

Mid-Week Drive – Brooklyn

The Angler's Rest Hotel

Wednesday 26th March 2025

The Anglers Rest now stands as the last surviving hotel of the many that sprung up during the mid to late 19th century construction of the main northern railway line. It was a civil engineering masterpiece of the time. The large number of navvies employed (who camped along the railway line being built) required watering holes to satisfy their thirst. In addition, their managers required the accommodation provided by the hotels which were built of weatherboard and not intended to remain permanently.

Richard Palmer had been the publican of the Tourist's Hotel since 1891. This hotel was some distance away from the railway station and not as busy as the more conveniently positioned Brooklyn Hotel. This led to Mr Palmer obtaining the licence required to build The Hawkesbury River Railway Hotel which was completed on 3rd July 1901. This hotel continues to stand today as The Angler's Rest Hotel.

On the day of our lunch the weather proved to be unexpectedly pleasant, given that we were in the midst of a rainy spell. The fact that we were there at all was touch and go after Mark and Tony had waited over an hour for their meal when they visited in December. When they were told that they would have to wait a further hour, Mark told management that he would cancel his MCC event if service was not forthcoming immediately. Strangely, their orders were served forthwith!

On the day, service to our group was generally up to standard and the quality of food, particularly my fish and chips, was excellent.

The usual MCC banter and car discussions ensued for a very pleasant hour and a half until one member (who shall be nameless) stood up and announced that he was bidding us all farewell. That served as the trigger for the gathering to slowly dissipate.

A group of 7 energetic souls took themselves for a walk around the waterfront of Brooklyn whilst the balance of the 20 attendees drove off to pastures new.

A varied range of horseless carriages, befitting the eclectic nature of MCC, attended including representatives of Morris, Triumph, Ford, Citroen, Porsche, BMW and of course Mercedes Benz.

The photographs below, kindly provided by our indefatigable photographer Andrew Yeend and event organiser extraordinaire Mark, are shown below as a pictorial tale of the goings on of the day.

Thanks again to Mark for organising and Andrew for the photographs!

Arnold



