

Nundle

A scenic detour off the Thunderbolts Way will bring you to the old Goldmining town of Nundle. Founded in 1885 this historic little town marks the beginning of The Fossicker's Way. A stay in Nundle is a step back in time and prepare to be treated with real country hospitality and be ready for a yarn.

Approximate Driving Times

Gloucester - Gloryvale reserve	25	min
Gloucester - Brettli	30	min
Gloucester - Carson's Lookout	1	hr
Gloucester - Nowendoc	1.5	hr
Gloucester - Topdale Road turn off	1.75	hr
Gloucester - Walcha	2	hr
Gloucester - Uralla	2.5	hr
Gloucester - Armidale	3	hr

Picnic Spots & Toilets

You'll find riverside picnic spots dotted all along the Thunderbolts Way. Make sure you pack a picnic basket.

Gloryvale Reserve

On the banks of the Little Manning River you'll find the natural beauty of Gloryvale Reserve, a rustic picnic area with camping, caravan sites and long drop toilets.

Brettli Reserve

Shortly after crossing the Little Manning River for the third time over a narrow causeway, an entry will be seen on the right, to the **Brettli Reserve** located at the junction of the Barnard and Little Manning Rivers (picnic & toilet facilities).

Nowendoc

Take a short 3km diversion into the outpost village of Nowendoc where you will find toilets in the reserve alongside the community hall.

Cycling the Thunderbolts Way

The Climbing Cyclist

The online blog 'Climbing Cyclist' grades the Thunderbolts Way as the 12th steepest road climb in Australia, and had this to say about the ride. "The climb from Brettli up the Great Dividing Range to Walcha is very tough due to its length. With a long, flat section to contend with it's hard to find a rhythm for this entire ascent. With more than 1,200m of elevation gain only a few climbs in Australia see you gain more altitude".



Graph courtesy of Strava - depicts the ride from Barnard River Bridge to Topdale Road Junction at Walcha.

Strava

The Strava community of cyclists track their rides with other cycling enthusiasts, where they compare various details about the ride. Track your rides and runs via your iPhone, Android or GPS device, analyze your performance, and compare with friends.

www.strava.com

Gloucester

Visitor Information Centre

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AUSTRALIA



02 6538 5252

vic.information@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au

www.gloucestertourism.com.au

Things to do Thunderbolts Way Gloucester to Uralla

Thunderbolts Way is one of the most scenic stretches of road in NSW. It takes you through the rolling foothills of the Barrington Tops just north of Gloucester, and up along the steep ridges to the plateau above. Well worth a day trip.

Construction began on the Thunderbolts Way back in 1958 with the primary purpose of enabling logs from the Giro State Forest to be transported to the Gloucester timber mill. By 1961 the 21km route had been traversed by a 6.5 metre wide road. The work was arduous and dangerous, the road having to be carved out of steep, rugged country. By re-routing the road to the north, the builders avoided the notorious Hungry Hill, a one in three grade. The hill had long been considered a serious obstacle to any road. The first logs reached Gloucester in September 1961, across a new bridge over the Barnard River.

Eric Carson and his sons, Max and Terry, were responsible for the construction of this first road across the Divide to Nowendoc. Eric, the son of Frederick Carson, who founded a timber mill near Gloucester in 1934, for many years sought to convince the authorities of the benefits of such a road. With the strong support of Doug Rye, proprietor of the Gloucester Advocate, and other Gloucester citizens, official backing was eventually gained.

The road traverses country where the bushranger Thunderbolt, was active and although there was some objection to using this name it was finally

adopted. Thunderbolt's Way is the name given to the road which links Bucketts Way at Gloucester to the New England Highway at Uralla. Upgrading and sealing of the final sections was completed in 1999.

Carson's Pioneer Lookout

Carson's lookout is located on the Thunderbolt's Way approximately 45km north of Gloucester. Named after Gloucester resident Eric Carson (1913-1999). Eric was a member of the team who built the first road up the mountain back in 1961, the original road was only 32kms long. Gloucester Rotary Club constructed the lookout to commemorate the achievements of the men who blazed this route up the mountain.

Carson's lookout offers the viewer a panoramic western view over Giro, State Forests and the Barrington Tops World Heritage area. A perfect spot to enjoy the view and take a well-earned break from driving, Carson's lookout also offers parking, picnic facilities and toilets

ELEVATION | 936 metres

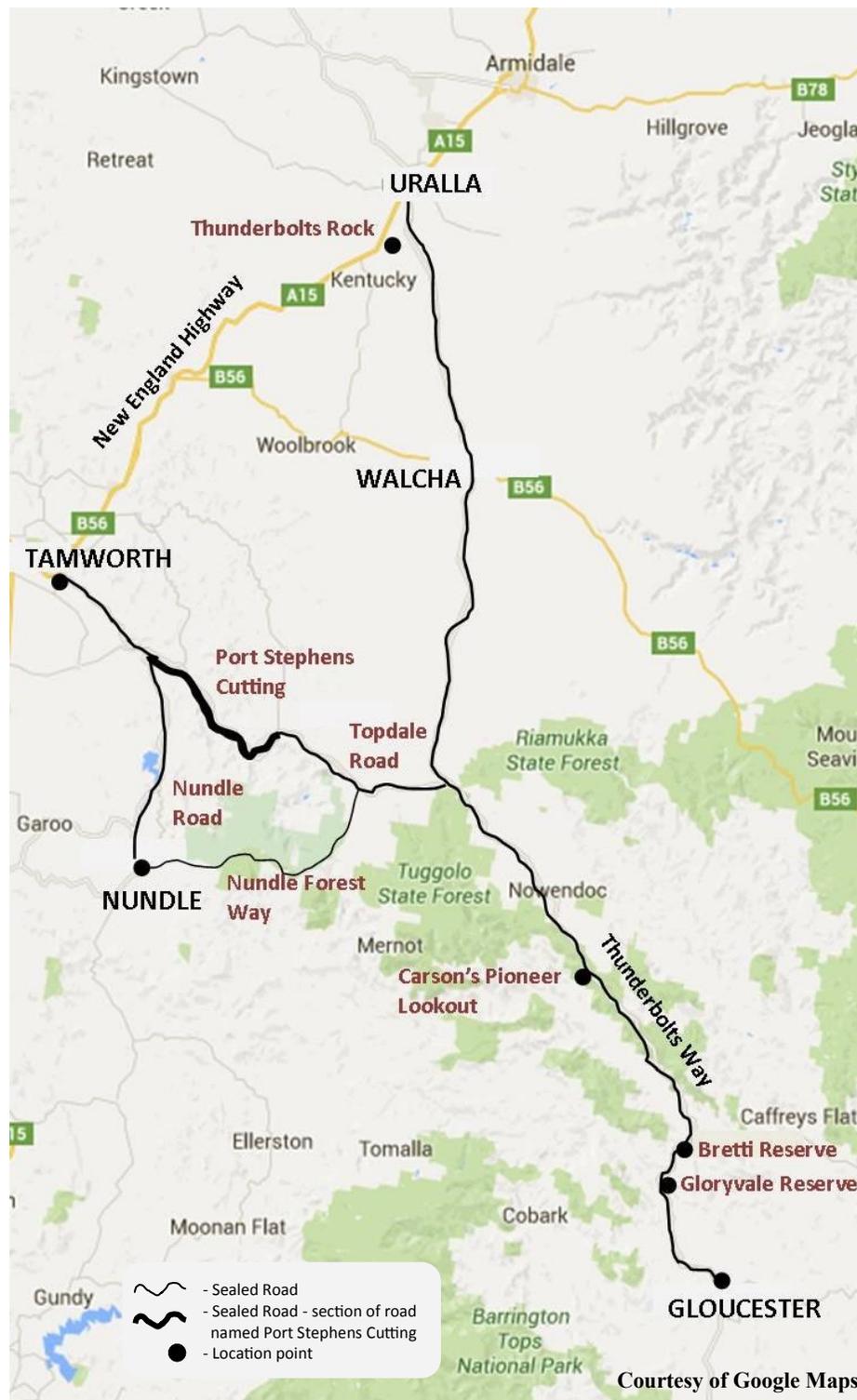
GPS-DD | Latitude: -31.655875

Longitude: 151 809275

ACCESS | Via car

DISTANCE FROM GLOUCESTER | 45km

After the steep climb, the Thunderbolts Way now traverses open undulation cattle and sheep properties. About 30km on from Nowendoc, Topdale road to Tamworth is on the left. This was the route used in the early years to bring stock and produce down from the highland to Port Stephens on the coast. The AA company developed the section of road known as Port Stephens Cutting to make a shorter route between Peel estates and Port Stephens.



Walcha

Where wild rivers run! At 1,000 metres above sea level Walcha is known as one of the best fine wool growing regions in the world. The natural beauty of the region is quite breathtaking.

The Shire is home to the magnificent Macleay Gorges and boasts some 205,000 hectares of dedicated national parks, wilderness and state forest. Parts of our Werrikimbe National Park are World Heritage listed. The Shire is also a well known trout fishing mecca, boasting some 1,500 km of trout streams which are a home to Rainbow and Brown trout.

More information | www.walchansw.com.au

Uralla

The name "Uralla" was taken by European settlers from the dialect of the local Anaiwan people, and means "meeting place". Uralla is located at the junction of the Thunderbolts Way and the New England Highway.

While in Uralla don't miss these Captain Thunderbolt related sites:

McCrossin's Mill Museum - Contains artefacts used by Captain Thunderbolt during his daring escapades.

Thunderbolt's Grave - Located in Uralla's Pioneer Cemetery, this headstone was erected by residents of Uralla as a memorial to Captain Thunderbolt.

Thunderbolt's Rock - Originally known as Split Rock, this huge cluster of granite boulders is located 6km south of Uralla on the New England Highway. The rocks were infamously used by Captain Thunderbolt as a vantage point for detecting approaching mail coaches.

More information | www.uralla.com