

DRIVING TO SHAHZADA, WHICH ROAD? Updated 13/5/10, 13/7/10.

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 **13/7/10**, the unsealed section of this road from Lower Macdonald to about 2 km past Wrights Creek was found to be fairly potholed. The remainder of the unsealed section had just been graded and the grader was found parked at Wrights Creek. When it dries out, this road can be expected to be quite dusty.

(13/5/10) 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.

(13/7/10) The St Albans Bridge still has a gantry on one sides of the road for about half of the bridge, restricting width. There are bollards on the St Albans Road side of the bridge to limit the width and length vehicles entering the bridge. The bridge, which is a single lane, ie no passing or overtaking, still 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 **13/7/10**, 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 and quite greasy in part in the wet. If this road is used, take it slowly, 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.

(13/7/10) For drivers of large rigs, floats and any vehicle over 4 tons weight or over 10 metres in length or 2.5 metres in height, approaching via Singleton. The section from Broke to Wollombi via Paynes Crossing is closed to vehicles weighing more than 4 tonnes or 10 metres in length or 2.5 metres in height, 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. The new concrete bridge right beside the old wooden bridge is well advanced in construction.

(13/7/10) 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. A road works crew was working on this section on 13/7/10. There were also road works near Cohens Creek a few kms on the Wisemans Ferry side of Spencer.

(13/7/10) Roadworks in the area of Thompsons Bridge, south of Laguna.

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 of Shahzada 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 of Shahzada, 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. Last fuel Cessnock.	Paynes Crossing and Cunneens Bridge, due to the state of Cunneens Bridge.

This article about the roads leading to St Albans will also appear on the web site www.shahzadareults.org . If there are substantial changes to this information in the week leading up to Shahzada the web site file will be updated.