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— NEW SOUTH WALES 2793 —

ISSUE 15

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

21ST OCTOBER

CWA AGM at the CWA Rooms

26TH OCTOBER

CMRC Race Day

Woodstock Park Speedway

27TH OCTOBER

Woodstock Progress Association Meeting

Woodstock Memorial Hall

22 - 23 NOVEMBER

CMRC Speedway meeting in conjunction with

Darcy Ward

Woodstock Park

Speedway



WOODSTOCK FIRE SHED OFFICIAL OPENING: OCTOBER 1ST

We are excited to announce the official opening of the newly completed Woodstock Fire Shed on October 1st! This is a major milestone for our local RFS and a welcome boost to our community's fire preparedness.

The same date, October 1st, also marks the beginning of the 2025-26 bushfire season.

As we head into warmer months, residents are reminded that fire permits will be required for all burns from this date onward. Permits can be obtained through the local Fire Control Centre or by contacting your local Fire Captain.

Let's all do our part to stay safe, prepared, and fire-aware this season.



EXCITING NEWS FROM THE PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

More fantastic news for the Woodstock community – the Woodstock Primitive Campground at the Woodstock Showground is operational! This is a major milestone for our village, paving the way for increased tourism, local activity, and new opportunities to showcase the beauty and charm of our region.

The Woodstock Community Post Office Storyboard Project is progressing well. This community storytelling initiative aims to preserve and share the rich history of our village, with particular focus on the legacy of the post office. We should see installation prior to the years' end. A big thank you to Mr John Hill, for his thorough research on the Woodstock post Office.

Also a thank you to the Woodstock Hotel and all its patrons for the September pub raffle fundraiser, a net of \$390 raised. We'd like to extend a big thank you to Katie for generously allowing us to run our regular pub raffles at the local. These raffles are more than just a bit of fun – they're a vital way for us to raise substantial revenue to support local projects and events. Until next time – your continued support and community spirit make all the difference.

The Progress Association is also working closely with the Woodstock Memorial Show committee to coordinate the installation of a dump point at the Showground providing essential waste disposal facilities for caravanners. This project has been facilitated by a grant acquired by the Woodstock Memorial Show through the Royal Agricultural Foundation.

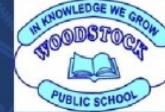
The Woodstock community mourns the passing of Dermott Rodwell, a respected artist, community leader, and friend. Dermott shared his creativity through his artwork and gave generously of his time as past President of the Woodstock and District Progress Association. He was also integral in preserving the Woodstock Railway Station and protecting its heritage value, leaving a lasting mark on our town's history. He will be remembered for his

warmth, humour, and dedication to community. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family and loved ones.

The Woodstock community also acknowledges with sadness the passing of Maurice Randall, an active and valued member of our town. Maurice gave much of his time to local life and was a long-standing member of the Woodstock Show. He will be remembered for his contributions and commitment to the Woodstock Lions Park, his community spirit, and the friendships he fostered over many years. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.



**NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS
FOR 2026**



**WOODSTOCK
PUBLIC SCHOOL**

2025

What a whirlwind year for Woodstock Public School. We have had many successes across our student body this year with students representing the school at both District and Western Region sporting events.

In Term 3 students combined with students across the Cowra Small Schools Network to produce and present our Creative Arts Performance - Wild Wild West.

Students in the primary classroom have published both a poetry anthology and a recipe book this year, while infants students have continued to build on their understanding and use of the basics. Infants class produced some magnificent dioramas and portrait work under the careful guidance of their classroom teacher.

Check out our facebook page for many wonderful memories from 2025. We hope you can join us in 2026.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK









RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS AT THE WOODSTOCK MEMORIAL SHOW!

What a show! The 2025 Woodstock Memorial Show has gone down in the history books as one of our biggest and best yet, with perfect weather, record-breaking attendance and community support.

From the traditional pavilion entries, record shearer numbers, inaugural farmers challenge to the spectacular entertainment, the grounds were buzzing with energy and community spirit. Crowds turned out in force to enjoy the full day of attractions—livestock competitions, wood chopping, horse events, pavilion displays, sideshow alley, market stalls, and of course, plenty of food and fun for all ages.

A question asked post show – what are funds raised at the Woodstock Memorial Show used for? Proceeds go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall, ensuring

it remains a functional and welcoming space for community events. Additionally, funds are distributed to the Dr Barbara Wright Memorial Fund. The Show also provides a platform for local organisations such as the Woodstock Swimming Pool to fundraise on the day, reinforcing its role as a key community-building event that celebrates and sustains the region's rural spirit.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated show committee, tireless volunteers, generous sponsors, and local exhibitors who all contributed to making this year's show such a standout success. It's clear that the Woodstock Memorial Show continues to grow stronger every year, cementing its place as a much-loved tradition and major highlight on the district calendar.

Congratulations to everyone involved—we can't wait to see what next year brings!





BRINGING WOODSTOCK STATION BACK TO LIFE: TRANSPORT NSW PLANS RESTORATION IN 2026

If you've driven past the old Woodstock Railway Station in recent years, you may have noticed its weathered charm, dilapidation and a story etched in every creaking floorboard and rusting rail. In 2026, Transport NSW is planning work to restore and reactivate this historic site under its Renewal & Heritage Program. (Transport for NSW).

The Renewal & Heritage Program is an initiative by Transport for NSW that works with regional communities, councils, and businesses to bring under utilised rail assets back into meaningful use. These assets often include heritage stations, disused rail buildings, and associated infrastructure. The goal is not just preservation, but sustainable reuse—creating community, cultural, or economic value. Woodstock Railway Station is specifically included in this program.

2026 is the targeted year for restoration to begin under the Renewal & Heritage Program. Before major works begin, there likely will be architectural heritage assessments, planning & approvals. Transport NSW and associated heritage bodies will need to ensure compliance with heritage legislation (NSW Heritage Register etc.), especially because Woodstock Station is heritage listed.

Why Woodstock Station Matters

- **Heritage & Identity:** Built in the late 1800s, Woodstock station is a fine example of a third class timber station with a veranda awning. It's been a key landmark in town for well over a century.
- **Under utilised Potential:** While the station is heritage listed, for many years its buildings have not been used actively, which risks deterioration. Restoring it would help protect and make visible our history.
- **Community Benefit:** Reactivating the station could create a space for local events, arts & culture, tourism, small businesses, or services. It's a chance to bring people together, and potentially draw visitors to Woodstock.

Transport NSW has not yet released full detailed plans for Woodstock, but based on similar heritage station projects, the kinds of work likely include:



- **Structural restoration:** Repair or replacement of decayed timber, roofing, verandah supports, and other heritage fabric elements.
- **Heritage feature reinstatement:** Bringing back period details (verandas, signage, lighting) in keeping with original style.
- **Adaptive reuse:** The station building might be repurposed for community use – e.g. small museum or exhibition space, local markets, community meeting room, arts/cultural programming.
- **Support through use:** Once restored, engaging with whatever gets established—events, markets or services—is what will keep the place alive and thriving.

For a town like ours, Woodstock Station's restoration is more than just fixing old buildings. It could mean:

- A boost in local pride and identity
- New gathering places for community life
- Economic opportunities (tourism, small business)
- Preserving heritage so that younger generations can feel connected to our past

We'll bring more detailed information in future newsletters as Transport NSW releases them—designs, cost estimates, scheduled works, and opportunities for local involvement.

If you have any thoughts already on how you'd like to see Woodstock Station restored or used, feel free to send them in! Let's make sure this is a renewal by the community, for the community.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES AT WOODSTOCK PANTHERS' LAMB DRIVE FUNDRAISER!

The Woodstock Panthers Football Club scored big off the field recently with the success of their Lamb Drive Fundraiser, bringing together supporters from across the rural farming community to raise vital funds for the club's 2025 season.

Held on a very wet day in June, the lamb drive offered over 80 quality, locally sourced lambs at the Cowra saleyards. The initiative was a financial boost for the Panthers, helping to support training equipment upgrades and the purchase and install of new goal posts.

Club Publicity Officer said the response from the community was overwhelming and heartening. "We're a small club, and events like these keep us going. The support from our players, families, and



local farmers shows just how much pride there is in the Panther family," she said.

A special thanks goes to all the local farmers who generously partnered with the club to supply the lambs. Go Panthers!



CAMP OVEN COOK OFF BRINGS THE HEAT AT THE WOODSTOCK HOTEL



The scent of slow-cooked roasts and hearty stews filled the air at the Woodstock Hotel as the community gathered for a cause close to many hearts – supporting Saving True Blues.

Held in July, the Camp Oven Cook Off was more than just a cooking competition. It was a celebration of bush cooking, community spirit, and mental health awareness. With a strong turnout of locals and visitors alike, the event brought together skilled camp oven cooks, supportive spectators, and generous donors, all united by a shared mission: to support mental health initiatives through Saving True Blues.

Over 20 camp oven entries, from slow-cooked lamb shanks to smoky damper, a panel of local

judges who tasted and scored each dish. Live music and cold drinks thanks to the Woodstock Hotel team. Raffles, auctions, and generous community donations helping raise funds for Saving True Blues

Saving True Blues is dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our rural and regional communities. Events like this one not only raise funds but also open up important conversations in a relaxed, supportive environment.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who cooked, attended, donated, and helped make the day such a success. A special shout-out to the team at the Woodstock Hotel for hosting and to all the local sponsors who contributed prizes and support.



A REAL TREE CHANGE

Woodstock first entered my life in 2014, the year I turned 40, the timing felt right to stretch ourselves with one more adventure in this, the beautiful country we'd chosen.

We'd emigrated from England to the Blue Mountains ten years prior and while enjoying life amongst the angophora's and peppermint gums, we had a subconscious hearts-and-bones yearning for the big skies and seasonal rhythms of our childhood.

Both Aubry and I were shaped by life growing up in a market town surrounded by some of England's most productive farm land. We'd earned pocket money bagging potatoes and chopping wood; prepared stalls for harvest festivals; made dens in dusty barns and lost welly (gum) boots traipsing across muddy paddocks. These feelings of nostalgia had been bubbling up since my sister's emigration which, thanks to a rural sponsorship visa, led to her moving to a village in Blayney Shire a few years earlier.

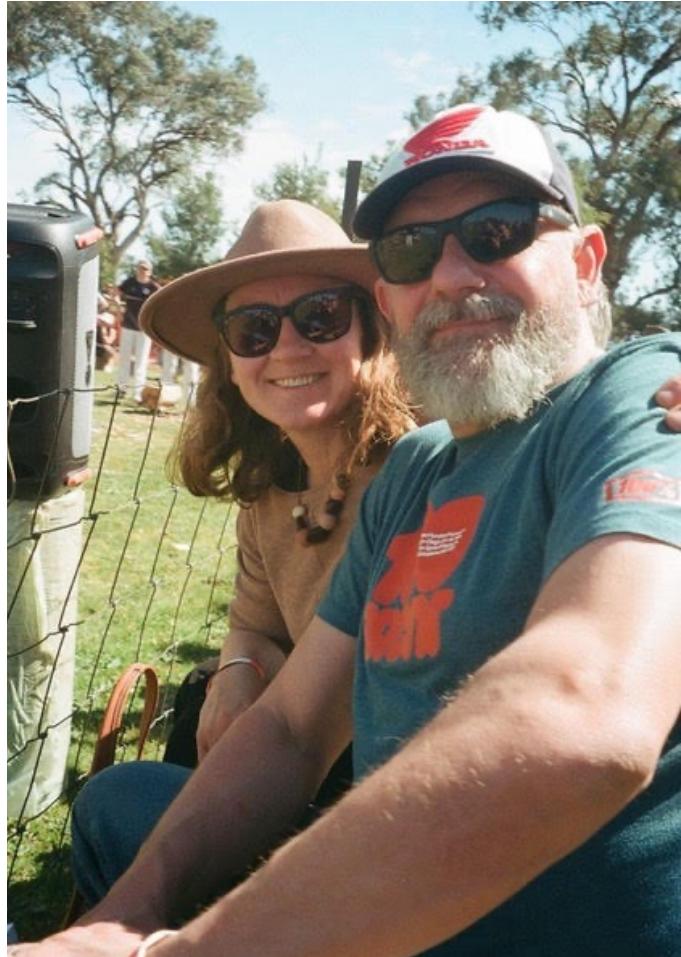
We hadn't been looking at property for long when the opportunity to visit Woodstock came up. We decided to drive out and get a feel for the place, combining a browse around the craft fair being held at the local school with the viewing of a beautifully wooded 50 acre block just outside the village. It was love at first sight for both the village and the block and the rest, as they say, is history.

Becoming Blockies.

For someone who grew up in England, getting to call fifty acres of woodland home felt like I'd really made it in life! Well it did until I started talking to the locals...

My English accent and very English-sounding sir name (Foxon-Hill) meant I was used to being outed as a 'non-native' or even 'invasive' species and so it was no surprise that in making this purchase, we'd innocently become the subject of another Aussie cultural phenomenon of dubious value - a blockie!

I'm a scientist by trade but an ecologist by nature meaning I've an endless curiosity for the relationally of life - how this lives with that and so on - and yes, that also includes people. My motivation



for buying this particular block was driven by a desire to learn more about this wonderful country we'd chosen through long-term quiet observation & interaction. I wanted to invest in something I could literally watch grow. A rest of life science experiment if you will. I didn't realise at the time just how much the land would also help to grow me and, to my delight, my connection to this place.

One of the best decisions we made straight after buying the block was connecting with the local Landcare group (Mid Lachlan). Through them, we were introduced to a farm planning course and a few other events and workshops which we attended when we could. At first we felt a little out of place, noticing that while most other participants had hundreds if not thousands of acres plus livestock and all that entails, we just had a few trees and a tiny old Kubota tractor!

Continued on page 7



Living it up as locals.

While embracing village life and becoming part of the community was always a goal of ours, it proved quite difficult in the early years thanks to both a heavy work schedule and weekend sports commitments. But by mid 2023, we finally started making up for lost time and it's been a blast!

A change in our circumstances meant I could wrap up my consultancy business and take a part-time role with Mid Lachlan Landcare as a co-ordinator. Around that time our eldest daughter opted to complete her teacher training at Woodstock primary school a move that turned out to be a great chapter in our village life. During that time we were able to work together to facilitate an excursion to Coota Park Blue E's cattle operation and show the students some of the amazing climate-friendly farming happening in their backyard. We also made a scarecrow for the village show together, inspiring a few other entries along the way. This year our youngest daughter opted to move to the area, securing a part time job in town which she juggles with two other passions - horses and cattle work.

But it's not just work that keeps us here, Woodstock sure knows how to party and we've enjoyed a few amazing days and nights out in this big-hitting country town.

The Woodstock show has proven to be a fantastic family day out and we've especially enjoyed the tractor pulling and wood chopping over the years. We've also been thrilled by the live music on offer, seeing Alana Wilkinson & Ryan Young perform at The Festival of Small Halls and Kirsty Lee Akers perform her 'Small Town Big Hearts' concert in the village hall. We even made it to the Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall 100 year anniversary ball which proved to be yet another fantastic night filled with great food, amazing music & the best company one could ask for!

While I still divide my time between the mountains and Woodstock, I can definitely say that I'm increasingly feeling like part of the fabric of this place and it's wonderful. While rural living definitely throws up some challenges - feral pigs being my current nemesis - I've definitely found my people out here and am excited to see what Woodstock serves up next!



WOODSTOCK PANTHERS CELEBRATE A DAY OF UNITY AND SPORT

The Woodstock Panthers proudly wrapped up another unforgettable Community Cup on Saturday, 27th September, with crowds, competition, and community spirit all reaching new heights.

Held at the Panthers' home ground, Woodstock Showground the all-day event brought together local teams, families, and supporters for a celebration of football and togetherness. From the first kickoff to the final whistle, the atmosphere was fantastic – a true testament to the strength and unity of our community.

The Panthers extend a massive thank you to all volunteers, players, coaches, sponsors, and supporters who helped make the day a success.

Plans are already in motion to make next year's tournament even better. Until then, the spirit of the Community Cup lives on – in every training session, every cheer from the sidelines, and every goal scored in Panther colours.



EXCITING UPDATES FOR WOODSTOCK SWIMMING POOL!

Woodstock Swimming Pool is thrilled to announce it has secured vital funding from the Bruce Weir Foundation to install much-needed shade infrastructure ahead of the upcoming swimming season. This generous support will provide a more comfortable and sun-safe environment for all visitors, especially families and young swimmers.

In addition, the pool committee would like to thank everyone who supported the recent BBQ fundraiser at the Woodstock Memorial Show, successfully raising just over \$3,000. A special thanks to Breakout River Meat for their kind donation of sausages. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and the generosity of the community, the event was a great success—raising important funds to go toward ongoing improvements and maintenance.

There are still a few pool keys that need to be returned ASAP—reminder emails have been sent. Please check your inbox if this applies to you. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and the date of our next working bee—we'd love your help!

We're aiming to open the pool for the season on 1st November 2025. Keys will once again be available at the Woodstock Post Office. A current first aid certificate is required to purchase a key. Volunteers are also needed; we are still looking for a treasurer and secretary to join our committee. If you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch!

As we prepare for another fantastic swimming season, we're reminded once again of the strength and spirit of our local community. A big thank you to all who continue to support our pool—see you at the water soon!

CONTACT US

Website: www.visitwoodstock.com.au
Email: woodstockprogressassoc@gmail.com
Phone: 02 6345 0104

NEXT MEETING

Sunday 27th October 2025
 at Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall
 2pm

