

# Wonderful Wisemans



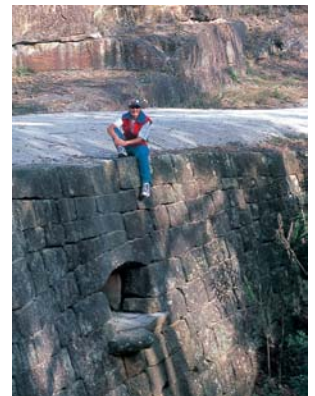
## Wisemans Ferry

Wisemans Ferry is a small historic riverside village, located at the northern end of Old Northern Road, at a sweeping bend in the Hawkesbury River. Surrounded by towering sandstone cliffs, it is close to a number of national parks and the majestic river provides a range of water activities.

### Things To Do and See

- **Wisemans Ferry Park** is located on the bend in the river and is a great spot for family gatherings and get togethers with friends. There are gas and wood BBQs, picnic facilities, children's playgrounds, a kiosk, toilets and wide open grassy spaces. Voted Sydney's best park by a major Sydney radio station.
- **Play a round of golf** at the picturesque course on the flat which hugs the Hawkesbury River. Casual golfers are welcome but you may have to share the fairways with the local birdlife.
- **Walk the Convict Trail**, just a short distance along Settlers Road, west of the car ferry crossing. Carved from Hawkesbury sandstone by chain gang convicts between 1826 and 1834, the **Old Great North Road** is a magnificent engineering achievement. A **return walk of two hours** will take you along the most spectacular section of the road, where there are interpretive signs provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service explaining the road's unique characteristics. Look out for other fascinating features along the way, like convict-carved graffiti, the remains of a well, building foundations and stocks as well as Hangman's Cave. This walk is a must do!
- **The Mill Creek Camping Area** is a short drive along Wisemans Ferry Road, east of the car ferry crossing. There are two walking tracks into Dharug National Park; The Grass Tree Circuit Walking Track (2km) and the Circuit Track (11km with steep climbs). The four camping areas provide basic facilities and bookings are essential during peak periods (fees apply).
- **Hawkins Lookout** is high above Wisemans Ferry on the western side of Old Northern Road. This was one of the most difficult sections of the Great North Road to build and there is a Convict Trail marker at the lookout. The lookout offers brilliant views over the Hawkesbury River and picnic tables are provided.
- **Wisemans Inn Hotel** was Solomon Wiseman's original residence. Break your journey at this historic sandstone building and enjoy entertainment every Sunday.

- **Cruise the Hawkesbury River** with a guided cruise on the Leisure Lass. Departing from the main wharf on weekends, enjoy the peaceful waterway of the Hawkesbury River. Or with a group of friends, hire a boat from Able Hawkesbury River Houseboats and make your own fun aboard your home away from home.
- **The Ferry Artists Gallery**, located in the village centre, displays local artworks for sale. Open on weekends, you can see an array original artworks and hand crafted pieces.
- **Wisemans Ferry's historic cemetery** is situated east of the village along Singleton Road. Relive the area's history through stories on the headstones. Solomon Wiseman is buried here as well as many villagers who tragically lost their lives during the hardships of colonial life.
- **Hawkesbury River Car Ferries** cross the river just as they have done since 1827. Watch the gentle pace of life at the Wisemans Ferry, taking travellers to St Albans or Spencer and Mangrove Mountain on the Central Coast. The Webbs Creek Ferry is the start of the scenic St Albans loop drive.
- **Dine in Wisemans** at inviting cafes (log fires in winter), or bring your own picnic lunch and while away the day on your own riverside spot.
- **Bushwalking** around Wisemans Ferry is a popular activity. See our guide sheet titled "Walks around Wisemans".

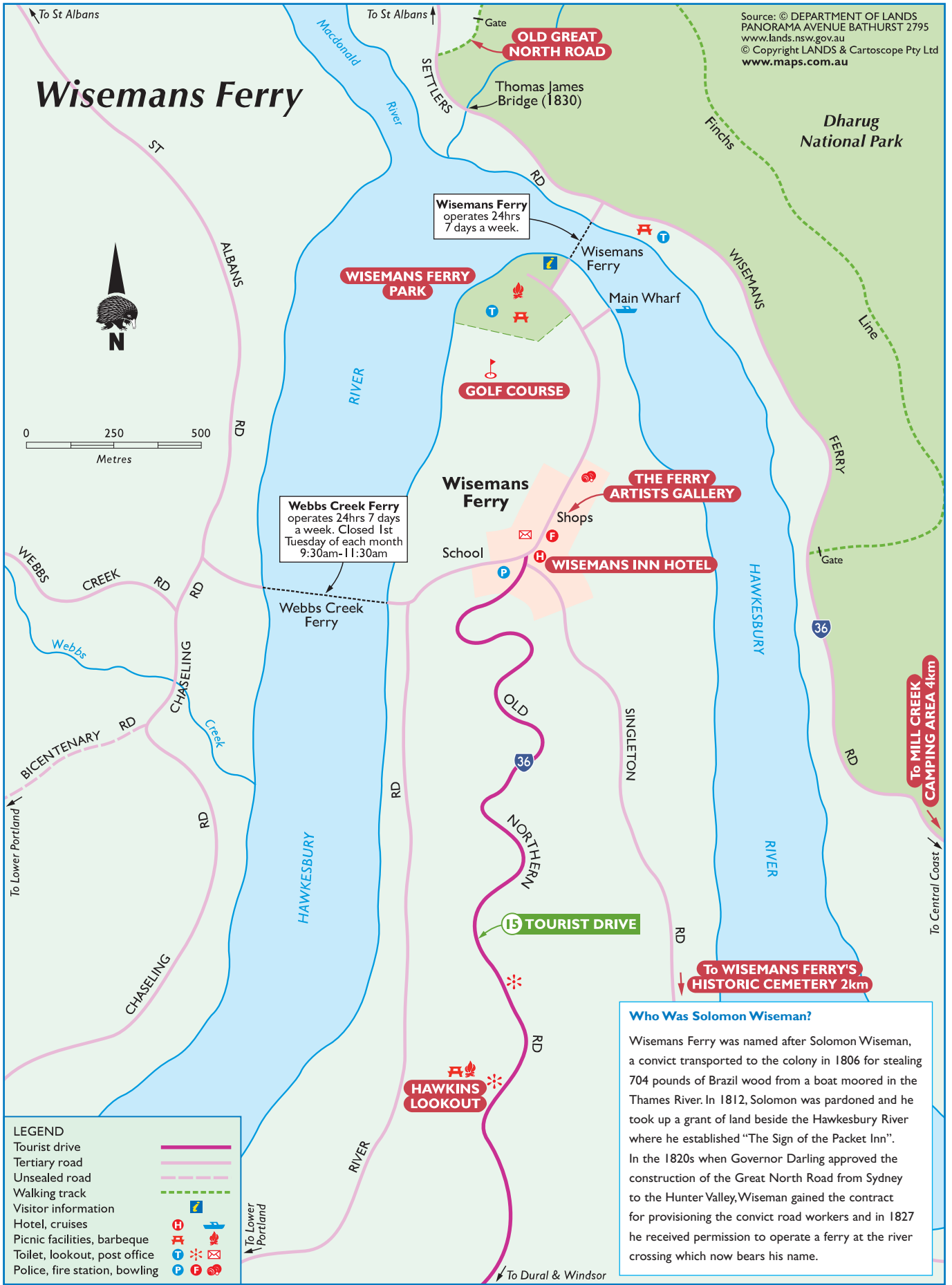


### Staying Overnight?

There are a number of cosy bed and breakfasts, inviting retreats, country cabins, fully equipped houseboats or back-to-nature camping areas to enjoy. Ask at the Wisemans Kiosk beside the main ferry or call **1300 884 881**.



# Wisemans Ferry



Wisemans Ferry operates 24hrs 7 days a week.

Webbs Creek Ferry operates 24hrs 7 days a week. Closed 1st Tuesday of each month 9:30am-11:30am

**Who Was Solomon Wiseman?**

Wisemans Ferry was named after Solomon Wiseman, a convict transported to the colony in 1806 for stealing 704 pounds of Brazil wood from a boat moored in the Thames River. In 1812, Solomon was pardoned and he took up a grant of land beside the Hawkesbury River where he established "The Sign of the Packet Inn".

In the 1820s when Governor Darling approved the construction of the Great North Road from Sydney to the Hunter Valley, Wiseman gained the contract for provisioning the convict road workers and in 1827 he received permission to operate a ferry at the river crossing which now bears his name.

**LEGEND**

- Tourist drive —
- Tertiary road —
- Unsealed road —
- Walking track - - -
- Visitor information i
- Hotel, cruises H T
- Picnic facilities, barbecue A B
- Toilet, lookout, post office T P M
- Police, fire station, bowling P F S