



Picnic grounds at Beutel's Lookout

**If you enjoyed this four wheel drive why not pick up one of the other drives in this series.**

- Drive B Hampton, Coppermine Rd, Ravensbourne National Park
- Drive C Hampton to Gatton via 17 Mile Rd
- Drive D Hampton to Withcott via Murphys Ck
- Drive E Hampton to Blackbutt via Crows Nest, Anduramba, & Nukinenda Station
- Drive F Hampton, Crows Nest Falls, North of Cressbrook Dam, Maria Creek, Jones Gully, Hampton
- Drive G Hampton, Plainby, Upper Pinelands, Djuan, Crows Nest, Hampton

**Also available:**

Discover the High Country Touring Guide,  
 Bird Trails of the Crows Nest Region, Nurseries Trails,  
 The Three Lakes, Parks & Recreation Areas

## Basic Bush Rules

- > Consider weather and likely road conditions
- > Respect private land
- > Animals have right of way
- > Leave gates as you find them
- > Reduce speed and dust near homesteads
- > All drives are undertaken at your own risk
- > Road safety begins and ends with you please slow down

### Notes

The drive is on public roads, mostly gravel or formed earth, some are in poor condition. Beware of stock on unfenced roads. GPS directions may be unreliable. Mobile phones may be out of range.

This drive was driven and assessed in September 2015 in a Kia Sorento.

The drive can not be completed if the National Park gate is locked at 27 km.



For feedback or more information please contact:

**HAMPTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**  
 8623 New England Highway, Hampton Q 4352  
 Phone 07 4697 9066 or FREECALL 1800 009 066  
 Email [hamptoninfo@tr.qld.gov.au](mailto:hamptoninfo@tr.qld.gov.au)  
[www.crowsnest.info](http://www.crowsnest.info) or [www.tr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tr.qld.gov.au)



*Soft four wheel driving for the family in and around the Crows Nest Region.*

**DRIVE A** Hampton to Gatton-Esk Rd  
 via Lockyer National Park

Travel time one way – 1½ - 2 hours.

Distance to Gatton-Esk Road – 47 km.

Toowoomba &  
 Darling Downs  
 Lots to love...

## Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre

0 Leave the car park and turn right (east) on to the Esk-Hampton Rd

You are 715m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowwood, Blue Gum, Cedar and Blackbutt, the area now supports mixed farming including horticulture.

13.6 Turn right on to National Park Rd towards Ravensbourne National Park

On this corner is the Ravensbourne Rest area - restored Munro Tramway Shay locomotive, sports grounds, toilets and tennis courts.

14.2 Picnic area with toilets

Ravensbourne National Park - forest walks with Red Cedars (colourful in Spring), Sydney Blue Gums, Blackbutt and Picabeen Palms. Many varieties of rainforest birds.

14.4 Turn left onto Walsh Rd and pass Weller Rd on the left

Gravel begins here for the remainder of the trip.

Diversion: Continue straight on to the Beutel's Lookout, and then return to this turnoff. At the lookout you will find stunning views of the Lockyer Valley, Wivenhoe Dam and the Scenic Rim and an excellent rest spot. Toilets,

barbeques & shelter shed, interesting 20 minute rainforest walk. E5 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail brochure). Look out for wildlife e.g. Lace Monitors (goannas), Spangled Drongos (birds).

16.1 Continue straight on past Whipbird Drive on the left Red soils of the basalt surface change to grey forest soils on sandstone base. Numerous small logging tracks and log loading clearings. Sandy surface with clay patches, single lane. Keep to the main track.

16.6 Steep descent starts, approx. 800m

18.9 Shire Boundary (Toowoomba Region – Lockyer Valley Region)

25.7 Turn left onto Logans Rd, just after passing an organic farm on your left  
DRY WEATHER ROAD ONLY from this point, high clearance vehicle needed.

From this turnoff the woodland changes to open grazing land. Views to Gatton.

26.3 Road forks and narrows, take the left fork along fence line. Road is deeply rutted.

Alternative: Take the right fork - see Drive C, Vinegar Hill - Gatton for details of this drive.

Road goes along a dark soil ridge top. Numerous "whoa-boys", great views north and south, open woodland.

27.9 Ignore road on the right, continue through the National Park gate.

30.5 Start of steep, rough descent

No notes here, all eyes on the road and the drop-off! Engage lowest gear and 4-wheel drive. Proceed cautiously.

31.7 Sharp hairpin bend

You are nearly down!

32.1 Creek crossing, usually dry with a firm base. Continue for approx. 10 kms, ignoring all tracks on the right.

If water is running, check depth and speed before proceeding. Excellent bird sounds; you may see Kingfishers Wattlebirds, Noisy Miners, Cuckoos, Pied Currawongs, Kookaburras, Fairy-wrens, Scrubwrens, Eastern Yellow Robins and Rufous Whistlers. The road from here continues to lose height but climbs over several small spurs as it follows the creek down. There are several rocky patches requiring care at slow speed.

43.1 Southern Queensland Correctional Centre. Turn right in to Millers Rd

46.7 Meet the junction with the Gatton-Esk Rd. Turn right to Esk (33kms) or left to Gatton (15kms). There are large turf farms and irrigated pastures along the road on the right, while the left hand side is rural prison property.



Steep decent after Wallers Rd.

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- > Road safety begins and ends with you please slow down

### Notes

The drive is on public roads, mostly gravel or formed earth, some are in poor condition. Beware of stock on unfenced roads. GPS directions may be unreliable. Mobile phones may be out of range.

The drive was assessed in early 2012 in a VW Amarok. Some challenging sections.

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*Soft four wheel driving for the family in and around the Crows Nest Region.*

### **DRIVE C**

**Hampton to Gatton**  
via Seventeen Mile Road

Travel time – 1½ - 2 hours.

Distance Hampton to Gatton – 44 km one way

Toowoomba &  
Darling Downs  
Lots to love...

## Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre.

0 Leave car park and turn right (east) on to the Esk-Hampton Rd

You are 715 m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowood, Blue gum, Cedar, Blackbutt. Now mixed farming including horticulture.

13.6 Turn right on to National Park Rd towards Ravensbourne National Park

On this corner is the Ravensbourne Rest area - restored Munro Tramway Shay locomotive, sports grounds, toilets and tennis courts.

Forest walks. Red Cedars (colourful in Spring), Sydney Blue Gums, Blackbutt. Many varieties of rainforest birds.

14.2 Picnic area with toilets

Ravensbourne National Park - forest walks with Red Cedars (colourful in Spring), Sydney Blue Gums, Blackbutt and Picabeen Palms. Many varieties of rainforest birds.

14.4 Turn left onto Walsh Rd and pass Weller Rd on the left. Gravel begins here for the remainder of the trip

Diversion: Continue straight on to the Beutel's Lookout, and then return to this turnoff. At the lookout you will find stunning views of the Lockyer Valley, Wivenhoe Dam and the Scenic Rim and an excellent rest spot. Toilets, barbeques & shelter shed, interesting 20 minute rainforest walk. E5 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail brochure). Look out for wildlife e.g. Lace Monitors (goannas), Spangled Drongos (birds).

16.1 Continue straight on past Whipbird Drive on the left

Red soils of the basalt surface change to grey forest soils on sandstone base. Numerous small logging tracks and log loading clearings. Sandy surface with clay patches, single lane. Keep to the main track.

16.6 Steep descent starts, approx. 800m

18.9 Shire Boundary (Toowoomba Region – Lockyer Valley Region)

25.7 Turn left onto Logan's Rd, just after passing an organic farm on your left  
DRY WEATHER ROAD ONLY from this point, high clearance vehicle needed.

From this turnoff the woodland changes to open grazing land. Views to Gatton.

26.3 Road forks and narrows, take the right fork along Wallers Rd

Gradual, winding descent along black basaltic soil track. Large Monitor lizards may be seen hereabouts. Beautiful woodland – eucalypts, casuarinas, fine brush box specimens in gully on right. Lantana understorey. A number of bird species may be seen here. Extensive views to south and west.

Alternative at 26.3 : Take the left fork - see Drive A, Hampton - Gatton via Lockyer National Park for details of this drive.

27.0 Continue decent

Travelling through kangaroo grass and grass tree understorey.

28.6 Ignore numerous logging roads to left and right

Sandy road surface with occasional clay patches. It is single lane for most of this drive so keep it slow!

32.4 Road becomes stony

You are following a ridge top with good forestry views either side.

32.7 Stony surface finishes

Selective logging of forest, numerous old stumps visible.

33.3 Ignore minor road on right

34.6 Very steep descent. Engage 4WD low gear.

Enjoy the beautiful views over the Lockyer Valley, though not for the driver!

35.5 Steep descent finishes.

37.5 Turn right at the T junction into Forestry Rd (unsigned). Sealed road

39.8 Turn right into Smithfield Rd through double underpass

Warrego Highway is over the top of you.

42.0 Turn sharp left before the railway. Do not cross the line.

You are now on the farmed Lockyer Valley black soils, reputed to be one of the eight most agriculturally productive areas in the world. Many farms have access to underground water just 20 metres below the surface. Lately, supplies have Supplies are currently low due to an ongoing drought.

43.8 Cross Davey's Bridge with care and immediately turn right into Gatton township.

Gatton is a thriving agricultural service centre; the heart of the Lockyer Valley. Drop into the Visitor Information Centre at Apex Park to discover more about this region.



Djuan Anzac Memorial

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- Drive F Hampton, Crows Nest Falls, North of Cressbrook Dam, Maria Creek, Jones Gully, Hampton

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### Notes

This drive is on public roads, mostly gravel or formed earth, some are in poor condition. Beware of stock on unfenced roads. GPS directions may be unreliable. Mobiles may be out of range.

This drive was driven and assessed in September 2015 in a Mitsubishi Pajero.

This is an easy drive, suitable for inexperienced drivers .



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## **DRIVE G**

**Hampton, Plainby, Upper Pinelands, Djuan, Crows Nest, Hampton**

Return travel time – approx 2 hours.

Distance Hampton return – 95 km.

Toowoomba &  
 Darling Downs  
 Lots to love...

## Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre.

0 Leave the carpark and turn left (south) on to New England Highway towards Toowoomba

You are 715m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowwood, Blue Gum, Cedar and Blackbutt, the area now supports mixed farming including horticulture.

1.3 Pass Keys Rd on your right

2.9 Travel through 'Cathedral Drive' - a fine stand of original Blackbutt, Blue Gums and Tallowwood trees

5.1 Turn right into Merritts Creek Rd (unsealed)

For the next couple of kilometres there are extensive views west over the Darling Downs. The nearest mountain of any size to the west is Uluru, 2,100km away.

6.8 Continue straight ahead at crossroads

On either side are former dairy farms, now rural lifestyle blocks.

8.0 Continue straight ahead past Hampton Rd on right

11.7 On left is a former Presbyterian Church, now a house

12.5 Veer left. Millard Rd on right joins Highway

13.0 Clearing on right

The next 500m has vine scrub on both sides – usually full of bush birds and a great place to spot koalas.

14.5 Turn left on to Pechey-Maclagan Rd

22.8 Turn right on to Groomsville-Plainby Rd

24.0 UNSEALED DRY WEATHER ROAD ONLY (**believe it!**)

Road takes a sharp turn left in front of cattle loading ramp. Single lane. Black soil under gravel. Drive slowly. Remnant vine scrub.

25.4 Extensive views south to Highfields and hills west of Toowoomba

27.8 Turn left at bitumen on to Plainby Rd

29.7 Pukallus Rd on the left

39.9 Turn right into Swain Rd, an unsealed road.

32.9 Bunnyconnellen Olive Grove and Vineyard – open Sundays 10am-4pm and by appointment for special events and functions

33.2 Turn left on to Haden-Crows Nest Rd, sealed road

37.3 Turn right into Bergen Rd

To the left was the proposed site for a large wind farm.

40.9 Gravel road

44.6 Joins Djuan Rd (sealed), continue straight ahead (Haden is to the left)

46.1 Djuan and District RSL Anzac Memorial

Picnic table, wood barbecue, toilet, bridge over Gowrie Creek opened in 2013 to replace the bridge washed away in Jan 2011 floods.

46.3 Cross bridge and turn left on to Moran Rd

Pretty country lane follows Emu Creek for several kilometres. Beautiful stand of silver-leafed Ironbarks.

47.1 Gowrie Flat Uniting Church. Continue straight on (Coalbank is to the left)

52.2 Turn left on to the New England Highway

Note the Emu Creek Catchment Landcare building opposite. Alternative: You can turn right and return to Crows Nest and Hampton via the New England Highway.

52.4 Continue over Emu Creek and turn right onto Emu Creek Rd

54.1 Continue straight on (Old Emu Creek Rd/rubbish tip on right)

56.1 Continue straight on (Mill Rd on right)

57.1 Emu Creek Hall on left

Accessible covered area and toilets.

57.2 Sharp turn on to Emu Creek Hall Rd

58.4 Cross Emu Creek

58.5 Veer left to stay on Emu Creek Hall Road (Mill Rd joins on the right)

60.2 Turn right on to Pierces Creek Rd

63.3 N8 Bird Trail Site (see Bird Trail brochure). Parking area on right

Permanent waterhole in Pierce's Creek.

70.9 Pass Middle Rd on your left

75.0 Pass Anduramba Rd on your left

75.7 Turn left in to Rocky Clearing Dip

Rocky Creek Nature Reserve behind the yards. N9 Bird Trail Site (see Bird Trail brochure). Dip is used for cattle moving out of the tick-declared area. Yards also used for cattle sales.

76.1 Turn left in to Pierce's Creek Rd towards Crows Nest

79.5 Crows Nest

The old timber town of Crows Nest is built around a pretty central green, Centenary Park. Visit Salt's Antiques, Crows Nest Museum, the Regional Art Gallery, Community Arts and Crafts, Bunnyconnellen Olive Grove and the traditional Soft Drink Factory. Nearby are short walks along the creek or in the national park.

91.5 Hampton



Grazing deer

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### Notes

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This drive was driven and assessed in August 2015 in a Mitsubishi Pajero.

A high clearance vehicle or 4WD is essential beyond Waterhole Gully Homestead.



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## DRIVE E

**Hampton to Blackbutt via Crows Nest, Anduramba & Nukinenda Station**

Travel time - at least 2 hours one way.

Distance - Hampton to Blackbutt 63 km

**Toowoomba & Darling Downs**  
Lots to love...

## **Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information centre.**

**0** Leave the carpark and turn right (north) on the New England Highway.

You are 715m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowood, Blue Gum, Cedar and Blackbutt, the area now supports mixed farming including horticulture.

**6.3** Diversion: Right turn to Cressbrook and Perseverance Dams

**11.9** Diversion: Right turn to Crows Nest National Park and Valley of the Diamonds

**12** Crows Nest township. Last fuel before Blackbutt; pub, coffee shops, local arts and crafts, chemist, tyres, IGA, Heritage Bank

**12.3** Turn right immediately past the pub on to Emu Creek Rd, signed to Blackbutt

**12.7** On the left is the Toowoomba Regional Council Service Centre; award winning architecture

**13.5** Continue straight ahead. Pass Back Creek Rd on right and Holland Wines on left. You are now on Pierces Creek Rd.

**15.4** Cattleyards and Rocky Dip clearing on right N9 Bird Trail site (see Bird Trail brochure)

**16.6** Continue straight ahead  
Anduramba Road on the right is closed past the Esk/Toogoolawah turn off

**17.6** Continue straight ahead passing Jones Gully Rd on left

**20.2** Turn right on to Middle Road; Sign to Anduramba, Esk, Toogoolawah

**22** Continue straight on, passing Vonhoff Rd on left

**22.8** Creek; beautiful Bunya Pines to vine scrub

**26.6** Turn left in to McGreevy Rd towards Nukinenda (Esk and Toogoolawah to the right). Unsealed road begins

**27.8** Take right hand fork; sign to Nukinenda Station.  
Unfenced road

**31.5** Humped grid.

You are now in Nukinenda Station. Unfenced road

**33.1** Continue past Kangaroo Rd to Silverton on left.

**34.1** Grid **35.3** Grid

**36** Continue past Lyndhurst Rd on right

**36.6** Grid. Continue past Milford Rocks Rd on right

**37.2** Grid.

**37.8** Cross Nukinenda Creek.

**38.1** Take left fork

Nukinenda Station homestead is on your right

**38.4** Grid around stockyards.

**39.3** Grid. Deer fencing begins on right

**40.3** Steep incline begins

**41.3** Grid. Turn left in to Waterhole Gully Rd; Waterhole Gully Homestead straight ahead

**42.1** Pass dams on left with bird life. Quarry on right

**42.3** Take left fork. The right fork is a private road

**42.4** On the left is a Deer Park

**43.1** Grid and cattleyards

**43.7** Grid, road follows meandering creek

**44.5** Grid **44.8** Grid. Dam with bullrushes

**44.8** Grid. Dam with bullrushes and nearby trees

**45.5** Take right fork at top of the hill; nice outlook

**46.2** Grid. On the right is a creek with a solar operated windmill, tank on the left

**46.5** Large dam on the right

**47.9** Grid at top of hill

**48.2** Deer fencing on right

**49.1** Extensive views to the west

**49.2** Property on right, 'Wayta Buggary'

**50.3** Steep rocky pinch.

**50.7** View to the east. Steep descent, use 4WD low gear. Beware of trailbike riders. Track eroded in places. Views of hoop pines in Benarkin State Forrest to the north

**52.** Rough washouts after wet weather

**52.1** Grid

**52.2** End steep grade down. Cross Emu Creek crossing. Concrete spillway, check depth and speed of water

**52.3** On the left along the creek is a picturesque picnic spot with smooth rocks for kids and small fish

**52.6** Start rough, steep climb; 4WD low gear

**53.5** Grid. Take right fork, do not take Spelling Gully Rd to left

**53.6** Googa Googa Ck. Firm base under the water

**54.5** Grid

**54.6** Creek crossing. Take left fork on to Wilson Rd

**55** Grid **55.3** Grid

**55.8** Truvalle Station on left, a fauna sanctuary and Droughtmaster cattle stud

**56** Continue past Houston Rd on left. Red volcanic soils, avocados on both sides of road

**58.2** Continue straight on past Cherry Creek Rd to right

**59** Veer left on to Ogilvie Road

**59.6** Turn right to Blackbutt at T junction

Alternative: Turn left to return to Crows Nest (57kms) via Pierces Creek Rd

**60** Macadamia trees on right

61.7 Picnic table on left

**62.1** Blackbutt township

Turn right to Brisbane or turn left to Yarraman

In Blackbutt enjoy the Roy Emerson Museum, the famous Blackbutt Bakery, Blackbutt Art Gallery or take a walk or ride along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.



Slab Hut Ivory Creek Cattle Dip

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### Notes

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This drive was driven and assessed in August 2015 in a Mitsubishi Pajero.

This drive could be undertaken in a conventional vehicle.



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## Discover... Four Wheel Drives



*Soft four wheel driving for the family in and around the Crows Nest Region.*

### DRIVE F

**Hampton, Crows Nest Falls, Maria Creek, Jones Gully, Hampton**

Return travel time – approx 2 hours.

Return distance – 96 km.

Toowoomba &  
Darling Downs  
Lots to love...

## DRIVE F

### Hampton, Crows Nest Falls, Maria Creek, Jones Gully, Hampton

Return travel time – 2 hours

Return distance 96kms

(This drive can be done in a conventional vehicle when roads are dry)

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### Zero your trip meter at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre.

0 Leave the carpark and turn left and then right (north) on to the New England Highway towards Crows Nest

You are 715m above sea level. The New England Highway forms the Main Divide watershed. Water from the west of the highway flows eventually into the Murray-Darling and from the east into the Brisbane River catchment. Previously a dairying and hardwood timber getting region, e.g. Tallowood, Blue Gum, Cedar and Blackbutt, the area now supports mixed farming including horticulture.

11.0 Turn right in to Albert St towards Crows Nest National Park. Police station on corner.

11.4 Albert St becomes Three Mile Rd

13.2 Red deer farm on left

17.0 Unsealed road begins, continue straight on past the National Park turn on the right

Diversion: Crows Nest National Park, picnicking, walking, swimming & camping.

19.7 Continue straight on past Dahl Rd on the left. Three Mile Rd turns into Sebastapool Rd. Scenic views on left.

24.8 Scenic views of Cressbrook Dam wall, spillway, pumping station and lake expanse

26.0 Continue straight on. Lookout on the right with Rural Fire Service water tank. Pass Owen Rd on left.

Views over upper section of Cressbrook Dam. Picnic spot and lookout but no facilities.

27.1 Continue on to locked gate to Toowoomba Regional Council water reserve. Do not go through gate. Return to lookout.

On your way back to circular lookout notice two separate pairs of concrete water reservoirs (S and SW). These are part of Toowoomba's water supply.

28.3 Turn right in to Owen Rd

31.1 Rough descent

Almost pure stands of grass trees (Xanthorrea). Also note frequent prickly pears (very spiny!). The fruit makes good jam if you can avoid the prickles.

33.4 Ivory Creek Cattle Dip. Creek crossing has firm bottom

She-oak lined creek bed and grass trees, old slab hut alongside the cattle dip.

36.0 Turn right at T junction in to The Bluff Rd (no signage)

39.2 Turn left on to Maria Creek Rd to Anduramba

This is part of a disused stock route.

42.5 Eskdale West homestead on right.

Quiz: As you pass through these cattle properties get the kids to identify Herefords (white face and brown), Murray Greys (grey), and Brahmin cattle (humped and grey/white).

46.2 Maria Creek crossing

48.9 'Avonmore' on left

50.4 Turn right into McGreevy Rd at the T junction. Anduramba Range Rd is on the left.

50.6 Anduramba Hall on the left

Disused picnic area.

51.3 Turn left onto Middle Rd, sealed road

On left is a former dairy farm with abandoned buildings.

52.2 Remnant Hoop and Bunya Pines on right and Silky Oaks on the left

54.5 Remnant Hoop and Bunya Pines

56.1 Continue straight on, past Vonhoff Rd on right

N7 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail brochure) further up this road to Lanaby Station gate.

58.1 Turn left at T junction on to Pierces Creek Rd towards Crows Nest

61.5 Turn right into Jones Gully Rd

Very narrow gravel road part of disused stock route. Bunya trees on right. Telstra towers on flat-topped basalt hill.

64.6 Extensive views of Bunya Mountains to the north west

65.7 Continue straight ahead, past Mountain Camp Rd on the left

Many former dairy farms, now beef grazing properties.

66.9 Look out for Mt Shem, Mt Ham, Mt Japheth to north

Anduramba is a sunken depression nearly 6 miles across and 1000 feet deep, 550 feet above surrounding land. Striking views to Bunya Mountains (north-west), and Benarkin State Forest hoop pines (northern horizon).

70.3 Turn left into Tigell Rd and then left into Voll Rd.

72.7 Rejoin New England Highway and turn left to return to Crows Nest (12 km) or Hampton (a further 12 km)