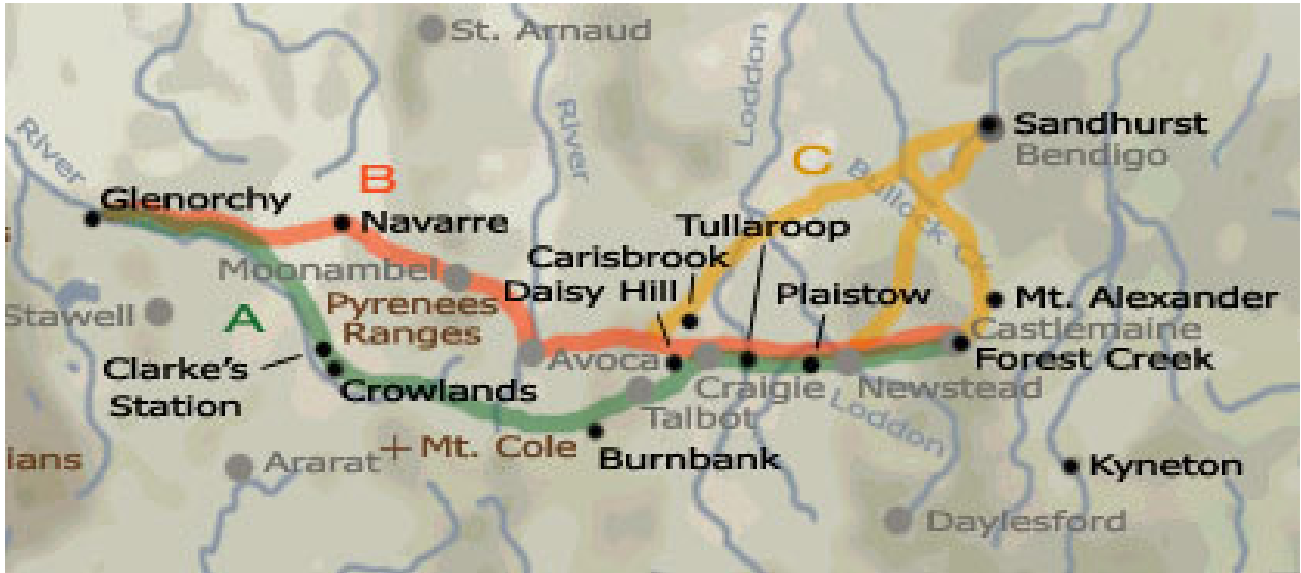


## SECTION 3: Glenorchy to the Goldfields

**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 C: On to Bendigo

The news of gold discoveries at Bendigo was beginning to circulate at the time the early travellers were making their way to the Mt Alexander goldfields. Initially, the route was to Bendigo via Castlemaine, but as time went on, more direct routes were sought by those approaching from the west. While avoiding significant hills, the relatively flat area to the north-west after passing the Pyrenees Range would surely have been appealing.

Tom & Libby Luke, who traced the journey of Thomas Ninnis, estimated from the dates they were in Daisy Hill and arrived in Bendigo, that they had taken a more direct route than via Castlemaine

Today the main route between Castlemaine and Bendigo is via the Calder Freeway, but to gain a perspective of what the journey in the 1850's entailed:

**From Castlemaine:** Take the Midland Highway north towards Harcourt, where it joins the Calder Highway. Continue on towards Bendigo, and turn off just north of Ravenswood onto the Calder Highway Alternative which bypasses Bendigo and joins the Highway again at Marong.

This route follows roughly the course of the Bullock Creek as it passes in a loop to the west of Bendigo and avoids a range of high hills and in particular 'Big Hill' to the south of Bendigo. It closely resembles the route shown on maps of the South Australian Gold Escort Bendigo-Mt Alexander Section. Several inns were located along this route

#### Alternative route - bypassing Castlemaine:

From the Pyrenees Highway at Avoca, continue on through Maryborough to Carisbrook, and turn left (north) there and follow the signs to Baringhup, where the road crosses the Loddon River to the north of the Cairn Curran Reservoir.

There is a camping ground on the western side of the river as you drive in to Baringhup

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](http://www.cornishvic.org.au/overlandgold/diy-travel.shtml)

Cross the River and turn left into Duffy Street and then right into Simmons Road to Bradford, crossing the intersection with the Bridgewater-Maldon Road on the way. Sections of this road are gravel. Continue through Bradford on the Bradford Hills Road and after some distance take the left fork onto Almond Tree Road. This meets the Bendigo-Maldon Road, which in turn meets the Calder Alternative Highway to the south of Lockwood. Following this road to the north takes you along part of the **Bullock Creek** as far as **Marong**.

NB: Several bridges to the north of Carisbrook and Maldon were damaged in floods in 2010/11 and roads were closed as a result. Check details prior to travelling at Maryborough or Carisbrook, or be prepared to take a detour. In Victoria, the VicRoads website provides details (<http://alerts.vicroads.vic.gov.au/incidents/771>)

Depending on where in Bendigo your interests are:

**From Marong:** Turn east, along the Calder Highway to approach Bendigo from the west. This road will take you through to **Maiden Gully**, and from there, there are signs to **Long Gully** and **Eaglehawk**.

This road passes close to the 'Ninnes Grave' a 'lone' grave with National Trust Heritage listing and now surrounded by the Robin Hill housing development. To access the Ninnes Grave Reserve, turn left onto Sparrowhawk Road, and left into Pioneer Drive. The Reserve can be accessed via sign-posted walkway from Pioneer Drive to the right, and also from the upper side. From Pioneer Drive, turn right into Bedarra Drive and left into Kawana Drive.

The reserve is a short distance along on the left.



The Ninnes Grave c 1906



The headstone



The Ninnes Grave 2006

**Alternative route:** From Lockwood turn right (east) towards **Kangaroo Flat** and join the Calder Highway (High Street) to approach Bendigo from the south via **Golden Square**

### In Bendigo:

There is a wide range of visitor experiences to be had in Bendigo, in particular mining sites. The significant number of substantial buildings is evidence of the success of mining in this area.

The Visitor Information Centre is located in the centre of Bendigo in the old Post Office building.

**Whether you arrive in Castlemaine, Bendigo or elsewhere - ENJOY YOUR TRIP!**

This Travel Guide does not include a route to **Ballarat** because in late 1851 and 1852 the focus of the Victorian gold rush was on the Forest Creek / Mt Alexander (Castlemaine) and Sandhurst (Bendigo) areas. Ballarat and surrounding areas experienced a small 'rush' prior to this, and became a major mining centre again later.