

THE APSLEY Advocate

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Working Dog Sale for Walcha

For Walcha local Maddie Davidson, working dogs have always been more than just farm helpers, they are the heartbeat of the land. Now, after years of dreaming, she is set to bring her vision to life with the first-ever Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale, to be held at the Nowendoc Recreation Grounds in March 2026.

Maddie says the idea has been a long time coming.

"I've been interested in running a sale for quite some time," she explained. The boys at Boulton's also agree that this region and right down to the coast and Upper Hunter has been needing a true working dog sale, not just one for trial dogs. "This will be a showcase for the real dogs that keep our farms going."

The sale will be a one-day event with a packed schedule: pre-works in the morning, a vendor dog trial, and then the main auction. Both sheep and cattle dogs will feature, sold in their respective categories.

While the event will be interfaced with AuctionsPlus and livestreamed to reach buyers across the country, Maddie is determined it remains a genuine community gathering.

"So many sales are moving online, and I think we lose something when that happens," she said.

"This is about bringing people together, letting buyers

see the full potential of a dog, and creating a true community event."

It is not Maddie's first venture into the world of auctions. In 2024, she made her auctioneering debut at The Wauchope Hobby Farmer sale, where she sold two steers to raise funds for Dolly's Dream.

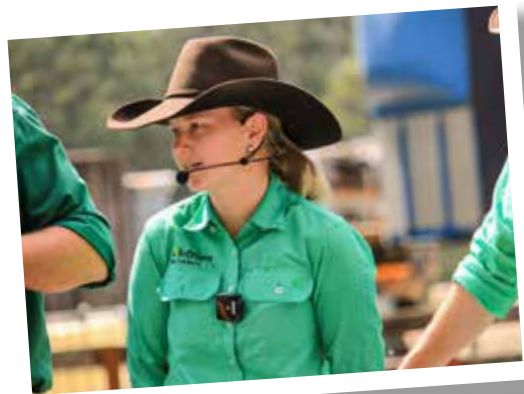
The 2026 Working Dog Sale is already attracting strong interest from breeders, trainers, and buyers alike. Trade sites will also be available on the day, giving local businesses and community groups a chance to get involved. Maddie encourages anyone keen on booking a stall to get in touch.

The event has also launched a Facebook page where updates will be shared. Kate Connors has been working alongside Maddie on the advertising, helping to bring her vision to life and share it with the wider community.

Contact: Maddie Davidson - 0429 002 651 and follow 'Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale' to keep up to date.

With her vision and passion in the area, Maddie Davidson is turning an idea into a landmark event.

Photo credits: Kate Connors Photography



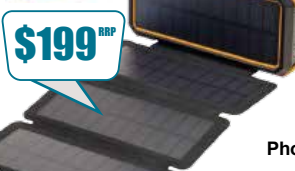
Maddie Davidson, Nutrien Boulton's



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

While the long awaited sun has been amazing to see, it didn't take long before people started mentioning that we may need another shower of rain shortly if this warmer weather kept up. The weekend weather was outstanding and the grass is starting to grow. However it will be a shock, after hitting 20 degrees on Monday, to dive back to a top of 6 degrees this Thursday. Wednesday looks to be getting a shower this week with a large rain band from QLD to Victoria dropping widespread moisture, offering the possibility of follow-up rain in many areas of the south once again. Hopefully the frosts are nearly gone, other than this weekend, night time temps look to be in the positives going forward.

Well the Labor government, elected by the people of Australia, has once again come back to bite our small community hard. Chris Minns recent announcement for an immediate moratorium on logging in the Mid North Coast's State Forests is ludicrous. 176,000 hectares of State Forest will be added to the existing National Park reserves in this area with the aim of creating a conservation area for koalas, Greater Gliders and other threatened species with Chris Minns stating that Koalas are at risk of extinction in the wild in NSW by 2050. Walcha was built on the back of the timber industry, an industry that still employs a large group of people in our community. This will be devastating for the timber businesses in our town who give a lot back to our community through numerous sponsorships of sporting clubs, other organisations, causes and events. The NSW government have very short memories if they think locking up State Forests from logging will solely save these koala's. The bush fires that ripped through these areas, before the drought broke in 2019, did more damage to the koala population and habitat than logging ever would. This decision is ridiculous and I bet there has been a deal done somewhere. Looks like the cost of building and firewood that keeps us warm just got dearer again.

The NSW department of Ag have made 165 people redundant from their jobs and funding for a major genetic research project discontinued. These redundant jobs, primarily across the beef sector including approx. 15 biosecurity positions have made us extremely vulnerable and affect all DPI services for graziers. A multi breed project has been scrapped which was the first in its kind to compare traits between cattle breeds, as EBV's only allow single breed comparison. Interestingly, a low methane beef project is still underway and still receiving funding as it reflects the NSW government commitments to net zero. Ridiculous. Once again, the government is pulling funding from our rural agricultural sector and using it elsewhere.

Cattle numbers continue to come forward through the northern NSW saleyards with 2,218 cattle sold in Tamworth on Monday and 4,150 yarded in Gunnedah on Tuesday. The markets remain fully firm to dearer with extra southern orders present, especially in the feeder and kill sectors. **Weaner** steers topped at 570c/kg while heifers made to 424c/kg. **Feeder** steers topped at 533c/kg while the heifer portion made to 514c/kg. **Heavy kill** steers topped at 472c/kg making \$3,223 while heavy heifers made to 477c/kg. The best of the **cows** lifted 25c/kg and topped at 440c/kg, making \$3,105 per head. 4,000 sheep and lambs were yarded in Tamworth on Monday which was quoted as a dearer market than the previous week. The best of the **store sucker** lambs made to \$230 - destined for the southern fattening paddocks. The best of the **trade weight** made it to \$330 while the best of the **extra heavies** topped at \$394. **Mutton** met a dearer market with XB ewes hitting \$300 for the extra heavies and majority of the kill mutton making more than \$200.

Bad luck to the Walcha Rams who went down to the Armidale Blues in Saturday's New England Rugby decider at Bellevue Oval. Well done on a good season and a huge thank you to all the local supporters who went up and cheered them on. In other results the Quirindi Lions saw their first win of the Central North rugby shield in 33 years on Saturday, great effort for another small community.



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Walcha Sapphires shine brightly in Armidale Netball Competition

The Sapphires wrapped up their season with a round robin of three games last weekend to make up for weather affected weekends. These fast-moving games showcased the girls' improvement with quick footwork, strong ball skills and plenty of goals — a fantastic effort in their first season of netball.

Sapphires' coaches, Elyce Laurie and Kelly Makeham, are very proud of the team. The Sapphires have received lots of comments from spectators about their improvement throughout the season and have made Walcha very proud.

The Sapphires are part of the NSW Netball Woolworths NetSetGO program — Australia's leading grassroots netball initiative designed for children aged 5 to 10. The program fosters skill development and teamwork through three progressive stages:

- Net (5–6 years): Focuses on fun and basic netball movements.
- Set (7–8 years): Introduces movement skills and fundamental strategies.
- Go (9–10 years): Refines techniques and coordination for more competitive play.

Engaging in the 'Go' phase in 2025, the Sapphires have laid strong foundations for their netball journey. In 2026, they are set to advance into the Primary School Division of the ADNA competition, following in the footsteps of Walcha Netball Club's Diamonds and Opals.

"We are looking forward to seeing the Sapphires back on the court next year and to having another team go through the NetSetGo Program!" said Meggie Davey, Walcha Netball Club President.

With a strong focus on development, camaraderie, and community spirit, the future of Walcha netball looks bright!



Morning Tea

Walcha CWA Branch will be holding their 'Awareness Week' morning tea at McHattan Park on Wednesday 17 September from 9.30 – 10.30am.

They look forward to welcoming members of the community to join them for a cuppa and a chat. The aim of the morning tea is to raise awareness of the work CWA do in the community, while providing their members an opportunity to share in the fun and friendship.

CWA NSW Awareness Week is annually held in early September. This year it will centre around promoting the benefits of seasonal eating, focusing on the urgent need to change how we think about, purchase and consume food. With an emphasis on the economic, environmental and health benefits that can flow from this, it will be a chance to discuss the importance of reducing food waste and improving food security for all Australians.

If you are interested in finding out more or joining our local branch, talk to one of our members for more information.



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Please contact Yarrowitch Public School for further information.

 6777 7582
 yarrowitch-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 <https://yarrowitch-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>


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 using the QR code





Walcha Council Library's Tech Savvy Seniors

A NSW Government initiative
in partnership with Telstra

2025







This program provides the Walcha community with a free opportunity to increase their confidence with using technology.

Sessions will be held weekly from September - December 2025 at Walcha Library 42N Derby St

Each session will be run by Leanne, on a Thursday morning, kicking off with a morning tea from 9.45am, and a 10am start.

The topics for each session are listed below, but subject to change depending on participants needs and experiences.


4 th September Introduction	16 th October Video Calling	6 th November Online shopping	4 th December Popular Apps
11 th September Internet	23 rd October Computers	13 th November Smartphones	
18 th September Emails	30 th October Cyber Safety	20 th November Social Media	
		27 th November Digital assets and AI	

Register by calling or visiting Walcha Council Library on 67742550

Mayoral Column

Eric Noakes, Walcha Mayor

NEW GENERAL MANAGER COMMENCES ROLE



On Monday 1 September newly appointed General Manager, Stephen Parry commenced his role at Walcha Council. Much was written about Stephen's experience in local government when he was appointed and we look forward to that experience leading Walcha through the challenges we face. Along with his wife Wendy they are settling into the local community and look forward being part of it.

TELSTRA AND BATTERIES

Following the August snow storm resulting in the loss of both electricity and connectivity, the true inconvenience and cost was soon evident. We can say that we didn't have these conveniences many years ago and survived but that is not really the point. As technology moves on we adapt to the changes and let go of the old. Phone and internet services are heavily dependent on electricity from the network and while there is battery backup its effectiveness was shown to be very limited. Subsequent negotiations with Telstra have led to an increase in battery capacity from what was around two hours during the storm to what should be closer to six hours. In the words of Mike Marron (Northern NSW Regional GM) "this replacement will ensure we have adequate backup reserves in the event of mains failure allowing sufficient time for a power technician to attend the site with a generator if needed".

Questions were raised about the installation of a permanent generator that could automatically cut in (Automatic Transfer Unit) but were dismissed due to the site being incompatible. Hopefully the extended battery life will ease the inconvenience. Mike also raised the ability of modern phones to access the satellite system in emergencies.

PUBLIC DISPLAY

Council currently has two draft documents out on public display. These are Cumulative Impact Assessment and Land Use Strategy. The purpose of these documents is to evaluate the opportunities and constraints to the Walcha LGA expected to result from the influx of capital investment into the area by large scale infrastructure projects in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

There was community consultation carried out before the consultants submitted the report to Council detailing their findings, including recommendations to address the impacts and achieve satisfactory and positive outcomes for our community.

These documents are accessible to read and make comment on Council's website.

AWARDS

Sheree and I travelled to Armidale on Thursday to the Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards where our local CWA received recognition for their mammoth efforts in this area. CWA is one of those select few organisations that you don't need to explain what the acronym stands for due to its high profile. It was great to see their hard work recognised on the larger stage.

On Friday we went to the Walcha Garden Club Luncheon at the Golf Club. Always an interesting function with a passionate speaker, Angela Sole, whose topic was cold climate gardens. While I am only a 'hole digger' in our garden due to my lack of ability to rise above that position, I did learn a bit about positioning plants, so I may get a slight promotion under close supervision.

Part of the day involved the bestowing of Life Membership on three members: Col King, Gwen Higgins and Joy McLeod. One point that was evident was the amount of knowledge contained within that club on gardening in what is often a challenging climatic environment in Walcha. Council is honoured to have that resource available to us through some of the members being on the Beautification Committee.

Bloat and Pulpy Kidney the risk is ripe

As we enter spring, having had a very wet winter, Local Land Services (LLS) is encouraging livestock producers to take steps towards reducing the risk of bloat and pulpy kidney.

Pulpy Kidney can cause sudden death in cattle, sheep and goats on high carbohydrate, energy-rich feed. Fat healthy livestock in prime condition are particularly susceptible and generally there will be no prior signs of sickness or evidence of struggling. Vaccination is the best form of protection against pulpy kidney.

"Initially, two vaccinations are administered, four to six weeks apart, with timely boosters during high-risk periods around every three months are crucial to ensure ongoing protection" LLS Principal Program Manager of Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, Lyndell Stone said. "It's worth noting, the better your lambs and calves are doing, the more important it is to give a booster as pulpy kidney strikes the best stock. If purchasing stock, it's best not to assume they have already been vaccinated. It's a costly error to find out vaccinations were incomplete when you start losing stock."

Pasture bloat is another potentially fatal digestive condition in ruminant animals. "Ensuring cattle are not hungry when first introduced to high risk pastures is crucial." is the advice given from the LLS. This can be achieved by; timing your rotations, providing access to roughage such as hay; grazing livestock in smaller paddocks to allow for more intensive monitoring and management. There are also three bloat control agents for consideration, anti-foaming agents, detergents and rumen modifiers."

Whichever method, or combination of methods is used, monitoring stock after introduction is essential.

Further information is available at www.lls.nsw.gov.au

St Patricks Well-being initiative

Research indicates that only a small number of students across Australia arrive at school ready to learn each day. We believe this is a challenge we can not ignore, and we want to do our part to change it.

On Monday, we launched a new initiative to help our students feel happy, positive, and ready to engage with their learning. We now start each school day with a 10 minute whole-school activity designed to welcome everyone with a smile:

- **Mug Day Mondays** (Warm Milo)
- **Tuesday Grooves** (10-minute dance party)
- **Yoga Flow Wednesdays**
- **Walk and Talk Thursdays** (stroll/chat with friends)
- **Fitness Friday** (whole-school aerobic session)

A huge thank you to Cian Cattellini for her wonderful leadership in making this happen.

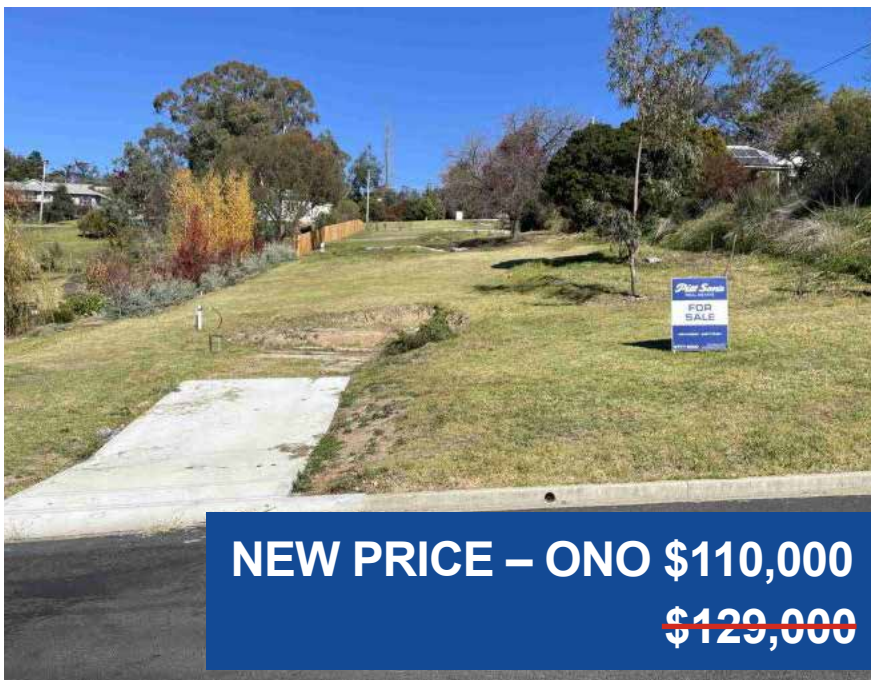


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Get ready for Kids Games and Youth Mashup these holidays

Mark the dates on your calendar and get ready to send your kids along to the Kids Games and Youth Mashup. Organised by the Walcha Anglican and Presbyterian Churches, in the first week of the school holidays. These free events will be happening from Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 October, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Kids Games, for those in school Years K-4, will be blasting off into space at the Anglican Church Hall on South Street. Each morning will include games, drama, craft, Bible teaching time and morning tea.

While those in school Years 5 – 9 can check out what is happening at the *Youth Mashup* being held at the Presbyterian Church Hall on Hill Street. Each morning involves a mashup of games and hobbies including cooking, jewellery and billycart making, checking out the Bible and morning tea.

Register now for all three days or individual days and guaranteed school holiday fun! Pick up a flyer from Walcha Library or email either walchapc@gmail.com or walchaanglican@gmail.com to register.



RUGBY REPORT

Grand Final: Walcha vs Armidale Blues

In a hard battle our Rams went down 26 – 13 to the Armidale Blues over the weekend. Ed Churchill was awarded player of the comp for New England Rugby Union, while Ed Pitt was awarded highest point scorer for First Grade. Congratulations to both of you – well deserved.

It was great to see so many Ram Lambs able to run on with the boys – the pride on their faces as they ran through the tunnel with their idols was heartwarming.

Our club and supporters are so proud of the season put together by both the First and Reserve Grade teams. We have a lot to be proud of this year – being able to pull together Third Grade teams when needed and to have an exhibition match with our Women's team for the first time in 2025.

The WRUC and players would like to send an extended thank you and gratitude to all of support that was shown to the Rams, not only at the Grand Final, but throughout the season. The sea of red and white on the weekend far outweighed any other club! Thank you to all local businesses that showed support to the Rams this week.

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Discover the Gardens of Walcha

Walcha Garden Festival 2025

GARDEN 3 – 'HUNTLY' | RICHARD & LORRAINE WALSHE

Richard and I purchased 'Huntly' in 2000 and moved onto the property in 2003 after we retired from our professions in Gloucester.

I've always been interested in gardening but wasn't fully aware of the differences between Gloucester and Walcha. Despite the very cold winters, I was very excited about learning what to plant in a cold climate garden. There have been some very steep learning curves and the feeling that there is a non-existent garden during winter.

This all changes in October when the garden springs to life. Of course, I had to move the fence out to increase the size of the garden!!! While we planted a few trees in the back area, the established trees that were here when we arrived, gave the garden character and protection. The pines planted on the western side of the garden, offer both shade from the summer sun and help reduce the winds' impact, proven to be brutal during our August wind tunnel times.

I love propagating, so my garden is a repeat display of existing plants. I am trying to introduce plants that flower throughout the different seasons so that I have colour for most of the seasons. I also find it very therapeutic to trim my Buxus balls and hedges.

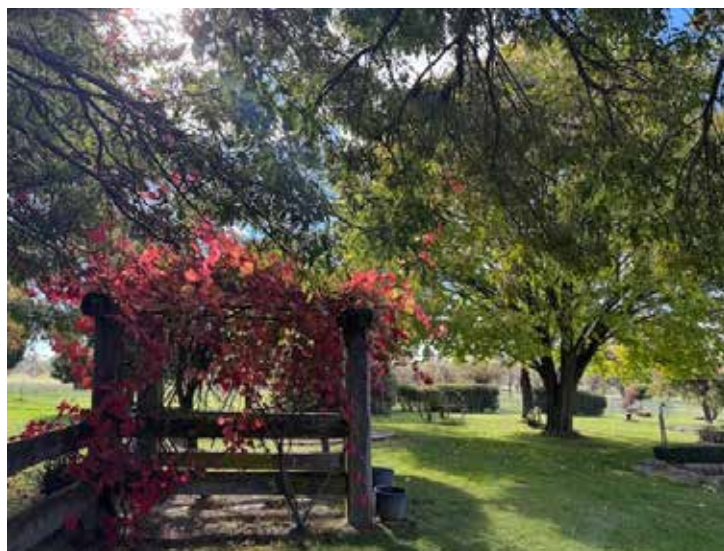
While it is far removed from a Paul Bangay designed garden, I take great enjoyment in working in my 'Huntly' garden.



GARDEN 4 - 'BANCHORY' | ALLAN & JENNY LAURIE

'Banchory' was one the original property and is now split into 'Banchory', 'Huntly', and 'Old Banchory'. We purchased 'Old Banchory' in 2001. Over the years we have modified the garden by demolishing old sheds and the removal of a cottage. The garden has been extended to include large areas of sweeping lawn. The rock wall, split rail fencing and garden featured have been added by Allan. The garden edging ensures easier maintenance as we have both worked off farm. The focal point we believe of our garden is the Giant Redwood (Sequoiadendron) tree.

The Buxus hedging, photinia and nandina plants ensure the garden has greenery and seasonal colour all year round. Many of the gardens consist of perennials such as catmint, lambs' ear, daisies, salvias, red hot pokers, snow-in-summer, ornamental grasses, roses and a scattering of bulbs throughout the garden. We hope you enjoy our garden which is forever evolving.



St Patrick's students bringing their 'A-Game' to Book Week.

Book Week and Grandparents Day

Last Friday St. Patrick's School celebrated the end of Book Week with a parade and a morning tea for grandparents, including classroom visits.

The theme, 'Book an Adventure', inspired some truly amazing costumes from both students and parents. Our teachers also got in on the fun, dressing up as various kinds of travellers.

We are so grateful for the incredible support of our community. Thanks to your generosity through book sales, we were able to raise a significant amount of money to keep our school library filled with new books. A special thank you to our P&F Association for always being ready to organise coffee and tea for our visitors. Thanks to everyone who made the time to visit our school and support our students. We, at St Pat's, know how lucky we are.





First up, congratulations to the Walcha Central School Rugby League Squad; Ryan Smolders, Jethro Fuge, Koby Brennan, Jaxon Marsters, Campbell Smith, Lachie Stace, Jordan Bloomfield, Jack Wall, Jack McKern, Ethan Foster and Cameron Mooney on being crowned the 2025 NSW Central School Champions after competing at Dubbo last week. The team was accompanied by teachers Bonnie Brown and Jodie Provost at the event.

...

Bad luck to the Walcha Rams who were defeated by the Armidale Blues in their New England Rugby Grand Final at Bellevue Oval, UNE last Saturday 26 – 13. When presentations were made after the decider Rams' players Ed Churchill (best and fairest) and Edward Pitt (highest point scorer in 2025) were both rewarded for their efforts during the season.

...

The Rams certainly weren't lacking support as quite a number of spectators were decked out in Red and White. Walcha did have their chances during the game but were simply beaten by a better team on the day. Well done to all of the players who contributed to the Rams finishing Minor Premiers in both First Grade and Reggies. Good on ya boys.

...

Still on Rugby congratulations, to former Walcha Rams players Thomas and Jack Wake on their big win with Quirindi who won their first Central North Grand Final in 33 years at Moree last Saturday.

The Lions belted the Bulls 57 – 36 where Tom played breakaway and Jack was first substitute. Walcha's 'Boree' grazier Lindon Gunn refereed the Premiership decider and couldn't believe what was happening before his eyes during the game. Well done Guys.

...

When Kev Creighton and a car load of family members travelled to Canberra to watch the Uni-Norths Owls (the team his son Lachlan coaches) play in their Grand Final a fortnight ago K.C. reckons they received a good omen just outside Gloucester when an owl flew close to the front of the car taking a look inside. Must have been a sign as the Owls defeated Tuggerong Vikings 29 – 19 in the 'Big Dance' the next day.

...

Sisters Penny King and Polly Locke teed off in a NEDGA 4BBB event at Uralla last week, where they finished runners-up in the Vets Nett after racking up 38 points. A couple of days earlier Jenny Lisle competed in the final of the Graham Betts annual competition played between Armidale, Uralla, Guyra and Walcha Clubs, where Jenny collected a nice-looking necklace after finishing No. 1 Walcha player. Way to go girls.

...

Still on golf – please do not forget that Walcha Central School P&C are holding a fundraising Ambrose Golf Day on Saturday 20 at 2:30pm, followed by presentations, dinner and an auction. At the time of going to print, nomination numbers were down on what was expected. So grab a couple of mates and come along for a fun afternoon. **Bookings:** www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1428315

...

Congratulations to talented Walcha Central School athlete Kix Brown who won a silver medal in the North West 11 Years Boys High Jump recently and has qualified to compete at the NSW PSSA Athletics Championships in October. Best of luck in the 'Big Smoke' Kix.

...

Gee there were some interesting finishes to various NRL footy tipping in town last weekend:

Out at Walcha Vet Supplies Jason Scott came from the clouds to 'Pick the Card' and post a winning 266 points to finish ahead of his boss Pete King on 264 points.

At the Bowling Club long time leader Carly Goodwin cruised home on 265 points ahead of her husband Kyle 259, John Dobson and GJ Natty 257 points. Tom Wicks 'Picked the Card' in the final round.

At Thunderbolts Way Cafe leader Tracey Crisp hung on to win with 251 points just in front of Bec Bullock 249, while Miles Lawrence was third on 245 points.

Around at the Apsley Arms Mick O'Reilly came home with a wet sail to catch leader Neil 'Killgrove Trout' Pratter to finish equal winners on 258 points, with Katie Smith third on 256 points. Big Wig of the week at the venue was AJ Cross 14 points – bloody Hush Puppies let me down. In the Crisp/Cross Challenge Cup – T.C and AJC both on 251, a tie – WOW!

No Newie results just yet – all will be revealed at the Tipping Party this Saturday which kicks off at 12 noon.

...

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Ladies Bowls

Two weeks ago Marie Spink, Phyllis Hoy and Carmel Ryan had a win against Rosie Aitken, Lee McCoy and Janice Rizzi playing in freezing cold, windy weather – which was not enjoyable.

Last week Rosie Aitken and Jan Cross had a win against Lyn Burnell and Lee McCoy in a game of three bowl pairs 18 – 11. In the other game Wendy Moore and Debbie Richards had a win against Marie Spink and Janice Rizzi 18 – 13. Both games were very close until the last three ends.

We have an invitation to the Mixed 4's City of Light Carnival in Tamworth on 4 – 5 October. Names of those wishing to attend to go on the board please.

We also have an invitation to Kootingal's President's Day on Wednesday 15 October. RSVP required by 7 October. Please place names on board if you wish to attend.

Two teams have nominated for both the Regional Triples being played on 11 – 12 October, and the Senior Fours on 18 – 19 October.

Reminder: Subs are due. \$90 to be affiliated with Bowls NSW, this enables you to play in Regional and State Championships, \$10 to be a member of the Walcha Women's Bowling Club and \$15 to be a member of the Walcha Bowling Club.

There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.00am for 9.30am.

Bowls

Competition Triples were played again last weekend. There were some interesting results and the comp is definitely heating up.

Thanks to the bowlers who filled in for unavailable players. The final rounds of this comp will be played on the 2 August. There are a couple of catch up games to be played before this date.

Competition games drawn for this Saturday are as follows – A Singles: Matt Hamel v Pole Bath, marker D Makeham. Pairs: Dion Bird and Miles Lawrence v Michael Hoy and Mick Wall.

Bowls again this Thursday 12.30pm. The weather should be better this week.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday was the Jeannette Wark Memorial Trophy which is always a special day. It was great to have John join us for lunch and to present the trophy.

The winner was Anne Martin with +2. Sweepstakes went to Ruth Fletcher with -1 and Sal McCormack with -2.

The Nearest the Pin on 3 was Pauline Carter and second shot on 16 was Anne Martin.

This Wednesday we are playing stroke, monthly mug, putting and medal round.

At the Nineteenth

The final round of the 2025 Mens 4BBB Championships was contested last Sunday for trophies donated by Peter Norbury and Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus, where Andrew Crawford and his son Ollie won the daily prizes after surviving a countback with sisters Pauline Carter and Sue Partridge on 43 stableford points.

Sweepstakes went to the runners-up Simeon Cross and Don Brooks 42, Lee Fletcher and Bruce Rutherford 42, Will Nicholls and Margaret Davidson 40 points on countback from Rose Baumer and Anne Martin.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Rose Baumer (3), Col Berry and Anne Martin (16).

In the nett section of the Championships, halfway leaders Dion and Darren Bird clung on to sneak home by a stableford point after accumulating 88 points (50,38) just ahead of runners-up Andrew and Ollie Crawford 87 (44,43).

Club champion Lee Fletcher and Bruce Rutherford carded a three over par 73 in the scratch section to finish with 151 (78,73) four shots clear of runners up Ollie and Andrew Crawford 155 (77,78).

There was no play in the weekly Saturday 9 Hole Competition.

This Sunday is a stableford round with a prize supplied by Alec Gill.

A reminder the Walcha Central School Three Person Ambrose fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday week on 20 September at 2.30pm.

Netball

Walcha Netball Club was well represented in the Semi Finals in Armidale on Saturday.

The Opals and Diamonds went head-to-head in the Primary 1 Division Qualifying Final. The Opals dug deep and held strong, leading the game at 3/4 time but the Diamonds found some extra sparkle in the last quarter, winning the match 24-19.

Both teams deserve a huge congratulations for their sportsmanship towards each other on court and at training each week. The Diamonds go on to the Grand Final, with the Opals going up against VIP Stars in the Preliminary Final in Armidale this Saturday.

The Diamonds are hoping to meet the Opals in a Walcha v Walcha Grand Final!

Pacifika had another roaring win over Uralla Cougars, 39 – 31, in the Ladies Social Division Elimination Final. Pacifika will compete against VIP Funbags in the Preliminary Final this Saturday.



Funeral Notice

Blanch: Victor Thomas

5/3/1935 – 4/9/2025

of 'Talbingo' Walcha.

Dearly loved husband of Marjorie (dec'd)
Loving father and father-in-law of Robyn
& Mario Gasbarri, Neil & Loretta Blanch.

Loving Pa of Ashley, Kayne, Robert & Daniel
and a much loved GP of Hazel & Lily.

Aged 90 years

Funeral service to be held at Piddingtons
Funeral Home, Uralla Road Armidale,
on Monday 15th September 2025

commencing at 11 am

followed by internment at the
Walcha Cemetery.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Public Notice

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 | 0429 668 583

Church Service at Woolbrook Church,
2.00pm this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes
6777 2539.

Walcha CWA 'Awareness Week' Morning
Tea, Wednesday 17 September 9.30am to
10.30am McHattan Park. All welcome.

Garage Sale

Garage Sale 22 Mackay Avenue, Walcha
Road. Saturday 13 September from 7:30am

Position Vacant

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- Registered Nurse
- Preschool Cleaner – Permanent Part time (Closing Soon)
- Labour/Operator – Casual (Closing Soon)
- Director Infrastructure & Development - <https://www.seek.com.au/job/86973135>

For more information about these positions or to apply, please go to <https://bit.ly/WCvacant>

Stephen Parry, General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW





Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Council Land Use Strategy And Cumulative Impact Assessment



Early in 2025, Walcha Council engaged the services of Gyde Consulting to assist in the preparation of a Land Use Strategy and Cumulative Impact Assessment for the Walcha local government area (LGA). The purpose of this work is to assess the potential opportunities and threats to Walcha's land supply, housing and tourism infrastructure as a result of development in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

The consultant team and Council staff have undertaken extensive community engagement and have prepared a draft Land Use Strategy and Cumulative Impact Assessment for public exhibition.

Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting on 27 August 2025 place the draft documents on public exhibition for 28 days and invite public submissions on their contents and recommendations.

The Land Use Strategy considers existing zoned general residential, rural residential, commercial and industrial and assesses, in the context of the REZ and related development, existing capacity and suitable land for future rezoning to accommodate anticipated demand.

The Cumulative Impact Assessment is focused on housing supply and demand and the potential impacts of a short-term, transient construction workforce. The intended outcome of the Cumulative Impact Assessment is to identify measures Council can take to minimise and mitigate the impacts and take advantage of the opportunities presented by development within the REZ.

Council is interested in hearing from residents and business owners in relation to the draft Land Use Strategy and Cumulative Impact Assessment and will be accepting submissions until close of business on Friday 3 October 2025. All submissions must be in writing and can be submitted by email, post or in-person to Council's customer service counter.

The draft documents and supporting documentation are available electronically on the public notices section of Council's website. Hard copies of the draft documents can be viewed at the Walcha Council customer service counter (2W Hamilton Street, Walcha) and at the Walcha Library (42N Derby Street, Walcha).

For further information, contact Lachlan Sims, Council's Manager Strategic Planning & Environment on (02) 6774 2500 or by email at council@walcha.nsw.gov.au.

Public Notice (cont)

Notice of 1080 Wild Dog & Fox Baiting Program



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting an aerial & ground baiting program from Monday 15 September 2025 to Friday 3 October 2025. The operation will use 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison for the control of vertebrate pests including wild dogs and foxes.

The program will take place in the following reserves in the New England Area:

Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Werrikimbe National Park, Mummel Gulf National Park, Cottan-bimbang National Park, Nowendoc National Park, Aberbaldie Nature Reserve, Tuggolo Creek Nature Reserve, Tomalla Nature Reserve, part Curracabundi National Park, Booroolong Nature Reserve, Bulagaranda - Mt Yarrowyck Aboriginal Area, The Basin Nature Reserve, Indwarra National Park, and Single National Park.

The program is designed to minimise predator impacts on wildlife, especially threatened species, and to minimise the impact of wild dogs on neighbouring stock.

Domestic pets are not permitted in NSW National Parks managed lands. Pets and working dogs may be affected (1080 is lethal to cats and dogs). Pets and working dogs must be restrained or muzzled in the vicinity and must not enter the baiting location. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance. Warning signage will be placed at key entrances to the reserves.

Please contact the NPWS New England Area offices in Walcha on Tel. 6777 4700 or Armidale on Tel. 6738 9100 for more information.

Raffle Results

Walcha Hospital Auxiliary Stall held 12 August. 1st Val Wall, 2nd Carol Dunn, 3rd Ned Norton and 4th Wayne Brennen.

Woolbrook and District Progress Association Raffle Saturday 30 August 2025 winner – Bill and Trish Duncan

For Sale

Laver pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks. Delivered Friday 26/09/2025, Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Touch Football AGM. Will be held at the Apsley Hotel on Thursday 18th September at 6.00pm. All positions declared vacant. A representative from each team to attend.

Junior Rugby 2025 presentations and AGM Wednesday 10 September, 3:45pm at The Lions Park.

Walcha Show Society AGM will be held on Wednesday 17 September at 7.00pm at the Walcha Sports Club. General Committee meeting to follow. Enquiries to Dale Webber, Secretary 6777 8191.

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Walcha Volunteer Support Group AGM and meeting Monday 29 September, 2.15pm at Eastgate Village (Communal Kitchen Block) 60E North Street Walcha. Enquiries please phone Olive Chandler 0428 772 067.

thumbs



- 👍 To the nurses at Australian Unity Group. They turn up with a smile on their face and nothing is too much trouble for them.
- 👍 To the season that is SPRING! While the mornings are still crisp, the blossoms, longer days and sun-drenched afternoons are welcomed with open arms. The best time of year.
- 👍 To the amazing local organisations and their weekly street stalls. Thank you for your cheerful manner, raffles and delicious cooking on Fridays and Saturdays.
- 👍 To Dr Alison Jones who stopped to help a pedestrian whilst off duty on Friday, until the Ambulance arrived. Her actions reflect a true dedication to the Walcha Community.
- 👍 To the Fire Brigade and community members who also stepped up to assist.
- 👍 To the Walcha Under 12's Harlequins 'Fizzers' Hockey Team who played in the final on Saturday. Down 5 – 1 at half time and with 5 minutes to go leveled the score to 5 – 5, but unfortunately went down in the final minutes. The girls showed a never-die attitude and should be very proud of themselves. Well Done!
- 👍 To the Walcha Roo's. Despite having to travel away at the beginning of the season and eventually join new teams, they still had a fantastic year of football. You should all be very proud of yourselves.
- 👍 To St Patrick's staff for their enthusiastic and creative participation in Book Week celebrations.

Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must be accompanied by your name and contact details. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.



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Toni: 0421 972 354

church notices

ANGLICAN

September 14 - 9.30am Walcha Service
2.00pm Nowendoc Service

September 21 - 9.30am Walcha Service

September 28 - 9.30am Walcha Service

Phone 6777 2543 or email:
walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha - Every Sunday 9:30am

Youth Group every Saturday 5pm – 7pm,
during term time.

All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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Thursday 11 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.30am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 12 2.00pm – Close

2.00PM BINGO 6.00PM BISTRO

6pm Raffle tickets meat & vege trays

6.30PM FREE BINGO

7.00PM Raffles and Members draw

BISTRO

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- Hawaiian Chicken Burger
- Baked Pollock on a Summer Salad
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Saturday 13 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 14 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm,
drawn 1.00pm.

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FOR 2024/2025 TO BE
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Saturday 11th October

CrazyRock Duo

7.30pm - 10.30pm

Twilight Bowls

Commences on Friday 11th
October. Sign up sheet is on the
board at the club.

Footy Tipping Party

With Natty's delicious Seafood
Selection - Saturday 20th
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