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Scenic Drive #1:

Buccan Buccans Circuit

Length: 34km

Start: Visitor Information Centre at 27 Denison Street.

End: Gloucester District Park, enter via Thunderbolts Way.

Featuring: Barrington village, Barrington Bridge, Barrington River valley, Rocky Crossing, Gloucester River, the Buccan Buccans, Lions Scenic Walk, Gloucester District Park and five river crossings on concrete causeways.



Gloucester

Visitor Information Centre

27 Denison Street, Gloucester NSW
AUSTRALIA



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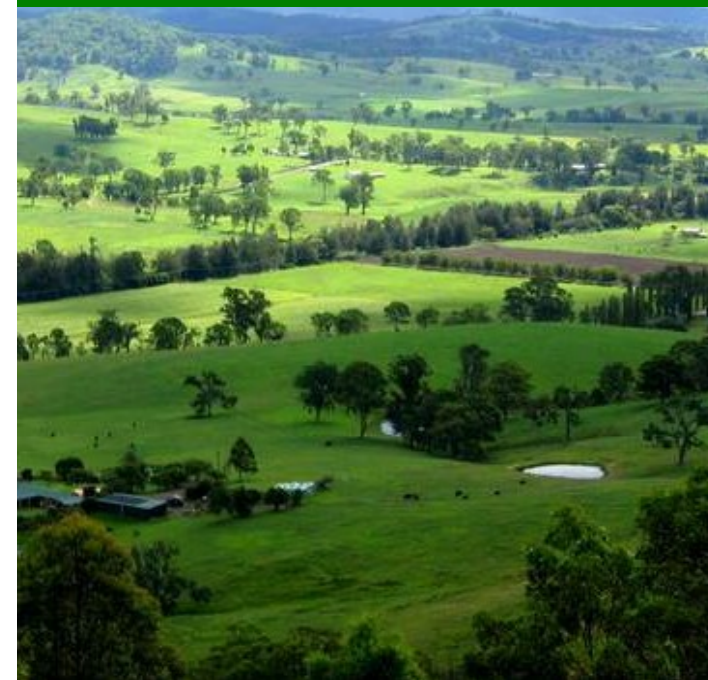
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Scenic Drives

Gloucester New South Wales

DRIVE 1: BUCCAN BUCCANS CIRCUIT



Scenic Drive #1 – Circuit around the Buccan Buccans via Barrington

This is the best short scenic drive in Gloucester, you'll see the remarkable Buccan Buccans (the Bucketts Mountains) from all sides, the best of our beautiful rural landscapes, cross numerous river fords with excellent picnic & swimming spots, and end up in the beautiful riverside park in the centre of Gloucester.

It's 34km of fully sealed road and you can do the drive easily under 60 minutes. But why not take a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenic rural charm that Gloucester is famous for, there are plenty of great locations to choose from along the way.

(NB. This route may be unsuitable in times of high river levels, check with the Visitor Information Centre.)

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End: Gloucester District Park, enter via Thunderbolts Way.

Featuring: Barrington village, Barrington Bridge, Barrington River valley, Rocky Crossing, Gloucester River, the Buccan Buccans, Lions Scenic Walk, Gloucester District Park and five river crossings on concrete causeways (caution advised).

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Head out of town northwest towards Walcha via Church Street, veering to the left at the roundabout onto Park Street that becomes Thunderbolts Way.

Across the Gloucester River bridge you'll pass Barrington Outdoor Adventure Centre and new housing estates on rolling countryside that's beginning to turn semi-rural.

You'll quickly come to Barrington village, named and settled by Scots from the Isle of Skye, before crossing the Barrington River at the single lane historic timber bridge. Take the first turn on the left onto Barrington West Road which is on the western side of the river valley.

This 9km section takes you along the Barrington River valley with its beautiful farmland vistas with the Buccan Buccans on your left across the other side of the Barrington River. Rocky Crossing is the first river ford you will come to at the Barrington River, there's plenty of parking and space for a riverside picnic. It's a popular spot for swimming, canoeing and kayaking.

Use the causeway to safely cross the river and continue on Barrington West Road as it rises up to the end of the valley. At the ridge near the intersection with Barrington East Road, be sure to stop and take a photo as the view back down the Barrington River valley is so beautiful. Can you see the sleeping giant?

Continue on Barrington West Road as it goes over the ridge and down into the neighbouring valley with more scenic views in front of you. Barrington West Road ends at the next river ford, across the Gloucester River. Turn left onto Faulkland Road, if heading back to Gloucester or turn right if you are heading to Gloucester Tops. The lovely Federation-era house overlooking the river here is Faulkland House. Heading back towards Gloucester there are two more river fords to cross, each with a scenic riverside picnic area, swimming spots, fish crossing and the river babbling over the pebbles downstream of each crossing.

Continue on Faulkland Road that winds past more scenic rural landscapes then take the hard left turn onto Stantons Lane. You'll pass the Gloucester River Winery

(tasting by appointment), Trudgalong Farm (farm tours and farm stays) and admire the view of the Buccan Buccans, now up close and personal.

The last river ford is across the Gloucester River at the dairy where Stantons Lane becomes Bucketts Road. Caution, there may be cows crossing the river or on the road moving to the milking shed.

This 8km section takes you past the fish farm (you may see the water fountains gushing) and the Buccan Buccans looming on your left with Gloucester township on your right. Near the end point, you pass the gateway to the Lions Scenic Walk. Pack sturdy walking shoes if you wish to take the challenge to reach the small shelter at the foot of the rocky outcrop, the path is a continuous incline and be cautious of cattle grazing. The glorious view of the Gloucester valley is enhanced even further if you are agile enough to scramble up the first rocky pathway beyond the shelter. Sensational views!

The scenic walk entrance on Bucketts Road is just 1km from Thunderbolts Way, follow this road and turn right at the intersection back towards the town centre. You have now completed the circuit around the Buccan Buccans but watch for the right hand turn into Gloucester District Park.

This is one of the prettiest town parks in the state with its lovely riverside location and unbeatable range of sporting facilities. Look for the human sun dial and if you haven't already had your picnic, don't miss the riverside walk under the tall trees.... you'll find the perfect grassy spot where you can listen to the Gloucester River quietly whispering as it passes over the pebbles on its way to the sea.