

## Browning Range Bivouac, West Coast

### WILD FILE

**Access** Kokatahi/Lake Kaniere Circuit Road, car park on Dorothy Falls Road

**Grade** Difficult

**Time** Car park to Grassy Flats Hut, 4-5hr; Grassy Flats Hut to Browning Range Bivouac, 2-2.5hr

**Distance** 14.9km

**Total ascent** 1331m

**Accommodation** Grassy Flat Hut (\$5, 10 bunks), Browning Range Biv (free, two bunks)

**Map** BV19

### Description

The Styx River on the West Coast boasts a population of the only duck in the world hard-core enough to spend its days surfing turbulent white water in its search for food. It's also home to a route that puts the masochism back into ridge climbing.

Lathrop Saddle lies in the Browning Range. Most trampers completing the iconic Three Passes Route will have skirted around this range on their way to or from Harman Hut. For those wanting a shorter, albeit not much easier encounter with the area, a weekend spent exploring the valley is a great introduction to all the West Coast wilderness has to offer.

From the car park at Dorothy Falls Road, a crater-riddled 4WD track leads to the beginning of the track. The first stop is Grassy Flat Hut, reached on a well-worn trail with a few scrambly sections where the trail has eroded into the river. There's been a lot of trapping in the area and native birds seem to be doing well.

The track eventually opens out at Grassy Flat where a few more water crossings lead to the well-maintained and attractive Grassy Flat Hut. The route is hard graft straight up the steep slope. There's some boulder-hopping up a stream bed before diving into the bush for a walk that, in places, more closely resembled rock climbing. While the track has been lovingly maintained and is easy to follow, the gradient is a brutal workout for your legs.

A sign just 20m from the hut summed it up: 'If you are just about buggered, you are just about there'.

If you still have some strength left in your legs, carry on to Lathrop Saddle another 400m higher, with two hours of very steep climbing on a poled route. Depending on the year, crampons may be needed. If you continue to Crawford Stream and beyond, a loop to Zit Saddle and Cedar Flats Hut is a nice four-day trip.

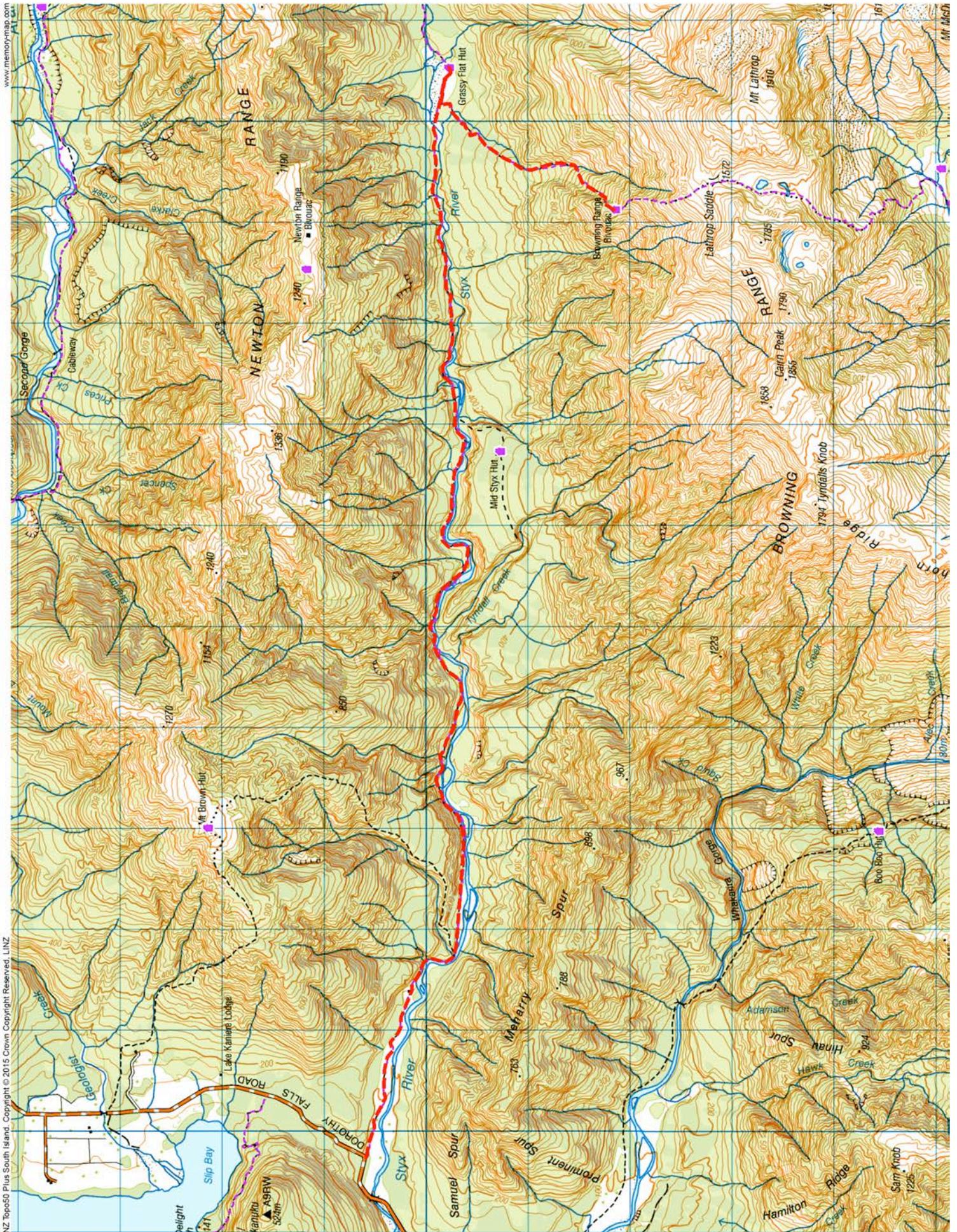
### Elevation Profile



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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 the best possible route. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

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