

**MID-Week Drive.**

**ARMS OF AUSTRALIA INN.**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.**



Twenty-one intrepid travellers assembled at the Eastern Creek Ampol Foodary on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August enjoying perfect winter weather for the anticipated journey to Emu Plains.



We were to retrace the journey of the early gold miners who travelled this way by foot or horseback in the 1850s in their search for riches in the newly discovered goldfields over the Blue Mountains.



Our journey was a bit easier in the **My Car Club** fleet of exotic and modern cars along a modern motorway and our immediate destination was, just like the early travellers: **The Arms of Australia Inn**, established in 1840, with licence from 1841.



Being educated!

Once there, we learned of the Inn's role, like many in the area at that time, providing accommodation and refreshment to dusty travellers. We learned that over 20 similar inns operated in the near vicinity..... but then the coming of the railway, which reached Bathurst in the 1870s, meant that travellers to the gold fields by-passed the Emu Plains Inns on their train journeys to the west.





The **Arms of Australia Inn** is now a fascinating **museum** of artefacts from these earlier times. It was established after a complete rebuild in the 1970s and is staffed by volunteers...it is the only remaining example of the 1840s, 50s and 60s inns in the area.



But not to worry, our travellers were able to enjoy their refreshments after the Museum visit at the nearby **O'Donoghue's Pub** where great refreshments still continue to follow the tradition established by **The Arms of Australia Inn**!

Writer of the day: **Ken Linfoot**