

THE APSLEY Advocate

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1 October 2025



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WALCHA By Appointment

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Walcha CWA 100th Birthday Celebrations

Saturday 25 October

9.30: McHattan Park

10am: Bowling Club
for morning tea

10.30: Formal proceedings

Lunch: Cost \$35pp (cash only)
payable at the door
All members of the
Community welcome

Please RSVP by 15 October
to Helen Tisdell
E. helen_don@outlook.com
P. 0407 457 180



Class of 2025 graduates

Year 12 Formal: Robert Gardiner, Matilda Andrews, Dakota Andrews, Georgia West, Sotiana Lloyd, Amelia Parish, Charlee Steep, Isabella Booth, Sienna Wellings, Year Advisor Jodie Provost, Thea Dunn, Ash-Lee Hollis, Isabella Mooney, Michael Fenwicke, Hunter O'Connell. Photo: Michelle Bruton.

It was a chance for the Class of 2025 to kick up their heels and celebrate on Thursday evening for the Walcha Central School Year 12 Formal with their class, staff and families. The event marked a significant milestone for the graduating students, with the formal being a heartfelt occasion filled with reflection, recognition, and anticipation for the exciting journeys ahead.

Guests enjoyed canapes prepared by the Hands on Learning Cafe and dinner catered by Lisa Swanton.

Mrs Jodie Provost, Year Advisor, presented the class with their Gratitude Journals that were completed by the students over the last two years.

As the Year 12 students prepare for their upcoming final exams, the formal served as a reminder of their achievements and the bright futures that lie ahead. The entire school community wishes them all the best in their next chapter.

Ampol Best All Rounder: Isabella Mooney

UNE Vice Chancellor's High Achievement Award:
Georgia West

Nutrien Boulton's – Excellence in Agriculture:
Ash-Lee Hollis

Commendable Achievement Award: Georgia West

Returned Services League Citizenship Award:
Thea Dunn

University Newcastle Vice Chancellor's Award:
Isabella Mooney

WCS Vocational Education Achievement Award:
Sienna Wellings

ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork:
Thea Dunn

Walcha Law English Award: Isabella Mooney

WCS Citizenship Award: Sienna Wellings

Dux 2025: Isabella Mooney



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The weather has been outstanding, and the grass is growing like the wind. I travelled to North Star last week and it looked a picture the entire way, the crops were thick enough for a fox to run across the top while the cattle were fat. Speaking with numerous people they mentioned that they had a late season, and a lot of forage crops were grazed until July which means the cattle aren't quite ready. Looking forward, there doesn't seem to be any rain on the forecast for the next two weeks and looking at our daytime temps, it would be ideal if we got some.

The spring forecast of wetter than average seems to be shaky after some forecasters have completely changed their attitude. The south looks to be once again staying dry with chances of their season changing still slim. A lot of southern agistment cattle are now finding their way onto our markets in the northern NSW and southern QLD with 5500 cattle yarded in Gunnedah on Tuesday alone. I do believe we have seen the cattle market stabilise and the season will play a major role in its ability to stay firm. Speaking to southern agents, we are getting quoted cattle ready for October/November delivery, which will be when the heat arrives and the crops run out of puff, or the native country tightens up.

In a positive light the Australian wool markets have lifted sharply this week amid the accelerating demand from China. The industry benchmark eastern market indicator lifted 109c/kg to 1453c/kg, highest since 2022. The EMI has risen 10 weeks in a row, and we must remember the Australian wool clip is historically low. The dramatic rise has only come as a shock to the purchaser, not the grower as plenty of sheep were sent to the kill floor. China buys eighty five percent of the Australian wool clip and in comparison, to the same week last year, 10,000 bales less were offered. No doubt there will be some woolgrowers sitting on wool bales in their sheds, but the huge drop in the national flock numbers would have the largest implication on wool pricing. Wool is finally following the upward trend on prices paid for lamb and mutton due to low national flock numbers.

One thing most farmers are unaware of when it comes these increased imposed tariffs from the USA earlier in the year was the rise in value of non-tariff barriers. Non-tariff barriers are quietly wiping \$4 billion off the value of our exports annually. We don't see it, but it does affect the farmers' back pocket. It's an obstacle to Australia's agricultural exports, adding costs and delays for farmers. Forecasters believe that Australian agricultural exports will fall by \$2 billion this financial year with diminishing returns another reason to address the increased cost of \$4 billion a year in non-tariff barriers. Just another cost to us we don't know enough about.

2264 head of cattle were yarded in Tamworth on Monday ahead of the long weekend break and no fat sale next Monday. Light restocking cattle were cheaper due to quality with steers topping at 545c/kg while the heifers topped at 456c/kg. Feeders still sold to strong demand with steers topping at 540c/kg while the heifer portion made to 492c/kg. Cows remained firm with the best of the heavy cows selling to a top of 432c/kg. 3919 sheep and lambs were yarded on Monday in Tamworth with new season lambs making from \$290-333 while heavy old season lambs topped at \$368 and heavy sheep made to \$260.

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
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 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
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DEADLY DAY OUT
 Excursion to Port Macquarie
 Wed 1st October 7am - 7pm
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church notices



ANGLICAN

October 5: 9.30am Kids Games Service Walcha

October 12: 9.30am Walcha Service

October 19: 9.30am Walcha Service

October 26: 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

Lacey crowned Ladies Champion at ABCRA Australian Campdraft

Walcha's own Lacey Newton has claimed a national title, winning the Ladies Campdraft at the ABCRA Australian Campdraft Championships at North Star.

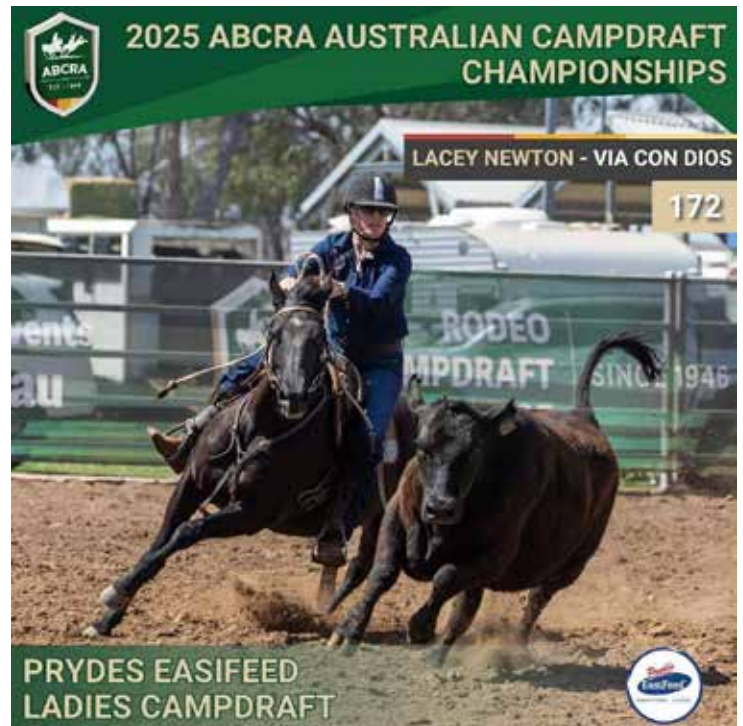
Competing against a strong field of 150 riders in the first round, Lacey rode her mare *Via Con Dios* to an impressive score of 89, placing her in third position going into the final. With the top 15 ladies qualifying on scores of 86 and above, competition was fierce.

Drawing number two in the final, Newton delivered another solid run, scoring 83, despite narrowly splitting her gate. Her combined total of 172 proved enough to hold on for the win, with the runner-up finishing on 168.

The Australian Championships were run alongside the ABCRA National Finals, where the top 25 riders in each category were invited to compete for national titles. Walcha was strongly represented across the weekend, with several locals posting standout performances.

- **Lacey Newton:** Ladies Campdraft, equal 4th in Round 2 of the National Finals
- **Simon Newton:** (riding *Via Con Dios* in the Novice) 5th Round 1
- **Jess Wickham:** Ladies Campdraft, equal 2nd in Round 1, just missed a Round 2 place, but finished =2nd overall in the aggregate
- **Jim Southeron:** competed in multiple categories, including Novice Horse on *Erinma*, Open Horse on *Belle*, as well as the Master Rider and Most Successful Rider events
- **Cameron Martin:** also flew the Walcha flag across the program

The weekend was a celebration of top-level campdrafting, with riders from across the country converging on North Star. For Walcha, the results further cement the district's reputation in the sport.



Congratulations Lacey and others on your success and making our town proud. Photo supplied.



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Nutrien Boulton's Walcha ■ 3n Derby Street Walcha ■ 6777 2044

Mayoral Column

Eric Noakes, Walcha Mayor



"MY DOG DOESN'T BITE"

Following a number of recent concerns raised around dog behaviour in public spaces it seems timely to revisit the legislation and policies that apply here. Everyone seems to use the reason their dog is off leash is that "my dog doesn't bite". This may well be right but a lot of times it is not the point. Unwelcome dogs bounding up to people who are out walking can be intimidating and frightening, especially for young children and the elderly. Council has the responsibility of

enforcing much of the State Government's Companion Animal Act and we have adopted a Dog Control Policy (2019) that gives Council the power to issue fines and take further action. It should be remembered in this that the levee banks are not an off leash area and is currently raising most of the concerns. An off leash area is available at John Oxley Oval.

Under a revamping of Council's Customer Request Management (CRM) system we will become more responsive to all animal complaints and the enforcement of our obligations.

SKATE PARK OPENING

Last Thursday our local members Barnaby Joyce and Brendan Moylan attended the long awaited opening of the revamped skate park. Built with generous contributions from their respective governments the outcome was well received. About 70 school students arrived with every manner of wheeled riding device and basketballs along with parents and grandparents. Every time I have driven past since there is constantly large numbers of people utilising this facility. Thanks to the community members who drove the consultation and design of this park. Your work on behalf of the community is greatly appreciated.



Too often these days we hear how the youth of today aren't as respectful as in "our day". But the respect and inclusion shown by the older students to the younger and less confident participants on the day and their offer to Barnaby and myself to a game of 2-on-2 basketball, was most welcome. Suffice to say, the ring seems much higher and the free shot line is further from the backboard than from when I was at school is an understatement.

BERGEN RFS BRIGADE SHED

On Saturday, Deputy Mayor Glen O'Brien, General Manager Stephen Parry and myself attended the opening on the newly completed Bergen Bushfire Brigade Shed. To see this building rise from what was there has certainly lifted the eastern approach to town. A purpose built shed reflecting the changing way that bushfires are controlled and how we respond to other natural disasters, it will serve as a central point of communication and organisation.

Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie was given the opportunity to present service medals to more than 80 members with a total of 2365 years combined service. This is probably a pertinent time to recognise those, and all other volunteers who make our community what it is and keep us safe in the difficult times. Communities thrive on helping each

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Continued >

and keep us safe in the difficult times. Communities thrive on helping each other in the good times and the challenging times and the depth of volunteering we witness in ours never cease to impress. On that point the brigade is on the lookout for more members and would appreciate any inquiries.

It is also a time to recognise the work of Paul Metcalfe for his considerable lobbying and commitment to see this project come to fruition.

DOCUMENTS ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Council still has both the Land Use Strategy and the Cumulative Impact Assessment on public exhibition and will be receiving comments and feedback from the public relating to the content and recommendations of these documents. The closing date for comment is COB Friday 3 October. Council will then review and consider all submissions and matters raised and be taken into account prior to Council making a decision and formally adopting these documents.

I won't cover the purpose and outcome of these here as this is all covered on our website. Suffice to say these documents will assist in guiding parts of the renewable energy transition pathway but also have an impact on all development in our LGA.

GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Monday saw the end of the free green waste disposal at the waste facility. Processing this waste comes at a considerable cost to Council and if the requirement is there it will be reinstated for two weeks at a later date when ground conditions may have improved. In the interim there is an option to contact Council for a fee exemption on a case by case basis.

Barriers to Trees on Farms

Insights from Nuffield Scholar Michael Taylor

At the recent Nuffield Australia National Conference in Adelaide, New England grazier Michael Taylor shared fresh insights from his Future Drought Fund scholarship research into the barriers to agroforestry adoption across Australia's grazing and cropping regions.

Michael travelled from the pampas of Argentina and Uruguay to the forests of Borneo, the fields of Poland, and the hills of Italy and Japan to understand how farmers integrate trees into productive landscapes. His message is clear: while the benefits of agroforestry are proven for shade and shelter, improved soil and water, carbon storage, biodiversity, and new income streams, Australian adoption remains stubbornly low.

The reasons are complex. Farmers recall failed plantation investment schemes or conservation plantings, worry about tying up land for decades, and face short-term financial pressures that often outweigh long-term gains. Skills and extension services are patchy, and regulation can add uncertainty. "It's not the trees themselves that are the barrier," Taylor said in Adelaide. "It's the human, financial and cultural systems that surround them."

Taylor is linking these lessons to Australia's emerging natural capital accounting research, which aims to measure and value ecosystem services in ways that banks, policymakers, and markets can trust. If successful, this work could help farmers recognise the full productivity value of trees — not just as a cost, but as a positive asset.

The CSIRO Chiswick farm has also started investing in research to demonstrate what plantings can work with production from crops and grazing. The plantings aim to demonstrate practical sustainable farming measures and have taken into account environmental planting and biodiversity measures in relation to carbon projects. Taylor hosted the CSIRO researchers on his family farm as part of their planning process to learn from their experience managing agroforestry plantings.

Local landholders will have a chance to discuss these ideas further at a farmer discussion evening in Walcha this Thursday 2 October, hosted by TASC Carbon at the Walcha Sports Club from 6pm. The session will explore how climate policy, carbon markets, and environmental plantings are reshaping opportunities for resilience and cash flow on farms. Taylor's global insights bring timely context for New England farmers weighing up the role of trees on their own farms as the competing demands for land mounts between power, carbon and agriculture.

<https://www.nuffield.com.au/scholars/michael-taylor>

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Walcha visit

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with multiple community organisations from the Walcha area. It was excellent to catch-up with those groups and get updates on how things are going.

I also attended the opening of the Walcha skatepark upgrades. \$433,482 was secured from the NSW Government to make those improvements which are fantastic. A half basketball court, new pathway, extension and safety modifications to the skate park, fencing and garden beds were added. I am sure it will be a popular place for the local kids.

There is more funding coming to Walcha and I will announce those in coming weeks so stay tuned for details.

Roads funding

I have been fighting hard to improve travel conditions for residents and road users so I am glad to see the NSW Government has responded with \$23 million for the Northern Tablelands.

\$1.5 million of that will go towards the Oxley Highway at Honeysuckle Creek, Yarrowitch for shoulder widening and safety improvement to corners.

Although this is great news for state roads, local council roads really need funding, and I am committed to continue fighting for this in NSW Parliament.

Bushfire danger period

The bushfire danger period has now commenced in parts of the Northern Tablelands. Fire permits are now required for the Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Uralla, Walcha and Inverell council areas. Permits can be obtained from the NSW RFS.

Defibrillator grant program open

Local sporting clubs and recreation facilities can apply for a grant of up to \$3000 for clubs and facilities across NSW to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone at any time and it is important sporting organisations are equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies on and off-the-field.

I encourage clubs and organisations to apply for this funding because you never know when you may need a defibrillator.

Walcha has been included in the list of eligible postcodes so jump on to the Sport NSW website and apply for a grant through the program: www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/local-sport-defibrillator-grant-program#eligible-applicants. Applications close 1 December or until funding allocation is exhausted.

Double demerits this weekend

Double demerits will be in force from Friday, 3 October until midnight on Monday, 6 October. Double points apply for speeding, using a mobile phone illegally, riding without a helmet, not wearing or incorrectly wearing a seatbelt or carrying passengers not wearing or incorrectly wearing a seatbelt or restraint.

Please stay safe on the roads this long weekend and make it an enjoyable one!

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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Street Stall support

On Friday 19 September the Walcha Central Hands on Learning Cafe and Construction students, teachers and support staff held their street stall.

A vast array for baked goods, pickles, timber planters, star post pullers, hose racks and pot plant hangers were on offer to the Walcha Community. Timber was donated by Brian Smith.

The raffle was won by Toby Rizzi. A huge thank you to all who supported, your generosity ensures that the Hands on Learning Cafe can continue in the future.

Students involved in the street stall were Cafe: Jenna Whellan, Aayushree Subedi, Loreli Thomas, Morgan Keaton, Maanit Puri, Samantha Somerville.

Construction Simon Wellings, Toby Rizzi, Harley Smith and Mia Goodwin, selling products made by their class during Term 3.



thumbs



- 👉 To the Council workers who organised and removed a dead kangaroo outside of my home. Thank you, very much appreciated.
- 👉 To the families who are supporting the Skate Park. What an asset to the town.
- 👉 To all the wonderful volunteers and community services in our town. You are truly appreciated.
- 👉 To Walcha Council, Parks and Garden team. Our town is looking incredibly lush and manicured. Congratulations and thank you.
- 👉 To the generous volunteer sewers who have handmade another batch of beautiful bags for Walcha Library's 'Baby's First Library Bag Program'. Local newborns and their families appreciate your kindness.
- 👉 To Walcha youth who help others in our community.
- 👉 Congratulations to the Walcha Council workers who did such a wonderful job cleaning up our town after all the wild weather we have endured.
- 👉 Heartfelt thanks to the local neighbours and emergency services for their quick response to my accident last Tuesday.
- 👉 To the girls at the Walcha Telecottage.
- 👉 To the Shoplifters/Thieves who steal from Walcha's small businesses. It's unacceptable behaviour. Have a good look at yourselves. Is it worth it? A criminal record. Fines up to \$5,500 and possible imprisonment. It's only a small act to you but this has such a negative effect on business owners. If anyone sees this behaviour, report it to the business owner and call them out. Enough is enough!

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.



Bergen welcomes new \$1.6 million fire station

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) members celebrated the official opening of the new Bergen Rural Fire Brigade station on the weekend. RFS Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie travelled to Walcha to mark the \$1.6 million facility's opening.

"This brand-new station is an exciting upgrade from the brigade's former shed, which was no longer fit for purpose," Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

"With more room for fire trucks, spaces for training, kitchen, bathroom and shower facilities, this station will serve not only Bergen members but act as a central hub for surrounding brigades to come together.

As part of the celebrations, 83 members were recognised with Long Service Medals, representing a combined 2,365 years of service.

"With periods of service ranging from ten to more than 60 years,

many of these volunteers have dedicated a significant portion of their life to protecting local communities," Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

"I would particularly like to acknowledge twin brothers Allan and Donald Kermode, who are each receiving the Long Service Medal 5th Clasp for 66 years of service with the Ingleba Brigade.

"Since joining the brigade in 1958, they have held a range of leadership positions, including Allan as President and Don's as Senior Deputy Captain and Deputy Captain.

"Now active reserve members, Allan and Don still maintain a strong presence and provide a source of wisdom for fellow members.



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what's the goss

with AJ Cross



First up well done to 2016 Walcha Golf Club Champion Andrew Brennan on finishing equal fifth in the 2025 World Sandgreen Championships played over 36 holes at Binalong (near Canberra) last weekend. Andrew carded a two round total of 132 (65,67) just three shots behind the winning score by Queenslander Sam Slater and was in a six way tie at the top of the leaderboard after 18 holes. A total of 93 players, predominantly Australians, teed off in the tournament. Good on ya A.J.

...

A big pat on the back to local runner Emily Ussher who finished fourth in her Girls 17-19 years 3000 metre event at the CIS Athletics Championship held at Sydney Olympic Park early last week. Representing The Armidale School and celebrating her 17th birthday, Emily stopped the clock at the 11 minute 13:59 seconds mark to just miss out on a podium visit. Way to go Emily.

...

Continuing with backpatting – well done to local equestrienne Lacey Newton on winning the ABCRA Australian Ladies Campdraft at North Star riding her beloved 16 year old mare *Via Con Dias* last weekend. The 'Dynamic Duo' accumulated a two round

total of 172 (89,83) points to clinch the victory which by all accounts included a nice belt buckle as part of the prize. Top shelf Lacey.

...

Three local Veteran cricketers and a former Walcha player represented New England against Toowoomba at Tenterfield last Sunday. New England amassed 170 runs off their 40 overs which included Barry Hoy retiring on 38, Dale Brazel 16, Bill Duncan 15 and Craig Stoddart 14 before Toowoomba chased the total down with a few deliveries up their sleeve. The four players have been selected to represent Central North at the over 60 NSW titles at Maitland in a fortnights time. Best of luck Boys.

...

Had the pleasure of representing the Walcha Flippers at the annual Regional Australia Bank presentations where the organisation hands back varying sums of money to local sporting organisations and community groups who support them during the previous year. This year \$48,000 was given to various groups including \$10,000 to the Mens Shed.

...

The presentations were held at the Bowling Club last Wednesday where Jenny Hoy was on hand to collect a couple of certificates, but the Walcha Gun Club wasn't one of them. When the Gun Club was called out Kevin Bourke was on his way to pick up the certificate but was beaten by Jenny who thought the Garden Club had just been named. Anyway it got sorted out and everyone lived happily ever after.

...

The Newie, Bowling Club and Apsley Footy Tipping parties have been held over the past three Saturdays with the Apsley finalising their competition last Saturday. Well done to the organisers of all three parties along with Michelle Schaefer (Newie), Gordon Michie (B.C), Ganesh Sedhain (A), Lisa Swanton (T.B.W Cafe) and D.J. Bird (Vet Supplies) for all their help supplying scores for Big Wigs of each week. The Apsley VB esky was won by 'Hushpuppies' supporter Ray 'Choom' Foster after Eddie Stace drew out his name.

...

The Walcha Touch Football Association held their AGM recently at the Apsley Arms Hotel where President Ben Ussher, Secretary Sonia Ussher, Treasurer Amanda Latham and Ground Manager Jason Latham were returned to their positions unopposed. Not a bad effort - two families running a sport which significantly has the largest participation numbers in our community. Good on ya guys.



TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Students return to school Tuesday 14 October



WALCHA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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*A Journey of Learning
Kindergarten to Year 12*



Ladies Bowls

Eight ladies travelled to Uralla Wednesday of last week and had a very enjoyable game. Another beautiful day of bowls last week with a game of pairs and triples being played. Lee McCoy, Jan Cross and Lyn Burnell just lost to Rosie Aitken, Debbie Richards and Marg Tickle 11-9, as did Wendy Moore and Janice Rizzi losing against Marie Spink and Pam Makeham 14-10.

The Ivy Makeham Memorial Singles Trophy will begin 9 October. Names to be on the board by tomorrow.

Due to an injury Jan Cross is replacing Esther Hunt in the Regional Senior Women's Teams being played on 11 October and 18 October in Kootingal both days. There is a Mixed Triples Carnival in Guyra on 3 December. Sheets are underneath each flyer for you to write your name if interested in playing in the events.

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

Bowls

The Bowling Club AGM was held last Sunday. Congratulations to Adam Hall who was elected President for his third term. Greg Carter and Troy Le'Strande are new members on the board.

Competition games: Matt Hamel and Mick Steep had a win over Jamie Kerr and Greg Carter. A good game. 23/16.

Thursday: Barry Kliendienst and Denis Makeham defeated Greg Carter and Barry Hoad 19/15, John McCormack and Noel Goodwin x2 defeated Tony Asmus, Geoff Salt and Tony 14/12. John and Noel won the chooks, Max won the raffle.

Twilight bowls start on Friday 10 October. If you want a game there is room for two more sides.

Draw for 11 October. Pairs: G Marshall & J Byrne v Tony & Jason Asmus. F.Cameron & I Bird v S.Goodwin & G.Bird, A McGuffog & G Salt v Matt Hamel & M Steep.



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Wednesday Golf

Wednesday saw the ladies play a stroke round, along with putting, and monthly mug. It was the first round of the Secretary's Eclectic, for a trophy donated by Jenny Lisle. Bec Hall was the winner with a fantastic 67 nett. Sweepstakes went to Simone Sweeney with 72 nett and Margaret Davidson with 74 nett. The monthly mugs were won by the same three with Simone taking out Division 1, Margaret Division 2, and Bec - Division 3. Simone also won the putting with 25 putts. Katie Smith was NTP on Hole 3, and Penny King had the best second shot on Hole 16.

This Wednesday we are playing the second round of the Secretary's Eclectic for Janie Fenwicke's trophy.

Tennis

Round 6 the final round of the Spring Prelude Comp was played on Tuesday 23 September under clear skies.

Group 1: Hayden Carter was the winner with a score of 18 points. Well done to Hayden.

Group 2: Craig Ireland came out on top with a solid 18 points. Great tennis Craig.

Group 3: Michael Lockyer played good tennis to win his group with a score of 18 points.

Group 4: Safina Ireland was the group winner on a count back with a total of 76 points.

The final wash up. Group 1: Sam Payne was the winner with a cumulative total of 116 points. Only four points away was Dave Sweeney with 112 points.

Group 2: Craig Ireland was the winner with a total of 100 points. Hyde Thomson came in second with 98 points.

Group 3: Andrew Blomfield was the winner with 102 points just ahead of Ella Habermann on 98 points.

Group 4: Safina Ireland was the winner with 76 points just ahead of Jock Rutherford on 68 points.

Acknowledgements: Overall winner: Sam Payne \$30 cash prize. Highest Ladder Climb: Will Archdale. Furthest Slippery Snake back slide: Dave Sweeney.

Well done to all these players and everyone who competed in the 2025 Spring Prelude Comp. A big thanks to all our floaters. The next Club meeting will be held on Monday 13 October at 6.30pm. Don't miss the 2025 Spring Comp starting on Tuesday 21 October. Names to Trev 0459 799 119 and Hyde 0427 780 391. See you all at the net soon.

At the Nineteenth

The annual Bywell Cup was contested last Sunday for trophies donated by Tim, Janie, Ted and Tig Fenwicke where Doug McDonald finished Mens winner after accumulating 40 stableford points and Sue Partridge was the Ladies winner after she racked up 39 points.

Sweepstakes went to Will Archdale 37, Michael Stackman 36, Jenny Lisle 36, John McCormack 35, Col Berry 33 and Simone Sweeney 33.

Most accurate tee shot at the third pin was played by Sue Partridge whereas no player was accurate enough to land on the 18th beach.

In Match Play club champion Lee Fletcher advanced to the next round after defeating Handicapper Don Brooks 2 and 1.

Last Saturday Brian 'Maggie' Lynch compiled 20 points to win the weekly 9 hole event to finish a comfortable winner over runner up and competition organiser John McCormack on 17 points.

Well done to 2016 Walcha Club Champion Andrew Brennan on finishing equal fifth in the 2025 World Sandgreen Championships at the Binalong Golf Club last weekend.

This Sunday a 4BBB Medley is scheduled where Angus and Pip Monie are in charge of supplying the prizes.

THE APSLEY
Advocate

PUBLIC HOLIDAY DEADLINE

All ads and editorial, excluding sport, must be
submitted by midday Friday 3 October.

Walcha Netball Club Presentations



*Pictured above:
Award winners for
2025.
Left: Walcha Opals,
third in Division 1.
Inset below:
Division 1
runners-up, Walcha
Diamonds.*



Meggie Davey, Apii Fontanella and Joscisca Matapakia



Walcha Netball Club celebrated its first year in the Armidale District Netball Association (ADNA) competition with three teams making it to the finals, there was much to celebrate!

The Diamonds came second in the Primary 1 Division, closely followed by the Opals in third place. Pacifika came third in the Ladies Social Division. Opals had the honour of being nominated for the ADNA Primary Encouragement award for showing enormous improvement in their game in 2025.

The Sapphires participated in the NSW Netball Woolworths NetSetGO program, designed for children aged 5 to 10.

2025 Awards: Players' Player, Mila Tate (Sapphires), Lucy Rizzi (Opals) and Eliza Nivison (Diamonds). Coach's Award, Isabella Norton (Sapphires), Grace Smith (Opals) and Aggie Street (Diamonds). Penny Wauch (Sapphires) received the Encouragement Award and Joscisca Matapakia (Pacifika) was awarded the Best and Fairest Trophy.

The coaches, Kelly Makeham and Elyce Laurie (Sapphires), Dale Webber (Diamonds), Cian Cattellini and Karen Rizzi (Opals), were thanked for putting in endless hours of their own time to train the players and for support the teams each Saturday at the games. Team managers, Lucie Street (Diamonds) and Kylie Faux (Opals), were acknowledged for their vital behind-the-scenes support all season long.

"The most rewarding part of this year has been watching our girls thrive — not only in their skills and teamwork on the court, but also in their confidence, friendships, and love of the game. Seeing them develop, grow, and flourish through sport is what our club is truly about," expressed Meggie Davey, Walcha Netball Club President.

"We are extremely grateful to our sponsors including the New England Hotel, Walcha Vet Supplies, Walcha Town and Country Club, Leyway Partnership, Marchant Bros, Deloraine, Maria River Cattle Co, Davidson Cameron & Co, Mount View Grazing and Rizzi Partnership. We would also like to thank Walcha Central School for allowing the girls to train at their netball courts every Tuesday."

If you are interested in being involved with the Walcha Netball Club either as a player or as a helper for the 2026 season, please get in contact now by email to walchanetball@gmail.com

advocateclassifieds



Public Notices

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Walcha Council Draft Code of Meeting Practice on Public Exhibition



Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 24 September 2025 approved the Draft Code of Meeting Practice. This document will be on public exhibition on Council's website: <https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition-code-of-meeting-practice/> until Friday 31 October 2025. Council will accept submissions on the Code of Meeting Practice until Friday 14 November 2025.

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

Walcha Barber Shop closed this Saturday, will reopen Tuesday 7 October.

Public Notices *continued*

Niangala Trivia Night

Friday 10 October

6.00pm for 6.30pm

BYO Drinks | \$25 pp

- Get a team together or we will help you find one
- Hot finger food for dinner
- Prizes to be won

RSVP to Nathaniel 0437 761 202

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Meeting Notice

The Walcha Cricket is holding their AGM at the Bowling Club on Thursday 2 October at 6.00pm.

Walcha CWA AGM Wednesday 8 October, 9.30am. Fletcher Hall. All welcome.

Raffle Results

Golf Club Wood Raffle won by Justin Rosenberg. Many thanks for your support.



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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 3 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

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5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 5 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1.00pm.

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Saturday 11th October

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Saturday 15th November

*Dave Alexander Cool Country
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Saturday 13th December

*Christmas Show Matt Barratt
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SponVols are ordinary people who are inspired to give their time and efforts to help those in need.

This project explores local views and better ways to include Spontaneous Volunteers in disaster response.

HOW CAN I SHARE MY THOUGHTS?

- Attend a community chat
- [Fill in the survey via this link](#)
- Write to council by 30 October



Survey Link <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/vyaM41VL0W>

Questions? Comments? Contact Kalen Sowter on 0408 032 506