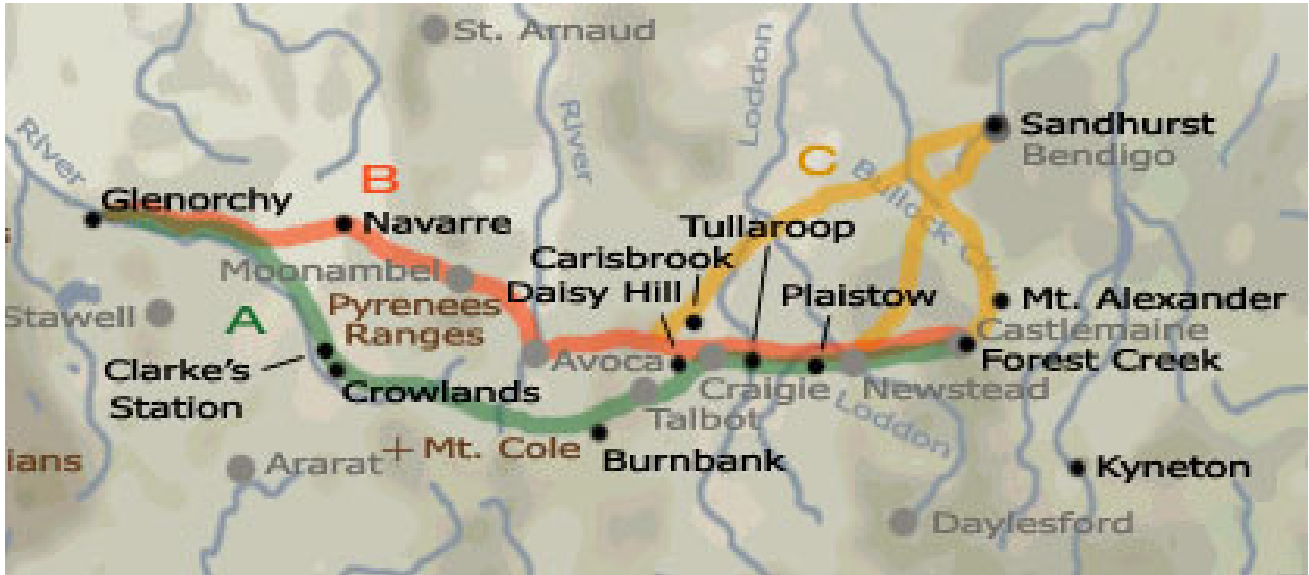


SECTION 3: Glenorchy to the Goldfields

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

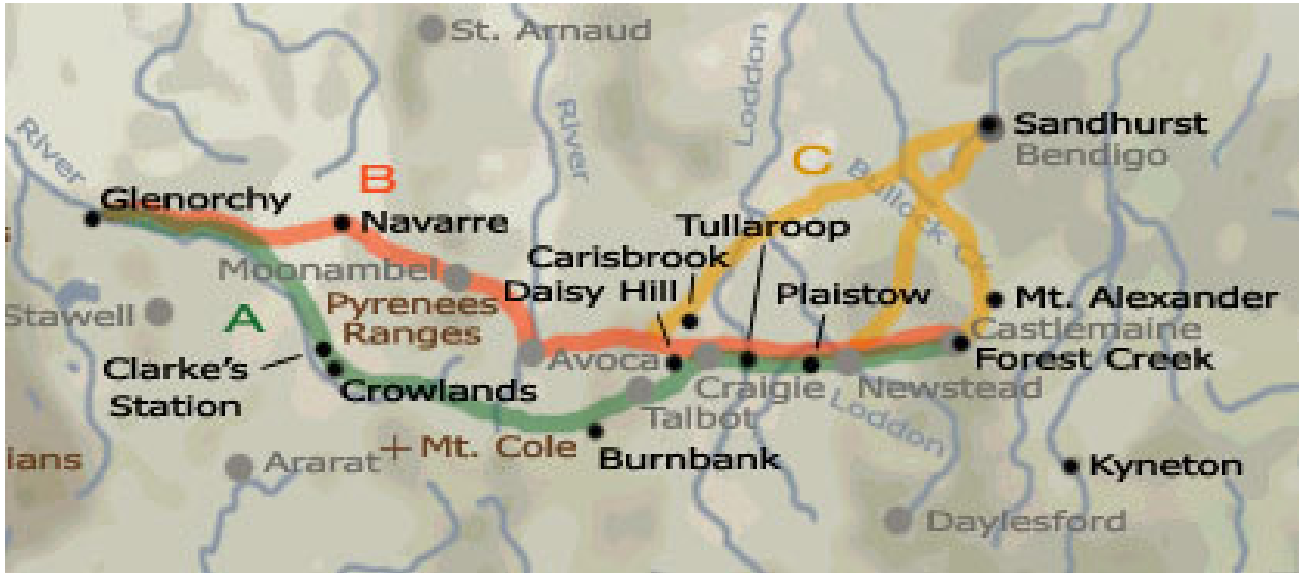
The Pyrenees Range of mountains was clearly an area to avoid for travellers with horse- or bullock-drawn vehicles. Most existing travel routes radiated out from Melbourne and Geelong and the existing route along the Wimmera River passed to the south of the Range. The first 'short-cut' passing through 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

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

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.