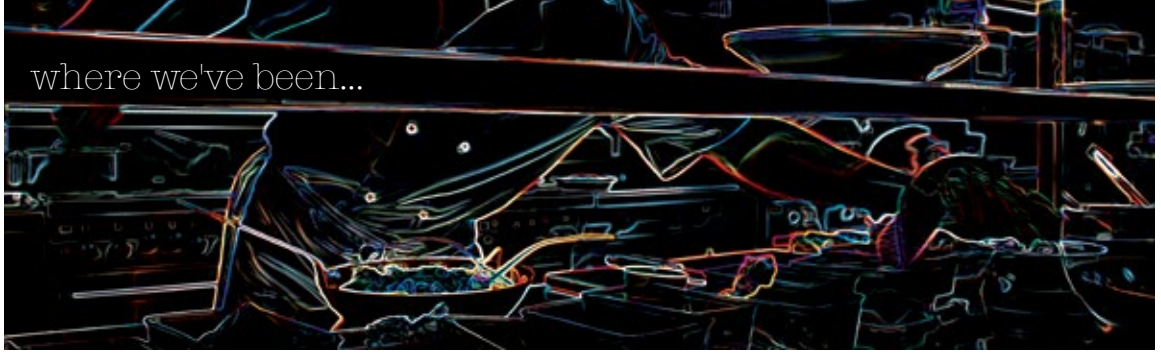


where we've been...



ESSEN CAFE Campbelltown

Essen Cafe has been trading on Queen Street for quite a few years. The simple food on offer is a perfect fit for the busy Queen Street location. Just about anyone would find something they desire on the large and diverse menu. That was certainly the case when I took my PA Kirsty and my son Chad to Essen for a midweek lunch.

Remember when Petite Bagatelle opened on Queen Street? The purpose built two storey restaurant was probably built a little before its time, but it left a superb venue for those who took over the premises. A couple tried and failed before the owners of Essen Cafe brought their simple family restaurant recipe to the building.

The menu consists of mostly family favourites. Chad had a Chicken Parmigiana while Kirsty decided on a vegetarian salad. It looked lovely: fresh beetroot, figs, toasted walnuts, roasted pumpkin and shaved Parmesan on rocket then dressed in a balsamic vinaigrette. I opted for an Angus Beef Burger. That should give you a pretty good idea of the menu. Tried and true Australian bistro classics. Simple is great when it is done well. All of our dishes were tasty, looked great and filled the plate. I'm not sure who's selection won the day. There were no complaints around the table.

The final word on dining out is value. I have spent \$60 and felt ripped off - I have also spent \$450 and thought it was an amazing dining experience. The bill for the three of us

was \$53 and no, it wasn't a lunch special, just their normal menu. Essen offers great value. Get the family in the SUV and head to 54 Queen Street Campbelltown. Everyone will be happy - we were!