

## WHATS ON IN AND AROUND WOODSTOCK

**18th July** Camp Oven Cook Off, Woodstock Hotel

**25th July** TRIVIA NIGHT Major fundraiser Woodstock and District Progress Association, Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall

**6th September** Woodstock Memorial Show

**12-13th September** Lachlan Endurance Ride, Woodstock Showground

## RESTORATION OF WWI HONOUR ROLL

The Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall has successfully acquitted a recent grant supporting 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 was completed. The project focused on carefully restoring the Honour Roll to its original condition; ensuring names, details, and craftsmanship are respectfully preserved. The restoration was carried out with attention to historical accuracy and heritage values. The restoration was 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. 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.



## THANKYOU FROM DRUMBANE

Ann and Kevin Graham would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the Woodstock and Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigades for their prompt attendance and assistance on 20th April at Drumbane, Parkes Street. Your swift response, professionalism, and dedication to the community are deeply appreciated. Thank you for your continued service and support.



# COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS BY YOUR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Woodstock Progress Association has continued to play an active role in improving and promoting the village through ongoing community projects, advocacy, and volunteer-led initiatives. These achievements have been made possible through the dedication of local volunteers and the generous support of residents, businesses, and visitors who contribute to fundraising activities throughout the year.

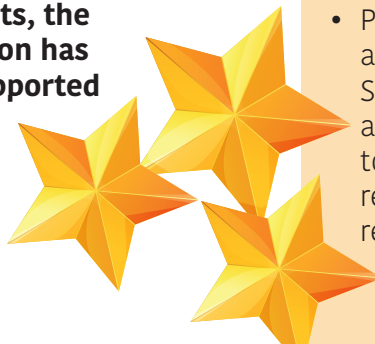
A major contributor to these outcomes has been the regular pub raffles and other community fundraising efforts, which have provided valuable financial support for local projects and improvements. Funds raised have assisted not only with new infrastructure and community initiatives, but also with the ongoing upkeep and presentation of important public spaces within Woodstock.

Interestingly, while selling raffle tickets at the pub one Friday evening, members of the Association were asked by several people what exactly the Progress Association does for the community. That conversation highlighted the importance of keeping both new and existing residents informed about the many projects, improvements, and advocacy efforts undertaken on behalf of Woodstock. It also reinforced that community involvement is vital to the continued success of the village.

With that in mind, the Woodstock Progress Association welcomes ideas, feedback, assistance, and the sharing of local skills from all residents. Whether through volunteering, contributing suggestions, supporting fundraising activities, or simply getting involved in community discussions, every contribution helps strengthen and improve Woodstock for everyone.

**Through these combined efforts, the Woodstock Progress Association has successfully delivered and supported the following outcomes for the community:**

- Installation of a shade structure over the play equipment at the Woodstock Lions Park.
- Acquisition and installation of additional picnic table seating, park bench in Woodstock Lions Park.
- Delivery of a Village Entrance Feature to enhance the presentation and identity of Woodstock.
- Production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter for Woodstock residents.
- Replacement of the community noticeboard to improve local communication and information sharing.
- Replacement and upgrading of two highway signs promoting Woodstock.
- Development of two community brochures:
  - a tourist promotion brochure, and
  - a new resident information brochure.
- Delivery of the “Let’s Tell Some Stories” community heritage and storytelling initiative, five storyboards.
- Establishment of a communal vegetable garden area for community use and engagement.
- Advocacy for improved horse signage and a review of 80 km/h speed zones in the Woodstock area.
- Installation of public art project on Hills Café building
- Advocacy and planning for primitive campground at the Woodstock Showground, including provision for an RV dump point.
- Paying all fuel costs associated with mowing and maintaining sections of the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Park and the campground area at the Woodstock Showground, helping to ensure these important community assets remain welcoming and well maintained for residents and visitors alike.





# WOODSTOCK HOTEL - FROM THE BAR

There has been plenty happening at the Woodstock Hotel, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our patrons and the wider community for their ongoing support.

This month also marks the end of an era as we farewell Aunty May, who will be leaving the Woodstock Hotel Bistro at the end of the month after seven years of dedicated service. During her time with us, May has prepared countless meals, welcomed locals and visitors with her trademark warmth, and played an important role in making the bistro a favourite gathering place within our community. Her hard work, loyalty and friendly nature will be greatly missed by staff, patrons and friends alike. We sincerely thank May for her outstanding contribution to the hotel and wish her every happiness and success in the next chapter of her life.

We are also delighted to see local families enjoying the new playground equipment, which was funded through proceeds from our popular Saturday night meat raffles. The raffles continue to attract strong community support each week, and it is rewarding to see those funds invested back into facilities that benefit local children and visiting families. Thank you to everyone who purchases tickets and helps make projects like this possible.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce the return of the Woodstock Camp Oven Cook-Off on Saturday, 18 July. This much-loved event brings together camp oven enthusiasts, home cooks and spectators for a day of great food, friendly

competition and country hospitality. Whether you're entering a dish, keen to learn a few cooking secrets or simply want to enjoy the atmosphere, we encourage everyone to come along and be part of the day.

From all of us at the Woodstock Hotel, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you through our doors and sharing many more memorable community events throughout the year. Please join us in thanking Aunty May for her seven years of service and wishing her all the very best for the future.



## NSW REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jacinta, daughter of Lizanne Blackburne, on being selected to represent NSW at the 2026 National Shearing and Woolhandling Championships in Warrnambool!

What an incredible achievement and a testament to the months of hard work, training, travel, and

dedication. Wishing Jacinta and the entire Waratah team the very best as they proudly represent NSW this October.

Enjoy the experience, give it your all, and make NSW proud!



# WOODSTOCK ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS HONOUR LEGACY OF LOCAL SERVICEMAN

The Woodstock community came together in solemn reflection this ANZAC Day to honour the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of those who have served our nation. Residents gathered on Parkes and Rankin Streets to pay their respects, continuing a tradition that remains deeply woven into the fabric of our town.

This year's service carried an added poignancy with a special tribute to recently passed local serviceman Kevin 'Sheppy' Graham. A respected member of the Woodstock community, Kevin's wartime service and lifelong commitment to his fellow veterans were remembered with great admiration and gratitude.

Kevin served his country with distinction, embodying the ANZAC spirit of resilience, mateship, and quiet dedication. Following his service, he remained an active presence in commemorative events, ensuring that the stories and sacrifices of his comrades were never forgotten. His passing has left a significant void, but his legacy endures in the values he lived by and the lives he touched.

During the ceremony, speakers reflected on the importance of preserving these personal histories, reminding attendees that ANZAC Day is not only about honouring those who served long ago, but also recognising the contributions of individuals like Kevin within our own communities.

Wreaths were laid, the Last Post sounded, and a minute's silence observed—moments that united young and old in shared remembrance. For many, the tribute to Kevin served as a powerful reminder that the spirit of service continues across generations.

As Woodstock moves forward, the memory of Kevin Sheppy Graham will remain an integral part of our ANZAC story—his service, humility, and dedication standing as an example for us all.

The community also extends its sincere



appreciation to the dedicated volunteers, local organisers, and supporting groups whose efforts ensured the commemorations were conducted with dignity and respect. A sincere thank you to Andrew Hall for serving as bugler at this year's Woodstock ANZAC Day Service. His moving performance of the Last Post and Rouse was a highlight of the ceremony and helped provide a fitting tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our country. The community greatly appreciates his contribution to this important day of remembrance.

From those who coordinated the service to participants, musicians, and community groups, their commitment plays a vital role in keeping the ANZAC tradition alive in Woodstock.

Lest we forget.



# WOODSTOCK CWA MARKS A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Woodstock branch of the Country Women's Association celebrated a remarkable milestone on Friday, 22 May 2026, marking 100 years of service, friendship and support to the local community with a special centenary luncheon.

The occasion brought together members, former members, local residents and distinguished guests to honour a century of dedication by generations of Woodstock women. Joining the celebrations was Tanya Jolly, State President of the CWA of NSW, Steph Cooke MP, and Mayor Paul Smith, who acknowledged the significant contribution the organisation has made to the social fabric of the district.



A highlight of the afternoon was the attendance of the branch's longest-serving member, Joy Drury, whose many years of involvement reflect the commitment and spirit that have sustained the organisation through the decades.

Guests enjoyed a celebratory luncheon and admired a beautifully decorated centenary cake, which was officially cut by Woodstock CWA President Ann Graham and Tanya Jolly. The cake-cutting ceremony symbolised both a proud reflection on the branch's rich history and an optimistic outlook for its future.

For 100 years, Woodstock CWA has provided opportunities for friendship, advocacy, education and community service, supporting local families and contributing to countless projects and events throughout the district. The centenary celebration was a fitting tribute to the women whose dedication has helped shape the organisation and strengthens the Woodstock community for generations.

The Woodstock branch looks forward to continuing its proud tradition of service as it embarks on its second century.



## BUILDING A CREATIVE CAREER FROM THE COUNTRY

For local performer and voice actor Sumara, a life in the arts began at the age of nine with an unforgettable classroom performance of *The Skipping Rope Hornpipe*—singing, skipping rope and eating a Mars Bar all at the same time.

That early taste of performing sparked a lifelong passion. Trained from a young age by RADA-qualified classical theatre actors, Sumara developed a love of theatre and Shakespeare before going on to complete a theatre degree and extensive training in acting, directing, accents and performance. Her early professional experiences included helping create a series of street theatre performances during the Sydney Olympics and stage managing a group-devised production at the Sydney Opera House the following year.

Twelve years ago, Sumara and her family made Woodstock home after spending many years in Sydney and the Hawkesbury. Like many locals, she balanced family life with a variety of jobs, including roles at the Post Office, Dressers and Cowra Library.

Yet the desire to perform never disappeared. “While my children were growing up, I started wondering how I could get back into acting,” she said. The answer arrived unexpectedly when her partner, Reece, discovered information about actors building home studios and working remotely as voice artists. Intrigued, Sumara completed an introductory voiceover course at NIDA, invested in some recording equipment and began seeking clients online.

Her first professional voiceover was a telephone message for a company in Spain. The second was a full audiobook.

The timing proved perfect. Sumara had already established a home-based creative business before remote work became commonplace during the pandemic. Today, from her purpose-built Woodstock studio, she records voiceovers for commercials, audiobooks, e-learning programs and corporate projects, while also producing on-camera presentations for training videos, promotional campaigns and social media content.

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Far from being a disadvantage, Woodstock's peaceful setting has become one of her greatest professional assets. "Actors in cities are constantly battling traffic, aircraft and neighbourhood noise. Here it might be the occasional stock truck or someone mowing across the road, but generally it's wonderfully quiet."

Reliable internet allows her to connect with clients around Australia and around the world, while the tranquillity of village life provides the perfect recording environment.

As her children became adults, Sumara was able to devote more time to her original ambition—screen and stage acting. She secured representation with a Sydney agent and began auditioning regularly, submitting self-taped auditions online from Woodstock and travelling to the city when required for callbacks and filming.

Closer to home, she has recently enjoyed returning to the stage with the Cowra Theatre Company, appearing in two highly successful seasons of *Absolutely Fabulous* in 2025 and 2026. "It was wonderful to see so many Woodstock friends in

the audience. Being involved with local theatre has connected me with other performers and reminded me how important creative communities are."

At the same time, Reece's own artistic career has flourished, allowing the couple to share the rewards and challenges of creative life together. Living in Woodstock also offers practical advantages. Sydney and Canberra are within easy reach for auditions and productions, while the lower cost of living provides a level of security that many city-based performers struggle to achieve.

For Sumara, her experience proves that pursuing a creative career does not require giving up the benefits of country living.

"If you love performing and dream of doing it professionally, it is possible wherever you live. You don't have to choose between a country lifestyle and a creative life."

As she continues building her acting and voiceover career, Sumara plans to keep Woodstock as her home base beneath the big country skies.

"Having the support and encouragement of this community makes the creative journey even richer, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."



## SOCIAL SCENE



Congratulations to Lauren Vest and Nick Hovey on their beautiful autumn wedding. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the happy occasion, with the reception held at the Woodstock Memorial Hall. We wish Lauren and Nick every happiness as they begin their new life together.



A warm welcome to new residents Ed Hordern and Dr Kristen, who have recently made the Woodstock district their home. Congratulations also on the arrival of their baby daughter, Sadie. We extend our best wishes to the whole family and hope they enjoy many happy years as part of the Woodstock community.



# AUTUMN 2026 FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS BRINGS MUSIC AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO WOODSTOCK

The Soldiers Memorial Hall came alive in April as locals and visitors gathered for a memorable evening of music, storytelling and connection during the nationally recognised Festival of Small Halls.

Hosted in the heart of Woodstock, the event transformed the hall into a vibrant cultural destination, celebrating regional creativity and the unique spirit of small communities across rural Australia. Residents welcomed travelling performers and guests from across the region, creating an atmosphere filled with warmth, laughter and community pride.

The concert showcased exceptional live music in an intimate setting, highlighting the magic that only small halls and country towns can provide. Audience members enjoyed a diverse program of folk, acoustic and contemporary music.

A highlight of the evening was the outstanding community supper menu, which proved enormously popular with guests. The hearty slow-cooked lamb dish was particularly well received, perfectly suited to the cool autumn evening and reflecting the warmth and hospitality Woodstock is renowned for. Local volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare and serve the meal, adding to the welcoming atmosphere and overall success of the event.

Beyond the entertainment, the festival delivered important social and economic benefits for Woodstock and surrounding districts. Local volunteers, worked together to support the event, demonstrating the strength of community collaboration and volunteerism within the village. The event also helped showcase Woodstock as a welcoming and vibrant regional destination capable of hosting high-quality cultural experiences.

Importantly, the Festival of Small Halls strengthened social connections within the community by bringing together residents of all ages. Families, long-time locals and newcomers



shared an evening of music and conversation, reinforcing the role of community events in reducing isolation and fostering wellbeing in regional areas.

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Arts Out West and Cowra Shire Council, whose donations and assistance helped make the event possible. Their support to arts and culture in regional communities plays an important role in ensuring events such as the Festival of Small Halls can continue to thrive in villages like Woodstock.

The success of the event reflects Woodstock's ongoing commitment to supporting arts, culture and community development. Organisers and volunteers are to be congratulated for delivering a professional and inclusive event that celebrated both local hospitality and Australia's rich regional music culture.

As the music faded and the hall lights dimmed, the evening left a lasting impression on all who attended – a reminder that small towns continue to play a vital role in keeping community spirit and live performance thriving across regional NSW.



# THE LACHLAN ENDURANCE RIDERS AUTUMN RIDE

## The Lachlan Endurance Riders Autumn Ride

The Lachlan Endurance Riders Club welcomed riders from all over NSW as well as visitors from Qld, Vic, Tasmania and the United Arab Emirates to our Autumn ride on the Anzac Day long weekend.

Riders started to gather at the Woodstock showgrounds from Friday morning. Over the weekend we had over 100 horses compete in the rides on offer. Saturday riders had the choice of 20km and 40km rides. Then Sunday riders had the choice of a 100-120km elevator ride, 80km ride and 40km ride. The weather was lovely making the weekend very enjoyable. Once again the riders covered a wide area, heading west towards Cowra in the early hours of Sunday morning before looping back around and into Woodstock. Then they headed out to Old Waugoola Road, through paddocks and up along part of the stock route, before returning to camp. The longer riders also enjoyed travelling back along Blazleys Lane, through The Laurels and home via Hilltop Lane.

LERC would once again like to thank the following landholders for allowing our riders access to their beautiful properties – Paul Dresser, Shaun Duggan and manager Henry, Barry Blinman and Bill Young.

The showgrounds were looking a picture and we really appreciate how well they are looked after. We receive so many compliments from riders about the grounds.

Our next ride weekend will be September 12 & 13, 2026.



## THANK YOU FROM THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The Progress Association would like to sincerely thank the Woodstock Hotel for the privilege of selling raffle tickets during the month of May. We greatly appreciate the support and hospitality extended to us. We would also like to thank the hotel patrons for their generous purchase of raffle tickets and ongoing support of our fundraising

efforts. A special thank you goes to Meg Thomas, Di Brown, Terry Reynolds, and Ann Graham for their valuable contributions on Friday nights. Your time, effort, and dedication helped make the raffle a success, and we are grateful for your support. Congratulations to all winners.



# SAVE THE DATE - TRIVIA NIGHT RETURNS

Mark your calendars for the Woodstock and District Progress Association's Trivia Night on Saturday, 25 July 2026.

Always a popular community event, the evening promises plenty of fun, friendly competition, and laughter for teams of all ages. Gather your friends, family, workmates, or sporting club members and start brushing up on your general knowledge.

More details, including team registrations, will be announced soon. Be sure to save the date and join us for another great night supporting our local community.



## WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Creative Active Physical  
Social-emotional**

**ENROL NOW**

At Woodstock Public School every student is supported to ensure they access quality High Potential and Gifted Education opportunities. Our students engage in a range of activities addressing each of the HPGE domains. These opportunities are tailored to match with student needs. Students access regular sporting events, participate in choir, debating and have regular leadership opportunities around the school.

**HPGE DOMAINS**

- Creative
- Intellectual
- Physical
- Social-emotional

**WHY JOIN US?**

- Build Confidence
- Make New Friends
- Stay Active & Engaged

[www.woodstock-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woodstock-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)  
02 6345 0217 follow us on FB



WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Welcome to our Kinder Orientation Days!

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED INTRODUCTION TO OUR KINDER PROGRAMS.



Kinder orientation days will commence on Friday 7 August 2026 and run for 5 weeks. The day will commence at 9:00am and conclude at the end of lunch (12 noon) during Term 3.

We will extend the program to full days in Term 4.

For more information please contact the school on 02 6345 0217  
Email: woodstock-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



## WOODSTOCK MEMORIAL SHOW 2026 TAKING SHAPE

Excitement is building for the 2026 Woodstock Memorial Show to be held on Fathers Day Sunday 6th September, with organisers busy preparing another fantastic day of entertainment, competition and community spirit.

The popular Young Farmers Challenge will return after drawing huge crowds last year, giving local teams the chance to test their skills, teamwork and speed in a series of fun rural challenges. Families can once again enjoy the much-loved Animal Nursery, while children's entertainment will include the talented Pretty Amazing Jono and a colourful face painter to keep young showgoers smiling throughout the day.

Crowd favourite's woodchopping, speed shearing and the vintage tractor pull are also back on the program, promising plenty of action and excitement.

Competitors should keep an eye out for several updates to the Arts and Crafts Section, with changes designed to encourage greater participation and showcase the talents of local makers, artists and creators.

Interest in this year's show continues to grow, with applications for the popular Market Laneway arriving steadily. Organisers are delighted by the strong response from stallholders and are looking forward to presenting a vibrant mix of local produce, handmade goods, food vendors and unique products.

The Woodstock Memorial Show Committee is also encouraging community members to become involved in supporting the Show. Annual membership is just \$15 entitling two adults and children under 15 to attend the show and also providing an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success of this important community event. Sponsorship opportunities are also available, offering local businesses and individuals a chance to support one of the district's most anticipated annual celebrations while gaining valuable community exposure.

The Woodstock Memorial Show Committee looks forward to welcoming exhibitors, competitors, stallholders and visitors for another memorable show celebrating the best of our local community.



## 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](mailto:woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com) or phone: 02 6345 0104.



# FIRE SEASON ENDS - BURN REGISTRATION STILL REQUIRED

With the official fire season now at an end, residents around Woodstock may be preparing to undertake property clean-ups and hazard reduction burns. While conditions have eased, it is important to remember that all burns—no matter how small—must still be registered.

Registering your burn helps ensure that local fire services are aware of planned activity, reducing the risk of unnecessary emergency responses and

helping keep the community safe. Residents can easily register their burns online via the NSW Rural Fire Service website, by scanning the QR code available on information cards at the local Post Office or FCC, or by calling 6363 6666 directly.

Taking a few moments to register your burn is a simple but important step in protecting both your property and the wider community.

Stay safe and responsible this season.



## COMMUNITY GROUP CONTACTS

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE/EMAIL/SOCIAL MEDIA
Woodstock Bowling, Sport and Recreation Club	President Robert Savell	Facebook Woodstock Bowling Club
Woodstock Common	President Dennis Mowll Secretary Lynette Ollie Moodie	
Woodstock CWA	President Ann Graham Secretary Roz Vest	horten2@bigpond.com
Woodstock Memorial Hall	Ann Graham Lisa Brien	6345 0271 lisabrien18@gmail.com
Woodstock Memorial Show Inc	President Lily Lawler Secretary Alison Rutledge	woodstockmemorialshow@gmail.com 0428 405 523
Woodstock District Progress Association	President Alison Rutledge Secretary Teena Gillespie	0428 405 523 woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com
Woodstock Public School P & C	Secretary Sue Turner	Facebook Woodstock Public School
Woodstock Rural Fire Brigade	Captain Robert Moodie Senior Deputy Libby Ollie Moodie Deputy Dan Oxley & Steve Green	r.moodie@mail.com
Woodstock Speedway	President Steve Kurtz	0439 972 737 cookroof@bigpond.net.au
Woodstock Swimming Pool	President Lee Brien	Facebook Woodstock Swimming Pool

### CONTACT US

Website: [www.visitwoodstock.com.au](http://www.visitwoodstock.com.au)

Email: [woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com](mailto:woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com)

Phone: 02 6345 0104

### NEXT MEETING

Sunday 28th June 2026

at Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall  
2pm

