

THE APSLEY Advocate

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4 February 2026



Valentine's Day sorted with a little help from your Walcha Post Office

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We also have a lovely range of cards for an extra sweet touch, Darrell Lea chocolates are available too.

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MICHAEL McHUGH BA LLB (Hons)

Acc. Specialist - Property Law
Australian Legal Practitioner

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Get ready for the Races!



The running of the 141st Walcha Cup will take place this Friday with the course looking sensational despite the dry weather, with Bill Fletcher and Brian Hoad keeping the track watered around the clock.

Saturday will be free entry to the course for kids to enjoy the Kids Day with Fashions in the Field, jumping castle, face painting and balloon artist. The Club is extremely grateful to Charlotte Lyon and Jess Williams for their effort in making this possible, as well as the sponsorship from Walcha Carrying Co. An added bonus on Saturday is the gate prize for adults with \$500, \$250 and \$100 prizes. All adults paying the \$10 entry fee go into the draw for these great prizes.

Lance Partridge has been busy organising foot races for adults (15 years +) to add to the entertainment on Saturday. The adults will go under the starter's gun after the second race with one mile to the finish line! This race has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of Betts Transport.

The Jockey Club will have undercover marquee seating available in the Members' Area on Friday, with everyone able to purchase tickets online or at the gate at a cost of \$30.

Thunderbolts Catering have kindly organised grazing boxes which are available to secure for \$65 (caters for two). These can be pre-ordered online until Thursday morning at walcharaces.com and will be available for collection on Friday at the Bar.

Fashions in the Field will again take place on Friday with prizes on offer for Best Dressed Lady, Gent and Couple. Racegoers will be able to nominate themselves by attending the fashion parade on the Hill. Gents and couples will be judged following Race 4 and Ladies after Race 5.

The bar will operate a little differently this year, with no transactions taking place at the bar. Drink tickets can be purchased near the Rotary canteen by cash or EFTPOS. You then present these tickets to the Lions members at the bar to receive your drinks. Rotary will again operate the canteen with a BBQ, sandwiches and other culinary delights.

Walcha Races have been a favourite event on the town's calendar for many years and the Jockey Club are looking forward to support from the community for one of the biggest weekends in town. All entry tickets are available at the gate, or if you would like to save time, online at walcharaces.com

Friday and Saturday race books will be available on Thursday at the Walcha Telecottage, New England Hotel or Bowring Club Calcutta, or at the races for \$6.

Buses will run to and from the course both days from 12.00pm until 7.00pm, so there's no excuse not to get out to the racecourse and enjoy the fun of the Walcha Races.



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at WVS
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by Friday
6 February

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Well, that was the hottest week we have put in for a long time and hopefully it does not return. How bizarre to see the car temperature hitting just 10 degrees south of Walcha on Monday afternoon after experiencing 40 plus degrees in Tamworth on the weekend. Those of you that were lucky enough had a storm track through the district on Sunday evening dropping from 15–30mm. Hopefully this is the start of a decent change which continues to bounce around over the next fortnight on the forecast. Something must be coming as the tractors are burning diesel and the planters are in full swing, as the locals say, get your crops in around Walcha race weekend as it's another event that will bring the rain to our district.

The RBA will have met and decided on interest rates by the time you read this article, and all the professionals are suggesting that we will see a rate rise due to further inflation. We have just come out of the biggest spending spree we have on the calendar, kindly helped by the big man in the red suit, and now the people of Australia stare down the barrel of a rate rise, the first in two years. The Labor government told us they had inflation under control and yet they continue to spend and hand out cost of living relief. Well, I guess they were wrong. It would also be nice if the Liberal and the National Party could get their act together and be the opposition that Australia voted it to be. The Labor Party is opposed by a fragmented party who are not performing as they continue to fight amongst themselves. No wonder Barnaby left and the One Nation Party is gaining momentum.

The heatwave that NSW, Victoria and SA experienced last week really put the blow torch to our markets with sales either cancelled, especially sheep, slaughter grids sliding and waiting times for slaughter space extended. Numbers did back off a bit due to the heat but expect those numbers to come flooding in over the next few weeks if a decent change doesn't present itself. Feedlots are now booked out into March, with feedlots applying pressure to feeder prices and the majority a 'no quote' scenario. Steers to feed are scratching to make 500c/kg for Angus with XB only 10c/kg behind them. Heifers to feed are nudging 450c/kg and price pressure really being applied in the saleyards with the best of the feeder heifers back to 420c/kg. Talking to feedlotters over the past week, they all have the same opinion of where they will get their feeders come winter. Victorian producers are already lacking weight with local bullock fatteners and feedlots consuming what is available, so not many trucks are coming north. Just like last year I can see feeders and kill cattle heading south from autumn onwards. Honestly, if we are still getting 500c/kg for feeder steers and our replacement weaners are close to parity with the feedlot rates, then it's good business with my maths, and that's without an upside in our market for 2026. Talking with feedlots and processors regarding the Chinese quota tariff and they all mentioned the same thing: that it is near impossible to get all the processors to work together and utilise a self-imposed quota management system. They tell me they just can't trust one another to regulate the space. Another side of the coin is that there is no doubt the local Chinese consumer will be paying more for their beef on the supermarket shelf. It's one thing to protect the local farmers but it's a fine line to make sure the product is affordable for the consumer.

3,349 head of cattle were yarded in Tamworth on Monday with a market that looked dearer on the restockers and cheaper on the feeders and slaughter cattle. Best of the restocking steers made 539c/kg for 298kg of Angus steer, heifer portion topped at 447c/kg, feeder steers made to 488c/kg while the feeder heifers topped at 453c/kg. Heavy cows made to 385c/kg and knocked on the door of \$3,000 while the bulls were the highlight, a 1,210kg bull selling to 395c/kg, a whopping \$4,770. 7,818 sheep and lambs sold to a solid market in Tamworth with sucker lambs topping at \$327, best of the heavy lamb made \$364. Mutton market gained momentum and sold to \$10 per head dearer with XB ewes topping at \$272, wethers to \$350 and Dorpers to \$350.

Yarn Bombing this Winter

Walcha is set to add a burst of colour and creativity to its winter streetscape, with plans underway for a community yarn bombing project at McHattan Park as part of this year's Winter in Walcha celebrations.

The project builds on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from a school holiday yarn-based activity run in conjunction with Walcha Library and the Walcha Business Group, which saw strong participation from children, families and local creatives. The enthusiasm and joy generated by that project inspired the idea to take yarn bombing into the wider community.

International Yarn Bombing Day falls on 11 June, and Walcha will mark the occasion by wrapping trees with vibrant knitted and crocheted creations. Decorations are planned to begin on Sunday 7 June, leading into the Winter in Walcha event period.

Yarn bombing is a form of temporary public art that uses handmade textiles to transform everyday spaces. Organisers say the project is about creativity, connection and fun.

The call is out for knitters, crocheters and anyone keen to help with hanging, connecting and decorating during the Winter in Walcha event days. Whether contributors make a single square, a full wrap, or simply lend a hand installing pieces, all involvement is welcome.

An information morning tea will be held on Saturday 7 February at 10am at 9W Hill Street, Walcha, for anyone interested.

"This is about capturing that wonderful community energy we saw last winter and turning it into something colourful and joyful for everyone to enjoy," organisers said.

For more information contact Anne Young 0477 458 772 or Lyn O'Connell 0402 444 794.



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• Set on a generous land area of 893 sqm, the outdoor space offers plenty of room for children to play and gardening.

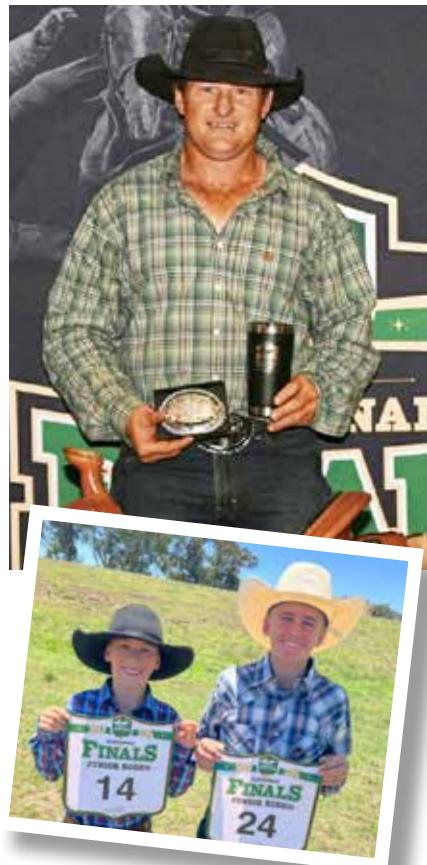
Walcha locals win ABCRA Australian titles

Walcha locals enjoyed great success at the ABCRA National Rodeo Finals at AELEC in Tamworth.

Gerard 'Westy' Oversby won All Round Cowboy with 212.8 points, having qualified to compete in the National Finals in both the bareback and saddle-bronc events, while also having competed in steer wrestling and bull riding events throughout the year. Gerard placed 1st in Open Bareback, 11th in Open Saddle Bronc, 28th in the Open Bull Ride and Open Steer Ride.

Benji and Lachie Provost both qualified for their respective age Junior Mini Bull Ride and Steer Ride events and placed well.

Benji was declared Reserve Australian Champion in the Junior Mini Bull Ride 8-U11 on 66 points, as well as placing 5th in the 8-U11 Steer Ride, while Lachie claimed bronze in the Mini Bull Ride 11-U14 and 5th place in his 11-U14 Steer Ride. Lachie also had the highest score for the week across both disciplines having won two rounds at the finals across both events.



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letters to the editor



Response to letter

I know I have written on this subject several times before but letters in recent Advocates prompted me to make further comment.

I fully support Crichton Barr's letter. It upsets me that a small group can call itself "Voice for Walcha" when there are many who disagree with their thinking calling them "Voice against Walcha" and who just want to get on with what is inevitable. If we wish to continue the standard of living we all enjoy we need to have electrical energy and it has to be generated somewhere. I was interested to come across an article recently about the establishment of the railways in Britain and how the wealthy landowners fought against having rail lines going through or near their land. Seems progress has always had to fight against negativity.

But it was Rachel Greig's letter that really upset me. How could anyone believe figures created by city based "experts" and then suggest Walcha's water requirements would jump by 1000%. Is our population going to increase by 1000%? Are we going to attract massive water consuming industry? It is my understanding that there is sufficient underground water in the Winterbourne area to make the concrete needed for the towers and there will be no need to use Walcha's town water. Once the towers are built no more will be needed. Then to suggest water would be tankered in from distant sources, especially in the quantities suggested, is financially and logically impossible. It is only ever done during extreme drought or emergency situations.

Walcha is a wonderful community and we need to work together for its future.

Don Murchie OAM

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.

Citizen of the Year thank you

Thank you very much for the honour of being named Walcha Citizen of the Year.

Thank you to the Australia Day Committee and all the service clubs and individuals who make Walcha's Breakfast in the Park such a great event every year. Special thanks also goes to the lovely people that nominated me for this award. Thank you also to everyone who has congratulated me either by ringing, messaging or in person, it is very special and means a lot to me.

Thanks must go to Barry for his patience as I race out the door to a meeting, or when I am stressing over something I'm involved with.

I am passionate about the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea, I would love nothing more than to see a world without cancer.

It is through my involvement with Walcha Clubs such as Basketball (40 yrs), Tennis (20 yrs), Walcha Rugby Union, Walcha Pony Club, Walcha Garden Club and the Walcha Show that I have met so many fantastic people (both young and old). I really enjoy getting to know them all.

I love Walcha it is an amazing little town that offers so much. We are extremely lucky to have everything that we do have in a town this size.

Walcha has hundreds of volunteers doing countless hours of work quietly behind the scenes. Without them we would have less services and so much less to do and enjoy.

As a wise person said to me the other day "we don't do it for the accolades, we do it for our community" but having said that, all Walcha's volunteers deserve a huge thank you for everything they do.

I am so happy to be a part of such a wonderful, kind and caring community. I think it's the same wherever you live "the more you put in, the more you get in return."

Jenny Hoy

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Great Location



- Spacious living.
- Generous size
- bedrooms all with built in robes and ensuite to main bedroom.
- Main bedroom has great views to the north.
- Lovely kitchen with

- dishwasher and many cupboards.
- Free standing wood fire, covers all living area.
- Downstairs you enjoy formal office, workshop, and very spacious storage area.



Great Location - Very Comfortable

- Three bedrooms
- Lovely lounge room with wood fire
- Kitchen with new stove
- Bathroom with shower and tub
- Closed in front verandah
- Large open verandah on western side with excellent BBQ area
- Single car garage attached to house
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- Air con and wall heaters
- Solar panels
- This home has it all and is worth inspecting

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Water supply

Water is our most precious resource and we cannot live without it. I have always been concerned about our water supply and reliability. When I was a child we had to rely on tanks and it was great when we got our town water supply.

There have been many problems with this over the years. In fact we even had Level 5 water restrictions at one stage. However it is good that our Council has recently spent a lot of money to make it more reliable.

So I do want to thank Rachel Greig for informing us about the capacity of our water supply to cope with the future.

We are blessed to live in Walcha, our special little country town.

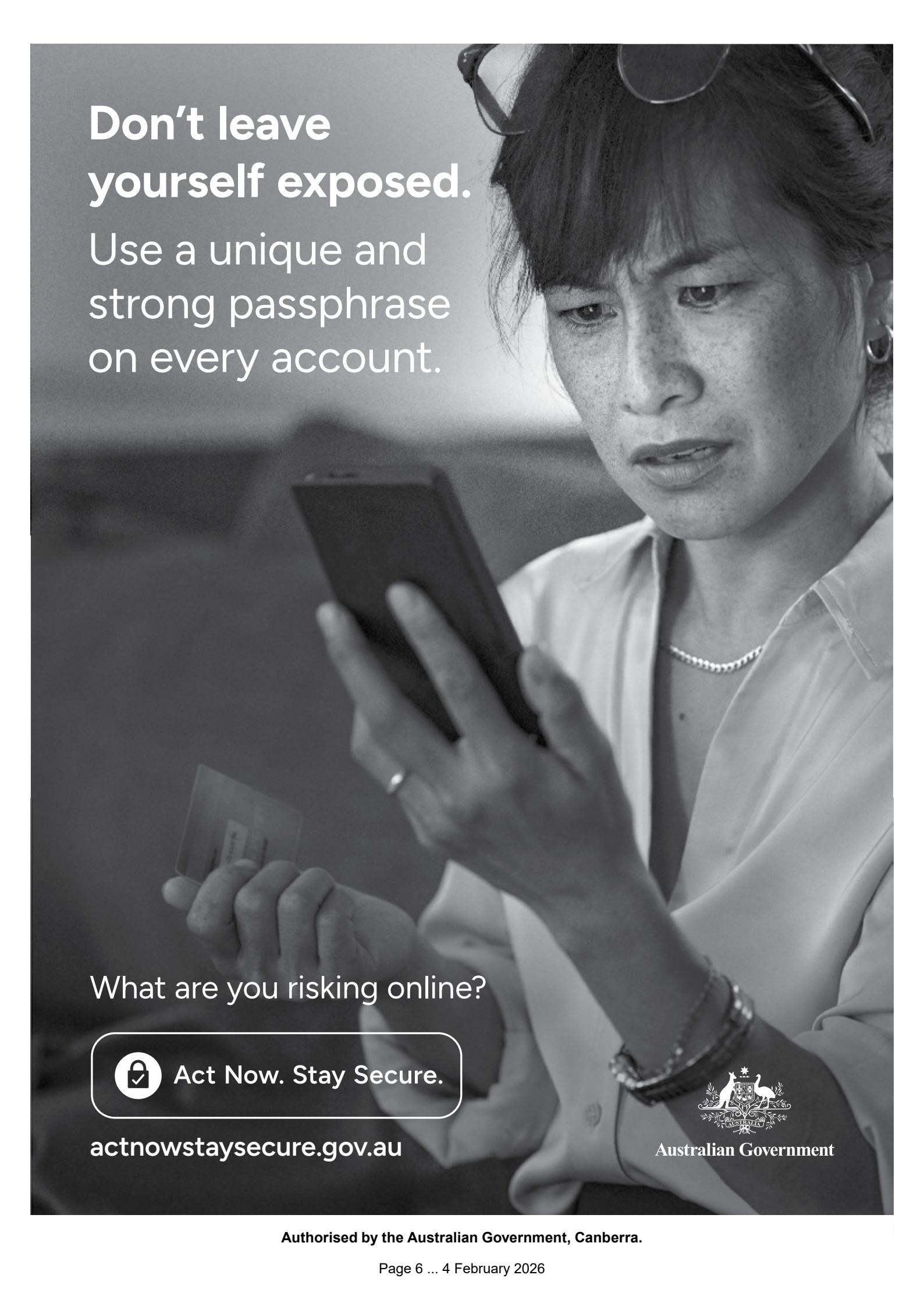
Coll King

thumbs



- To Andrew Corlette for helping out on a hot summer afternoon.
- To Lucy at Walcha Council for the respectful and efficient way she dealt with my concerns on Tuesday.
- To Gary Olrich's ode to Australia Day.
- To the people who don't look and speed through the pedestrian crossings making it unsafe for people to cross.
- To the state of the garden at the entrance of the hospital. Badly needs work.

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



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Australian Government

WGoA OAM + Exhibition

Come along to the Walcha Gallery of Art this Saturday 7 February at 5.00pm, where we will be celebrating Stephen King's OAM. Stephen who received his Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for his service to the visual arts, also has mentored many young local, national and international artists.

Along with Stephen, the gallery's first exhibition of the year will open, featuring local, young, up and coming artist Jemma Warden exhibiting a series of beautiful prints on paper. Incorporating the native flora and fauna of Walcha, Jemma's pieces feature ghosted trees in soft, calming tones and depict our rich and flourishing landscape. Her process included exploring printmaking and the process of layering and ink variation, shifting between etching and lino inks and the result is stunning.



Artworks by
Jemma Warden



Walcha Movie Club

How about **FREE** movies with free ice creams, chips and lollies!

It's true! The Walcha Movie Club (aka The Walcha Film Society) has undergone some changes and we want to spread the good news.

The venue is the Sports Club in Hamilton Street where screenings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. You do NOT need to be a member of the Sports Club, everyone is welcome, and there's no charge to attend, however, we do welcome donations to cover overheads.

Expect to see absolute classics and contemporary movies, through to foreign language with subtitles. Most multi award winners, some controversial, some riotously funny, and some will challenge your values. We all love a feelgood movie and suggestions are welcome – some of our most well received movies have been audience suggestions.

The weekend before each screening members and those who have supplied their contact details will receive an email with information on the upcoming film – reviews, plot synopsis, critics ratings, running time etc.

Often, before the film rolls, one of the organisers or an audience member will say a few words of introduction, and after each movie the audience is encouraged to offer their comments.

Doors open at 7pm with the movie commencing at 7.30pm. Collect your free ice creams, chips, and lollies from the bar, along with low cost drinks. There's heating in winter and air-con in summer, a good sound system, brand-new Blu-ray DVD player, armchair style or straight-backed seating. When incorporated in the DVD English subtitles can be activated.

The next screening on Wednesday 11 February will be a laugh-out-loud comedy *Hail Caesar* from the pen and under the direction of the Coen brothers, Joel and Ethan.

Enquiries to Andrew 0412 667 789.



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Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Australia Day honors

Firstly, congratulations to artist Stephen King who received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his dedication to visual arts. Stephen's commitment to art is incredible and he has been instrumental in promoting art in the Northern Tablelands.

It was also great to see communities come together on Australia Day and recognise some standout achievers over the last year. Congratulations and thank you to award winners Jenny Hoy, Logan Stace, Kix Brown, Mitch Scrivener, and the Walcha 2025 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour Committee who received their honours at the Walcha Australia Day celebrations.

Australia Day is a day that we should all come together and be grateful that we call this great country home.

Walcha Races

The 141st running of the Walcha Cup is on this Friday with the family day on Saturday. It is one of the biggest days on the local calendar and I encourage everyone to get along to either day. It is set to be huge with 108 nominations across eight races on Friday and 51 for the five races on Saturday.

Funding for Walcha Road War Memorial

Our War Memorials play an incredibly important role in our regional communities. I was very pleased to recently help secure a \$13,000 grant from the Community Building Partnership program to rebuild the steps to the Walcha Road Memorial to help visitors navigate the steep incline. The current steps are falling apart and there's no handrail for safety. This will be a huge benefit to the whole community all year round as well as those who attend the annual Walcha Road Anzac Day service.

Community Building Partnership applications

Applications for the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program are anticipated to open soon. Now is the time for not-for-profit organisations to start pulling together their applications for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes while also promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

To sign up for alerts about the next round of CBP funding, please contact my Armidale office or visit nsw.gov.au/cbp. The previous round of the Community Building Partnership program saw Walcha Little Athletics, the Walcha Show Society, Walcha Council and the Yarrowitch Public Hall and Recreation Reserve all secure funding to upgrade facilities and equipment.

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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Business & Farm Acquisition or Sale – For now and the Nextgen



You are invited

Join us as we discuss the art and science of business & farmland acquisitions, sale, succession & transition and the vital role mental health plays in these challenges. A panel of industry professionals will share their insights followed by a Q&A session.

Panel & in conjunction with:

- **Stuart Austin (Audacious Agriculture – Director)**
- **Brian Wall (Next Transition Group – Director NENW)**
- **Nick Turnbull (LAWD – Valuation)**
- **Col Medway (LAWD – National Director Real Estate)**
- **Peter Steele (NAB – Senior Business Banking Executive)**

Please RSVP below to join in the conversation.

Date: Wednesday 11th February 2026
Time: 4:30pm for a 5:00pm start.
Venue: Walcha Golf Club – 238 Oxley Hwy, Walcha NSW 2354
RSVP by: 4th February by [scanning the QR Code to register](#) and noting any dietary requirements.



The annual Walcha Central School swimming carnival won't be held at our local pool for the first time since it opened in October 1970 due to extensive renovations ongoing. Instead has been transferred to the Monckton Aquatic Centre in Armidale tomorrow (Thursday). Competent Swimmers over 50 metres have been invited to attend and there will be a bus running for the carnival. Best of luck to all those students competing.

...

There was a good roll up for the Line Dancing at the Bowling Club last Sunday afternoon, with plenty of visitors turning up to tap their toes. Sadly I had to pull out after sustaining a badly chipped toenail the previous day, but 1983 Group 19 Reserve Grade Best and Fairest player and Roos hooker Tony Martin certainly put on a 'Best on Floor' performance.

...

Still at BC, lawn bowler John McCormack wasn't going thirsty last Thursday at the weekly Social Bowls as on at least a couple of occasions barmaid (politically incorrect I know) Jo Wicks had poured 'Macca' a schooner of Tooheys Old despite having barely taken the froth of the one he had. Only Jo would know what she was thinking, but at least I was in a position to take the second one off her hands.

...

The Northern Tigers Rugby League Under 18s, where local Preston Latham played lock, kicked off their 2026 Laurie Daley Cup campaign with a tight 26 – 24 win over the Riverina Bulls at Pirtex Park in Singleton last Saturday. This Saturday the Tigers travel to Woy Woy to do battle with the Central Coast Roosters.

...

Congratulations to the Wall sisters, Kertsen and Marlee, on being selected in their respective Polocrosse Association of New South Wales teams to compete at Barastoc Interstates this year. 'Kerto' has been picked in the 21 – 26 years mixed team, whereas Marlee will line up with the 2026 Inter Women's side. Good on ya girls.

...

Best of luck to local cricket all-rounder Peter Mooney when he heads south to Dubbo this weekend to play in the NSW Over 50's Championships where he will represent North West. Go gettum Pete.

...

Walcha Golf Pennants teams didn't get off to the ideal start to the 2026 New England Veterans competition at Armidale last week and currently sit in 5th position on 238 points behind Armidale 286, Uralla 255, Glen Innes 254 and Guyra 246. Walcha host Round 2 here on Thursday, where it will be 9.00am registration for a 9.30am tee off.

...

The 50th season of Walcha Touch Footy resumes tomorrow, Thursday 5 February. The 17 senior teams have been regraded into A, B and C Grades, while juniors continue their draw kicking off at 5.30pm. The senior draws and referee appointments can be found on the Walcha Touch Football site.

...

Local Touch kicked off in late 1976 where eight teams competed in a competition run by the Walcha Rugby League. Played on the then 16th and 17th fairways at the Golf Club, and remained there for eight seasons. In 1984 Touch was moved to its current home, John Oxley Sportsground, due to an increase in playing numbers that couldn't be accommodated at the Golf Course anymore.

...

The annual footrace at the Walcha Jockey Club meeting will be held straight after the second horse race on Saturday. Ian Kerr was the inaugural winner in 1996 and then the following year Narelle Heard became the first ladies winner when a women's division was introduced. Organiser Lance Partridge is the only runner to compete in all 25 races, one ahead of Bernie Brady at the present time. Best of luck to all runners on Saturday.

...

GLENBURNIE MERINO + POLL MERINO STUD



Thursday 5 February 2026

1pm On-Property.

Inspections from 10am

Note: Change of venue to ON-PROPERTY

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Australian Government

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And that's a wrap

WALCHA COUNCIL SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Walcha Council's Summer Holiday Program was full of fun throughout the December and January holiday period.

Activities were planned to keep our young people connected, entertained and engaged over the break from school, and most activities managed to reach these outcomes.

The program provided a variety of free activities, for different ages, interests and abilities, scattered throughout December and January.

The program started as Christmas themed fun, moving into library based STEM, story and crafts before a series of sports clinics; including golf, athletics and basketball – where traveling coaches came to the area to give local kids some expert advice and a chance to practice their skill and talent.

The program ended just in time for school to go back, falling on a sweltering day with the community basketball event at the Walcha Skatepark and Half Court. The Youth 3-on-3 Basketball Comp attracted approximately 30 young people, with parents and younger siblings proving to be great spectators despite the heat. Council Library & Youth Services coordinator Cassie kept the players and crowd cool with shade, cold drinks and ice blocks until the Fire Truck arrived to 'test their hose' and spray some much needed cool water about for the children to enjoy.

Travis from Own the Rock Academy and Amanda Scott from the Walcha Basketball Assoc. deserve medals for their support of this event on such a hot Walcha day, but ice blocks sufficed!



With the Walcha Show fast approaching, each week we will be featuring information from the Chief Stewards so you can start preparing your entries.

Cooking Section

Start looking through the cooking schedule to see what you might like to enter this year.

The feature cake is a Ginger Sandwich Sponge. Although the CWA recipe doesn't include ginger, I think if a teaspoon was added into the mix, it will improve the flavour.

Please read the schedule carefully as we will not accept anything that is not listed.

For the men we have decided on a Quick Mix Cake so you will have time after work to attempt this one. Just because it's called quick mix, doesn't mean it will necessarily turn out the way you want! Make sure you line the right sized tin and oven temperature correct.

Please encourage your children to participate and experience the joy of baking. We're hoping for more High School cooking this year as last year's efforts were down – perhaps try Jam Drops, but don't make them too big. Our Primary School theme is 'Autumn in Walcha', and we can't forget about the 'littlies' with their decorated Arrowroot biscuits.

Entries due 10.30am Thursday 12 March, judging will commence at 11.00am.

Vic McIvor – Chief Stewardess



Woodwork and Metalwork

To those young or old who like to tinker or whittle in wood, don't forget there is a Section for you at the Show in our magnificent pavilion.

There are Sections for toys, gifts, turned articles, cabinet making and articles not mentioned in the schedule.

If you are more inclined to favour metal work there is also a Section for a small article, be it a toy or tool for example.

Both sections have classes for Juniors who I know love making things, while at the other end of the scale the Men's Shed is welcome to exhibit, so we can see what goes on there. Another Section that also has had good entries is Restored Furniture.

Entries to be in the pavilion by 10.30am, Thursday 12 March.

Charles Koebel – Chief Steward



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Wednesday Golf

This Wednesday 4 February sees the Wednesday Golf competition back in swing. We will be playing a 4 ball, draw for partners, for Simone Sweeney and Cark Street's trophies. It will be an 8.00am start to hit off at 8.30am.

The following Wednesday is beginners day, so it would be great to see some new faces. Anyone at all interested will be most welcome and there will be plenty of helpers to get you started. Bring along a friend and introduce them to the exciting game of golf. We look forward to a wonderful year of fun and ripping golf in 2026.

Tennis

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Summer Competition. The format will be four-a-side Graded Doubles. The comp starts on Tuesday 17 February and concludes on Tuesday 31 March. The first team past the post will be the winner. Play will commence at 7.00pm. Please do not nominate if you are not prepared to be at the Club House by 7.00pm. A two game penalty will apply if your team can't start at 7.00pm and your opposition side is ready to go. Nominations close on Friday 13 February. Names to Trev 0459 799 119 or Hyde 0427 780 391.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday there were two games of pairs and one game of singles played. Carmel Ryan had a win against Marie Spink in a game of singles. Lee McCoy and Debbie Richards had a win against Rosie Aitken and Esther Hunt in a pairs game. Jan Cross played in two positions winning against Janice Rizzi and Joy Sly in the other pairs game. As there will be several players absent on 12 February, the Minor Singles Championship will commence 19 February. Names to be on the board by 12 February. Our new notice board has been installed. It has moved from the ladies toilets and is now positioned next to the men's notice board in the main club area. This is makes it more accessible for our lady bowlers. The Open Triples Carnival is being played tomorrow therefore will be no social bowls.



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Bowls

Stephen Goodwin is the 2025 singles champion with a 31 to 14 win over Barry Kliendienst. Normie led from start to finish making it his eleventh club singles championship win. A great effort I have a feeling there could be a few more to come. Congratulations to both players, a great effort.

Thursday results: Noel Goodwin, John McCormack & Barry Kliendienst x 2 defeated Brian Goodwin, Barry Hoad Tony Batterham & Geoff Salt 13 to 9.

The Open triples to be played this Thursday starts at 9.30am. Good bowling to those competing.

The Pennants players had a good roll up against Bendemeer on Sunday morning. The first game is at Walcha on 14 February, against North Teams. Teams will be in next week's edition.

There will be no twilight bowls next Friday owing to the races.

At the Nineteenth

Walcha Golf Club Life Member, Patron and Treasurer Margaret Davidson accumulated 44 stableford points to win a trophy donated by Angus Warden who finished runner up on 43 points last Sunday.

A good field of 38 players teed up for the event where the remaining sweepstake prizes went to Pip Monie 41, Jock McLaren 38, Nixon Bird, Miles Archdale, John McCormack and Vicki Heffernan all on 37 points whereas the remaining ball went Michael Stackman on countback from Will Nicholls on 36 points.

In match play Wayne Brennan came home with a wet sail late in his match against Doug McDonald to win 1 up while Nixon Bird rounded up Jamie Bowden 5 and 3.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were captain Willy Brennan (3) and Pip Monie (18).

Last Saturday a four way countback was required to determine the winner of the weekly 9 hole competition before Pete Whellan finished victorious from runner up Lorraine Rennie both on 18 points.

Vicki Heffernan and Darren Bird also racked up 18 points while 'Dazza' took out the NTP on 3.

Competition organiser John McCormack was impressed with the roll up last Saturday of 12 players to follow 14 a week earlier.

This Sunday is the Brian Smith Transport trophy to be played under a 4BBB stableford medley format.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla were defeated in both their Armidale District 2nd and 3rd Grade cricket matches last Saturday. At Lambert Park in Armidale the 2nds were invited to bat by Hillgrove where they compiled 171 runs before being dismissed in their 33rd over.

Openers Josh Wearne 38 and Shannon Rafferty 36 got the visitors off to a good start before number three batter Daniel Boyd added 34 runs whereas Brett Dwyer 21 and Matt Jackson 15 were the only other batsmen to reach double figures.

Hillgrove needed just under 29 overs to pass the total finishing 4 for 176 where Cameron Mooney snared 2 for 18 and Daniel Boyd 1/35.

Here at Peter Fenwicke Oval the home side batted for 28 overs before they were dismissed for 93 runs of which Nathan Swan top scored with 26, Blaine Moore and Ben Ussher both contributed 14 each while Henry Williams remained unbeaten on 12.

In reply Armidale City/UNE were in their 27th over when they reached the required runs having lost five wickets along the way where opener Ben Ussher claimed 3 for 33 and David Morley 1/14.

This Saturday 2nd Grade take on Armidale City/UNE at Peter Fenwicke Oval and 3rd Grade travel to Wakefield in Armidale to do battle with TAS.

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 2nd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

J WEARNE c C Lay b A Curry	30
S RAFFERTY c J Tomes b A Curry	36
D BOYD c C Lay b J Tomes	34
W ARCHDALE lbw J Tomes	7
M JACKSON b A Dullaway	15
B HOY b L Eastwood	2
P MOONEY c A Curry b L Eastwood	0
C MOONEY n.o.	1
M HARPER c&b T Chapman	5
S HASLEM b L Eastwood	0
B DWYER b L Eastwood	21
Total 171 (33.5 overs) Extras 12	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): A Dullaway 7-0-34-1, J Tomes 8-0-34-2, A Curry 5-0-21-2, L Eastwood 6-1-26-4, T Chapman 4.3-0-35-1, M Laurie 2-0-18-0.

Hillgrove

S COWAN b C Mooney	12
I GALPATHAGE c P Mooney b M Harper	15
R EASTWOOD n.o.	68
M LAURIE c S Rafferty b C Mooney	10

C LAY c? b D Boyd	33
B HEFFERNAN n.o.	15
Total 176 (28.5 overs) Extras 23	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): M Harper 7.5-0-35-1, P Mooney 8-1-37-0, C Mooney 4-0-18-2, M Jackson 4-0-18-0, J Wearne 3-0-21-0, D Boyd 4-0-35-1.

Walcha/Uralla v Armidale City UNE 3rd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

B MULLEN r.o.	3
B MOORE c? b L Laycock	14
D MORLEY c? b J Green	7
C LAURIE c? b J Green	0
N SWAN c? b R Watson	26
N LAURIE c? b J Green	4
O MORLEY c? b Private Player	2
B JEX b R Watson	1
H WILLIAMS n.o.	12
B USSHER b R Watson	14
H SWAN b R Watson	0
Total 93 (28 overs) Extras 10	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): M Conroy 1-0-4-0, L Laycock 8-6-5-1, A Worthington 5-0-22-0, J Green 5-1-16-3, R Watson 4-0-17-4, Private Player 5-0-23-1.

Armidale City UNE

M CONROY c B Moore b D Morley	23
D NAICKER n.o.	15
C WITHERS r.o. B Ussher	8
J GREEN n.o.	11
H LEITCH c B Jex b B Ussher	15
D NAKEEB r.o. B Ussher	1
PRIVATE PLAYER c&b N Swan	19
Total 93 (28 overs) Extras 10	

Walcha/Uralla

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Death Notice

Darryl Wayne West

06/04/49 – 01/02/2026

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Public Notices

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Walcha Term 1 Squash Comp starting Tuesday 10 February. Names to James 0427 049 378. All players welcome.

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

Tennis Summer Competition nominations now open. Four-a-side Graded Doubles. Tuesday's, 17 February and 31 March. Names to Trev 0459 799 119 or Hyde 0427 780 391 before Friday 13 February.

Walcha Rugby Union Club – Ramettes Recruiting

The Walcha Rugby Union Club Ramettes are welcoming new players for the upcoming season.

No prior rugby or rugby 10s experience is required, with full training and support provided. Players must be turning 17 years of age this year or older.

Pre Season Training commences Tuesday 10th February and will be held at Peter Fenwicke Oval, 630pm.

Girls of all skill levels who meet the age requirement are encouraged to come along, meet the team, and see if rugby is for you.

New players welcome – bring a friend and give it a go!

Contact Ellie Clarke 0438 995 313

For Sale

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

Public Notices (cont)

WALCHA COUNCIL

Notice of Proposed Development Application Number: 10.2026.3



Walcha Council has received an application from A. Hallman on behalf of P.W. Betts seeking development consent to undertake additions to an existing truck depot at 305 Darjeeling Road, Walcha. The proposal involves the construction of an industrial building with a total floor area of 2205m² consisting of a two-storey central area to be used for storage, and parts rooms with the two ends of the building to be open plan workshops with allowance made for two drop in truck maintenance pits. This proposed workshop is intended to replace the existing workshop building, which collapsed during the August snowstorm.

The application and the documents accompanying the application can be viewed on Council's website www.walcha.nsw.gov.au and at the Walcha Council office during business hours on or before 20 February 2026.

Any person may make a written submission in relation to the development application. Submissions must be received by Walcha Council in writing before close of business on 20 February 2026.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW



WALCHA COUNCIL

Part Day Public Holiday



A part day public holiday is to be observed in the Walcha Council Local Government Area commencing at 12 noon and finishing at 6:00pm on Friday 6 February 2026 for the Walcha Jockey Club's Race Meeting.

The Public Holidays Amendment Order 2025 under the Public Holidays Act 2010 was signed by the Minister for Industrial Relations on Tuesday 16 December 2025.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

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Public Notices (cont)

Walcha Royal Cafe

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Expressions of Interest

APPRENTICE BUTCHER

EOI for apprentice to commence ASAP in our store. For anyone interested please feel free to call in and speak to Jonathan in person, call on 6777 2239, or email us at crossbros@butcherywalcha.com.

Save the Date

Niangala Prawn and chicken night 28 February at Niangala Hall.

Tuesday 24th February at 5.30pm

We will release all the details of the event over the coming weeks, including the location and details but in the meantime, block out your calendar. We look forward to seeing you then.

Meeting Notices

Walcha Pony Club AGM Wednesday 18 Februry, 6.30pm at the Apsley Arms.

Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday 13 February 2026, at Gerry and Mary Moran's garden, 151W Evan's Street Walcha, commencing 9.30am. Please BYO chair, cup and lunch. Enquiries S Law 0467 450 243, D Lisle 0429 799 083. New members most welcome.

Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)

Notice of Resumed Annual General Member Meeting

21.02.2026 | 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

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

ANGLICAN

February 8 - 9.30am Walcha Service
2.00pm Nowendoc Service

February 15 - 9.30am Walcha Service

February 22 - 9.30am Walcha Service

Anglican church

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or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am

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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 6 2.00pm – Close
2.00PM BINGO 6.00PM BISTRO
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7.30PM FREE BINGO
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Friday Night Select Menu
See bowling club for more information
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Saturday 7 11.00am – Close
5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 8 11.00am – Close
12.00PM BISTRO
Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thursday Night the Walcha Cup Calcutta
- Friday night after the races, live music with Rock & Mash

Nomination sheets are now up on the bowl board for those wishing to play in the 2026 championships.

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