



Steep decent after Wallers Rd.

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 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.

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



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
www.crowsnest.info or www.tr.qld.gov.au



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. This is a sealed road.

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 at Ravensbourne National Park turnoff. This is a sealed road.

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

14.2 Picnic area with toilets.

14.4 Turn left on to Walsh Rd. Ignore Wellers Rd on the left.

Gravel begins here for the remainder of the trip.

Alternative: Keep straight on to 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. Old homestead site. Excellent 20 minute rainforest walk. Link: E5 Bird Trail (see Bird Trail brochure). Look out for wildlife e.g. Lace Monitors (goannas), Spangled Drongos (birds!)

16.1 Keep 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. Approximately 800m.

18.9 Shire Boundary (Toowoomba Region—Gatton.)

25.7 Turn left into Wallers Rd (not sign-posted.)

Large turn off on red dirt. (The road to the right continues to Helidon.) Open woodland gives way to grazing farmland. Green-roofed homestead in distance.

26.3 Road forks. Take 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.

27.0 Continue descent.

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. 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 lowest gear and 4 wheel drive mode.

Beautiful views over the Lockyer Valley, though not for the driver!

35.5 Steep descent finishes.

37.5 Turn right at the T junction where Wallers Rd joins bitumen road.

This now becomes Forestry Rd but it's not signed. Open grazing.

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 famed 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 dwindled.

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

Gatton is a thriving agricultural service centre, with an annual Potato Festival (October) and a Heavy Horse Event (May), as well as University of Queensland, Gatton Campus nearby.

End