— NEW SOUTH WALES 2793

ISSUE 13

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

1ST FEBRUARY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

100 Year Anniversary Black Tie Ball

SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2025

In 2025 the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall will celebrate it's 100 year anniversay.

Mark the date in your diary and ticket information will be released early 2025.



FROM THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The past four months have been somewhat quieter in developments.

Thanks also to the Woodstock Hotel for allowing us to run the monthly raffle in January, which raised \$685.70 for all things Woodstock!

The Progress Association have been successful in acquiring a Cowra Council Community Grant for the installation of a storyboard at the Woodstock Community Post Office, a little more research and some great images will see this project come to fruition quite quickly. Fingers crossed.

We have been recently contacted by a past resident of the village who would like to donate a painting by Dermott Rodwell back to the village, this painting of the

Commercial Hotel will return to the village for its final resting place.

In other news we have held recent discussions with Lachlan Valley Railway surrounding OPERATION WOODSTOCK, this group of rail enthusiasts are currently in the process of submitting a substantial grant application, that would see the revitalisation of the railway corridor

between Cowra and Woodstock and the implementation of heritage rail experiences which would contribute hugely to Woodstock and district.

Lachlan Valley Railway has made remarkable progress in the last 50 years of delivering rail experiences. We believe that the funding from this grant will enable LVR team to achieve even greater outcomes and contribute positively to our shared goals.

The LVR project to revitalise the railway corridor between Cowra and Woodstock and implement heritage rail experiences has the potential to reactivate Woodstock, just as the rail connection did for the village in 1888. This project will prove economically advantageous for the existing businesses in the village and potentially create opportunities for other business ventures. This aligns closely with Woodstock and District Progress Associations vision, and we are eager to see come to fruition.

As always we appreciate feedback and ALL ideas for Woodstock and district, please feel free to share via email. EVERYONE is WELCOME to attend the next meeting to be held February 23rd at the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall at 2pm.

WOODSTOCK FIRE BRIGADE

Works are scheduled to commence on the new fires station at the end of January and should be completed by May or June.

Over the Christmas period the Woodstock Brigade along side the Mount McDonald Brigade conducted patrols at the Wyangala State Recreation Park to ensure public compliance. NEW SOUTH WALES 2793

A SLICE OF OUR COMMUNITY: TRIBUTE TO PAUL'SPUD' BENNETT



Paul "Spud" Bennett moves quietly around the store where meat has been sold for almost a century. He and his wife Gail have run the butcher shop in the rural village of Woodstock in central western New South Wales for the past three decades. It's their final day before they shut up shop.

Fewer than 800 people call Woodstock home, and there is a steady stream of nostalgic customers giving their well wishes and picking up their last orders of meat and newspapers, which the Bennetts also sell.

It's an emotional time for the Bennetts. "All the meat is gone now. I might just make a stew and that would be it," Mr Bennett said.

The phone rings, and Mr Bennett tries out a new greeting. "Hello, retired butcher, how can I help?"

The 66-year-old started his butchering career in his early teens and has seen monumental shifts in the trade over his 50 plus years in the business. "You had lamb shanks ... and that was dog's meat people used to reckon. It is sort of a delicacy now!"

Mr Bennett said quality was the key to customer loyalty, alluding to his famed sausages which attracted regular orders from people as far away as Sydney. "Good cuts and everything else, give them good sausages and they come back," he said.

One of those "out-of-town" customers, now living in Woodstock, was John Thain, who bought the last bag of the iconic sausages. "It's the way he makes them mate, ask anybody," Mr Thain said. "These have got real skin on them and they are beautiful."

The retired butcher said he was worried that people had become "lazy" by shopping for meat at supermarkets. He said the chains had "taken over", making it challenging for many butchers to run viable businesses.

Mrs Bennett reflected on a "cold" career in the butcher shop after getting "tangled up" with the charismatic Mr Bennett, but said she would miss the people. She said many friends were made as customers passed through the historic building to buy meat or the local rag.

As customers passed through the butcher's doors for the last time, their final messages expressed sentiments of thanks and encouragement to "get out of here and take a holiday".

Mr Thaine said it was a sad day for the village and highlighted the reality of shrinking communities. "It's a very sad time because once he is gone, he is gone," Mr Thain said. "We won't have another butcher here again, so it will be a sad time in the village."

But the community staples weren't retiring from all duties, with Mr Bennett still captaining the local fire brigade.

As he closed the doors of his butcher shop, Mr Bennett offered one last piece of advice. The best way to cook a good piece of meat, he said, was "on a barbie with a beer".



Courtesy ABC News Kathleen Ferguson and Tim Fookes





EXTRAORDINARY MEETING WOODSTOCK BOWLING, SPORT AND RECREATION CLUB

Saturday 1st February the Woodstock Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club held an extraordinary meeting endeavouring to determine the Club's future. This meeting was not only open to members but the broader community. The club was filled with community members.

An outline of the Clubs's current position was given by the current directors, noting that this position was unknown to them prior to them accepting position as Directors. The Club currently owes a

significant amount of monies to various creditors. Lengthy discussions were had with many from the floor contributing. Many ideas and thoughts were shared, and many from the floor offered to assist in evaluating the current status of the club.

A date has been set for a SPECIAL MEETING, Saturday 23rd February at 11am to be held at the Club. Prior to this meeting there will be a callout for nominations to the Board of Directors. Everyone is once again urged to attend.









SUPPORTING LOCAL STUDENTS

Studying in 2025? Are you looking to connect with other students or perhaps need some extra support to pursue your study goals?

The Cowra Region Country Universities Centre (CUC), is a FREE, dedicated learning and study space in Cowra that supports any student studying a Certificate 3 or higher at any TAFE, university or registered training organisation in Australia.

The CUC is a clean and well-equipped study space for registered students that includes:

- Secure PIN code access to the Centre between 5am to Midnight, 7 days a week
- Quiet open plan study area and bookable private study spaces
- Dual-screen computers and BYO device workstations
- Access to high-speed internet and printing

facilities for study materials

- Academic and administrative student support services
- Kitchen and student lounge area

Our Centre is a secure space where students can focus entirely on their studies. Students can connect with like-minded people and experience a campus-like environment while they study locally in the Cowra Shire. We are focused on assisting our students settle into study, improve their academic skills and to make sure they feel like they have the tools to succeed in their studies.

Visit our website for further information or contact us today!

W: www.cuccowraregion.edu.au A: 175 Kendal Street, Cowra NSW 2794 E: degrees@cuccowraregion.edu.au

Studying in 2025?

We are a FREE, safe and secure study facility located in Cowra for students studying a Certificate 3 or higher at any Australia university or higher education provider.



Openicated quiet study spaces

Oual-screen computers

High-speed internet

Free printing

Student support services

Safe access from 5:00am to Midnight, 7 Days a week







MOTHER NATURE HITS POOL HARD

On behalf of the Woodstock Swimming Pool Committee we would like to thank those that attended our pool OPEN DAY on Sunday November 2nd. The recently scheduled AGM failed to receive enough community support to hold the meeting, it has been rescheduled for February 9th at which time we need to fill the roles of secretary and treasurer. We also welcome community to simply become members of the committee.

The pool was impacted by the storms that passed through the district on January 15th, substantial damage to the pump sheds and shade sails. The pool will be closed until repairs can be undertaken.

For those 18 years and over wanting to purchase a key, you must hold a current first aid certificate.

Family keys \$100, Single keys \$80. Keys returned

prior to April 30th 2025 will have \$20 refunded to them.

Monthly keys are available at a cost of \$40, not refundable. Keys can be returned to the Woodstock Community Post Office, to Klee Brien or dropped in the honesty box at the pool.

As this is a community run facility we encourage all key holders to attend meetings and help out with maintenance where needed. More hands mean less work.

A big thankyou to the Woodstock Hotel and its patrons for supporting us during Friday night raffles.

If you would like to be on our mailing list for next season updates please let us know through our Facebook page, Woodstock Swimming Pool.













Save the Date 2025

Cerm One 2025

- Thursday 6 February School commences (students return)
- Friday 7 February Small Schools' Swimming Carnival
- Thursday 10 April Easter Hat Parade all welcome to attend
 Friday 11 April last day of Term One
 Friday 18 April Monday 21 April Easter Long Weekend

- Thursday 25 April ANZAC Day March Woodstock

Term Two 2024

- Mon/Tues 28/29 April School Development Days (staff return)
- Wednesday 30 April Term Two commences (students return)
- Monday 9 June King's Birthday Public Holiday





CWA MEETING NOTICE

Monthly meetings 3rd Thursday of the month 10am at CWA rooms. First meeting for the year - 20th February 2025. New members and guests welcome.





RHINESTONED IN WOODSTOCK



Early November Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall hosted Rhinestoned. The group Kirsty Lee Akers and Rhinestoned conducted a Small Town Big Hearts tour from Adelong in June through to Tamworth in January via Woodstock in Novemeber.

Kristy is one of Australia's most unique and authentic recording artists. A rare talent who is proud of her First Nations heritage, she is a woman of the Wonnarua Nation (Hunter Valley – Australia). Akers describes herself as a fusion of country and Americana, with pop stylings. She has embraced a global musical culture and now spends her time between Australia and a hard-earned international touring schedule in North America and Europe.

From her first recording, people who heard her voice described the vocal delivery as sitting somewhere between Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn. This foundation, combined with progressive modern country production, offers an incredibly unique and hard-tomatch sound. Akers is the only artist in history to have won three of the major prizes in Australian Country Music- Toyota Star Maker, Telstra Road to Discovery, and a Golden Guitar Award (two in total).

After seeing these achievements early in her career, and with a taste of the world at her feet, she set her sights on the festival scene to expand her opportunities, and to hone her craft as a singer-songwriter and performer. With this focus, she started to see consistent bookings both domestically and internationally on festival circuits from 2008. New audiences were discovering the petite powerhouse from Down Under."

VENUE HIRE

Are you planning a wedding, party or ANYTHING?

Woodstock Memorial Hall is available for your next function.

Details on the website

https://woodstocksoldiersmemorialhall.godaddysites.com/

Or contact 02 6345 0271





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WOODSTOCK SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

When the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall was opened on 7 May 1925, it was described by the Cowra Free Press as "a truly magnificent building... well designed with an excellently finished structure.

Before a crowd described as the largest which had ever assembled in Woodstock, State MP for Cootamundra, Hugh Main declared Woodstock's new ahll oficially open. A farmer and grazier, Mr Main knew the impact the Great War had on the district as he had served from 1916 to 1919 with the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) in France. Woodstock sent 62 men to the Great War - 14 soldiers did not return. This hall has a history of celebration and community spirit, built and funded by the community to the memory of those who fell and for the use of those that remained.

Hugh Main MLA told the crowd at the opening that the Memorial Hall showed the people of Woodstock had not forgotten the sacrifices made by the men of the district who had fought and died. He hoped Woodstock would continue to support the men who had fought for them, those who had come back and those who had not. The opening festivities continued into the evening with a Grand Ball, the interior "most tastefully decorated with many coloured balloons, paper, bunting and flags.

Four local men, Frederick "F.C." Rowlands, Alexander Goodacre, William Blazely and Cedric Glasson

agreed to guarantee the sum of 1500 Pounds to begin building. A half-acre of land was purchased for 90 Pounds and Woodstock builder Willliam Reynolds was contracted to build the hall for 2100 Pounds. When the foundation stone was laid in 1924, local people made donations totalling 1289 Pounds, placing the money in envelopes on top of the stone.

Local people from Woodstock and district raised funds to meet the total cost of 3583 Pounds, which included the fit-out, and electric lighting generator, a 'sprung' hardwood dance floor and a supper room on the side. The overdraft to complete the hall was fully paid by 1929.

A committe still manages the hall. The Annual Woodstock Memorial Show assists with donations to the Woodstock Soldiers Memeorial Hall. A new kitchen was added in the 1950's. In March 2018 the Memorial Hall successfully acquired a NSW Government Grant of \$153,000 to undertake upgrades within the hall, including air conditioning.

The Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall had been well utilised over the past century, playing host to many dinner-dances, fundraising balls, wakes and wedding receptions. It has screened hundreds of movies. The Hall's use continues today as a building for functions, musical events and ceremonies.

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During the 1920's and 1930's it was the location for dances and balls held as fundraisers for local churches, the Woodstock P&C, and the CWA. There was also a Diggers Ball, a Football Ball, the Mad Hatters Ball and GRand Balls to fundraise for the Hall. Up to 150 couples danced to music played by O'Brien's Woodstock Orchestra, the Cowra Strollers and Theobald's Orchestra with music and dancing sometimes continuing until 2.30am. Woodstock ladies were renowned for the suppers they provided. Especially popular was the annual BBQ Ball with a BBQ set up on the front steps.

Therefore, it seems only fitting that this year, we celebrate this magnificent milestone with a 100 Year Anniversary Black Tie Ball at the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall on Saturday 24th May!

Tickets will include a seated three course meal and fabulous live music by Angie Day and the talented musisicans of 'The Handpicked Band'. Tickets will be available soon - keep an eye on the Woodstock Village socials for booking details.



STORK NEWS



Welcome to the newest members of the Woodstock community!

On 2 January 2025 Kurt Tidswell and Rhianna Mactaggart welcomed Archie John Tidswell, weighing 9.6lbs. Arhcie is a little brother to Dallas. Gradparents are Guy and Donna Tidswell, Canowindra, Sue Mactaggart, Central Coast, John Mactaggart and Donna Mullon, Cooranbong. Great grandparents are Esme Tidswell, Woodstock, Don and Mervis McIntyre Canowindra.

Jake and Maddi Devlin welcomed Emilia Jeanette Devlin on Sunday 10 November 2024, weighing 6.2lbs. Emelia is a little sister to Eliza. Grandparents are Matt and Kirsten Devlin, Canowindra, Clint and Monique Kelly, Orange. Great grandparents are Barry Mumberson, Woodstock and Thelma Connelly, Orange.



LIFE IS BETTER WITH COLOUR

G'day, my name is Arvin, this is my fourth year living in this beautiful part of the country.

My partner and I moved here just before the pandemic for a better lifestyle and we love every second of the country life. I grew up in the countryside of China, and my parents always had a garden to grow food and flowers. I definitely got my mum's genes and love gardening. I had a garden on my apartment balcony back in Sydney.

The first thing we did after we bought our place was to create a garden, which to be fair, is completely starting from scratch as the land has been abandoned for many years. Then I added more gardens to grow food and flowers. Back in 2022, the rain event we had destroyed one of my vegetable gardens, as we had weeks and weeks of none stop rain, one of my gardens just collapsed. It took me nearly a year to pick up my confidence to restart it again and I gathered the idea to transform it into a flower patch.

That certainly opened up a new journey for me; never did I think I would become so addicted to growing flowers. People may disappoint you, but flowers never do, they bring the happy vibe. I grew a whole garden of dahlias that year, and I was so happy that I found something that makes me happy; I certainly enjoyed sharing with others as well. After the dahlia season last year, I had the idea of create a market garden for cut flowers, so I got busy again preparing the garden bed, adding organic matter into the soil, as well as buying tubers to build up my stock. As I am working full time, gardening is my weekend job.

Social media had a big impact on my gardening journey, especially Instagram, I have learnt a lot about gardening, and have met a lot of amazing gardeners. I also got to know members of the Woodstock community who have been so supportive of me, from the very beginning when I first participated in the Woodstock Memorial Show after the pandemic in 2022. Now entering Woodstock Show is on my calendar every year.

Living in a small community is so different from city life and getting involved and being part of it is so important, I have found a sense of belonging living in Woodstock.



So giving back to the community and sharing my love of growing flowers have hence become a goal for me. As someone who loves flowers, I want to make sure my flowers go to a loving home in perfect condition away from the weather. I recently reached out to Adam at the Woodstock Community Post Office and pitched him my ideas of selling my flowers at the post office, and he has been super supportive. So by now you would have seen my flowers at the post office on a regular basis. I am delivering twice a week at the moment, and will increase if the demand is there.

Growing is all seasonal, so from spring to autumn, you will see ranunculus, gladiolis, zinnias, dahlias, chrysanthemums and many other flowers in the flower bunch. All my flowers are chemical free and grown in a sustainable way as I practice composting and utilising the benefits of a worm farm. I take full pride of my flowers and thank everyone who is supporting me in this journey.

To me, it is a very satisfying feeling knowing that I am part of this small community, and I encourage everyone who has similar ideas to do the same.



ANZAC MARCH
OUR ANZAC DINNER - MORE INFO TO COME
2UP
LIVE MUSIC FROM
SMALL TOWN CONVICTS

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL 2025

ANZAC DAY 2025

Anzac Day Preparations for the traditional Woodstock ANZAC Day parade are underway. ANZAC Day (25th April) falls on a Friday this year so will be the start of a long weekend.

Sadly, this year will be one without Paul "Spud" Bennet at the helm. Spud was instrumental in the organisation of the parade over a number a years. Before his recent passing, he graciously handed over the reins to Di Brown. He will be very much missed.

As preparations progress, Di will be in touch with those who have supported the parade in the past. We look forward to the usual strong turnout and enthusiastic participation in TWOUP!

FROM THE SADDLE - LERC

The Lachlan Endurance Riders Club (LERC) will be holding their Woodstock Autumn Ride over the weekend of April 5 & 6. As usual the ride will be based out of the Woodstock Showground, a favourite ride base for many riders with its great amenities, good camping sites and beautiful surroundings.

There will be 20km and 40km rides held on Saturday and 40km and 80km rides held on Sunday.

The riders will travel along Reg Hailstone Way, George Russell Drive, Blazley Road, Old Waugoola Road, Ferndale Road and Myall Rd, as well as traversing local properties. Caution Horse signs will be placed on all roads used by the horses, and we ask that vehicles please slow their speed and give the horses a little extra room when passing to keep everyone safe.

Many of the riders and support crew enjoy having dinner at the Woodstock Hotel and Woodstock Bowling Club, so say high and have a chat, there are some real characters amongst them with great tales to tell.

LERC are hoping that by April we will have completed the installation of lighting outside of

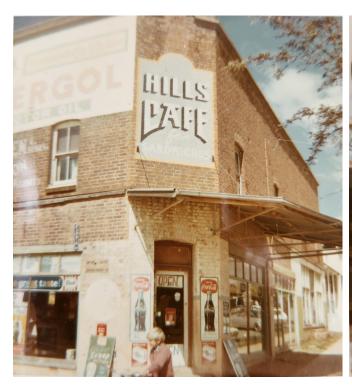
the canteen area of the showground, making this a more user friendly space in the evenings.

So if you're around on April 5 & 6, drop into the showground and catch up with the LERC committee and have a chat with the riders and crew, they love to show their trusty steeds to everyone.

Linda Jonkers President – LERC



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HILLS CAFE CONNECTION

The internet is a powerful tool and has the power to reach many people, sometimes unintentionally connections are made. The Woodstock Progress Accosiation were contacted last week by a man who has no direct connection to the Woodstock village yet has a story to tell and images to share. Images we were keenly searching for during the restoration of the ghost signage on the Hills Cafe. This man is currently researching the war service of Ron Hill and shared the information and story below:

Ron Hill joined the CMF in 1941 and was attached to the 102nd Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, transferring to the 2nd AIF in Oct 1942 and a posting to 554 Light Anti Aircraft Battery and embarked to Port Moresby, Madang and Bougainville in the New Guinea theatre, being discharged in 1946.

While aboard a troop train travelling through Brisbane at the end of 1943, Ron threw out his name and army address on a scrap of paper as many did and was it picked up by my mother, a fifteen year old who then wrote to him during the years he was in New Guinea, meeting him when he was given leave. After the war Ron asked my mother to marry him but my grandmother said no because Ron was 11 years older but probably had

more to do with losing her daughter to Woodstock after losing Mums older brother over to Germany.

This friendship then continued, writing to each other up until Mum passed away in 1984 with Dad then taking over the writing to Ron from that time to 2002 when Ron passed away aged 85.

Strangely Ron was buried in Rookwood Cemetery in Sydney, can only think that he was in Sydney for medical treatment as he had no children from his marriage and was possibly organized by a family member or the DVA as a veteran.

The images of Hills Cafe were taken in 1970 with Ron pictured in front of the cafe. Also the Gum Leaf crockery set that was given to the family by Ron Hill upon his retirement.





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POST OFFICE POSITIVITY

It's been almost 9 months since we moved to Woodstock and took over running the Post Office. Not only do we feel very at home in the village but also privileged to be in a position where not only do we get to meet most of the locals and surrounding farmers, but to also hear their news, swap stories and lend an ear to the happenings in their lives - the good, the everyday and even the sadder times as well.

Our primary focus since taking over has been on providing a friendly and reliable service. We've opened every day (except public holidays) and on time - something for which we must thank Teena Gillespie. Teena has been an invaluable support to us both, especially during the times we've needed to be away to attend to family matters.

Some of the improvements we've made include making daily newspapers available, stocking basic groceries and fresh milk and bread. The local Woodstock Paddock eggs are a hit and sell out quickly. Our supplier will be trying to increase supply over the coming months. Other local products available at the Post Office include Blair's Bees honey, flowers by #arvininthecountry relish and jams by Farm Fresh Travellers Rest, and even local pecans! We hope that having these things

available provides a convenient alternative to having to drive into town for things you need in a hurry.

Do let us know if you would like us to stock something in particular by sending a message to us on Facebook at Woodstock Community Post Office messaging the post office phone on 0447 120 290, or letting us know over the counter. Perhaps you'd prefer to see more premium branded products available, or just a different option. Also, don't forget you can give us a call to quickly see if we have something in stock to save you time and petrol on a trip.

You'll also see that we're stocking a wide variety of post packaging and stamps.

The Progress Association recently secured funding for a story board to be erected at the front of the post office. Meg, with the help of John Hill, is looking into the history of the Post Office to unearth information to go on the board. If anyone has any interesting stories to tell about the Post Office or the Telephone Exchange, please come in and share! Photos are especially welcome.

See you at the Post Office! Adam and Meg



COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

WOODSTOCK

STAMPS

PARCEL COLLECTION/DISPATCH
BASIC GROCERY ITEMS
LOLLIES CHIPS

POST OFFICE BOXES AVAILABLE TO RENT



PHONE 0447120290 MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM -1PM 4-5.30PM













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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





WHAT'S ON

9th February 2025

AGM Woodstock Swimming Pool 3pm at the Woodstock Swimming Pool

20th February 2025

CWA Meeting 10am at the CWA Rooms

23rd February 2025

Progress Association Meeting 2pm Woodstock Memorial Hall

23rd February 2025

CMRC Race Day, Woodstock Park Speedway

30th March 2025

CMRC Race Day, Woodstock Park Speedway

5-6th April 2025

Lachlan Endurance Ride, Woodstock Showground

19th April 2025

Easter Egg Hunt Woodstock Hotel

25th April 2025

ANZAC DAY March Parkes St / Rankin St Woodstock

25th April 2025

2UP and Entertainment Woodstock Hotel

24th May 2025

100yr Centenary Grand Ball Woodstock Memorial Hall

31st May 2025

Bathurst Vintage Motor Club Woodstock Showground

29th June 2025

CMRC Race Day, Woodstock Park Speedway

7th September 2025

Woodstock Memorial Show Woodstock Showground

26th October 2025

CMRC Race Day, Woodstock Park Speedway

CONTACT US

Website: www.visitwoodstock.com.au **Email:** woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6345 0104

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NEXT MEETING

Sunday 23rd February 2025

at Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall 2pm

