

KNAPSACK CREEK HOLE.

Chris Curtis.

Investigating this hole has been on my bucket list for many years and even though it's only ten minutes from home (see Map 1 below), somehow doing it just never seemed to happen, until now that is.

slings from the top before tying my main line to a perfectly positioned tree root exactly where I needed it. I pushed the sixty meter rope down the hole and started to abseil down the rope under the steel cover.



Map 1: Location of the Knapsack Creek Hole. **Photo:** Edited Google map screen shot by *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 1: Robert Dickenson, the site supervisor looking down the hole. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*

I actually feel kind of lucky knowing that I am probably the only person to go down the hole since it was made.

After teeing it up with Robert Dickenson (Photo 1), also a local, and the site supervisor, we met at the nearby car park at 10:30am, then had an easy five minute walk to the hole (Photo 2). I thought it was best to have someone with me, just in case.

There is a large steel mesh cover over the hole (Photos 1, 3) and my biggest concern with abseiling the hole was if I could fit under the steel mesh cover.

There is only one area that someone could fit under (Photo 4) and it's close to a rock face, so I knew it was going to be tight.

I cleaned up the opening as much as I could and thought "yep, I should fit". I rigged some



Photo 2: Looking down the Knapsack Creek Hole. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 3: The large steel mesh covering of the Knapsack Creek Hole. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*

Getting under the gap was tight (Photo 4), so tight that it took a bit of shuffling to get my descender under the bar. Once under the bar it was straight forward and easy. Anyone much bigger than me though, would have trouble getting under.

Once I was under the steel cover I rigged the main line (Photos 5, 6) to create a traverse line so the final drop would be straight down the middle of the hole to the bottom.

It was a fun abseil down (Photo 7). I took some pics on the way back up (Photos 8, 9), and a video as well, and the prussic was fun too, as was the squeeze back out.



Photo 4: The tight access entry point into the Knapsack Creek Hole. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 5: The rigging from the top. **Photo:** *C. Curtis.*



Photo 6: The rigging from below. **Photo:** *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 7: The author on his way down to the bottom of the Knapsack Creek Hole.
Photo: Robert Dickenson.



Photo 8: Looking up from the bottom of the Knapsack Creek Hole.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*



Photo 9: Looking up to the steel mesh on the way back up to the top of the Knapsack Creek Hole.
Photo: *Chris Curtis.*

The squeeze back out was surprisingly easier than I expected as the chest ascender sits flatter than the descender.

Another one of my bucket list activities done!

About the Hole: The hole was created for the crane used to lift the sandstone blocks to make the viaduct. The crane had a counterweight which went up and down opposite to the load.

The hole is about thirty-two meters deep, 2.5 to three meters in diameter and in solid rock from top to bottom.

If anyone would like to take an in-depth look at it for themselves, let me know as I am planning to do it again at some stage to collect the rubbish at the bottom of the hole.

JSSS