

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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14 January 2026

## New event to debut at Walcha Golden Gate Campdraft



On Saturday a brand-new event is set to make its debut at this year's Walcha Golden Gate Campdraft, with the first Walcha IGA Ringers Challenge expected to deliver plenty of excitement for competitors and spectators.

The popular four day draft, which commences Thursday 15 and runs through to Sunday 18 January, will see this new event run alongside the campdraft for the first time. The Ringers Challenge brings together horsemanship, stock work and rodeo skills in a fast-paced, one-round jackpot format.

Open to competitors aged 17 years and over, the event is restricted to ten teams of three, with each team required to include one female competitor. With a \$100 entry fee, teams will compete for top honours in an aggregate competition scored out of 300 points. The challenge features three disciplines, beginning with a two-minute snaffle bit cut out

on a maiden horse, working a maximum of two beasts. This is followed by a two-minute working cattle dog trial with five head, before concluding with a steer ride running under ABCRA rules. Competitors must supply their own horses and dogs, reinforcing the traditional skills and horsemanship the event is designed to showcase.

The competition will be held in the rough riding ring, adding to the atmosphere and giving spectators a close-up view of the action.

Entries for the Walcha IGA Ringers Challenge open tomorrow, Thursday 15 January, and will close once all positions are filled. ABCRA membership is required to compete.

With the Ringers Challenge running alongside the Golden Gate Campdraft, organisers are hopeful the event will become a long-term feature and be another highlight to the popular Walcha program.

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DRIVING PERFORMANCE ACROSS THE BOARD  
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CATCH US @ THE...  
NEW ENGLAND MERINO FIELD DAY  
FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JAN 2026  
URALLA SHOWGROUND

**6TH ANNUAL  
ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE**  
40 POLL MERINO RAMS  
1pm THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEB 2026  
INSPECTIONS FROM 10.30am  
1049 CAMPFIRE RD, WOOLBROOK

INTERFACED WITH **AuctionsPlus**

**Todd Whillock: 0427 740 283**  
clovernook13@gmail.com

**Elders** Tom Henry 0409 659 877  
John Newsome 0428 669 498

**GLENBURNIE**  
MERINO + POLL MERINO STUD

**NEW**  
SALE VENUE  
"Mt Agnes"  
12441 Oxley Hwy  
Walcha  
SALE 1pm

**NEW**  
23 POLL  
DORSET  
RAMS

**Thursday 5 February 2026**  
1pm On-Property.  
Inspections from 10am

**Note: Change of venue  
to ON-PROPERTY**

**RAM SALE**  
40 MERINO + POLL MERINO  
RAMS  
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Contacts:  
**AWN** John Crooke 0428 977 589  
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## around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and an enjoyable new year period – it seems like forever ago already.

2026 has started in top gear, unless you had the smarts to take some more time off during January. The Christmas period was hot and dry and sent our season backwards at pace and it has been nice to jag some decent storms in early January to turn our season. Totals of nearly 100mm have fallen in numerous storms, but we patiently wait for continued follow-up to get us going again. Our chances look to be increasing by the day from a spin-off of moisture from the northern deluge for the next two weeks.



The weather has really been testing, but none more than the tales of two very different seasons – from the deluge of rain in the north to drought and fires in the south. Firstly, a monsoonal trough dumped upwards of 500mm over parts of the Northwest QLD, with reports coming out that they are expecting cattle loss estimates to be north of 40,000 head, a similar disaster to the flooding of 2019. Ex-tropical cyclone Koji has belted the north QLD coast and since making land on Sunday morning has now moved inland towards central QLD. Koji is causing major flooding inland from Rockhampton in areas such as Clermont. At the other end of the country central Victoria are experiencing some savage bushfires with numerous stock losses, homes, shed and properties burnt to the ground.

The Albanese government will establish a national gun buy back scheme to purchase surplus, newly banned and illegal firearms. This is our government's knee jerk reaction to the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in December and the government couldn't be further from the solution. The government is just trying to distract the public from the fact that they aren't addressing the underlying issues of antisemitism. These so-called gun laws need to pass through parliament which will take months, but new laws could pass quicker to directly eradicate antisemitism and combat extremism. I agree that certain parts of current gun laws need to change, like who in western Sydney really needs to have four guns. If you're a firearms licence holder you will also be required to be a member of a Gun Club. The tightening of gun laws may make the government feel like they have been proactive since Bondi, but they will only be policing the honest part of our population, not the minority who are the issue.

Bigs news in the beef industry is the lift on tariffs from China on Australian beef once we exceed the out of quota product. This news sent ripples through the industry when it broke which is a new safeguard for the domestic Chinese product against rising imported beef competition. The 55% tariff on the 'out of quota' beef will price Australian beef out of the Chinese market. What Australia needs to ensure is that the quota should mainly be used entirely for the high quality, chilled, grass fed and grain fed beef, not the low-quality ground beef. We need to put a self-managed quota program in place for Australian beef farmers, feedlots and processors. One thing which counteracts this move from China is the lack of beef on a global scale to the extent of our Australian disease-free product. The fact is that demand outstrips supply and we need to be proactive with the hand we are dealt.



Southern weaner sales are in full swing and the prices are as firm as the end of 2025, despite the headwind. The EYCI currently sits around 861CW with weaners selling to most eastern Australian states. Weaner steers have been selling from 480-600c/kg depending on weight and breed while the heifer portion has made from 420-500c/kg.

Our physical fat sales have started off where they finished in 2025, and that is strong. Tamworth yarded just on 2400 cattle Monday, with all categories quoted dearer. Stocker steers sold to 598c/kg while the heifer portion topped at 470c/kg. Feeder steers topped at 520c/kg for 558kg while the heifer made to 468c/kg. Heavy kill cattle were in high demand with kill steers, 600kg topping at 500c/kg, while cows made to 410c/kg for 702kg. 5814 sheep and lambs met strong competition in Tamworth with some outstanding export lambs making \$370, while the best of the trades made to \$273. Mutton sold strongly and topped at \$346 for XB while heavy wethers made to \$320.

# RAM SALE

## TUES 3 FEBRUARY

1.00PM – 'ASHFIELD'  
OXLEY HWY, WALCHA

**40 BORDER LEICESTER RAMS**

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# New format for Field Day this Friday

The New England Merino Field Days are undergoing a new format this year, and will be held this Friday 16 January at Uralla Showground from 9am to 4pm with guest speakers from 1pm.

President, Paul Pittman explains the format below, so if you are a sheep grazier, there will be something for all breeders at the 2026 Field Day.

## From Paul Pittman

Since our last Field Day which saw a change to having all member studs display at the one location, we have decided as a committee it was a progressive move forward with a lot of positive feedback. Once again, we look forward to showcasing our genetics in the New England from our member studs and would like to also welcome our new members Clive, Natasha and Emma Pearson from Glenbrook Merino and Poll Merino Stud.

For the past two years we certainly have seen our merino commodities move in all directions, but we are very pleased to report a lot of positivity with the wool market making some significant gains across the board most of this year. I think with dwindling supply going forward, I believe there is a very positive outlook for the wool market in the future. This also gives people a great opportunity to inspect and research our New England genetics and perhaps take their opportunity to move towards a few more merino joinings.

The buoyant lamb and mutton prices this past year has also put a very positive spin on the merino enterprise, making it a profitable one. Cashing in on merino lamb prices and for those with first-cross lambs being rewarded with some record prices recently. With this in mind it has come to our commitment to the sheep industry, that the field day committee has decided for the first time to introduce some meat breed studs.

As a committee we feel we want to progress and grow the field

day as many merino producers utilise meat production, making it suitable for the event. We continue to promote the industry together, making the merino ewe the most dual-purpose animal in grazing enterprises. That's one of the great things about the merino industry is its versatility to capitalise on several different markets provided by the merino ewe.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the meat breed studs: Alfoxton, Arakoon, Chandler, Hampshire, Harewood, Linton, Maryland, Old Woombi/Chain-O-Ponds, Wilsons Creek.

We hope this event can be positive for all studs. I would also like to thank our committee for all the help putting this event together.

Regarding seasonal conditions it certainly has been a challenge this past year with some well above rainfall recording in most parts of the region which once again gives our member studs the opportunity to showcase our genetics under seasonal pressure. This affirms our members commitment to producing a sheep which can combat many challenges thrown at them. This ensures which ever breeding objective you choose New England genetics are there to capitalise on once again.



## Stock and Property Watch

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# Katie off to Zone finals

If you have visited Walcha Vet Supplies in the last year it is highly likely you were enthusiastically greeted and served by Katie Cummins. Katie is an Administration Officer for WVS and she is also the 2025 Walcha Show Society's Young Woman Representative.

On Saturday 7 February Katie will travel to Wyallda to represent Walcha at the Zone 4 AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition Finals. There, along with 14 other young women she will compete for two spots to go onto the Sydney Royal Agricultural Show to vie for the title of Young Woman of the Year.

Katie is an ambassador for the Walcha community, the Agricultural industry and for rural youth and volunteers, at both the Walcha Show and the Rugby Club.

Katie believes the NSW AgShows Young Woman Competition is an opportunity for her to build networks with other young leaders, mentors and professionals in the agricultural industry and that it provides a platform to develop both personally and professionally.

"We are very proud of your achievements thus far Katie, and wish you lots of luck at the Zone finals," organiser Pip Monie said.

If anyone would like more information regarding the Young Woman Competition please contact Pip Monie or Walcha Show Society.



## letters to the editor

### Walcha – a clean friendly town

I attended school in the Wauchope area and in 1965 I took the big step of commencing studies at Armidale. Several times a year I would go forth in my primitive vehicle (no a/c and heaters in those days) and travel the Oxley Highway. In those days the Wauchope to Walcha section of the Oxley Highway was just a dusty curvy corrugated very pot-holed strip of gravel that followed the profiles of the land, dipping down with a wooden culvert at every little gully and up and down over every minor ridge. The scenery was good but the drive was tiring. It was always a relief to arrive at Walcha and take a rest at that small park near the river with its soft green grass and always clean facilities, maybe buy a milkshake and some petrol and then commence the easy bit, the bitumen road to Armidale.

At that time, and in the six decades since then I have many times travelled through Walcha and I have always found it to be a clean and friendly town and I appreciate the certainty of knowing I can stop there and always feel rested. I say thank you to the people of Walcha for Walcha being what it is.

David Johns, Canberra

## Mental health is as important as physical health



Looking after your mental health and wellbeing helps you stay strong and resilient for the road ahead.

Staying connected with others, keeping active and reaching out when you need support can help you feel strong, grounded and well – no matter what life brings.



For more information to support your mental health and wellbeing, visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/support](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/support) or call the Mental Health line on 1800 011 511.



# Celebrating achievements at Walcha Council

## From Walcha Council

Walcha Council is proud to announce the successful completion of the Certificate III in Civil Construction by three of our dedicated staff members, alongside six hardworking staff members from Uralla Shire Council. This achievement represents a significant milestone in their professional development and reflects their commitment to building strong skills that support both their careers and the community. We are delighted to take this opportunity to celebrate their success and to highlight the ongoing collaboration with Uralla Shire Council that has made this training possible.

Congratulations to: Karrin Scott, Kurtis Brazel and Tanya Westfold from Walcha Council, along with Uralla Shire Council employees. Their dedication to furthering their knowledge and capabilities demonstrates a strong commitment to excellence, continuous improvement and community-focused service. By undertaking this qualification, these staff members have shown initiative and determination to grow professionally while contributing meaningfully to their community.

The Certificate III in Civil Construction provides essential practical skills in areas such as civil works operations, roads construction, maintenance and drainage systems. These competencies are critical to maintaining and improving our local government areas. The skills gained through this qualification directly supports the high-quality services delivered to our community every day.

Our partnership with the Uralla Shire Council plays a vital role in ensuring our teams have access to effective training, strong support networks and meaningful development opportunities. By working closely together, both Councils are able to share knowledge, best practices and resources, as well as, strengthening our operational

capacity while fostering a culture of learning and collaboration. This partnership has enabled a flexible, cost effective and robust training environment that supports continuous growth for our staff.

An exciting ongoing element of this collaboration is the shared staffing arrangement, where four staff members work across both Walcha Council and Uralla Shire Council. This innovative approach encourages collaboration, skill-sharing and a deeper understanding of regional operations. It allows employees to bring fresh perspective and valuable insights to both councils, ultimately strengthening the broader local government workforce, benefiting the wider community.

As we continue to prioritise professional development and skill-building within our teams, we look forward to the seeing the ongoing growth of our staff and the lasting positive impact this will have on our community. Together, we can ensure that we are not only meeting the needs of today but are also preparing for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.



Pictured above: Leslie Smith, Karrin Scott, Josh Spence, Garrett Davison, Lachlan Williams, Kurtis Brazel, Tanya Westfold.  
Not Pictured: Beau Hargrave

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## On Property **RAM SALE**

**OPEN DAY** - Saturday 17th January 10am-3pm (DST)

'Shalimar' 619 Bergen Road Walcha 2354  
**Wednesday 28th January 2026**

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## Rotary says “Thank you Walcha”

*From Andrew Corlette*

Another Christmas has come and gone. As life returns to normal it's time for the Rotary Club of Walcha to say a big, big thank you to heaps of people and businesses in our community for the fantastic support the Club received for our annual Christmas Stocking Raffle.

This year Rotary raised in excess of \$5,000, an achievement made possible by the amazingly generosity of Walcha businesses and individuals who kindly donated goods, vouchers and cash, as they do year after year. Also, the Club's sincere thanks go to the members of our community who dig into their wallets and purses chancing their luck buying tickets. Without such support we could not generate the funds that are substantially ploughed back into Walcha and services utilised by our community. Please take a look at the detailed list of supporters and raffle winners in the classified section of today's Advocate.

The money the Club raises through activities such as the Christmas Stocking Raffle, the firewood raffle, catering at the Walcha Races, the BBQ at the Farmers' Market and various other endeavours, Walcha Rotary is able to donate to Walcha Central School for excursions and scholarships and provide funds to the Walcha Support Group as well as periodically undertaking small infrastructure projects.

Other services supported by Walcha Rotary that assist the local community include the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Angel Flight, BackTrack, Ronald McDonald House, Camp Quality (for kids with cancer) and backpacks containing some of life's essentials (and a bit more) for kids entering foster care.

Community service organisations like Rotary, Lions and Quota all play their part in making Walcha the very special place it is, the place we love to live, a community widely renowned for its unique spirit. The Walcha community supports community organisations which in turn support community members. Walcha Rotary recognises and thanks you for your generosity in making our projects possible.

**GLENBURNIE**  
MERINO + POLL MERINO STUD



### **GLENBURNIE FIELD DAY**

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## Have your say on the New England Renewable Energy Zone



EnergyCo is inviting feedback to help shape the delivery of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Feedback will be used to inform how the government responds to potential impacts and delivers benefits for communities that are hosting critical energy projects.

### Complete the survey on our new online portal

Visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez) (or scan the QR code below) to explore how we're working to balance project impacts and benefits for local communities, then share your feedback through a survey. The survey is open until Friday 30 January 2026 and will take around 10 minutes to complete.

You can also contact our team on the details below if you prefer to receive a paper copy.

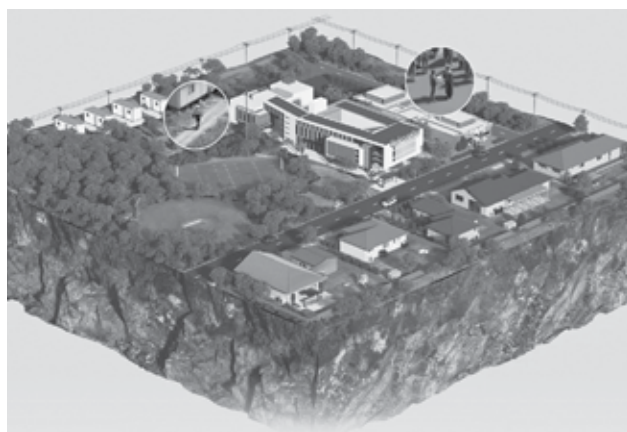
Your input will help shape our plans – now and into the future – and ensures the REZ delivers real and lasting benefits for the region.

### View the New England regional major infrastructure studies

To support the consultation period, EnergyCo has released a series of studies which address priority topics for REZ delivery including workforce accommodation, water and wastewater security, training and skills, local supply chain and waste and circular economy.

They consider the impacts of major projects in the New England region, including renewables and other industries, as well as opportunities that may arise from this significant investment in regional NSW. These studies are not intended to provide all the answers. They provide a common data point that will inform future strategies to address challenges and maximise opportunities.

The studies are the result of several months of consultation with councils, government agencies and industry to assess existing conditions and priority issues for the region.



### For more information

To read the studies and complete our survey, visit the online portal at [energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez) or scan the QR code. You can get in touch with our team at [nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au) or by calling 1800 061 114 (toll free). We look forward to hearing from you.



# Strong results, bright futures

## Discover PLC Armidale on Principal's Tour and Scholarship Day

– Thursday 19 February 2026 –

PLC Armidale continues to set the benchmark for academic excellence in the New England North West, with outstanding outcomes across both NAPLAN and the 2025 Higher School Certificate (HSC), reinforcing its reputation as one of the region's, and state's leading schools.

In the 2025 HSC, 46 per cent of PLC Armidale students achieved an ATAR above 85, with 27 per cent above 90 and 19 per cent above 95, and the College's Joint Dux, Amelie van der Werf, achieved the highest ATAR in the region (99.1). PLC Armidale was ranked 69th in NSW on *The Daily Telegraph* list of high-performing schools and was the highest-ranked school in northern NSW.



*PLC Armidale 2025 Head Prefect Emily Blake and fellow Distinguished Achiever Zoe Webb*

Top performing students included two Walcha girls: PLC Armidale Head Prefect Emily Blake, who was a Distinguished Achiever with a Band 6 in Drama, English Extension 1, Mathematics Standard, Modern History and an ATAR of 96; and Zoe Webb another Distinguished Achiever with a Band 6 in Agriculture and Mathematics.

Recently released 2025 NAPLAN data on the ACARA MySchool website confirms that PLC Armidale is the strongest-performing school overall in the region, with students achieving results above the national average and those of similar backgrounds across most tested areas in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9.

Principal Mrs Nicola Taylor said the results reflect a consistent, personalised approach to learning.

"These outcomes are the result of academic rigour, strong pastoral care and a culture where every girl is known, supported and challenged to do her best," Mrs Taylor said.

Head of Senior School Mrs Kate Clynch said success across academic, creative, sport, outdoor challenge and vocational pathways demonstrated the breadth of opportunity available to students, supported by expert teaching and small class sizes.

**You're invited:** Families are invited to experience the PLC Armidale advantage firsthand at the Principal's Tour and Senior School 2027 Scholarship Examination on Thursday, 19 February 2026. The day offers an opportunity to tour the College's 17-hectare campus, meet staff and students, and learn more about academic pathways, boarding, the five-year bespoke Explore Serve Journey outdoor education program and scholarship opportunities.

With a long tradition of educating young women to lead lives of significance, PLC Armidale offers a nurturing all-girls environment where academic excellence and personal growth go hand in hand.

ADVERTISEMENT



## Gun laws

In the days leading up to Christmas, Premier Chris Minns recalled Parliament to make unnecessary changes to firearms laws in NSW. I voted against these changes, as did the rest of the NSW Nationals.

The Government played politics as it combined the firearm provisions in a single bill which contains anti-protest provisions. Farmers, professional and sporting shooters, gun clubs and regional businesses already operate under some of the strictest gun laws in the world. In regional NSW, firearms are essential tools for biosecurity, animal welfare and livelihoods.

People in regional NSW expect governments to respond to tragedy with honesty, restraint and clear thinking. While grief and accountability matter, rushed policy designed to deflect from government failure does not.

Responding to terrorism by targeting law-abiding firearm owners undermines public trust and does not improve safety.

The changes to the gun laws were not required and penalised lawful firearm users for an act of terrorism.

## Portfolios

NSW Opposition Leader Kelly Sloane unveiled a new Shadow Cabinet last week and I am pleased to be taking on the Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Prevention of Regional Crime portfolios.

These portfolios give me an opportunity to continue delivering for the Northern Tablelands by leading important discussions around two areas which are fundamental to the electorate.

In terms of regional crime, the issue goes beyond the regional crime rises above the usual argy-bargy of politics, and I intend to keep working constructively with the Attorney General and others to ensure it remains firmly on the agenda. There is so much more that can be done in this space. While our opposition crime bill was ultimately defeated, it contained many strong measures, and my job is to keep prosecuting those ideas, particularly around giving victims a greater voice and tightening bail conditions.

On agriculture, it's the old saying: when farmers are doing well, small businesses in town do well too. It's a significant challenge and a portfolio everyone in The Nationals wants, and I'm genuinely looking forward to it. I've already reached out to NSW Farmers to start identifying where we can make real improvements.

I am grateful for this opportunity and am looking forward to getting on with the job in working hard for our communities.

**Brendan Moylan MP**

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

brendanmoylanmp brendanmoylanmp

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**THE NATIONALS** for Regional NSW

Authorised by Brendan Moylan MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

# Don't miss the Farmers' Market this Saturday

The Walcha Farmers' Market will be on this Saturday for the first time in 2026. There'll be a range of stalls selling local produce, including fruit and veg, oysters, trout, cheese, salami, honey, and baked goods.

Grab a coffee or some Thai satay to enjoy while you wander around the stalls or wait while the kids have their faces painted.

You can take a splash of colour home with a bunch of dahlias, or a few plants or seedlings to make the most of the warm soil.

There'll be a selection of natural wellness products, and locally-crafted gifts.

If the garden's going gangbusters, and you can't keep up with the eggs, bring your homegrown surplus to sell on the market's community stall. Volunteers on the stall aren't required to pay a commission on their sales.

The Farmers' Market is on Saturday morning at McHattan Park from



## thumbs



- 👉 To the Council workers who collected my recycling bin (on the off week) and emptied it for me this morning. They went out of their way for me when they didn't have to. Thank you.
- 👉 To Gabbie, Oscar and Hugo for helping us change our flat tyre on Winterbourne Road.
- 👉 To Essential Energy worker who restored the power in Lagoon Street on Sunday night. Legend, worth more money.
- 👉 To the Walcha Hospital Staff, Ambulance Officers and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter team who all helped our nephew on Boxing Day, you were absolutely fantastic. He is recovering well, thank you.
- 👉 To the person that thinks it's okay to throw their rubbish out on Winterbourne Road where the school bus stops and turns around. Not happy.
- 👉 That there is no Return and Earn in Walcha.
- 👉 To the state of the North end of Derby Street – disgraceful.

**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.**

## Financial Services



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# St Patrick's Presentation

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

St Patrick's Primary School hosted its annual Presentation Morning on the last Friday in of Term 4, 2025. The event brought together students, families, teachers, and community members to honour the achievements of the past year and to celebrate the spirit of togetherness that defines our school.

A key highlight of the morning was the presentation of awards, which recognised excellence across academic, sporting, and cultural fields. Students were celebrated not only for their individual achievements but also for their contributions to the school community. The recipients beamed with pride as they accepted their awards, cheered on by their peers and families.

As the school year drew to a close, the Presentation Morning served as a wonderful reminder of the achievements and growth that have taken place over the past months. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special occasion. Your presence and support made the day truly unforgettable. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and celebration at St Patrick's Primary. Congratulations to the students who received the following awards.

## 2025 Class Awards

### Kindergarten

Christian Living ..... Riley  
Academic Achievement..... Tessa  
Effort and Application..... Poppy

### Year One

Christian Living ..... Alfie  
Academic Achievement..... Tallulah  
Effort and Application..... Emilia

### Year Two

Christian Living ..... Campbell  
Academic Achievement..... Nathaniel  
Effort and Application..... Harper

### Year Three

Christian Living ..... Fergus  
Academic Achievement..... Bella  
Effort and Application..... Archie

### Year Four

Christian Living ..... Lucy  
Academic Achievement..... Audrey  
Effort and Application..... Will

### Year Five

Christian Living ..... Nina  
Academic Achievement..... Hannah  
Effort and Application..... Marcus

### Year Six

Christian Living ..... Grace S  
Effort and Application..... Katie

### 2025 Annual Perpetual Awards

Walcha Preschool Friendship Award ... Daisy  
Phillip Rizzi Encouragement Award:  
Infants ..... Heidi  
Primary..... Florence  
Citizenship Award ..... Tom  
ADIG Outstanding Achievement  
Award ..... Jessica  
Carol Smith Creative Arts Award..... Claire  
Walcha Squash Club Award..... Josie  
Walcha Touch Association Award ..... Katie  
Sportsperson of the Year Award ..... Josie  
Diocesan Half Blue Awards  
..... Jessica and Josie (X2)  
St Vincent de Paul Award..... Adelaide  
Gudhurr Gurruman Award..... Palesa  
Walcha Lions Club Jeanette Wark  
Memorial Scholarship..... Tom



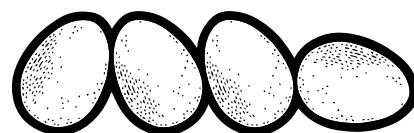
Above: Year 6 Graduates  
– Digby, Grace F, Lochie,  
Adelaide, Tom, Palesa,  
Jessica, Ryan, Indie, Katie,  
Kiara, Grace S and Claire.

Left: 2026 Sports Captains  
Josie (Oxley) and Rebee  
(Apsley) with School Captains  
Hugh and Florence.

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SELL THEM ON YOUR BEHALF

\* SEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ONLINE



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# WALCHA COUNCIL

## Summer library & youth holiday program



### Mindful Crafts

(a quiet activity)

Wed 7 Jan 1-3pm

Walcha Library

All ages



### Robot Red Rover

(CNRL 'Cool Guys')

Mon 12 Jan 10.30am

Walcha Library

Ages 8+

Book online



### Storytime

### Water Safety

Wed 14 Jan

10.30am

Walcha Library

Ages 3 - 10



### Lego

@ the library

Tues 20 Jan

K- Yr 3 - 10am

Yr 4 & up - 12:30pm



### Golf Clinic

Thurs 22 Jan

Primary 10am

High School 11.30am

Walcha Golf Club

### Youth 3-on-3 Basketball Comp

@ Walcha

Skatepark

Halfcourt

Thursday 29th Jan

3-6pm

Ages 8-18 -

Nominate teams on the day - Free BBQ!



### Athletics Clinic

with coach Jay Stone

Fri 23 Jan

PS - Yr 2: 10am

Yr 4 - 12: 11am - 2pm

### OTR Basketball

Clinic with Travis

Wed 28 Jan

Walcha MPC

All ages



Book now!

Limited places in most activities.

Contact Walcha Library to book 67742550 or [library@walcha.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@walcha.nsw.gov.au)

## SAVE THE DATE 2026 RAM SALES

Shalimar Park Merino Stud .....	28/01/2026
Nerstane Merino Stud .....	30/01/2026
Yalgoo Merino Stud .....	31/01/2026
Old Woombi/Chain-O-Ponds .....	03/02/2026
Clovernook Poll Merino .....	05/02/2026
Maryland White Suffolks .....	11/02/2026

### Contacts

Elders Walcha Office .....6774 2600

James Sharpe .....0409 272 490

Tom Henry .....0409 659 877



## what's the goss



with AJ Cross

Well that didn't seem to take long and hopefully no-one got hurt. Doesn't feel that long ago that the last Apsley Advocate was printed in 2025 but here we are, bright eyed and bushy tailed raring to go in the New Year after the festive season recess. Hopefully 2026 is a happy, healthy one which goes just the way you would like it to.

...

Our crew consisting of the Cross, Laurie, Wellings, Donaldson, Lisle and Cloake families spent last week at the Flynns Beach Resort where the weather was fine, beach conditions good and company even better. What started off as an annual vacation over 40 years ago for my much better half Linda, her sister Sandra along with their parents Ida and Ken Hoy, then their son-in-laws 'Golden Haired Boy', Truck Laurie and me, has seen the numbers certainly grown since ... now up to 30!!

...

In between the Resort and the Caravan Park is a pub called 'The Local', a welcoming establishment where the beverages were nice and cool at reasonable prices. Even bumped into former Walcha Roos player Geoffrey Tombs and we enjoyed a couple of ales while indulging in enjoyable recollection of past events. If you get the chance call in, it's not a bad little spot.

...

Congratulations to Zac Warden on carding a sensational 59 nett to win my golf trophy last Sunday. Melinda Bird had every right to feel hardly done by after she posted a creditable 63 nett, while her son Nixon and Golf Club President Miles Archdale weren't far off the pace on 64 nett. All potential winning scores on most other days. Good on ya guys.

...

Still on golf, eight time Club Champion Simeon Cross was defeated 8 and 7 in the Matchplay competition by Miles Archdale last Sunday. When I asked my cousin 'Simone' if it was the biggest touch up he had received in his career spanning well over 50 years the answer was in the affirmative.

...

Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club President Wayne Boyd would like to invite former players and supporters to attend the double header Armidale District T20 competitions here at Peter Fenwicke Oval this Saturday. All the action commences at 12.45pm when the homeside 3rd Grade takes on Ex-Services before 2nd Grade do battle with Easts 1st Grade. 'Pothole' did mention he hopes to have a BBQ in operation and liquid refreshments on offer. Hopefully the weather will be kind on Saturday.

...

Best of luck to former Walcha Junior Rugby Player Hunter Scrivener when he plays for the Northern NSW Under 17's Boys at Bathurst this weekend. The NSW Rugby Union tournament is a selection trial for the NSW Waratahs squad. Go Gettum Hunter.

...

The weekend before Christmas, the Newie 777's racehorse competition had jackpotted to just over \$400. After 'Kings Secret' saluted at Randwick and 'Job Done' got up at Caulfield six punters Miles Lawrence, DG Clare, Mark Peters, Mal Ballard, Michael Hoy and yours truly remained in the running but on four different horses. When 'Grafter Gurners' saluted the judge at Brisbane wasn't 'Red' and AJV. 'Happy as Larry' picking up a smidgen over \$200 each.

...

Former English Wrestler Mal Ballard was unlucky as his horse number 13 (surprise, surprise) 'Sylph' ran a gallant second in the deciding race. Part time Newie barman Miles Lawrence did receive some consolation a fortnight later when he selected all three winners in the 777's - just the jackpot prize wasn't quite as big.

...

Recently retired Willy Brennan declared at one stage that jockey Jamie Melham (nee Kah) couldn't ride a rocking chair before she saddled up on 'Job Done' and was the reason he wasn't selecting that horse. Don't know if Willy meant rocking horse instead of rocking chair. You will have to ask him.



## Ladies Bowls

The 2026 Ladies Bowls season commences tomorrow 9.00am for a 9.30am start. The Minor Singles competition commences 12 February. Nomination sheet is on the board. Congratulations to Denis and Pam Makeham, Lyn Bumell and Marie Spink for coming third in the President's Day last weekend. A notice is on the board for the Open Triples Carnival being played on Thursday 5 February. We look forward to a great year of bowling.

## Bowls

Happy new year to all.

Congratulations to Adam on his Presidents Day last Saturday, 64 players in attendance from near and far.

### Winners:

**Quirindi:** Will, Kay, Jason, Sharkey 2 wins + 15.

**2nd Bendemeer:** Gary, Colin, Dan & Russell 2wins + 13.

**3rd Walcha:** Marie, Lyn, Pam & Denis 2 wins + 11

Raffle winners: 1st Di Bazeley, 2nd Jo Wicks, 3rd Jim Combes, 4th Col Crampton.

Thanks to Richo's Rural for sponsoring the raffle.

Everyone enjoyed the day.

Congratulations to Mat Hamel & Ross Ballinger who are now the 2025 pairs Champions, they defeated Graham Marshall & John Byrne in an entertaining game. Well done to all players.

Pennants start on 14 February, we need a few more names to set the ball rolling. Teams involved this year are North Tamworth, Kootingal and Inverell Sporties. Sheets are on board, there will be more info next edition.

The Open Triples Carnival will be played on Thursday 5 February. There are sheets on board or contact Adam.

## Cricket

The Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade Cricket team defeated Armidale City/UNE 1st Grade by five wickets when the Armidale District 1st Grade T20 competition resumed last Saturday.

After winning the toss here at Peter Fenwicke Oval the homeside invited the visitors to bat where they made 110 runs at a loss of six wickets off their allotted 20 overs.

Wicket takers for the hosts were Matt Jackson 2/15 off his four overs, Will Fletcher 2/19 off three overs Jay Grills 1/13 and Peter Mooney 1/14.

In reply Walcha/Uralla passed their assignment with ten legitimate deliveries up their sleeve after Daniel Boyd lead the way with a neat half century off 39 balls.

Opener Shannon Rafferty was the only other homeside batter to reach double figures when he made 29 runs off the 38 deliveries he faced.

Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade had the bye last Saturday and are drawn to play Ex Services here at home this Saturday. In a double header at Peter Fenwicke Oval our 2nd Grade team take on Easts in their 1st Grade T20 competition.

Former local players and supporters are invited to attend to cheer on both Walcha/Uralla teams.

### Walcha/Uralla v Armidale City 1st Grade

#### Armidale City UNE

O STUBBS lbw J Grills .....	16
A SKINNER st B Hoy b P Mooney .....	3
K TRIEBE c B Hoy b W Fletcher .....	3
S STUBBS b M Jackson .....	9
P GILBEY n.o .....	43
C ROFE b M Jackson .....	14
G BAKER c B Hoy b W Fletcher .....	1
F MAHER n.o .....	12
Total 110 (20 overs) Extras 9	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): M Harper 4-0-22-0, P Mooney 3-0-14-1, J Grills 2-0-13-1, W Fletcher 3-0-19-2, E Blomfield 3-0-15-0, D Boyd 1-0-10-0, M Jackson 4-0-15-2.

#### Walcha/Uralla

E BLOMFIELD b O Stubbs .....	5
S RAFFERTY c K Triebe b G Baker .....	29
D BOYD b O Stubbs .....	50
M JACKSON b I Stubbs .....	5
W ARCHDALE lbw I Stubbs .....	0
S LITTLE n.o .....	5
J GRILLS n.o .....	9
Total 111 (18.2 overs) Extras 8	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): O Stubbs 3.2-0-27-2, F Maher 2-0-12-0, K Triebe 4-0-16-0, C Wild 1-0-7-0, S Stubbs 3-0-24-0, I Stubbs 3-0-10-2, G Baker 2-0-10-1.

## At the Nineteenth

**2026:** The first stroke medal round of 2026 was played last Sunday for a trophy donated by club publicity officer A.J. Cross, where an outstanding 59 nett was registered by 20 year old Zac Warden to win the prize.

A Grade winner was another 20 year old, Nixon Bird, with a 64 nett off the back of the best scratch score on the day, a two over par 72 off the beater.

The B Grade mug was collected by 'Mollydooker' Allan Laurie after he carded a 64 nett, whereas the overall winner also took out the C Grade division.

Sweepstakes went to Melinda Bird 63 and Miles Archdale 64 (winning scores on quite a few other days), Michael Stackman 67 and Penny King 68.

The putting competition was won by Nixon Bird after he engaged his flat stick on just 20 occasions while at the other end of the scale Andrew Robertson picked up the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for must putts with 35 jabs.

Long drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus were drilled by Will Archdale (A Grade) Angus Warden (B) and Zac Warden (C) who caressed his drive the furthest in all 3 Grades. Sharpest Shooters at the Pins were John McCormack (3), Miles Archdale (9), Anne Martin (16), while no player was clever enough to reach the 18th beach. In Match Play Club President Miles Archdale rounded up Simeon Cross 8 and 7.

The opening stableford round of 2026 was played the Sunday before where left hander Allan Laurie accumulated 39 points to win a prize supplied by former Club President Barry Hoad who claimed the first sweepstakes ball with 36 pts. The remaining sweepstakes went to Vicki Heffernan and Julie Presnell both 36 pts, James Norton and Charlie McLaren both 35 pts, Wayne Brennan, Anne Martin and Melinda Bird all 34 pts. NTP on 3 to Jamie Bowden.

**2025:** The final stableford round of 2025 was played the Sunday before that for a trophy donated by Allan Laurie. It was another 'Mollydooker' Julie Hoad who racked up 45 points to sneak home from runner-up Nixon Bird on 44 pts. Nixon also robbed the Eagles Nest sponsored by Darks Plumbing of half a dozen balls after the eagled the 8th hole. Remaining Sweepstakes went to Andrew Crawford and Charlie McLaren both 40 pts, Col Berry and Wayne Brennan both 37 pts, Sue Partridge 36 pts on countback from Brian Lynch, Michael Stackman, Rose Baumer and Darren Bird. NTP on 3 went to Sue Partridge.

The Sunday before Christmas Jamie Bowden donated the trophy where club captain Willy Brennan ran out the winner after he mustered 42 stableford points. Sweepstakes went to Will Archdale, Julie Presnell and Vicki Heffernan all on 40 pts, Miles Archdale 39, Jenny Lisle and Anne Martin both 37 pts, Darren Bird and Doug McDonald both 35 pts. Sharpest shooters at the Pins were Miles Archdale (3) and Jenny Lisle (18), whereas Club Champion Lee Fletcher played the most accurate second shot on the 14th hole.

The Saturday before Christmas Vicki Heffernan scored 19 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition on 17 points. Nearest the Pin on 3 went to Brian Lynch.

The last Saturday in 2025 Pete Whellan racked up an impressive 22 points to win comfortably from runner up Anne Martin 17 points. NTP on 3 to Ophelia Heffernan.

The first Saturday in 2026 Brian Lynch got the job done with an eye catching 22 pts, whereas runner-up was Charlie McLaren on 19 pts. No NTP and no competition play last Saturday.

**This Sunday** is a 4BBB Mixed for trophies donated by John and Janie McLaren.

# Scholarship Exam & Principal's Tour

Thursday, 19 February 2026

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## Funeral Notice

### Thelma Marjory Dunn

née Hoy

6th January 2026

Of Croudace Street, Walcha

Beloved wife of Athol Dunn (dec)

Loving mother & mother-in-law of Robert & Jennifer, Suzanne (dec), Jillian & Arnold

Ham, Raymond (dec) and Brian.

Loved grandmother of Tammy, Sarah, Rebecca, Lisa, Aaron, Mitchell, Audi, Hagan and Grace.

Loved great-grandmother, sister, sister-in-law and aunty of her family.

Aged 94 years.

A graveside service to be held at the Walcha Cemetery on Thursday, 15th of January 2026 commencing at 10am.

**Piddingtons Armidale (02) 6772 2288**

## Anniversary



**Congratulations to Carol and Cecil Dunn** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on 8 January 2026. Much love from all your family.

## Holiday House

### Scotts Head

4 Bedroom house, 200m from beach.

Ocean Views

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## Public Notices

### DR GENEVIEVE FREER

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**Shoreline Oyster** will be at the Walcha Farmer's Market this Saturday.

### Rotary Christmas Stocking 2025 Competition Results

The president and members of Walcha Rotary wish to sincerely thank all those who made our 2025 competition so successful, especially those business houses and individuals who supported our annual fundraising efforts.

Congratulations to the winners and the results were:

1st prize Ros Wall, 2nd prize Beau Haines and 3rd prize Di Stackman.

The following businesses and individuals kindly donated to the competition: Apsley Advocate, Apsley Arms Hotel, Apsley Motors, Andrew Corlette, Barry & Mona Spry, Brian Smoth Transport, Cafe Graze, Cameron's Electrial, Carols' IGA, Commercial Hotel, Commonwealth Bank, Crowe Horwath, Dan & Aggie Micallef, Elder's Rural Services, Foodworks Walcha, Hoys Readymix Concrete, Jody Boyd, John Stuart Crane Hire, John Wall Enineering, Kings Pharmacy, Landmark Boultons, Linmac Engineering, Malcolm and Linda Ballard, Marhcant Bros. Hauling, Mobile Fix Air Conditioning, Mountain Motors, National Australia Bank, Adam Dark, New Beginnings Hair Salon, New Birds, New ENgland Accounting & Taxation, New England Hotel, Norm & Di Bazeley, OK Earthmoving, Oxley Explorer, Paperdolls House, Patterson Byfield, Peter Betts Transport, Peter Norbury Motors, Pitt Sons, PKF Lawlers, Ron Latham Building, Regional Australia Bank, Royal Cafe, Shearers Quartewr Barber Shop, Thunderbolts Takeaway, Tree Top Garden Services, Walcha Craft Shop, Walcha Motel, Stacks Law Firm, S & S Bayley, Walcha Carrying Company, Walcha Law, Walcha Newsagency, Walcha Post Office, Walcha Pumps & Irrigation, Walcha Smash Repairs, Walcha Type Service, Walcha Vet Supplies, W&T Spraying, Wayne Hoy Spraying. Apologies to any donors who inadvertently may have been missed out.



## WALCHA COUNCIL 2026 Street Stalls



Applications, **IN WRITING**, are invited from local organisations for the allotment of dates for **STREET STALLS, FETES, MARKETS** and the like on **FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS ONLY**, in 2026.

**By Council Policy, each organisation is limited to two (2) Street Stalls per year, to be held only in the street stall shelter, provided that where a surplus of dates is available they may be allocated at the discretion of the General Manager.**

Applications are to state specific dates and to give alternate dates where possible. However, organisations should be aware that dates are allocated in order of receipt of applications.

Organisations are also requested to provide the names and contact details of current Executives of their organisations so that a current register can be kept at the Council for quick community use.

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

## WALCHA COUNCIL

### Donations & Community Grants Applications are OPEN



Council are now calling for Applications for Donations & Community Grants for the 2025-2026 financial year. Should your community organisation, school, hall or group require a donation or grant from Council please apply using the Application form available on our website or from Council. Take note that applications must **provide** and **prove a financial need** to be considered. Applications will close on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

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

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## Thank you

**As we welcome the New Year**, Sharon King Hearing would like to sincerely thank our Walcha clients for their ongoing trust and support.

From 2026, we will no longer be attending our Walcha Clinic; however, our lovely clinicians would be delighted to continue caring for you at our Armidale or Tamworth clinics, our closest locations. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to supporting all your hearing needs in the year ahead. Call 02 6766 2100 to book your next appointment.





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## church notices



### ANGLICAN

January 18: 9.30am Walcha Service

January 25: 9.30am Walcha Service

Anglican church

Phone 6777 2543

or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am

Youth Group every Saturday 5pm - 7pm,  
during term.

All welcome.

Phone 6777 2539.

### CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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WALCHA

# BOWLING

& RECREATION CLUB

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## WHAT'S ON?

**Thursday 15** 12.00pm – Close

**BOWLS** 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

**Friday 16** 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

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**Saturday 17** 11.00am – Close

**5.00PM BISTRO**

**Sunday 18** 11.00am – Close

**12.00PM BISTRO**

**Raffle** tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

**MEMBERS DRAW**  
 CHECK WITH THE CLUB FOR LATEST \$\$\$  
 YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR 2025/2026 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Valentine's Day**

More details coming soon



### DO YOU LIVE IN WALCHA SHIRE?

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**Social Membership \$15.**  
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QUEENLEE • SHALIMAR PARK  
WAVERLEY DOWNS • WESTVALE • YALGOO

**MEAT** > ALFOXTON • ARAKOOON  
CHANDLER • HAMPSHIRE • HAREWOOD  
LINTON • MARYLAND  
OLD WOOMBI / CHAIN-O-PONDS  
WILSONS CREEK



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**FRIDAY 16  
JAN 2026**

**URALLA  
S'GROUND**

9am – 4pm **Field Day Open**  
9 – 10.30am Breakfast/Coffee Van  
12 – 1.30pm Lunch  
1pm Guest Speakers: **Scott Carmody**, AWI  
**Peter McGilchrist**, Meat Scientist  
and a speaker from **Sprout Ag**  
4pm Refreshment



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# CLEARING SALE

## A/C D & R TREVENEN 'BINOWEE' 481 Aberbaldie Rd , Walcha

SATURDAY, 17th JANUARY 2026

Starting at 10am

Terms: Eftpos, cash or approved cheque on sale day;

Numbers system to apply with ID required.

Catering: light refreshments & BBQ on site

5101E John Deere Tractor 3691 hours with FEL & bucket, John Deere utility mower, Unregistered Toyota Landcruiser 1992 model, 1 x diesel Polaris Ranger side by side 7078 klms, 1 bulker bin container, 1 x 5" slasher, 1000L Diesel fuel tank, hose reel, Pilot air compressor (petrol), Hafco heavy duty drill, weldmax mig welder, battery charger, calf pullers, grinder, timber bench, Husqvarna chainsaw, magnum 660 stihl chainsaw, stihl MS2012C chainsaw, plastic Rhino box, step ladders, polymaster 2000L tank plus honda firefighter pump, 12"1 pencil auger (electric), rotary hoe (needs work), steel bench, Qty shovels, woolpack holders, Birmingham scales, spotlight, Cigweld welder/generator MPM8/2551/HE, pressure washer, toolbox, cattle crate (2.9 x 2 metres with stands), old plough, post hole digger, 3PL Jib crane, approx. 6 Tonne cattle nuts, shed posts, Qty iron, 3PL super spreader, 2 bag feed mixer, crate 2120 x 1750, Isuzu car rims, tipping trailer 3650 x 2200 runs off tractor, crate 1670 x 1620, plastic round trough, electric bore pump plus pipe, Qty 2<sup>nd</sup> hand steel posts, cattle panels, Registered Raymond Terrance trailer 2900 x 2000, 4 x Boyd hay feeders, Qty gates, Qty hay trough feeders, Harrows & bar, dog kennels, 3PL pipe ripper, Hydraulic Log splitter (Tractor), poly pipe, Qty netting, wire spinner, silvan spray tank & hose, numerous smaller items,.

Outside entries: Lincoln Welder, 400L Diesel pod, 2 x Jib Cranes, 2 x Round hay feeders, Feeder, Carry all, Chisel Plough, Water tank, Green spray tank, 2 x super spinner, Tarp 4.9m x 6.1m, 4 x bundles corrugated iron, 6 x gates, shovels, crowbar, tanker and hoses, linkage arms, crates of nails, screws, nuts & bolts



**For further information Contact**  
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