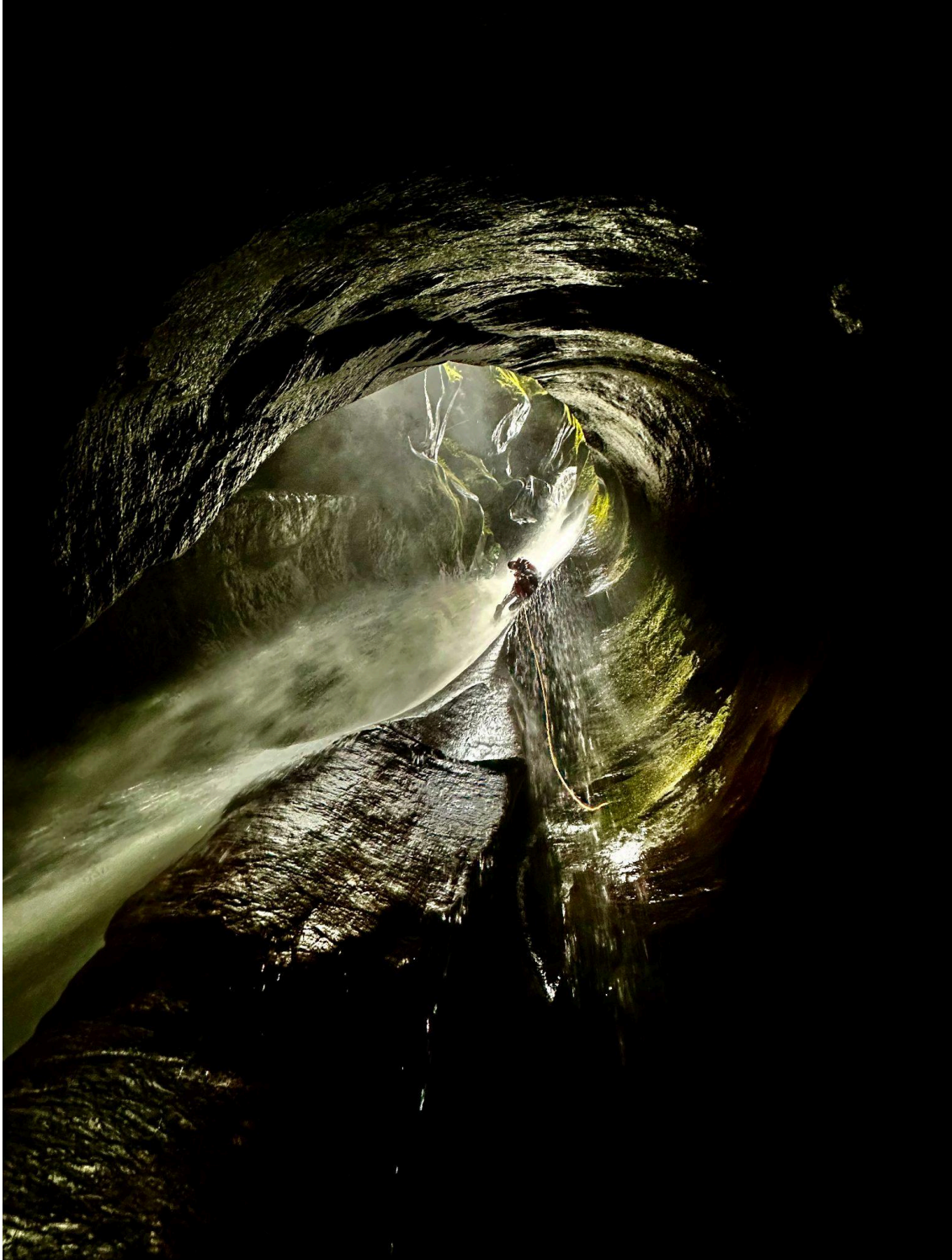


ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2024-25 CANYONING SEASON



2025 NZCA photo comp overall winner: Imp Grotto, Cat Shand

Presidents report

It's been a great season for me personally, I think I've done more this year than the last five years combined!

Re-connecting with lots of the community has been a highlight, whether at the ever-popular Blast in the Haast, during SAR operations or discussions online.

I was fortunate enough to get into Whirling Water over Waitangi Weekend and was simply blown away by the beauty, technical difficulty, length and sustained features of this incredible canyon. Hands down the best canyon I've ever set foot in worldwide. I certainly take my hat off to the people who had the guts and determination to explore and rig it: an incredible achievement.

Having been there myself, I know first-hand how precious this place is for the New Zealand and International canyoning communities. As I write, the previously defeated Morgan Gorge hydro project in the valley beneath Whirling is progressing again at pace. Although the proposal itself won't impact Whirling, future access to the canyon and upper Waitaha valley is under threat. We're continually reminded that these special places cannot be taken for granted. We'll lose them forever if we allow government and commercial interest to proceed with projects without proper checks and balances from society. NZCA is apolitical, we don't support or oppose any particular party, but we do stand for preservation of our natural environment, particularly the canyoning opportunities that our members cherish. We all need to do our bit in exercising our political power (by voting and lobbying) to ensure future generations can visit and enjoy these places that we love.

This season, the efforts of a handful of keen teams have resulted in some great new West Coast and Fiordland canyons. In particular, seeing people heading further into the backcountry with an expedition mindset is really unlocking the next golden age of canyon exploration. Closer to the road, several of the new Coast canyons will no doubt get some action at the 2026 Festival in Hokitika next season. I look forward to meeting new friends and hanging out with familiar faces there!

In the meantime, thank you to all our committee members for their hard efforts behind the scenes, the kindred organisations which support the mahi and our values, and all the canyoners of the community who get behind protecting and enjoying the marvellous canyoning here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dan Clearwater, NZCA President



Dan in Whirling Water, Waitaha Valley / Toine Houtenbos

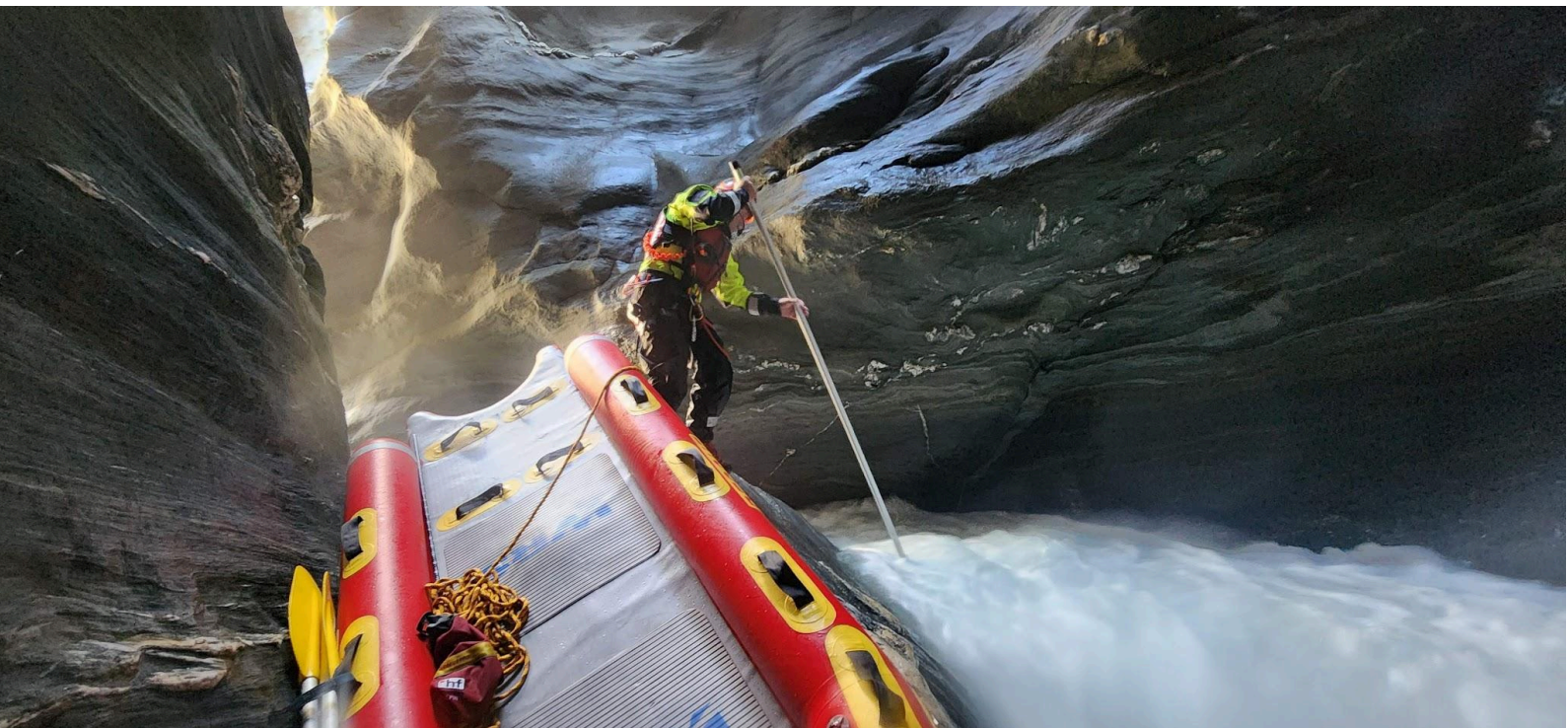
Canyon Search and Rescue

By Oliver Polson & Daniel Clearwater

A fairly quiet season operationally, with only a handful of callouts and operations around the country. A number of search operations show that we are still being well utilised as a support resource by Land Search and Rescue teams.

Of note however, a couple of operations involving inexperienced canyoneers in conditions they probably shouldn't have been in (high water combined with poor weather forecasts). These teams no doubt had great (albeit, hard earned) learning experiences. But it does perhaps highlight an opportunity for further community education.

The 8-day search for a missing hiker at Rob Roy Stream near Wanaka was one significant operation. Canyon teams were stopped directly into a glacier fed slot, with a rescue sled (raft). High flows and loads of sieves led to some novel techniques, such as using a tethered sled as a platform to place bolts for avoiding hazards, aluminium pool cleaning poles in place of avalanche probes, and fully integrated two-earpiece and boom mic helmet comms for communication within the canyon and other responders.



Searching in Rob Roy canyon / Dan Clearwater

Operations

The following is a record of deployments (and stand-by calls) for CanyonSAR teams nationally during the season.

4 Sep 2024	Ongarue Village	OP rata Canyon called in to clear steep creeks in the search area for male who a had gone missing after attending a Tangi at the nearby Marae		Upper North Island CanyonSAR
25 Oct 2024	Hutt River	Male despondent left home, belongings located next to the Hutt River. Heavy rain event during the first 12 hours of operation. Canyon team called in to help clear the river	Team of 4 working with SurfSAR cleared banks and catch points	Wellington CanyonSAR
16 Nov 2024	Manawatu River	Young male jumped into the Manawatu river near Palmerston North to rescue dog and was not seen again, Police called CanyonSAR at the request of SurfSAR to assist in the search.	Team of 2 working with SurfSAR cleared banks and catch points	Wellington CanyonSAR
23 Nov 2025	Otaki Folks area	79 year old with cognitive impairment went missing in bush around rural property. OP Kaitawa. Canyon called in after they believed they could hear him in a small creek/gorge near the property.	Canyon team of 4 cleared the stream gorge, nil located.	Wellington CanyonSAR
15 Jan 2025	Angelus peak - Nelson Lakes NP	Call out used then stood down. Tourist become bluffed and overnighted in steep waterway close to Angelous hut. Heli unable to get in, LandSAR and CanyonSAR teams activated to begin the long walk in, when DOC rangers located and assisted MP		Tasman CanyonSAR
25 Jan 2025	Waikato	Search assist to LandSAR job looking for despondent person	Small team searched a waterway with known (small) waterfalls. With armed police in tow!	Upper North Island CanyonSAR
17 Feb 2025	Kauaeranga Valley	Over due group from Auckland in SG during high volume rain event.	Good turnout from UNIT overdue group had an epic after bailing from SG and having to walk the long way out over night. Russ provided prevention advice to group.	Upper North Island CanyonSAR
8 Feb 2025	Rob Roy Glacier	Canyon search for missing tourist	Stropped into a tight (but small) canyon feature. used river rescue sled to achieve positioning in swiftwater to effectively search waterfalls. Total of 8 day operation	Wanaka CanyonSAR

3/2/2025	Cross Creek	Overdue party - prepared to deploy with Police endorsement but stood down	Higher water levels plus rain. Less experienced group in Cross, late in the day. Became dark. As 'panic time' approached, contact person called Wanaka SAR team lead to ask for advice. Based on missing party experience, water levels, rainfall and darkness, informed local police SAR and got the approval to prepare for a deployment. Stood down just before panic time when team emerged from canyon.	Wanaka CanyonSAR
3/30/2025	Mather Creek	Beacon activation, SAROP conducted	Hasty team response of 3 with Aspiring Helicopters. Flew to scene, conducted beacon search. Homing signal used to find party about 1/2 way down canyon, (about 4km from GPS coords of beacon). Reconfigured with 70m stop. Flew 2x rescuers to site. Lost party of 2. One with broken ankle. Stopped out patient & 1 rescuer to Burke Flat. Then stopped out 1 rescuer and uninjured person to their car at Pleasant flat. Reconfigured at Burke Flat. Delivered Patient and team to Wanaka Medical Centre.	Wanaka CanyonSAR
19-20 April 2025	Wairere Falls	River search for person known to have fallen into floodwaters	Rapid response with small teams for the first day, water levels very high and unsafe to search thoroughly. Day two, the river had dropped overnight and became safer to search. MP found deceased approx 400m downstream of splash point. CanyonSAR used for extraction.	Upper North Island CanyonSAR

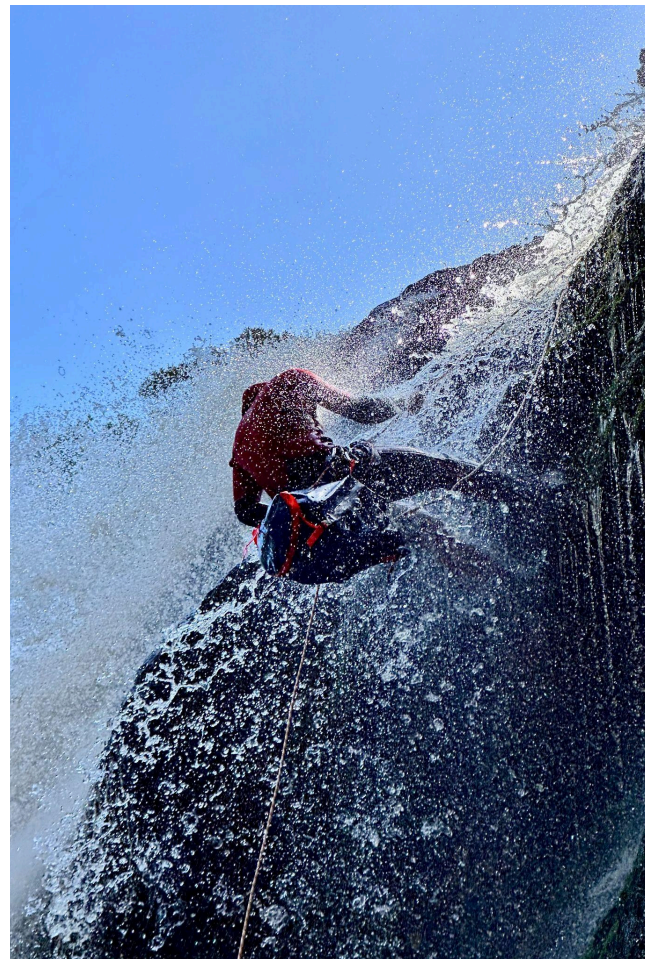
Course development & ongoing funding

A successful pilot version of the Level 2 Canyon Rescue course was held in Wanaka, focusing on small team, light weight, efficient rescue techniques building on the skills developed in the Level 1 course. Another L2 will be held later this year and is currently still an invite only course for advanced practitioners.

The Canyon SM course is continuing to be slowly improved and tweaked with some online learning covering the LandSAR basics and search theory being proposed. This should allow more time for practical components to be practised during the course and provide a resource for refreshing and reviewing to those that have completed the CSM in the past.

Alex Waterworth (LandSAR Group and Volunteer Support staff member) continues to push on compiling the monster that is the Canyon SAR competencies. A comprehensive draft is soon to be distributed to the SAR-subcommittee for review.

On the funding front; LandSAR was partially successful in the FED funding proposal. This has provided a significant funding increase for members (including CanyonSAR) for the provision of uniform and PPE. What this looks like is all members will be provided with task-appropriate LandSAR branded clothing and for specialist teams (us) and allowance (value yet to be determined) that will go towards personal equipment expenses (wetsuits/harness etc). It has also provided assurance that for the next 3 financial years CanyonSAR will continue to receive \$25,000/annum to cover regional training costs and team gear purchasing. LandSAR has also committed to covering the costs of National level training courses and a significant portion of the upcoming Hokitika SAREX.



Tiropahi River / Cat Shand

Technical standards developments

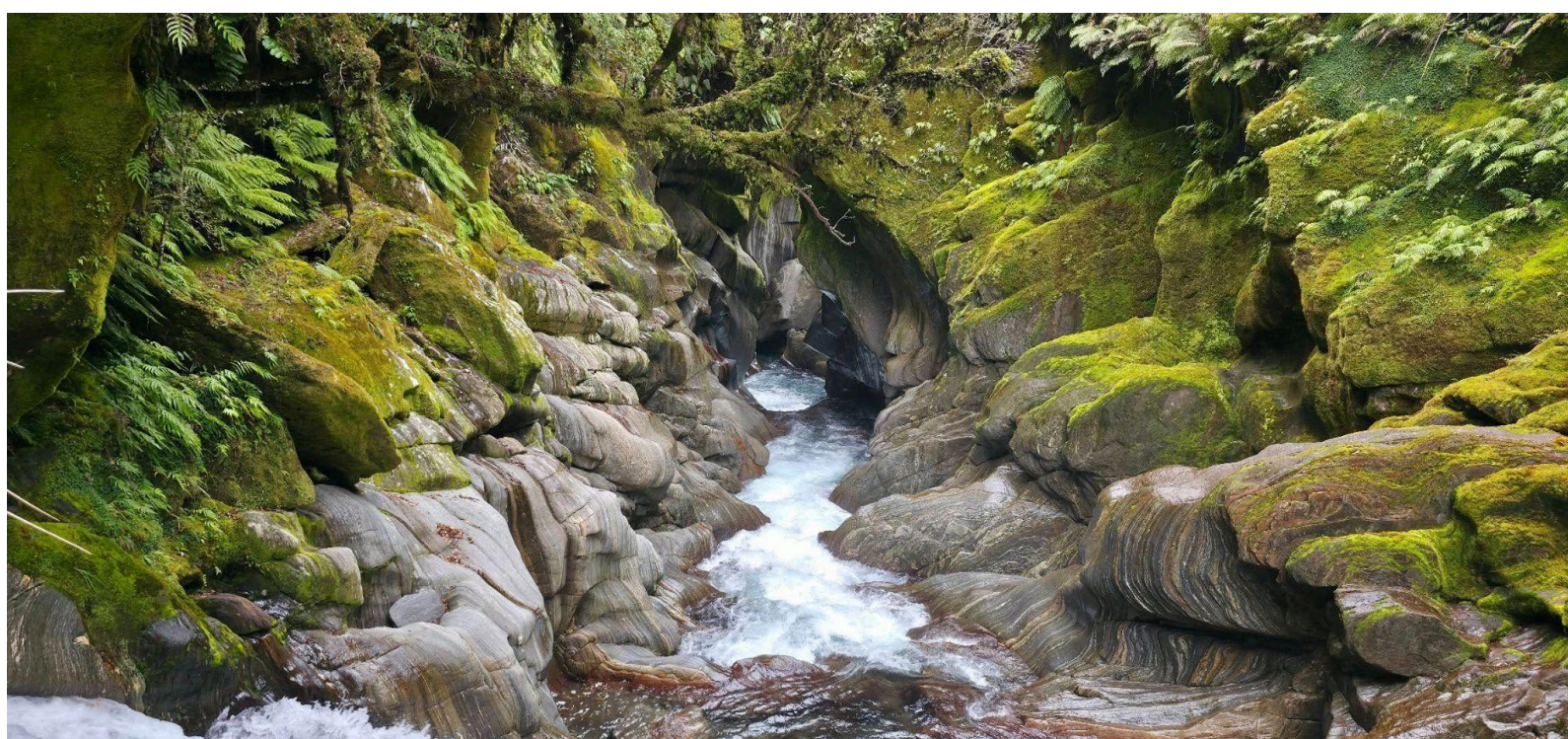
By Shanan Fraser

We haven't had any major projects or developments this year, but NZCA is starting to develop a few more international relationships, with a view to some collaborations and testing programmes. Watch this space for more to come.

Community Report

By Daniel Clearwater

The Association ran its annual photo competition. The top shots are featured in this annual report, alongside other images from the community. Congratulations to Cat Shand who was overall winner, and thanks to Dan Clearwater for running the competition.



Whirling Water / Jason Bilborrow

Treasurer's report

By Warren Fitzgerald

NZ Canyoning Association currently administers two different funding streams. Since the introduction of CanyonSAR, funding has been provided to improve the search and rescue capabilities within canyon-style environments throughout New Zealand. NZCA also administers the Canyon Fund, which receives membership fees and donations, to promote and enhance the canyoning opportunities throughout Aotearoa.

In September 2024 NZCA held a general meeting to amend our rules as an incorporated society. Part of this process was to change our financial year to 1 July - 30 June. This change was done to align with the LandSAR financial year, which is where the bulk of our

funding comes from, and to move the end-of-year reporting period out of the canyoning season. This was also expected to ease the time constraints of executive members, many of whom have other commitments around the traditional 31 March end-of-financial-year period.

The NZ Canyoning Association financial records for 2025 (and previous years) are published on the NZCA website - <http://nzcanyoningassociation.org/about/#eagm>

CanyonSAR Funding

CanyonSAR was accepted as a specialist discipline within LandSAR New Zealand in 2019 and is being administered within the NZCA as a separate financial stream to other NZCA expenses.

In February 2025, CanyonSAR received a \$25,000 Outdoor Safety Committee grant for the 24/25 financial year (1 July - 30 June). This funding arrangement is likely to change in the future with a restructuring of LandSAR funding mechanisms.

Due to every region in New Zealand having different expertise and different requirements, the NZCA executive has attempted to give local CanyonSAR groups autonomy by pre-approving budgets for local groups to upskill and equip themselves. This year, our allocated funding was significantly supplemented through the LandSAR GPT process, which resulted in a substantial amount of gear being procured for the CanyonSAR teams to help establish national consistency in their response capabilities.

We continued to provide local groups with a pre-approved budget to run their own in-house training throughout the year, and these efforts are supported by national training and SAR exercises, as well as knowledge sharing between groups. Additionally, funding was also budgeted for each local group to complete specific helicopter training specific to their region's needs.

For the financial year ending 30 June 2025:

- \$11,717.26 has been spent on purchasing equipment nationwide
- \$19,472.59 on training nationwide
- \$872.41 has been spent on consumables and administration.



Canyon shrooms / Cat Shand

NZCA Canyon Fund

The Canyon Fund was established in late 2017 to ensure the funds raised from NZCA activities are reinvested in the canyoning community. A sunset clause exists to release money back into the contestable Canyon Fund if approved projects are not completed by the end of the following financial year.

During the 2025 financial year, the NZCA Canyon Fund has funded the following projects:

- \$201.17 to upgrade anchors in Blue Creek (Tasman) - Adrien Paris
- \$500 towards anchors for an expedition in the Arawhata Valley (West Coast) - Erwan Coq
- \$576.59 to upgrade anchors in Mather Creek (Wanaka) - Dan Clearwater

Three projects have been approved but are yet to be completed:

- Bolting the Valley of Darkness canyon (West Coast) - Christian Miller
- Creating a training area on Gorge Rd (Queenstown) - Riki Brown
- Upgrade anchors in Eagles Nest (Otago) - Oscar Burford

The NZCA always welcomes more applications to the fund!

nzcanyoningassociation.org/resources/#canyonfund

Advocacy Report

By Annette Phillips and Dan Clearwater

Wairere Falls

Since 2023, the NZCA has worked to develop a relationship with local Iwi Ngāti Hinerangi, who have asked us all to refrain from canyoning at Wairere and Waiteariki Falls in the Kaimai Ranges. Annette Phillips and Russel Hodgson have put in a lot of time into maintaining the relationship. Initially, the Iwi wanted the fixed anchors removed, and NZCA was working to facilitate that. However, during several incidents at Wairere Falls involving members of the public, CanyonSAR teams were called in to conduct searches and body recoveries. These operations highlighted the importance of anchors for the SAR volunteers to safely search the area, and to assist with restoring the mauri of the place, by bringing the deceased person back to loved ones.

After seeing the Canyon SAR teams at work, and having Russ explain the technical situation, Ngāti Hinerangi agreed that the anchors could remain in place for use during SAR operations. This pragmatic result is a tribute to the efforts of Russ and Annette, and the representatives of Ngāti Hinerangi. It also shows the benefit of ongoing relationship building and mutual respect between the association and tangata whenua.

Morgan Gorge, Whirling Water, and the Waitaha canyons

Unfortunately, the Fast Track Approvals Bill became law, and not long after, WestPower resumed their planning to get approval for the Morgan Gorge hydro scheme.

NZCA is keeping close contact with Federated Mountain Clubs, looking to secure access to the Waitaha Valley, in the likely event the project goes ahead. The new legislation is specifically designed to reduce public opportunity to lobby against certain proposals, so we are doing our best to reduce the impact of the project, by seeking improved and enduring access to the valley.

Thank you to FMC President Megan Dimozantos and all those who have worked hard to try to save the Waitaha from this unwise proposal.

Thank you

Finally, a thank you to Annette, who stepped down from this position in February, after nearly three years in the role. We're delighted to welcome Dave Vass, well-known canyoning pioneer to the NZCA continue with the Advocacy efforts.



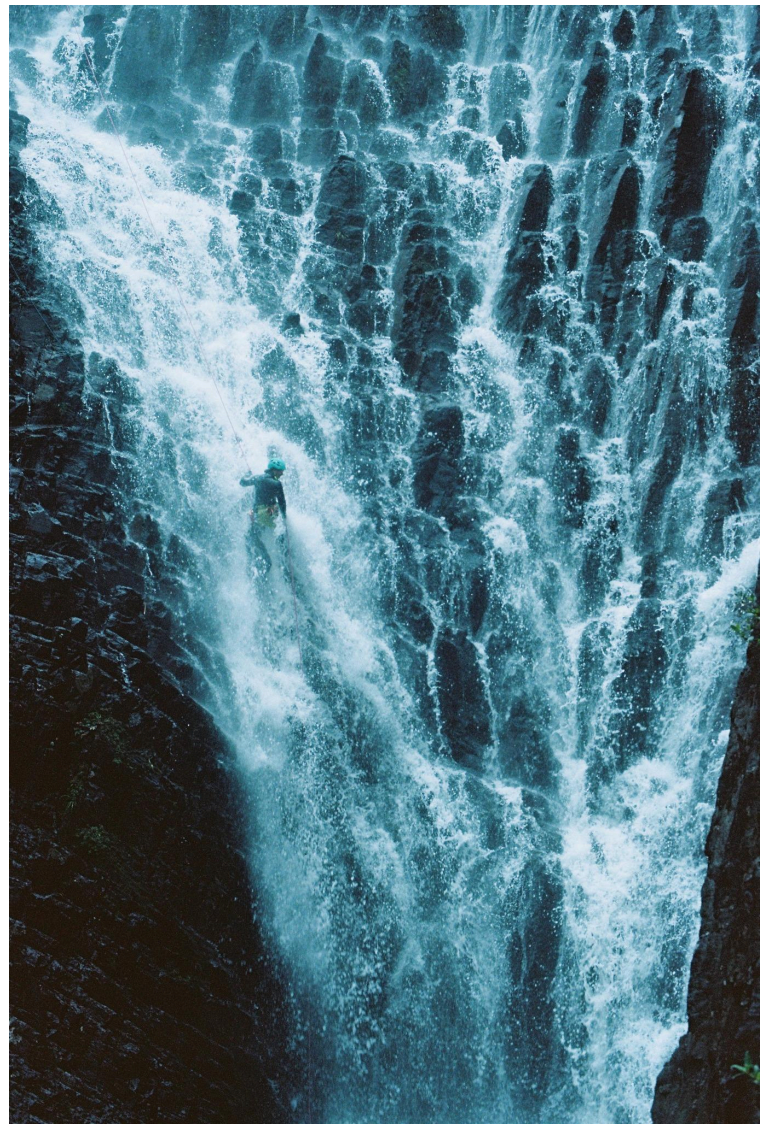
Whirling Water / Owen Glover

Upper North Island

By Brad Schiamanski

It's been another great year in the Upper North! While there haven't been any major developments or new canyons added to the books, the existing classics have seen plenty of action. I've heard of many groups getting out and enjoying what our region has to offer — from the deep pools to the mossy walls, it's been another summer of solid missions and good times.

There have also been whispers of a few first descents... most of which have been deemed “not worth repeating” For now, we'll leave them off the paperwork — but if that was you, let us know. Even the unglamorous descents are useful to record, so others don't walk in full of hope and leave disappointed. Your quiet efforts can still save others a long bush bash.



Sleeping God / John Commissaris

In short, nothing groundbreaking to report, but as always, it's been a season of enjoying what we have. And really, does summer ever end up here? keep at it.

Search and Rescue: We were called to assist with a few incidents this season, there were lots of lessons but two key lessons are worth reinforcing:

1. *Expect something to go wrong* – Always have a checkout person, and make sure every trip includes emergency equipment such as: First aid kit, headlights, emergency warmth, and some kind of emergency communicator.
2. *If the water is up, stay home* – water will come up fast and you don't want to find out how unprepared you are for it when you have no other options.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the community this year – whether by leading trips, supporting newcomers, or just getting out there and sharing the stoke. I'm looking forward to hearing your stories and reporting some first descents next year!

Lower North Island

By Gavin Barry-Morgan

Canyoning in the Lower North Island continues to be a niche pursuit—equal parts adventure and poor decision-making. This year we didn't see a boom in numbers or a sudden influx of new canyons, but what we did get was a steady trickle of quality missions powered by the usual stubborn determination and a disregard for comfortable walk-ins

First descents for the season

Kapakapanui summit creek v4a1III* - Tararua Range. First decent 23rd October 2024. Alex Waterworth, Jay Campbell and Sam Barrett.

Impassable Gorge – Second Descent

A highlight of the season was the long-awaited second descent of **Impassable Gorge** in the Tararua Forest Park. If you don't have a helicopter. The approach will be brutal, the exit somehow worse, and morale will take a few hits along the way. But once in the canyon, the suffering will give way to something special. Clean bedrock, stacked technical sections, and continuous flow made it, without exaggeration, the best canyon experiences in the region.

If you're considering a repeat: train your legs, overpack snacks, and make peace with the uphill slog. But do it—because this one is worth it.

Regional Conditions

Locals continued to visit **Isabelle Creek** and **Eager Beaver**, with no major issues reported. Anchors remain solid, and both canyons still offer great bang-for-buck in terms of accessibility and experience. A small debris shift was noticed below R3 in Isabelle, but nothing that impacts safety or flow.

CanyonSAR & Training

The Wellington-based CanyonSAR crew was again active this year, focusing on building independent capability. Training weekends have dialed in rigging, patient access, and swiftwater protocols, with several members working toward advanced certs.

Notably, the team responded during the multi-day search for a missing tramper in the Tararuas. They operated in cold, technical terrain to help clear assigned waterways. While the outcome was deeply saddening, the team's contribution was significant—reinforcing the value of CanyonSAR as part of the wider LandSAR toolbox.

Community & Outlook

We didn't run any big public intro days this season, but informal trips and a community BBQ helped keep the network alive. The vibe remains positive: small but connected, and always keen for the next good mission. Looking ahead, we'll be focusing on access relationships with DOC and regional landowners, and hopefully wrangling enough volunteers to run a bigger event next season.

Thanks to everyone who lent a hand this year—whether hauling rope, scouting lines, or just turning up with snacks and dry socks. You're the reason this odd little corner of canyoning keeps going.



Slippery Bondage canyon / Max Collier

Top of the south

By Lee den Haan

2024/2025 season has seen a mild influx of classics being done, heavily due to an influx of new international canyoning guides for both Abel Tasman Canyons and Canyoning Aotearoa but also from the residual stoke of last years festival, classics such as Peak Creek seeing repeats from the Canyoning Aotearoa crew.

Blue Creek in the Kahurangi has seen a bolting upgrade. Thanks to Adrien Paris (Canyoning Aotearoa) and Toine Houtenbos (Abel Tasman Canyons) for the collab on getting this done. Both of the above names deserving extra kudos for continuing to provide the canyoning instruction for the NMIT polytech Diploma in Adventure Tourism, introducing canyoning and developing canyoning skills to students for yet another season.

On the regional SAR front, local Canyon SAR team conducted a heli training day out with some technical scenario training inside Juicy falls up the wairoa. As a sub response capability, some members of Nelson/Tasman Canyon SAR have joined a group consisting of other regional high angle SAR specialist to be available to the new Takaka Hill Via Ferrata rescue team. No other official CanyonSAR call outs this season

Although aforementioned in other reports this year, mention has to be made for the trip to the Waitaha Valley by several TOTS canyoners who rendezvoused with a crew from the bottom of the South (BOTS) to explore Whirling Waters and Bartrum Canyon . What an epic place!

A bit of a shuffle in administration with myself appointed to rep the TOTS and Toine Houtenbos being the regional SAR representative. With Oli Polson also living in proximity we hope to keep things ticking over appropriately. Big thanks to Richard Bramley for his mahi on the regional SAR front.



Blue Creek / Lee den Haan

Westland

By Dan Clearwater

This season, two crews have opened seven new canyons in the region. The potential on the west coast is still huge, with plenty of roadside possibilities and almost limitless options for those willing to walk into one of the valleys and explore from a hut or camping base.

In the Glacier Country, "Stretch" Verhees and friends explored these new routes.

Kiwi Jacks Creek v3a3II** :First descent Jeroen Verhees (Stretch), Billy Norton and Mhairi-Bronte Duncan, all glacier guides from Fox - 7 September 2024.

Rope Creek v4a3IV* - First full descent: Jeroen (Stretch) Verhees, Billy Norton, Edgar Fella, Louis Gisar, Andrea Sirois, Axel Poitevin December 2024.

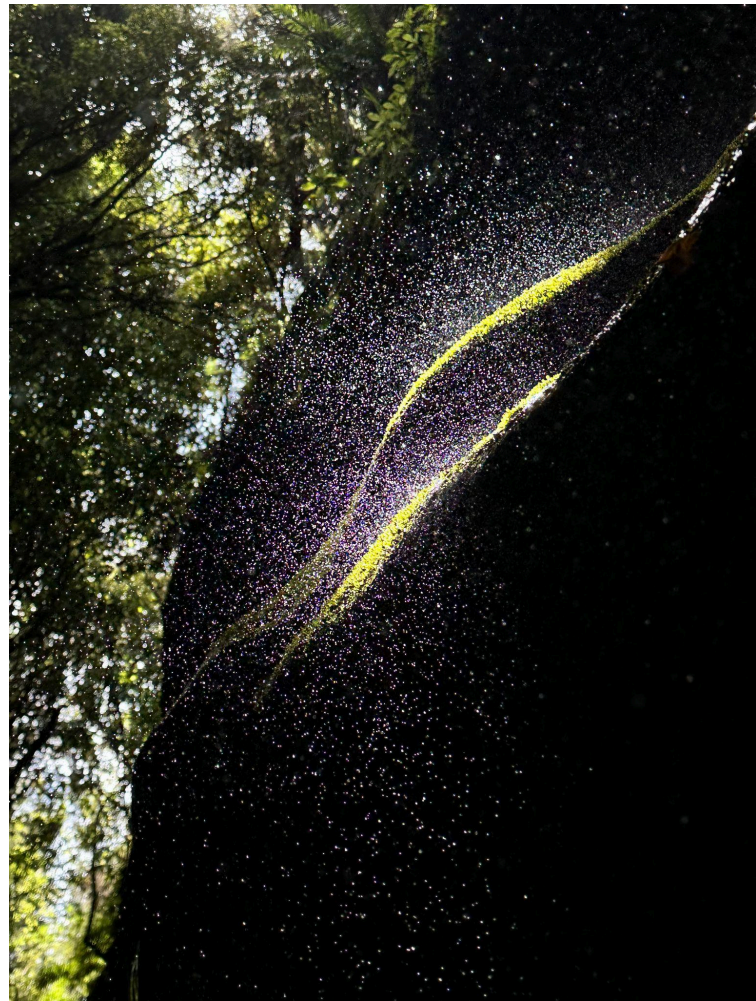
Broken Creek v4a2IV* First full descent: Jeroen (Stretch) Verhees, Edgar Fella, Morgan, early 2025

Tatare Stream v6a6V*** - Described as "maybe the perfect training location for Whirling Water?" First canyoning descent Edgar Fella, Henry Rotherham, Taylor Haisell, Jeroen Verhees, William Henry Norton, Louis Rgissart 21 February 2025.

Christian Miller and co have also been exploring, with new finds in the Haupiri Valley, inland from Greymouth.

Crane Creek v4a4IV** - Haupiri Valley, First descent, Christian Miller, Amy Burney, Conor Handley, Ben Fletcher, April 2025.

Goat Creek v3a2IV* - Haupiri Valley First descent: Sach Knight, Anya Bukholt-payne, Conor Handley, Sean Szymanski, Amy Burney, Christian Miller. Early 2025.



Canyon spray / Cat Shand

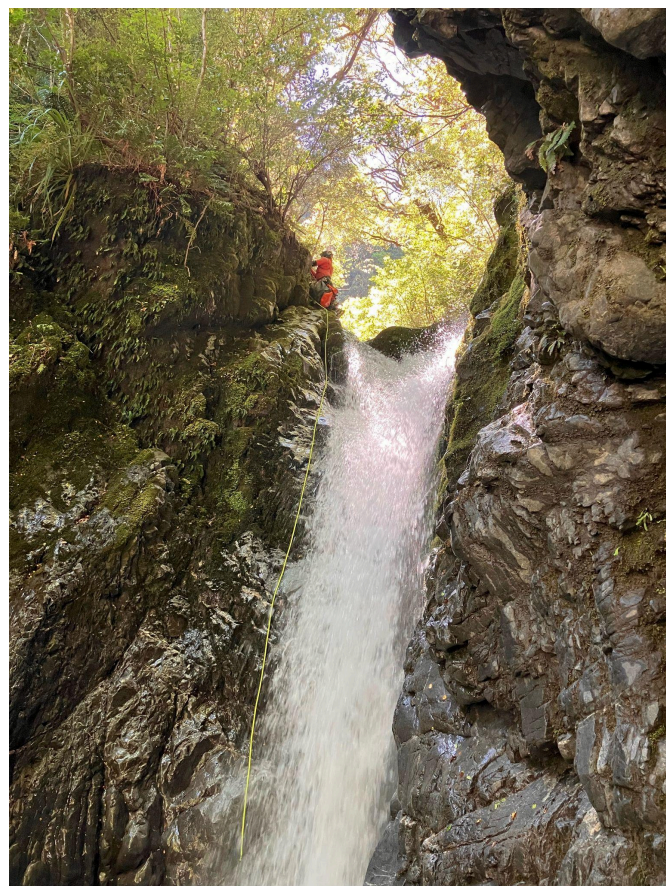
Canterbury

By Grant Prattley

Arthurs Pass

The Edwards River (V3A4IV***) descended again. We added some additional bolt placements and created a Topo for the trip. This is a big-volume canyon trip with 7-8 hours spent in the canyon (water) outside the walk-in and walk-out. I think it is the only Canterbury canyon of this type. It is well worth the visit. Stunning.

A second descent was made through Spray Creek up the Deception River—an hour up the valley from the road end and a quick climb up the steep side. We managed to get in at 800m and reduced the amount of climbing from the original first descent.



Spray Creek / Grant Prattley

There is stunning back-to-back-to-back waterfalls to abseil with little commute time. We placed additional bolts and updated the Topo. On a midsummer's day, it is very achievable from the road end. Highly recommended.

CanyonSAR Canterbury

In December, a day training session was held, during which the team walked in and lowered a patient on a stretcher through Ryde Falls—four pitches down.

In January, the team undertook Helicopter training with Garden City Helicopters at Orton Bradley Park on Banks Peninsula, focusing on safety, entry, and exit in the hover.

In March, the team were flown into the head of Takahae Stream by Rakia Helicopters and descended to the bottom. We were a bit higher than normal get-in and descended a couple more pitches.

First Descents

Fawn Falls v4a3II** - Lewis Pass, First descent Christian Miller, Amy Burney, Conor Handley, Ben Fletcher May 2025.

Aspiring area

By Patrick Timm

Another fantastic season in the Aspiring area! A long dry spell opened the door for plenty of smooth, sun-soaked descents of the region's beloved classics. A definite social highlight this year was the biannual canyoning meetup at Makarora, bringing together keen crews from near and far to share lines, stories, and a good dose of beta.



Galaxiid dinner time / Cat Shand

As always, the canyons in this area were buzzing, with most weekends seeing teams ticking off the local favourites. Wilson in particular continues to grow in popularity, and with West Coast tourism push promoting the iconic canyon exit as a photogenic Instagram spot, it's become even busier. Parking is getting tight, and there have already been a few close calls, with some cars ending up in roadside ditches (fortunately, no injuries).

While these incidents haven't involved canyoners, many in our community have witnessed the squeeze firsthand. As more people flock to this beautiful spot, it's clear that a bit of thoughtful management will be needed to keep things safe and sustainable for everyone.

Blast In the Haast 2025

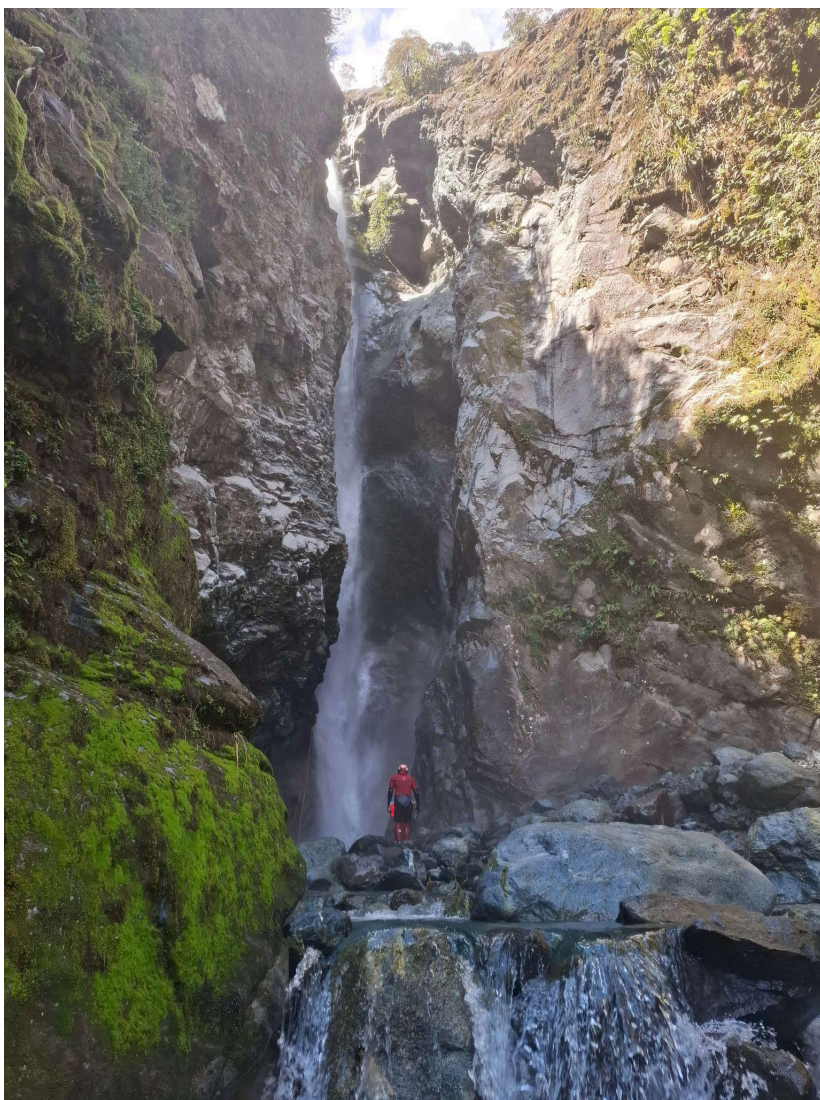
Another fantastic turnout for Blast in the Haast 2025! This year we had close to 50 keen canyoners come together for a weekend packed with good missions, big laughs, and that unbeatable Haast buzz. The social vibes from before, during, and long after the ropes were packed away, make this meetup a favourite for so many in our community.

It was awesome to see people getting into canyons they might not normally have the chance to explore, sharing skills and beta, and gaining both confidence and capability. At the end of the day, it's these connections that make our community stronger and open the door for more trips, more learning, and more good times together.

A huge shoutout to Wonderland Lodge for hosting us so well, from Didymo washing stations to late-night yarns, they made it easy for everyone to come together and keep the vibe alive. Bring on the next one!

First descents

Late in the season, Erik Birkhoff, Erwan Coq, Bas Hetterscheid, Oscar Burford, Pepijn Hoeksema, Britt Joosten, Bram de Vries spent several weeks exploring the Aspiring and Fiordland Areas. The Dutch Canyoning Expedition was supported by a Canyon Fund grant, and opened **Low Creek v5a4III**** in the Clarke Valley, and **AI Gorge v3a3III*** in the Albert Burn.



Kakapo Canyon / Patrick Timm

Fiordland

By Patrick Timm

First descents

Tutoko Valley

The Tutoko Valley, just a stone's throw from Milford Sound, continues to deliver the goods for adventurous canyons keen on remote, high-quality granite. This scenic alpine valley hides several world-class canyons, and this season **Kakapo Canyon v5a3IV***** really shone through. Thanks to a long dry spell, teams managed to complete both the upper and lower sections in prime conditions, a rare treat in this part of the world!

The canyon itself boasts bullet-hard granite, sculpted narrows, and some truly stunning enclosed sections that feel like something out of a film set. A handful of fun jumps and cheeky slides add that extra splash of flavour, making Kakapo a must-do for anyone up for the mission. It's the kind of place you'll do once and immediately start planning your return trip, expect to see more repeats in the seasons ahead!

The Dutch Expedition also visited the Tutoko valley, claiming the first D on **Pīwakawaka falls canyon v3a2II**** a small side creek to the main valley, that had some neat features, despite the small catchment and low flow.

Pyke Valley

Using Packrafts for access to the area, The Dutch team they set up camp and explore a number of quality canyons. **Dragon's Den v5a4IV*****, **Alabaster Creek v4a4II****, **Swan Creek v4a2IV*** and **Chair Creek v4a4IV****

Eglinton Valley

The Dutch team also opened **Waterfall Creek v5a3III**** and **Easy Creek v3a1III***

Falls Creek Repeats

A solid classic in the Fiordland region, Falls Creek remains a staple on any canyoning itinerary down this way. This season saw plenty of crews dropping in for a good dose of big-water Fiordland fun. Notably, an early-season high-water descent put the canyon to the test, giving canyoners a chance to gauge how it handles in pushy conditions, and it passed with flying colours, with teams completing it safely and coming out grinning. It's great to see this iconic canyon getting the love it deserves, and with its reliable flow and dramatic scenery, Falls Creek will no doubt keep drawing repeat visits from keen canyoners for years to come.



Falls Creek / Patrick Timm