



**Friday**                      **30/09/2022**

- 6.00pm            Festival Welcome and tickets on sale at Quinty Hotel
- 6.30pm            Deb Morrow
- 7.30pm            Rachel Clark
- 8-8.30pm        Quinty Pub social Club Raffle
- 8.30pm            Full Irish
- 9.40pm            Water Runners



If it wasn't for the foresight of Folkies like Ted Simpson and Noel Raynes then we probably would not have had 50 years of Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty Festivals.

The first Wagga Wagga Folk Festival was held at Downside, just out of Wagga Wagga.

First festival (s) at Downside and based around/ organised by "The Downside and District Tin Shed Rattlers". Which was run by Noel Raynes and Noel Elliot. Some early attendees were Maureen Cummusky, Graham Dodsworth, Mike Jackson and Dave Smith. Pam & Norm Merrigan, Jenny McNear, Donald Grieve. Ted Simpson joined the Tin shed Rattlers that weekend and played with them for several years. The monthly bush dances at Downside Hall continued for many years, still going to this day, but the festival moved to Uranquinty. It was decided to find another location for the festival that had more amenity- namely a place to camp, a hall and a pub within walking distance. The locations considered were Ladysmith and Uranquinty, the latter being the best option. The festival formed a committee and from memory its early members were Bill and Bev Stewart, Ted and Natalie Simpson) and possibly Jeff Browne, along with Noel & Vicki Raynes.

"I do remember being there when we went to check out the oval, old Jack the Cook emerged from the shed. He'd set up camp in there and it had clearly been his home for a long time. He was such a friendly character and didn't mind having a festival move in at all. He became very much of the the festival's folklore and there is a tree planted in his honour on the oval. I worked on and attended all of the festivals from that weekend in the 70's through til the mid 90's when I moved to Fremantle. My family and the Stewart's were central in the organising the event through the late 70's and 80's".  
Jenny Simpson

1974- and at the instigation of a local musician named Ted Simpson, a few people gathered at the small town of Uranquinty, a short distance from Wagga Wagga, their purpose to celebrate Australian Bush culture. In the best traditions of the bush, amenities were scarce; there was an oval to camp on and Jacks Hut. Jack the old ex shearers cook lived in the tiny two-room hut on the edge of the oval. Jack provided breakfast and put some wood into the primitive burner behind the football change rooms to provide hot water for showering.

The early committee were Bil & Bev Stewart, Brenda and Dave Birnie, Margie Carter, Annie Rake, Andrew Cole, Dave Upton, Tracey Harris.

In the early 2000's Peter O'Dea and the Canberra crew took over the organising and celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> Festival in 2005 producing a CD

2009 Football change rooms demolished

2011 New Hall on oval built in place of football change room After the Canberra Crew Al Hunter organised the festival for a few years and followed by Scott (Feral) Sneddon and then Heather Hunter to present days



It was festival time at Uranquinty on the weekend with the staging of annual Uranquinty Folk Festival. Getting into the mood of the occasion were Peter Pringnell (left), of Sydney and a long-time member of the festival, and Noel Raynes (right) on accordion. Robert Clouston on guitar and Noel Raynes (left) on accordion. As the great singer, Victor from Queensland, a State as well as Victoria and the ACU travelled to the town to take part in the festivities.

