

## 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

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

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Drive A | Hampton to Gatton-Esk Rd  |
| Drive B | Hampton, Coppermine Rd, Ravensbourne National Park.                                   |
| Drive C | Hampton to Gatton via Vinegar Hill.   |
| 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:**

Crows Nest Shire Touring Map  
Bird Trails of the Crows Nest Shire  
Five Short Drives of the Crows Nest Shire  
Nurseries and Gardens of the Crows Nest Shire

Comments and suggestions welcome to:



HAMPTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
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email [info@crowsnestshire.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@crowsnestshire.qld.gov.au)

Send for your free copy of the Crows Nest Shire Official Touring Map.

# Discover ... Four Wheel Drives In Crows Nest Shire

*Soft four wheel driving for the family in*

## **DRIVE D**

**Hampton to Withcott via  
Murphy's Creek.**

Return travel time – approx 2 hours.  
Distance to Withcott – 57 km.

The reconnaissance for this drive was undertaken in a Nissan Xtrail soft four wheel drive in early 2005.



Trip Meter	Navigators Notes	Things of interest to observe
0	Zero your trip metre at the Hampton Visitor Information Centre. Leave car park and turn left (west) then left again (south) to head towards Toowoomba on the New England Highway.	You are 608 m above sea level (1998ft). 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, Blackbutt. Now mixed farming including horticulture.
12.5	Turn left off the highway into Costello Rd.	If you reach Kaffee Stuble and the Black Forest Hill Cuckoo Clock Centre (both well worth a visit!) - you have gone too far.
13.3	Turn left into Oaklands Rd.	The road passes through old dairy farms and patches of remnant tall forests.
13.7	Turn right into Fernbank Rd.	On the left note Australian native plants growing commercially.
14.5	Do not turn into Yonder Lane. Continue straight ahead.	A sign warns "Steep descent 3 km ahead, unstable surface. Suitable for 4WD only. Dry weather road only." Heed the sign!
15.3	Continue into Penderests Rd.	Single lane road, good surface, mixed eucalypt forest.
15.8	Begin steep descent to the at the end of the road. Engage 4WD mode and low gear.	35° descent sign. Through the trees are glimpses of beautiful views, including Table Top Mountain, Point Lookout and the Scenic Rim. Sandstone country.
16.5	Rugged sandstone outcrop on left.	
17.8	Do not take the unmarked road to left.	
18.3	Small dam on right, veer left.	Water dragons & bird life may be seen here. Mixed eucalypt forest.
19.1	Solar and wind power house on right.	
19.9	Very steep, 300 m descent. Engage 4WD mode and low gear.	Great views over Murphy's Creek and to the south.
21.9	Intersection with Osborne Rd on right. (No through road.) Keep <b>straight on</b> , Penderests Rd becomes Penfolds Rd.	
23.2	Turn right at Murphy's Creek Store, left over railway, then right towards Toowoomba.	Ice cream time? As you travel towards the headwaters of Murphy's Creek, on your left are extensive basalt scree slopes where rocks 'creep' downhill under gravity, preventing vegetation establishing.
32.0		<b>Diversion:</b> Spring Bluff Railway turn right. Return to Toowoomba—Murphy's Creek Rd. <u>Adjust speedo or note extra distance.</u> <b>Link:</b> Bird Trail S4 (See Bird Trail pamphlet). Picnic area, kiosk, train viewing. Beautiful gardens in spring.
35.3	Turn left on to Morley's Rd.	Several mail boxes and signs saying "Dry Weather Road only" and No Through Road".
36.8	Road forks, turn right in to Wallens Rd.	You are travelling through ironbark forest, good views on right of Harlaxton quarry, Bridge St quarry (closed), and Table Top Mountain. Evidence of 2002 bushfire damage.
37.1	Dry creek crossing and steep ascent. Road deteriorates into bush track.	
38.8	Road forks, veer left.	
39.9	Expanding views of Lockyer Valley.	As you travel this section the road improves. Pass pasture land and dry creek crossings and the firing range. "Danger" signs on right.
43.3	Do not take Bell Rd on the left.	
43.7	Joins two-lane bitumen. Ignore Amos Rd on right.	
46.4	Turn left onto Gittins Rd to return to Murphy's Creek.	<b>Alternative:</b> Keep straight on to join the Warrego Highway at Withcott.
48.9	Gittins Rd turns right onto gravel (sign.) <b>Take this.</b>	
50.2	Dry gully	Good bird life hereabouts.
50.7	Drive through open gate.	You are on a public road which climbs up a sandstone ridge into forested country. At the top of the ridge is a cluster of houses and the road becomes better maintained.
56.3	Rejoins Murphy's Creek-Toowoomba Rd. Already travelled.	From here you can drive up the hill (turn left) to Toowoomba, or turn right to Murphy's Creek village and follow road signs to Brisbane, coming out on the Warrego Highway at Helidon Spa.
	<b>END</b>	