

Alpine Route, Mt Richmond Forest Park

From the car park, pine forest dominates the track as far as Hackett Hut. Markers lead up Hackett Stream, which is crossed in places. From here, the Alpine Route climbs high and stays high until the Wairoa Valley. The steep track past Pyramid Rock is testing on the way to Starveall Hut.

An initial climb crosses scree slopes, and soon becomes a winding path through beech forest.

On the south-facing slopes, walkers may find snow among tussock on the way to Slaty Hut.

From here the track leads to Old Man, following a horseshoe route around the valley. The route weaves through undulating terrain, before a descent onto a forested saddle, then onto the easy tops of Ada Flat. A track junction is followed from here to Old Man Hut.

A climb leads through dwindling beech forest towards Little Rintoul. From the bushedge, crampons may be required, but as the track ascends, the Alpine Route appears.

Scramble up a rocky wall and negotiate a narrow, broken section of ridge onto the summit of Little Rintoul.

Crags prevent a direct traverse of the ridge crest, so the route leads steeply down a gully, almost as far as the bushline, into the gap between the twin mountains.

Ahead is the 250m climb to Mt Rintoul, the highest point on the Alpine Route.

Avoiding a rocky ridge requires a steep descent into a gully, and the final descent to Mt Rintoul Hut entails a scree descent.

The track crosses the last peak of the route – Purple Top – before descending to Tarn Hut and soon Mid Wairoa Hut, beside the Wairoa River Left Branch.

The walk out along the narrow valley track is challenging, narrow, and barely benched at all. It sidles steep country, sometimes above bluffs, and in places requires care over sloping shelves of schist above the river. The track soon peters out onto a forestry road, and after passing the Wairoa Valley Mountain Bike Park, the public road is reached.

Wild File

Access Aniseed Valley Road, at Hackett Track trailhead

Grade Difficult. Ice axe and crampons essential in winter

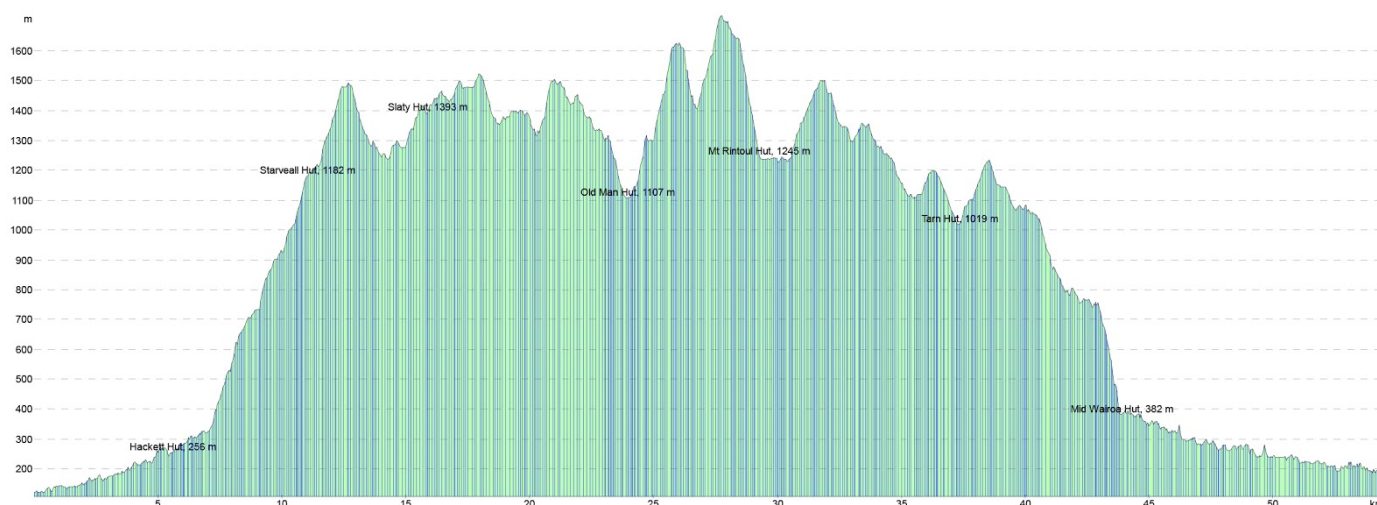
Time 4-5 days. To Hackett Hut, 1.5-2hr; to Starveall Hut, 4-4.5hr; to Slaty Hut, 2.5-3hr. To Old Man Hut, 5hr; to Mt Rintoul Hut, 6-6hr; to Tarn Hut, 5hr; to Mid Wairoa Hut, 2.5-3hr; to Wairoa Gorge Road, 4-5hr

Distance 54.4km

Total Ascent 4529m

Topo50 map BQ26, BQ27, BR25, BR26

Elevation Profile



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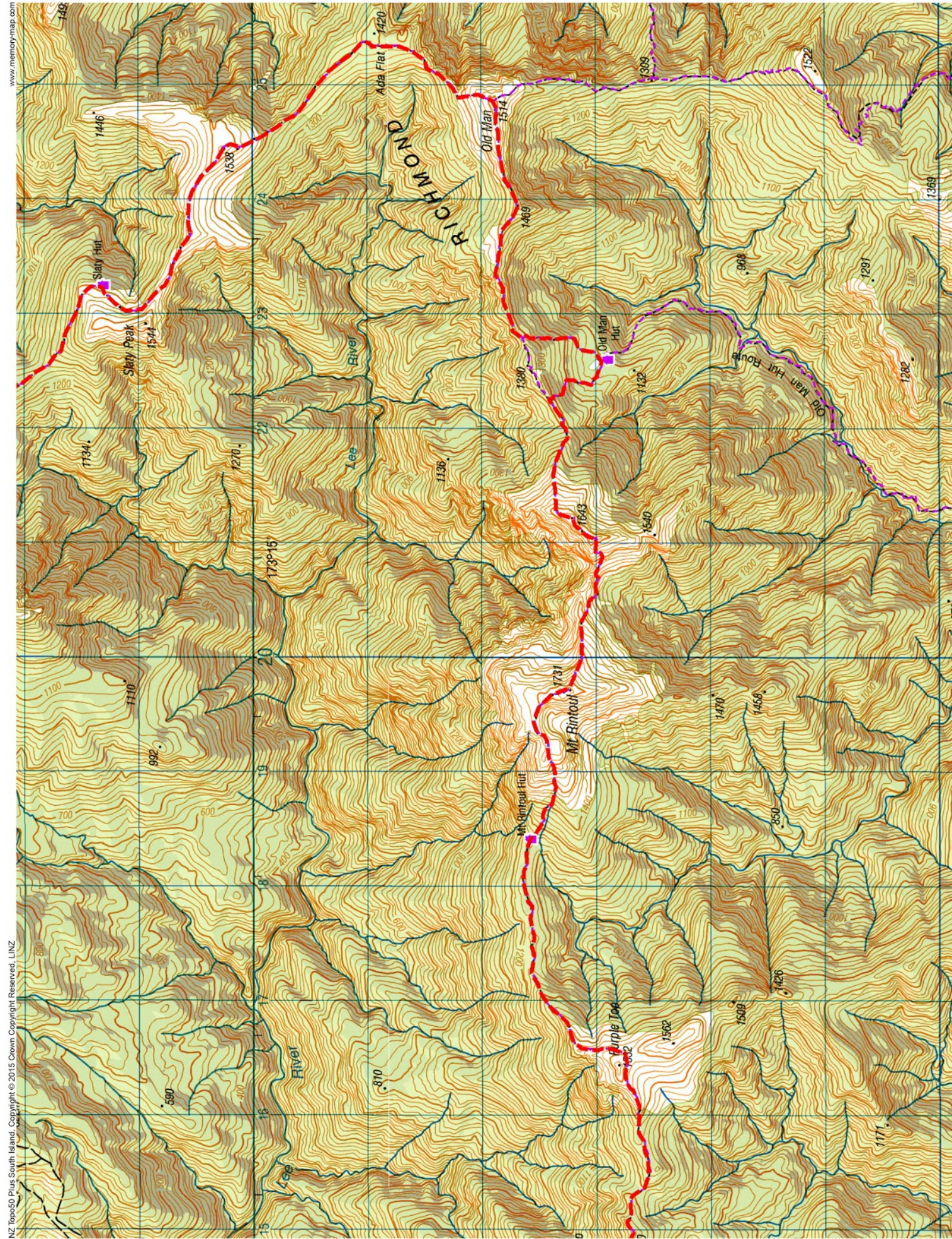
Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, Wilderness does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find Around the Mountain Circuit, Egmont National Park

Alpine Route, Mt Richmond Forest Park. Map1

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Alpine Route, Mt Richmond Forest Park. Map3

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