

DRIVING TO SHAHZADA, WHICH ROAD? updated 14/4/09, 29/6/09, 14/7/09.

There are 2 roads from Wisemans Ferry to St Albans on either side of the Macdonald River. Both roads are 20 km in length.

The Settlers Rd, which continues on from Wisemans Ferry Rd (from Gosford direction) has 10 km unsealed. On **14/7/09**, the unsealed section of this road was found to be in reasonable condition for an unsealed, earth formed road. There were pot holes and corrugations. Some loose gravel was “slippery”.

(14/4/09) The St Albans Rd which starts at the Webbs Creek Ferry has been fully sealed. This is the best road to use from Wisemans Ferry for normal size vehicles including those towing small floats and small caravans. The problem for those using St Albans Road is the St Albans Bridge which has width, length and vehicle weight limitations.

(14/7/09) The St Albans Bridge still has a gantry on both sides of the road for part of the bridge, making the entry to the bridge a potential problem for long or wide vehicles. The bridge, which is a single lane, ie no passing or overtaking, has a **limit of 7.5 metres for vehicle length, 3 metres for vehicle width, 15 tons gross vehicle weight and a 10km /h speed limit.** Long or wide vehicles will need to swing wide when entering the bridge from the St Albans Road / Branch Road side. There is a give way sign on the St Albans Village end of the bridge approach. **Large vehicles are advised to use Settlers Road and avoid the bridge.**

During the running of the Shahzada, please use the St Albans Road in preference to Settlers road, since Settlers road will be used for most legs of the event from Monday to Thursday.

The third way into St Albans, from Bucketty on the Wollombi Road, is 35 km unsealed. On **14/7/09**, the Wollombi Road from Bucketty was found to be in reasonable condition for an unsealed, earth formed road. The road is pot holed with corrugations. If this road is used, take it slow, much of this road is one lane wide, watch for vehicles approaching, also watch the edges as there are no safety fences. There are a few overhanging bushes as you descend the hill and expect stock on the road in the Common.

(29/6/09) For drivers of large rigs, floats and any vehicle over 4 tons or over 10 metres in length, approaching via Singleton. The section from Broke to Wollombi via Paynes Crossing is closed to vehicles more than 4 tonnes and 10 metres in length, due to the condition of Cunneens bridge at Wollombi, requiring a detour via Cessnock. The road between Broke and Wollombi is also very narrow in part with no guard rail.

(14/7/09) A section of Wisemans Ferry Road between Gunderman and Wisemans Ferry, near Gunderman Creek, is one lane due to closure of the river side lane. There is an automatic “road works” traffic light controlling this section. There is likely to be a few minutes delay at the traffic light controlled section. There are also works occurring on 2 bridges between the “Deviation” in Wisemans Ferry Road (down hill from Mangrove Mountain) and Spencer. Bedlam Creek is running one lane and a give way sign, whilst Iron Bark Creek has an automatic traffic control light.

Please exercise special care on the corners in the unsealed parts of Settlers Road and Wollombi Rd (from Bucketty).

Bicentennial & Lower Portland Roads are totally unsuitable for floats, trailers & caravans.

All roads in the area are narrow & winding, drive with care & especially observe the low gear signs on the hill descending into Wisemans Ferry on the Old Northern Road.

Approaching From	Roads to Use	Roads to Avoid
Windsor	Via South Maroota & Old Northern Road, large or long vehicles use main vehicular ferry at Wisemans Ferry and Settlers Road Small light vehicles can use either vehicular ferry at Wisemans Ferry, but please use St Albans Road Monday to Thursday to minimise the impact on the rides.	Bi-Centennial Rd and Lower Portland Rd
Sydney	Old Northern Road, large or long vehicles use main vehicular ferry at Wisemans Ferry and Settlers Road. Small light vehicles can use either Ferry, but please use St Albans Road Monday to Thursday, to minimise the impact on the rides.	
Gosford	Wisemans Ferry Road which becomes Settlers Road on the St Albans side of the main Wisemans Ferry.	Don't cross the ferry (unless you need fuel).
Bucketty	St Albans via Wollombi Rd (35 km dirt road, winding & narrow.) You must not leave the road in the St Albans Common.	Get fuel before entering the area.
Singleton	Approach via Cessnock instead of Paynes Crossing and Cunneens Bridge.	Paynes Crossing and Cunneens Bridge, due to the state of Cunneens Bridge.

This version of the article about the roads leading to St Albans is from the web site www.shahzadareults.org . If we know about substantial changes to this information in the week leading up to Shahzada the web site file will be updated.