

THE APSLEY Advocate

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21 January 2026

Join us on Australia Day

GLENBURNIE
MERINO + POLL MERINO STUD



Thursday 5 February 2026

1pm On-Property.
Inspections from 10am

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

RAM SALE

40 MERINO + POLL MERINO RAMS
INCLUDING 23 POLL DORSET RAMS



Contacts:

AWN John Croake 0428 977 589

STUD OWNER Paul Pittman 0429 260 600



MICHAEL McHUGH BA LLB (Hons)

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WALCHA
By Appointment

6768 0888
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mmchugh@lawexchange.com.au
www.lawexchange.com.au



McHattan Park, Monday 26 January 2026

- **7:30am** Breakfast in the Park \$10 per head or \$20 per family CASH ONLY.
- Music by Peter Law, Bush Poet Gordon Edmonds, Art & Craft activities for the kids, Quota raffle \$100 voucher to spend in Walcha
- **8:45am** Ceremony begins with raising of the Australian flag by Fire Brigade, address by our Australia Day Ambassador Jane Rutter, followed by presentation of Citizenship Awards.
- **Wet weather venue:** Sheep Pavilion, Walcha Showground

Get set for another bumper celebration of Australia Day at McHattan Park this Monday 26 January.

Walcha service clubs will serve the tasty breakfast treats we are so used to – bacon, eggs, sausages, damper, tea and coffee. \$10 per person, \$20 per family. CASH ONLY.

This year talented musician Peter Law will be providing the music and Gordon Edmonds will return with his bush poetry. Quota will once again be holding their raffle. Get your tickets on the day and be in the running for a \$100 voucher to spend in Walcha.

There is also a range of art and craft activities to keep the children entertained throughout the morning.

Walcha Australia Day celebrations would not be complete without an Australia Day Ambassador.

This year Walcha Australia Day Committee are thrilled to be welcoming Australian-French Flautist and Artistic Director Jane Rutter. Jane is an acclaimed concert soloist, and one of the country's best-known champions of classical and world flute music. "I am really looking forward to meeting the community and playing my flute for the crowd," she said.

Renowned for her expressive French flute style and charismatic stage presence, she has appeared as soloist with major orchestras and shared the stage

with many of the world's great performers. Jane was Knighted by the French Government (Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres).

Her philosophy is simple yet profound 'music is a universal language of reconciliation, connection and joy'. A trailblazer in classical music, Jane has pioneered innovative ways to bring fine music to broader audiences. She has released 27 best-selling albums, including several ARIA-nominated works, and was among the first Australian classical artists to break into FM pop charts. Her collaborations span genres and continents, performing alongside luminaries such as Luciano Pavarotti, The Manhattan Transfer Slava Grigoryan and others.

Deeply committed to community, Jane devotes significant time to mentorship, nurturing young musicians and emerging artists by creating performance and career opportunities. She has founded and led initiatives that support other professionals, given her time extensively to concert series such as Live at Lunch, and uses her profile to bring high-quality music-making into local communities.

Join us, bring your friends and family, for a wonderful morning celebrating the people in our community who deserve recognition for their efforts.



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

You can nearly bet your farm on it that when the Golden Gate Campdraft weekend runs in January that it will rain ... and rain it did. Falls of over 50mm were recorded around the district. It was patchy with some people north of Walcha missing out altogether, but most picked up a storm over the weekend.

The rain has brought the spray rigs back out and the talk about getting your annual crops in before the Walcha Races. The week ahead has us in for a chance of some storms and a hot weekend which will see the temperatures climb into the thirties. We are over halfway through summer now but our hottest month, February, is yet to come. Most of the district looks to be in pretty good shape considering a lot of people around the district have notched up more than 5 inches of rain thus far.

The biggest sale event on the horse racing calendar for the year was completed last week on the Gold Coast with Nutrien Boulton's very own employee Maddie Davidson bid spotting for the week. They promote responsible gambling but the prices those horses bring are phenomenal and the strength of the racing industry in Australia is truly remarkable. Top price this year was 2 million dollars for a colt and nearly 1000 horses sold for an average of \$228,407. Nutrien Classic Horse Sale is only a fortnight away with over 700 horses catalogued for the 2026 sale. The Classic Cattle Sale is also held during the week of the horse sale and if you would like to sell some cattle, please contact anyone at Nutrien Boulton's Walcha to get your cattle advertised before it is too late.

Last week I spoke about the extent of the floods up north and the impact on the northern cattle industry, but new reports this week is that cattle losses could now exceed 100,000 head. The figure will be unknown for some time due to the inability for owners to be able to muster their cattle or even check their cattle due to flood waters. The producers from those areas mentioned their cattle numbers had only just recovered from the 2019 floods which wiped out more than 100,000 cattle.

Talking to producers over the weekend and the topic of virtual fencing was floated for the beef industry. Personally, I think it's a great tool for the dairy industry, but I question its suitability for the beef industry. Initial thoughts would be a farm with virtual fencing would be worth less as fencing infrastructure adds value and equity to your land, while virtual fencing is collars and satellites. How would a valuer put a figure on virtual fencing compared to traditional fencing and would you buy a farm with limited fencing infrastructure for the same price as another with a completed set of actual fences?

Numbers have swelled leading into the Australia Day long weekend with major sale yards across the north west yarding in excess of 8000 cattle this week. Tamworth yarded 2758 head of cattle on Monday with the market firm to cheaper across most categories. Weaner steers topped at 532c/kg while the heifers made to 438c/kg, feeder steers struggled to make 500c/kg if they weighed north of 420kg, while feeder heifers topped at 450c/kg. Heavy export cattle made to 460c/kg while the best of the cows topped at 398c/kg.

6800 sheep and lambs sold in Tamworth on Monday, which was quoted as a cheaper market with the best of the store lambs nudging \$200, trade weights sold to \$287, while the heaviest of export lambs topped at \$345. XB ewes made to \$236 while wethers topped at \$238.

Reminder that there is no fat sale in Tamworth next week due to the Australia Day public holiday. Weaner sales in the south have been all but wrapped up with prices getting dearer as the sales went on. The strength by all reports was the local Victorians who really put a base in the sales and by the sounds of it, EU accredited weaners were highly sought after by restockers and feedlots. Season depending obviously, but it's a good indication where our weaner sale prices will head come Autumn and I would expect some decent weight in our Tableland calves this year.




RAM SALE

TUES 3 FEBRUARY




1.00PM – 'ASHFIELD'
OXLEY HWY, WALCHA

**40 BORDER
LEICESTER RAMS**

80 POLL DORSET RAMS

Elders

Sam and Kate Lisle
 02 6777 2605 or 0427 773 944

Elders Walcha.....02 6774 2600
James Sharpe.....0409 272 490
Scott Cooper.....0427 674 411

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Join local Firies for a fun Basketball and Safety Day

Fire and Rescue NSW Station 481 Walcha is inviting the local community to come together for a relaxed, family-friendly Community Game Day at the Walcha Skatepark Precinct this Saturday 24 January, starting from 9:30am, as part of the Australia Day long weekend.

The morning will centre around a friendly 3-on-3 basketball game, open to all ages, abilities, and experience levels. Community members are welcome to come along on their own, bring a team, or simply join in on the day. The focus is on participation, connection, and enjoyment rather than competition.

Fire and Rescue NSW 481 Walcha Deputy Captain Paul Fritsch said the event is about bringing people together in a different way and strengthening the relationships that underpin a resilient regional community.

"Australia Day is about community, connection, and looking out for one another," he said. "This is an opportunity to catch up, have a laugh, and spend time together outside of the usual day-to-day routine, before the long weekend gets underway."

Throughout the morning, the fire truck will be on display, with local firefighters available to

chat with residents, answer questions, and share practical safety information. This will include advice on home fire safety, smoke alarm maintenance, lithium-ion battery safety, and what to do in the early moments of a car crash before emergency services arrive.

Firefighters will also be available to talk about Fire and Rescue NSW's free Home Fire Safety Visits, which include smoke alarm checks and installation for eligible households.

Free refreshments will be provided, and families are encouraged to drop in at any time from 9:30am onwards, whether to play, watch, or simply enjoy the atmosphere.

For those who are curious, there will also be informal opportunities to learn more about becoming an On-Call Firefighter with Station 481 Walcha and what that role looks like in a regional community.

Fire and Rescue NSW Station 481 Walcha encourages everyone to come along, get involved, and help celebrate the strong sense of community that makes Walcha a great place to live—especially as the town heads into the Australia Day long weekend.



Join in the local Australia Day long weekend celebrations by playing basketball against our Walcha firies this Saturday at the Skate Park.



Stock and Property Watch

www.nutrienharcourts.com.au

Family home with amazing views



163W Evans Street, Walcha NSW

- 931 sqm block.
- The open-plan living and dining area, with ample natural light.
- The well-equipped kitchen boasts quality modern appliances and plenty of storage.
- 3 spacious bedrooms including a master suite

with a private ensuite and walk in robe.

- Double garage/workshop to the rear of the property and a double carport.
- Expansive backyard.
- Enjoy outdoor dining on the patio with views over town



\$600,000

3 2 4

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 (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.

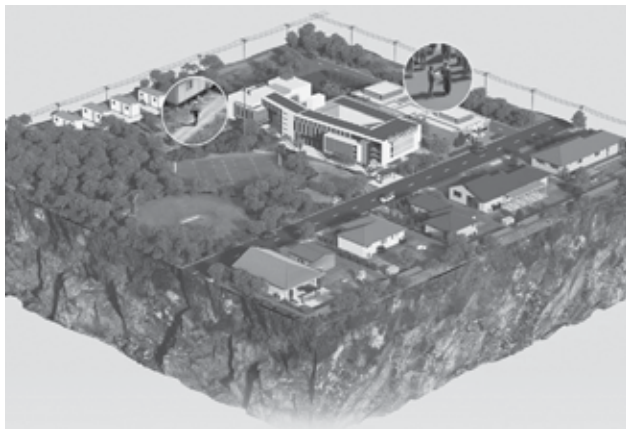
Your input will help shape our plans – now and into the future – and ensures the REZ delivers real and lasting benefits for the region.

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.



JL02863

For more information

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



letters to the editor



Great Community Care

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the 84 senior citizens and myself to thank the Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC) staff for the wonderful Christmas Party on Friday 19 December.

The service provided by the team was excellent with games, an informative talk on mental health and a great meal. I want to thank all Community Care staff – Karen, manager of Community Services; Jess who is the Co-ordinator; Meg who is Team Leader; Sue who is administrative and Belle who is training to become a Community Care Officer.

A thank you has to go to all of the volunteers of the service. These volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels, provide transport to Armidale, Tamworth and local medical appointments.

Other services that WCCC offer are group excursions, tech support, chair yoga and art. There are social groups including the Wanderers Group, morning tea and Bingo on Saturdays.

WCCC has about 250 clients to service and it is a great credit to them to manage so well. For anyone wishing to join, you would need to contact My Aged Care 1800 200 422 or better still, contact Walcha Council Community Care on 6774 2471. Thank you again WCCC.

Aidan Wall

A water wake-up call for Walcha

The EnergyCo-commissioned study into water and wastewater security for the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) should be a wake-up call for the Walcha community.

According to EnergyCo's own figures, if the New England REZ proceeds as proposed, water demand across the region will increase by 50%, from 121.1ML/day to 182.2ML/day. In Walcha, the change is far more alarming. By 2032, our daily water requirement is projected to rise from less than 0.5 - 1ML/day to 11.9ML/day — an increase of more than 1,000%, driven almost entirely by renewable energy projects.

This is staggering for a town whose new off-creek storage holds just 300ML.

EnergyCo identifies regulated surface water sources such as Glenbawn, Glennies Creek, Chaffey, Keepit, Split Rock, Copeton and Pindari dams as potential supply options. That raises an obvious question: how would this water reach Walcha?

Trucking 11.9ML of water per day into the Walcha LGA would require around 400 B-double trucks on local roads every single day. I recently followed a truck from Walcha to Bendemeer without an opportunity to overtake. Imagining hundreds more heavy vehicles daily — just to transport water — highlights the inevitable damage to roads and the serious impacts on residents, tourism, grazing and existing transport industries.

EnergyCo's report itself identifies the risks:

- insufficient water to construct or operate REZ infrastructure
- potential water restrictions and localised shortages
- increased water costs
- conflicts between communities and industries
- reduced production in water-dependent industries (eg. agriculture and manufacturing)
- disruption caused by large-scale water tankering

Water is only one of many pressures created by the proposed 8GW New England REZ. When combined with workforce accommodation, waste disposal, strain on trades and services, environmental impacts and road degradation, the cumulative and irreversible effects on our community become clear.

Walcha does not have the capacity to be the epicentre of an 8GW REZ.

I encourage residents to read EnergyCo's studies and respond to the consultation survey. Write to Minister for Energy, The Hon. Penny Sharpe, contact our state and federal representatives. Stand with Council and the community in calling for a reduced 3.5GW REZ that better reflects the realities of our region.

Rachel Greig

Walcha embroidery workshops coming soon

So much has been written about projected Wind Farms that I thought I'd have my two bobs worth to let those in favour know they are not without support. In fact, I simply don't understand how anyone with Walcha's future in mind can be against this 21st century development.

We live in a town that in the last year has lost its newsagency, bakery and electrical appliance shop. I don't know of any new houses being built. The writing is on the wall, Walcha is going the way of so many bush towns and then, like a gift from heaven an opportunity to turn things around. Let's grab it.

Sure, there will be some of us who are upset, who don't like the look of the towers but the pros far outweigh the cons.

The benefits cannot be understated, job opportunities for our youth, better roads and not to mention the company will, in perpetuity chip in \$1 million annually to the town coffers.

This thing has dragged on for about ten years. Let's just get behind it and welcome this new and exciting opportunity.

Crichton Barr

Award winning local embroiderer and teacher Yvette Stanton will offer two exciting embroidery classes in Walcha over the coming months, giving local stitchers the opportunity to learn from Australia's leading whitework expert.

On 21–22 February, Yvette will teach a beginners Hardanger embroidery class. Hardanger is a traditional Norwegian whitework technique that features white stitching on white fabric. Students will learn foundational Hardanger skills, including satin stitch, eyelets, cable stitch, four sided stitch, cutting threads, woven bars and dove's eye filling stitch. The project is worked in pearl cotton on 28 count linen. This class is designed for complete beginners, but returning Hardanger stitchers are warmly welcomed.

On 21–22 March, Yvette will teach a Frisian whitework sampler class. Frisian whitework originates from Friesland in the Netherlands and is known for its crisp, geometric beauty. Participants will learn key stitches such as regular and diagonal satin stitch, single and clustered eyelets, whipped backstitch, topwinder stitch and chain



Left: Beginners Hardanger. Right Frisian-Dutch-Heart

stitch. This project is also worked in pearl cotton on 28 count linen. All skill levels are welcome, though familiarity with counted thread techniques will be helpful.

Classes run from 9:30am to 3:30pm each day, and a supplies kit, including prepared fabric, threads and needles, is included in the cost of the class. Full venue details and a list of what to bring will be provided upon booking.

Bookings are absolutely essential for both classes and will close two weeks prior to each start date to allow time for kit preparation. For more details and to book your place, visit Yvette's website at www.vettycreations.com.au/class.html#classes or phone 6714 4708.

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On Property

RAM SALE

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

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Wednesday 28th January 2026

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Ali Baba and The Forty Bikies – a crowd favourite

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

The performance of *Ali Baba and the Forty Bikies* by St Patrick's students at the Walcha Multipurpose Centre was a huge success at the end of 2025. The evening was a memorable showcase of the exceptional talent of the students at St Patrick's Primary who demonstrated remarkable commitment by diligently working all term to perfect their lines and choreography.

The performance instantly captivated the audience, transporting them into the enchanting world of deserts, heroes, villains, glamorous hotels, treasure, and a genie! The authenticity of the show was significantly enhanced by the stunning sets and props, which were beautifully designed and created through the incredible, tireless efforts of our dedicated staff and parents.

The show was a resounding success, and it is a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of the students at St Patrick's. This show wouldn't have been an outstanding success without the many helpers the school had. I would like to thank Mrs Davey and Mrs Harrison for all their tireless work coordinating the performance, as well as all of the staff members who contributed in many ways. Also, thank you to all of our parents for organising the costumes for the students and last of all the Laurie, Goodridge and Young families for the creation of all of the props and sewing, along with those of our parents who assisted with the hair styling.



Left: Sheik Kevin and his accomplices had the audience in stitches.

Costumes and sets were outstanding thanks to the effort from many families and parents.





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**6TH ANNUAL
ON-PROPERTY RAM SALE**

40 POLL MERINO RAMS

1pm THURSDAY 5th FEB 2026

INSPECTIONS FROM 10.30am



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clovernook13@gmail.com
1049 Campfire Rd, WALCHA NSW






Tom Henry 0409 659 877
John Newsome 0428 669 498
James Sharpe 0409 272 490



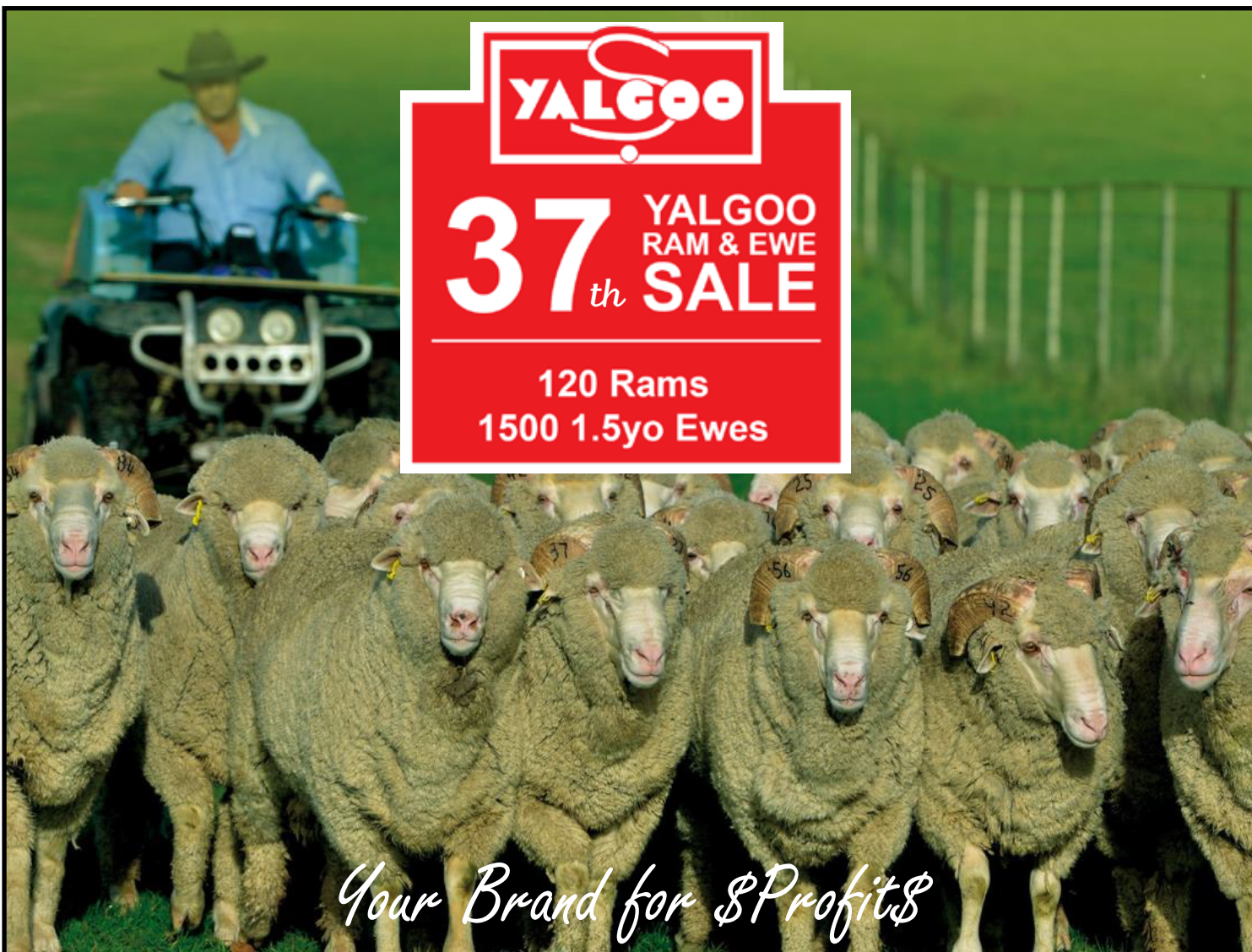
Even the strongest
sometimes need
a hand



We all have ups and downs, and you don't have to wait until things feel too hard to reach out. Sometimes, the first step can be as simple as checking in – with yourself or someone you care about.



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



**37th YALGOO
RAM & EWE
SALE**

**120 Rams
1500 1.5yo Ewes**

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Saturday 31 January 2026

ALL BASES COVERED!

***Congratulations to our
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Wool

Scrubby Gully - \$550/kg

Ashby - \$330/kg

Meat

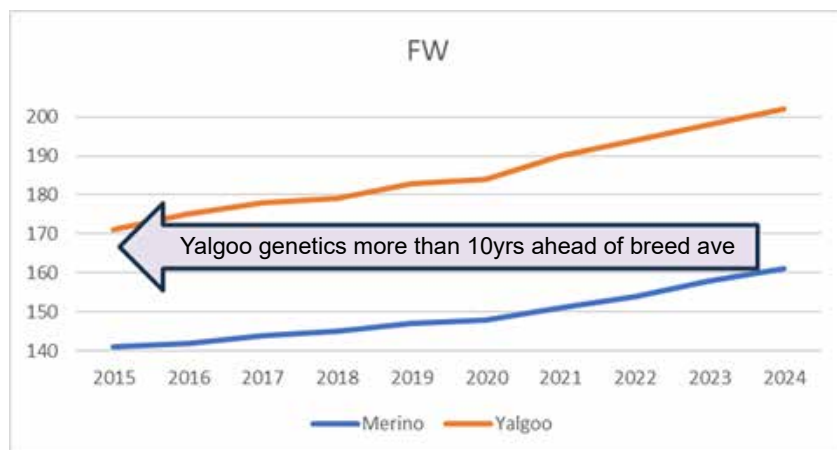
Blaxland - \$301/hd ave (merino lambs)

Profit

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**Tom Henry 0409 659 877
Nick Hall 0436 449 033**



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Walcha
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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 Office6774 2600
James Sharpe0409 272 490
Tom Henry0409 659 877



Betts Transport Mile Foot Race is on again

The Betts Transport Mile foot race will once again be contested at this year's Walcha Race Carnival on Saturday 7 February. With only a few weeks left to train, runners can enter the race at no cost by calling Lance Partridge on 0491 389 529.

The race is open to all local runners turning 15 years of age and older this year. The men's event is run over 1600 metres and the ladies 1500 metres. The foot race will start straight after the second horse race on Saturday.

Great prize money is again on offer thanks to Betts Transport.



Advocate long weekend deadline

A reminder to all advertisers and those requiring editorial in next week's Apsley Advocate, 28 January issue, that due to the Australia Day long weekend the following deadlines will apply:

Editorial	Friday 23 January
Display advertising requiring set-up	Friday 23 January
Classifieds	Friday 23 January
Supplied advertising (PDF).....	9.30am Tuesday 27 January
Sport	9.30am Tuesday 27 January

The Walcha Telecottage will close at 4.30pm Friday 23 and reopen at 9.00am Tuesday 27 January.



thumbs



- 👉 To Arokiya at Cafe Graze for her helpfulness and pleasant manner.
- 👉 To the new Ringers Challenge at the Campdraft on the weekend. Very entertaining.
- 👉 To Katie Cummins at Vet Supplies.
- 👉 To the Council for the beautiful display of flowers in the park next to the Royal Cafe. Stunning!

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.



Sad to hear a couple of our elderly citizens have left this world during recent times – Thelma Dunn 94 years and Alex Smith 95 years. Thelma was farewelled last Thursday with a graveside service, whereas Alex's service is being held at the Walcha Showground this Friday 23 January from 10.00am where guest are invited to wear red or white colours of his beloved Dragons. Condolences to family members and friends of both. May Thelma Marjory Dunn (nee Hoy) and John Alexander Smith Rest in Peace.

...

Australia Day is always just that bit more special to our family as it was on that day 40 years ago that mum Colleen left this world, sadly before she got to meet any of her grandkids. May Colleen Cross (nee Keightley) continue to Rest in Peace.

...

Last Weekend Gary Natty and myself attended a 'Footy Head' Reunion conducted by former Country Rugby League hooker Brian Love at his seaside residence in Warilla. Moderation was the Key over the four days (well most of the time anyway) and it is pleasing to report no foam esky was demolished during that time.

...

It was great to catch up with the 'Lovemeister' and his mate Dave Robson who we were on the Kangaroo Supporters Tour with us late last year. Also in attendance in Warilla last weekend were Tommy 'Buddha' and 'Jockey' who we spent a lot of time sitting around telling footy yarns while sampling a few cool beverages.

...

Before we left Gary pulled into the Walcha Tyre Service to fill his vehicle up with juice before heading south. After pulling in next to the bowsters 'Riley' suddenly jumped back into the drivers seat before pumping any fuel out, then proceeded to drive around the other side of the bowsters. Not the first time someone has pulled up on the wrong side ... I've even done it myself from time to time and I'm sure it won't be the last Gary.

...

The Walcha/Urala Cricket Club hosted a double header T20 at Peter Fenwicke Oval last Saturday where they had a 50% success rate. The host won their Armidale District 1st Grade match while 3rd Grade were defeated.

...

In the 1st grade game Easts were dismissed for 76 runs off their 16.2 overs, where all five home-side bowlers were successful Will Hall 2/8, David Ford 2/10, Matt Harper 2/17, Jay Grills 2/23 and Grant Youll 1/15. In reply the locals passed their assignment in 13.4 overs thanks to mainly to a 70 run second wicket partnership between Daniel Boyd 43 runs and opener Shannon Rafferty 31 runs.

...

In 3rd Grade Walcha/Urala were traveling along reasonably well at 1 for 60 before they lost 9 for 28 to be dismissed for 88. Opener Brian Mullen top scored with 26, whereas Veteran David Morley 16, Nathan Laurie 11 and opener Matt Tasik 10 were the only other batsmen to reach double figures. In reply the visitors got the job done in 14.1 overs losing three wickets along the way which were taken by opener Ben Ussher, Matt Tasik and Bob Jex.

...

This Saturday Walcha/Urala play Hillgrove at Lambert Park in 1st Grade to determine if they will qualify for the T20 Grand Final at the Armidale Sportsground on Australia Day. In 3rd Grade Walcha/Urala host Hillgrove at Peter Fenwicke on Saturday, but unfortunately they can't make the Grand Final next Monday.

Holiday program in full swing

With the school holidays slowly winding down, Walcha Council's Summer Library and Youth Holiday Program has once again been popular with local youth.

Yesterday saw another great event well attended, Lego @ the Library, which now leaves only four activities remaining on their calendar. These include a Golf Clinic (22 Jan), Athletics Clinic (23 Jan), OTR Basketball Clinic (28 Jan) and the 3-on-3 Basketball Comp (new date 28 Jan).

For more details please see Council's advertisement on this page for how to book or nominate your team. Don't delay, as spaces are limited in most activities.





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
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



Tennis

2025: Round 9 The final round of the 2025 Spring Comp was played out on Tuesday 16 December. Barty: Todd Whillock, Craig Ireland, Trevor Gibson and Jake Wellings had a comprehensive win against Goolagong: Edward Blomfield, Adam Barillaro, Michael Luchich and Judy Eckford (floating for Wyatt Hayton) 36 to 15 to take out the Championship. Well done to all players. Thanks to everyone involved at the Club we had a great year. Photo below left to right: 2025 Spring Comp Champions Craig Ireland, Trevor Gibson, Jake Wellings and Todd Whillock (C).



Ladies Bowls

Due to wet weather no bowls were played last Thursday. The Minor Singles competition commences Thursday 12 February. Nomination sheet is on the board. A notice is also on the board for the Open Triples Carnival being played on Thursday 5 February. Bowls will be played tomorrow, 9.00am for a 9.30am start.

Bowls

Neighbours Steve Goodwin and Greg Carter played in the A Grade Singles Semi Final last Friday. It was an entertaining game with Normie coming out on top 31 to 24. Well done to both players. Norm will now play Barry Kliendienst in the Final on a date to be fixed. Nine bowlers had a good social game on Thursday with Barry's team winning the chooks. It will be on again next Thursday 12.30pm for 1pm start. New players welcome. Twilight Bowls on again this Friday 5.30pm. Pennant trials are on this Saturday 1pm start. All intending players are asked to attend. It is only a month until pennants start. The Open Triples Carnival is on Thursday 5 February. Place your team on the sheet provided

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla v East 1st Grade

N MILLER c W Hall b D Ford.....	6
M NORTHAM c? b M Harper.....	0
J DAVIES c E Blomfield b G Youll	31
J MILLER c G Youll b M Harper.....	0
B SWILKS c W Hall b D Ford	7
C FOSTER b J Grills.....	10
P BREALEY b J Grills	2
B MORAN c E Blomfield b W Hall.....	2
L TAYLOR c&b W Hall.....	4
T MITCHELL n.o.....	2
C MORAN r.o E Blomfield, B Hoy	6
Total 76 (16.2 overs) Extras 6	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): M Harper 3-0-17-2, D Ford 3-0-10-2, W Hall 3-2-0-8-2, J Grills 4-0-23-2, G Youll 3-0-15-1.

Walcha/Uralla

J GRILLS b B Swilks	1
S RAFFERTY n.o.....	31
D BOYD c J Davies b L Taylor.....	43
B DWYER n.o.....	1
Total 77 (13.4 overs) Extras 1	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): B Swilks 7-0-12-1, B Moran 3-0-20-0, J Davies 4-0-22-0, L Taylor 3-4-0-23-1.

Walcha/Uralla v Ex-Services 3rd Grade

B MULLEN c K Smith b D Matthews.....	26
M TASIK st C McIntyre b G Kennedy	10
D MORELY b W Roberts	16
N LAURIE b K Weerasinghe	11
G BROWN c? b K Weerasinghe	0
H USSHER c K Weerasinghe b D Matthews.....	3
M FOSTER c? b D Matthews	0
B JEX b B Smith	2
O Morley b Smith	0
H WILLIAMS r.o W Roberts	3
B USSHER n.o.....	4
Total 88 (19.3 overs) Extras 13	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): G Kennedy 3-3-0-18-1, D Emery 3-0-21-0, B Smith 4-0-17-2, W Roberts 4-0-14-1, K Weerasinghe 2-1-6-2, D Matthews 3-1-11-3.

Ex-Services

U BAJRACHARYA n.o.....	44
W ROBERTS c? b M Tasik.....	19
K SMITH c&b B Ussher.....	9
L MEATHERINGHAM b B Jex.....	1
B SMITH n.o.....	0
Total 89 (14.1 overs) Extras 16	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): B Ussher 4-0-23-1, N Laurie 3-0-22-0, M Tasik 3-0-24-1, D Morley 3-0-16-0, B Jex 1-0-1-1, O Morley 0-0-3-0.

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At the Nineteenth

A 4BBB mixed event was played last Sunday for trophies donated by John and Janie McLaren where ladies club champion Simone Sweeney teamed up with her husband David to accumulate 44 stableford points for the win. Runners up were Miles Archdale and Margart Davidson 43, Lee and Ruth Fletcher 42, Allan Laurie and Jenny Lisle 40.

A mens competition was played in conjunction where Angus and Zac Warden racked up 45 points to collect the prizes, a couple of points ahead of runners up Will Nicholls and James Norton on 43. Sharpest shooter at the 3rd pin was 'Mollydooker' Allan Laurie, whereas no player was clever enough to reach the beach on 16.

Last Saturday Jenny Lisle carded 15 points to win the weekly 9 hole competition, runner up was Pauline Carter on countback from Brian Lynch both on 13 points. N.T.P on 3 to Pauline Carter.

This Sunday is a multiplier Draw for Partners where Wayne Brennan and Mal Ballard are in charge of supplying the prizes.

classifieds



Funeral Notice

Smith: John Alexander

'Alex'

22/03/1930 - 13/01/2026

Of Hill Street, Walcha.

Dearly loved husband of Betty.

Loving father and father-in-law of Paul & Sandy, Ruth & Shane and Maree & Chris.

Much loved pop & big pop of their families. Loving brother-in-law and uncle of his family.

Aged 95 years

Funeral Service to be held at the Walcha Showground on Friday, 23rd January 2026 commencing at 10am.

Guests are invited to honour Alex's memory by wearing a touch of red or white.

Piddingtons Armidale (02) 6772 2288

In Memoriam

Robert Edward Crisp



24.1.2021

The days are long without you.
Rest peacefully.

Happy Birthday



Happy 90th Birthday Les, hope you have a great day. Best wishes and love from all your family.



Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 | 0429 668 583

KG's Car Detailing – Offering car detailing inside and out on weekends and every 2nd Friday. And special dates available 21st and 22nd of January. To arrange a booking contact Kyle 0419 469 405 or via his Facebook page KG'S Car Detailing.

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.
No charge for JP services.

Barber Shop closed this Friday 23 and Saturday 24 January.

WALCHA COUNCIL

Closure of Walsh Street – 26 January 2026 Australia Day



Walsh Street, adjacent to McHattan Park, will be closed from 6:30am until 12:30pm on Monday 26 January 2026 due to Australia Day festivities.

Please contact Council should you have any enquiries.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

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

Public Notice (cont)

Preschool Orientation Day



All families who have children enrolled at Walcha Preschool for 2026 (or are thinking about it) are invited to attend the orientation day on Saturday 31 January 2026 from 10am-12pm at the Preschool.

This day is to introduce your child to the preschool environment, and to give them an opportunity to explore and settle in with you there. Many of the preschool staff will be there so come along and meet our educators and have a look around at our preschool. This is also a great opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Enrolments are now open and can be completed online by going to: <https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/community/children-young-people/walcha-preschool/>

Children need to be three to attend preschool. Enrolments will be taken and places held for children turning three before 31 July 2026. Children turning three after this date will be able to attend if vacancies exist, but places will not be held for them.

Council will be answering any questions you may have, and providing information about fees, subsidies, bus days, extended hours and the preschool program that is based on the Early Years Learning Framework.

For enquiries please call Alice on 02 6777 2117 or Walcha Council on 02 6774 2500.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

Walcha Home Furnishing

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Position Vacant

Casual after school and school holiday work available in Walcha local office. Looking for a friendly, patient, reliable, honest student able to learn communication, telephone, filing, computer, first aid and willing to follow instructions.

Please forward your resume to opole@bigpond.com or post to

The Manager, 63W Hill Street, Walcha.
or Call (02) 6777 2068.

For Sale

Layer pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks. Delivered Friday 13/02/2026, Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Meeting Notices

Walcha Support Group Inc. Thursday 29th January at 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle Street. Relaxation 12.30pm, Lunch (BYO), Meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)

Notice of Resumed Annual General Member Meeting

07.02.2026 | 10am | 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 via email to chair@amaroolalc.com.au during business hours.

AUTHORISED: Katrina Bloomfield,
Chairperson – Amaroo LALC

WALCHA COUNCIL Council Meeting Dates 2026



Residents are advised that, for the current year, Meetings of the Walcha Council will be held in the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha on the following dates:

25 February	26 August
25 March	30 September
29 April	28 October
27 May	25 November
24 June	9 December
29 July	

The Meetings commence at 3:00pm and members of the community are welcome to attend. Enquiries to the General Manager on 6774 2500.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

Engagements

Jodi and Garry would like to congratulate Amie and Ben on their engagement. Wishing you both a lifetime of love and happiness.



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treetopservices@bigpond.com



church notices

ANGLICAN
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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Thursday 22 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 23 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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5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 25 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

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 YOU MUST BE A MEMBER
 FOR 2025/2026 TO BE
 ELIGIBLE TO WIN

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine's Day

More details coming soon



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