

THE APSLEY Advocate

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29 October 2025

Walcha CWA Branch's century celebrations

46 guests attended Walcha CWA Branch's 100th Birthday on Saturday, 25 October. Among the guests were Brendan Moylan MP, Mayor Eric Noakes and CWA's Wanthella Group President – Roslyn Ferris. Celebrating a century of CWA Life in Walcha and the achievements accomplished by some 520 members since its inception.

In McHattan Park, Walcha CWA's Patroness, Mrs Gwen Lisle (aged 102), unveiled the *100-Year Plaque* on a wooden bench donated in 2022. Celebrations continued at the Walcha Bowling Club, where everyone enjoyed lunch, birthday cake, friendship and plenty of laughs! A memorabilia table also allowed attendees to be transported back in time.

Thank you to Bob Walsh (Walcha Historical Society) for researching the *100 year booklet*, your work is greatly appreciated. The book is available to purchase at \$6.00.

Walcha CWA Branch membership has decreased in the last 25 years. At its peak the CWA held larger functions like balls and fetes, boasting a membership base of 60. Currently with 22 members, they still

have Street Stalls, Devonshire Teas, participate in Awareness Week, host Wanthella Group days, handicraft and cookery days, competing with other branches and onto the State Conference. Committed local members are commended for keeping the branch functioning.

The CWA organisation works to improve the lives of women and children, especially in rural areas, through advocacy, community support, and fundraising. They lobby governments on issues like health, education, and domestic violence, provide practical support to communities. Locally, they donate to the Presbyterian and Anglican Church Youth Group and sponsor the Hospitality and Ag Departments at Walcha Central School. CWA also gave financial support to the Flood and Bush Fire relief, and they continue to fundraise so they can donate to worthy causes within our community.

CWA would like to see more working members join, they meet on the third Wednesday of every month.

For more information on membership or the booklet, Phone Megan Marchant 0429 773 922

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

I'm hoping by the time you read this article that we have had a decent drop of rain and the forecast, 20 – 40mm, has been widespread. These westerly winds have been doing their best to suck any remaining moisture out of our soils setting back pasture growth and the gullies that were, not long ago, impassible are now dry. The black cockatoos have been hanging around home for some time, I hope that old wives tale is true and they bring some decent rain. I didn't like our chances when the wind switched direction on Tuesday morning and blew from the east. Driving around the district and I must say that the eastern part of the district, especially Yarrowitch, looks the driest at present. The whole district is heading in the same direction and it's pretty easy to see that we are quite dry as our lawns are even struggling.

The most recent word from the USA, in regards to beef prices, is that Trump is now considering lowering Argentina's beef tariffs so they can supply more beef to the USA at a lower cost. This latest move by Trump is to try and drop beef prices for US consumers as they still struggle with domestic production shortages after their drought. It has drawn a lot of criticism from US farmers, concerned that Argentina has a history of foot and mouth disease, increasing the risk of the USA contracting the disease. Inflated USA beef prices are also a representation of the actual cost of producing the beef as we in Australia know all too well how our cost of production over the last 10 years has sky rocketed.

The largest ever feedlot transaction has occurred in recent weeks with Japanese owned Rangers Valley, a feedlot northwest of Glen Innes with a 40,000 head capacity, selling to Stanbroke for \$400 million. Stanbroke is reported to be continuing the same feeding regime at Rangers Valley that exists at present, long fed Wagyu and Angus to supply to the premium markets around the world. I think this is a good acquisition by Stanbroke as it will continue the competition in our feeder markets, particularly for Angus. Mort and Co, another large one of Australia largest feedlot owners will also sell two of its feedlots in a restructure for their business and to sell down assets as certain shareholders wish to exit. These sales all come at a time when feedlots, by the sounds of things, are making a healthy profit and our beef export markets look strong for the foreseeable future.

While we are on feedlots, we should talk about our current feeder prices and the easing of values that we have seen with a seven to ten percent drop in feeder values over the last month. Angus feeder steers have dropped from 550c/kg to 500c/kg or even lower while XB steers look to be sitting around 470c/kg, with supply really starting to build and available space now 3-4 weeks out. What I'm also seeing around our district is that the cattle are doing extremely well and are putting on a mile of weight at present. Anyone thinking of selling feeders soon should be weighing them now, especially with the wait time on feed space as cattle will be doing another thirty to fifty kilos of weight gain before delivery, feed quality dependent.

Tamworth yarded 2,227 head of cattle on Monday with most categories holding firm (heavy kill cattle the exception), improving by 10-25c/kg due to southern buyer support. Weaner steers topped at 550c/kg while the heifers made up to 420c/kg, feeder steers slipped 20c/kg to top at 492c/kg while feeder heifers topped at 452c/kg. Heavy steers to slaughter topped at 448c/kg while cows picked up by as much as 15c/kg and topped at 396c/kg which was very similar to the cow market in Wagga.

6,517 sheep and lambs were yarded in Tamworth on Monday which resulted in a cheaper market for old season lambs, while we saw new season lambs top at \$297. The best of the heavy trades topped at \$250 and the best of the heavy export lambs made \$364. The mutton market was fully firm to a shade dearer and topped at \$249 for XBs, even rams made to \$184.

Walcha Support Group Luncheon

Last Thursday, 23 October, the Walcha Support Group held their annual luncheon. The event was well attended by over 60 guests at the Walcha Bowling Club who catered for the occasion. Di and her trusty team put on a sensational spread for both lunch and dessert and the day was enjoyed by all.

The Walcha Support Group has been running for 36 years. Three stalwart founding members are still on the committee: Sue Reardon, Col King and Carolyn Salter, showing an unwavering commitment to our community.

Walcha Support Group has assisted many locals, whether it be for the use of medical aids, lending an open ear or offering moral support in times of hardship. Carolyn Salter's welcome address to the crowd touched on the fact that we may not always be able to control life's events but we do have control how we deal with them, with a quote: "We cannot change the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

Carolyn was then praised and thanked by fellow member Broni Koebel for her unwavering support and unstoppable enthusiasm for new ideas, continually thinking outside the box for ways the group

can support the community.

The luncheon offered all the men and women in attendance a wonderful opportunity to socialise and a beautiful day out.

The Walcha Support Group meets at 1:30pm, last Thursday of each month at the Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC) on Middle Street, Walcha. Everyone is welcome: patients, carers, friends of someone ill or just a community members. Prior to the meeting there is half an hour of relaxation at 12.30pm followed by lunch and a chat at 1.00pm



*The original Support Group committee members:
Sue Reardon, Col King and Carolyn Salter.*

Look after your child's teeth with NSW Health



NSW Health is encouraging families to make sure they take advantage of the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS).

The CDBS is a national program that provides eligible children with a capped benefit for basic dental services. Up to \$1,132 in benefits over two calendar years can be accessed per child, covering most general dental services.

A child may be eligible if they have a Medicare card, are aged 0 to 17 years, and part of a family that receives Family Tax Benefit Part A or the child receives an Australian Government payment.

The CDBS can be used at most private dentists, public clinics, NSW Health school-based dental services, and some Aboriginal community-based health organisations.

Looking after your child's teeth is important. Visit health.nsw.gov.au/cdbbs for more information.



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Thank you to Walcha Council

A big thank you to the Walcha Shire Council for their clearing and tidying up along the Campfire Road after the huge mess made by the Snow Storm. We are so lucky to live in a great shire who supports us out along these bush public roads.

The Davidson Family, Campfire Road, Woolbrook

EnergyCo's new transmission route A new route, the same old problems

On 1 October, EnergyCo quietly revealed a major change to the proposed transmission corridor linking Bayswater to the so-called Central South Hub near Walcha. Without a word to landholders, Walcha Council or the Community Reference Group, the route has been shifted eastward—upending months of prior consultation and blindsiding the very people expected to host this infrastructure.

The announcement came with no clear explanation and appears to be a knee-jerk reaction to pressure from a small community group near Dungowan, which sat under the old alignment. In doing so, EnergyCo has created a whole new set of losers while solving nothing. For an organisation that only weeks ago promised to “do better” on engagement, this represents a stunning backslide. The community deserves honesty, not secrecy, and genuine consultation—not token gestures after decisions are made.

The consequences are serious. The new route cuts across more than one hundred additional properties between Bayswater and Walcha, many of them in areas that had previously been assured they were unaffected. Those north of the Central South Hub remain caught in limbo, still uncertain about the future of their land.

There are fundamental flaws in this new design. It connects to a hub (Central South) that is effectively redundant—there are no projects in

the NSW Planning Portal that would even use it. It climbs into high-elevation, snow-prone terrain between Nundle and Niangala, where 15 kilometres of line would sit above 1,315 metres. Locals remember well the power lines that collapsed east of Bendemeer in the last snowstorm. The proposed route also passes through eight kilometres of pine forest and another eight kilometres of steep, heavily timbered country—introducing serious fire and access risks that the previous route avoided altogether.

Unlike the earlier design, which followed 65 kilometres of existing transmission corridor to reduce cost, environmental disturbance and landholder impact, this one offers zero co-location. And despite EnergyCo's own engineers once insisting that line redundancy was “absolutely necessary”, the new design provides none. It is, by every technical and social measure, a step backwards.

The newly formed Walcha High Country Guardians—a determined group of affected landholders—have already mobilised to challenge this proposal. They are organised, passionate and grounded in the facts. Voice for Walcha stands squarely behind them.

Our community's position is simple:

- The Central South Hub is a relic of outdated, unrealistic expressions of interest from a contract-flipping company that has long since disappeared.
- With no credible projects to connect, there is no justification for this line through our region.
- The only rational alternative is to follow the existing New England Highway corridor, where co-location and efficiency make sense.

Before EnergyCo spends \$14 million along each of the 220 km—plus \$1 billion on a hub, more than \$4 billion in total—on infrastructure that no generator needs, it must explain its reasoning. Walcha deserves transparency, accountability and respect. Anything less is unacceptable.

Voice for Walcha



Regular dental check-ups are important for your child's health

If your child is aged under 18, and eligible for Medicare, they may get free dental care through the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) at both private and public dental clinics.



Find out if your child is eligible for free dental care at:
www.health.nsw.gov.au/cdb



The trouble with transmission lines and why they should matter to all our community

The recently proposed transmission route through the Walcha plateau is devastating to over 100 local landholders and the broader community. It will industrialise vast tracts of our beautiful landscape, adversely affect farm production and slash affected business's equity, severely impacting their ability to achieve production goals or survive tough times. The list of negative effects goes on and on ... But I fear that these immediate impacts are only the start of what is in store for our wonderful community and environment.

It seems mind boggling that the government would spend hundreds of millions of dollars on rerouting this line to connect to the central south hub, when there are no approved energy projects planned anywhere south of Ruby Hills. It looks to me that this line is redundant, as all the proposed projects and the south hub have had no landholder support, therefore dismissed. But they push on with trying to get this developed regardless.

Here is why. Once the transmission lines are in, the wind and solar companies will come and find a way to establish new energy farms. The established transmission lines will mean energy companies can get one or two landholders on board, and put in a bunch of turbines and plug it in. But significantly more damaging is when energy companies cannot get landowner support and start buying properties for projects (energy co have done this in the Gundy valley recently). These companies could well pay inflated prices for these properties, enticing more landowners to sell.

As the district slowly gets covered in turbines, solar panels and transmission lines the temptation to sellout becomes stronger, more properties sell. The community slowly declines, as agricultural businesses are replaced by energy projects, who in the short term

may offer additional throughput to local business, but once these projects are developed, there will be no one. The families that once owned the family farms are gone, the families that moved to the district to work on farms are gone, the jackeroos and station hands that fill the rugby teams and the pubs are gone, the contracting businesses and their employees are gone. Shops start to shut, small local schools close, community events and clubs decline. All making the allure of selling up and moving elsewhere more enticing, accelerating our communities decline. A once thriving agricultural community is now reduced to a ghost town.

Yes I know this seems dramatic, but I believe this moment, this fight against transmission lines is crucial for the future of Walcha. We all don't want to look back in 15 years and regret not taking a stand. So please - get on board and help the Walcha High Country Guardians fight this by joining the email list (email:whcg.info@gmail.com) or social media updates on facebook and Instagram so we can let you know what steps we need your help in.

Pete Young

To the Walcha community

Thank you so much for your kindness, support and generosity over the past few weeks. We feel so grateful to be a part of this town and truly appreciate everything.

We would like to especially thank Perc and the team at the New England Hotel and the Oxley Riders who organised the fundraiser, the businesses and individuals who donated items and everyone who contributed in any way. It means so much to us. We look forward to welcoming you all back when the restaurant is open again.

With heartfelt gratitude

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Transgrid careers Apprentice pathways

The Hunter region is providing a hotbed of emerging talent to drive Australia's clean energy future, with Transgrid offering apprentices a dynamic career pathway amid surging demand for skilled, homegrown workers.

In the past five years, 86 apprentices have joined Transgrid across six sites in NSW, with 17 positions at Newcastle, ensuring the city's critical role in developing the knowledge, skills and experience to operate the state's high-voltage network. An additional 30 apprentices will start work across the network in January, with six based at Newcastle.

Transgrid Executive General Manager of Delivery Jennifer Hughes said: "Our apprentices are vital to Australia's energy future. We're not just providing jobs – we're developing skilled professionals who can support our transition to renewable energy and strengthen local communities along the way. "Through comprehensive training and mentorship, we're committed to preparing apprentices not only for trade qualification, but for long-term, fulfilling careers.

"The Hunter has been at the heart of our energy industry for decades and we look forward to continuing to offer training, skills and job opportunities to local residents as the region continues to play an important role in the clean energy transition."

Transgrid's apprenticeship program offers a clear career trajectory, from initial recruitment, comprehensive training, on-the-job experience, and eventual qualification into trade-specific roles crucial to the delivery of major infrastructure projects.

Roles are offered for Electrical Substation Technician Apprentices, Telecommunications Technician Apprentices and Transmission Line Apprentices.

For more information go to: <https://www.transgrid.com.au/careers/apprentice-program/>



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Rotary Youth Exchange Program 2027 is now open

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is a Rotary International student exchange program for students in secondary school. Since 1929, Rotary International has sent young people around the globe to experience new cultures. Currently, about 9,000 students are attending this program. Typically, students are sent to another country for a year-long stay, generally living with host families during the year.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is a tremendous opportunity for secondary school age students to travel abroad to further their education in an entirely different environment to their own. Rotary hopes that the impact of this experience for the participants will not only improve international relations but will also stimulate those in the program to become better citizens and, as such, help prepare them for participation as leaders of their communities and play a significant role in the shaping of tomorrow's world. The fee, including air-fares and insurance, is approximately \$11,000 and there are additional costs.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is a life-changing experience...

Discover who you are – As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you'll spend up to 12 months living and studying overseas. During your exchange you'll learn a lot about yourself, the culture of your adopted host families and the diversity of your host country.

Make lifelong friendships – Rotary Youth Exchange provides a unique opportunity to experience a different country and a new way of life. Often, you will make life-long friendships, helping to build goodwill and understanding between countries.

Gain your independence – In your host country you will experience different foods, study different subjects, enjoy a new culture and a new way of living and most likely learn a new language.

RYE is registered with State and Territory Education Authorities to provide Secondary Student Exchange Programs. The Rotary Youth Exchange program is open to Australian high school students. The first step is completing an online expression of interest form. Apply today – Rotary Youth Exchange Application <https://ryea.org.au>

Please contact the Rotary Club of Walcha's Youth Exchange Officer Aurora Reilly 6777 2713 for more information.

thumbs



- 👍 To Chris and Caroline, plus Mountain Motors, for always being there to help us over the last 25 years.
- 👍 To the Shire workers for their very prompt help with my driveway.
- 👍 To the driver of TrainLink minibus which meets the train at Walcha Road morning and afternoon, especially when the train was over an hour late last Saturday afternoon.
- 👍 To the 100th CWA Anniversary. The ceremony, lunch and cake were wonderful. Had a great time!
- 👍 To the Apsley Arms Hotel for a delicious steak and great customer service on the weekend.
- 👍 To Diane and her helpers at the Walcha Bowling Club for providing a delicious lunch for the Walcha Support Group annual lunch.
- 👍 To Casey at Wild River Beauty, you are an amazing beauty therapist. Thank You!
- 👍 To the road workers on Thunderbolts Way who leave their rubbish on the roadside and at peoples mailbox and entrances. It's not difficult to take it with you and put it in the bin when you get home.

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.

Equipment gifted from Hospital Auxiliary

Walcha Hospital Auxiliary recently paid a visit to the Walcha Health Service, in order to present new equipment to the Acting Manager, Leesa Evans. This was all purchased in May but there has not been an opportunity to hand it over until now.

This equipment will help in Elizabeth Crosse Wing (*Sit Stand Lifter*) Community Health (*Vaccine Fridge*) Physiotherapy Dept. (*Up and Back Stairs*) Baby Health (*Light Weight Baby Scales*) and two recliner chairs. One of the chairs purchased was from a joint donation to the Auxiliary by a former ECW Resident – Mrs Joan Wales, (Katrina Blomfield's mother) and the former Walcha Indoor Bowlers. We would like to thank these people for their thoughtfulness and generosity to the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary are continually fundraising so we can purchase more equipment for the Health Service when needed.

On the same day, we had an opportunity to present Kate Hoy with her 30 year bar and certificate and Walcha Branch Life Membership badge in person, this was approved in July along with Debbie Wall's. Congratulations to both members.

Our thanks must go to the Walcha Community for all their wonderful support, and it does not matter which organisation holds a function, Walcha is there. We thank you.

Vicky McIvor – Secretary



Top: Hospital Auxiliary; Vicki McIvor, Linda Cross, Carol Bird and Peter McIvor presenting Kate Hoy with Life Membership and Certificate of Service. Right: Linda Cross with the gifted Light Weight Baby Scales and Vaccine Fridge. Far Right: Presenting equipment to acting manager of Walcha Health Service, Leesa Evans.

Journaling Workshop and Tools for Tough Times

Community members across the Walcha Shire are invited to take part in free community workshops designed to support wellbeing, connection, confidence and practical skills for navigating life's challenges.

Hosted by Walcha Council, through funding from the Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program – a NSW Government Initiative, the Journaling and Tough Times Tools workshops offer a friendly space to pause, reflect and learn practical skills for tough times and everyday life.

The Journaling sessions will guide participants through writing techniques that help clear the mind, lift mood and support emotional wellbeing. Each participant will receive a free journal and pen, enjoy a light lunch and take part in a relaxed, creative workshop open to everyone; no writing experience needed.

- Woolbrook Hall – 1 November, 10.00am for 10.30am
- Walcha Sports Club – 7 November, 9.00am for 9.30am
- Walcha Sports Club – 8 November, 10.00am for 10.30am

Coffee and morning tea available before each session and lunch is provided.

The Tough Times Tools and Clarity workshop focuses on building confidence and practical strategies to face challenges, make decisions and have difficult conversations when life gets tough.

- Thursday, 6 November 2025, Ingleba Hall
Coffee 8.30am. Start 9.00am with morning tea and lunch provided.

All sessions are free and everyone is welcome, men, women, farmers and business owners to parents, volunteers and community members of all ages.

To book your place, please visit www.littleredtractor.com.au/events or contact Kalen Sowter on 0408 032 506.

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NSW PSSA State Athletics Championships

Kix soars to a bronze medal

In an exciting culmination of months of hard work and determination, Kix has captured a bronze medal at the prestigious NSW PSSA Athletics Championships held at Sydney Olympic Park last Wednesday.

His outstanding performance at state level has not only earned him a podium finish but also a coveted spot in the NSW team to compete at the National PSSA Athletics Championships in Canberra this November.

Kix's journey to the podium began back in June during his school athletics carnival. He set the tone early with a personal best (PB) and broke the 11 Years Boys High Jump record with a leap of 1.39m. From there, he continued to soar to new heights, beginning with the Zone Carnival in late August, where a remarkable jump of 1.48m secured him a first-place finish and qualification for the North West competition. Competing at the North West Athletics in early September, Kix remained consistent and determined, clearing 1.45m to finish in second place on a count back.

On the day of the state competition Kix faced fierce competition, going up against 40 of the best young high jumpers in the state. Despite the pressure, he remained focused

and confident. At each height, Kix displayed impressive technique and steadily advanced through the rounds.

By the time the bar reached 1.40m, only 15 athletes remained. At 1.45m, ten competitors bowed out, leaving just five finalists. As the bar rose to 1.48m, Kix knew this was his moment. Despite the hot weather and the fact that he had been jumping for over 90 minutes, Kix pushed through. He cleared 1.48m on his second attempt, sending his supporters into a frenzy and securing his spot on the podium.

Though he was unable to clear 1.51m, Kix's impressive performance at the state level earned him a well-deserved bronze medal. His achievement marks a significant milestone in his athletic journey, and the entire school community is bursting with pride.

Next for Kix is the National PSSA Athletics Championships in Canberra held from November 27 – 30. The competition will bring together the best young athletes from across the country, and Kix is ready to rise to the challenge.

We wish him the best of luck!



Top: Kix with his Bronze medal.

Inset: In action, Kix clears the bar at NSW PSSA State Athletics Championships.

Below: Josie placed eighth overall in the 11 Years Girls Discus

Josie throws an impressive 29.39m!

Last week, St Patrick's Primary School proudly watched as one of their students, Josie, competed at the prestigious NSW PSSA Athletics Championships at Sydney Olympic Park.

Josie earned the incredible honour of representing not only St Patrick's Primary, but also the Armidale Catholic Schools and the entire Polding region, after her impressive qualifying performances at earlier competitions. This championship gathers the top primary school athletes from across New South Wales for a high-stakes event.

On the second day of competition, Josie delivered an outstanding performance, placing eighth overall in the 11 Years Girls Discus with a huge distance of 29.39m.

A massive congratulations to Josie! Everyone at St Patrick's is incredibly proud of your excellent achievement and commitment.



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And ... Racing! Walcha, in the mix for Melbourne Cup win

Introduced in 2019, the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour National Sweep is an important Victorian Racing Club (VRC) charity initiative which sees twenty four rural and regional towns allocated a barrier for the 2025 Lexus Melbourne Cup.

The Tour brings the people's cup to the people connecting communities, inspiring local fundraising, and highlighting important local causes.

The 2025 Tour began in June with a visit to New York, before traveling through regional Australia and now returning to Victoria to complete its final community visits. As we all know Walcha was one of the 2025 Tour host towns, meaning we've been allocated our own barrier in this year's Melbourne Cup Race.



In August the Cup was paraded in Walcha.

Representatives from each of the 24 destinations are invited to Flemington to watch the Lexus Melbourne Cup live on track at Flemington and the town which draws the barrier of the winning horse will be presented with a cash prize of \$50,000 to put towards a charity of their choice.

The committee has nominated Walcha and District Historical Society as their charitable organisation and are delighted to share that Norm and Di Bazeley will be representing Walcha at Flemington for the occasion, having bred *Knight's Choice*, the winner of the 2024 Melbourne Cup, right here in Walcha.

Walcha has drawn **Barrier 19** in the 2025 Sweep Stakes. The statistics of the last century show that Barrier 19 has been the equal-third most successful barrier since they were introduced back in 1924. Sharing that solid history with Barrier 14, having delivered six wins. The two more accomplished barriers (five and eleven) share the top spot, both being associated with eight wins. The towns that have drawn these barriers in the Sweep Stakes are B5 – Gawler (SA), B11 – Griffith (NSW) and B14 – Gunbower (VIC) ... a coincidence that all of these towns start with 'G' ... would it superstitious to consider the 'W' in Walcha could also align with W for WINNER!

"Now that the barriers have been allocated to our rural and regional destinations, each town truly has a stake in this year's Lexus Melbourne Cup. We wish all 24 towns the very best of luck. There will be plenty of cheering across the country when the field jumps on the first Tuesday of November," VRC Chief Executive Officer Kylie Rogers said.

All eyes now turn to the official Lexus Melbourne Cup Barrier Draw on Howden Victoria Derby Day, where each town will discover which runner will jump from their assigned barrier.

Meet the Legends on 14 – 15 November

The 2025 Walcha Motorcycle Rally is back on 14–15 November, and this year's event is set to be more thrilling than ever! We are proud to welcome an incredible line-up of special guests who will inspire, entertain, and share their passion for motorcycles:



- **Ben Felten** – The world's fastest blind motorcyclist and record-breaking rider. Hear his story in a live Q&A, catch his award-winning documentary *Dark Rider*.
- **Jemma Wilson** – International Enduro Champion, ADV and skills expert, and founder of Jemma Wilson Events. Hear her story of resilience, health, and success.
- **Nick Selleck** – Renowned Adventure Rider and Trainer. Nick will provide a rider training session and share stories from his off-road adventures across Australia and beyond.
- **Jack Field** (Flair Action) – World Champion motorcyclist and stunt performer, bringing insight, humour, and high-flying entertainment to the rally.
- **Chris Keeble** – The Creative Cruiser – Passionate motorcyclist and accomplished digital content creator, bringing flair, passion, and inspiration.

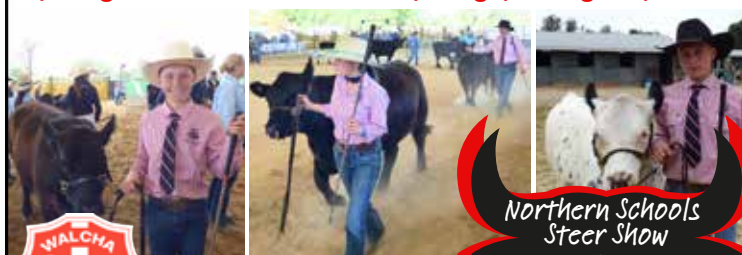
With world-class riders, action-packed displays, and a buzzing community atmosphere, the rally promises spectacular visuals and engaging stories.



24-26 October - Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza 2025 - Over 350 entries



WCS 19 students + 2 teachers + Ag Assistant + 10 head of cattle = 2 placings commercial heifer class + 6 placings parading competitions!



WALCHA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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154E NORTH STREET WALCHA NSW 2354
WWW.WALCHA-C.SCHOOLS.NSW.GOV.AU

**Northern Schools
Steer Show**

25-27 NOV 2025

Hosted by WCS
at Walcha
Showground

Spectators
welcome

Raising awareness about polio

The Walcha Rotary Club recently had a guest speaker from Polio Australia. There has been a long association between Rotary International and the Polio movement for many decades. October marks Polio Awareness Month, a time to recognise the tens of thousands of Australians who continue to live with the chronic and progressive consequences of polio. While vaccination has nearly eradicated the polio virus worldwide, many individuals affected in past polio epidemics are still here – still facing new and debilitating challenges decades later.

This year, Polio Australia's campaign highlights the urgent need for the recognition of post-polio conditions, specialised medical care, and appropriate disability support. Many polio survivors are now over 65 years of age and therefore ineligible for the NDIS, leaving them to navigate late effects of polio (LEoP) with limited resources.

People previously infected with the polio virus may develop post-polio conditions years after their initial recovery. Symptoms include severe fatigue, progressive muscle paralysis, complex pain, breathing and swallowing difficulties and poor regulation of body temperature.

Learn More by visiting: www.poliohealth.org.au/post-polio-education-navigator for resources, educational materials, and survivor stories

Polio Awareness Month serves as a reminder that while the world moves closer to eradicating the polio virus, the struggle is not over for those who live with its long-term consequences.

Polio Australia is a not-for-profit organisation committed to ensuring that all polio survivors in Australia have access to appropriate healthcare, information, and support. Polio Awareness Month aligned with World Polio Day on the 24 October. World Polio Day is focused on eradication of the virus, which remains endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



GIPSY MOTH VH UAE TURNS 100

**Will be on display at the Walcha Aerodrome
Sunday 2nd November from 11am to 1pm**

Walcha Lions Club - Sausage sizzle and cool drinks available

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME TO SEE THIS HISTORIC AIRCRAFT

The oldest registered flying aircraft in Australia

*This will be a static display as, due to CASA regulations,
without specific approvals, there cannot be flying.*

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what's the goss

with AJ Cross



This weeks column comes from Room 622 Millennium Hotel, Gloucester, London where our Rugby League Experience Tour group has been bunkered down since we arrived last Friday. Today we head to Liverpool for four nights, including the second test and then it's off to Leeds for the remainder of the tour.

...

The Kangaroos got off to a great start in the opening test at Wembley where they rolled Great Britain 26-6 after dominating for most of the game. Going on the performance of the hosts they will have to find something if they are going to remain in the Ashes Series.

...

One of our tour leaders is former Pommy Bulldogs and Dragons hard-man James Graham who certainly is good value and a lot bigger than what I thought he would be. When I suggest to 'Jammer' that Great Britain would need to improve in the 2nd Test, you wouldn't have to be capable of splitting atoms during your lunchtime break for what his reply was.

...

Try this one for traveling fun. Train – Walcha Road to Sydney 7½ hours then, Plane – Kingsford Smith to Hong Kong 9½ hours ... and then 4 hours later plane from Hong Kong to Heathrow, United Kingdom 14½ hours. And here's the kicker, for the majority of travel time sitting upright in your seat or at slightly different angles. Not really looking forward to the return trip home but at least there won't be a train ride on the end of it.

...

So far the weather has been relatively kind to the point where I haven't had to break out the track suit bottoms just yet, shorts have been comfortable enough for me but there aren't too many others that silly. No doubt that will change at some stage down the track.

...

On our way to Wembley Stadium for the 1st Test our tour group was invited to visit our sponsors ABK Brewrey 'The Green Man' for a complimentary ale. When I went to pay for the next beverage a 'Glorious Guinness' a mild form of panic set in until I worked out the card I was attempting to use was my room key, not my travel money card. And didn't the 'Old Mate' serving me see the funny side of things.

...

Roommates Gary Natty and Ronnie Latham were sitting around one night when Gary suggested it might be a good time to hit the sack. Ronnie's reply was the sun hadn't gone down yet, or so he thought, as he was looking at a painting on the wall where the sun was shining brightly. The sun had disappeared before that.

...

A few days before we left Australia apparently there was some confusion when it came to fueling up a certain four wheel spray unit the the Golf Club. Let's just say diesel doesn't go all that well in a petrol motor. For more information contact Tony Martin or G.J. Natty

...

Best of Luck to Walcha born and bred roughrider Tyson Smith when he competes in the Professional Bull Riders National Finals at Townsville this Friday and Saturday, where \$150,000 prize money is up for grabs. Tyson had surgery on a broken scaphoid a month ago and goes into the final with at least one other fracture. Certainly can't question Tyson's toughness where he is currently tenth in the Australian Ranking. Go gettum Tyson.

...

Lastly, but far from least, Happy Birthday to my eldest daughter Rachael Wellings who celebrates another year on the planet this very day Wednesday 29 October. Hope you have a great day Rach.

Bowls Past Presidents State Carnival

On Friday 17 October in Uralla, local bowlers Debbie Richards, Tony and Jason Asmus, along with a substitute from Uralla – Murray Harrison, competed in the Past Presidents State Carnival.

This is a Mixed Fours Perpetual Trophy event conducted biennially at various venues throughout New South Wales.

Twenty two teams competed, travelling from locations throughout Australia. With some solid competition Debbie, Tony, Jason and Murray were the overall winners and were presented with the biennial trophy at the conclusion of the Carnival. Congratulations.



Proud winners Jason, Murray, Debbie and Tony

advocate sport



Wednesday Golf

Our patron Margaret Davidson was the trophy donor last Wednesday where we played stableford.

Bec Hall was the winner with a brilliant score of 44 points. Clark Street came in the runner-up with 41 points and sweepstakes were won by Pauline Carter, 40 points, Prue Morgan, 38 points and Ruth Fletcher, 38 points, counting out Sal Rutherford also on 38.

Margaret also gave trophies for third shot on Hole 4, won by Cheryl McDonald, second shot on Hole 1, also won by Cheryl, and third shot on Hole 13, won by Sal Rutherford. Today we are playing stableford for Barb Mulligans' trophy.

At the Nineteenth

The monthly Stroke Medal round was played for a trophy donated by C McDonald last Sunday, which attracted a modest field of 16 players.

The overall winner was P Carter, with a score of 66 on countback. Scratch Winner was Lee Fletcher with 74. Grade winners were (A) Lee Fletcher, 66, (B) S Cross, 69, (C) P Carter 66 C/B. Best SS: 1. M Davidson (66), 2. Wayne Brennan (67), 3. O Presnell (68). Match Play - Lee Fletcher def. S Cross 3-2. The putting competition was won by Will Brennan (22), while R Smith picked up the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for the most putts with a score of 33. Longest Drives; (A) Wayne Brennan, (B) S Cross, (C) R Smith. Sharpest shooters at the pins were M Stackman (3), Lee Fletcher (9), Wayne Brennan (16), whereas no player was accurate enough to reach the beach on the 18th.

The weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday saw Lee Fletcher win with 18 and Anne Martin with 18 also on countback, with no contenders for nearest to the pin.

Upcoming Comps: 9 November – Second Round Patron's plus Stroke Medal, 16 November – Mixed Foursomes, 23 November - Workplace Challenge.

Tennis

Round 1 of the 2025 Spring Comp kicked off on Tuesday 21 October in lovely warm conditions.

Purcell: M Lockyer, D Clark, M Bird and M Matapakia defeated Goolagong: E Blomfield, A Barillaro, M Luchich and W Hayton 29 to 24 in a great close match.

Barty: T Whillock, C Ireland, T Gibson and J Wellings defeated DeMinaur: H. Thomson, A Blomfield, P Tape and K Cummins 35 to 27 in another great close match with lots of tie breakers. A big thanks to all our players and floaters. Welcome to our new players Matamanea Matapakia, Katie Cummins, Jake Wellings and Micah Hayton.

Our next Club meeting will be Monday 10 November at 6.30pm. All members are encouraged and welcome to attend. Don't forget the new start time for the Spring Night Comp – 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. See you all at the net soon.

Mens Bowls

Thursday: Barry Kliendienst and John McCormack were too solid for Noel Goodwin and Geoff Salt 18/10. Brian Goodwin and Peter Hayes cleaned up Denis Makeham and Tony Batterham 16/10.

Bun and Peter won the chooks and Amanda won the raffle. A good roll up again for Twilight Bowls, only one team has had three wins.

Graham Marshall and John Byrne have fought their way into the pairs semi final with a 25/24 win over Tony and Jason Asmus. An extra end had to be played when the scores were locked together on 24 after 21 ends. Well done fella's a great game. Well done to Deb Richards, Tony and Jason Asmus, who were successful in winning the Past Presidents Carnival in Uralla last weekend.

Ladies Bowls

In a closely contested game last week Lee McCoy narrowly beat Lyn Burnell in the Ivy Makeham Memorial Singles game. Lee now plays the winner of the game between Pam Makeham and Rosie Aitken in the finals.

There are a number of invitations to various clubs. Please see the notice board and put your name down if you wish to play. One usually has a very enjoyable game on these visits.

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

Cricket

Tas Second X1 v Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade

TAS	
J PALFIEMEN b D Morley	3
M CLOUT b N Laurie	0
S RYAN c M Tasik b M Foster	108
J BACH b N Laurie	1
B WILLIAMS lbw NLaurie	1
H BROWNIE lbw M Foster	35
J FARREL b M Tasik	15
M MAYO b N Swan	4
S KELLY n.o.	2
J KELLAWAY c M Tasik b N Swan	4
D MENCIE n.o.	9

Total 178. Extras – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt)
N Laurie 8-0-3-39, D Morley 8-0-1-27, M Tasik 8-0-1-41, N Swan 8-0-2-33, M Foster 8-1-2-45.

WALCHA/URALLA

N SWAN b	44
O MORLEY r.o.	1
M FORSTER lbw	4
D MORLEY c	10
N LAURIE n.o.	51*
M TASIK b	6
H WILLIAMS b	0
B JEX n.o.	13*

Total 163. Extras 34. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt)
S Kelly 5-1-2-8, M Mayo 8-1-2-11, B Williams 8-1-0-31, J Farrel 5-1-0-9, M Clout 3-0-1-12, D Mencie 4-0-0-34, S Ryan 3-0-0-12, J Palfieman 2-0-0-28, J Kellaway 1-0-0-4, J Bach 1-0-0-3.

Walcha/Uralla v AUCC 2nd Grade

WALCHA/URALLA

J GRILLS c H K Mishra b E Blatch	0
M HARPER c V Nath b E Blatch	4
E Blomfield st V Nath b A Pantha	94
G YOULL b S Bhat	6
P MOONEY c K Asif b A Thevathasan	82
W ARCHDALE lbw S Bhat	18
D FORD b M Bhandari	6
S RAFFERTY n.o.	1*
C MOONEY c H K Mishra b A Pantha	12
W FLETCHER n.o.	0*

Total 241. Extras 18. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt)
E Blatch 7-x-65-2, M Bhandari 6-x-25-1, K Dewan 4-1-30-0, A Thevathasan 4-x-18-1, D Tyagi 7-x-37-0, S Bhat 8-x-46-2, A Pantha 3-x-15-2.

AUCC

D TYAGI b M Harper	22
A PANTHA c E Blomfield b D Ford	12
H K MISHRA b M Harper	0
S BHAT b M Harper	0
V NATH b W Fletcher	13
K ASIF c E Blomfield b D Ford	7
E BLATCH n.o.	8*
K DEWAN c Blaine Moore b D Ford	5
A THEVATHASAN c C Mooney b W Fletcher	0
M BHANDARI b W Fletcher	5
T RAWAL c M Harper b J Grills	0

Total 77. Extras 5. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt)
M Harper 5-x-24-3, C Mooney 4-1-21-0, D Ford 6-1-14-3, W Fletcher 4-1-16-3, J Grills 2-1-1-1.

Walcha Garden Festival only ten days away!

Come and visit five beautiful, local gardens opening on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November located on Brackendale and Lakes Roads.

Gardens are open from 9.00am – 5.30pm each day. Entry fees are \$5.00 per garden, or \$25 for a weekend ticket, with school age children free.

Food and local craft stalls, along with a well stocked plant stall and raffle, will be available throughout the gardens. Brochures are available at the Walcha Visitor information and Walcha businesses.

Funds raised from this event will be distributed between the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Rescue Service New England North West, which is located in Tamworth, along with Walcha charities.

Gardens opening are:

'Ivybank'

Allan & Colleen Green
369 Brackendale Road

'Summerfield'

Ros Wall, 1186 Lakes Road

'Huntly'

Richard & Lorraine Walshe
632 Lakes Road

'Old Banchory'

Allan & Jenny Laurie's garden
393 Lakes Road

'Orandumbie'

Daniel & Carnie Kermode, 13 Lakes Road

Note: this is a CASH ONLY weekend due to limited mobile reception in the area where the gardens are located.

For all enquiries: please contact Diana Lisle on 0429 799 083



Walcha Rugby Union Football Club Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting for introduction of new constitution

Wednesday 12 November, 6.00pm
At the Rugby Club, 16E Croudace Street Walcha

The constitution template has been provided to the club from Rugby NSW. If anyone would like to review prior to the meeting please contact WRUC secretary via email: wrucsecretary@outlook.com

All public, players, supports and sponsors welcome.

Please email any agenda items to wrucsecretary@outlook.com by COB 10/11/2025.

classifieds



Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 | 0429 668 583

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.

No charge for JP services.

Walcha Council

**Change to Walcha Waste
Transfer Facility Hours on 31
October 2025**



Residents are advised that the Walcha Waste Transfer Facility will have revised opening hours on Friday 31 October 2025, due to staff availability.

On this day, the facility will be open from **8:30am to 12:30pm**.

Council thanks the community for their understanding.

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

Walcha Council

**PRESCHOOL 2026
Enrolments now open!**



Enrolments are now open for children aged between 3 and 5 years to attend Walcha Preschool in 2026.

Children who are turning 3 before 31 July 2026 are eligible to enrol.

If your child turns 3 after 31 July 2026 then they may also attend if vacancies exist at the time, however these places cannot be reserved for them.

Enrolments can be completed online:

<https://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/community/children-young-people/walcha-preschool.aspx>

An orientation morning will be held during January where Preschool staff will be available to answer questions and help families prepare for a smooth start.

For more information, please call Alice or Mel on 02 6777 2117.

Stephen Parry, General Manager
Walcha Council
PO BOX 2, Walcha 2354

Raffle Results

WRHS Raffle Results 1st – Dick Bowden,
2nd – Margaret Wall. Thank you for your support. Walcha Volunteer Support Group.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Rugby League AGM at Walcha Bowling Club, 3pm Sunday 16th November
All positions vacant. Everyone welcome.



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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

November 2: 9.30am Walcha Service,
2:00pm Niangala 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

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BOWLING

& RECREATION CLUB

WHAT'S ON?

Thursday 30 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 31 2.00pm – Close

2.00PM BINGO 6.00PM BISTRO

6pm Raffle tickets meat & veg trays

7.30PM FREE BINGO

8.00PM Raffles and Members draw

BISTRO

- Corned meat with white sauce
- Chicken cashew stir fry
- Creamy garlic prawn pancake
- Home deliveries - town limits only

CATERING NEEDS

Dianna - 0412 536 760 or 5722 6003

Now taking Christmas party bookings
no party too big or small

Saturday 1 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 2 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm,
drawn 1.00pm.

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DRAW
\$300**

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER
FOR 2024/2025 TO BE
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Come and join us this Friday
for a Spooky Night Halloween
Party - Prizes for the best
dressed!

**Upcoming Live Music
7:30-10:30pm**

Saturday 15th November
Craz Rock Duo

Saturday 13th December
Christmas Show Matt Barratt

The Club currently has a
vacancy on the Board of
Directors for a Treasurer. If
you are interested, or would
like more information on what
the role entails, please contact
Adam on 0402019192.

Do you live in Walcha Shire? If so you MUST be a member to enter the Club
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