

where we've been...



## **NARELLAN HOTEL**

Our first face to face staff meeting post lockdown was at Narellan Hotel. We were keen to support a business that had been shut down for over 100 days. Pubs and clubs were basically unable to trade at all - besides a token effort by some out of their bottleshops. Another reason behind our selection was that pubs and clubs have plenty of space. Given the initial space and numbers restrictions, we didn't want to feel like we were under time pressure to give up the table.

OK, all that out of the way, Kirsty, Lisa and I arrived at The Pavilion, Narellan Hotel on a Wednesday for lunch. It was fairly busy but we secured a table and got down to business - well... we talked. It was about 80% social chatter in reality. We can be excused after such a long disconnection.

We eventually got to ordering and none of us got past the salad bowls on the menu. There are only three and Kirsty announced her intentions first and Lisa and I read her choice - Zucchini Fritter & Quinoa Bowl - we both let out a sigh. "That sounds so good." Our standing rule is that nobody can order the same dish, so I moved quickly claiming the Mediterranean Falafel Bowl. Lisa was happily left with the Potato Head Bowl. All of us agreed later that any of them would be a great lunch choice.

Kirsty's zucchini fritters were accompanied by, spinach, roasted beetroot, sweet potato, radish, quinoa, smoked almonds and Greek

yoghurt. My four falafel were joined in the bowl by cucumber, cherry tomatoes, hummus, sumac onion, olives, baby spinach and lemon dressing. Lisa's crispy baked potatoes sat atop eggs, cos heart, bacon, shallots salad and were drizzled with a herb and seeded mustard buttermilk dressing.

Modern pub dining is so far removed from the historical version. There are few dinosaur pubs left in our region but most offer huge variety and reasonably healthy options like our salad bowls. None of us were drinking but a bottle of Vasse Felix Classic Dry White from the drinks menu would have enjoyed our salads.

We love The Pavilion at Narellan Hotel. There are stacks of dining options inside, outside and in-between in the stylish space. The food is excellent and the staff extremely pleasant. My favourite spot is on the verandah and once all the covid restrictions are lifted, it will be back to its beautiful best. Cannot wait for a Sunday arvo on the verandah.