

St Albans road Ramp; Bucketty 'Wall' (pipe in ex bridge ); Box culvert, Bucketty; 1909 Roadside death marker



## The Great North Road The Convict Trail Bucketty to Mt Manning

The Great North Road is a 240km convict built masterpiece constructed between 1826 and 1836 to provide an overland route from Sydney to Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. Much of the original convict built road remains in use today, although a lot of the original surface is well buried beneath bitumen.

Convict built remains, such as stone retaining walls, pick dressed cuttings, culverts, bridges and stone cut drains, can be seen when driving along the road, or when walking in Dharug and Yengo National Parks.

## Bucketty to Mt Manning

This important short section of the Great North Road is the last remaining section that is still both a public road and a 'dirt' or gravel road, it is accessed from Tourist route 33.

At Bucketty, just one hour's drive north of Hornsby, a T-junction allows entry to the old road to Wiseman's Ferry via Mogo Creek and St Albans.

The first 4 kilometers section of this road, from Bucketty to Mount Manning, provides an excellent introduction to the Great North Road and is suitable for visitors with decreased mobility.

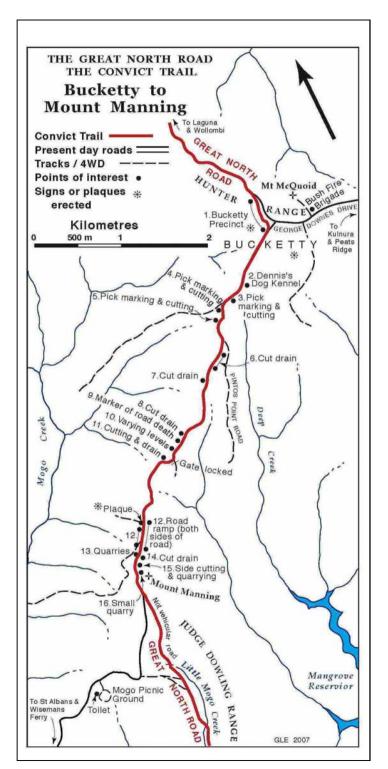
On this little-used road surrounded by bushland, with cicadas singing or a light wind rustling the trees, it is easy to imagine oneself back in time.

Examples can be seen here of most of the elements of the whole historic road. They can be viewed from a car or visited in short, easy walks.

Features include a small quarry site with drill marks and wedge pits for splitting rock, pick-marked rock-faces, a larger quarry site, cut sandstone drains, stone culverts, the remains of a small bridge, original road surfaces and the walled embankment or ramp known as the St Albans Road ramp. The greater part of this stretch of road has not changed since the convicts built it in 1830-32.

The road is well maintained and at Mt Manning there is a generous turning area for vehicles.

Toilets are available at the Mogo camping area.



**I.** Bucketty Precinct contains all the main elements of the Great North Road: the remains of a small bridge, good quality walling, cut sandstone drains, stone culverts and some original road surface. In the 1940s the small bridge was replaced with a large pipe packed round with stones concreted in place.

2. "Dennis's Dog Kennel" (a genuine but unexplained historic name) was the camp furthest south for the Newcastle-based convict work gangs. Road Party 29 was camped here. The oncepermanent waterhole was bulldozed in the 1960s, but is now the water supply for the Bucketty Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

**3.** Pick-dressed cutting: the smooth area below the pick-marking is damage caused by a grader blade. Now, to prevent further damage in the historic section of the road, edges and drains are maintained by hand by prisoners from Cessnock Correctional Centre.

**4,5,6,7.** Low cuttings and cut drains. In this area the road was cut through the surface rock Today, when the road is due for maintenance and more topping is needed, the original surface is exposed. It is made of cut rock and packed sandstone pieces.

**9.** This marker is an extremely early example of this practice. Here Dinah Bailey, the mother of six, was killed in 1909 when thrown from a sulky.

12. St Albans Road ramp: this structure is unique.

**13.** Two very large quarries, one for stone, the other for fill.

**16.** This small quarry with drill and wedge marks is beside the road.

## THE CONVICT TRAIL

The Convict Trail is the name for The Great North Road, the surrounding land, and historic buildings. The Convict Trail Project Inc. (CTP) is a community based organisation with objectives of the care, protection and promotion of the Great North Road.

To achieve its objectives the CTP works with many partners, including the NSW Heritage Office, councils, Dept. of Corrective Services, NPWS, RTA & local tourism associations. The Project brings together community groups, individual members, tourism groups, State Government agencies and local councils including both Hawkesbury, Gosford and Cessnock Councils. For more information, including "conservation partners" visit the CTP website.

This brochure is part of a series of area specific electronic brochures available from the Convict Trail website.

The content of this brochure has been compiled in good faith but is published without responsibility in law or otherwise for its accuracy and without any assumption of duty of care by the Convict Trail Project.

The sites are listed to allow you to appreciate how much evidence remains and what is supporting the road you are driving on. Acknowledgments Map: George E Elliott: Photographs and text E A Roberts: Editing: Barbara Appleton: Brochure template Nicole Leary & Brook Partridge Remember: do not trespass on private property. Many of the convict relics noted in this guide are used for traffic. You should only view them from safe locations.

For extra information purchase an "Explore the Convict Trail" booklet or visit the Convict Trail Website www.convicttrail.org.

New members welcome. Write to: CTP, 7 Coolabah Close, Thornleigh NSW 2120





Abandoned loop Bucketty, Walling St Albans Ramp, Pick dressed cuttings Mt Manning, Small quarry beside road