

Settlers Arms at St Albans Sunday 13th February 2022

A cloudy morning saw our members meeting at the Twin Servo Southbound in readiness for our drive to At Albans, way up along the Hawkesbury River. President Brian travelled with Greg Minor in his 2011 Pontiac Van, Raymond and Helen travelled with Richard and Maxine in the Presidential Cadillac Escalade, Mel and Peggy in their beautiful blue Cadillac, Paul and Sunny in his pale blue Chev convertible, Paul Schofield in his new blue Mustang, and Karen and Greg in their town car due to an electrical problem in his Mustang. Thirteen in all, in six vehicles. The weather was very pleasant, in the low 20's.

With Paul in the lead car, and Richard and Greg bringing up the rear, everything went smoothly all the way to the punts at Wisemans Ferry. We needed two crossings, one at Wisemans Ferry and another a kilometer or so on in order to avoid the segment of dirt road on the route that heads straight to St Albans from the northern side of Wisemans Ferry. We arrived at the Settlers Arms at St Albans between 12.30 pm and 12.45 pm, depending on which punt we caught, you can only fit so many cars on the punt.. This hotel is quite unique, and one of the very oldest in Australia, established in 1836 and built from convict-hewn sandstone. The hotel was a stopover for Cobb and Co. stagecoaches traveling between Sydney and Newcastle in the nineteenth century. The hotel boasts some good accommodation, a saltwater pool, tennis and bike riding, the perfect spot for a short getaway.

There is plenty of room for dining and entertainment, and we were treated to some pleasant feet tapping music during our lunch. Lunches offered could be described as 'good pub food', the only drawback being a 10% Sunday surcharge. The staff were very friendly and super efficient. The meals were more than adequate and the beers cold, so how could you better that? A walk around the yard finds a few old vehicles and the like, and some friendly well fed dogs who checked us out in our dining area. By 2.30 pm we had all departed for home, after a most pleasant day all round. I am sure that a similar trip could be popular sometime in 2023.

Cheers,
Richard

As an extra, Greg and I did the run home through Berowra Waters. Nice drive and very steep road with lots to see. All in all, a great run.

Brian







