

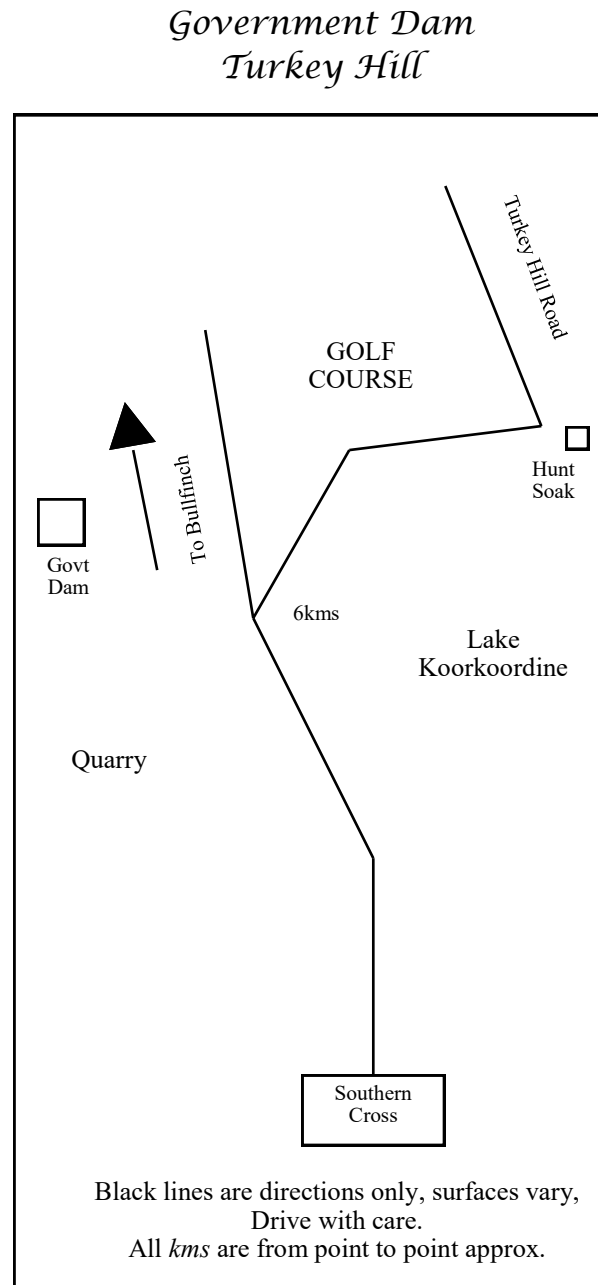
Government Dam

Government Dam is on the Bullfinch Road adjacent to the turn off for Hunts Soak. The discovery of gold set off a chain reaction which in space of 2 years placed the public Works Department under extreme pressure to provide even the most basic water supplies to the area. Hunts Soaks were not enough with an ever expanding population. Along with the rapid development of the eastern railway it was also necessary to establish a good water supply for the locomotives.

In this area constructed simple in a rock out crop with natural catchment is one such basic water supply. As well as the railway's use it supplemented water for stock, horses and men. During the boon year it still contains water today.



Lake Koorkoordine



Lake Koorkoordine, Hunts Soak, Turkey Hill & Government Dam



Hunts Soak



Hunts Soak

Many wells, were established along what became known as Hunts Track, later called the Old York Road. These watering holes sign posted the way to the future of the Eastern Goldfields.

Explorer Charles Cooke Hunt located a number of aboriginal water holes and native springs. Although these water places were well known to Aboriginals they were at first reluctant to divulge their locations, as the water was a source on which their lives depended. Explorers would never have reached these remote areas without the assistance of their Aboriginal guides.

Hunt established Koorkoordine Well in 1866 with a work force of Pensioner Soldiers, probationary convicts and their native guide. The excavation of some wells took hundreds of man hours and up to a month at a time to complete. They were carefully lined with slabs of granite each fitting neatly into position (no cement used). Water then seeps in from the surrounding granite outcrop. Hunt was impressed with this particular well. It was 10ft in diameter x 10 ft deep, which could supply 10 bullocks, 10 horses and 15 men for a month. He set up a camp of three supply huts for future work parties.

Risely and Toomey camped here prior to finding gold 4kms to the south. At the time the well was dry, they therefore waited on the rains before using the stars of the Southern Cross as their guide to return them to Golden Valley. They called the place of this find, Southern Cross after the constellation that guided them.

Turkey Hill

Turkey Hill road passes close to Hunts Soak and proceeds through the Golf Course a few kilometres north of the Soak. There is a well defined clearing on the hillside. This was once an aboriginal corroboree ground. Wild turkey or bustards used to abound here. It was at this site that one of our early settlers grew what was the first wheat crop in the Yilgarn. His crop was grown to provide hay for the team passing through. A very different story to today. Take time to enjoy the great views back to Southern Cross and Lake Koorkoordine from here.



Hunts Soak



Lake Koorkoordine

Named after the Aboriginal words Koorkoor - 'meat' and dine - 'place of'.

Due to the water and wind erosion over the years some very interesting miniature caves, cliffs and bays await your discovery. On the Bullfinch Road, just north of the lake, you can identify the quarry site, used to supply foundations for a proposed air training school. The school never eventuated. However \$60,000 worth of engine bed foundations in the middle of a wheat field adjacent to Southern Cross are the remaining proof of the unfinished project.



Lake Koorkoordine

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