

## THE EBENEZER EVENT.

### Mid-week drive.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

It appears that Mark's communication with the weather gods was once again successful with predicted bad weather put on hold till late afternoon!



Meeting place as usual for events of this ilk was Maccas at Windsor and with all present and accounted for, the entourage of 26 people took off at the designated time of 10.30.

A reasonably short but pleasant drive ensued to Ebenezer Church (**Coromandel Rd.**) with Windsor and Wilberforce quickly fading into the background.



Ebenezer Uniting Church is Australia's oldest functioning church, having been constructed between 1809 and 1824. It was the first Presbyterian church in the colony..... worship began on the site as early as 1803 when 15 families, under the leadership of Pastor James Mein, met beneath the tree (approximately 350 years old) which still stands adjacent to the church today.

The school at Ebenezer was opened in 1810 under the headmastership of John Youl, a layman of the Anglican Church. It operated out of the church until the 1880s when a public school was built. When this burned down shortly afterwards, the school returned to the church until the present public school opened in 1902.

The pioneer families who worshipped at the Church were a vital part of the development of the Hawkesbury as the food bowl for the colony. Most of them supported Governor Bligh at the time of the Rum Rebellion and made significant contributions to commerce and government administration. Of interest is that even today, so strong was their support, babies continue to have Bligh as middle names!

Ebenezer Church has a unique place in the heritage of the Christian faith and the pioneer farming of the nation. The Church is an active congregation with a living history.....many of the families are descendants of the original **Coromandel** settlers!



For the princely cost of \$3.00 per head the group was given a very informative talk by a resident and previous principal of the local school, this talk underlining the significant part this area played in the many facets of Sydney's development....but we did miss out on the church's legendary scones and cream!



After the 30 minute talk the crew spent some time wandering around the grounds taking in the sights (sites?)...the Hawkesbury river, the graves, the school house and the veritable church itself!



Now time for lunch....off to Tractor 828....a reasonably wide choice of courses and also reasonably priced. Judging by the noise everyone was quite satisfied!



Just some of our cars on the day!



Well done Mark.

**ED.**

