

The Bicentennial National Trail
(2nd Edition 1991) Guide Book Number 6 Trail Updates

Aug 2010

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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 6 Section Coordinators Updates:

Maps 1-5 Taromeo to Ravensbourne: Toni Deecke Ph: 07 4630 5480

Maps 6-7 Ravensbourne to Withcott: Lynne Anderson. Ph: 07 4630 5142

Maps 7-10 Withcott to Thornton: John Dwyer Ph: 07 4635 6863

Maps 11-13 Thornton to Reynolds Creek: Brenda Osborne Ph: 07 5466 7161

Map 13 Cunningham Camp Site – Reynolds Camp Site Reynolds Creek

17.7 kilometres of the track the Ipswich & District Trail Horse Riders Club Inc

Club maintains: Steve Maroney President Ph: 3276 7979 Mob: 0418 884 089

Maps 14-16 Reynolds Creek to Killarney: No coverage

Pre Trip Contact:

Note. To all phone numbers in Book 6 add the number 5 after the 07.

Previous the BNT followed a section of the Emu Creek Gorge which is now closed. Follow the route below.

Map 1 North to South Blackbutt to Emu Creek

This new section of the BNT follows the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) to avoid the difficulties we used to face with a section of the Emu Creek gorge that was untrafficable due to infestations of Lantana.

The BNT has established a fine partnership with the BVRT and in altering our trail has complimented the BNT with the two towns of Benarkin and Blackbutt. Both organisations have profited by this amalgamation of the trail. BNT Trekkers have a great starting or ending location in either of these towns.

Dangerous sections of highway have been eliminated by use of the BVRT as there are no crossings to worry about.

After Leaving the BVRT at Nukku Bridge, the BNT picks up one of its old alternative routes before continuing south.

Roy Emerson a world famous tennis player grew up in the Nukku Bridge area. He held the record for the most grand slams until Pete Sampras took it off him.

The Nukku area was once a rich dairying locality but there are sadly none left now.

Pre Trip: Contact Bill Wilson on 07 4163 0154 and ask if he can move his cattle off the BVRT in the vicinity of Nukku Bridge

0.0km	Leave the old Blackbutt Railway Station heading west along the BVRT
4.0	Cross under Daguilar Highway at Nukku Bridge
4.1	Leave the BVRT and turn left to follow track back up along top of railway cutting
4.2	Go through wire gate beside highway and turn right onto South Nukku Rd
5.8	Turn left onto Haynes Kite Millar Rd
9.0	Turn right onto Crows Nest Rd
10.5	Turn left onto Ogilve Rd and “The Valley”
10.8	Turn right onto Waterhole Gully Rd
11.9	Cherry Creek Rd on left, go straight on
14.0	Turn left onto Wilson Rd
15.5	Turn right onto Waterhole Gully Rd

16.7	Turn left and cross grid
17.8 Campsite	Slippery Crossing on Emu Creek Grid Reference: GDA 56J 0412324 7018156 This is a water reserve on the north side of Emu Creek. No facilities other than permanent water in the creek. The creek crossing is another 100m past the campsite.

Map 2

0.1km Cross Emu Creek and head up the hill which was once called the Goat Track. It has now been upgraded, and considerable development has occurred along the track towards Nukinenda.

Milford Rocks phone disconnected.

14.1 "About 50m past that ... taking right forks 400m and 500m further"

18.4 The track meets a fence on the way down the hill with a triangle paddock straight ahead. The cutting is to the left. Turn left, south-east, at the fence line and follow the track (which is sometimes only a cattle pad) down the valley towards a large dam.

Map 3

At Middle Creek four strand tight barbed wire fence appears to be blocking trail. Keep to the left of this fence and it will rejoin the BNT after about 1.2km. It never deviates from the original road by more than 150m so there is no reason to attempt to cross it.

4.0 km Gate, turn left.

6.2 Join track at gate, turn right.

Nothing remains of the Cresbrook Creek Campsite R406 since a fire destroyed the improvements. Camp in the vicinity of the bridge.

Map 4

15.3km take right fork, old fence continues further up.

15.8 (S-N: Take right fork)

16.2 "Once past the third dam ..."

16.9 "After the track crosses the second sharp gully take the left hand fork through a double weldmesh gate (Not the weldmesh gate to the west. The correct gate is a double weldmesh gate which is one of a pair of gates off the same corner post. (Making 2 sets of double gates from the same corner post). Follow the fence line south a short distance and the track becomes evident and passes just below the rocky outcrop."

18.4 km Some have stayed inside the property fence to avoid the road, emerging onto Slaughter Rd through a gate at 21.0 km.

19.0 S-N: Gate is difficult to see from the road. It is at the end of the double white lines.

New route now takes you off the Esk to Hampton road completely. Staying on the north side of the road all the way.

Map 5

0.0 km Amaroo Forest Centre buildings have been completely removed being replaced by 2 portaloos. There is NO WATER for horses or anyone else for that matter. All that remains is a tank on a tall tank stand and a small pump house but water cannot be drawn from it. About 100 mtrs to the east is a small stand of conifers and a grassy area with some fencing that provides good feed for horses, but no water. At least a support vehicle can meet riders here.

7.7 Grid and granite marker have gone on main road.

8.9 Ravensbourne Dip Rd now sealed at start.

Map 6

Murphy's Creek camp - Dodt's and Fyffe's are no longer there. At 24.1 km Watts Rd, resident is now Lyn Anderson Ph 07 4630 5142 and you should ask to camp there by the creek.

Map 7

Previous camp at Echo Creek now gone and alternative at RM Williams Reserve at 31.4km. It may be better to break this day into two and stop off at Withcott.

7.9 km Track on left (S-N: Take left fork)

8.1 Track on left (S-N: Take left fork)

- 14.3 "Take right fork"
- 16.9 Blanchview Rd all bitumen.
- 28.4 Camp at Echo Creek gone.

See 3km notes on Map 8 updates for a better campsite at Prestons Common/ RM Williams Reserve

Map 8 Echo Valley – Ma Ma Creek. Note: Distances are approximate only.

Note: Some sections around Ma Ma Creek are overgrown with lantana and passage may be difficult or blocked.

The Trail along Ma Ma Creek between Hodgson Vale and Fordsdale is one of the last few undeveloped areas left in South East Queensland. It follows unfenced legal roads – confirmed by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines - through attractive farmland, varied bushland, and some spectacular sandstone cliffs that many term a ‘mini Carnarvon Gorge’. Both Regent and Satin Bower Birds have been observed on this section, as well as Red Tailed Black Cockatoos, Powerful Owl, King Parrots, and Red Backed Wrens. Problems with obstruction by dense lantana growth were experienced in the past, but work by volunteers is maintaining an open track. Cyclists are advised to use thorn proof tyres, carry spare tubes and a good puncture repair kit, as Cockspur Vine (‘Wait-a-while’) can be a problem. There are many excellent campsites for those not in a hurry and wishing to break what can be, in normal conditions, a 3 hour transit by bicycle, 5 hours on horseback, or 6 hours on foot, from Mt Prosper gate to the Rocky Ponds Campsite, at 27km 500m (formerly the Stallion Gate.) There is no vehicular access through this section, so back-up support vehicles will need to detour. In 2003, the worst drought in recorded history, there was always good, flowing stock water at the top of the Range, and adequate pools further down. Thanks to the Queensland Rural Numbering Scheme, trekkers will be able to use property mailbox numbers as distance markers. A mailbox numbered 1280 means that the box is 12km and 800 metres from the nearest junction with a main road. Odd numbers are on the left hand side of the road, even numbers are on the right.

Trekkers with livestock must stay on the designated Trail through this area, to avoid penalties for breaking the Queensland Department of Primary Industries Cattle Tick regulations.

- 0km Echo Valley has NO Campsite (Trekkers must use the new BNT campsite at Preston Common Water Reserve at the 3km point on Map 8, downhill of the winery. Add the balance of 0.0km notes.
- 1.8 Delete ‘past Plantalab Plant Tissue Laboratory’ and add ‘past mailbox number 359’.
- 3 Preston Common/ RM Williams Reserve NEW BNT CAMPSITE, opposite mailbox number 440. This 16ha Water Reserve is immediately downhill of a vineyard and winery, where a good lunch is available. (Closed Mondays/Tuesdays) The small dam with semi permanent water is at the far side of the Reserve from the road, and accessed by a track near the winery fence.
- 6 Turn left with extreme care onto continuation of Preston-Boundary Rd. (S-N: delete Flag Estate sign.)
- 8 ‘Donkey Corner’ Recreation Reserve opposite T-intersection of Preston-Boundary Rd and Rockmount Rd, with views out over the Darling Downs. Continue along Preston Boundary Rd, which becomes Sawpit Rd at 9km 200m.
- 9.4 Turn left from Sawpit Rd into Wilsons Rd at T-intersection.
- 11.1 Mt Neale Rd on left, with Granite Marker No 255, donated by Cecil Plains Pony Club, at the foot of its right hand corner post. Continue along Wilsons Rd.
- 12 White Gate. Continue along Wilsons Rd past Lindemanns Rd on right, to Harrisons Rd on right.
- 13.3 Continue along Wilsons Rd up over Hay Peak, and 300m to a track down the escarpment. (In September 2003, this area was just tyre tracks, but being subdivided into 40ha lots, with the road to be ‘developed’ - and fenced, so there will soon be a formed road to – and through - the treed lane.)
Veer right and watch for an old fence line on your left. Keep the fence line on your left and continue down slope over contour banks, towards a treed lane. (At Lot 11/12 survey peg, look far ahead to your left to the cleared mountain below the horizon. That is the mountain beside the Trail at Morris Rd, Map 9, 17km 700m, and you are going there.)
- 15.1 Change ‘an old cottage’ to ‘a restored cottage beside the homestead’.
- 17.8 (Add: An old Orange Tree on the fence here supplies trekkers and fauna with welcome juicy fruit in August and September.)
- 20.7 Pass gateway on your right and continue straight ahead 50m, across Ma Ma Creek to a gateway into a cleared area.
- 20.8 Go through the gate into the cleared area, and keep the fence on your right to cross the creek at 100m, and then continue between two fences.
- 21 Gateway on creek bank. Continue and cross the creek, then through a second gateway at 50m.
- 21.2 Cattle yards on left, pump straight ahead, trough, pipe gate in fence on right, opposite junction of Prosperity Creek and Ma Ma Creek. (Note: The 2ha area between the fence and Ma Ma Creek is all public road)

- reserve.) Go through the wire gate behind the pump, cross the creek and continue, with the fence on your right.
- 22.2 Cross Ma Ma Creek and go through a gateway with side panels of 3 rails, and using a Blue Gum as its right hand gatepost. Continue through the narrow valley with the fence on your right, crossing the creek twice more.
- 23 Gateway using a Blue Gum as its right hand gatepost. Continue with the fence on your right, across a cleared area, to the foot of a rocky knoll. Gateway using an Apple Box as its left hand gatepost, continue to the top of the knoll then downhill keeping the fence line on your right, to the corner at Ma Ma Creek
- 23.6 Cross Ma Ma Creek and continue with the fence on your right, through three gates in a set of old wire sheep yards, to the floodgate at sandstone cliffs.
- 24.3 Sandstone cliffs with shallow erosion caves and a small grassy flat beside a permanent waterhole. Exit via sliprails resting on a large rock at the creek edge. Possible CAMP.
- Ma Ma Creek section now maintained regularly and easy going through lantana.

Alternate Free Campsite beside long deep waterhole in the creek. Grid Reference: GDA 56J 0408723/6932285
CAMP at the yards at Fordsdale Horseback Adventures (fees may apply). Contact: Sue Renfrey (07 5462 7470).
Grid Reference: GDA 56J 0410794/6932780

Map 10

Laidley Gap - the landowner there has the signs up "BNT at own risk ". He has a formed road but is unwilling to let trekkers use it at present.

Alternate route around locked gate

- 0.0km From "Mt Sylvia Fresh Vegetables" heading west across the creek
- 0.1 Turn right into Mt Sylvia Road.
- 3.4 Hahns Crossing (narrow crossing with no verges – Take Care)
- 5.1 Turn right into Left Hand Branch Road at Mt Sylvia School.
- 6.1 Veer right at fork in road passing Dallingers Road on left
- 10.5 Reibstein Gully Road on right (adjoins old trail at 6.2km point)

6.2 km grid gone, so too have the "EStaugh's".

19.7 km take left fork. Don't follow the new fence.

The campsite at Thornton now has hot and cold showers in a new amenity block (fees apply as per sign at campsite).

Map 11

The publican is Matt Ryan and if he is advised in advance you will be camping will put portable yards up 07 5464 9258. or go past hotel, turn left at 27.4 km and camp at 27.9 km, Pioneer Park picnic area beside Bremer River.

Map 12

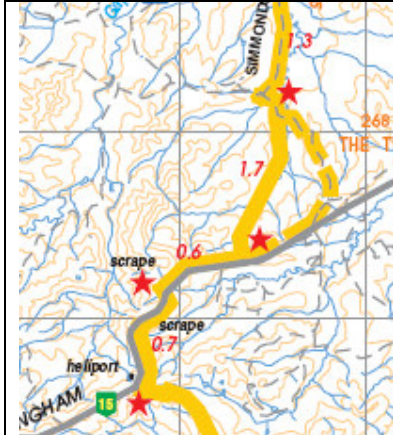
If camp is dry there should be water at 0.7 km on Map 13.

Map 13

Note: There is a new subdivision adjacent to the Cunningham Highway and the quiet dirt trail has become a busier sealed road.

1.0 km Beware of the bog, if necessary take a detour.

3.8 - 6.1 km gates installed now, follow solid yellow line.



This is the highway crossing as depicted in the maps prepared for Edition 3 of Book 6 in 2007, prepared from the original Edition 2 notes. As indicated above the signed route differs from this.

Take the solid yellow line after leaving Simmonds Rd and enter onto the Cunningham Highway casement via gate at 56J 0446669 6898652.

At the scrape point the Trail crosses the highway. Cross the highway (TAKE EXTREME CARE WHEN CROSSING THE HIGHWAY AS THE TRAFFIC IS FAST) and pick up the old road directly opposite. The old road skirts around a knoll and follows a fence to an old quarry.

6.8 km turnoff Cunningham Hwy is through a gate onto an unformed road opposite a new sealed heliport. 56 J 445578 6897291

8.8 km (S-N: Turn right through gate opposite Wilson Rd and follow the driveway towards the house).

12.6 km Coulsen Creek alternate camp with grass and water. The courtesy of advising Keith Abbot (north side of the creek) and/or Ian Bond (south side of the creek) is recommended.

17.7 km "No Trespass" signs now at Reynolds Creek. Camp at Munchow's Crossing or Lake Moogerah.

Map 14

16.3 km better camp, good grass. Turn right down track 100m before the bridge. Picnic table on left 100m down

19.4km

Map 16

3.0 km Good camp at Paddy's Knob. No Yards or charge, Phone Joanne Ryan & John Hart 07 4664 1656. or 07 4630 4270. Camping at Killarney showgrounds now has a fee.

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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 and happy trekking.

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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.

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