

## St. Albans, Hawkesbury Trip

Activities Officer, Noelene, organised another interesting outing for our members on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009. We “rendezvoused” at the delightful village of Spencer in the inner Central Coast on the Hawkesbury River where we enjoyed morning tea at the coffee shop.



It was a very still day and the river reflections combined with the autumn trees made us reluctant to continue on.

However, we headed off to Wisemans Ferry and then onto a second ferry to cross Webbs Creek, an interesting and scenic area.



Driving towards St. Albans there are interesting sandstone churches and a courthouse but unfortunately these weren't open for visitors.

We had a quick stop at Price Morris Cottage where the owner (a Morris descendant) arrived and explained that the cottage is Heritage listed - circa 1837-1845. The cottage has been carefully restored and now offers an ideal 'getaway' in the McDonald Valley.

It was a short drive to the Settlers Arms Inn, also in the McDonald Valley, for lunch. The Inn was established in 1836 and built from convict hewn sandstone. The Inn became a stopover for Cobb and Co Stage Coaches along the Old Northern Road between Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle.



The Inn is still a fully licensed hotel and has been upgraded, now offering ensuite accommodation. The open fireplaces and lovely cedar interior recall the days of the early pioneers.

After a quick stop at the St. Albans Old General Cemetery we headed for home. It seemed every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> home tucked away in the trees or along the River were for sale - perhaps a reflection of current economic times !



Our happy travellers outside the Settlers Arms Inn

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