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Fleece to Fashion Awards

At the prestigious 2025 Fleece to Fashion Awards, held at the CSIRO's 'Chiswick' local textile artist and milliner Jo-Anne Barr, of JAMB Hats, was awarded top honours. This was in the Established Designer - Gilded Glam Category for her breathtaking, hand-felted bridal ensemble.

These awards are one of Australia's leading wool-focused design competitions, highlighting innovation in fibre, textile artistry, and sustainable fashion. Bringing together designers, growers, makers, and industry leaders to celebrate the enduring relevance of Australian wool in contemporary design.

Jo-Anne's winning bridal ensemble, titled "Ethereal Heirloom", reimagines timeless luxury through the artistry of hand-felted Australian wool. Inspired by the grandeur of the Met Gala and the opulence of the Gilded Age,



Bernadette Garratt (Roberts + Morrow),
Jo-Anne Barr and model Kerry Fragar.
Photo: Stefan L'Hostis.

the collection evokes romance, refinement, and the enduring beauty of slow fashion. Crafted entirely by hand using the ancient technique of wet felting, each piece - from the silk-infused wedding gown to the felted top hat and bouquet - was formed without stitching or machine sewing. Instead, layers of superfine Australian merino and silk were gently coaxed into sculptural form.

"Felting (using soap, wool, silk, and water) allows me to transform wool fibre directly into form with no waste, no mass production and no stitching" Jo said. "This collection began with the felted bridal top hat, everything else evolved from there - the dress, the pelerine, even the bouquet."

Judge Julie Schaefer praised the seamless craftsmanship, remarking that she "went looking for the seams only to discover there were none."

The merino fibre used was sourced through the

Raising the Kirton on Wool Fashion

Local Year 12 student and wool enthusiast, Claudia Kirton has donned a different hat in the world of wool; from a dusty Akubra in the sheep yards and paddocks of her family farm to being resplendently crowned on the catwalk of the recent Fleece to Fashion Awards.

Claudia, announced as the recipient of the \$500, Encouragement Award in the Developing Designer (Secondary Schools) category, with the 2025 theme for this category being 'Upcycled Wool'.

A Fleece to Fashion representative said, *This award shines a light on a young designer who has shown remarkable creativity, determination, and a willingness to experiment with sustainable*



Claudia Kirton (centre) pictured with her outfit

fashion. Through her work with upcycled wool, Claudia Kirton has embraced the spirit of innovation and learning, turning challenges into opportunities to grow. Your curiosity, passion, and dedication are exactly what the future of fashion needs — keep creating, exploring, and pushing boundaries!

Claudia's Vogue-inspired creations; a red tartan coat worn over a red, white and black dress, both made from recycled 100% woollen blankets sourced from Victoria.

Claudia has just entered year 12, attending The Armidale School and said, "I've been working on it since Term One with the guidance of Ms Steddy - I couldn't have done it without her."

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Well, the weekends weather threw up a mixed bag of results for rainfall with the storms being extremely patchy. The lucky ones got under 20-50mm of rain, while others just got enough to roll the dust. There isn't a lot of rain predicted for the rest of November with someone saying to me it will be very wet December. I hope they are right and it is wetter than the predicted 'wet November' we were meant to have.

The newly redesigned Bureau of Meteorology website has come at a huge cost to taxpayers. Now said to have cost \$96 million instead of the original quote of just over \$4 million. How does the cost blow out from \$4 million to \$96 million and who is responsible for spending the taxpayer's money on this site that everyone is complaining about. If you or I were to personally cost a business this much money then we would lose our jobs on the spot. I'm sick of the government spending ridiculous amounts of taxpayer money without getting an actual cost of a particular project. The new route of the proposed transmission line through Walcha is another example. We never hear of them saving \$96 million because the project was grossly over quoted and it was cheaper to complete.

Southern farmers, at two locations in Victoria have blocked VicGrid staff, who attempted to use compulsory access powers, from entering their properties. The VicGrid staff, a similar company to EnergyCo, were trying to conduct environmental studies on these properties for a proposed new transmission line. Groups of people blocked them from entering two properties and will now have to stand up against potential court orders that VicGrid staff will acquire for next time. Regardless of the court orders these landowners will continue to block access. These people are fighting the same fight as Walcha people are with EnergyCo. Once again, rural communities are bearing the brunt of renewable projects to keep the lights on for metropolitan areas. They call it environmental studies, but we all know it's just a ploy to tick a few boxes and keep someone in a job. I don't believe the environmental study matters one bit, well it hasn't for our district thus far as they have grossly ignored their initial studies by changing the route.

I mentioned it last week, but it didn't take long for Trump to drop the steep 40 per cent tariff on Brazilian beef imports. The knock-on effect for the USA beef producers was immediate as it saw domestic cattle prices drop over the weekend with the news that frozen Brazilian beef which was already in cold storage into the USA would hit the market immediately, regardless of the 26 per cent quota tariff. What will this mean for Australian beef? It obviously puts us on a level playing field with Brazil for 2026, but it's more a matter of global supply and the fact we aren't producing enough kilos of beef on a global scale to support consumption. Yes, our export volumes to USA might subside but we will also face less competition in other markets such as China, UK and the EU from Brazil. US Beef processing facilities are under extreme financial pressure with another plant closing its doors just this week. The company that closed one of its plants this week reported losses of US\$426 million for the last twelve months, coupled with \$292 million from the previous 12 months and a further predicted loss of \$4-600 million in the next financial year due to cattle shortages. The USA has some serious shortages of beef cattle, and it's predicted to last at least another two years before they see some rebuild numbers flow through their system.

4200 cattle were yarded in Tamworth on Monday while another 5000 had been drawn for Gunnedah on Tuesday. The market was firm from start to finish with restocking steers back to the paddock topping at 500c/kg, while the heifers made to 496c/kg. Feeder cattle topped at 526c/kg for Angus steers while heifers made to 462c/kg. Heavy export cattle topped at 475c/kg for prime heifers while the best of the cows topped at 432c/kg, majority of the prime cows made from 390-415c/kg. Heavy lambs in Tamworth on Monday topped at \$390, the best of the sucker lambs made to \$330 while the best of the mutton made to \$262.

Victorian weaner markets are firing in the led up to their big weaner sale selling season in January. Autumn drop steers just last week being 250kg made a whopping \$7-720c/kg, while 300kg steers made to 660c/kg. Hold on to your hats in 2026 if we get a season.



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Toys for treatment

This December, local chiropractor Dr Samantha Goor is joining chiropractors from the Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) in hosting 'Giving Back' Week to help families in need this Christmas.

Walcha Chiropractic Centre have partnered with The Salvation Army to host Giving Back Week in conjunction with their annual Toys for Treatment Day. The clinic will be asking patients to donate gifts to the value of a consultation in lieu of payment on Tuesday 2nd December or donate gifts throughout the week.

The generous donations can be made in the form of new, unwrapped toys, non-perishable food, hygiene products, gift cards or cash donations. There's no limit to how you can help your community this Christmas.

Those without an appointment during the week are also welcome to contribute. Walcha Chiropractic Centre will be receiving donations for the whole week and welcome all donations from the local community.

"Any contribution, whether big or small, will be greatly appreciated and go a long way in helping members of the community in need this Christmas," Dr Samantha Goor said.



These items will be delivered by The Salvation Army in time for Christmas, to less fortunate children and families in the local area, to make their Christmas a truly special one.

"The power to make a child smile and help relieve the burden on a family during Christmas is a great one, so join us this Giving Back Week/Toys for Treatment Day and help us uplift our community this festive season."

For further details please contact Walcha Chiropractic Centre, 109w Fitzroy St, Walcha on 6777 1340.

Rugby Club seeks feedback

Walcha Rugby Union Football Club invite the public to review the proposed application they wish to submit to NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program (Clubgrants Category 3). The grant is available for local NSW not-for-profits, schools and councils and WRUFC is aiming to obtain funding for the continuous improvement to the club house.



Over the years WRUFC has completed interior improvements (Stage 1) to the clubhouse via fundraising and now the club aims to utilise grants for future improvements.

Stage 2 includes providing an outdoor undercover area on the southern and eastern sides of the clubhouse to provide a covered area for outdoor cooking, benefiting both the sporting organisation at home games and stakeholders who hire the clubhouse in the variety of weather condition that Walcha experiences. Future stages include renovations to the current change rooms and the club is looking at options for a change room area for the ever promising future Walcha Ewes team.

The proposed plan is on public display at Walcha Telecottage until 5th December 2025, any feedback welcome via written form that can be left at Telecottage or via email to wrusecretary@outlook.com



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Trip to UNE gardens

Walcha MPS, Elizabeth Crosse Wing, residents thoroughly enjoyed a recent outing to visit the gardens and campus at University of New England.

Before wandering the stunning grounds of the University, they enjoyed morning tea at Cafe Life. "The view from here was lovely. The weather was incredibly kind to us. Residents happily took off coats and jackets, able to relax and enjoy the view from the front of Booloominbah, where Graduation Ceremonies take place," Activities Officer, Kylie Marchant said.

The residents enjoyed the gardens, before wandering over to the shade in front of the Museum of Antiquities, to sit and have a packed lunch. Some choosing to wander in and view the exhibition on display.



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Once back on the bus, a quick call to New England Peonies, who graciously agreed for the residents to call in for a visit to bring home some Peonies for the MPS.

Special thanks to Kathryn Hogan (New England Garden Festival organiser), Kath Little (University of New England) Nick (gardener at the UNE) who came and had a chat to us after lunch, Mary Kuhr (Walcha MPS for packing our lunch), Linda Ballard (volunteer) Neville Henry (volunteer and residents son) and Emily (Registered Nurse).

Mega Band Day

Recently, St Patrick's Primary Years 3-6 students enjoyed a musical collaboration at the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) in Armidale, participating in a successful Mega Band Day!

Our students joined forces with their peers from St Joseph's Primary, Glen Innes, and Chandler Public School. This day provided a wonderful opportunity for the young musicians to combine into one large ensemble and perform a number of musical pieces they have been diligently practising throughout the year in their individual band lessons.

In the morning the combined band rehearsed a wide variety of songs, experiencing the sound of a large group playing together. Following a break, the students delivered a small, informal concert, showcasing the progress they made during the day.

A sincere thank you is extended to Miss Cattellini, Mrs Makeham, and Mrs Rizzi for dedicating their time and providing supervision to the St Patrick's students throughout the day.



thumbs



- 👍 To all the hospital staff who assisted with injuries resulting from the Demolition Derby. The nurses and all staff did an amazing job.
- 👍 To nurse, Brittany Moore for her quick action and ED expertise in triaging the injured people at the Demolition Derby incident last Saturday.
- 👍 To Darius for your honesty in organising for the return of my misplaced parcel.
- 👍 To the Council ground staff who look after the levee banks, the grounds are a picture at present and it's a pleasure to walk the levees.
- 👍 To Dion Bird from Walcha Vet Supplies for delivering gas to the Walcha Bowling Club, you are a life saver!
- 👍 To Julie and Simon Blake for being great community members.
- 👍 To the potholes at the rear of IGA making it difficult to drive around on the Hardware rear driveway.

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

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Cyber-crime is rapidly becoming one of the biggest threats to small businesses, with scammers increasingly targeting operators of all sizes. From hacked social media accounts to fake invoices and ransomware attacks, even the smallest business can be caught out, often without realising it.

In response, the Walcha Business Group, in partnership with Walcha's Commonwealth Bank, is hosting a Business Information Session focused on practical cyber-security for local operators. The session will be held on Thursday 27th November at 5.30pm at the Walcha Bowling Club.

Holly Bourke, an experienced Commonwealth Bank Business Advisor, will discuss the most common online threats and the simple, everyday actions businesses can take to protect themselves. She will also introduce tools designed for small business security, including CyberWardens, CommBank Safe Hub, and the Small Business Cyber Security Guide developed by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC).

While the session is presented by the Commonwealth Bank, the content is relevant to any business that conducts part of its work online — from email and bookings to banking, sales, and social media. Holly will also be available to answer broader questions about business finance, loans, merchant facilities and credit cards.

The Walcha Business Group encourages attendees to stay afterwards to share experiences, continue the conversation, and network. Drinks will be available for purchase during the session, and the Bowling Club welcomes anyone wishing to stay on for dinner.

For more information, contact Walcha Business Group President Fiona on 0429 690 679.

The Perfect Blend Business of the Year celebrations



A morning of regional pride celebrating Walcha Coffee's contribution to local enterprise, community spirit, regional training and tourism will be held this Friday in Walcha, aptly named, *The Perfect Blend*.

These celebrations are to mark the tremendous achievement of being named as the overall NSW Business of the Year, as well as NSW Excellence in Microbusiness at the recent NSW Business Awards.

Owner, Cameron Hayton said that he is hosting the event, along with Business NSW (NE/NW) and that



both Barnaby Joyce and Brendan Moylan will be in Walcha for the celebrations which take place from 10:30am to 12:30pm with coffee and a light brunch being served.

"These celebrations will bring together community, industry and government to acknowledge Walcha Coffee's NSW Business of the Year achievement. The event highlights regional excellence, small business resilience, and Walcha's growing contribution to the New England North West economy. Guests will enjoy Walcha Coffee's signature blends, a light brunch, and genuine regional hospitality as we acknowledge the business's leadership, growth, and community impact," Cameron said.

The future for the business also looks bright with Cameron explaining that they have plans to expand their roasting capacity, training programs and regional partnerships. "In February we will be entering the World Series Coffee Roasting Competition, representing Walcha and the New England North West region on an international stage."

He concluded, commenting, "Join us as we celebrate The Perfect Blend - Walcha Coffee Business of the Year 2025!"

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Change of venue for Steer Show

The Northern Schools Steer Show, which will be hosted by WCS today and tomorrow has been moved to Walcha Central School rather than the Showground. This event will bring approximately 250 students to Walcha from 19 public schools across the New England and North West region. Competition will kick off at 12.00pm today with parading and junior judging and 9.00am on Thursday with the school steer shootout, followed by weight classes. Spectators are welcome to attend and see the students and cattle in action.

Celebrating 75 years of aerial agriculture

Walcha's Deputy Mayor, Glen O'Brien addressed a great crowd at the Mirani airstrip on Saturday morning, marking 75 years since the first application of superphosphate by aeroplane took place in Australia back in 1950. We have re-printed Glen's speech which he was kind enough to supply to us.

By Glen O'Brien

Today we celebrate a remarkable milestone — 75 years since the first aerial spreading of superphosphate in Australia, right here in the Walcha district at Mirani. This is not just an aviation anniversary. It marks a turning point in Australian agriculture — a moment where innovation, courage, and necessity came together to transform how we care for the land.

In February 1950, Captain Bruce McKenzie of East West Airlines climbed into a Tiger Moth fitted with a makeshift hopper and made the first experimental drop over Mirani, guided by the vision of A.S. Nivison, who had already spent decades improving pastures and experimenting with superphosphate. That single flight sparked an industry that would reshape farming across New England and eventually the entire country.

In those early days, Tiger Moths were the backbone of the operation — cheap, available after the war, and capable of carrying up to five 50kg bags of super. It may seem like a small load now, but compared to what was possible by ground back then, it was revolutionary. And with vast areas of Walcha still uncleared or only accessible by horseback, aerial spreading opened up country that had simply never been reachable by machinery.

From the late 1950s onwards the aircraft evolved — the Cessna 180s, the legendary Beavers, and later the Ceres, Fletchers, Crescos, and PAC 750s. Each new type brought more power, better lift, and safer performance in our high-density-altitude conditions. The Beaver alone spread hundreds of thousands of tonnes across New England, and in the 1970s it wasn't uncommon for a single pilot to spread more than 15,000 tonnes a year — truly astonishing output.

These advances helped build the major operators we remember today: Airfarm Associates, Aerial Agriculture, Superair, and Walcha Aerial Services. The long time aerial agriculture pilots not only built companies, but also built a profession. Their leadership shaped an industry that brought prosperity to our region and certainty to generations of graziers. Many of these men were recognised with national honours — and all earned immense respect from the communities they served.

And while aerial spreading is less common today due to cost, logistics, and the rise of advanced ground equipment the fact remains: there are parts of our landscape that only an aircraft can reach or when it's really wet. Our undulating hills and steep, productive country still rely on aviation for full potential. That was true in 1950, and it's still true 75 years later.

For me, like many people who grew up here, aerial spreading



Relatives of A.S. Nivison gathered at the Mirani airstrip on Saturday to mark 75 years since the first superphosphate was spread by air. They are pictured here in front of a Tiger Moth which was used on the property to spread superphosphate

wasn't just an industry it was part of childhood. In the '80s and '90s I remember hearing that unmistakable sound and running outside to watch the low-flying Fletchers, Beavers or Crescos heading home after a massive day. And now, well into my 40s, I'm still doing the same — except these days it's usually David Salter giving me a buzz, just for fun, reminding us all that aviation gets into your blood.

But behind those nostalgic memories are pilots whose skill, stamina, and nerve were — and still are — extraordinary. These men flew long days, made hundreds of landings a week, and operated heavy aircraft at low level, at high weight, in hot and high conditions. They flew machines right at the edge of their performance envelope, day in and day out.

To put that into perspective — I've been flying since 2009 and have logged around 1,000 hours. Pilots like David Salter and the like have logged well over 30,000 hours, with more than 200,000 landings. In the early days he may have exceeded his limitation of 1,000 hours a year. That kind of flying doesn't just build experience — it builds some of the best pilots in the world.

So today, as we honour 75 years of aerial spreading, we acknowledge:

- The innovators like Nivisons and the teams that enabled it to happen and who imagined what was possible;
- The engineers and mechanics who kept these aircraft flying;
- The companies that built an entire industry; and most importantly,
- The pilots and loader drivers whose work improved the productivity of this country and supported thousands of farming families.

Walcha was the birthplace of aerial spreading in Australia. And thanks to the dedication, skill, and bravery of those involved, it remains one of the most important chapters in our nation's aviation history.

To everyone who contributed — past and present — thank you. Your work changed agriculture forever, and your legacy continues to fly.



Left: Glen O'Brien addresses the crowd on Saturday at Mirani airstrip. Super planes on display from the earliest to modern day in the background. Right: Extended Nivison family members gathered in front of the Tiger Moth.

what's the goss

with AJ Cross



What a magnificent innings by promoted Australian Cricket opener Travis Head to spearhead his team to victory on only the second day of the opening Ashes Test in Perth last Sunday. Taking the place of injured Usman Khawaja at the top of the order, Head blasted a ton in just 69 deliveries before he was caught for 123 off 83 balls. During his time at the batting crease the 'Mollydooker' caressed sixteen 4's and four 6's in an innings we may never see the like of again. Don't you just love left handers.

...

How would you like to have purchased tickets for Day 3 of that game thinking that weather permitting everything should be sweet. It would be even worse if you had flown over from England or to a lesser extent the Eastern States only to have the fixture finalised after just two days.

...

Cricket Australia will certainly suffer financially along with their partners, sponsors and broadcasters after the final three days weren't required to get a result. One positive though, all spectators with single day Test tickets for days that didn't go ahead are entitled to full refunds according to the Cricket Australia's refund policy.

...

Still on the Cricket, I was enjoying a cool drink at the Apsley Arms Hotel last Friday afternoon with Lloydie Levingston, Ian Cameron, Mick White and Mark Peters when 'Turbo' declared he had seen Michael Nesar take the field during Day 1 of the first cricket test earlier in the day. I quickly informed Mark that wouldn't have been the case as Beau Webster was 12th man and that he should stop drinking beer for breakfast if it was going to affect him like that.

...

A short time later when I continued watching the Test at home low and behold who should pop up on the screen - Michael Nesar, who must have been 13th man. Don't worry my humblest apologies were offered to 'Turbo' when I saw him the following day to which he replied that he hadn't got it quite right either as he reckons he saw Nesar bowl. Something a 13th man can't do.

...

Congratulations to Claudia Kirton who attends The Armidale School on being announced as the recipient of the Encouragement Award valued at \$500 in the young designer category of the Fleece to Fashion Wool Awards last Saturday night. Way to go Claudia.

...

Four lady golfers represented the Walcha Club at the annual 'Jewel of the Coast' event at South West Rocks early last week. Sisters Cheryl McDonald and Donna Martin, current local club champion Simone Sweeney and Sally McCormack, a bit down on Walcha numbers from previous years. The event attracts around 250 players so it was a very good effort for Cheryl to finish Runner up in the 36 hole Gross in Division 2 where she collected a new pair of golf shoes for her performance. When Simone was quizzed on how she went the reply was 'Golf was the Winner'. Good on ya Girls.

...

Best of luck to the organisers of the Bowling Club Pasture Wonderland (or as Gold Haired Wonder child Steph Sweeney would say - Wonder Pastureland) when at the annual carnival is held this weekend. Players and supporters should be aware of the 'All you Can Eat Breakfast Buffet' on Sunday 7.30 to 9.00am for just \$20.

...

A reminder to those interested there is an extraordinary meeting being held at the Bowling Club next Tuesday December 2nd from 6.00pm to determine which direction the Walcha Rugby League is to go from now on. Both positions of President and Treasurer are vacant at the moment and need to be filled before anything else can be decided. All supporters and future players are invited to attend this important meeting.



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Walcha Garden Festival 2025



Sue Law, President

On 9th and 10th November Walcha Garden Club held for the first time since 2016, the Open Garden Festival. The five gardens were in their glory and we thank Allan and Colleen Green of 'Ivy Bank', Ros Wall and family of 'Summerfield', Richard and Lorraine Walshe of 'Huntly', Allan and Jenny Laurie of 'Old Banchory' and Daniel and Carmie Kermode of 'Orandumbie' for their involvement.

Visitors came from near and far such as Glen Innes, Quirindi, Narrabri, Nundle, Spring Ridge, Bellingen, Newcastle, and even Darwin.

Even though Sunday was a windy and cool day and a challenge to our gate keepers, the rain had fallen overnight, gentle and soaking so wandering the gardens did not damage the glorious green lawns.

The catering teams, lead by Leone Mackaway and Julie Ireland, kept food and drinks available over both days with delicious sandwiches, slices, biscuits, tea, coffee, soft drinks and water. A big thank you to everyone who donated items for the lunches, to volunteers who worked so hard at the Showground to make and bag the sandwiches and slices and the delivery out to the three canteens by Maria Ireland and Sue Law. Thank you to our Sponsors, Westpac Helicopters and their volunteers who manned the gates and to all the other local Community groups ie Rotary, Quota, Lions that assisted the Festival over the weekend and to all the Stall holders that set up at the various five gardens. To Jenny Hoy and Mary Moran, our financial managers who ensured there was enough and correct amount of cash available to all the teams - thank you.

The Walcha Garden Club were able to put together a raffle with 25 prizes so a big thank you to our donors.

The winners were:

Mary Moran's handmade quilt.....	Janelle Archdale
Sue Law handwoven shawl	Helen Scrivener
China Mug	Carmie Kermode
Diana Lisle French Bird Cage	Diane Green
Denise Cox Carinya Nursery shrub	Janelle Archdale
Kate Lisle Silver Earrings	Chris Hamel
Andrew Corlette from Irina's Jewellery	Barb Hollis
Amcal Pharmacy Picnic Basket	Belinda O'Keefe
Katie Street Paperdolls Garden Pots.....	David Moore
Walcha Creative Arts \$50 Gift Voucher	Ros Wall
Cathy Lisle Christmas Cake	Julie Bird
Tasha Chawner a box of handmade Gift Cards	Leone Mackaway
Loretta and Robert Blanch, Metal Bird House	Cath Mackaway
Telfer Rural, Bottle of Red and White Wine	Mary Boyd
Rustic Remedies, Tallow Skin Pack.....	Phil Kuehn
Linmac, 6L Drinking Water Container	Chris Hamel
Sarah Higgins Kool Bitz Creations earrings	Marg Wellings
Susan Bowden Photography Cards and Magnet.....	Phil Kuehn
Lorraine Walshe Embroidered hand towel	Sue Harrison
JAMB Hats Macrame Hat Hanger	Margaret Eden
Leanne Natty crocheted baby blanket	Leanne Swain
Walcha Mens Shed Coat Rack	Bec Hall
Ros Wall Crocheted Knee Rug	Yvonne Richards
Jodi Boyd Set of Three Christmas Ligholders	Trish Donnelly
HEM Resin & Wild Daisy earring pack and Wine	Robyn Vincent

All prizes have been distributed.

Finally, a thank you to the Council for their support in the grading and repairing of The Lakes and Brackendale roads and the installation of signs.

From those who visited the gardens there were many positive remarks given to the gardeners and the Garden Club members of the high standard of presentation of the gardens. So thank you for visiting.

Monies raised will be distributed to various organisations in early 2026.

sport



Tennis

Round 5 of the 2025 Spring Comp was played out on Tue 18th Nov under clear skies.

BARTY: E Blomfield (floating for T Whillock), C Ireland, T Gibson and J Wellings drew with Purcell: M Lockyer, D Clark, J Burgess and M Bird in the match of the night 30 all. COURT: H Carter, M Matapakia, S Ireland, and A Blomfield (floating for M Hayton) dished out a tennis lesson to DeMINAUR: H Thomson, A Blomfield, P Tape and K Cummins taking them down 30 to 21.

Well done to all players and floaters. The next Club meeting will be held on Mon 15th Dec at 6.30pm. Next year's Seniors Tournament will be on the agenda. Anyone that can get involved please come to the meeting WE NEED HELPERS. See you all at the net soon.

Ladies Bowls

The ladies decided to try new ways of improving their bowling skills with different activities last Thursday. There was a lot of laughter. These activities will possibly continue tomorrow.

Don't forget to nominate for our Christmas Party on 11 December at the Bowling Club when the men will be joining us for a game of bowls. Please write your name on

the nomination sheet by 4 December.

Bowls commencing 9am for 9.30am start tomorrow.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday's ladies golf was a par event, playing for Pip Monie's trophy.

Julie Hoad is on a roll and again was the winner this week with a fantastic score of + 6.

Our runner up with + 1 and sweepstakes were won by Anne Martin and Jenny Lisle also with + 1.

Nearest the pin on Hole 3 was Pip Monie, who must love this hole, her third NTP in a row.

Margaret Davidson claimed the second shot on Hole 7.

Today we are playing stableford for a trophy donated by Sue Partridge.

At the Nineteenth

The annual workplace challenge sponsored by the New England Hotel played under a 3 Person Ambrose format was played last Sunday where Robert Smith, Michael Stackman and 'Molleydooker' Jamie Bowden comfortably won with 55 5/6 nett.

Runners up were Team Fletcher - Lee Ruth and Will four shots behind on 59 5/6 whereas sweepstake prizes went to Captain Will Brennan, Handicapper Don Brooks and Lachy Fletcher, Jon Izzard, Owen and Julie Presnell, Will Archdale, Will Nicholls and James Norton (all 61 1/3), Jock McLaren, Andrew and Ollie Crawford, Peter Berry, Barry Hoad and Mal Ballard (both 61) and Team Sweeney - David, Simone and Brhenin 61 5/6.

A total of 45 players teed off last Sunday and for some reason there were no N.T.P's on offer where it was difficult to get an answer from the Club Captain to why that was. Last Saturday Pauline Carter won the weekly 9 hole competition after she accumulated 19 stableford points but only after she survived a countback with Pete Whellan on the same score.

N.T.P on 3 went to Jock McLaren.

This Sunday is a Stableford Round for a trophy donated by Dion Bird. A reminder the Ann Berry Memorial 3 person Ambrose is scheduled for the following Saturday Dec 6th (10am tee off) and then the next day Sunday 7th is the delayed Mixed Foursomes Championships to be played in conjunction with a 4 BBB Medley for prizes supplied by New England Accountants Tax Service. Please Note - 10.30am tee off.



Jamie Bowden, Perc Berry, Michael Stackman and Robert Smith.

More Sport on Page 10



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.

Christmas is coming fast and it's now you need to plan your Christmas haircuts. The Barber Shop is closing early this year so don't leave it till last minute. Last working day is Saturday 13 December. Re-opening Tuesday 6 January.

Sorry for the error in last weeks Advocate. A caption read Thea Dunn but was actually Matisse Pascoe Apologies for the error.

Walcha Council



Temporary Bridge Bypass Closure on Mooraback Road

Works are progressing on the Mooraback Bridge Replacement Project.

To safely manoeuvre and connect large, heavy structural components on the replacement bridge, access through the temporary bridge bypass track on Mooraback Road will be unavailable during the following times (weather permitting):

Friday 28 November – 7:00am to 1:00pm – Installation of headstocks

Tuesday 2 December – 7:00am to 3:00pm – Installation of girders

Once the crane has lifted the headstocks and planks into position, the road will reopen to traffic.

The Council thanks you for your patience and understanding during this essential infrastructure replacement project.

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

Public Notice (Cont)

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

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

Expressions of interest

Are invited for the provision of Grounds & Maintenance services at St Patrick's Primary School.



An information pack is available from the Administration Office by contacting 6777 2328 or via email spwadmin@arm.catholic.edu.au

Interested companies can arrange a suitable site visit by contacting school office, details above.

Tenders close at 3:00pm, Monday 15th December 2025 and should be addressed to:

Dallas Hyatt
Principal
St Patrick's Primary School
PO Box 165
Walcha NSW 2354

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Meeting Notices

Walcha Technology Co-operative Ltd
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 9 December 2025

7.30pm at Walcha Telecottage
All current members are eligible to nominate as a Director.

Anthea Macpherson, Board Secretary.

Woolbrook Stampede AGM Wed 3rd December 6 pm at Woolbrook Sports Ground. All welcome.

Walcha Garden Club Christmas Party
Friday, 5th December at Jim & Jules Young's garden, 'Sallywood', 1934 St Leonard's Creek Rd, Walcha. Cars depart McHattan Park at 9.30am. BYO chair, cup and plate of food to share. Bring a gift or plant to exchange. Members are encouraged to invite guests. Enquiries: S.Law 0467 450 243, D.Lisle 0429 799 083.

sport



Mens Bowls

Thursday: Barry Kliendienst & John McCormack were too solid for Noel Goodwin & Geoff Salt 18/10. Brian Goodwin & Peter Hayes cleaned up Denis Makeham & Tony Batterham 16/10. Bun & Peter won the chooks & Amanda won the raffle. A good roll up again for twilight bowls only one team has had three wins.

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

Cricket

Due to the wet weather late last week and early Saturday all Armidale and District Cricket was cancelled last weekend. Hopefully both Walcha/Uralla return to the field this Saturday where 2nd Grade are drawn to play A.V.C.C here at Peter Fenwicke Oval and 3rd Grade take on TAS 2nds at Wakefield in Armidale. Currently both Walcha/Uralla teams are running fourth in their respective competitions.

Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)

Notice of Resumed Annual General Member Meeting

12.12.2025 | 5.30pm | Amaroo LALC Cafe

1. Welcome/Open Address
2. Minutes of previous member meeting
3. Receipt of the Annual Report of the activities of the ALALC
4. Receipt of the Audited Financial Statements for the previous financial year
5. Next member meeting date and time

All questions relating to this meeting or voting rights should be directed to the Chairperson, Ms Katrina Bloomfield at the Amaroo LALC Office on (02) 67771100 or via email to chair@amaroolalc.com.au during business hours.

AUTHORISED: Katrina Bloomfield, Chairperson – Amaroo LALC



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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
Sunday 30 -
9.30am Combined
Service with Walcha
Presbyterian Church
at Walcha
Anglican church
Phone 6777 2543 or
email:
walchaanglican@
gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN
Walcha - Every
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WALCHA

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Thursday 27 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 28 2.00pm – Close

2.00PM BINGO 6.00PM BISTRO

6pm Raffle tickets meat & vege trays

7.30PM FREE BINGO

8.00PM Raffles and Members draw

BISTRO

- Thai beef salad
- Creamy garlic prawn enchilada
- Crispy hot honey chicken

Home deliveries - town limits only

CATERING NEEDS

Dianna - 0412 536 760 or 5722 6003

Saturday 29 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 30 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm,
drawn 1.00pm.

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ELIGIBLE TO WIN

As of Friday 5th December we will be having Christmas hams up for grabs in our Friday and Sunday raffles with our Mega Christmas raffles being held on Friday 19th December. Our Christmas stocking raffle will be drawn on Christmas Eve.

We are open for breakfast on Sunday morning from 7.30.

Our Christmas colouring in competition is available through the bistro with a basket of goodies to win.

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



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