

THE APSLEY Advocate

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24 September 2025

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Kel Penfold



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Walcha Coffee wins Micro Business Award



Left: Cameron Hayton, Walcha Coffee founder and Manager, with his business award.
Right: Kelly Wolfe and Cameron Hayton celebrating their success at the New England North West Business Awards.

Walcha Coffee has the accolades rolling in once again. Named as the winners of the *Excellence in Micro Business* category at the New England North West, 2025 Business Awards. The gala presentation evening was held at the Armidale Ex-Services Club on Friday 19 September to celebrate and recognise outstanding businesses from the region.

Cameron Hayton, founder and Managing Director of Walcha Coffee said, "I was genuinely surprised by the result. The category was full of businesses I personally admire, and simply being listed among them was an honour. Writing the submission came at a time when I was questioning what I was doing with the business. The process forced me to reflect and critically evaluate our achievements over the past year — and I realised just how far we've come."

The other finalists in the Excellence in Micro Business category were; Acacia Function Centre — Tamworth, Creating Focus Social Media, Seasons of New England, Sera J Wright Photography, She's My Travel Agent, Sleepy Merino and Wall's Honey Co.

The precursor to the current New England North West Business Awards was the Northern Inland Excellence in Business Awards, first held in Armidale in 1997 to recognise excellence and showcase regional businesses. This established initiative, managed by Business NSW, now serves as a major regional event for the New England North West region, celebrating dedication, innovation, and resilience within the local business community through various categories and culminating in a state-level competition.

Congratulations to the team at Walcha Coffee on their award. A wonderful example of Walcha Coffee's initiatives is happening this Wednesday 24 September, on site at the Walcha Coffee Cafe & Roastery. The coffee enthusiast is bringing the *Regional Latte Art Smackdown* to Walcha. Watch top baristas from across the region go head-to-head in a high-energy Latte Art Throwdown! Enjoy great coffee, cheer on your favourite competitors, and soak up the fun, caffeine-fuelled atmosphere. (See page 9 for more details).

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

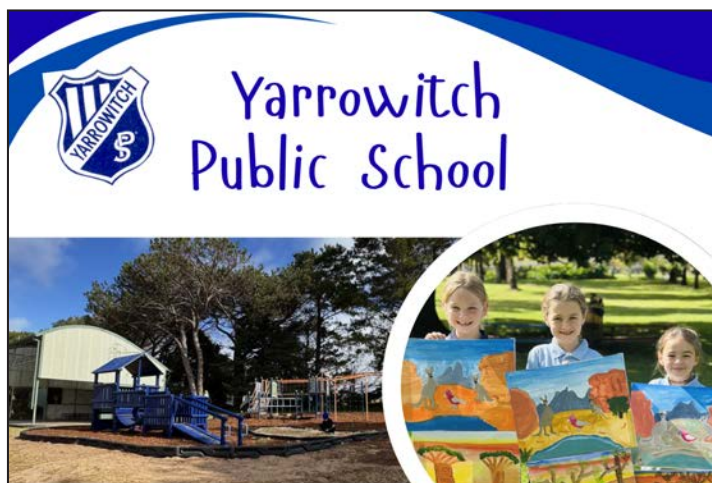
Once again, the weather threw up some mixed conditions over the weekend with a miserable cold, wet and windy day on Saturday while Sunday was a cracker. The rainfall was perfect, 10-20mm fell over our district and those totals were widespread throughout the northwest of the state. Daylight savings is just around the corner and the day length is increasing every day, it really is a good time of year for those of us that like to get up early. The week ahead looks dry and fine with daytime temps hitting twenty degrees on the weekend, but not before a potential frost mid-week. I looked at the forecast over the weekend where the first and second week of October were looking wet, (having us in for 80mm), but that forecast has now gone, I think something is brewing so only time will tell.

The Albanese government has just announced that they are investing \$1.1 billion into producing low carbon fuels from canola oil as the newest investment into tackling climate change. The government is trying to become a major producer of low carbon liquid fuels for not only Australia but the world. The government has set a ten-year cleaner fuels program which aims at private investment in onshore Australian production of low carbon liquid fuels to create jobs and power Australians for decades. I think it's a great idea that we could produce our own fuel and lessen the reliance on oil from other countries, but there are so many issues with the use of these canola oils in our diesel vehicles, especially with the age of our vehicles. Let's hope it will create jobs as every time you read a paper or listen to the radio, another large company is laying off workers. Albanese is currently in the USA and hasn't been able to get a meeting with President Trump to date, relationships are important and let's hope he hasn't flown all the way over there on tax payers money without an organised sit down with Trump.

We always have a downside to a good season, first it was grass tetany, during the backend of winter, and now its bloat. Numerous producers around the district have notched up cattle deaths due to bloat, the extreme changes in the weather and subsequent disruption in grazing habits can be fatal. We have an abundance of clover, especially on super improved country and though we can't cure it, prevention is always best. Up to date 5-in-1 needles and your choice of bloat licks, oils or even loose licks will all help reduce the severity of bloat, it won't guarantee that it will stop it but it will help manage it. The upside is that the paddocks are so good at present the cattle are putting on a mile of weight.

Grain looks to be getting cheaper as we edge closer to harvest and for those who buy grain or pulses for supplementary feeding purposes it might be a good time to look at filling your silos. Cheaper grain is also a great thing for feedlots, both beef and sheep as the major cost to a ration is grain. Given the price of cattle and lambs at present, cheaper rations will help keep feedlot gross margins in the green as livestock prices edge higher. Let's hope we can get a reasonable hay season to replenish hay sheds, especially in the south of the country, we may see some grain crops get cut for hay instead of harvested for grain this season.

It's pretty rare when we see a Tamworth fat-sale yard more than Wagga Wagga. Tamworth yarded 2937 on Monday with Wagga yarding less than 2900. All, bar the restocking cattle, sold to cheaper trends in Tamworth with **weaner steers** topping at 576c/kg and **heifers** topped at 440c/kg. The strength continues to come from the south, and our southern markets are continuing to outperform our local markets with **domestic kill cattle** topping at 492c/kg in Tamworth, while in Wagga they made to 540c/kg. Tamworth **feeder cattle** slipped topping at 542c/kg while they topped at 560c/kg in Wagga. **Heavy kill cows** in Tamworth topped at 428c/kg while cows in Wagga made to 450c/kg. Sheep and lambs are still running hot with **new season lambs** making close to \$12/kg and **old season lambs** still making near \$11/kg. **Mutton** is still running hot with the best of the fat mutton making \$8/kg in our saleyards. **Please note TFI Tamworth will be closed for 3 weeks for scheduled maintenance from next week onwards.**



Yarrowitch Public School

Transition 2025

Starting Term 4
Wednesday Week 3 to Week 6 9am - 12pm

Yarrowitch Public School is excited to offer a Transition to School program for 2026 school age students. As a small rural school, we pride ourselves on our strong focus on literacy and numeracy, while also providing rich access to technology, hands-on problem solving and creative learning. Staff support and nurture each student to develop their individual talents through personalised learning, guidance and a focus on building confidence and curiosity. This welcoming and engaging program helps children feel confident and connected as they begin their school journey. All families are warmly invited to join us!

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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ENROL NOW



Walcha Motorcycle Rally

Homestay, local tickets and community involvement

Excitement is building for the Walcha Motorcycle Rally, happening 14–15 November 2025. Visitors from across Australia are already booking their accommodation to be part of one of regional NSW's premier events.

To help welcome them, we are once again seeking *Homestay Accommodation* from Walcha locals. If you have a granny flat, shearers' quarters, cottage, or spare room, this is a wonderful way to be involved. Previous hosts have spoken warmly of the experience, saying how much they enjoyed meeting and hosting rally-goers. Homestay accommodation will be listed on the Walcha Tourism website, with bookings made directly between hosts and guests.

The event is made possible with the support of our incredible local community. If you would like to get involved behind the scenes, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer, help out and be part of the fun, it is a great way to meet people and experience the event from a different perspective.

On sale now: Local residents have exclusive access to a fantastic weekend! Exclusive \$15 Locals' Spectator Tickets are available now at the Council Office (cash or card) and Visitor Information Centre (card only) on weekdays, granting full access to the Showground across the entire weekend. But don't wait, this special price is only available before the event. Spectator Tickets at the gate will be \$20 per day, so get in early to secure the best deal.

Enjoy live evening entertainment from Terra Firma and RAVEN, a multicultural selection of food vendors, and a packed program of events for all ages. Check out the website for all the details www.walchamotorcyclerrally.com.au



Photo: K Connors Photography

The Walcha Motorcycle Rally, a grass roots event welcoming all motorcycle genres – Road Bikes (Cruisers/Sports Bikes), Adventure Bikes, Ag-Farm Bikes, Enduro-X, Motocross, and the ever-popular Postie Bikes

There is also plenty happening in town on Saturday for everyone to enjoy, including the motorcycle street procession, farmers' market, demonstrations, competitions, street stalls, and vintage car display – all free!

For more information, to register as a host or volunteer, please contact the **Walcha Visitor Information Centre**

02 6774 2460 | tourism@walcha.nsw.gov.au



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2025 Walcha Show President's Report

By Daniel Kermode

The 2025 Walcha Show was again a success and continues to be thanks to the consistent efforts of a totally committed Committee and large number of volunteers. The main cog in the wheel of success is our office, with Dale Weber, Sarah Nivison and Billy Fletcher seeing to it that everything runs smoothly, not only at show time but year round. As Billy is finishing up being our treasurer I'd like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

As we are now only three years away for the 150 years of the Walcha Show, we need to be mindful of our increasing costs of insurance, and some of the over runs against the Showground Trust on infrastructure upgrades, this reflects on the ground users, us being a major one.

The Walcha Show was profitable on a small scale for the period ending 30 June 2025, which is good, but with all the increasing costs we need to keep the show progressing. Our gate takings and membership were slightly up, which reflects continued and increasing support from our community for whom we put the spectacle of the show on for.

The look of a totally packed trade space thanks to Greig Stier's efforts is a big attraction as we are like a mini Ag Quip.

There is a serious amount of donations received by the show committee used to pay for entertainment – which obviously is part of the attractions to our show goers. Jock Fletcher does a huge job gaining donations which is a big part of our future stability, and we thank the sponsors both in-kind and directly. There is a massive in-kind donation base of machinery/livestock transport and volunteer work that makes the show run smoothly. Leila McDougal's efforts to come from her Victorian property to her old hometown to open the show for the second time was very much appreciated by us.

To our very dedicated committee and volunteers, I thank you for all your efforts and support to the Walcha Show Society, which I will always be totally committed to having served my three years as President.

Thank you to the community for supporting the Walcha Show and we, as a committee, look forward to coming up with new ideas to do it all again in 2026.

CWA Awareness Week

Walcha CWA Branch held their 'Awareness Week' at McHattan Park last Wednesday where members of our community were welcomed for morning tea and a chat.

We even had a visiting member from Tumut Branch who came to share the morning and information with us, as well as several local ladies and we thank them for their support and friendship.

Vic McIvor – President



letters to the editor



Enjoy a country laugh

I lived the majority of my life in Walcha, and during those years I have so many fond memories along with numerous funny stories to tell.

For quite some time I have been busy compiling these stories, many about my brothers Laurence, Colin and Ian Henry, and have now written a book of short stories called *A Country Laugh*. These 132 pages of stories about people in Walcha, many who remain nameless, are guaranteed to give you a damn good laugh.

If you would like a copy for a small fee, sent as either a digital file or posted on a USB, please give me a call.

Dawn Hamel

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New chef for Riverview

Riverview Aged Care has welcomed a new chef, with Afroza Khanum recently joining the team and bringing with her a wealth of energy and enthusiasm.

Originally from Sydney, Afroza made the move to Walcha just a few weeks ago with her two children, who are now attending Walcha Central School. For the family, the shift from Sydney to Walcha has been a significant change, but one they are embracing wholeheartedly.

Since arriving, Afroza has quickly settled into her role at Riverview. She works five days a week, generally from early morning through to mid-afternoon, preparing and cooking meals for residents. Staff have already described her as a valued addition to the close-knit team, noting her strong work ethic and willingness to support others.

The Riverview kitchen menu will remain unchanged for the time being, with a new summer menu already planned to begin next month. Afroza is committed to ensuring residents enjoy their meals and has indicated that feedback will play a key role in guiding any adjustments in the future.

Outside of work, Afroza and her children are enjoying exploring Walcha and taking in the slower pace of life. The quiet atmosphere and sense of community have been a welcome contrast to the busyness of Sydney.

Afroza has indicated that she plans to stay in Walcha for several years, though her long-term future will depend on her children's schooling and university plans. In the meantime, she is embracing the opportunity to live and work in what she describes as a welcoming and close-knit community.

With her positive outlook, commitment to her work, and appreciation for her new hometown, Afroza is already making a positive impression at Riverview and within the wider Walcha community.



Trees, Power & Proof: What Australia's Climate Policy Means for New England Graziers



Straight Talk Session: Thursday 2 October

Australia has tightened its climate targets: Net Zero by 2050, a 43% cut by 2030, and a new 2035 target to reduce emissions by 62 – 70% below 2005 levels.

What does that actually mean at the farm gate in New England? More interest in environmental plantings and biodiversity projects and other carbon projects. Continued renewable energy proposals knocking on farm doors. And more buyers asking for proof of lower emissions and good land stewardship.

Join local producers for a straight-talk session on the real-world risks and opportunities: carbon income, biodiversity credits, lease deals for solar/wind, and what paperwork and timeframes look like.

Bring your questions — even a paddock map if you like.

When: Thursday 2 October, 6:00–8:00pm

Where: Walcha Sports Club (TBC)

Cost: Free

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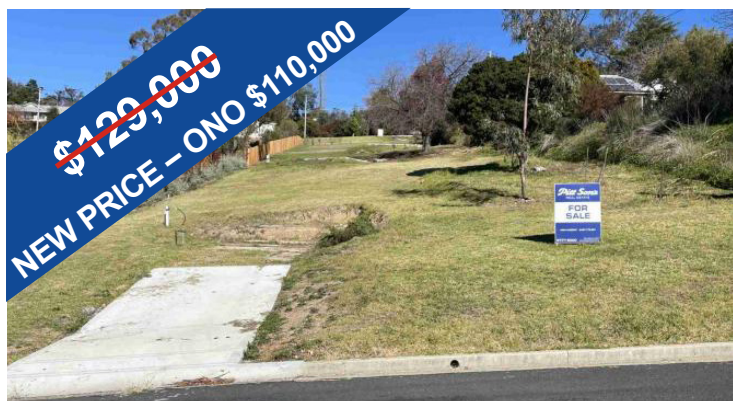
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WALCHA COUNCIL

Spring holiday program 2025

NSW Childrens Week Art Fun
Mon 29th Sept
11am - 1pm
Portrait Collages
@ Walcha Library
Ages 6-13yrs

SPRING STORYTIME
Teddy Bears Picnic
Tues 30 Sept 10am
Walcha Library
Fun for all ages
Preschool + Primary
Bring a teddy

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVAL WORKSHOP
with CNRL 'Cool Guys'
Thurs 2nd Oct
2-3pm
Walcha Library
Ages 10yrs+
Book online



KIDS GAMES K-4 & YOUTH MASHUP Yrs 5-9
Walcha Anglican and Presbyterian Churches
1st - 3rd October from 9:30 - 12:30
Contact Graham on 67772539 or Neil on 67772543

CRAFT for Kindy-Yr6
at Walcha Preschool \$10 each
Contact Bec on 0400881775 to book

Cute planters
Tues 7th Oct
10 - 11.30am

Pressed flower necklace
Fri 10th Oct
10 - 11.30am

Walcha Little Athletics COME AND TRY
Wed 8th Oct
3.30-4.30pm
John Oxley oval
Ages 4-17
Free to attend
Bring a hat & water bottle



DEADLY DAY OUT
Excursion to Port Macquarie
Wed 1st October 7am - 7pm
FREE FUN strictly ages 12-17
Limited seats - Book online



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Students take on Sydney Bridge Competition

14 – 15 August 2025, six Walcha Central School students from Years 8 to 10 went to Sydney to compete in the M7-M12 Integration Project Bridge Competition.

The two teams had built their bridges at school in the weeks preceding, from spaghetti and glue to comply with competition rules, as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) enrichment activity. They attended the bridge testing day at the John Holland construction site for the M7-M12 freeway interchange.

Bridges were tested to their limit (and destroyed in the process) to see the weight capacity they could hold. Amongst the vast array of bridges and building styles, the Walcha teams' bridges performed admirably. Most of the schools that participated were Sydney-based, and Walcha students were given VIP treatment for having come the furthest distance for the competition.

In addition to the bridge testing, there were engineering focused displays about the bridges of the M7-M12 Motorway Integration Project and activities for the students to participate in. Students were also given a tour of the freeway interchange construction site by engineers from TransUrban and John Holland Construction.

The results of the competition have not yet been received, so we do not know our overall standings, but congratulations to Ethan, Jack, Liam, Lachlan and Zion, and to Mr Stanton and Mrs Bayley for accompanying the students.



Lachlan Stackman, Charlie McKern and Liam Hogan in Sydney



Author Talk Christine Sykes

10.30am Thu 25 September
Walcha Library

Christine Sykes life was transformed when she became a published author on her 70th birthday, now with two novels and her memoir.

As both Christine and the library turn 75, join us for her talk "It's never too late" at Walcha Library.

Book free – call 6774 2550.







TROUTFEST GUYRA

Thursday 2nd to Monday 6th October

- Art Expo • Metal to MasterPiece Expo • Rotary Book Fair
- Anglers Club Trout Classic Saturday plus Kids Clinic Sunday
- Malpas Dam • Markets, Busking and Band Music Contests on Saturday • Big Day Trout outdoor concert Guyra Bowling Club car park from 9.30 am to 8 pm on Sunday 5th

*** Follow Facebook for details ***

NAB Face Lift

The recent renovation and refurbishment of Walcha's National Australia Bank is complete. More than just a coat of paint and new flooring, this newly sunlit open plan area also sees the introduction of the NAB Tech Lounge. The Tech Lounge is a space set up with tall desks and iPads for customers to access services with the support of staff close by. Here you can conduct, learn or setup internet banking, apply for personal loans and credit cards.

Walcha's NAB branch is open 9:30am – 12:30pm weekdays and the Branch Manager visits Walcha at least once a month. The meeting room is still available offering a private space for appointments with Business Managers or the like, these can be made via Zoom or in person within the branch by prior arrangement for Agri-business, Home or Small Business Loans.

This investment in the Walcha branch should bolster consumer confidence that NAB is here to stay.



Employee, Miranda Yates
in the new Tech Lounge



GARDEN 5. 'ORANDUMBIE' – Daniel and Carnie Kermode

'Orandumbie' homestead was built in 1863 and the gardens were established shortly after this. Many of the original trees are still in the garden, including the Elm tree driveway and spectacular Cork tree.

We have made several changes to the garden over the years. We started by removing many Elm tree suckers on the eastern side which allowed a lot more light into the house and garden. There was quite a bit of controversy regarding the trimming of the Elm trees along the driveway edges. By doing this it has reduced a lot of work to keep them under control. We have since planted an avenue of roses under the Elm trees which produce a divine scent on a summer's day.

Our English style garden is surrounded with rockwork which features many of my favourite plants such as Catmint, Poppies and Lilies.

Youth MASHUP

School YEARS 5-9

WEDNESDAY 1ST - FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

IN FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL HOLS

9.30AM - 12.30PM

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KIDS GAMES

SCHOOL YEARS K-4

WEDNESDAY 1ST - FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

9:30AM TO 12:30PM

ANGELICAN HALL (SOUTH ST)

IN 1ST WEEK OF SCHOOL HOLS

FREE GAMES
BIBLE • CRAFT
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FUN

REGISTER

More info
Neil Hunt 6777 2543
WalchaAnglican@gmail.com

Walcha players part of winning PLC Armidale Teams

Twin sisters Georgie and Anna Blake were part of the PLC Armidale representative Junior Hockey Team, which achieved a remarkable victory by winning the Division One Grand Final in the Independent Girls' Schools Association (IGSA) competition in Sydney last weekend.

The IGSA competition attracts more than 110 teams, with many participating schools more than eight times the size of PLC Armidale.

PLC Armidale rose to the challenge against undefeated Ascham with a first-half goal giving them early momentum, and a strong, determined defence held their lead for the remainder of the match.

Georgie said she enjoyed both the competition and camaraderie of the trip. "IGSA was so much fun because of the challenging teams we competed against and the awesome trip, but most of all our amazing teammates," she said.

Anna said she was proud of the team. "I feel like we gave it our all, and our effort has shown in our results," she said. "The competition was hard and really pushed us to our limits, but we always found a way to keep going.

"The secret to our team's success would have been our friendship."

College Principal Mrs Nicola Taylor said the team's achievement was recognised during the official presentations by IGSA Sport Director Matthew Mulrone, while the Head of Sport, Mrs Lucy Donaldson, described the victory as historic on the back of a local win.

This win continues PLC Armidale's strong record of success on the IGSA stage. In 2024, both the senior and junior netball teams claimed their grand finals, while in 2023, PLC Armidale's junior representative hockey team



Champion Junior Representative Hockey Team

became IGSA Champions after an emphatic grand final victory over Loreto Normanhurst.

This triumph in 2025, alongside PLC Armidale's track record of championship wins, marks a proud moment in the College's sporting history and highlights the talent, grit, and teamwork of its young athletes.

The College also celebrated a Championship win by its Reserve Grade Football team in the 2025 Armidale Women's Premier competition, a team which includes Walcha's Emily Blake, and the Tennis success of Year 10 student Trista Dorrian, who was declared the Northwest region U16s Champion of Champions in Tamworth.

The College's rep Junior Netball team also made it to the IGSA finals last weekend, but while they played with grit and grace, they didn't get through to the Grand Final. More than a third of the players are from Walcha: Sophia Marchant, Lilah Tate, Xaphyn and Veja-Lee Petuha.



PLC Armidale Reserve Grade Football Team



PLC Armidale IGSA Junior Netball Team

Junior Rugby Presentations

Last Wednesday the Walcha Junior Rugby Club celebrated their 2025 season at Lions Park. A huge thank you must go to the committee, in particular Amy Clark and Mick Lisle for their hard work throughout the season. The coaches, Sam Lisle, Henry King and Angus Laurie are also to be commended on the time and effort they put in each week. Lastly, well done to all of the juniors who played their little hearts out over the past four months!

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

- Under 8s Best and Fairest** Campbell Laurie
- Most Improved** Harry King
- Under 10s Best and Fairest** Blake McKinnon and Archer Clark
- Most Improved** Levi Williams
- Under 12s Best and Fairest** Max Lisle and Digby Clark
- Most Improved** Ollie Lisle



Digby Clark and Max Lisle



Coach Sam Lisle with Ollie Lisle



Coach Henry King with Levi Williams



Harry King with coach Angus Laurie



Angus Laurie with Campbell Laurie



Blake McKinnon & Archer Clarke



Walcha Coffee, the place to be today!

Walcha Coffee are hosting the first ever Regional Latte Art Smackdown, today, Wednesday 24 September. The event will attract to Walcha world-class baristas, along with latte artists and judges who have previously judged and trained World Champions of this craft.

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of tastings and training that culminates in the main 'smackdown', this Wednesday September 24.

To attend the 2.30pm Sensory Masterclass, please purchase your ticket (\$29pp) on the Eventbrite website.

Agenda

2.30 - 3.30	Sensory Coffee Masterclass <i>Ticket required to attend</i>
3:30	Free 'cupping', tasting new season coffee.
4:30	Junior Latte Art Competition (15 & under)
5:30	The main Smackdown event.

There will be loads of action, along with fun giveaways throughout the night, so pop down to Walcha Coffee this afternoon and see these talented baristas and artisans at work.

www.eventbrite.com.au

OXLEY HIGHWAY Planned closures during School Holidays

Transport for NSW is continuing major restoration work on the Oxley Highway at Mount Seaview to return the road to pre-2021 flood condition.

Weekly road closures will be in place until 18 December 2025. Transport has reviewed the road closure exemptions and associated impacts on work progress. As a result of this review, it was determined that closures will be required during the upcoming NSW spring school holidays.

WEEKLY CLOSURES WILL REMAIN:

Tuesdays to Thursdays:

Between 7am and 4:30pm.

Friday to Monday:

No closures during NSW spring school holidays.



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Gee it was sad to hear that Walcha resident Jennelle Smith (nee Walker) left this world last Sunday at Coffs Harbour after a short illness. Condolences to her husband Darren, parents Brenda and John, brother David along with all other family members and friends. At the time of going to print funeral arrangements weren't available. May Jenelle Susan Smith Rest in Peace.

...

Walcha Central School held 'A Night at the Theatre' last Wednesday which attracted a large crowd to the Multipurpose Centre. Congratulations to the performers who kept all those in attendance entertained throughout the two-part program.

...

At one stage during the evening Michelle Wellings turned to her husband, Stuart, and asked him "Who is the new teacher sitting down near the front of the stage?" Stu explained that the 'new teacher' was in fact teenage schoolgirl, Kayleigh Hobbs, who was the co-narrator with Toby Wellings for the show. Kayleigh was wearing a long grey wig at the time though.

...

Last week there was a mention about the up-coming Touch Football season being Walcha's 49th and the next season would be the Big Five-O! Well that isn't the case as Touch kicked off here in October 1976 and this season will in fact be the 50th. Certainly glad the bloke who did the calculations isn't my accountant! And what's more, the same chap just happens to be Patron and a Life Member of the Walcha Touch Association.

...

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WALCHA

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Congratulations to Doctor Ali Jones, her other half Charlie Norton and Tom Manning on winning the Walcha Central School P&C Three Person Ambrose Golf Day held last Saturday in sometimes testing weather conditions. Pauline Carter, Matty Makeham and Pete Whellan were the runners up while Lisa Westbury her brother-in-law Chris Broadbent and his son Cooper finished third. The fundraiser attracted around 40 players, down on numbers due to the ordinary weather. By all accounts quite a substantial amount of money was raised to upgrade the schools technology.



Golf Winners: Tom Manning, Ali Jones and Charlie Norton

Still on golf, it was great to catch up with my long lost cousin Christopher (also known as Pommy) last week over 9 holes and a few beverages later. He was in town for a few days with three of his Lismore Rugby teammates who won the 1990 premiership – Rino Santin, Gordon Miller and Ronnie Cox, while Pommy's brother Simeon, Bikie Brazel and Magpie Lynch also played, where lets just say 'Golf was the Winner'!

...

Bad luck to the Walcha Diamonds who were defeated 22 – 18 by the VIP Stars in their Armidale District Primary 1 Division Grand Final last Saturday. The Walcha Opals finished Minor Premiers, but were eliminated by the Stars in the Preliminary Final the Saturday before. Well done on a pretty successful season to the girls of both the Diamonds and the Opals.

...

Anyone who left the Bowling Club Footy Tipping Party last Saturday hungry and is looking for someone to blame should find the nearest mirror and peer into it because there was certainly no shortage of food. Well done to 'Nibbles Chef' Jo Wicks on her fantastic effort and GJ Natty, who with the assistance of Stephen Bath, delivered on the fish from Swains Reef.

...

The Apsley Arms Hotel are holding their end of season Tipping Party this Saturday kicking off from 12 noon. Not that I'm into drinking Victoria Bitter but a smick looking VB esky is being raffled and will be drawn on the day. A shout out to pub boss Ganesh Sedhain who performed some impressive aerobic manoeuvres at his establishment on Monday necessary to solve a small problem he had at the time.



Ladies Bowls

What a beautiful day it was to play bowls last Thursday with Jan Cross and Rosie Aitken having a comfortable win against Janice Rizzi and Phyllis Hoy. As did Marie Spink, Marg Tickle and Pam Makeham over Lee McCoy, Carmel Ryan and Wendy Moore.

There are sheets underneath each flyer for you to write your name if interested in playing in the event. We have been invited to Kootingal's President's Day on 15 October. Names to be on the board by tomorrow if you wish to attend. Manilla has invited us to a 'Pork Day' on Sunday 12 October.

The Ivy Makeham Memorial Singles Trophy will begin 9 October. Names to be on the board by 2 October. Our Patrons are Val Wall and Pat Laurie.

The State Seniors Teams being played on 11 October are Lyn Burnell, Lee McCoy and Esther Hunt. Janice Rizzi, Carmel Ryan and Pam Makeham. The State Senior Fours Teams being played on the 18 October are Marie Spink, Janice Rizzi, Rosie Aitken and Lee McCoy. Carmel Ryan, Lyn Burnell, Esther Hunt and Pam Makeham. We wish the girls good bowling.

There will be Social Bowls tomorrow 9.00am for 9.30am.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday Golf was for Sally Rutherford's Trophy. The winner with a fabulous score was Jenny Lisle with 41 points. Sweepstakes went to Sue Partridge 35, Polly Locke 34 and Anne Martin 34.

Nearest the Pin on 3 Simone Sweeney, Second Shot 16 Polly Locke.

Six players played 9 holes the winner being Alison Cameron with 17 on a count back from Sally Rutherford.

The AGM was held prior to golf. All positions remained the same. Simone Sweeney President, Vicky Heffernan Vice President, Pauline Carter Secretary, Anne Martin Treasurer, Polly Locke and Penny King Captains.

Wednesday 24 September is Stroke, Putting, Mug, Jenny Lisle Trophy, 1st week of Secretary's Eclectic.

Tennis

Round 5 of the 2025 Spring Prelude Comp was played out on Tuesday 16 September in pleasant Spring conditions.

Group 1: Harry Locke (floating for Sam Payne) came up trumps with a score of 20, only 1 point ahead of Hayden Carter who is playing great Tennis. Group 2: Club President Hyde Thomson was our winner with a solid score of 20 points. Group 3: Dave Sweeney showed a clean pair of heels taking the win with a big score of 26. Group 4: Chris Bruce (floating for Steve Blake) was too good coming away with 26 points as well. Well done to our winners for Round 5.

The next Club meeting will be held on Monday 13 October, all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Stay tuned for more info on our graded doubles Spring Comp starting on Tuesday 21 October and finishing on Tuesday 16 December.

Good luck to our players doing battle this week. See you all at the net soon.

At the Nineteenth

The monthly Stroke Medal round was played for a trophy donated by Andrew Crawford last Sunday, which attracted a modest field of 16 players mainly because a number of members were out at Narromine competing in the 2025 NSW 4BBB Sandgreen Championships.

Overall winner Will Archdale certainly had a day out claiming the daily prize, carding the best scratch score 79 which equated to 67 nett to give him the A Grade mug. In B Grade, Angus Warden streeted the field to win with a 76 nett, mainly because he was the only player to tee-off in his division. John McCormack got the job done in C Grade with a 68 nett.

Just for good measure Will took out the putting competition after engaging his flat stick on 24 occasions, while at the other end of the scale Brian Lynch picked up the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for most putts after registering 33 jabs.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were President Miles Archdale (3) and Brian Lynch (9), whereas no player was accurate enough to reach the beaches on 16 and 18.

Long drives, sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus, were drilled by Michael Stackman (A) and Robert Smith (C) while Angus Warden was unable to find the fairway in B Grade.

Due to the inclement weather conditions there was no action in the weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday.

Six local players represented the Walcha Club at Narromine along with four former

members who now reside at North Haven or nearby.

Most Successful in the 36 hole event were Peter Norbury and Jack O'Hara who finished third in the Nett Division after accumulating 84 points (42.42) points, a couple of points behind winners Greg Dunn and Dudley Beetson from Nyngan.

On Sunday Don Brooks and Neil Dark racked up 44 points to win the 18 hole nett event, Col Berry and Simeon Cross were runners-up on 41 points, whereas the Brennan Boys, Wayne and Willy, won the 18 hole scratch on Sunday.

The only duo not to collect a prize were Steph 'The Golden Haired Wonder Child' Sweeney and Deon Lawrence despite two good scores of 40 and 41 points over the weekend.

This Sunday is the annual Bywell Cup where Tim and Janie Fenwicke and family are in charge of supplying the prizes.

Netball

The Diamonds proudly represented the Walcha Netball Club in the Primary 1 Division Grand Final in Armidale on Saturday, taking on rivals VIP Stars. In an impressive feat, the Diamonds — with four of their nine players experiencing their first season of netball — advanced straight to the Grand Final after winning the Semi-Final. It was heartening to see the court sideline and the hill behind packed with enthusiastic supporters who travelled from Walcha to cheer the team on. They were treated to a fast-paced, nail-biting match, with both teams locked in a tight contest. Scores were even at half-time and again at three-quarter time, before the Stars edged ahead in the final quarter. The Diamonds fought hard but eventually conceded the match, 18-22.

Congratulations to the Diamonds on a fantastic season, and to all Walcha Netball Club teams. You've done Walcha proud — not only with your skill and determination but with your outstanding sportsmanship towards opponents, teammates, umpires, and the Armidale District Netball Association.

Bowls

Thursday: Barry Kliendienst and Warrick Hogan had a good win over Barry Hoad and John McCormack 27/13. Noel Goodwin and Mark Hogan were too good for Denis Makeham and Mick Bullen 28/7.

Carly Goodwin was the winner of the BC tipping competition. Kyle Goodwin second place. Harry Natty and John Dobson equal third. Members had their wind up party on Saturday arvo. Well done to the organisers it was a great afternoon.

Twilight Bowls start again on 11 October. Place your teams on the board.

Bowling Club annual general meeting on Sunday 28 September.

PROG ROCK

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

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Five different venues, five courses and drinks
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Information & Tickets must be pre-purchased
at <https://events.humanitix.com/prog-rock-progressive-dinner>

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St Patricks Confirmation and Bishop's Visit

On Sunday, nine students from St. Patrick's School were confirmed by Bishop Peter Murphy of Armidale at 10:00am. Mass. It was a significant day for the students' spiritual journeys as they re-affirmed their commitment to their faith just as their parents did for them at Baptism when they were very young.

Following the service, Bishop Murphy and Monsignor Wilkes joined the students, their families, sponsors, friends, and parishioners for morning tea at the school's Covered Learning Area.

A special thank you goes to Ms Wilson for her excellent organisation, Mrs Davey for preparing the students, Mrs Linda Lockyer for her beautiful musicianship, and Mrs Pittman for coordinating the morning tea.



thumbs



- 👍 To the amazing Julie Keogh and her wonderful Walcha Taxi business. Her cheerful smile, 'not a problem' attitude and service to our community over nine years will be sorely missed by all.
- 👍 To Walcha Road school bus driver for always driving carefully down our avenue and for keeping her passengers safe.
- 👍 To Walcha Central P&C's fabulous golf day, auction and dinner as well as the delicious dinner before the whole school performance. What a fantastic team of parents!
- 👍 To Cross Bros. Butchery, the best customer service and meat around!
- 👍 To the Walcha Farmers' Markets on Saturday.
- 👍 To the weekly Tech Savvy Seniors Program.
- 👍 To the Men's Shed for the wonderful lunch for the Quota Ladies. The food and presentation were absolutely beautiful, thank you.

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.

advocateclassifieds



Death Notice

Jenelle Susan Smith
(nee Walker)

21 September 2025 at Coffs Harbour after a short illness.

Loving wife of Darren. Mother and mother in-law of Sullivan Smith and Shania, Bailey and Ben Harney. Grandmother of Oakley.

Daughter of Brenda and John Walker.

Sister and sister in-law of David and Fiona Walker. Daughter in-law of Les and Maureen Smith.

In the care of Lady Cameo Funerals, Coffs Harbour.

1st Quarter

Water and Sewer Notices **DUE 26 SEPTEMBER 2025**



To avoid daily interest charges on overdue accounts, Council kindly reminds residents to pay their accounts before the due date.

If you are paying by post please allow sufficient time for the payment to reach Council's office by the due date.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your recent notice, please contact Council on 6774 2500 or council@walcha.nsw.gov.au.

Position Vacant

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Small Council, Big Opportunities



- Manager Finance – Permanent Full Time
- Director Infrastructure & Development – <https://bit.ly/wcdirid>
- Heavy Vehicle Operator – Permanent Full Time
- Registered Nurse
- Pool Attendants – Casual – **Closing Soon**

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

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Gardening and Lawn Care. Gardening, rubbish removal, lawn mowing and snipping. Call 0438 722 881.

Walcha Skatepark **Official Opening**



The official Opening Ceremony of the Walcha Skatepark will be held at the Skatepark, 18E Fitzroy Street, Walcha on Thursday 25 September 2025 at 3:30pm. All welcome.

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

Meeting Notice

Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday 3 October, at Bill & Vinni Carson's garden 'Old Greenwells', 14374 Thunderbolt's Way (just a few minutes south of Walcha) commencing 9.30am. Please BYO lunch, chair and cup. This is an important meeting prior to the Walcha Garden Festival 8/9 November. Enquiries: Sue Law 0467 450 243, Diana Lisle 0429 799 083. New members most welcome.

Save the Date

Walcha Hospital Aux, Melbourne Cup Luncheon, 4 November. Details to follow.

church notices



ANGLICAN

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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WALCHA HIRE

Andrew: 0427 549 748
Toni: 0421 972 354

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Thursday 25 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.30am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 26 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

- Honey Chicken & Rice
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Saturday 27 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

NO DELIVERY

Sunday 28 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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AGM

This Saturday starting at
9:30am. All members are
welcome to attend!

The Bistro is taking bookings
for Christmas and end of year
functions.

Please contact Dianna –
0412 536 760 or 5722 6003
for details.

Live Music

Saturday 11th October
CrazyRock Duo
7.30pm - 10.30pm

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