

WOODSTOCK HAS IT'S VERY OWN WEBSITE

www.visitwoodstock.com.au is LIVE! We have also activated a Woodstock QR code which will appear on promotional material and noticeboards, scanning the code links you to the village website for more details on everything.



FROM THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

In late November three representatives from Woodstock, along with representatives from other shire villages met with nine Cowra Councillors and the managers of council departments to discuss updates and progress in relation to the Local Strategic Plan for Villages in the Cowra Shire. On behalf of the Woodstock community we raised the issue of footpaths that were outlined both in the Local Strategic Plan for Villages 2020 and the 2014 Pedestrian and Cycling Plan. We also raised the desire to have a campground/caravan park within the village. We are awaiting an outcome on these matters.

We continue to scout for funding opportunities in regards to the

restoration of ghost signage, upgrade of tennis courts and inclusion of a multipurpose court.

'Let's tell some Stories' project funded by Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal is complete! Story boards have been installed at John Vane's burial site, the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall, the Woodstock Railway Station, and Parkes Street. Many thanks to those that contributed information and compiled information.

Signs R Us was responsible for printing, fabrication and install, a pleasure to deal with. A big thankyou also, to Kevin Graham and Ray for the perimeter fencing around the Parkes St and Railway boards.



SEVENTH VISIT FOR THE FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS



February 10th saw the Festival of Small Halls visit Woodstock for the seventh time, and what a show!

A mid week performance can be a hard thing to pitch to the audience however the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall was filled with almost 100 people.

Local musicians Trish and Stud Hudson opened the evening with a 15 minute set. Ryan Young from Scotland accompanied by Owen Sinclair on guitar performed a 40 minute marathon of music. The calibre of these two performers was absolutely mind blowing!

Alana Wilkinson from the Northern Rivers performed after supper was served, and had the audience almost in tears and at times laughing like hyenas with her stories of motherhood.

Woodstock is extremely grateful to the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall for hosting the artists as they tour NSW. A big thankyou to MC for the evening Lisa Brien.

Thanks also to Cowra Council for a kind donation to assist with the costing of hosting such an event.



WALLI MEMORIAL HALL SIGNAGE PRESERVED

Preservation of what was is important, otherwise no one will remember.

Woodstock Memorial Show recently undertook restorative work to the signage on the 100 year old Walli Memorial Hall. Whom better for the task than Walli ancestor herself Sharon Fensom.

This project was funded with the support of both Sharon Fensom and a Cowra Council Community Grant of \$770.

A big thankyou to the community who assisted with scaffold set up.





COWRA COUNCIL POP UP HUB A SUCCESS!

On December 5th, Cowra Shire Council came out to Woodstock and held a pop up service centre hub for locals to come and ask Council staff questions about anything from waste and water through to rates, roads and rubbish. A good showing from the Woodstock community ensured the day went well and there are plans in 2024 for another!

The Woodstock customer service pop up came on the back of a very successful day at Gooloogong on November 28 last year with Council planning another stop there as well as other surrounding villages.

“These days really are a chance for community members to come along and ask a variety of questions about the things that mattered to them in their LGA,” said Dane Millerd of Cowra Shire Council.

“The feedback has been tremendous and the hubs well-received so no doubt we will be back again sooner rather than later!”

Watch this space!

Pictured right SERVICING WOODSTOCK: Ken Apps, Tanya Hampton and Tina Smart at Woodstock on December 5 last year assisting the local community with questions about their local government area and responsibilities.



FROM THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Produce harvested from the Community Garden during the summer holidays.

The public were invited to visit and tend the gardens for the last two weeks of the summer holidays.

A prolific crop of cherry tomatoes, corn, basil and strawberries. The garden has certainly enjoyed the summer rains and humidity.



CLOSURE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

After much prayerful contemplation and consultation, the decision has been made to close the Woodstock Catholic church for worship. This difficult decision has been prompted by the low and declining church attendance and the ever-increasing maintenance costs associated with these beloved places of worship.

These churches hold a special place in the hearts of many, and the prospect of their closure is undoubtedly met with mixed emotions. This decision was not made lightly and was done with the long-term sustainability and well-being of our entire parish community in mind. The memories, traditions and spiritual significance associated with these places are acknowledged, and the Parish is committed to providing support and guidance as they navigate this transition.

This beautiful church has served the community of Woodstock for almost 70 years, bearing witness to countless significant events, full of memories from days past, and carrying within its walls our Catholic heritage and traditions.

How it all began...The first priest visited Woodstock in 1853 to celebrate Mass at Sheet-o-Bark farming station, a few kilometres from present day Woodstock. In 1892, after the arrival of the railway line, this location was replaced by a galvanised building on a two-acre paddock in Carrington Street, called the Church of the Sacred Heart. It was officially opened by Bishop Byrnes.

In 1905, the church at Woodstock was listed as St Brigid's. Father O'Kennedy, parish priest of Cowra, travelled out on horseback to say Mass. He would stay overnight in the home of Mr Larry Purcell. It was on one of these visits that Mr Purcell died in the arms of Father O'Kennedy. 1918 saw the arrival of four Brigidine Sisters to take up residence in the two-storey building on the corner of Carrington and; Parkes Street (next to St Brigid's and now privately owned). This building was large enough to encompass their living quarters, classroom space, and a temporary church at the back. The Sisters oversaw a flourishing Primary School and Intermediate Certificate High School. The Sisters of St Joseph took over in 1963 until its closure in 1969.



Over the years, there was much effort put into fundraising by the Woodstock community, and Father McMahon in particular, to construct a new building. More than 1000 people attended the blessing and opening of the current St Brigid's Church on 21 October 1956, officiated by Cardinal Gilroy, the first Australian to be elected to the College of Cardinals. It was a gala occasion for the community and according to the Cardinal, "Everything seemed to be smiling, the heavens, the countryside, and it seemed as though the Lord was looking down on the people of Woodstock and saying 'You are doing very well indeed!'"

In 1964, Woodstock was proclaimed an independent parish with Father Tim Reen as Parish Priest. No presbytery existed at the time and so he accepted the hospitality of Mrs Mary Mallon and her sons Peter and Jack. The Parish closed in 1974, with Woodstock once again becoming part of the Cowra Parish until the current day.

*Information from - 'History of the Catholic Church in Cowra' by Jan Chivers
Guardian Newspaper article, 1956*

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

A small gathering at the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Park on November 11, 2023 to commemorate Remembrance Day. Felicity Jess coordinated the service. A special mention to Peter Levett for his heartfelt reflection of service during the ceremony. Erin Rutledge carried out flag duties for the ceremony.

It is planned to be an ongoing ceremony in the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Park in future years.

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Bishop Michael came to celebrate the final mass on Saturday 9th December 2023 the church to bid a proper farewell to the cherished sanctuary and to honour the history and memories it holds. Olivia Finn granddaughter of John Finn performed altar service duties. Readings were carried out by John MacKenzie and Jenny Blazley with grandson Thomas Flint by her side. The Responsorial Psalm was read by Michael Southan. Shirley Russell and Bobby Cooley read the Prayers of the Faithful. The church was filled with 70 for its closing service.

The spirit of our parish will endure, and the Parish encourages everyone to stay connected and active within our broader faith community. The parish encourages the presence and participation of parishioners in our other churches remains crucial to our shared spiritual journey, and look forward to strengthening the bonds that unite us.

Fr Dong Nguyen,
Parish Administrator

Lest we Forget.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

A memorial garden has been planted at the Woodstock Bowling Sport & Recreation Club in memory of the late patrons, Daryl and Gail Dean. They were both a great part of the club for many years and are greatly missed.

The garden which has been installed at the entrance to the bowling greens two Iseberg Roses underplanted with bulbs and cuttings of ground covers that Gail brought to the club.



2024 STUDENT LEADERS



Congratulations to Evie Johnstone, who has been elected 2024 School Captain of Cowra Public School.

Evie was also part of the winning team from Cowra Public School to receive a Ministers Young Climate Champion Finalist Award in the 2023 NSW Sustainability Awards. Great work Evie!



Congratulations also to local girl Poppy Starr who was awarded a 2024 Prefect role at Scots All Saints College, Bathurst.



Poppy was also recently awarded the Cowra Show Society Inc. 2023 Junior Rural Ambassador and was the recipient of the Limousin Youth Association Scholarship to compete at the 2024 Tasmanian Junior Beef Expo, being held at the end of February. Good luck to Poppy in Tasmania!



Woodstock Public School

Welcome Back to School!

Staff at Woodstock Public School are very much looking forward to the 2024 school year. We are very excited to be welcoming 8 new enrollments to the school in 2024.

We are also looking forward to welcoming a Student Wellbeing Officer this year. There will be more information on how this person will support the school coming soon. We are hoping to be able to offer a play group to the community. Please watch our FaceBook page for expressions of interest and further details.

The school has also secured support from Foodbank this year and will be offering a breakfast club to all students as many of our students spend a significant amount of time travelling to school each day.

We would also like to let all members of the Woodstock Community know they are welcome to pop in and see our beautiful school at anytime. If anyone has any queries about enrolling please contact the front office.



WHAT'S ON

Tuesday 20th February

CWA Meeting 1pm - Woodstock CWA Rooms

March Sometime

Lachlan Valley Social Car Club Charity Day
Woodstock Hotel

Sunday 24th March

Dirt Track Club Day - Woodstock Speedway

Easter Saturday 30th March

Easter Egg Hunt - Woodstock Hotel

19th -21st April

Vintage Motorcycle Club Australia (NSW)
Veteran Rally Pre 1919 Woodstock Showground

Thursday 25th April

ANZAC DAY March Woodstock

May

100 years CWA Woodstock

Sunday 26th May

Dirt Track Club Day - Woodstock Speedway

Sunday 28th July

Dirt Track Club Day - Woodstock Speedway

Sunday 1st September

Woodstock Memorial Show Inc

Sunday 8th September

Dirt Track Club Day - Woodstock Speedway

LACHLAN ENDURANCE RIDERS CLUB WOODSTOCK RIDE

The Lachlan Endurance Riders Club will be holding an additional ride at Woodstock Showground in 2024.

This ride will take place over the weekend of April 27 & 28, 2024. Rides will take place on Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

The riders will use the following local Woodstock roads: West St, Blazley Rd, George Russel Dr, Hilltop Rd, Reg Hailstone Way, Myalla Road, Old Waugoola Road and Ferndale Rd.

Our riders absolutely love the opportunity to ride in the Woodstock district, and greatly appreciate the property owners for granting access to their land, and the Woodstock community for sharing this beautiful region.

Come on down over the weekend, grab a coffee or some Chinese takeaway and watch these great horses in action.



Woodstock Public School Save the Date 2024

Term One 2024

- Thursday 1 February - School commences (students return)
- Friday 16 February - Small Schools' Swimming Carnival
- Thursday 28 March - Easter Hat Parade all welcome to attend
- Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April - Easter Long Weekend
- Friday 12 April - last day of Term One
- Thursday 25 April - ANZAC Day March Woodstock

Term Two 2024

- Monday 29 April - School Development Day (staff return)
- Tuesday 30 April - Term Two commences (students return)
- Wednesday 1 May - Cowra Eisteddfod Verse Speaking
- Friday 17 May - Pirate day
- Monday 7 June - King's Birthday Public Holiday



COWRA COMMUNITY GRANTS OPEN

1 FEBRUARY 2024

Cowra Community Grants 2023/24 – Round 2, opens on Thursday, 1 February. Applications will be accepted until 4.30pm on Thursday, 29 February with successful applicants advised following the Cowra Shire Council meeting on Monday, 25 March.

Sport and Recreation	Activities that provide access to physical and social pursuits to support the health and well-being of the community	\$1000
Arts and Culture	Events that foster the Shire's cultural identity, or that provide an accessible, diverse range of community art and cultural opportunities	\$1000
Small Capital Equipment	Purchases of small capital equipment items to support community organisation activities	\$1000
Building and Facility Development	Improvements to Council or community owned buildings and facilities	\$2000
New Community Events	Support new events held within Cowra Shire, with broad appeal to both local and the wider community that celebrate significant occasions, encourage cultural diversity or brings communities together. For new events to be held between 1 April 2024 and 31 December 2024.	Based on expected attendance Up to 200 \$500 201 and above \$1,000

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.

CONTACT US

Website: www.visitwoodstock.com.au

Email: woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6345 0104

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 25th February 2024

at Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall
2pm

