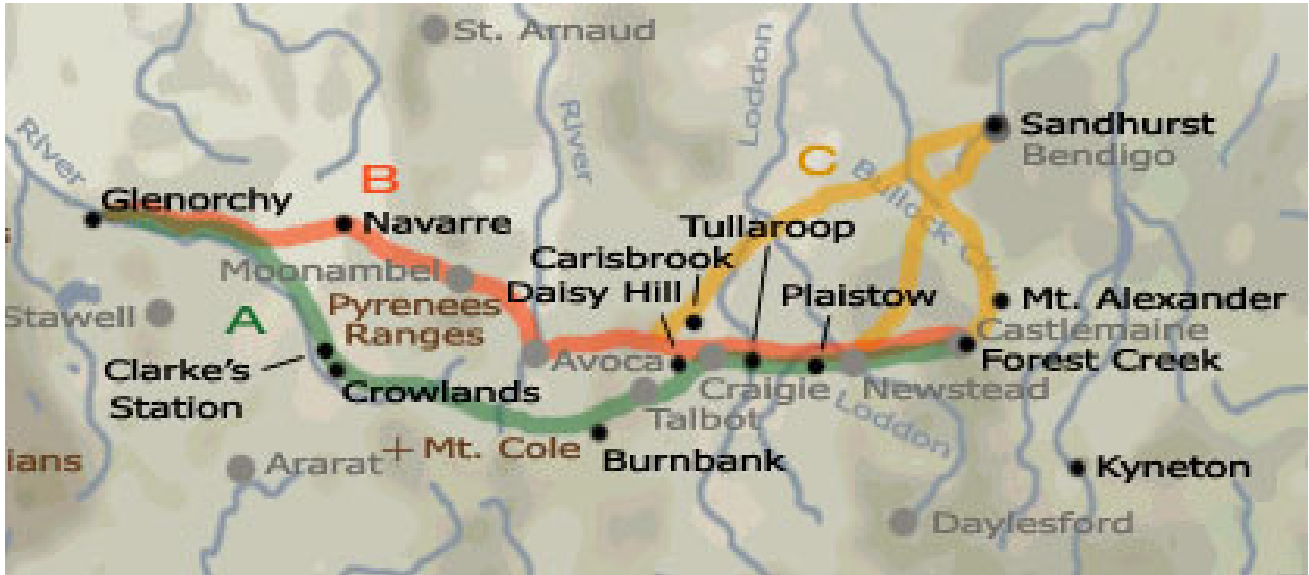


SECTION 3: Glenorchy to the Goldfields

PART A: Glenorchy to Castlemaine via Wimmera River

PART B: Glenorchy to Castlemaine via Moonambel and Avoca

PART C: Continuation of Parts A and B - on to Bendigo



SECTION 3, PART A: Glenorchy to Castlemaine - following the Wimmera River

Glenorchy, on the banks of the Wimmera River, was the site of the Four Post Inn. It was located at the junction of four early landholdings in the area and became the intersection of early travel routes, one of which followed the northern bank of the Wimmera River to Horsham. The Four Post Inn is mentioned in the majority of accounts of overland travel in the early 1850's. See also Section 2 Part A for additional detail on Glenorchy

From **Glenorchy**, stay on the northern side of the Wimmera River (do not cross the bridge) and travel east to Campbell's Bridge, continuing through **Green's Creek** and Joel to Crowlands and join the Pyrenees Highway just to the west of Eversley. Continue on to Elmhurst and **Amphitheatre**



The approach to Mt Cole from the west



Ford on the Wimmera River near Campbell's Creek

Make sure you are well prepared. Background information and practical advice is available on the Overland Gold website - www.cornishvic.org.au/overlandgold/diy-travel.shtml

From Amphitheatre continue on along the Pyrenees Highway through Avoca and turn to the right (south-east) at Bung Bong. Take the left hand fork to **Amherst**

The original name of Amherst was **Daisy Hill**, however several other locations in this area were at various times also known as Daisy Hill (for the yam daisy that was prevalent there). The exact location of the Daisy Hill mentioned in the Ninnes account, has not been verified. Today's Daisy Hill, south of Maryborough, was established some time later

Alternative route: to Amherst via Roslyn

From Amphitheatre continue along the Pyrenees Highway for a short distance and turn right through Roslyn. Turn left (north) onto the Sunraysia Highway and then turn right (east) onto a gravel road. A turn to the right will take you to Amherst.

Re-join **Part A** at Amherst

Alternative route: via Burnbank (by-passing Amherst)

There were established routes radiating from Melbourne and Geelong to Burnbank, (between Talbot and Lexton), where several roads branched out, including one to the Wimmera. Access to Burnbank from the west by modern road is limited.

Turn right (south-east) off the Highway just north of Amphitheatre through Rosyth. Where the road joins the Sunraysia Highway turn right to Lexton, and left there to travel through the area of Burnbank to Talbot. Either turn left to Amherst, or continue on to the north towards Carisbrook and turn right at the Carisbrook-Talbot Road towards Craigie, **re-joining Part A**

From Amherst turn left (east-north-east) on the second, diagonal road (gravel). Some distance on, this crosses the Ballarat-Maryborough Road and leads into the Carisbrook-Talbot Road.

Continue on this road through Craigie and turn right onto **Rodborough Road**. (You may also like to take a detour through Majorca 'historic town' and join the Majorca-Rodborough Road).

This road takes you over the Tulleroop Reservoir dam and across open high country with extensive views to the north and south and continues south of the Caim Curran Reservoir, past **Plaistow** (property), to join the Pyrenees Highway at Newstead. Major Mitchell stopped here in September 1836 and his route went on to Mt Alexander, via what became **Castlemaine**. The Pyrenees Highway from Newstead is closely aligned to Mitchell's route to Castlemaine.

The properties Rodborough Vale (Bucknall) and Plaistow (Joyce) (<http://plaistow.com.au/site/history/>) - both feature strongly in accounts of the Gold Escort route to Mt Alexander (Castlemaine). The Joyce family records refer to their homestead being 'on the route to the diggings'. They are believed to have made a 'small fortune' selling hay for the goldminer's horses and sheep for mutton. The property today offers B&B accommodation (<http://plaistow.com.au/>)

On Rodborough Road, in the vicinity of Plaistow, a gentle descent into the valley is clearly visible when looking from the east, as distinct from steeper gradients on either side

Alternative route: Amphitheatre to Castlemaine via Avoca and Maryborough

Part of the route described in **Part A** involves rough gravel roads, and you may prefer to stay on the Highway

From Amphitheatre follow the Pyrenees Highway passing through Avoca, Maryborough and Carisbrook to Newstead. Continue on as per **Part A** to Castlemaine

From Newstead the Highway continues to Castlemaine and the site of the **Mt Alexander / Forest Creek** goldfields.

Details regarding this area are readily available and are not repeated here.

In Castlemaine:

Take time to explore not just the town but the entire Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/castlemaine-diggings/index.html) Check the location /boundary plan on the website to the extent of the area the Park covers. The document 'AHDB place details' document provides additional information on the reasons for the heritage listing.



Above: Looking west along Rodborough Road, near Plaistow

SECTION 3, PART B: Glenorchy to the goldfields via Moonambel and Avoca

The Pyrenees Range of mountains was clearly an area to avoid for travellers with horse- or bullock-drawn vehicles. Most existing travel routes radiated out from Melbourne and Geelong and the existing route along the Wimmera River passed to the south of the Range. The first 'short-cut' passing through a gap in the Range in the vicinity of Moonambel was established by the South Australian Gold Escort. The turn off from Green's Creek was marked with an arrow on a tree by Alexander Tolmer on his first journey from Adelaide to the goldfields, with the (handwritten) instructions 'Take to the left'. From **Green's Creek** take the road to **Navarre** and turn right towards Landsborough. Take the first turn left into Moonambel Road and continue through the gap in the Pyrennes and **Moonambel**, and turn right onto the Sunraysia Highway at Tanwood. At Avoca, turn left (east) onto the Pyrenees Highway
Follow **Part A** or alternative routes from Avoca to Castlemaine and/or Bendigo