

Rambling 'round the Mary Trail



Following the Bicentennial National Trail



Experiences: River views, horse riding, biking, bush walking, historic stock routes and sites.

The Bicentennial National Trail (BNT), which stretches from Far Northern Queensland to Victoria, is one of the longest marked trails in the world. Following secondary roads and obscure bush tracks, it leads trekkers along stock routes, historic mail, coach and wagon routes and through some of Australia's most colourful past.

The BNT passes through the length of the Fraser Coast region starting from the old town

of Musket Flat in the north to Munna Creek on the junction of the Mary River.

Campsites (usually with few facilities except water) are spaced a day's trek apart (cyclists can often cover a couple of map sections in a day). Guidebooks with maps give trekking information and there are triangular markers along the way.

SOUTHERN ROUTE

The 'Rambling 'round the Mary Trail' is a special scenic section of the BNT which follows the Mary River along much of the way. It is an enjoyable easy cycle, walk or horse ride and is suitable for families and beginner trekkers. Covering 10km, it is particularly suited to cycling with a clearly defined track on the off-road sections.

Start at Miva or Munna Hall and end at Ramsey's Road near the historic Emery's Bridge at Gundiah or vice versa.

Munna Hall is an ideal staging point with a shelter, picnic table and water tank and ample parking beside Munna Hall (built in 1906 by a co-operative company of locals). Some of the history of the area is displayed on a sign inside the shelter.

There is a secondary loop which takes trekkers past the old Gundiah and Theebine pubs, before heading back out to the Trail near Dickabram Bridge. Fit cyclists could ride this 50km loop easily in a day on mountain or hybrid bikes.

There are some hills particularly on the secondary road portions.

NORTHERN END

Musket Flat marks the start of the northern end of the BNT Trail in the Fraser Coast region. This area has its roots in the earliest days of the settlement when Old Gayndah Road was the pioneering road from the port of Maryborough to Gayndah from the 1840s to the 1880s, until the railway opened.

A shelter shed with picnic table and water tank erected by Fraser Coast Regional Council is available to trekkers at Musket Flat. From here day trekkers can follow the old coach road out of town to check out the convict cutting on Seaview Range or climb Mt Doongul just off the Trail to enjoy the views. An interpretive sign details some of the history of the town of Elliot.

Through trekkers could continue on past the sites of the Broomfield Hotel and Golden Fleece Hotel (with its superb lagoon on the camp and water reserve) to the BNT shelter at Biggenden. This end of the Trail is somewhat more rugged, passing through hilly forestry country but it is not particularly difficult.

At Melville Creek the Trail leaves Old Gayndah Road to travel cross country south over the Maryborough Biggenden Road. Finally, after crossing Glenbar Road the Trail reaches the Mary River near Emery's Bridge.



For a full description of the treks, purchase a **Rambling 'round the Mary Weekender** guide from any of Fraser Coast Visitor Information Centres.

National Trail Guidebooks and memberships can be purchased from the BNT office on 1300 138 724 or visit the comprehensive website at www.nationaltrail.com.au for a wide range of BNT related information.

For more information, contact a Fraser Coast Visitor Information Centre or go to www.ourfrasercoast.com.au



Historic Dickabram Bridge



Tour and accommodation bookings
Local advice, information and maps
Souvenirs, gifts and books
Warm welcome

Hervey Bay Airport

Don Adams Drive
ph (07) 4197 4730
OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
Sat & Sun 8am-3pm

Hervey Bay

227 Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road
ph 1800 811 728
OPEN daily 9am-5pm

Maryborough

City Hall, Kent Street
ph 1800 214 789
OPEN Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Sat & Sun 9am-3pm

Tiaro

Mayne Street
ph (07) 4129 2599
OPEN daily 9am-4.30pm