

Oberon Pioneers Classic Run.

Friday 15th March 2019.

Eligible vehicles please assemble at the Fair Ground at 10am for a safety briefing and departure at 10:30am.

Be aware that there is a weight limit of **13 tons** and a height limit of **3.6 metres** on the route chosen.

Total distance is 100 kilometres. All roads have normal gradients, sealed and well signposted. No fuel is available on the route. Toilets at mid distance at the O'Connell Hotel lunch stop.

ITINERARY.

0 klm Exit Fair Ground, turn right(South) on Ross St. Right into Blight. Continue to Tee Then Right into North St. Continue down the hill past the Hospital to (carefully) cross over Oberon's main street.

1.4 You are now on Lowes Mount Rd. Continue driving North. Notice on left, Oberon Station and premises of the active Oberon/Tarana railway restoration group.

1.8 At roundabout keep straight on. Notice on right, major extension work taking place at Borg Industries, Oberon's major employer. Some of the restored Oberon/Tarana rail track can be seen on the right. It now extends some 5 kilometres.

15.7 Crossroads, straight on.

19.7 Fine view of "Evans Crown" National Park on the right horizon.

21.0 Tee junction, turn Right. Sign posted to Tarana.

21.2 Notice historic homestead "Mutton Falls" on right.

21.7 **Caution** crest in road, go slowly over the old Oberon/Tarana railway line. Awaiting restoration.

25.3 Tee junction turn Left. The Tarana valley is the general area where gold was discovered in 1823 by surveyors mapping the Fish River and hushed up by the Government until 1851 to avoid a gold rush which would have depleted Sydney of its work force.

29.9 **Caution** level crossing. Active main western rail line – no booms/ gates.

30.8 Notice the enormous railway embankment on right.

31.7 Narrow wooden bridge. No passing. **13ton limit.**

31.9 Village of Gemalla.

36.4 Village of Loxley (watch out for Robin Hood).

42.0 Brick arch under rail line. **Height limit 3.5 metres.**

44.5 Narrow wooden bridge over rail line. No passing. **13ton limit.**

47.0 Narrow wooden bridge over rail line. No passing. **13ton limit.**

48.5 Village of Brewongle.

54.6 Tee junction. Turn Left onto main Oberon/Bathurst road to O'Connell.

62.0 Wonderful vista of the whole of the O’Connell plains. Discovered in 1813 by Surveyor Evans, looking for fertile land to grow crops for the Colony of Sydney and still used for that purpose to-day.

65.0 O’Connell Village. Memorial Avenue of trees, honouring WW1 soldiers.

66.1 On left, O’Connell historic Hotel. Lunch stop. Relax for around 2 hours.

Indoor/ outdoor seating.

Meals are ordered and paid for at the end of the bar.

Drinks are ordered and paid for at the bar.

Take care when leaving the Hotel to cross O’Connell Road and enter Box Flat Rd directly opposite to the Hotel.

67.5 Tee junction, turn Left onto Beaconsfield Rd.

86.5 Tee junction, turn Left, signposted to Oberon.

97.7 Fine view of Oberon dam on right.

99.7 On the left is the entrance to the Oberon township lookout. Perhaps you could visit it later as it offers great views over the town.

99.8 Right turn here for direct access to the town centre.

Please drive carefully and take your time to enjoy Oberon’s magnificent scenery.

Alan Laing. Membership secretary for Oberon Heritage and Collectors Club Inc.

Historical Notes.

1..... Evans Crown is located 3km south east of the village of Tarana. Access is from Honeysuckle Falls Road off the Lithgow, Tarana, Sodwalls Rd. There is an information board at the start of the walking track. The reserve comprises 425 hectares with spectacular granite formations. The summit at Crown Rock is 1104 metres above sea level. Evans Crown is a nature reserve because of its outstanding geomorphology, but it also conserves a range of native fauna. In late 1813 Assistant Surveyor, George William Evans and five companions travelled over the Blue Mountains following the trail by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth. On December 1,1813, Evans wrote in his diary: “My course is down to the Riverlett (Fish River), it appears to lead me north if west. On the north side of it at this place is a remarkable sugar loaf hill having a stone peak of it, which I named after myself. I am more pleased with this country every day; it is a great extent of grazing land and well-watered by running streams in almost every valley”.

2..... The historic O’Connell Hotel, opened in 1865, is in the hamlet of O’Connell, halfway between Oberon and Bathurst. Featured in Rex Newell’s book “Famous Australian Pubs” the Hotel offers fine food in charming surroundings – whether dinner by the fireside in Winter or a pub lunch under a spreading elm tree in summer. Accommodation also available.