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— NEW SOUTH WALES 2793 —

ISSUE 16

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

WOODSTOCK CWA CENTENARY

In May 2026, Woodstock CWA will be celebrating its centenary. They are looking at setting up a display in the CWA rooms and would love donations or temporary loans of photos, recipe books or any memorabilia that might be lurking in your drawers or cupboards.

Please contact Ann Graham on 0403 031 958 or Roz Vest on 0402 993 916 if you are able to assist.



NEW SHADE SAILS A WELCOME ADDITION AT SWIMMING POOL

Visitors to the Woodstock Swimming Pool will have noticed a fantastic new improvement just in time for the warmer months. Shade sails have now been erected over a portion of the pool, the pool seating and BBQ area, providing much-needed protection from the

sun and making the space more comfortable for families and pool users to relax and socialise.

This valuable upgrade has been made possible thanks to the generous funding of Bruce and Margaret Weir Trust, whose support has delivered a lasting benefit to the Woodstock community. The new shade not only enhances comfort during hot days but also encourages greater use of the pool facilities throughout the summer.

The community would also like to extend sincere thanks to Lee Brien for opening the pool to the public on scorching weather days. This thoughtful gesture has been greatly appreciated, giving locals a safe and refreshing place to cool down when temperatures soar.

These contributions highlight the strong community spirit in Woodstock and the positive impact that local support and generosity can have. We thank everyone involved for helping make the pool an even better place for all to enjoy.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

 We are interested in all VILLAGE HAPPENINGS! if you have some great news to share please contact us. Email: woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com or phone: 02 6345 0104.



VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

The Woodstock village has continued to show strong community spirit and steady progress since October 2025, with several local initiatives and events marking an active period for the village.

Community fundraising and social connection were boosted through catering activities at the "Hermes" clearing sale, which attracted locals and visitors and contributed to ongoing village projects. These events reinforced the importance of volunteer effort and local enterprises in supporting Woodstock's future.

The community also farewelled long term rural residents Sandy Morrison, former President of the Progress Association, and his wife Judi Smith, former Deputy Mayor of Cowra Shire Council and Council representative for the Woodstock community. We would like to acknowledge their leadership and long-standing contribution to the Woodstock & District Progress Association. Their dedication has helped shape many of the village's recent improvements.

A new storyboard installation at the Woodstock Community Post Office has added to the village's sense of place, highlighting local history and stories. A small gathering was held on the 6th January to unveil the completed storyboard. John Hill spoke about the research undertaken and Neville Arrow a former telephone exchange employee unveiled the project. Pictured Meg Thomas, Neville Arrow and Adam Dwight. This project was made possible through funding from the Progress Association, supported by a Cowra Council Community Grant.

The primitive campground is operational to date only a few campers have utilised the space, we are hopeful cooler weather in the autumn will see an increase in patronage.

January was pub raffle month for the Progress Association thank you to ticket sellers Ann Graham, Terry Reynolds, Adam Dwight, Alison Rutledge and Lily Lawler. An approximate net total of \$500 raised. Thanks to the Woodstock Hotel for allowing the Association the opportunity to raise revenue for future projects.

Together, these activities reflect Woodstock's continued commitment to community pride, heritage, and collaboration.



Updates and events on all things Woodstock are often posted on both Facebook and Instagram be sure to follow Back to Woodstock or Woodstock NSW 2793 Local Services on Facebook or the woodstockvillageNSW on Instagram.



Cowra Motorcycle Racing Club 2026 Dirt Track / Track Club Days

Sunday 22 February

Sunday 29 March

Sunday 31 May

Sunday 25 October

Above dates are subject to change



CHRISTMAS GIFTING BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

During the recent holiday season, the spirit of giving was on full display with a Christmas Gifting activity, a heart-warming community initiative proudly supported by the Woodstock Memorial Show, the Woodstock Community Post Office, the RAS Foundation, and Good360.

The initiative brought together community members with one shared goal: to support families and individuals during the Christmas season. Donations provided by Good 360, gifts, and pet treats, were all carefully distributed to ensure they reached children and four legged companions.

The Woodstock Memorial Show played a key role in securing the pallet of goods, while the Woodstock Community Post Office assisted with coordination and logistics, plus a really great space for the wrapping of gifts.

A Sunday morning spent at the Woodstock Community Post Office highlighted what makes Woodstock special—people working together with generosity, kindness, and purpose. Volunteers gave their time carefully, selecting age appropriate gifts and wrapping with care. A big thank you to President Lily Lawler for couriering the pallet load of goods from Wagga Wagga to Woodstock, Meg Thomas for coordinating recipient lists, wrapping supplies and morning tea sweet treats. To our gift wrappers Jan Johnstone, Meg Thomas, Kaitlyn Rutledge, Evie Johnstone, and Erin Rutledge, thank you and a special thanks to Claire, Arthur and



Florence Johnstone for their experienced toy selection for the children of Woodstock and surrounds.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone involved. Because of this incredible collaboration, many local families were able to enjoy a brighter, more joyful Christmas. Events like the Christmas Giving Run remind us that when a community comes together, even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.



HEARTFELT THANKYOU

The Woodstock community would like to extend its sincere gratitude to Teena and Graeme Gillespie for their ongoing care and upkeep of the Woodstock village entrance and the Memorial Gates of the Woodstock Soldiers Park.

Their dedication, time, and pride in presentation make a real difference to how our village looks and feels—both for residents and for visitors arriving in Woodstock. The entrance and Memorial Gates are important landmarks that reflect our

community's history and spirit, and thanks to Teena and Graeme's efforts, they are always maintained with care and respect.

Acts of quiet generosity like this often go unnoticed, but they contribute enormously to community pride and connection. We are very fortunate to have locals who go above and beyond for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you, Teena and Graeme, for all that you do.



ADAM THAIN NAMED YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2026

Adam is a dedicated, community-minded young man whose quiet leadership and unwavering commitment have made a remarkable impact across Cowra and Woodstock. He volunteers countless hours with the Army Cadets, supporting overnight excursions, training programs, and leadership development for young people. His calm guidance helps shape confident, respectful future leaders.

Beyond cadets, Adam is a vital contributor to the Woodstock Swimming Pool, where he assists with maintenance, repairs, and welding to keep the facility safe and welcoming.

In his role as a Student Learning Support Officer at Cowra High School, Adam is highly respected for his compassion, patience, and ability to connect with students. His support fosters a more inclusive learning environment and makes a meaningful difference in students' daily lives.

Adam is an outstanding role model. He consistently demonstrates initiative, creativity, and a firm commitment to helping others. Congratulations Adam. Woodstock is proud of you.



WOODSTOCK BOWLING, SPORT & RECREATION CLUB EXECUTIVE UPDATE

The Woodstock Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club recently held its meeting/AGM, with updates to the club's executive committee. The club thanks outgoing office bearers for their time and dedication and welcomes the newly appointed executives, who are looking

forward to continuing to support the club and its members.

The committee encourages community members to get involved and support upcoming activities and events. Pictured incoming President Robert Savell with Adam Dwight



COMMENCEMENT OF HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH



Harvest Community Church is the new collective banner name adopted to represent:

- All Saints Anglican Church, Canowindra
- Peace Memorial Uniting Church, Canowindra
- St Matthews Anglican Church, Eugowra
- Uniting Church, Cranbury
- St Matthews Anglican Church, Woodstock

The pastoral team appointed to lead Harvest Community Church is the George family, who will serve as our new pastors: Mick George – Senior Pastor, Tammy George – Community Pastor, Mischa George – Youth Pastor.

They have sold their house in Queanbeyan and moved to the Anglican rectory on the corner of Tilga and Suttor Streets, Canowindra.

Mick had a career in the military where he was a company commander in the Royal Australian Infantry, deployed to East Timor and undertook border security operations in the Torres Strait and northern Australia. He was subsequently ordained as an army chaplain.

FEBRUARY FIRST SUNDAY SERVICE – ST MATTHEWS WOODSTOCK

The official launch of Harvest Community Church is scheduled for Sunday 1 February, St Matthews Woodstock has the privilege of being the first centre to host a service. A Communion Service will be held on Sunday 1 February, commencing at 8.00am. All are welcome to attend.

This is a special invitation to the parishioners of St Matthews to come together to welcome the George family and celebrate the exciting commencement of Harvest Community Church. The service will be followed by the usual morning tea, with time for a friendly get-together.

With the launch of Harvest Community Church, the February calendar is especially full of activities.





HELLO DAISY COFFEE CART FINDING A HOME IN WOODSTOCK

Hello and greetings from Hello Daisy Coffee Cart.

We'd like to share a little about our journey—how two people from different backgrounds and different parts of the world found their way to Australia, and eventually to Woodstock, which we're now proud to call home.

Despite growing up worlds apart, Dylan and I have always shared similar views on life. We were both searching for a sense of community—somewhere we felt connected, supported, and part of something bigger. Many of our conversations over the years revolved around slowing down, living closer to nature, and becoming part of a small community. We feel incredibly lucky to have found all of that in Woodstock.

Our ideas of community were shaped early in life. Dylan grew up in a small town in Montana, USA, where everyone knew everyone and neighbours felt like extended family. I grew up in Suva, Fiji—a city, but one deeply rooted in family, friendships, and togetherness. Although our upbringings were different, the values were much the same.

After spending 10 years living in Bathurst, we started to feel worn down by the 9-to-5, sedentary lifestyle. We began asking ourselves how we wanted the rest of our lives to look. When COVID hit, it really brought things into focus—we didn't want to spend our days stuck behind a desk, feeling disconnected from our time, our work, and each other.

So in 2025, we took a leap of faith. We sold our home and moved to Woodstock. Stepping away from the “normal” life plan isn't always encouraged, but we had a clear goal: to be financially stable while living a meaningful life—one that allowed us to do work we enjoy, contribute to our community, and spend more time with our cats.

Dylan enjoys farm work and initially planned to focus on that. I, on the other hand, had always been interested in becoming a barista. Of course, I wasn't going to do it alone, so I convinced Dylan to take a short barista course with me. To our surprise, we both really enjoyed it.

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Since moving here, Dylan has also started volunteering at the Bowling Club and now works as the barman once or twice a week. I've helped out a few times as well, cooking Indian meals for the bowling club. These small acts of involvement have been such a lovely way to meet people and experience the strong sense of community we were hoping to find.

Noticing that Woodstock didn't have a dedicated coffee spot—and knowing how much Australians love their coffee—we felt that opening a coffee cart could be a great way to give something back. We chose a coffee trailer because it was easier to set up and gain approvals, and it also gives us the flexibility to attend nearby shows and events if needed. But more than anything, the coffee cart was about creating a welcoming space to socialise, share good coffee and hot chocolates, and bring people together.

We took our idea to Meg and Adam at the post

office, who—as many of you know—are incredibly welcoming and supportive. With their help, we set up the Hello Daisy Coffee Cart in front of the post office. Katie Green from the pub has been sending guests our way for morning coffees and has shared some great ideas for the future, and the Bowling Club has been advertising the coffee cart as well, and to those that have shared our presence through social media platforms we are extremely grateful.

The support from local businesses and the wider community has been overwhelming in the best possible way. We're so grateful for the encouragement, the conversations, and the word of mouth—truly the best kind of advertising.

People have shared how much they appreciate being able to get barista coffee locally, and for us simply “having a go” at bringing something new to town. For us, the greatest joy has been meeting everyone, swapping stories, and slowly building connections. It hasn't taken long at all for Woodstock to start feeling like home.



REFLECTING ON A BUSY FIRE SEASON AND PREPARING FOR THE NEXT

It is summer and it has been a particularly busy fire season across our district. Local fire brigades and rural volunteers responded to several fires over the past few months, often under challenging conditions of high temperatures, dry vegetation, and strong winds.

These incidents placed significant demands on our volunteer fire fighters, who gave countless hours protecting lives, homes, stock, and property. Their commitment, professionalism, and willingness to respond at all hours is something our whole community can be proud of. Thanks also go to supporting agencies and neighbours who assisted during emergencies.

Unfortunately, many of the fires attended this season were made worse by heavy fuel loads around homes, sheds, fence lines, and paddocks. Long grass, unmanaged scrub, wood piles, and accumulated rubbish can all allow fires to spread quickly and become far more dangerous than they need to be.

With this season still fresh in mind, now is the perfect time to prepare for next summer. Residents are strongly encouraged to clean up house blocks and rural properties well before the warmer months return. Simple actions such as clearing long grass, trimming trees away from buildings, removing debris, maintaining fire breaks, and safely storing flammable materials can significantly reduce fire risk.

Preparing early not only helps protect your own property, but also supports our local brigades by reducing the intensity and spread of fires when they do occur. Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and small efforts made now can make a big difference later.

Let's use the lessons from this busy season to be better prepared for the next. By working together and reducing fire hazards around our homes, on vacant blocks and across our district, we can help keep our community safer and support the volunteers who work so hard to protect it.



FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS VISITS WOODSTOCK SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026

Mark your calendars for a special night of live music and community spirit right here in Woodstock! On Sunday, 19 April 2026, the Festival of Small Halls will visit the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall, bringing world-class acoustic music to our beloved local venue.

The Festival of Small Halls tour is a long-running national music series produced by Woodfordia Inc, taking exceptional folk and contemporary acoustic artists out of big cities and into small regional halls like ours. For decades, the festival has connected communities with beautiful live performances, shared supper breaks, and unforgettable evenings of music and friendship.

EVENT DETAILS:

- **What:** Festival of Small Halls – live music in Woodstock
- **Where:** Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall, Woodstock NSW
- **When:** Sunday, 19 April 2026
- **Who:** Featuring touring artists Joe H Henry (Canada) and Tullara (Australia), with local musician Emily Reynolds opening the evening

This community-focused concert will feature an inspiring line up of acoustic and folk-influenced performances.

International artist Joe H Henry (Canada) brings a thoughtful, story-driven approach to song writing, blending heartfelt lyrics with rich acoustic textures shaped by his experiences performing abroad.

His performances are known for their intimacy, warmth, and emotional depth.

Joining him is Australian artist Tullara, whose music draws on folk traditions while exploring contemporary themes with honesty and grace. Tullara's songs are reflective and grounded, resonating deeply in the kind of close-knit, attentive setting that the Festival of Small Halls is known for.

The evening will open with a performance by local artist Emily Reynolds, showcasing her voice and original songs to a home-town audience before the touring artists take the stage.

The Festival of Small Halls is more than just a concert – it's about bringing people together. Each event is hosted by volunteers and filled with the warmth of shared experiences, often including supper breaks where neighbours catch up over cake and tea between sets. The festival celebrates community connection, local talent, and heartfelt music in some of Australia's most charming small-town venues.

Whether you're a long-time music lover, a supporter of local artists, or simply looking for a great night out, this event promises something special for everyone. Don't miss your chance to be part of this much-loved touring festival right here in Woodstock. Tickets will be available at JJ Dresser & Co and online, posters will be displayed around the village when tickets are on sale.



2026 ANZAC DAY SERVICE

The Woodstock village will host its annual ANZAC Day March on Saturday, 25th April, a community event honouring the courage, sacrifice and service of Australia's and New Zealand's servicemen and women. ANZAC Day marks the anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at Gallipoli in 1915, a pivotal moment in both nations' histories and a cornerstone of national commemoration.

The march will begin at the top of Parkes St at approximately 2.30pm, gathering residents, veterans, current defence personnel, families and community groups to walk together through the village streets. Included in the march will be Michael Hunt with his newly acquired army artefact.

Participants and spectators are encouraged to wear poppies and, where appropriate, medals or service insignia, as a sign of respect and remembrance. The event typically follows Parkes and Rankin Streets stopping at the Sister Jenny Kerr Park for wreath laying and culminates at the local Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall, where a short service including speeches, wreath-laying

and moments of silence take place. Afternoon tea will follow and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Woodstock Village ANZAC Day March is an opportunity for the local community to come together to remember the past while showing gratitude to present-day service members. Whether you join the march, observe from the roadside, or attend the memorial service, the day is a poignant reminder of the enduring bonds of service and community.



GRANT SUCCESS SUPPORTS RESTORATION OF WWI HONOUR ROLL

The Woodstock community is pleased to announce the success of a recent grant application to support the restoration of the World War I Honour Roll at the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The Honour Roll is an important part of the hall and a lasting tribute to local men and women who served during the First World War. Over time, age and wear have taken their toll, making restoration necessary to preserve this significant piece of local history for future generations.

Thanks to the successful grant essential conservation work can now proceed. The project will focus on carefully restoring the Honour Roll to its original condition; ensuring names, details, and craftsmanship are respectfully preserved. The restoration will be carried out with attention to

historical accuracy and heritage values. The restoration will be undertaken by specialists O'Sullivan Conservation of Sydney.

This funding represents a meaningful investment in remembering and honouring the service and sacrifice of those listed on the Honour Roll. It also reinforces the importance of the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall as a central place of remembrance and community connection.

The community extends its sincere thanks to all those involved in preparing and supporting the grant application, as well as the funding body for recognising the significance of this project. Once completed, the restored Honour Roll will continue to stand as a proud reminder of Woodstock's history and the enduring legacy of its service personnel.



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BELL OF WOODSTOCK

The Roman Catholic Church bell, has a history that reflects the movement, and resilience of the local Roman Catholic community over more than a century. The earliest known reference to the bell appears in the Cowra Free Press dated 26th July 1906, which included descriptive text. At that time, the bell was erected at the Roman Catholic Church in Carrington St (pictured), the original site of the Catholic Church, where it served as an important symbol of faith and community life.

Church bells played a central role in rural towns, calling parishioners to Mass, marking celebrations, and tolling during times of mourning. The article suggesting that prior to the bells installation it was necessary to look at your watch or ask someone the time to know when mass was to commence.

Between 1917 and 1918, the bell was recorded as being erected at Drumbane, for renewed use during this period. As settlement patterns and parish needs changed, the bell continued to move with the community it served. In 1956, the bell was relocated closer to the new church, ensuring it remained a functional and audible part of parish life. This relocation reflected both growth and change within the Catholic Church in the region, as older structures gave way to newer facilities better suited to the needs of parishioners.

After many decades, the bell was once again returned close to one of its original locations on the 29 December 2025, restoring a tangible link to the town's Catholic heritage.



WHAT'S ON

8th February

Woodstock Swimming Pool AGM
2pm – Woodstock Swimming Pool

15th February

St Matthews Woodstock Communion 8am

22nd February

Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall AGM
1pm – Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall

22nd February

Woodstock & District Progress Association General Meeting 2pm - Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall

15th March

Harvest Festival (Combined Church Service)
Parish Lunch and auction post service,
All Saints Canowindra 10:30am

19th April

Festival of Small Halls
Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall

25th April

ANZAC DAY march Parkes Street and Rankin Street

25th- 27th April

Lachlan Endurance Ride – Woodstock Showground

30th April

Woodstock Swimming Pool closes
KEYS TO BE REURNED

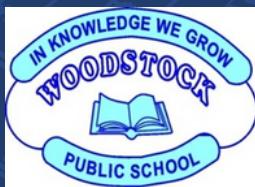
6th September

Woodstock Memorial Show

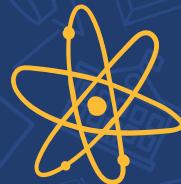
12-13th September

Lachlan Endurance Ride – Woodstock Showground





NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR 2026



Fostering Excellence
Through Learning

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

A Small School with a Big Heart

Discover the difference a nurturing community can make in your child's education.

Why Choose Woodstock Public School?

Personalised Learning with Small Class Sizes

Our small class sizes enable teachers to tailor lessons to each child's needs, helping every student to thrive academically and personally.

Dedicated and Caring Staff

Our passionate teachers create a positive and supportive learning environment, working closely with families for your child's success.

Strong Community Spirit

We foster close ties with local families through events and celebrations that bring everyone together.

Focus on Academic Excellence and Creativity

We provide a broad curriculum encouraging curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking across all subjects.

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Your child will learn in a safe, respectful community that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

Extracurricular Activities

Offering sports, performing arts, technology, and environmental programs to enrich students' school life.

Modern Facilities with Access to Technology

Our school features up-to-date classrooms, a library, computer access, and outdoor spaces for a well-rounded education.

Visit Us!

We welcome you to visit our school located in the heart of Woodstock. Come and see why Woodstock Public School is the right choice for your child.

Join the Woodstock Public School family today—where learning, care, and community come together!



CHECK US OUT ON
FACEBOOK





HUNT'S FISHING, HUNTING & CAMPING: LOCAL GEAR, BIG REACH

Tucked away in Woodstock and perfectly positioned on the road to Wyangala Dam, Hunt's Fishing, Hunting & Camping has become a familiar and welcome stop for locals, travellers, and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

Whether you're heading out for a day on the dam, planning a weekend camping trip, or gearing up for the hunting or fishing season, Hunt's offers a wide range of quality products to suit beginners through to seasoned outdoors people. The store stocks firearms/ammunition and thermals, fishing rods and tackle, bait and accessories, camping essentials, outdoor clothing, hunting gear, and practical supplies for life in the bush.

Its location makes it an ideal last-minute stop for those travelling to Wyangala Dam – a chance to grab bait, tackle, or camping necessities before hitting the water. Many regular visitors appreciate the friendly, down-to-earth service and local knowledge that comes with being a community based business.



Beyond the physical store, Hunt's Fishing, Hunting & Camping also serves customers online across Australia, making it easy for people nationwide to access their products. This online presence allows the small Woodstock business to support outdoor adventures well beyond the local region, while still staying firmly rooted in the community.

Hunt's continues to play an important role in supporting outdoor lifestyles, tourism, and local connections – proving that a small-town business can have a big impact, both on the road to Wyangala Dam and across the country.

CONTACT US

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Phone: 02 6345 0104

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 22nd February 2026
 at Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall
 2pm

