

Tocal Homestead outing – 28-7-2024

Sunday 28th dawned nice and sunny so it looked like our run up to Paterson in the Hunter Valley would be a pleasant day's excursion. The Mustang purred along the M1, reaching the appointed rendezvous at the Wyong Ampol Foodary just on 9am. The Hertz contingent was already in place to greet the attendees, which unfortunately only numbered nine people mounted in just four cars. A quick coffee and a snack was partaken of then it was back on the road in convoy heading for our destination.

Upon arrival, we discovered that we were to leave the vehicles in a large carpark well away from the homestead and buses were provided to transport all customers almost a kilometre down to the venue. This exercise occupied a good half hour as there were many other people eager to enjoy the annual Tocal open day. Depositing the passengers at the main entry to the grounds, we all ambled through the gate to take in the many colonial exhibits on display.



The rustic exhibits were very interesting and I saw many items that had escaped attention on our last visit to Tocal 12 months ago. The biggest difference was in the ambient temperature which was decidedly sharper than last year – the car dashboard thermometer read around 13 degrees, but the wind-chill factor made it feel more like only three! (Amongst the many creatures I saw a brass monkey heading for the blacksmith's shop in search of a welder!)



Around noon the decision was taken to return to the cars and break out the picnic goodies, but the weather was becoming even more icy, so Gail and I decided to hit the track for home, stopping off at a pleasant little riverside park near Toronto where we spread out our repast on the table and benches provided. Arriving home about 4.30pm I noticed the Muzzy had clocked up 345 kilometres. Mark sure likes to give us a good run – thanks mate!

Scribe of the day: **Andrew Yeend**