



Smeaton Hotel (Thursday, 23rd July 2026) Instead of Pentridge Prison. Three quarters of an hour away through miles of farmland. Anywhere around Ballan is a great car ride. This day was after an intense overnight rainstorm. So many fields looked like lakes but no flooding on the roads. Smeaton used to be a rich gold mining town. The Smeaton Hotel is very old and far more attractive than it appears from the outside. It's in the middle of nowhere. You wonder how they

manage to attract patrons until you step inside and savour the charm of the old place. It's Victoria's oldest weatherboard pub and open from Wednesday to Sunday. It can pack quite a crowd and has two dining areas plus a billiards table. Formerly known as the Cumberland Hotel. It closed in 2023, then had a few attempts at reopening. The name was changed to Smeaton Hotel when it officially reopened on Anzac day, April 2025. You might be interested in the history of the place. Believe me when I say it has a very colourful past. If you are interested, read this link here



[https://ballaratpubs.miraheze.org/wiki/Cumberland_Hotel_\(Smeaton\)](https://ballaratpubs.miraheze.org/wiki/Cumberland_Hotel_(Smeaton)) From 1861 it has survived being completely burnt down, suicide and court fines. We wish them well. The food is excellent, reasonably priced and has friendly staff on hand to serve you. It's my second time there and already I'm looking forward to another visit. The drive home was taken at a slower pace to enjoy the countryside for a wee bit longer.