



*Artist Damien Mitchell signs off on his work on the Uranquinty Water Tower in early March. See inside for photos, the background of the mural subjects and history of the water tower.*

# Uranquinty Newsletter

Proudly printed by **ORIGIN ENERGY** April 2023

**ANZAC DAY - 25 April, 2023**  
 The service is a combined ANZAC and Wirraway Memorial Service.

- Commences 9 am at Wirraway Park
- March will include Uranquinty School, Residents and Army Cadets. Arrive at 8.45am if participating.
- Laying of wreaths is encouraged.
- A collection for Legacy is made
- Chairs available if needed.
- More info: Lyle Salmon 0427 229 899

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## Progress Association News

A very Happy Easter and we wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday with your family and friends. The unseasonably warm weather might be a sign that La Nina has finally bid us all farewell – until the next time.

### POSITIONS VACANT

**Village Garage Sale** Organiser for the Village Garage Sale. Rhonda Palmer (with help from Steve), for several years organised the Village Garage Sale on the first Saturday in September. As they have moved away from the village, the position is vacant. This Volunteer position will be supported by the UPA and will help all villagers to get the most out of the draw card of a 'village sale'. For more information, please email UPA.

**Garden Manager** Chris O'Brian has moved away from Uranquinty. He was organising the planting and maintenance of the Eco-Cultural Garden under the Water Tower. This project has been on hold so we could get the painting on the tower but ready to go now. For more information, please email UPA.

### MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

**Working Bee** The Men's Shed is removing the flooring in the hall and helpers will most welcome Tuesday 11th April to Friday 14th April. If you see them there, please drop in and see if you can assist for a while.

**Laying Memorial Pavers** In around two months., we must prepare the two paver sites and lay them in their forever homes. If you have experience or a willingness to assist, please let the UPA know. Date will be organised later.

Continued on page 2

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Uranquinty Hotel

The pub is open again for business with live music events happening, and food and takeaway available – and a barber service! The Men's Shed meat raffles are once again a feature of Friday nights, and the Social Group is active as well. A courtesy bus is now available and running Thursday – Sunday. Save the number and TEXT your name and location for a pickup time. Pick up and drop off: Wagga, Kapooka, Gullie, Mango, The Rock.

Quinty Courtesy Bus: 0473 650 194



## WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL

### Dunns Road

At its 30 January meeting, Wagga City Council authorised the appointment of a contractor to carry out the changes to the highway access and that is currently underway. Please be aware that they will be policing the Road Closed status of Dunns Road during this time. Latest news is they will start work on the road mid-April.

### Yarragundry Estate

Although work has advanced on installing storm water drains and clearing the block, there is still a lot more to go before building begins.

### Community Hall Flooring

We have had ongoing issues with the hall floor and WWCC have just advised that they will replace the flooring with Vinyl Panels. This is a huge relief to the UPA as the cost of this project is beyond our funds. The Uranquinty contribution is to remove the old flooring and the Men's Shed has volunteered to take the lead in this and reuse the old flooring where they can. As it is a massive job, we are calling out for the community to assist where they can please (see Many Hands Make Light Work on page 1).

## URANQUINTY WATER TOWER

As I am sure everyone has noticed, the mural has been completed by artist Damien Mitchell and looks fantastic. It is a wonderful tribute to the history of Uranquinty and Damien has done a terrific job. The mural has already created a lot of interest in Uranquinty and its history. Photos are available on our website

<https://uranquinty.com.au/water-tower-project/>. <https://uranquinty.com.au/water-tower-project/>



Deb Bewick and Damien did an interview with Transgrid, one of our grant funding organisations, with an article to be published in the next few months. We hope to also have access to their photos and video for our archives. Deb and Jenny also met with Origin Energy reps last week for photos and a chance to share their experiences about the tower. Origin was another of the companies that was involved with the funding for the Water Tower project.

### Memorial Pavers

A very successful fundraiser for the water tower project with the order now submitted. It will take about nine weeks for the pavers to be delivered and we have been finalising which locations donors would like their pavers, either at the water tower or the cenotaph. UPA was also fortunate in receiving donations for pavers from the Australian Art & Silo Trail and the Uranquinty Folk Festival. Now we need volunteers to help install the pavers at both locations, if you can help, please email [uranquinty2652@gmail.com](mailto:uranquinty2652@gmail.com) or contact Deb Bewick.

### Official Opening

As Damien Mitchell will be in the USA from June-August we have postponed the official opening of the water tower project until his return and will advise when we have settled on a date. This will give us time to order the signage posts to be installed at the site, organise for the pavers to be installed and tidy up the eco-cultural garden. Again, we need volunteers to help get this important work done for our community (see page 1 [Positions Vacant and Many Hands Make Light Work](#)). UPA would like to thank everyone who has helped make this project a reality, the support and advice of our sponsors has been invaluable, particularly finding our way through the maze of arts funding, looking for an artist who could transform our brief into something visually exciting and to local residents who have been so supportive of the vision. Thank you all!

**See photos in gallery, page 3, and more on the history of the water supply and tower on pages 11 and 12.**

### Deb Bewick

**President, Uranquinty Progress Assoc**

M: 0427 007 261

E: [uranquinty2652@gmail.com](mailto:uranquinty2652@gmail.com)

**GALLERY – WATER TOWER SPECIAL** See also History pages 11-12.

*Len Waters, the only Aboriginal fighter pilot, received his wings at Uranquinty was immortalized in a lengthy process beginning with a base coat (right), then outlines (left), then filling in (below).*



*Other features of the water tower art are the Wirraway training planes at the air force base (left) and a tribute to the many women who supported the war effort, here as mechanics at the base. Get up close to see the base barracks (later a migrant hostel) to their left and The Rock hill in the background to the right.*



*Artist Damien Mitchell signs his completed work at the Uranquinty Water Tower. Close up on page 1. Damien worked in some particularly hot conditions in February. He and Deb Bewick have been variously interviewed by the Daily Advertiser, Transgrid, Origin. The location is already drawing visitors from the Silo Art Trail website.*



# Uranquinty Pre School News



We have full numbers to begin Term 1 at preschool. The children have enjoyed getting to know each other by engaging in small group play experiences both inside and outside. Play opportunities enable children to follow their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration. Over the last couple of months, we have provided learning environments that are flexible and open ended.

In 2023, we would like to explore nature play. Next term, we will welcome Trish Harrison back, to involve the children in nature art experiences. Trish will utilise lots of the natural materials we have in our playground such as leaves, bark bark and sticks.

In Term 2, we have an excursion to Erin Earth planned. We will meet with Trish there and continue our art in nature.

Recently, we offered the children our wooden channel system in the sandpit. All the children worked together to pour water down the channels. This was a great STEM experience as the children had to work out the right slope to make the water run. They then experienced how to carefully pour the water so that it stayed inside the funnel. They took turns in collecting the water and measured just how much water reached the end of the channel. The pool of water at the end became the dam.



We are currently taking enrolments for 2024. Please contact Louise Grigg on 6922 9787 or email [uranquintypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:uranquintypreschool@gmail.com).

## ST PATRICK'S URANQUINTY

### 2023 HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

**Chrism Mass/Mass of the Oils - St Michael's Cathedral**  
11am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at. All welcome.

**Easter Triduum - Our Lady of Fatima**

**Holy Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April: 7pm Mass**

**Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April: 10.30am Stations of the Cross**  
and 3pm Passion of Our Lord

**Easter Vigil: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April: 6:00pm**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April - 5:30am DAWN,**  
**8.30am & 10.30am**

After a long break, we will be having Mass at St Patrick's.

**St Patrick's Uranquinty: Easter Sunday at 8:30am.**

**Syro-Malabar Community Easter times** contact the parish office.

**Sacrament of Penance** is available Saturday Mornings at Our Lady of Fatima from 10:30am to 11:30am.

The **second rite of reconciliation** will be available on

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** at 10am at Our Lady of Fatima, and on

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April** at 6pm at Sacred Heart.

**Sacraments to home-bound or when in Hospital**

Please notify priests (ph. 6925 2111) when a member of your family or a parishioner is in hospital or house-

bound and in need of the sacraments, especially the Anointing of the Sick or Holy Communion.

An **Anointing Mass** is held at 10:30am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Parish Hall.

**Baptism** Any families wanting to have their children baptised should contact Father Casanova at Our Lady of Fatima Presbytery; the next preparation meetings are 9am Saturdays: 1<sup>st</sup> April 13<sup>th</sup> May & 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Contact the Parish Office for more information - phone 69252111, fax 69256116,

or email [olofparishsouthwagga@gmail.com](mailto:olofparishsouthwagga@gmail.com) The office is open **9am - 1pm Tuesday – Wednesday & 10am - 2pm Thursday - Friday** (not open Monday).

The parish bulletin is published every Friday; if you would like to receive a copy and have an email address, please contact Cheryl or Jean at [olofparishsouthwagga@gmail.com](mailto:olofparishsouthwagga@gmail.com), **Ph 6925 2111**, and they can put you on the mailing list.

THOUGHT - There is no greater wealth in this world than peace of mind.

**Happy Easter to everybody**  
Best wishes and safe travelling!

### News from Uranquinty Neighbourhood Centre

The Centre has an all new committee this year, and the centre itself has had a few improvements recently. We are also raising money for the centres next project which is to get a fresh coat of paint. If anyone is wanting to contribute a pair of hands to help prep for this please contact via email. We are always looking for new members, or keep your eye out of the Uranquinty Residents FB page for when our meeting are held.

Thank you, Amanda Ness [uranquintync@outlook.com](mailto:uranquintync@outlook.com)

### COMMUNITY DIRECTORY & USEFUL CONTACTS

Ampol General Store	6922 9659
Dr Joe McGirr MP	6921 1622
Gregadoo Waste Management Centre, 133 Ashfords Rd, Gregadoo Open 7 days, 7- 4.30	
Kurrajong Recyclers	6925 5004
Mental Health Line	1800 011 511
Michael McCormack MP	6921 4600
NSW Service Centre	13 77 88
NSW State Emergency Services	13 25 00
Essential Energy Power Outages	13 20 80
Police	131 444 or 000
Snake Handler	0419 448 350
St Cuthbert's Anglican Church	0427 198 5133
St Patrick's Catholic Church Uranquinty	6925 2111
Telstra	13 22 00
Uranquinty Community Hall	0428 629 738
<a href="mailto:uranquinty@hotmail.com">uranquinty@hotmail.com</a>	
Uranquinty Evening CWA	0428 629 738
Uranquinty Hotel	6922 9778/Takeaways 6922 9123
Uranquinty Hotel Social Club	
Sue O'Brien	0428 229 772
Tanva Hoffman	0409 448 555

Uranquinty Neighbourhood Centre	0437 775 390
Uranquinty Playgroup	0400 406 448/0437 777 930
Uranquinty Preschool	6922 9787
<a href="mailto:uranquintypreschool@gmail.com">uranquintypreschool@gmail.com</a>	
Uranquinty Progress Association	
<a href="mailto:uranquinty2652@gmail.com">uranquinty2652@gmail.com</a>	
Facebook: Uranquinty Residents Noticeboard	
Uranquinty Public School	6922 9619
<a href="mailto:Cathy.Crick@det.nsw.edu.au">Cathy.Crick@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	
Uranquinty Rural Fire Service	000
Uranquinty Tip (Rural Transfer Station), 180 Connorton Street	Opening Times Wed 8.00-11.45am; Sunday 1.00-4.45pm
Uranquinty Tennis Club	<a href="mailto:uranquintytennisclub@gmail.com">uranquintytennisclub@gmail.com</a>
Wagga Forest Nursery	6931 2600
Wagga GP After Hours Service	6931 0900
Wagga Veterinary Hospital	6926 0900
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital	5943 1000
Wagga Wagga City Council	.....1300 292 442; 6926 9100
WIRES	1300 094 737
WWCC Waste Disposal Services	1300 292 442; 6926 9199
<b>JUSTICES OF THE PEACE</b>	
Michelle Wilcox	0414 399 961
<i>Any to add? Please email <a href="mailto:uranquinty2652@gmail.com">uranquinty2652@gmail.com</a>!</i>	

# URANQUINTY PUBLIC SCHOOL



We have welcomed 7 new kinders to our school this year. They are settling in with their teachers and new friends and enjoying art and lessons and the new tunnels they get to play in.

Our school enjoyed the UPS Swimming Carnival at The Rock pool early in the term where the Rosellas once again reigned over the Kookaburras.

Then after that we had the Small School's Carnival at the Oasis Centre where Henry and Willow Price were named Junior Champions.

The SRC have been busy organising some fun events this year such as Superhero Day, St Patrick's Day and Harmony Day. Congratulations to all the students who have been elected to the SRC this year.

*St Patrick's Day, below, organized by the students' representative council also below.*



*New Kinder toys, right.*



*Age Champions above; Small School Age Champions at right..*



We are looking forward to the Easter Hat Parade and Egg Hunt at the end of term and hope many of you can come along and join in the fun.



*Clockwise from top: Our new Kinders; Kinder art; Kookaburras and Rosellas.*



## Uranquinty Power Station Update March 2023



Uranquinty Power Station (UPS) is owned and operated by Origin Energy. The station comprises four gas turbines with a total generating capacity of 640-megawatts (MW).

### Station Update

Mild ambient conditions across the National Electricity Market over Christmas and into the New Year have resulted in low generation at Uranquinty Power Station during this period.

However, the UPS team continue to maintain the Station, undergoing daily checks and activities to ensure we are ready to start up at any time to meet the requirements of the grid when called upon.

As part of Origin's continuous improvement philosophy, we currently have engineering personnel on site assisting the team to review and improve maintenance activities.

Whilst on site our engineering team also assist with minor site improvement projects typically centred around ensuring our units continue to operate safely and reliably.

During March we also welcomed two Origin drone pilots to UPS who carried drone inspections of site and provided updated aerial images. The pilots used a variety of drone equipment to provide accurate imaging and 3D modelling of the site.

We also hope to take advantage of the weather, expecting painters on site over the coming weeks to complete some painting projects before winter.



Finally, it was a pleasure to meet Jenny Lewington, local historian and Deb Bewick, President of the Uranquinty Progress Association at the Water Tower recently to see firsthand the fantastic artwork which will surely put Uranquinty on the map as part of the much adored and very popular mural trail.

If you have any questions or concerns about UPS or our operations, please contact Catherine Beaumont, Community Relations Officer on 0460 007 604 or email [Catherine.Beaumont@originenergy.com.au](mailto:Catherine.Beaumont@originenergy.com.au).

**Paul Olsen - Plant Manager,  
Uranquinty Power Station**

# Uranquinty Power Station Update March 2023



## Community Investment

UPS is committed to supporting the community and working with you to help make a positive difference to the region, helping make it a great place to live, work and play.

We are proud to have supported the following activities recently and are always on the lookout for how we can work with you to help create a brighter, safer community for us all, so please get in touch if you have a community activity or initiative which we may be able to support.

### Uranquinty Water Tower

We are proud to have been involved in helping fund the amazing artwork recently completed by local Wagga Wagga artist Damien Mitchell on the Uranquinty Water Tower. Capturing military history, Indigenous history, women in the workforce and more, the tower is not only an important part of our community but will now also play an important role in attracting visitors, connecting communities through art and tourism.



### Meals on Wheels

Origin is pleased to continue our support of The Rock & District Meals on Wheels Ass Inc. helping them provide nutritious meals, social support and critical friendship to elderly and disabled citizens in our community.



## Uranquinty Power Station Update March 2023



### Uranquinty Neighbourhood Centre

Recognising that the existing walkway is a safety concern for visitors to the centre, staff recently requested our assistance to fund the replacement of the pavers on the front pathway and the garden wall enabling safer access.

The work will be undertaken soon, ensuring that visitors, users hiring the centre, those attending community events and those in need at times when the centre is used as an evacuation refuge can enter and exit safely.

### Uranquinty Evening Branch – NSW Country Women’s Association

We were also happy to donate some funding towards the wonderful work the Uranquinty Evening Country Women’s Association do for our community. This active group work tirelessly to improve the lives of others and empower and inspire other women through friendship, education, connection and advocacy. How good do their tasty treats look? Contact [uranquintyeveningcwa@gmail.com](mailto:uranquintyeveningcwa@gmail.com) for more information or to order a copy of their fabulous recipe book!



### RESIDENT CAR AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The school crossing is not an official pedestrian crossing and cars are not automatically required to stop. Please park 'for sale' vehicles well back from the road on the corner of the highway at Yarragundry Street as vision of the highway is otherwise restricted.

## Uranquinty P&C Battery Drive

Do you have any dead batteries lying around? Do you know someone who does?  
Please text or call Skye **0429 205 182** for drop off instructions or we can arrange collection.

## Social News

There have been some new additions to the village and congratulations go to:

**Paige Howarth and Mitch Monsuere** on the arrival of their twin daughters **Josh Crimmins and Crystal Thomas** on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Jean Crimmins, on 1 February 8.8lbs, a little sister for Evie and Addie.

**Katrina Dosser and Brian Arundell** have finally decided to tie the knot on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April in our local church St Patrick's, with a reception to follow at the Quinty Pub. We wish them well and hope they have a lovely day.

On a sadder note we have lost some of our previous residents.

**Fay Jack** Condolences go to her family and friends. Fay lived at The Pines with her husband Robbie who was a well known harness racing trainer. The Jack family came to Uranquinty in 1906 and farmed the property until it was sold to Origin Energy in 2008. Fay was Robbie Jack's second wife after his first wife passed away and was a wonderful stepmother to their seven children plus grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Geoff Cutler** was another member of a long time Uranquinty family. He was the brother and brother in law of Athol and Marie Cutler who lived on the highway just over the bridge. Condolences to his family and friends.

**John Reberger** John's family has long been associated with Uranquinty. John grew up in Uranquinty and attended primary school here along with his sister Wendie and brother Stephen. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Our thoughts are with the **Tingle family** at this sad time with the passing of Bruce Tingle, father and father-in-law to Brett and Melissa and brother and brother-in-law to Brian and Sheila Tingle, long time residents of the village.

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## Uranquinty Hotel Social Club

The social club held a very enjoyable Christmas party in December with chicken and prawns, ham and salads. It was great to see so many people there.

We had a barefoot bowls outing to Yerong Creek in March.

Unfortunately there were not many participants as there was a lot on elsewhere.

Our Easter raffle will be held on Thursday 6th April with some seafood as well as meat trays. The Hotel is also having plenty of activities this night so it should be a great time.

The raffle roster is displayed at the hotel so please check when you are rostered on. If you cannot do your turn please try to swap with someone else.

For information call Sue O'Brien on 0428 229772 or Tanya Hoffman on 0409 448555.

## Quinty Men's Shed

As summer arrived the construction of a shade area for our garden gurus became a priority. Fred's 'Plant Mahal' is now fully operational with only minor tweaking to be done. The vegetable plot has increased and late produce i.e. butternut pumpkins look like being a bumper harvest after the first frost of the year.

A presentation on over 65 concerns by the Transport for New South Wales attracted quite a few attendees. All who came felt this time was well spent and opened their eyes to consideration of hazards which could be met in all traffic conditions. In the next issue of the newsletter we will have particulars of future presentations to which all members of the Quinty Community are invited.

Shed members have constructed games equipment for Country Hope fund raising activities.

We are involved in restoration projects for the benefit of the Community such as providing support to the Uranquinty Progress Association by repairing items such as tables, pews etc. We will be assisting in the Hall floor improvement project.

Wednesday night raffles at the Pub have recommenced and we continue to attract new members. Graeme Geaghan and Neville Sweeney have now been welcomed into the fold. Drop-in time for anyone interested in checking us out is 9am-2pm on a Monday or Thursday. Contacts are Brian 6922 9776, Ged 0477 625 000 or Fred 6922 9811.

Our monthly meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month at 12.00 and are followed by a BBQ and social afternoon All welcome from 17yrs to 100yrs plus.

## A Water Supply for Uranquinty

With the construction of the railway line south of Wagga Wagga the village of Uranquinty began to develop and so did the need for water. In 1890 a market gardener by the name of James Grimshaw, built the first house on the eastern side of the rail line and it is believed that Chinese railway workers also ran a market garden on the western side of the line. Supply of water in those days would have come rain water tanks and ground dams.

An article in the Wagga Express in 1899 reported that the residents of Uranquinty had been agitating for some time for the provision of a water supply and managed to gain a contract for the construction of a holding dam of 5000 cubic yards.

In the early 1900s the village received water sent out in railway trucks filled to carry 5000 gallons (18928 litres) and each daily train had 12 trucks. The cost of each truck of water was 1 pound two and six (\$2.25) and the village used one each day.

In 1927 an important conference was held at The Rock regarding the setting up of a scheme to supply water to several towns south of Wagga Wagga including Uranquinty, The Rock, Yerong Creek, Henty and Lockhart. Water would be pumped from the Murrumbidgee River to a second reservoir on Williams Hill above the present Wagga Reservoir and piped south using gravity.

Again in 1932 the newly formed Riverina Development League, together with The Rock Urban Committee, revived the question of a permanent water supply for the area.

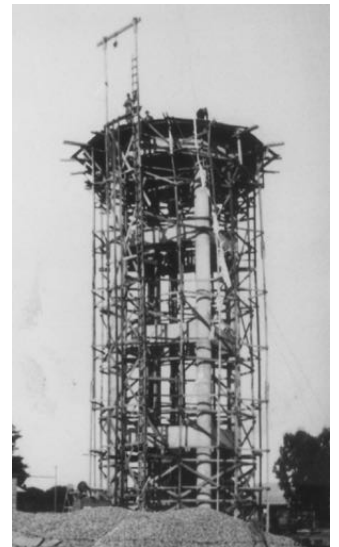
By 1938 the NSW government realised that rural

development of inland areas would need to have utilities such as electricity and water and communications and proceeded to plan a scheme to supply water and irrigation facilities to many country districts. In the local area, The Southern Riverina County Council was formed at The Rock, to oversee the water supply from the Murrumbidgee River to service Uranquinty, The Rock, Yerong Creek and Lockhart. Tenders were approved in 1939 and the pipeline would be 141 miles (230ks) long and cost 228 thousand pounds (\$456,000.00).

On 9 December 1940, the Premier of NSW Mr Alex Mair attended an opening Ceremony at The Rock to turn the first sod there. The first section had already been started in November and expected to be finished within 6 months. By April 1941 all the pipes had been laid to Uranquinty and by July of that year a temporary booster pump had been installed so that the village and the RAAF base then being built nearby would have adequate supplies.

During this time a concrete water reservoir was being constructed in the village and a double timber stand with steel tanks constructed at the air force base. The reservoir in the village was decommissioned in 1997 when a new reservoir was built on the south western side of Kapooka. Uranquinty's tower has now become part of the Silo Art Trail.

*See page 12 for a fascinating insight into the new water tower art.*



### Uranquinty Community Safety Group

The Uranquinty Community Safety Group works under the auspices of the SES. In the event of an emergency, we are notified by the SES of the nature of the emergency and advised what action the group is to take. We continue our close liaison with the SES, particularly in respect to the current weather situation. Our main focus is on early warning and assisting those in need.

Emergency equipment has been supplied by the SES and is located in a container within the Mens Shed grounds. Sand for sandbagging, should it be required in a rain event, is also available at the Mens Shed.

We will be maintaining a small supply of sandbags positioned outside the Men's Shed perimeter next to the back entrance gate between the Men's Shed and the Neighbourhood Centre. These are available for emergency situations but should a flooding event occur, the Mens Shed will of course be opened.

The SES commitments during last year's constant rain with statewide flooding left no time for Public Information events. We hope to rectify this later in the near future.

As always we are looking for new members. Contacts are Brian 6922 9776, Deb 6922 9744 and Ged 0477 625 000.

## The Uranquinty Water Tower (see also photos on page 3)

The artwork around the water tower depicts the important role that Uranquinty played during the Second World War.

No 5SFTS Uranquinty was one of eight Service Flying Training Schools set up by the RAAF to provide intermediate and advanced flight training as part of Australia's contribution to the Empire Air Training Scheme. The Empire Air Training scheme was the single largest aviation training program in history. It was created by The United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, during the Second World War and was responsible for training nearly half the pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, air gunners, wireless operators, and flight engineers who served during the war.

The base operated from November 1941 until September 1945, training over 2000 pilots who were then deployed to England, Canada, Asia and the Pacific.

Training was carried out in Wirraways which had dual controls with the trainee seated in front of the instructor. Wirraway is an aboriginal name for 'challenge'. Powered with a Pratt and Whitney Wasp 9 cylinder radial motor, it had a top speed of 350 kph.

**On 28 October 1941, the first 3 Wirraways, No 378, 385 and 376 were flown in and are depicted on the eastern side of the water tower.**

By the end of November 1941 there were 31 officers, 492 airmen and 50 aircrew which grew to about 1500 personnel and 133 aircraft.

In February 1945 the service flying training bases were disbanded with the exception of Uranquinty which became No 1 SFTS, providing refresher courses for qualified pilots. The school was relocated in 1948 to Point Cook when the base was handed over to the Department of Immigration to be used as a holding camp for displaced persons.

The base was again reclaimed by the Airforce in 1951 due to the out break of the Korean War and No 1 Basic Flying Training School was established with 32 officers, 345 other ranks, 37 Tigermoths and 37 Wirraways. By 1956 the Wirraways were replaced by Winjeels and the last Wirraway departed Uranquinty in February 1957. The name 'Winjeel' is aboriginal for 'Young Eagle'.

No 1BFTS was transferred to Point Cook in December 1958 and the base was closed.

**The south western side of the tower depicts 3 women from the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) formed in March 1941, working on a Wirraway engine.**

By 1942 there were 123 airwomen stationed at Uranquinty performing a number of tasks including flight operations ferrying pilots to their aircrafts, manning

riggers and airframe inspectors, flight mechanics and readying planes for take off. Having smaller hands they were in demand replacing nuts and bolts in hard to get places. Coincidentally, a great aunt of the artist Damien Mitchell served as a WAAAF at Uranquinty during WW2 which made his portrait of the 3 women quite special.

**Beside the women is a view of the station buildings, the Uranquinty Silos and in the distance The Rock Hill.**

**On the north eastern side of the tower is a picture of Leonard Victor Waters, the first and only aboriginal fighter pilot to see action during WW2.**

Raised in Queensland as one of 11 children he was always fascinated by flight and spent hours reading flying magazines and making model planes. After leaving school Len went to work with his father fencing and ring barking and then became a skilled shearer. When war broke out, Len and his brother Jim volunteered. Jim joined the AIF and Len the RAAF as a flight mechanic. After successfully completing his training he was posted to Mildura where he worked on Kittyhawks, Boomerangs and Spitfires.

In 1942 he began training as a pilot first at Narrandera and then at Uranquinty where he received his wings in July 1944 and was promoted to Sergeant. Len was posted to 78 Squadron in November and was stationed at Noemfoor and Morotai (Indonesia) and later Borneo where he met up with his brother again.

Waters flew 95 missions in his Kittyhawk 'Black Magic' and had one brush with death when a Japanese cannon shell hit his cockpit and lodged near the fuel tank. The shell did not explode and he landed safely two hours later.

The water tower was painted over 10 days in February 2023 by artist Damien Mitchell who grew up in Wagga Wagga. It was created using a mix of acrylic and spray paint and serves as a memorial of to the history of the area.

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### AMPOL AT URANQUINTY

Bacon and egg rolls and hot food is in the bain-marie from 6.30am weekday mornings.

Ice, swap and go gas bottles and soda stream refills are also available. We have monthly specials in store.



Post Office boxes are now due for renewal. Plenty available for lease.

Bill payments and bank withdrawals and deposits can also be done at the Post Office.

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