

## **Directions to Ridgesong (Private Road 1, Bucketty)**

These directions will safely and easily get you to *Ridgesong*, our small hideaway in Bucketty. Detailed and tedious they may seem, however those whom have failed to heed them have been known to end up exploring far more of Bucketty than they originally expected. It's all very easy however, if you know how.

1. From Sydney, take the F3 Freeway toward Newcastle, exiting off the Freeway at "PEATS RIDGE ROAD". IMPORTANT: This exit is the next one AFTER the Gosford exit, about 8-10kms further North along the FWY after the Mooney-Mooney bridge and the Gosford exit.
2. Continue on Peats Ridge Road (which changes name to MANGROVE MOUNTAIN ROAD at some point) about 10kms, then take the exit on the left which is signposted GOSFORD/WISEMANS FERRY (which will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit off Peats Ridge Rd since joining it)
3. At the STOP sign at the end of the exit ramp, turn RIGHT toward WISEMANS FERRY
4. After about 3kms, you will come to another STOP sign at the crossroads in Central Mangrove, next to the fruit juice bottling company (take a deep breath and you'll smell the sweet juice smell). Turn RIGHT toward WOLLOMBI/SINGLETON, onto GEORGE DOWNES DRIVE. After 100m or so you'll see a distance marker sign that lists Bucketty; 28kms to go.
5. There are a series of landmarks to then keep an eye out for along George Downes Drive;
  - a. After about 10kms you will come to Kulnura (you will pass a school, a landscape supply and a community hall). At Kulnura there is a General Store (ATM, petrol, groceries, takeaway, postal services, alcohol), followed soon after by a petrol station. These are the last places to buy petrol etc! About 500 metres past the petrol station there is a largish "Farm Stand" which sells a good selection of quality and mostly locally grown fruit and veg' for excellent prices (NB: Cash only).
  - b. After about 10kms beyond Kulnura, keep an eye out for a small signpost "THE LETTER A" (this is exactly as it is signposted), which is also where you will see a signpost announcing "BUCKETTY".
  - c. After The Letter A, you will begin to see "PRIVATE ROADS" off George Downes Drive, to the right. They will start at the "high numbers" and the first one you'll see will be Private Road 7
  - d. After Private Road 5 also look out for the BUCKETTY BUSHFIRE STATION tucked into the bush on the right hand side, at which point you only have 2-3 kms to go. Just over the hill after the Bushfire station you will see a dirt road to the left to Wiseman's Ferry. Then you will see a sign on the right announcing the KOOLANG OBSERVATORY (Currently also For Sale). Also the speed limit will drop to 80km/h as you approach Koolang. Continue along George Downes Drive.
  - e. The next Private Road will be 3. Once you then get to number 2, you have only a few 100 metres to go before Private Road 1, which as per all other Private Roads, will be on your right. Another thing to look for is that the speed limit will drop again (from 80km/h) to 60km/h just before Private Road 1.

- f. Turn RIGHT into Private Road 1. Take special care for oncoming traffic as it is at the crest of a hill and it's a bit of a blind view ahead. As you enter Private Rd 1 there will be about a dozen letter boxes on your right, one of which will be a large pink pig (no...this isn't our letter box by the way), and an electricity pole on your left affixed to which is a white painted plow disk labeled "WALKERS RUN".
6. On Private Road 1, go no more than 25 metres beyond the letter boxes before TAKING THE TRACK TO THE RIGHT. There will be another electricity pole here, affixed to which is a small wooden sign labeled "LOT 4". This track is then about 500m long, and we're the last property at the end.
7. The track is fairly well graded, and you will pass a small dam on the left, followed immediately by a landscape gardened property on the left, followed then by a house on the right hand side. Watch out for a mad German Shepherd which may run out from the property on the right, barking loudly and running in front of your car. We'll be listening out for the barking which from our point of view will herald your arrival. Continue past these houses; the track then continues through an open gate (YOU'VE ARRIVED!) and down a steep decline. Welcome to *Ridgesong*.
8. At the end of the driveway you will see a bright blue house with a green roof. The driveway ends at a post and rail fence, please park either to the left or the right as you like.

Last thoughts:

Please note that there should be OPTUS mobile reception at Bucketty, however TELSTRA mobiles will have no reception whatsoever.

If travelling at dusk or in the evening please be careful of wallabies springing onto the road as they are particularly active at those times of day. Wallabies tend to travel and feed in small groups or mating pairs, so if you see one watch out (even more) for a second one within the next 50 metres or so.

If for some reason you accidentally go past Private Road 1, continue along until you can safely U-turn, which will require you to go for about another 2kms. Take care at LEMMINGS CORNER which is a series of tight and bumpy S-bends as you descend the hill beyond Private Road 1. Beyond Lemmings Corner there will eventually be some properties along the road where you can turn around using their driveways.

Please remember that there is nothing else that heralds you being in Bucketty, as you might be used to finding in a suburban area. There are no shops etc (other than those mentioned already) to look for, no Maccas, no Starbucks, no traffic lights, not even many houses visible from George Downes Drive itself. Enjoy the drive through the bushland and unwind.

Ensure you exit the freeway with sufficient fuel for your return – there are very limited opportunities to refuel, especially after standard working hours.

Estimated driving time from the freeway exit to *Ridgesong* is 45 minutes.