

TWO WHEEL DRIVEROAD REPORT

ON THE TRACK FROM THE WARBURTON RANGES MISSION VIA BLACKSTONE TO THE T-JUNCTION ON THE BEADELL HIGHWAY BETWEEN GILES AND MT. DAVIES.

TOTAL DISTANCE

156 Miles (about a day's drive).

PETROL SUPPLIES

NONE

WATER SUPPLIES

WARBURTON RANGES MISSION

Wells to a distance of 25 miles east of the Mission. Well at BLACKSTONE MINING CAMP (camp abandoned) mill and tank. Native waterholes (unreliable supply).

SETTLEMENTS

NONE (The BLACKSTONE camp has been abandoned).

ROAD SURFACE

The track has not been graded, but is generally in fair condition and suitable for 2-wheel drive vehicles in good condition. The first 20 miles are fairly good, an average speed of about 30 mph is possible with care to be exercised at numerous creek crossings, then 5-10 miles of bad dust holes. The next 70 miles are slow and winding, with some rough patches, outcropping boulders, and so on. Care must be exercised. Average speed of 15 miles per hour is recommended. From the CAVANAGH RANGE to BLACKSTONE the road is in fair condition an average speed of 25 miles per hour being possible. From BLACKSTONE to the T-junction the track is quite good, although it has not been maintained, but was graded once (+1959). An average speed of about 35-40 mph is possible over this section. Some shallow but narrow creek crossings are to be negotiated at a distance of 37-40 miles east of WARBURTON. Watch out for sharp mulga rock in wheel tracks. There are only two sandy stretches of concern to the motorist. The first occurs about 82 miles east of WARBURTON, the second about 87 miles east of the Mission. Scout ahead on foot, then charge at the highest speed possible and change down to keep up engine revs.

TRAFFIC

This road is very seldom used. The traffic density has been as low as one party a year. Occasionally aborigines traverse this region when walking between WARBURTON and MT. DAVIES or MUSGRAVE PARK, both in South Australia.

GAME

Game is very scarce, but occasional kangaroos can be seen in the ranges, particularly near the CAVANAGH and BLACKSTONE RANGES.

SCENERY

Some rugged range scenery will be encountered, from the low WARBURTON RANGES to the square heaps of boulders of the CAVANAGH AND BLACKSTONE RANGES. MT. ALOYSIUS is about 3,500 feet high. Some good grassland will be found near the ranges, with belts of mulga, sandhill and spinifex country in between. A grove of desert oaks, the first since LAKE THROSSELL on the Laverton-Warburton track, will be encountered at 76 miles east of WARBURTON. There are many creeks in the vicinity of the ranges mentioned, but all are small and usually dry.

PERMITS

A permit form from the Native Welfare Department of W.A. is required for this area.

FINAL ADVICE

Make your intended movements and expected arrival time known to any of the following:-

Superintendent WARBURTON RANGES MISSION

" GILES METEOROLOGICAL STATION if travelling through to the N.T.

" MUSGRAVE PARK Government Cattles Station if travelling through S. Australia.

The Ranger of "Ayers Rock", National Park if travelling through N.T.

MAPS TO BE USED

From west to east, 1:1,000,000. "Petermann" Range. ICAO World Aeronautical Series available from the Department of Civil Aviation Aviation House, St. George's Terrace, Perth. Price 60¢ a sheet. 1:250,000. "Talbot", "Cooper", "Scott" available from Sands and McDougall, Perth. Price 50¢ or 60¢ a sheet.

WARBURTON RANGE MISSION - CAVANAGH RANGE

- 0.0 East gate at Mission. Proceed south east, south of airstrip, south of reserve, windmill north peg 81-45 at old gate, cement block 25' south of old gate, opposite blazed beefwood, ground level 1504.1. Benchmark. Warburton Range to north east. Brown Range to south west.
- 2.7 Creek.
- 2.9 Bear left. Right is to native coppermine, approximately 2 miles.
- 3.3 Bear left. Right is to Ainslie Gorge, approx. 12 miles.
- 4.6 Creek.
- 5.6 Hills both sides.
- 6.6 Creek.
- 7.5 Ainslie Hill north.
- 9.0 Hills both sides, water north at foot of hills.
- 10.0 Survey peg south, 81-43, cement block 30' south, ground level 1634.0.
- 10.5 11.5 The Sisters breakaway, south.
- 10.6 Creek.
- 11.5 Creek, hill north, Mt. Hilda.
- 11.8 Ford roads, bear left, new track. Both tracks (old and new) to windmill.
- 12.9 Detour.
- 13.0 Creek. Miller Hill north.
- 13.0 "Alex-1958 Just Hell Man". Blazed tree, south of road.
- 13.8 Payne & Barclay (1932) 300 peg.
- 14.2 Avoid track south and bear left to new well mill stack, and Blackstone camp, mill and tank.
- 15.0 Peg 81-42, cement block 20' north, ground level 1632.0 creek just east before.
- 18.0 Straight on is to Blackstone, south is to well 3.3 miles, and Lillian Soak 9.7 miles further south at foot of Townsend Range.
- 19.0 Survey peg south (n?), 81-41, cement block 20' north, ground level 1586.5
- 19.4 Snake well, mill and tank (old track comes in from south)
- 20.3 Fork roads, bear right. Cassidy Hill south east.
- 22.5 Straight on is to Blackstone. Avoid track south. Uphill to Gamminah water hole approx. 1 mile.
- 23.8 Peg 91-40, cement block 30' north, ground level 1626.2
- 24.1 Quartz blow.
- 25.0 Mt. Herbert 1,860' south, trig, well south. Last permanent water for 109 miles
- 26.1 View of Townsend Range to the south.
- 26.2 Payne & Barclay (1932) 307, south, wooden peg.
- 26.7 Creek.
- 27.2 Hill south, Nundull Hill north.
- 27.4 Black lateritic gravel.
- 28.1 Peg 81-39, cement block 30' north west, ground level 1611.5. Mt. Esme north.
- 28.3 Sumpbashers.
- 30.7 Peg Payne & Barclay (1932) 311, north.
- 31.1 End of sumpbashers.
- 31.6 Mt. Shaw south.
- 33.3 Peg 81-38, cement block 20' south, ground level 1585.1. Flower Hill north.
- 36.0 Mt. Clyde east, road turns north.
- 36.9 Stone pile. East is to water a short distance up gully. Mt. Eveline 2062' Straight on is to Blackstone.
- 38.3 Peg 81-37, cement block 15' south 27' to mulga, ground level 1683.7

WARBURTON RANGE MISSION - CAVANAGH RANGE

- 38.5 Creek.
- 38.8 Mt. Kathleen 2,010' east - Mt. Waugh north.
- 38.9 Sumpbashers.
- 39.0 Two creeks.
- 39.2 Two creeks. Mt. Waugh north.
- 39.3 Two creeks.
- 40.2 Bear right. Left is to Mt. Elvire north, trig.
- 43.5 Mt. Elvire north.
- 43.6 Peg 81936, cement block 15' north west opp. blazed mulga 27' south east, ground level 1582.2, big hill south east.
- 44.1 Sumpbashers on west side of sandy rise.
- 45.4 Creek and sumpbashers.
- 45.7 Creek, water upstream (north of road, couple of chains) water drum north
- 48.0 Peg 81-35 cement block 15' south, ground level 1579.7. Hills south east.
- 49.1 Payne & Barclay (1932) 327 south.
- 50.1 Sumpbashers.
- 53.8 Sumpbashers.
- 54.1 Peg 81-34, cement block 18' north opp. mulga, ground level 1573.5. Trig north Mt. Elsie, Mt. Palgrove 1,770' south.
- 54.5 Hill north.
- 54.7 Fork roads bear right. Left is to water, bear N for short cut and read on at 55.7.
- 55.7 Left is to water.
- 58.6 Peg 81-33 north, cement block 10' south east 20' to large bush, ground level 1615.
- 62.3 Three small water courses.
- 63.3 Peg 81-32 north, cement block 15' north west opposite blazed mulga, ground level 1715.2. Barrow Range ahead and to south east.
- 65.0 Low hills either side of road.
- 65.0 66.6 Sumpbashers.
- 65.6 Barrow Range and trig, south.
- 66.8 Watercourse.
- 67.0 Rough patch. Mt. Burt and trig, north.
- 67.4 Rough patch.
- 67.6 Water course.
- 68.0 Rough patch.
- 68.2 Water course.
- 68.3 Water course.
- 68.4 Water course, sumpbashers.
- 68.5 Peg 81-31, north, cement block 20' north east, ground level 1761.2
- 68.6 Sumpbashers.
- 69.2 Detour, sumpbashers and creek.
- 69.4 Water course, Winburn Rocks visible ahead.
- 69.6 Water course, south.
- 70.0 Backbone of an emu in blazed tree on roadside, north.
- 70.4 Granite outcrops, south.
- 70.6 Hill south.

WARBURTON RANGE MISSION - CAVANAGH RANGE

- 71.7 Granite hill south, water on east side. Turn off for water only just past the main rocks on east side, follow wheel tracks in cleft (Windurn Rocks). Explorers names visible near rockhole - also spectacular scenery. Straight on is to Blackstone.
- 73.6 Peg 81-30 south, cement block 12' south 12' to beefwood, ground level 1637.8
- 76.1 Hill north, Caseurina patch - hill south - One Tree Hill.
- 77.6-78.7 Sumpbashers.
- 78.8 Peg 81-29 north, cement block 20' north east 35' to blazed mulga, ground level 1616.3 Red Rock north.
- 80.9 Sumpbashers.
- 82.3 Bad sandhill from both sides, sharp curve on top. CARE
- 83.7 Peg 81-29 north, 20' north 25' to blazed mulga, ground level 1546.7
- 85.1 Rough patches.
- 85.6 Rough patches and anthill sumpbashers.
- 86.3 Pothole on S. wheeltrack - sandhill with granite outcrop on top - caution.
- 87.2 Bad sandhill from both sides - S bend on top.
- 88.7 Peg 81-27, north 30' north opposite blazed mulga 600' to Lightning Rocks, ground level 1580.2. Lightning Rocks north.
- 88.8 Granite hill, south, water on west side, soak - good clear aboriginal drawings on south side. Go on for Blackstone.
- 89.3 Pothole on southern wheeltrack.
- 93.0 Peg 81-26, cement block 25' north on bend, ground level 1561.1.
- 93.7 Bad rut.
- 97.0 Rough rise from west.
- 97.7 Peg 81-25, cement block 30' north 30' to blazed bloodwood, ground level 1590.8 West-end of Cavanagh Range.
- 102.0 Sumpbashers.
- 103.5 Peg 81-24, cement block 30' north on junction opposite fingerboard, ground level 1647.6. Road junction. Bear east for Blacstone, 30.4 miles. South is spur to Mt. Cooper. Avoid. Four wheel drive and rough.
- 103.7 Across sandhill.
- 104.0 Old camp site, south (miners?).
- 105.3 Sumpbashers.
- 106.0 Old mining road south.
- 106.8-9 Rough patch.
- 107.3 Tyre bashers, south wheeltrack.
- 109.0 Peg 81-23, cb, 30'S on bend, ground level 1633.9.
- 109.8 Rough patch.
- 110.1 Pothole on S wheeltrack, bones. CARE
- 111.4 Washaway.
- 112.0 Dip.
- 112.3 Dip.
- 113.7 Peg 81-22 cement block 30'S, opposite blazed mulga, ground level 1656.2
- 115.2 Old mining access road, S.
- 117.3 Boring plant, N. Washaway to 117.4.
- 118.4 Pass through Blackstone Range and creek crossing - scours and washaways. Trig W,
- 118.9 Sumpbashers.
- 119.1 Stone pile N. 81-21 cement block 120'N near fork, ground level 1710.0.
- 120.2 Washaways.
- 120.5 Potholes on N wheeltrack.

