

Morpeth  
Sunday, 27th July 2025



It's time to meander along some back country roads to the historic village of Morpeth that skirts the Hunter River north west of Newcastle.

Club members and their families are invited, with their Alfa(s), for another open road drive, this time to the rural village of Morpeth. Our lunch venue will be "Common Grounds", Shop 4/142 Swan Street Morpeth. The road surface is bitumen the whole way. Our journey covers forest, mountains and open country with great scenery along the way. Perfect Sunday morning Alfa territory!

Naturally there will be a morning tea stop along the way in the quaint village of Wollombi.

Please RSVP by July 24th via email or SMS with membership # and numbers attending. This is required for catering purposes at both of our break locations.

#### **START LOCATION.**

Cowan Rest Area & Truck Stop, Pacific Highway Cowan. (Our usual starting place for North and North-West excursions.) Meet at 8:30AM for an 8:45AM briefing and departure by 9:00AM.

#### **THE ROUTE.**

We will head north up the Old Pacific Highway, through Central Mangrove, Laguna and Wollombi as the first sector.

After Morning Tea, sector two commences where we will continue through Pelton into Cessnock, Farley & Lorn. The organised drive will end at lunch. Detailed route instructions will be provided on the day. Approximate driving distance is around 167 kms with a driving time of 2.5 hours.

#### **PRE-REQUISITES.**

A full tank of fuel, your favourite driving shoes and a navigator who is on good terms with you!



### Morning Tea.

Myrtle & Stone,  
2877 Wollombi Road,  
Wollombi.

<https://www.myrtleandstone.com/>



### Lunch.

Common Grounds,  
Shop 4/142 Swan Street,  
Morpeth.

<https://www.facebook.com/cafemorpeth/>



The Club looks forward to having you with us on July 27th. Please remember to RSVP by July 24th to Peter George either by email ([pgeorge1957@bigpond.com](mailto:pgeorge1957@bigpond.com)) or SMS to 0439 882 483.

### **Morpeth History.**

Morpeth, New South Wales, boasts a rich history as a significant river port in the Hunter Valley during the 19th century. Originally known as Green Hills, it was renamed Morpeth in 1834, after a town in Northumberland, England. The town's prosperity stemmed from its strategic location on the Hunter River, facilitating trade with Sydney and surrounding regions.

**Edward Charles Close:** Selected the land and developed the town as a river port.

**William Arnott:** Established a bakery in Swan Street that later became the famous Arnott's Biscuits.

**Caleb Soul:** Owned Taylors Bond Store and later founded Soul Pattinson.

**Industries:** Morpeth was home to various industries, including bakeries, bond stores, foundries, and even soap works.

### **Today:**

Morpeth is a well-preserved historic town, attracting visitors with its heritage buildings, boutique shops, and cafes.

The Morpeth Heritage Walk allows visitors to explore the town's significant sites and learn about its history.

Morpeth Museum, located in the former courthouse, showcases the town's rich past.

Morpeth's journey from a bustling river port to a charming heritage town reflects the changing landscape of the Hunter Valley and New South Wales.