



## BRISBANE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



[www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au](http://www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au)

# On the right track

Moore to Blackbutt

33.5km



Queensland Government

# Trail summary

## Location

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT), when completed, will be a 148 kilometre recreation trail from Wulkuraka to Blackbutt. The trail follows the old Brisbane Valley railway line and provides walkers, touring cyclists and horse riders with an opportunity to experience the history and landscape of the Brisbane Valley.

The top end of the trail is located on top of Australia's Great Dividing Range just two hours drive north-west of Brisbane and directly west of the Sunshine Coast. The Moore to Blackbutt (Nukku Road) section of the trail includes Linville and Benarkin and is located in the scenic upper reaches of the Brisbane River valley and crosses the rugged and picturesque Blackbutt Range. The trail head at Moore is located opposite the Moore Memorial Hall in Stanley Gates Park and is approximately 51 kilometres north of Esk.

Moore is just under two hours drive from Brisbane (via the Bruce and D'Aguilar Highways or the Warrego, Brisbane Valley and D'Aguilar Highways). Benarkin and Blackbutt can be reached on the D'Aguilar Highway and the drive from Brisbane is approximately two hours.



## Use

The trail is for walking, cycling and horse riding only. The surface is not suitable for road/racing bicycles, personal mobility vehicles or horse drawn vehicles. Motorised vehicles of any type are prohibited.

The trail surface between Moore and Linville is compact gravel with concrete causeways. The section from Linville to Benarkin is rough gravel with some rocky sections. Walkers and cyclists need to be reasonably fit to enjoy the trail between Linville and Blackbutt. Horses must be shod. It takes around 2-3 hours to ride a bike from Blackbutt to Linville, slightly longer travelling up the range from Linville to Blackbutt.

The trail from Benarkin to Blackbutt features a compact gravel road suited to people with a low to moderate fitness level; this particular section is especially suited to families.

There are a number of crossings at Boundary, Greenhide and Blackbutt creeks that are moderately steep (up to 30 per cent) with slopes up to 40 metres in length. There are gradually rising grades up the range to Blackbutt.

The trail is excellent for experienced horse riders and boasts good horse facilities including horse float parking and yards at Benarkin, Linville Station and Blackbutt showgrounds. Horse riders can access Benarkin State Forest, unless otherwise signed, and the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) at Benarkin and Blackbutt.

Large groups of trail users are required to obtain a permit from South Burnett Regional Council, phone 07 4171 6800.



## Distance

Moore – Blackbutt (Nukku Road): 33.5 kilometres

Moore – Linville Station: 7 kilometres

Linville Station – Benarkin: 18 kilometres

Benarkin to Blackbutt: 4.6 kilometres

Blackbutt to Nukku Road: 3.9 kilometres

## Services

Mobile phone coverage is limited. Landline public phones are located at Linville, Benarkin and Blackbutt.

A range of visitor services including public car parking, public toilets, showers, picnic and camping facilities are located at Moore, Linville, Benarkin and Blackbutt. All camping areas within Benarkin State Forest require a camping permit and fees apply. Book by phone on 13 7468 (13 QGOV).

Blackbutt offers accommodation options. Visit the South Burnett Tourism website at [www.tourism.southburnett.com.au](http://www.tourism.southburnett.com.au) for more information.

# Code of conduct

When using the trail, respect other users, the natural environment and the privacy of adjacent landholders.

## Sharing

- Please leave all gates as found.
- Do not obstruct the trail and give way to horses.
- Cyclists alert other users on approach and pass at a reduced speed.
- Do not feed or approach animals in adjacent paddocks.
- Park in designated areas.
- Observe local signs and regulations.
- Keep dogs under control and on a lead.
- Jogging pace only.



## Environment

- Keep on the trail.
- Do not interfere with native plants or animals.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Clean up after your dog.
- Do not light fires.
- Clean bikes, walking boots and other equipment after your trip to minimise the spread of plant and animal pests and diseases.
- Snakes are likely to be active during the months following winter. When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people as long as some simple rules are observed:
  - If you see a snake, keep away from it and do not threaten or provoke it.
  - Snakes have right of way; never attempt to pick up any type of reptile.

## For your safety and comfort

- Daytime temperatures can reach over 35 degrees in summer.
- Do not use the trail in extreme weather conditions.
- Be cautious at all road and creek crossings.
- Cyclists and horse riders must dismount at road crossings.
- Cyclists and horse riders must wear an approved helmet and ride in control.
- This trail can only be used at a pace no faster than jogging.
- Do not approach pets or livestock in adjacent properties.
- Carry drinking water and light snacks.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions.
- Maintain your equipment and carry repair and first aid kits in case of emergencies.
- Where possible, do not travel by yourself.
- Before you go, let a responsible person know where you are going and when you expect to return.

## Other trails connecting to BVRT

The BVRT at Blackbutt connects with the trails of Blackbutt which link to the Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) and forest trails in Benarkin State Forest. The BNT is the longest marked non-motorised, multi-use, self-reliant trekking route in the world, stretching an extraordinary 5330 kilometres from Cooktown in tropical North Queensland to Healesville in Victoria.

Some of these trails, including the trails in Benarkin State Forest, are public roads that need to be shared with other users. The only trail that does not allow any motorised vehicles of any type is the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT).

Benarkin State Forest has over 300 kilometres of trails and can be accessed from the BVRT south of Benarkin. Logging and service tracks crisscross the forest and can be used for walking, cycling, four-wheel driving or horse riding. Stay on existing roads and tracks and be aware of the give-way code that operates on state forest tracks: vehicles and bicycles give way to horses and walkers; walkers give way to horses. A special permit is not required unless it is a commercial activity, an organised group activity or a competitive event.

When in Benarkin State Forest, trail users are responsible for riding and using the logging and service tracks in accordance with signage and they must stay on the marked trail. Horses are not permitted to leave these tracks and trails and enter a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed area.



## Trails of Blackbutt

### **BVRT Nukku Rd – Blackbutt – Benarkin (one way) 8.5 kilometres**

The trail surface is relatively smooth, although there are some steep banks where the rail bridges have been removed and the trail crosses the road. There is a convenience store, toilet and picnic facilities at Benarkin.

### **BVRT Benarkin – Moore (one way) 25 kilometres**

This trail continues along the BVRT from Benarkin to Linville and the town of Moore along the banks of the Brisbane River. There are camping, picnic and toilet facilities and a convenience store at Moore. The section between Moore and Linville also makes a good short trail at only seven kilometres and is considered an easy trail classification. Start at Moore and have lunch at Linville and visit the Linville Railway Station from 1910 restored to its former glory.

There are magnificent views of the Brisbane Valley and surrounding landscapes from the Blackbutt and Benarkin Range sections. There are toilet, picnic and horse stalls at Blackbutt Creek. There are camping and picnic facilities, a convenience store and accommodation at Linville and Moore.

### **McCallum Trail (loop) 12 kilometres**

This trail utilises some public roads. Please be wary of motorised vehicles such as trail bikes on Staines Road. The Staines Road section also links to the Allery Trail. Staines Road can be very boggy after wet weather. This trail is a pleasant ride for horse and bike riders and a good link to Benarkin trail facilities and other trails in the network.

### **Allery Trail (loop) 31 kilometres**

This trail has the best of the best but there are not a lot of facilities on the way. It uses the BVRT and the BNT in the Blackbutt Range where you will see hoop pines tower over subtropical rainforest in Benarkin State Forest. The forest contains hoop pine plantations established in the 1920s.

### **Ogilvie Trail (loop) 12 kilometres**

Follow the BVRT towards Yarraman to a trail departing just before Nukku Road Bridge, turn left to meet Nukku Road, right into Langton Road corridor and follow the arrows, pass the Blackbutt Golf Club to Bowman Road to join the Allery Trail at the road crossing near Crumpton Road. This is an excellent ride for horse riders.

## Landscape heritage



The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) passes through rural landscapes between Moore, Linville and the Benarkin State Forest with sections of rainforest, hoop pine plantations and eucalypt forests containing blackbutt, tallowwood, white mahogany, gums and ironbarks.

The Jagera, Yuppera and Ugarapul peoples are the traditional owners of the Brisbane Valley district. The Wakka Wakka people are the traditional owners of the South Burnett area. Prior to European settlement in 1841, the landscape of South East Queensland (as elsewhere in Australia) was influenced and protected by millennia of Aboriginal stewardship. Indigenous use and management of the landscape (e.g. moving camp when resources were depleted and closing areas for particular species) maintained a balance between the land and human needs.

The most important aspect of Aboriginal life in South East Queensland revolved around the socio-sacred bunya ('bon-ye') festivals, held in the Bunya Mountains and Blackall Ranges, attracting thousands of participants. Every three years groups of Aboriginal people would follow the ancient pathways along



the Brisbane River to the misty pine clad mountains where towering bunya pines dropped huge cones full of rich nuts.

Passing through dense hoop pine forest, with the 'tink-tink' of bell miners ringing out, the BVRT passes the Benarkin bora grounds. There are two bora rings linked by a 450 metre path. Initiates ('kippas') were led on the path to the smaller ring where the initiation took place. As the wind blows up the ranges below, it is easy to cast aside time and hear the sound of clap sticks and the songs of the bora.

The Bicentennial National Trail (BNT) joins the BVRT at Benarkin. BNT chronicles the 1800s wagon, coach and cattle droving route up the Brisbane Valley into the South Burnett and links the BVRT to the trails of Blackbutt and towns north and south including Nanango, Kingaroy, Kilkiven and Toowoomba.

The original railway line through the Brisbane Valley was built during the early years of the last century to transport supplies to the growing number of small farmers in the valley, and to transport milk products, timber and stock to Brisbane markets. The last rail motor service on the line occurred in 1989 and the railway line was finally closed later that year. Brisbane Valley Heritage Trails Inc. has a wealth of old photos from the early days of the Brisbane Valley Line as well as the stories of working people including the railway men. The last rail motor travelled this section of the Brisbane Valley Line on 6 October 1988.



## History of Moore

The township of Moore is built on part of the original Colinton station from 1841. It was made up of six leases and covered 336 000 acres.

Before 1903 the district was known by the names of the public facilities available there. One of these was Stonehouse after a remarkable stone building built by Gloucestershire stonemasons Robert and Charles Williams on Colinton land in 1868. In 1883, Stonehouse was also the Nine Mile Receiving Office for mail delivered by pack horse from Ipswich to Nanango and later became a coach stop and changing station for McDonald's Royal Mail Coach to Nanango.

Until 1910 the Moore millers hauled their timber 13 miles to the railway terminus at Kannangur for sale in Brisbane. In 1910 the Moore station was built on the outskirts of the town.

World War II provided a boost to Moore when a new Inland Defence Road over the Blackbutt Range was built using Moore as the rail head for materials. The last steam train ran on the Brisbane Valley Line in 1969 and it finally closed in 1989.

## Sites of interest along the trail

### The Soldiers' Memorial Hall

This wooden hall was built after World War I to commemorate local soldiers. The timber of the building is of the highest quality and it has been lovingly maintained. The awning over the footpath was added in 1922. Rifle Club Banquets were held there in the 1930s. The supper room was added in 1938, and in 1947 the Moore Returned Services League combined with Linville. This combined services league closed in 1973 and a Hall Committee took over the building. The Soldiers' Memorial Hall remains the social hub of Moore.



### Moore State School

The Moore Provisional School was built in 1904 on 2.25 acres of school reserve at a cost of £150. By 1908 a bigger school was built and the first school was converted into teacher accommodation. Moore State School celebrated its centenary in 2004 and was closed in 2007.



## History of Linville

Linville became the settlement for farmers from the early 1880s. It was known as the Nine Mile Receiving Office until 1901. After 1910, when the railway was finally extended from Toogoolawah to Linville, the town developed as the rail head for the local timber industry.

A sawmill was opened in 1912 and the timber industry remained important in the town until the 1950s. The town also served as the centre for local dairy farmers and for the short-lived soldier settlement farms allocated in 1920. By the 1950s, dairying had given way to cattle raising. The town declined when road transport reduced the need for cattle loading yards and the railway service was subsequently discontinued.

## Sites of interest along the trail

### The Pagoda War Memorial

In 1920, George Bishop, the Esk Shire Chairman, approved the construction of a war memorial for the town. The pagoda was designed and built with Fox Mills donating the timber. The German machine gun mounted on this memorial was captured on the Western Front by 9th A.I.F. on 11 April 1918.



### Linville Railway Station

The railway line to Linville was opened in 1910 and once boasted the largest rail head in South East Queensland and the second largest in the southern hemisphere. The line was removed in 1995 and since then the Linville Pioneer Charity and Sporting Club Inc. has faithfully restored the station precinct.



### Finlayson's Sawmill

In 1912, a sawmill was established on five acres of land. It was subsequently sold to Charles Patterson and Patterson's Sawmill continued to operate for many years. When Patterson's grandson, Malcolm Finlayson, took over the family business, the mill that still operates at Linville changed its name to Finlayson's Sawmill.



### History of Benarkin and Blackbutt



In 1847, Simon Scott brought his family from NSW to Taromeo Station, the first property to be established in the South Burnett region. It began as a sheep property but quickly changed to cattle. Used as a staging post for the coaches en route to Nanango, it soon became the social centre of the district. Simon Scott died in 1858 leaving the property to his son Walter who bred the first three winners of the Queensland Derby: Hermit, Zambesi and Grafton.

In 1883, Walter drove the Premier Sir Thomas McIlwraith 'over a splendid strip of forest country, having a rich red soil and timbered with magnificent specimens of blood-wood and iron bark' on his fact finding tour of the Wide Bay and Burnett district. Both a local timber industry and the rail line became a certainty that day. In 1889, Walter Scott surrendered a large portion of land to the government which was then opened for selection into 160 acre blocks. Subsequently, the townships of Benarkin (originally Well Holes) and Blackbutt began.

Benarkin and Blackbutt became known as the timber towns for the quality of the natural timber that grew nearby. Four mills were in full production processing hardwoods (blackbutt, red iron bark and tallowwood) and softwoods (hoop pine and cedar) by 1909. Later, pine was planted in large state forests at Benarkin, Googa and Mt Binga.

## Sites of interest along the trails of Blackbutt

### Memorial Plaque

The early settlers of the Benarkin-Blackbutt district are commemorated on a plaque in front of the Blackbutt Council Offices. James Douglass, who arrived with his parents as an infant from England, was the first white child in Blackbutt and H. Ogilvie was the first child born in Blackbutt. Descendants of many of these families remain in Blackbutt today.

### Blackbutt-Benarkin cemetery

A cemetery reserve was proclaimed at Taromeo Station in February 1878 and Walter Scott commissioned an iconic stone walled cemetery. The original mortar was made from cow dung and milk and retains its strength today. The walls enclose nearly 20 family headstones and this is one of only two stone walled family cemeteries in Australia. The cemetery is heritage listed and only opened to the public on request. The Blackbutt-Benarkin general cemetery, between the two towns on the D'Aguilar Highway, was established in 1892 and proclaimed on 25 May 1899.



### Benarkin Station Grounds

Getting timber to the sawmills and later to the railway sidings required many bullock teams who continued to work in the thick scrub after motorised transport was being used elsewhere. A large sapling bullock yard backed onto the Benarkin School and for many years hundreds of bullock teams were yoked there in the mornings and unyoked in the late afternoons. These teams were a familiar sight and their service to the district is recognised by Blackbutt and District Heritage and Tourism Association Inc. which is currently restoring a bullock wagon for permanent display there.

### Benarkin and Jesse's Well (along Allery Trail)

Teamsters Park (known as Jesse's Well) opposite the Pro-Pine Sawmill on the Old Coach Road to Taromeo Station was initially developed by the Timber Towns Woodworkers and the Blackbutt and District Heritage and Tourism Association. It was later maintained as a recreational area by the Nanango Shire (now South Burnett Regional) Council. It includes the picturesque Jesse's Well for watering horses and cattle; wagons; an old bank building and picnic facilities. The last of the region's sawmills is in operation opposite and several original mill workers' cottages stand nearby.



### Taromeo Station (along Allery Trail)

The shower that was available to coach passengers who were obliged to walk beside the coach up the most difficult parts of the Blackbutt Range can still be seen in the Taromeo homestead grounds. The homestead is in private hands and is opened by appointment.

The Taromeo School began in October 1909 to service the families working at the Taromeo (now Pro-Pine) Sawmill. It was closed in 1941 and demolished in 1949. A relocatable tent school, the McNamara Provisional School, was opened on 4 July 1910 and provided schooling for the children of the railway workers. It was shifted in November that year to the Well Holes which later became known as Benarkin.

## Plants and animals

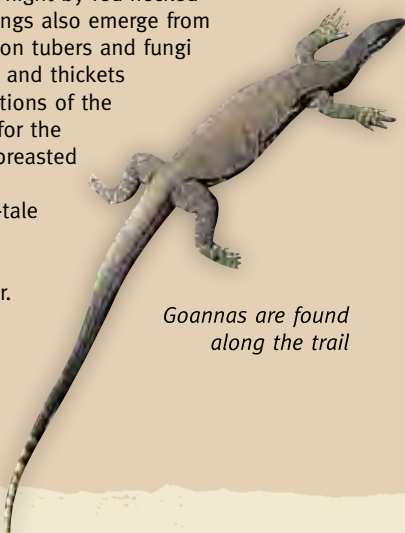
A great variety of wildlife can be seen in the towering blackbutt and ironbark forests, hoop pine plantations, dense vine scrub, open woodlands and rural landscapes of Benarkin State Forest and the upper reaches of the Brisbane River.

Three signature features of the Moore–Blackbutt district are the upper reaches of the Brisbane River, the pine forests and the colonies of bellbirds found there. The old sign on the Blackbutt Range that said ‘Stop and listen to the bellbirds’ has gone, but clear melodic notes of bellbirds can still be heard in various locations. Listen for bellbirds on the trail opposite the Benarkin store, en route to Jessie’s Well and opposite the Benarkin School on the D’Aguilar Highway.

In the Benarkin State Forest section of the trail, impressive hoop pine plantations grow next to native eucalypt forests, woodlands and rainforest communities. The Benarkin State Forest is managed not just to produce timber, but also to protect the habitats of many plants and animals including some rare or endangered species and others with high regional significance.

Tall open forests of blackbutt, tallowwood, stringybark and grey gum grow on volcanic soils on higher slopes in Benarkin State Forest. Elsewhere several species of ironbarks dominate the forest including silver-leaved ironbark in open woodland. Blue gums (forest red gums) are common at lower elevations. Vine scrub with a thick, prickly understorey occurs here and there, sometimes under tall eucalypt trees. In places, hoop pine and other tall rainforest trees rise above the canopy.

Vine scrub along the trail hosts many plants and animals. Green catbirds, paradise riflebirds and noisy pitta are species of significance locally. Patches of grass adjacent to rainforest are visited at night by red-necked pademelons. Rufous bettongs also emerge from their grassy nests to feed on tubers and fungi at night. Dense vine scrub and thickets of lantana make some sections of the trail an important habitat for the shy and vulnerable black-breasted button-quail. Dish-shaped scrapes in the dirt are tell-tale signs that these secretive birds have been searching for food on the forest floor.



*Goannas are found along the trail*



*Hoop pines along the BVRT*

Ducks, darters and other waterbirds may visit the Brisbane River that runs adjacent to the trail between Moore and Linville. There are often sightings of wedge tail eagles and brown goshawks gliding on the wind searching for their prey in the rural landscapes below. Glossy black cockatoos, brush turkeys, regent bowerbirds and the sulphur-crested cockatoos are often found near Moore and Blackbutt.

On the hills adjacent to Blackbutt Creek and in the Benarkin State Forest, you may see the ancestors of deer given to the region in 1873 by Queen Victoria as a gift after Queensland was named in her honour. Pretty faced or whip tail wallabies are often seen at dusk in and around Blackbutt and Benarkin.

Numerous frogs, skinks and lizards live in the area, including the vulnerable and secretive collared delma (a small legless lizard). There are often sightings of yellow face whip snakes, spotted pythons, goannas and water dragons near Benarkin and Blackbutt Creek.

All plants, animals, natural and cultural features of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and the Benarkin State Forest are protected. Do not remove living or dead plant material (including fallen timber), animals, rocks or other material.

## For more information on plants and animals of the region

Department of Environment and Resource Management  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Museum  
[www.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.qm.qld.gov.au)

## **Emergencies**

Call 000

## **For more information**

Blackbutt Visitor Information Centre  
Hart Street, Blackbutt

07 4163 0633

Esk Visitor Information Centre  
82 Ipswich Street, Esk

07 5424 2923

Fernvale Futures and Visitor Information Centre  
1483 Brisbane Valley Highway, Fernvale

07 5427 0200

Ipswich Visitor Information Centre  
14 Queen Victoria Parade, Ipswich

07 3281 0555

South Burnett Energy and Visitor Information Centre  
Corner Drayton and Henry Street, Nanango

07 4171 6871

**[www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au](http://www.brisbanevalleyrailtrail.org.au)**

The Brisbane Valley Rail Trail is one of three regional recreation trails funded by the Queensland Government until 2012 and being delivered through a partnership between the Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Ipswich City, South Burnett and Somerset Regional Councils. Through Growth Management Queensland, the Queensland Government is protecting more land for public recreation to help shape tomorrow's Queensland.



# Trails of Blackbutt and Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT)

- ++++ BVRT - Nukku Rd – Blackbutt – Benarkin (one way) - 8.5 km
- ++++ BVRT - Benarkin – Moore (one way) - 25 km
- ..... McCallum Trail (loop) - 12 km
- ..... Allery Trail (loop) - 31 km
- ..... Ogilvie Trail (loop) - 12 km
- Major road

**SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Benarkin State Forest

**SOMERSET REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**Nukku Road**

**Blackbutt**

**Benarkin**

**Linville**

**Moore**

Clancys camping area ↓

