

THE APSLEY Advocate

CIRCULATION 2000 – P 02 6777 1111 F 02 6777 1112 wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au walchatelecottage.com.au

8 October 2025



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
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EnergyCo continues to make it up as they go

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan has again criticised EnergyCo for their lack of proper consultation following their plan to re-route the transmission corridor from Bayswater to Walcha.

At 6am last Thursday morning, EnergyCo announced a new three-kilometre-wide corridor in their latest study for their transmission line which will run between the Bayswater Power Station at Muswellbrook and the central south hub near Walcha.

The new "study area" will see the corridor stray from the previous path that was to run alongside the New England Highway and then east of Tamworth, now to a path further east which will impact landowners through the Hunter, Upper Hunter, and New England.

Mr Moylan said this new approach is clearly designed to save the NSW Government money at the expense of landowners and regional communities.

"Yet again EnergyCo have failed to properly engage with landowners, communities and local MPs, including myself, from the impacted areas," Mr Moylan said.

"EnergyCo have apparently been working on this for five years and then suddenly, they announce major changes on the eve of a long weekend to try and bury their policy on the run approach.

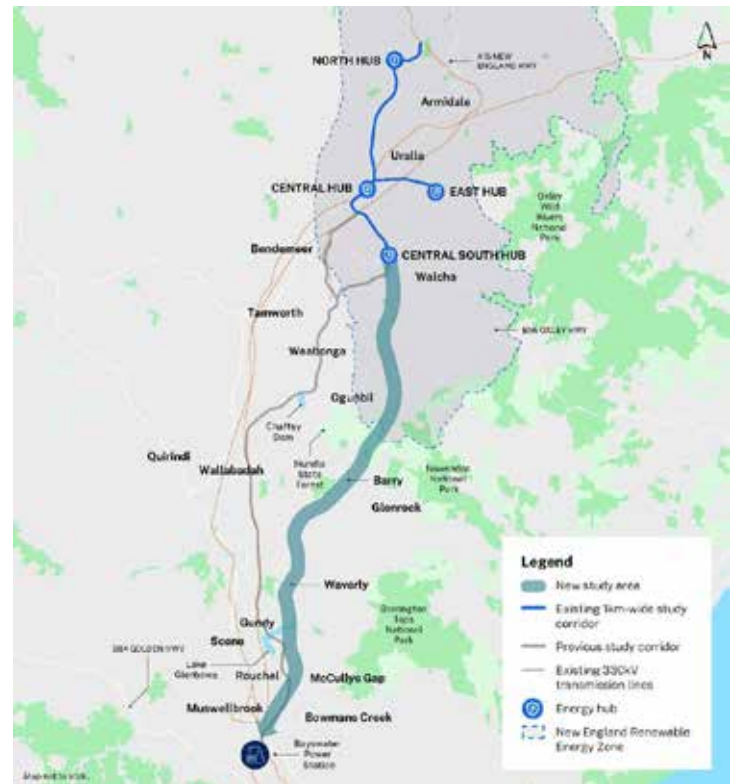
"There has been a complete lack of consultation, no planning and they


haven't told anyone. I know one farmer from Walcha who is now impacted by the proposed route was only contacted by EnergyCo on Wednesday afternoon. This is a disgrace.

"EnergyCo and the NSW Government prefer liaising via press releases, as opposed to engaging meaningfully with our impacted landowners and communities, and this is why people are losing faith. Any good will that EnergyCo may have once had is starting to evaporate.

"EnergyCo have announced they will be holding a handful of 4-hour information sessions post their plans being released but that is just too little, too late.

"I encourage all landowners who are potentially impacted by this new transmission path to contact my electorate office."






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Pony camp in full swing

The annual Walcha Pony Club camp is in full swing this week, with around 40 enthusiastic young riders taking part, a big jump from the 25 who rode last year.

The camp began on Tuesday and will run through to Saturday, giving riders several days of skill-building, games, and horsemanship under the guidance of instructors.

Held at the Walcha Showground, the camp is a highlight of the year for local families, offering a mix of fun, learning, and friendship. Riders of all ages and levels are taking part, from tiny tots on ponies to older members working on advanced riding techniques and competition preparation.

The week will feature a range of activities including showjumping, sporting events, flatwork sessions, pairs and fours, games, dressage and trail rides.



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Walcha Council Library's Tech Savvy Seniors

A NSW Government initiative
in partnership with Telstra

2025



central northern
regional library

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



The trout weren't biting

The opening of the Trout Season this October long weekend was quite disappointing for local fishing enthusiasts with Red Hoy being the only person we are aware of who hauled in a trout.

Red caught this good sized brown over the weekend, but lost a much bigger one, which he is hoping to catch next weekend!

thumbs



- 👍 To Adam Dark for the best prompt reliable service. Walcha's best.
- 👍 To Sam and Angie at the Post Office just the best and friendliest helpful duo.
- 👍 To the King Pharmacy for great help and advice so appreciated.
- 👍 Walcha is so very fortunate to have such professional, caring doctors, nurses and office staff. Forever grateful.
- 👍 To Tom Ireland for his help at Mountain Motors. It was very much appreciated.
- 👍 To Michael and Sam at the Post Office for helping with my phone charger
- 👍 To the people in Apsley Street who put the bins on the road rather than on the kerbside.

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.

letters to the editor



Walcha Land Use Strategy and Cumulative Impact Assessment

I can only assume that a substantial amount of money was paid to Glyde to produce the above report. I believe it produced minimal relevant information. So many details are clearly unavailable. REZ developments are speculative and little current information is available - the numbers of workers, impacts on Walcha etc. The whole lengthy report was not at all informative at this time.

REZ is for real. REZ is going to happen. Walcha desperately needs a massive financial input, otherwise our population will continue to shrink. Why do our Council continue to put up roadblocks to the Winterbourne Wind Farm? Incidentally, who could ever describe Winterbourne's rocky hills as prime agricultural land?

There is little or no mention of the generous community benefit from Vestas. First sod turned and the Walcha community will receive one million dollars. In subsequent years \$750,000 each year (adjusted for CPI), for the life of the project.

Are we not killing the goose that lays the Golden Egg?

Carolyn Laurie



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Deadly Day Out – Walcha Holiday Program

Walcha Council worked closely with a teen focus group this term to secure a Holiday Break Program grant from the NSW Government. The grant was used to create a memorable excursion to the coast, designed in response to goals highlighted during youth consultation: a day out, the chance to see the beach, swim, fish, enjoy some warmth, and — of course — do a little shopping.

The Youth Focus Group took the lead in setting priorities, exploring budgets, and planning activities, right down to meals and itineraries with the support of Council youth staff. With all roads leading to the coast, Port Macquarie was chosen as the perfect destination (despite a few tricky roadworks along the way).

With an early start, a group of 22 young people aged 12–17, accompanied by youth and library staff, headed down through Gloucester. After a quick rest stop and a visit to the town's famous bakery for a much-needed refuel, the group arrived at Flynn's Beach. The water may have been freezing, but that didn't stop anyone from diving in. Fortunately, the sun came out just as the first brave swimmers hit the surf. Sand, waves, and a delicious café lunch rounded out the beach experience.

The afternoon saw the group at the movies, enjoying the brand-new Australian release Kangaroo (highly recommended), followed by a little time for shopping.

The bus rolled back into Walcha late in the evening with a crew of tired but very happy teenagers — with enough energy left for some loud and enthusiastic singing the whole way up the hill.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this trip possible. Programs like Deadly Day Out create memories, build connections, and give our young people opportunities to experience something new.



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First up Happy Birthday to my youngest grandchild Ivy Maree Emma Cloake, daughter of Lauren Cross and her partner Dylan Cloake, when she celebrates 12 months on the planet this very day. Hope you have a great day 'Ivory'.

...

Hard to take, but Queensland footy fans are on Top of the World after the Brisbane Broncos swept the pool winning both the Mens and Womens NRL Competition last Sunday after the Brisbane Lions took the Aussie Rules the previous weekend. Then, just for good measure Queensland also won the 2025 State of Origin series giving them footy bragging rights for the next 12 months.

...

A few weeks ago while attending the B.C lunchtime raffles I mentioned to the 'Table of Knowledge' that whoever won the NRL Major Semi Final between minor premiers Canberra Raiders and Brisbane Broncos later that day would win the premiership. Quick as a flash Mark 'Turbo' Peters asked if I wanted to have a bet which was accepted despite me thinking the Raiders would be victorious. Shortly after, I thought well who got the best end of that bet with me having one team and 'Turbo' all the rest in the finals series.

...

When I told my much better half Linda that I had won a bet with 'Turbo' when the Broncos won she asked me what had been wagered. The reply was 'only a small one, our house against Mark and Toni's abode across the street' to which Linda countered with 'where are they going to live?' Got a bit of an inkling the house deeds won't be changing hands anytime soon.

...

Last Sunday we were talking about the Koori Knockout being played in Tamworth 'Turbo' enquired about when the final of the competition was being played, tomorrow or Monday. It was soon

pointed out that would be both tomorrow and Monday. You had to have been there.

...

There was talk of the new Uber Service in town when South Street resident Rodger Jamieson suggested if he was going to watch the NRL Grand Final last Sunday night he might book a 'Hoover' to transport him to the B.C before the 'Big Dance' kicked off. Hope you cleaned up 'Jagger'.

...

Former English Wrestler Mal Ballard attended the B.C last Sunday to enjoy his regular lunchtime meal but was there without his better half Linda. When he had a bit of a flutter on 'Keno' Mal selected his numbers but forgot to take Linda's usual numbers, no prizes for what happened next. You probably guessed Linda's number came up.

...

Birthday Girl Sue Michie enjoyed lunch at the B.C last Sunday with her husband Gordon where she received the added bonus of winning a meat tray in the raffles while 'Mich' won the lucky door prize not that he really needed a door. Hope you had a great day Suzie.

...

Best of luck to the Walcha Golfers who are competing at the 2025 Vendi NSW Mens Sandgreen Championships at Barraba over 36 holes this weekend. Not sure of exact numbers heading West but all the best anyway Boys.

...

Sadly not enough people turned up for the Walcha/Uralla Cricket Annual General Meeting last Thursday so organisers have been forced to reschedule the AGM. Check the Walcha/Uralla Cricket Facebook for any developments and also registrations are open for the upcoming 2025/26 season.

Don't miss a beat: Defibrillator grants now open

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan is encouraging sporting clubs, and recreation facilities from across the region to apply for the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program.

The program is aimed at providing a grant of up to \$3000 for clubs and facilities across NSW to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Mr Moylan said it is important sporting organisations are equipped to respond to life-threatening emergencies on and off-the-field.

"Whether you're playing footy at the park or cheering on the sidelines, cardiac arrest can affect anyone at any given time," Mr Moylan said.

"Having a defibrillator on-hand following cardiac arrest can be the difference between life and death.

"A person's chance of survival can double, or even triple, if a defibrillator is used in conjunction with CPR.

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

The Local Sport Defibrillator Program 2025-26 is open to applicants within the bottom five socio-economic indexes for areas determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Eligible postcodes in the Northern Tablelands are: 2347, 2354, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2365, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2390, 2397, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2409, 2410, 2440, 2453, and 2833.



The Minns Labor Government has unfortunately omitted Armidale from the list of eligible postcodes.

For more information and to apply, visit www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants/local-sport-defibrillator-grant-program#eligible-applicants

Applications close 1 December or until funding allocation is exhausted.

Rethinking Karens

Walcha Kids See Advocates, Not Stereotypes

The NSW Government's Children's Week 2025 Art Competition invites children to create a portrait of someone they feel "champions children's rights". If you asked a group of Walcha kids who that would be, there would be a pretty high chance that the name Karen would come up in their list of trusted adults who advocate for them.

With the advice of few local artists, Council library and youth idea's lady Cassie McKenna gathered a few 'approved' black and white photos of some of Walcha's favourite Karens. The school holiday activity was called 'Portrait Collages' - the children were given the choice to decorate a Karen they felt advocated for them in their schools, church, council or wider community. The library was a buzz of ideas and talk of colours, line and texture to portray feelings or experiences with their chosen Karen, and they made great use of the library's craft supplies with many different artistic flavours! Volunteer support from parent Briony Curtis was very much appreciated and helps activities like these to be inclusive of a wide range of ages and abilities. This project would also not be possible without the help of Karen Barnes, Karen Bloomfield, Karen Rizzi, Karen Brown and Karen Kermode.

Library staff will submit a number of individual and small group entries over multiple age groups on the children's behalf. Local children who missed the session at the library are welcome to visit the library to collect their own 'Karen' portrait to use as a starting point, and enter into the competition. If any children are interested in entering their own item, parents should visit the Advocate for Children and Young People website for more information www.acyp.nsw.gov.au. The collection will be available to view at the Walcha Library these school holidays.



Police need our help

From Lyn Smith, Secretary

Walcha's Community Consultative meeting will be held on Tuesday October 14 at mid-day in the Walcha Council Chambers, Hamilton Street. All community members are welcome to attend.

The committee has been operating for a long time in Walcha. It serves as a link between police and the community. Matters of policing in Walcha are discussed and questions about policing can be asked and answered by the police. Concerns can be raised and discussed in a collaborative manner.

Our police need our support just as we need their assistance and advice. We hope you can come next Tuesday.



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Junior Indoor Hockey Awards

K/1

Most Consistent Boy.....	Finn Olrich
Most Consistent Girl.....	Lilah Dark
Most Improved Boy.....	Jay Moody-Nixon
Most Improved Girl.....	Amelia Curtis
Encouragement Award.....	Lucy Martin
Highest Point Score.....	Alexa Baumer 13

2/3/4

Minor Premiers.....	Red Grapes
Runners Up.....	Red Grapes
Major Premiers.....	Green Apples
Most Consistent Boy.....	Archer Clark
Most Consistent Girl.....	Phoebe Grills
Most Improved Boy.....	Max Martin
Most Improved Girl.....	Bronte Pascoe
Encouragement Award.....	Dominic Vella & Mila Tate
Highest Point Score.....	Levi Williams 33

Continued on Sports Page

5/6

Minor Premiers.....	Red Nike
Runners Up.....	White Asics
Major Premiers.....	Red Nike
Most Consistent Boy.....	Rebee Wark
Most Consistent Girl.....	Arizona Bayley
Most Improved Boy.....	Toby Wellings
Most Improved Girl.....	Christine Fontanella
Encouragement Award.....	Saxon Vella
Highest Point Score.....	Digby Clark & Shaun Zorgdrager 26

Highschool

Minor Premiers.....	White Foxes
Runners Up.....	White Foxes
Major Premiers.....	Green Coyotes
Most Consistent Boy.....	Wyatt Hayton
Most Consistent Girl.....	Kayleigh Hobbs
Most Improved Boy.....	Eli Wellings
Most Improved Girl.....	Layla Smith
Encouragement Award.....	Grace Curtis
Highest Point Score.....	Kobie Brown 37



2025 Junior Indoor Hockey participants with their awards, pictured this page and next



Ladies Bowls

Last week saw Janice Rizzi, Carmel Ryan and Pam Makeham lose to Lee McCoy, Jan Cross and Lyn Burnell. Maree Spink who played in two positions and Marg Tickle lost to Wendy Moore, Phyllis Hoy and Rosie Aitken.

The Ivy Makeham Memorial Singles trophy commences tomorrow with Marg Tickle v's Pam Makeham, marker Phyllis Hoy and Marie Spink v's Carmel Ryan, marker Lyn Burnell. On 16 October Rosie Aitken v's Marg Morris, Janice Rizzi v's Lee McCoy and Wendy Moore v's Lyn Burnell. Markers to be appointed.

On the 11 October two teams go to Kootingal to play in the Senior Triples Championships with Lee McCoy, Jan Cross and Lyn Burnell playing against Tamworth City. Janice Rizzi, Carmel Ryan and Pam Makeham playing against South Tamworth. It is a 9am start.

On 15 October two teams will be travelling to Kootingal for its President's Day. Team 1: Janice Rizzi, Marg Tickle, Marie Spink. Team 2: Carmel Ryan, Wendy Moore, Rosie Aitken. 8.30am morning tea.

Please see the notice board for invitations to other clubs.

There will be social bowls tomorrow for those not playing for the Ivy Makeham trophy 9.00am for 9.30am.

Wednesday Golf

Polly Locke blitzed the field of 25 players last Wednesday to win the second day of the Secretary's Eclectic stroke round with a nett score of 66. We were playing for a trophy kindly donated by Janie Fenwicke.

Sweepstakes were won by Sue Partridge with 71, Pauline Carter with 72, and final sweepstakes went to Simone Sweeney with 73.

Simone also had the best second shot on Hole 16, and Cheryl McDonald took closest to the pin on Hole 3.

The two day and overall winner of the Eclectic trophy was Polly Locke, with a total score of 60. Our congratulations to Polly, and to our runner up Bec Hall who finished with a great score of 62.

Today we are playing stableford for Rose Baumer's trophy.

Bowls

Thursday results: Barry Hoad, John McCormack & Peter Hayes defeated Barry Kliendienst, Mick Bullen & Gerry Moran 18/17 Cliffhanger! Noel Goodwin Tony Batterham & Brian Goodwin defeated Mark Hogan Geoff Salt & Warwick Hogan 15/12. Noel, Tony & Bun won the chooks, Peter Hayes was the raffle winner.

Twilight bowls starts this Friday 10th Oct- 5:30 pm

Draw for pairs Sat 11th Oct: G.Marshall & J Byrne v Tony & Jason Asmus. F Cameron & I Bird v S Goodwin & G Bird. A.McGuffog & G Salt v M Hamel & M Steep.

At the Nineteenth

A 4BBB Medley Stableford round was played last Sunday for trophies donated by Gus and Pip Monie where D.A and Polly Locke survived a countback with Lee and Ruth Fletcher to win after both combinations carded 47 points.

Sweepstakes went to Ross and Penny King 46, Andrew Crawford and John McLaren, Rose Baumer and Julie Presnell, Pauline Carter and Sue Partridge (all 45) Margaret Davidson and Jenny Lisle, Miles Archdale and Michael Stackman (both 42) Wayne Brennan and Will Nicholls 41.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Jon Izzard (3) and Wayne Brennan (18).

Club Captain Will Brennan robbed the 'Eagles Nest' sponsored by Darks Plumbing of 19 balls when he eagled the 6th hole after chipping in with his seven iron from around 40 metres.

Last Saturday Jenny Lisle accumulated 20 points to win the weekly 9 hole competition to sneak home from runner up John McCormack who racked up 19 points. NTP on 3 to Pauline Carter.

This Sunday is a stableford event where David Sweeney is in charge of supplying the prize and the Quirindi Open is scheduled for the same day.

Best of luck to the Walcha players competing in the 2025 Mens Sandgreen Championships at Barraba this weekend.





Funeral Notice

WHITE: Douglas John

28/10/1931 - 06/10/2025

of Riverview, Walcha.

Dearly loved husband Shirley.

Loving father & father-in-law of Anne, and
Chris & Donna.

Much loved grandfather of Kirsty, Allison &
Mitchell

and a loving great-grandfather of James,
Rosalie, Benji, Hugo, & Zara.

Aged 93 years

Funeral Service to be held at St Paul's
Presbyterian Church, Walcha Tuesday,
14th October 2025 commencing at 2:00pm
followed by interment at the Walcha Beam
Cemetery.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

In Memoriam



Dos O'Shannessy

31/10/1963 – 12/10/2022

The sun rises and the sun sets

Just to hold your hand again

The stars and the moon shine
above you always

miss you, just miss you

Love always

Linda Scherff OX

Bonnie



Public Notice

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**Walcha Hospital Auxiliary
Melbourne Cup Luncheon**

4th Nov. 25.

12.30pm -Tennis Club

\$40 incl. drinks-nibbles-lunch-dessert

\$2 or \$1 Sweeps –cash only

Cash or card on entry

RSVP - Mon. 27th Oct. Limit-60

Vic 0427 772 950 Linda 0428 139 470

V. McIvor Secretary

Public Notice (cont)

Church service at Woolbrook Church, 2pm,
this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes 6777
2539.

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

Position Vacant

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Meeting Notice

Walcha Flippers Swimming Club AGM
Wednesday 15th Oct, 5.00pm at Walcha Bowling
Club. All members are warmly invited to attend.

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mount.view@outlook.com.au



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DEADLINE MONDAY 4.30PM Editor: Anthea Macpherson, Susie Crawford. Advertising/Sport: Megan Scrivener, Joscisca Matapakia and Kate Connors.

church notices



ANGLICAN

October 12:
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

Marchant

BROS. PTY. LTD. Est. 2000



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Jason 0427 490 487 • Jamie 0429 771 351
 02 6777 2024 marchantbros@bigpond.com
 www.marchantbros.com.au

WALCHA

BOWLING

& RECREATION CLUB

WHAT'S ON?

Thursday 9 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 10 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

Why not come down on Friday night and have a pick off the menu board. And keep an eye out for our delicious desserts of the week.

Home deliveries - town limits only

CATERING NEEDS

Dianna - 0412 536 760 or 5722 6003

Saturday 11 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 12 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm,
drawn 1.00pm.

**MEMBERS
DRAW
\$150**

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER
FOR 2024/2025 TO BE
ELIGIBLE TO WIN

Twilight Bowls

Commences Friday 10th
October.

Game starts at 5.30pm,

Upcoming Live Music

Saturday 11th October

CraZRock Duo

Saturday 15th November

*Dave Alexander Cool Country
Country Rock*

Saturday 13th December

*Christmas Show Matt Barratt
Cowboy Rock Up!*

Do you live in Walcha Shire? If so you MUST be a member to enter the Club
Social Membership \$15. Full Membership \$120. PHONE 6777 2077



SPECIALISING IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

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- Large Dam construction

Peter O'Keefe : 0429 944 821

Will O'Keefe : 0488 925 845



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 today*

58 Ruby Hills Road, Walcha : Tracey Hoy: 0428 772 822
 sewontracey@gmail.com : Chloe Rollan: 0460 739 966