

Start your drive with sweeping vistas of the City of Griffith from Scenic Hill. You can stop at the Hermit's Cave and Sir Dudley de Chair lookout and see the extent of the boom that is Griffith.

Sir Dudley de Chair was the Governor of NSW at the time that Griffith was established. Not many locals know that.

As you head north from Beelbangera, you will have the McPherson Range on your left and rice farms on your right. Many of the rice farms have been converted to vineyards as the demand for grapes has increased. Most of McPherson Range is private property, but you can get access to some areas from McPherson Rd and from Quarry Rd.

Myall Park Rd and Mt Bingar Rds will take you to the foot of the Cocoparra Range. National Parks have created picnic areas along creek beds that are worth a stop. Through most of the year, the creeks are dry. If you happen to see them after rain, you can see the magic transformation that water brings to this semi desert. Take the time to walk and climb and enjoy.

The road that runs at the foot of the range is the old Whitton Stock route. It was a Cobb and Co route and is still accessible, even by two wheel drive, in most parts of the year. Watch out if its been wet and the road may be impassable. Drive to the conditions.

You will pass the remains of the Mt Elliot Hotel and can wander around the ruins. The stock route was also used by swaggies in the 1930's depression and some pioneers of our district still remember them walking the dry dusty roads looking for work in exchange for tea and damper.

You pass out of the National Park into the Binya State Forest. (This is one of the forests that has recently been declared open to game shooters. The need for permits is clearly stated on the signage, and we hope for the safety of all of us that the rules are adhered to.) This stock route will take you all the way back to the Burley Griffin Way and you can take this short cut if you are running out of time.

Turning left into Barry Scenic Drive, will take you over

the saddle between the main Cocoparra Range and Mts Caley and Brogden.

A well signposted, easy 2 hour walk to the summit of Mt Brogden starts from Binya Forest Drive off Whitton Stock Route. (The Country Energy office in Banna Ave displays a mural of the view from Mt Brogden on its rear wall.)

The road winds but is safe and wide. You will see Moss Dam on your left and Wattle Dam on your right. These two dams are well known, locally, as good birding dams.

When you leave the forest on the eastern side of the range you will pass through several kilometres of dry area farming until you get to Erigolia Rd. If you are keen, you can turn left and head up to the Mid Western Highway east of Rankins Springs.

We turn right and head to the Burley Griffin Way and the small hamlet of Binya with its red stained silos standing tall by the railway line.

A few kilometres west of Binya is a memorial to John Oxley to honour his travels through this area in 1817.

The Burley Griffin Way takes you back through the Binya State Forest. If you haven't had enough by now, you can detour via forest tracks on either side of the road. Your trip will be rewarded with sightings of kangaroo, emu, swamp wallabies and many species of birds.

As you travel further west, on your left is the huge winery that is Casella. In Yenda you can taste wines from Berton Vineyards, and closer to Griffith you can drop in at de Bortoli's and later Beelgara Estate.

We hope you have had a great day.

Visit [www.griffithgateway.com](http://www.griffithgateway.com) for more walks, rides and drives that will showcase the city of Griffith.

You can find other maps and references from National Parks and Wildlife and Department of Lands. Also check Google Maps for maps of the trails through the Binya State Forest.

GriffithGateway.com presents

## A Day in the Hills Scenic Drive



110 km

Sealed and unsealed surfaces

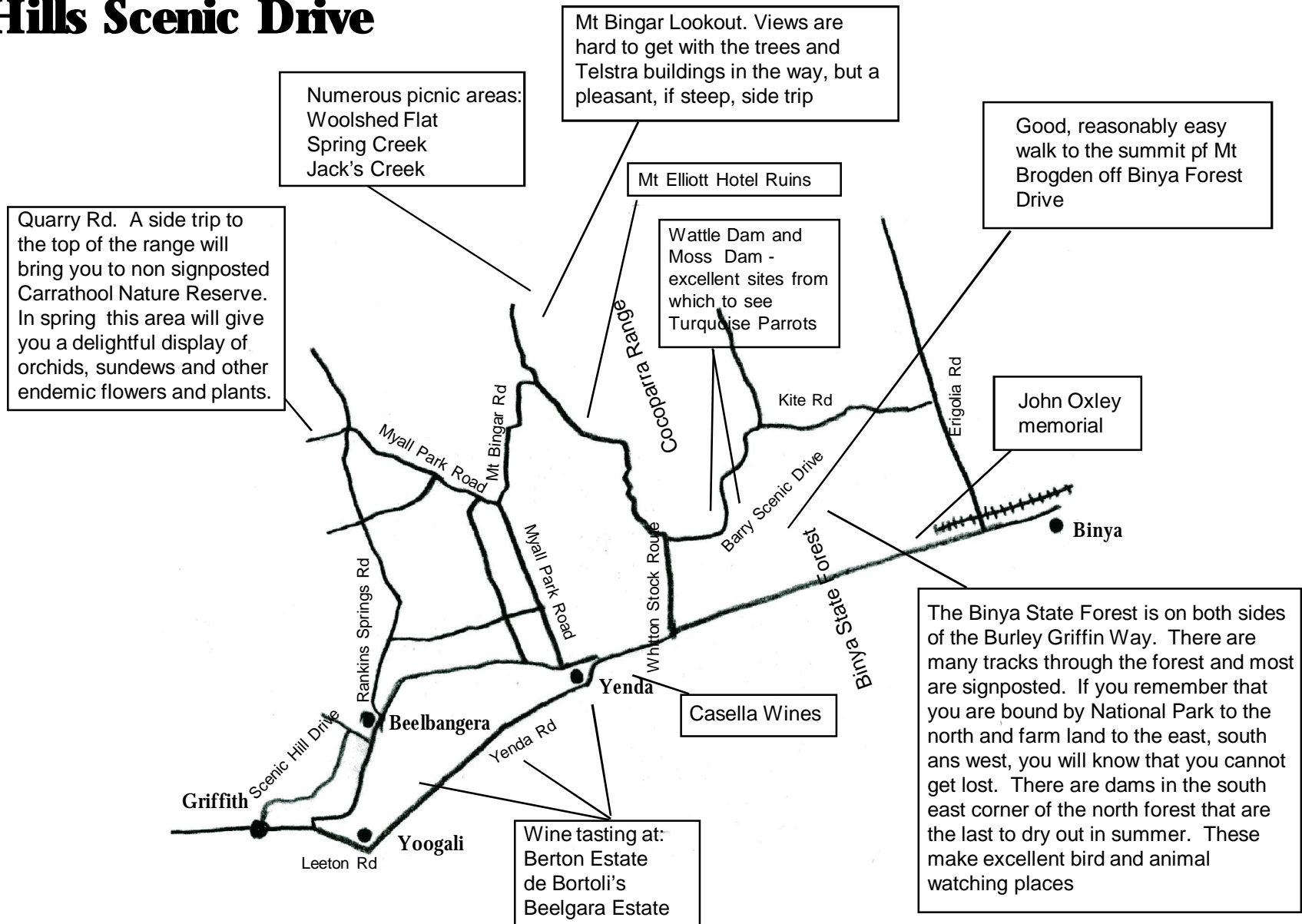
Hills and plains

Gullies and creeks

Birds and animals

# A Day in the Hills Scenic Drive

Leave Griffith via Scenic Hill Drive (follow signs to the airport then turn right at the Green Water Tower). From Beelbangera, take the Rankins Springs Rd until you get to Myall Park Rd, and turn right. Turn left at Mt Bingar Rd and follow it to the intersection at the Whitton Stock Route. Turn left for 5 km to get to the Mt Bingar Tower Rd. Return to the Whitton Stock Route and follow it south for about 10km to the intersection of Barry Scenic Drive. This part of the road is unformed and unkept. It is passable in two wheel drive in dry conditions. (From here you can take a short cut back to the Burley Griffin Way and return to Griffith.) Turn left on Barry Scenic Drive and then turn right into Kite Rd. Kite Rd will take you to Erigolia Rd where you turn right to get to Binya and the Burley Griffin Way. Turn right after crossing the railway line to Griffith and Yenda, left to Binya and Temora. Take the via Bilbul Rd if you would like to do some wine tasting at Berton Estate, de Bortoli's and Beelgara Estate Wines. Turn right at Yoogali to return to Griffith.



You can buy provisions and supplies at Beelbangera, Yenda, Bilbul and Yoogali. There are no other shops or potable water supplies enroute.