

The Bicentennial National Trail
(2nd Edition 1991) Guide Book Number 12 Trail Updates

Jan 2012

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The Bicentennial National Trail is "a living trail" and as such conditions and access details are continually changing. Some of the information in the 'update notes' may have been provided by trekkers and may not have been verified on the ground by the section coordinator or a BNT Board member. Update notes are only a guide and situations can change from day to day, therefore you must try to contact the section coordinator and not rely solely on the guidebook or the update notes. You travel at your own risk as travelling on the BNT is regarded as self-reliant trekking.

Note that these updates are to be used in conjunction with the guidebook identified above.

Could all trekkers please send any information on track changes to the BNT office so the update notes can be as current as possible. Your notes need to be clear and concise.

Please contact your local coordinator prior to trekking to advise of approximate travel dates and to obtain an update on local conditions.

Book 12 Section Coordinators:

Maps 1-6 Healesville to Knockwood: John & Jo Kasch. Phone 03 5963 7264

Maps 7-15 Knockwood to Dargo River Crossing: Kevin & Sally Bass. Phone 03 5147 2798

Maps 15-18 Dargo River Crossing to Omeo: John Stubbs Ph: 03 5159 1516

Mob: 0420 101 817

Linda Meerman 03 5962 5091 of Healesville is happy to give information and support to trekkers.

Pre Trip Contact:

Note: To all the phone numbers in Book 12 the area code is 03 for Victoria

Healesville Tourist Caravan Park, no longer caters for animals and no unpowered campsites.

Trail Updates:

Stock yards were available for the first five nights of the trail but most of these were destroyed by the fires in Feb 2009.

Donnellys Weir at the start of the BNT is closed following the Feb 2009 bushfires. The gates are locked and even the horse stile is blocked off due to fire damage.

Map 1 BNT Log book available at Linda Meerman's place.

Numerous small dams are sign posted along No 9 Track, good campsites. New Mondo Yards campsite (burnt).

Volunteers have been rebuilding yards and facilities so contact section coordinators for progress updates.

Map 2 John & Jo Kasch have yards, a campsite and are willing to help bone-a-fide BNT trekkers. Phone ahead if possible.

Narbethong Caravan Park- fees apply. Post Office gone.

0.5km Turn left on to Carsons Track (5.0km), follow for 200 metres. Turn right onto first right hand track (unnamed), follow for 1km. At T intersection turn right and follow the fence line. Turn right onto Racecourse Creek Track follow for 700 metres. Turn right at next intersection onto Manby Rd, follow for 1km to the Highway.

6.8km Cross Maroondah Highway. TAKE EXTREME CARE. (John & Jo's place on this corner) {Road House and Caravan Park to right (1km), Hotel Motel left (1km).}

After crossing the HWY veer left under the power lines (east) for 200 metres.

Turn right into bush following the BNT signs for 300 metres.

Veer left at fence line and follow for 700 metres.

Turn right onto Dom Dom Road, follow for 1.5kms.

Turn left onto Fishers Creek Road, follow for 3kms.

Cross White Hills Track, continue for 300 metres then cross the Acheron Way. WATCH for TRAFFIC.

9.2km - could read - "Take left fork onto Old Coach Rd and go between the two houses on either side of the road" (Cobbles long gone).

11.2km - go straight at these crossroads (They have been put in after the last book was printed - I took them to be the crossroads mentioned at 12.2 km as I couldn't tell the kms on horseback and they took me about three kms North of where I should have come out onto the Acheron way)

12.5km Turn left onto Granton Rd, rejoining BNT notes as in guidebook.

18.9km Continue on Neds Track crossing Anderson Mill Road and going around the log pile.

The trail no longer goes through the stock pile of logs.

20.4km Campsite has yards, toilets, BBQs and fireplaces. No old shed. Water will be eventually connected to the yards.

Map 3 0.0km Return to Anderson Mill Road, turn right and continue across bridge.

0.9km Continue along Anderson Mill Road

16.0 Ignore side tracks. Logging in area (can go left into Lake MT. Road for 100m, left, then second track left at 200m. Main dirt road swings right.

16.0km - Delete the words - "Just past the gravel dump"(No gravel there now).

As you enter onto Camerons Cascade Track there is a well used road swinging around to the left (not shown on map) keep going straight ahead (It seems confusing at the start of CC Track) Also re CC Track - about 1km in on the right there is a track named Ticket Track which you go past (not shown on maps) and when you come to Sunds Rd shown on the map coming off the left it becomes confusing - this is where I got bushed. Later I went back in from the bottom end of CC Track and found that what appears to be the continuing CC Track at the Sunds Rd sign is really the Sunds Rd you show going off to the left. The real continuation of CC Track is the little track that dives off steeply to the right through forestry gates. I suggest your map show Sunds continuing on before it loops to the left and CC Track taking an almost right turn before it goes down to Lady Talbot Drive. Sunds Rd at that intersection is the main well used gravel road and CC Track is the little dirt and rock track diving off to the right. It appears that the logging people have altered the alignment of the roads over the years.

32.6km - at right turn onto "Upper "Taggerty Rd, the signage is not clear. When approaching from Marysville end the BNT sign shows straight ahead which would actually take you onto the left at UT Rd.

Map 4 13.2km Take right fork. Intersection not marked on map.

18.3km Hut unusable. Another Hut is located upstream by following right fork to river 0.7 along No. 5 Track.

Map 5 10.1km Campsite referred to in preamble map 4, is overgrown. Very limited space. State Forest are planning to develop this site as funding becomes available.

14.3km Hughs Rd, Take care as narrow, boggy and can be overgrown with blackberry in places.

Passable in March 2001. Can detour 10.1 bear right into Snobs creek road

15.5km Turn left onto Warburton- Eildon Road TRAFFIC

19.4km Right turn into Arthurs Creek Track. Rejoin BNT 19.1

23.8km Campsites along Still Creek, follow side tracks to creek.

NOTE. New bridge (2000) built over Royston River on Bullfight Road. No need for detour.

Map 6 10.4km MT Terrible Hut has small /medium water tank.

BNT Log Book at Kevington Pub. Some campsites along Kevington - Knockwood Road.

Oak Bank Produce at Mansfield will deliver to Knockwood.

Map 7 0.0km No letter box at road just south of the bridge.

12.2km "L6" Track on left. Dam on right. Go straight on.

17.8km Gate 50 metres from T-intersection on Lazarini Spur.

Map 8 8.2km Rumpff's Hut no longer there.

18.1km Barnes and Mildew Hut gone.

Map 9 7.3km No gate at turn, gate now moved approx 2.5kms down Black Soil Track.

13.8km No hut.

Trekkers Important Notice : It is your responsibility to be aware of all rules and regulations pertaining to travelling on roads with livestock in each state. Queensland Legislation permits you to lead only one horse per person when riding. A permit for additional horses is required from each Local Government (Council) locality that you traverse.

In cases of emergency eg; bushfire, it is your responsibility to notify local authorities as to your whereabouts.

Map 10 Caledonia River Track closed to trekkers due to the bush fires in 1998.

Map 11 Caledonia River Track closed.

Map 12 Zeka Creek Track, Dry River Track and Conglomerate Spur Tracks are closed to all trekkers by overgrown blackberries. Zeka Spur Track is a 4x4 track and is the only through route for BNT trekkers. It consists of an additional 36km. Trekkers take additional care with 4WD traffic. Victorian parks are planning to clear the other tracks in March 2012. Please contact Kevin & Sally Bass on 03 5147 2798 for additional assistance.

Map 14 0.0km It is now necessary to travel the **alternative route** due to wash outs and blackberry infestation on the old pack track.
16.4km Spring Hill now private property. No campsite. Use Grant Campsite.

Map 15 Spring Hill camp not available.

Dargo Township has; hotel, a motel, a general store with post office, some banking facilities and a BNT Log Book. Farrier Tim Knight 0428 576 315. Tim will come out to you if you give him sufficient notice. Kevin Worcester, is happy to have trekkers stay in Main Street, Dargo, 03 5140 1287. He has room for horses and camping on the river, just up from the Hotel and Store.

Map 16 1.7km Can detour by taking left fork Upper Dargo Road. BNT signs to follow (Campsites near Mathesons Flat by river). Take track to Right (BNT marker) crossing river and climbing up hill to rejoin Trail turning left onto Birregan Road (BNT marker) .
33.7km Dogs Grave Camp new toilets, picnic table, fireplace, BBQ facilities, no hut.

Map 17 **Caution Log Trucks x48/day on this section Dogs Grave to Livingstone Creek. Notify John Stubbs when you arrive at Dargo (North to South-when you arrive in Omeo) he can then notify the trucks you are in the area.**

Hut on Mt Birregun Rd, not suitable for horse camp.

Map 18 29.3km The suggested route once entering the outskirts of Omeo is "after meeting Hallets Rd, turn hard right on to McCoy St and follow this (it becomes Sebastopol Hill Rd) to Bilton Street. turn right and follow this (approx 200metres) to the intersection of the Bairnsdale Rd. At this point, either turn left and follow to the Caravan Park, or continue straight ahead and follow round the bend and continue on to the Rodeo Grounds. Horses may be put in the yards but camping is not allowed. Cheap accommodation is available at the adjacent Hilltop Hotel. Contact the Section Co-ordinator for access to the yards, as at times they may be locked. No access will be allowed around the time of the Annual Calf Sales (early-mid March) or 1 week before or after the Omeo Rodeo (Easter Saturdays). This alternate route avoids the problem of taking stock through the main street.

An alternate route to the Bald Hills Rd and Kangaroo Track is available through private property, along the Livingstone Creek. In mid summer water can be difficult to find along this section of the Trail, so the alternate route is a good option and quite pretty. Contact the Section Co-ordinator so that the property owners can be advised.

Omeo township has hotels, motel, caravan park, back packer accommodation (\$15p.p.) with full kitchen facilities next door to horse camp facilities at rodeo grounds and post office.

Bus service to Bairnsdale. Farrier: Ron Conley 03 51591384.

Horse campers are welcome at the Omeo Caravan Park (Easter and Xmas usually booked out). Contact the current owners Lou and Sandy on 03 5159 1351.

Amend "Dalgety store" to "Omeo Rural and Hardware Supplies".



Please send in stories of your experiences for "Tracks" magazine. Remember it is "your trail" and other people are inspired by your trek. Please support the BNT by retaining your membership.

Can you also notify the office or section coordinator of any problems you may encounter, thank you. Happy trekking.



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