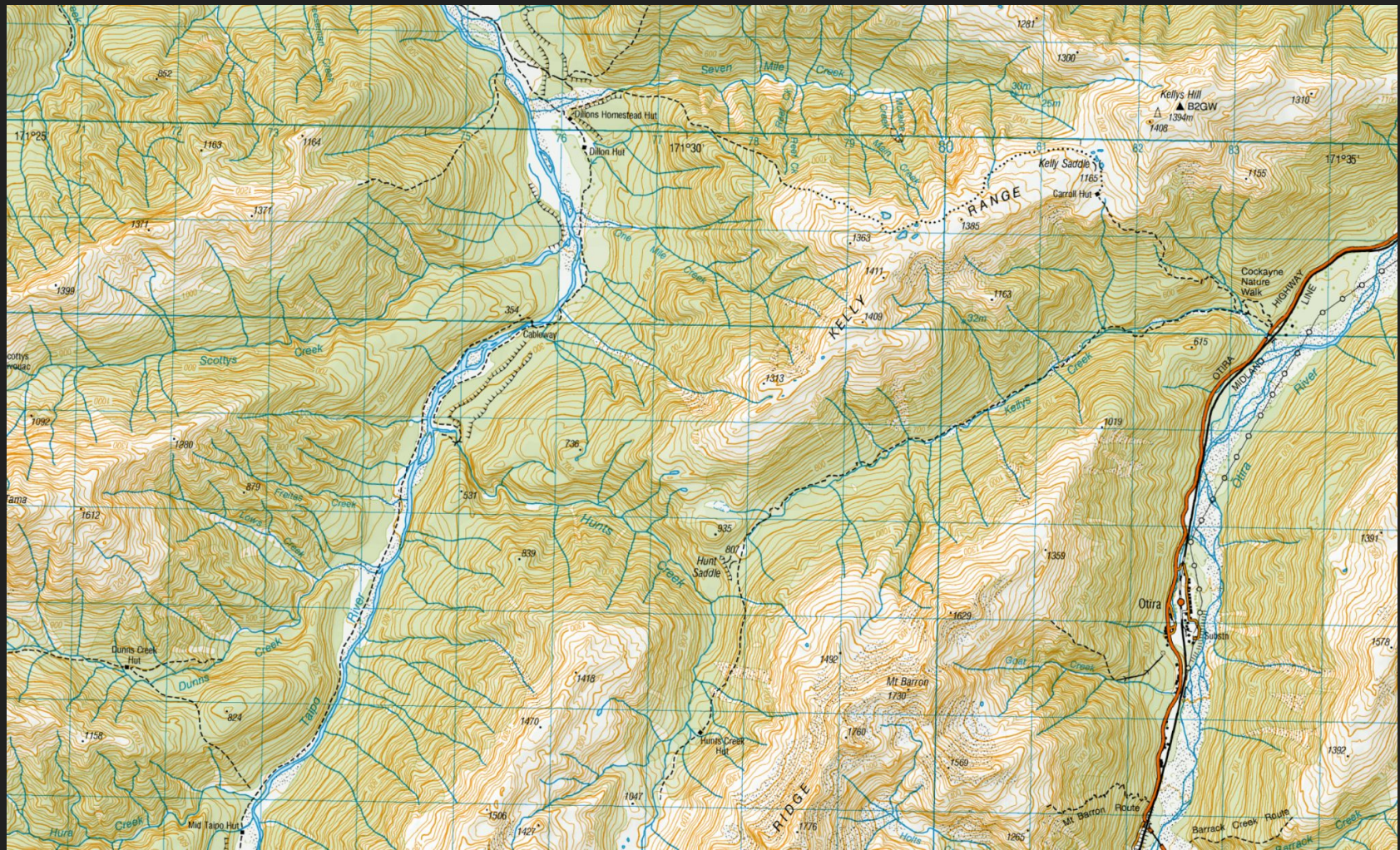
Lesson

Tracks are faster than
bush bashing























📷 Mathew Denys

Clive

📌 Adult · Male · V-3918

📍 Otira

○ Yellow DO on Blue

DO

<https://keadatabase.nz/birds/clive>



📷 Mathew Denys

Lennon

📌 Juvenile · Male · V-3931

📍 Waimakariri

○ Black BM on Grey

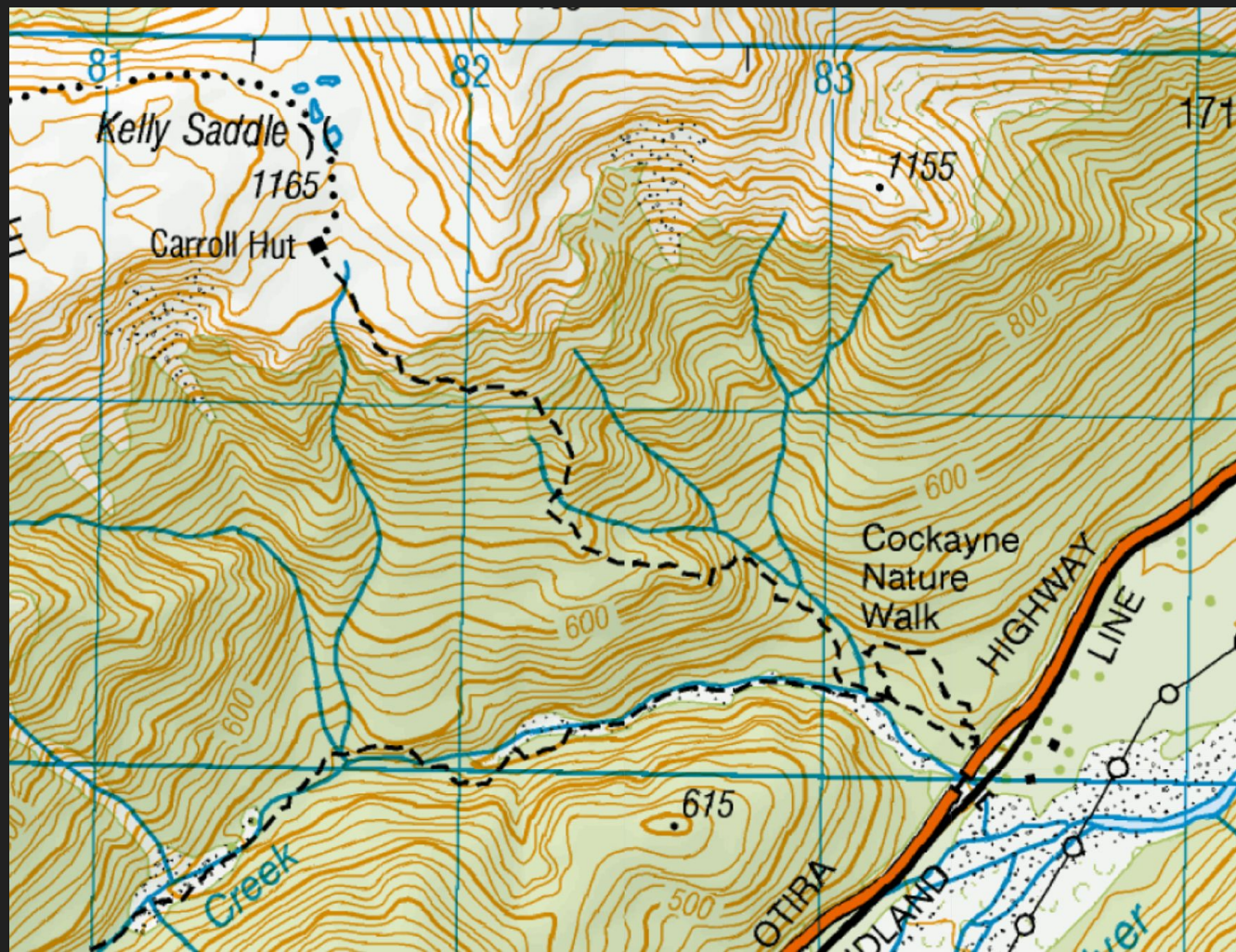
BM

<https://keadatabase.nz/birds/lennon>



IX

Down to civilisation



MISADVENTURE #5

“Intentions”

Fri 29th

- TranzAlpine to Arthur's pass village, arrive 11am
- 3.5 hrs to Avalanche peak
 - Two tracks head to Avalanche Peak: Avalanche Peak Track is steeper and more direct; Scotts Track climbs more gradually, has better views, and is easier on the knees. Both tracks are marked to the summit.
- 1 hr north along tops
 - The ridge line from Avalanche Peak summit is narrow and rocky so the unmarked route often sidles below the ridge. The route to the main ridge behind Avalanche Peak starts in the opposite direction from that you would expect. From the summit, drop down the south side of Avalanche Peak onto the top of a shingle scree. Note: As you walk up from the village, south is on your left; the large glaciated peak, Mount Rolleston, is to the north.

From the shingle scree, head north-west under the main peak to a saddle between Avalanche Peak and the main Rolleston ridge. From the saddle, sidle on the eastern (village) side of the ridge, down to the main ridge towards Mount Rolleston. Continue along this ridge for about 30 minutes until you reach a marked point indicating the descent point into the Crow valley.

- 1.5 hrs to Crow Hut
 - The route leaves the ridge and a scree slope takes you all the way to the Crow River.

Warning: It is vital to find the right descent into Crow River. Do not attempt to descend to Crow River before the marked point because earlier screes finish in bluffs.

There are four features to check that you are at the right place:

1. The point is marked by stakes and a rock cairn
2. You can see the full length of the scree, from the ridge to the Crow valley
3. The full drop of Devils Punchbowl Falls is visible on opposite slopes
4. Just after the correct place to descend, the ridge you are on rises more steeply towards Mount Rolleston

This scree provides a good, bluff-free descent, but is avalanche prone in heavy snow. Take care not to dislodge loose rock onto people below you. Beware of rockfall.

Towards the bottom this long scree narrows before fanning out. From here you can see

Fri 29th

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From the shingle scree, head north-west under the main peak to a saddle between Avalanche Peak and the main Rolleston ridge. From the saddle, sidle on the east (village) side of the ridge, down to the main ridge towards Mount Rolleston. Continue this ridge for about 30 minutes until you reach a marked point indicating the descent into the Crow valley.

- 1.5 hrs to Crow Hut
 - The route leaves the ridge and a scree slope takes you all the way to the Crow River before the marked point because earlier scree slopes finish in blue.

Warning: It is vital to find the right descent into Crow River. Do not attempt to descend the Crow River before the marked point because earlier scree slopes finish in blue.

There are four features to check that you are at the right place:

1. The point is marked by stakes and a rock cairn
2. You can see the full length of the scree, from the ridge to the riverbed and through adjacent bush (sometimes on distinct sections of track that may be marked) for around 1 hour, before a final crossing of the Deception River (onto the true left).
3. The full drop of Devils Punchbowl Falls is visible on opposite side of the river.
4. Just after the correct place to descend, the ridge you are on drops steeply towards Mount Rolleston

This scree provides a good, bluff-free descent, but is avalanche-prone. Be careful not to dislodge loose rock onto people below you. Be careful of the scree.

Towards the bottom this long scree narrows before fan

Thurs 5th

- To Goat Pass Hut
 - From the Upper Deception Hut the route involves scrambling and boulder-hopping up the riverbed and through adjacent bush (sometimes on distinct sections of track that may be marked) for around 1 hour, before a final crossing of the Deception River (onto the true left). At this point you leave the Deception River to scramble up a steep side stream for about 500 m to reach Goat Pass Hut.
- Day trip to Lake Mavis
 - For parties in the summer with time in hand at Goat Pass, the 500 m climb to Lake Mavis is worthwhile. Climb the steep tussock and scree on the spur running east from Goat Pass, then follow the caired ridge route
 - Could do the next day, depends on timing each day

Fri 6th

- 1.5 hrs down to SH73
 - From Carroll Hut the track runs directly across the tussock in front of the hut basin. A benched section of track descends by sidling down across steep scree bushline. Once in the bush it drops more steeply and emerges at Kellys Creek from the main road. Time from Carroll Hut to the road is 1 hour 30 minutes
- See alternative route 3 below
- 1 hr down SH73 to Morrison's Footbridge
- Up the Deception River
 - Possibly reach Upper Deception Hut, otherwise camp
 - From SH73 Morrison's footbridge crosses the Otira River. Follow the marked route river flats on the true right of the Deception River until the river narrows and turns into a gorge. From here cross to the true left and continue upstream. The route further up the Deception valley crosses the river numerous times with travel primarily being in the bed, although there are some tracked sections.

After travelling upstream for about 11 km, a prominent creek (Dorreen Creek) joins the Deception River on the true left. A marked track begins here on the true right of Dorreen Creek. A further kilometre on from Dorreen Creek the track re-emerges beside the Crow River and be sure to spot the orange marker on the other side indicating the location of the Upper Deception Hut.

Alternative routes

#1 Waimakariri Falls Hut (+1 day)

1. On Sunday 1st May, instead of going over harman pass, I might return to Carrington Hut and do a day trip up to Waimakariri Falls Hut and back. Then over Harman pass the next day. This would be 2 short days.
2. Alternatively, I could take a full pack up to Waimakariri Falls Hut, head halfway back down, and cross to Julia Hut via Campbell Pass and Taipos Breast. This could be 2 short days, or, more likely, 1 longer day.

#2 Newtons Creek Hut & Scottys Biv (+2 days)

- Rather than heading straight to Dillon Hut from Julia Hut, I could head up past Dunns Creek hut / Newton Saddle to Newton Creek Hut
 - Access to Newton Creek from the Taipo valley is via Newton Saddle and Dunns Hut. The route goes up the TR branch of Dunns Creek and is tracked around the rougher, more bouldery bits. Snow-poles mark the route above the scrubline. The route on the Newton Creek side is down a gut into a steep side stream, which is followed all the way down to Newton Creek. The side-creek is shady and the boulders are often icy in winter. The gut leading down from the Saddle into the side-creek is usually snowfilled in winter, and can also be icy. Ice axes are recommended at these times. Big variations in the travel times for the crossing can be seen in both hutbooks, reflecting the wide range in fitness and experience of those doing it, and the greatly differing weather and snow conditions that can be encountered. An average time in good conditions commensurate with other track times on this site would be 4-5 hours. DOC recut the tracked sections from Newton to Dunns in January 2021.
- Then head to Scotty's biv
 - Scottys Biv can also be accessed along the crest of the Tara Tama Range as far as Scottys Saddle. It is a 20 minute descent from here in an ESE direction down a series of tussock tussock with shattered rock outcrops. The Biv is clearly visible in good weather from point 1516m onwards.
- Then head down the ridge to Dillon Hut
 - Opposite of this: The most direct route to Scottys Biv is via an old NZFS tops track that starts opposite the old Seven Mile Hut in the Taipo valley... The track commences at the mouth of a small side-creek that enters the River just below some shingle bluffs and is marked with a cairn and and percolat. Follow the creek up for 100m to where a track exits on the TR and climbs steeply up onto a bush terrace. This is followed at a fairly gentle creek to a broad spur which is steep initially and becomes

down to SH73

From Carroll Hut the track runs directly across the tussock in front of the hut basin. A benched section of track descends by sidling down across steep scrubline. Once in the bush it drops more steeply and emerges at Kellys Creek from the main road. Time from Carroll Hut to the road is 1 hour 30 minutes

alternative route 3 below

From SH73 to Morrison's Footbridge
Deception River
... can reach Upper Deception Hut, otherwise camp
on the true right of the Deception River. Follow the marked route
from here cross to the true left and continue upstream. The route further
in valley crosses the river numerous times with travel primarily being in the
though there are some tracked sections.

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Pass Hut.

...mer with time in hand at Goat Pass, the 500 m climb to Lake Mavis
steep tussock and scree on the spur running east from Goat Pass,
ridge route
...ends on timing each day

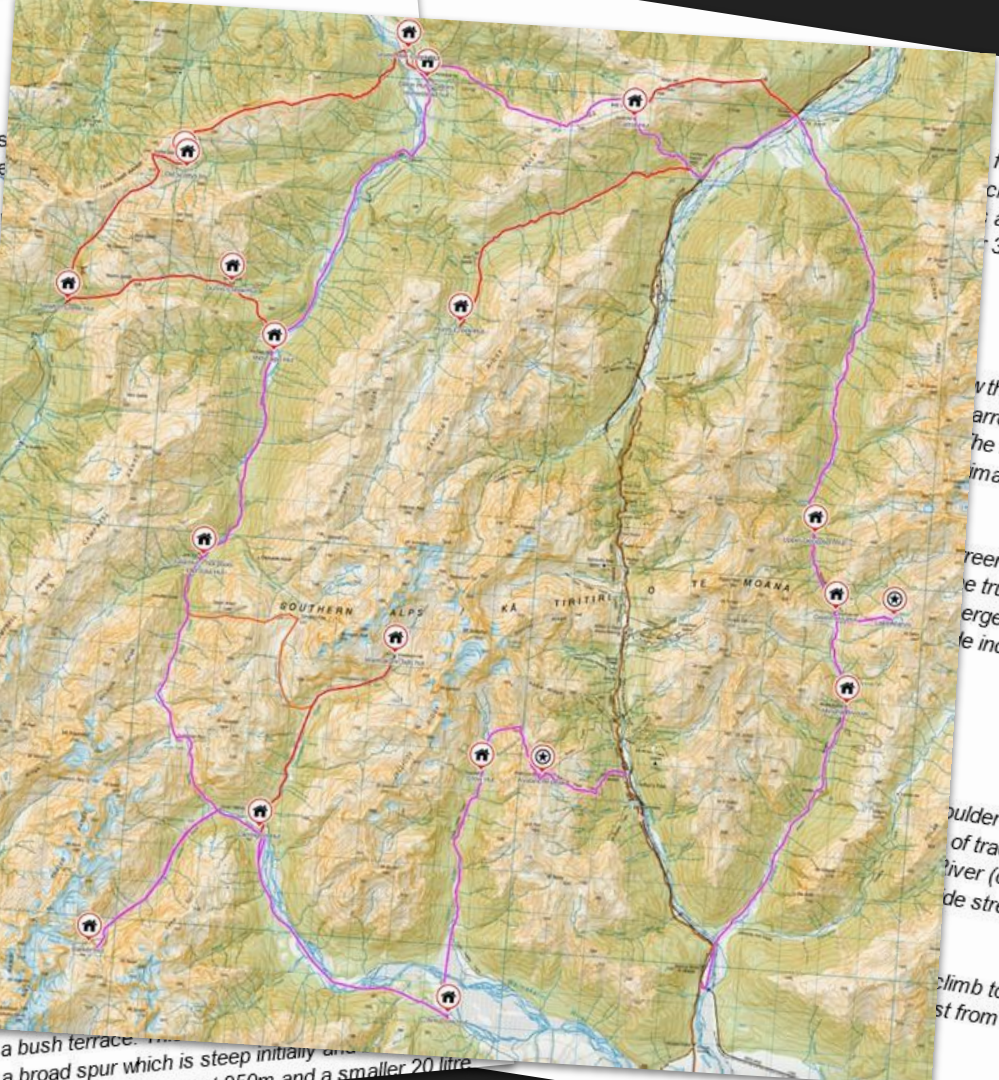
Alternative routes

#1 Waimakariri Falls Hut (+1 day)

1. On Sunday 1st May, instead of going over harman pass day trip up to Waimakariri Falls Hut and back. Then over 2 short days.
2. Alternatively, I could take a full pack up to Waimakariri cross to Julia Hut via Campbell Pass and Taipos Brea 1 longer day.

#2 Newtons Creek Hut & Scottys Biv (+2

- Rather than heading straight to Dillon Hut from Julia Newton Saddle to Newton Creek Hut
 - Access to Newton Creek from the Taipo via route goes up the TR branch of Dunns Creek bouldery bits. Snow-poles mark the route. Creek side is down a gut into a steep side Newton Creek. The side-creek is shady leading down from the Saddle into the side also be icy. Ice axes are recommended the crossing can be seen in both hutbox experience of those doing it, and the ground be encountered. An average time in going on this site would be 4-5 hours. DOC January 2021.
- Then head to Scotty's biv
 - Scottys Biv can also be accessed at Scottys Saddle. It is a 20 minute descent tussock tussock with shattered rock from point 1516m onwards.
- Then head down the ridge to Dillon Hut
 - Opposite of this: The most direct route starts opposite the old Seven Mile mouth of a small side-creek that is marked with a cairn and and permafrost on the TR and climbs steeply up onto a bush terrace. This creek to a broad spur which is steep initially and



front of the hut
cross steep slope
at Kellys Creek
30 minutes

by the marked route
arrows and turns
the route further
primarily being in the

Green Creek) joins
the true right of Do
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#2 Newtons Creek Hut & Scotts

- Rather than heading straight to Dillon Newton Saddle to Newton Creek Hut
 - Access to Newton Creek from route goes up the TR branch bouldery bits. Snow-poles on Creek side is down a gut into Newton Creek. The side-creek leading down from the Saddle also be icy. Ice axes are recommended the crossing can be seen experience of those doing be encountered. An average on this site would be 4-5 h January 2021.

- Then head to Scotty's biv
 - Scottys Biv can also be Scottys Saddle. It is a 20 tussock tussock with sh

- Then head down the ridge to Dillon Hut

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27 Apr 2022, 20:42

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZeCAIE1JrsmeZSI6hFSRpjhTIB6mYzH94WHOp0owlM/edit?usp=sharing>

Google Docs - create and edit documents online, for free.

Plans for my tramp

27 Apr 2022, 21:11

Paul



Fri 29th

- TranzA
- 3.5 hrs

- 1 hr

front of the hut
cross steep slope
at Kellys Creek
30 minutes

by the marked route
arrows and turns
the route further
primarily being in the

Green Creek) joins
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merges beside the
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boulder-hopping up to
of track that may be
river (onto the true
side stream for about

climb to Lake Mavis
st from Goat Pass,

Share request for 'Arthur's Pass Tramp Intentions'



Paul Denys (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com>
to me ▾

Fri, 6 May, 07:53



Share a document?



[REDACTED]@gmail.com is **requesting access** to the following document:



Arthur's Pass Tramp Intentions

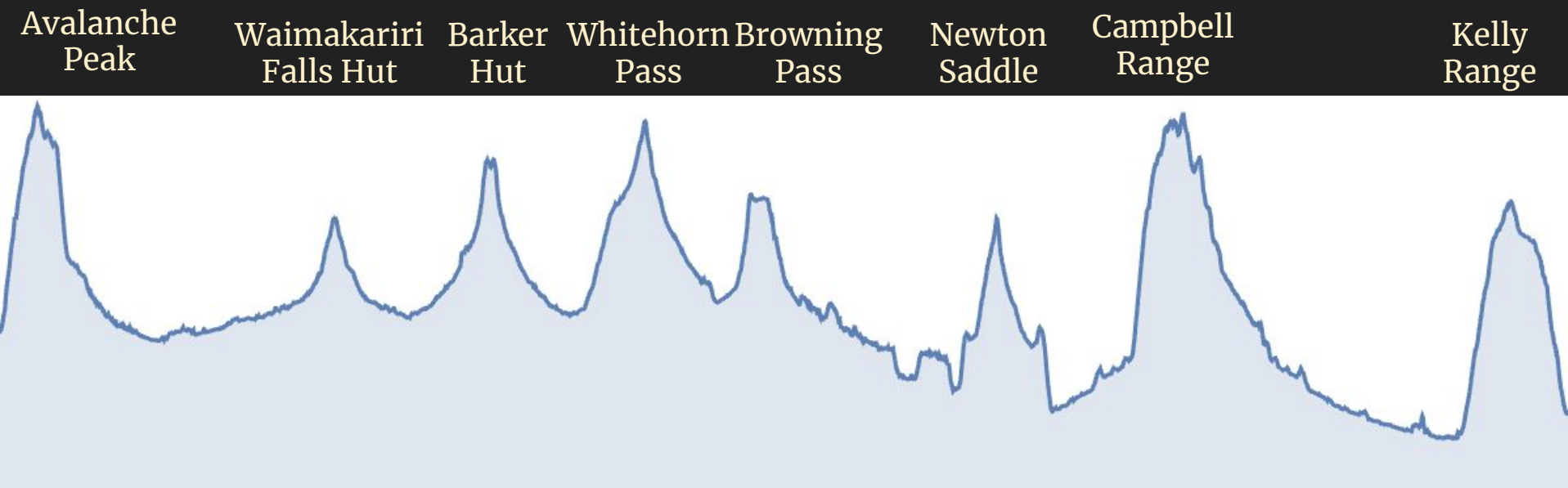
[Open sharing settings](#)

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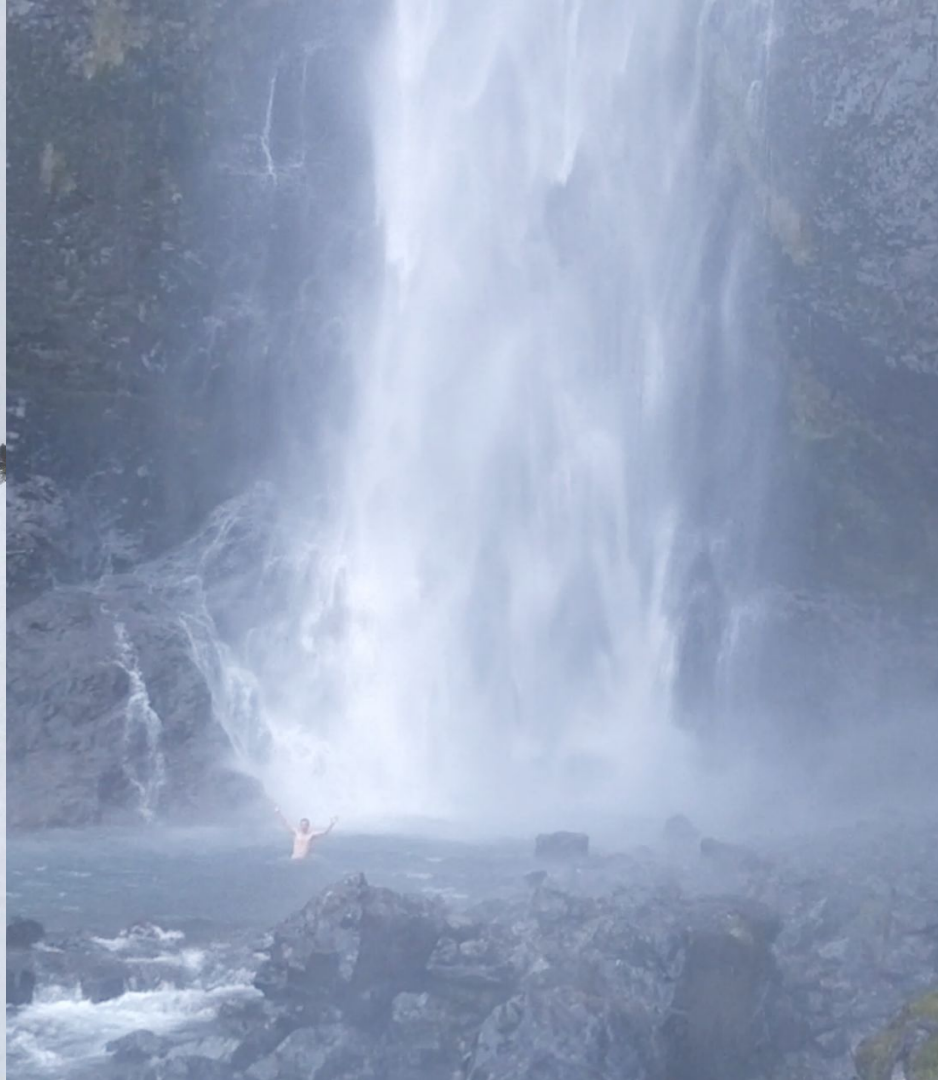
Google™

SUMMARY



EPILOGUE

Matariki



mathew.denys.nz/2022/three-passes/

QUESTIONS?