

THE APSLEY Advocate

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18 February 2026



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WAMATS – what a success!



Left: Just one of the local trucks on display at WAMATS. Right: A 'road-train' of children enjoyed being towed around the showground. Below: The Showground was a hive of activity for WAMATS weekend.

Last weekend, Walcha was abuzz with excitement as it hosted the Walcha Antique Machinery and Truck Show (WAMATS). The three-day event was a tremendous success, drawing in more than 250 exhibitors and over 1,000 attendees from the public.

WAMATS kicked off with a 55km Tractor Trek on Friday, as well as Tractor Pulls and Tractor Balance Competitions. There was a Swap Meet alongside exhibits of restored vintage engines, chainsaws and even sewing machines. Also on display was a steam engine sawmill with working demonstrations held throughout the day and enjoyed by the general public.

Vintage cars and trucks from everywhere and every era were polished within an inch of their lives, sparkling with pride as they hummed and putted and along in the Street Parade. From modern fleets to antique masterpieces – lorries, Semi's, B-Doubles and Road Trains – seemingly every shape and size was represented.

Walcha CWA's signature Devonshire Tea was on offer, as well as other great treats and food from numerous vendors keeping everyone fed and refreshed. There was fun for all the family with jumping castles and

'road-train' tow-rides behind a quad-bike for the kids.

The committee extends its deepest gratitude to all sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. The unwavering support of our wonderful community is what makes these events possible.

Special thanks goes to the Walcha Westpac Rescue Helicopter Support Group who expertly managed the raffle. Results and more photos on Classifieds page.



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The rain everybody was hoping for didn't eventuate over the weekend, as forecasters once again got it extremely wrong. The forecast had us down for 50mm and instead we got 5mm of easterly mist. It was always going to be the case after the winds picked up from the east last Wednesday, continuing to blow all weekend and keeping any decent rain away. Those of you who reside in the eastern parts of the district, I heard totals of 40mm for the week, topping the rainfall charts and no doubt extremely welcome. There is a chance of rain this weekend, but we need the easterly winds to drop and let the moisture float back in from the west.

The Walcha Antique and Machinery Show held over the weekend looked to once again be growing in interest. The grand parade down the main street was excellent and the event looks to be going from strength to strength, judging by the number of people around the showground on Saturday. Well done to the organisers.

Numerous farmers planted crops on the back of last week's forecast and now find themselves under some moisture pressure. Those who were lucky enough received 20mm for the week, which has been enough to germinate seeds but not enough to see them thrive. Let's hope we can jag some this weekend, as our permanent grasses have been under pressure and winter is looking longer by the day.

Graziers might be under rain pressure, but it's not as much as the Bureau of Meteorology, which got the predicted rain completely wrong. Areas throughout southern QLD were predicted to receive 300mm and were told to prepare for flash flooding, yet they received just 30mm. The government forked out \$90 million for the redevelopment of the Bureau of Meteorology, and its accuracy seems worse than it was before. People's livelihoods depend on these forecasts, and many decisions are made off the back of them, especially in agriculture. There's nothing like feeling anxious while waiting for the next rainfall event after investing in a crop. No doubt those forecast websites are getting a hammering.

The Liberal Party of Australia is once again in shambles after Susan Lee decided to leave politics and step down as party leader. Angus Taylor has stepped into the top job for the Liberals, and it seems like a disjointed party with a lot of ground to make up. The biggest issue at present is the Australian Labor Party government's spending and its expected \$54 billion budget blowout over the next decade. There is no doubt that government spending is a major driver behind inflation. Spending has grown by as much as 13 percent in the first half of the fiscal year, double that of the same period in 2024 and the fastest growth rate in the last decade. To put it simply, last month's decision by the Reserve Bank of Australia to increase interest rates won't be its last if the government continues spending at this rate.

The geolocation data required by the EU to remain accredited for cattle producers has already raised concerns. A local producer mentioned they had been contacted by an EU representative with concerns over the clearing of dead trees, believe it or not, you're not supposed to remove dead trees as it falls under the deforestation-free rules. We knew giving the EU these coordinates would be a concern, but this seems ridiculous. It should serve as a warning that the eye in the sky is watching our farming practices. The question is, who else is looking at what we do?

3,748 head of cattle were yarded in Tamworth on Monday, with prices remaining firm to slightly cheaper across most categories. The best of the weaner steers topped at 540c/kg, weaner heifers made to 437c/kg, while Angus feeder steers topped at 487c/kg and the heifer portion made to 434c/kg. Kill cattle remained fully firm, with the best of the domestic cattle making to 463c/kg, while heavy cows topped at 382c/kg, just 10c/kg behind the best cows in Wagga on Monday.

6,700 sheep and lambs were yarded on Monday in Tamworth, with a large run of store lambs penned. Restocker lambs made from \$150-\$225/head, trade weights to kill made to \$276, while the best export lambs topped at \$370. Mutton held firm, with the best of the XB mutton topping at \$273, while the best Merino ewes made to \$226.

St Pat's students make a splash



Above: Students that will be representing St Patrick's Primary at the Armadale Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival in Inverell on 27 February.



St Patrick's Primary students proved that a little rain - or a lot of it - couldn't dampen their spirits last Monday. Despite wet conditions and a change of venue to Armadale, the annual School Swimming Carnival was declared a resounding success.

While the weather wasn't ideal, the move to the Monckton Aquatic Centre facilities proved to be a great decision, providing an excellent backdrop for the day's races.

A major highlight was the House competition with Oxley House taking home the honours as Overall House Champions for the day.

The school wishes to acknowledge all of the parents, grandparents, staff and supporters for their assistance and support in the running of the day. A special note of gratitude to Mrs. Pittman and Mrs. Rizzi. The change of venue brought a mountain of new logistics, and their tireless work behind the scenes ensured the event ran smoothly.

Our 2026 Swimming Champions and runner-up in each age division are as follows:

Juvenile Boy	Champion – Riley Curtis	–
Juvenile Girl	Champion – Tessa Fritsch	RU – Poppy Betts
Junior Boy	Champion – Archie King	RU – Oscar Young
Junior Girl	Champion – Mila Tate	RU – Ella Waters
11 Year Boy	Champion – Will Lisle	RU Isaac Olrich
11 Year Girl	Champion – Airlee Tate	RU – Phoebe Grills
Senior Boy	Champion – Shaun Zorgdrager	RU – Benji Provost
Senior Girl	Champion – Josie Wauch	RU – Florence Davey

Congratulations to everyone on their achievements.



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Sunday 15 March 2026

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• Pre-Works 8am • Sale 1pm • Vendor Meeting 10am to 12pm



Pre-Works and Dog Sale

Pre-Works will run from 8am. Sale will commence at 1pm after the Vendor Trial. The sale will showcase a quality lineup of dogs, split into two categories, sheep dogs and cattle dogs

Vendor Shoot Out

The Vendor Dog Trial will be held between the Pre-Works and the sale. Participation is open exclusively to vendors, who may compete using any dog of their choice.

Trade Stalls

In between all the dog action you can take some time to shop at the trade stalls. There will be something for everyone!

Scan Below for more info and to nominate



Come along and enjoy a great day out!

Contact Maddie Davidson 0429 002 651 | Mat Larkings 0427 002 427

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letters to the editor



Following recent letters published in the Advocate, I can't sit back and let Rachel Grieg's contribution to our understanding of the REZ and what it means for Walcha, be cast aside as rhetoric or scare mongering. In her letter on the 21 January 'A water wake up call for Walcha' Rachel quoted figures taken directly from Energy Co's own report. She was making us aware of the unbelievable projected demands on our water by 2032 if the REZ proceeds as planned. The Walcha community should rightly be alarmed. If you have any doubts, satisfy your curiosity by reading the Energy Co reports. They are Energy Co projections and very scary.

One letter dismissed the projections as they were made by 'city based "experts"' who suggested our water needs would increase by 1000% by 2032. The fact is they are the developer's projections (not Rachel Grieg's or the Voice for Walcha) and the same 'city based "experts"' are planning all of the New England REZ. This water is required for construction, workers accommodation, waste and so on. They are not projections around our population.

What is even more alarming is that there is so little consideration about the cost of this project. It appears that if water or gravel are not available in remote areas such as Walcha, they will just truck it in by road! In many cases this will be a hundred plus kilometres. If you are having trouble comprehending what that means, it will be hundreds more trucks (over and above those already forecast) on our regional roads every day. That has significant implications for road safety, not to mention the wear and tear on roads. Our Council needs to be across this.

Garry Olrich and I travelled to Dunedoo last week to have a tour around the area where Energy Co are constructing the Orana REZ workers village and Hub which is located adjacent to Merotherie Road. I don't have the words to describe what we witnessed. The best I can come up with is absolute chaos. Local roads are congested with trucks carting gravel, trucks carting water, trucks carting equipment and there is machinery buzzing around the site like nothing I have ever seen. I think our council would be well advised to take a similar tour sooner rather than later to have an understating of what lies ahead.

Amongst recent correspondence it has been said the 'Voice for Walcha' is a 'small group' and inferred that as such have no license. I think there are around 480 members which is significant given our population. I would hasten to say that in my view without the scrutiny by the Voice for Walcha around the REZ I am not sure where we would be today. They are the only ones who have held developers, government and even our own Council to account during the planning process. Their investment in time and commitment to our wonderful community should be applauded as they advocate for sensible, manageable levels of renewable development in our shire. They are not the reason projects like Winterbourne Wind have been slow to get off the ground. I believe this project could well be under way if the planning process had been better managed. Those of you unhappy about the lack of progress should really direct your questions to those involved in that planning process.

Bruce Rutherford



Preliminary Notice for Boulton's Auctions Plus

Weaner, Feeder and Breeder Twilight Sale 26 March 2026

For Bookings Contact:

- Mat Larkings 0427 002 427 • Simon Newton 0467 660 320
- Dan Coulthurst 0419 879 793 • Miles Archdale 0428 660 326
- Maddie Davidson 0429 002 651

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Like to attend Rotary Youth Camp in 2026?

Rotary is at it again! This time with another amazing youth program; Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) camp, for 13 to 17 year olds.

Recognised for its hands-on approach to youth leadership, the camp will be held at The Francis Retreat in Bonny Hills, NSW from **Saturday 6 June to Monday 8 June 2026**. The aim of the camp is to empower participants with skills that extend beyond the classroom.

The camp features outdoor challenges, games, group activities and problem-solving sessions, all designed to encourage communication, confidence and commitment. Experienced Rotarians and young leaders guide participants throughout the weekend, ensuring everyone feels supported while being encouraged to try new things.

The cost of the camp is \$440, however Rotary Club of Walcha is offering sponsorship to assist with fees for those who need support. Applications are now open and close on 7 May 2026.

For further details or to apply visit www.rotary9660.org.au (youth programs) or contact the Youth Director for the Rotary Club of Walcha, Fiona Barden on 0429 690 679.



thumbs



- 👍 To the wonderful nurses at the Walcha MPS who cared for my wife Cherie so beautifully and with so much compassion. Many thanks.
- 👍 To Wayne and Chloe Hoy for doing a top job spraying the roadside blackberries.
- 👍 To Kim for her excellent care of me when I had to attend Walcha Hospital recently.
- 👍 To Destinee, Jo and all at Walcha Vets. Thank you for taking such good care of my cat, you are wonderful.
- 👍 Thank you to Miranda at NAB for sorting out my payments, much appreciated.
- 👍 What a great WAMATS street parade on Friday. To all those who participated, and the show of strength by local businesses, including Betts and Brian Smith Transport, congratulations. We should be proud to have these firms operating in our local area.
- 👍 Thank you to all those who assisted with the running of the bar over the Walcha Race weekend. Without volunteers it would have been nigh impossible. A BIG thank you!!
- 👍 To Nick and the Park Run organisers for the encouragement and great fun. Highly recommended.

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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Photography

Start getting your photos sorted, printed and mounted! The photography section is one of the largest at the show and with 70 classes you're sure to find a category to suit. This year's special section is Automotive/Mechanical, giving you a wide range for this topic.

PLEASE NOTE: Change in the size of photos that are eligible to be entered. New maximum size 8 x 10 inches or 20 x 25cm, this change will hopefully allow for a better display.

We have some awesome prizes again this year thanks to our wonderful sponsors. So, get those cameras snapping and the printers printing. Please read the show schedule for mounting criteria and classes. Submit your entries from as early as 8.30am and up until 12 noon on Monday 9 March.

Enquiries: **Sue Harrison** 0427 772 148



Cattle Section Entries

The Junior Heifer Show and Paraders competition will be held Friday 13 March with an entry fee of \$5 per child. Exhibits must be shown by an individual under the age of 25 as of 1 May 2026. Beef breed classes will be held on Saturday 14 March. Entries to be in no later than Friday 6 March via email samlisle@bigpond.com or using the Entry Form in the centre of the Show book.

Junior Judging

Meat Sheep and Merino Junior Judging will commence at 9.30am on Friday March 13, with Beef Cattle Junior Judging commencing at 1.00pm.

Flowers

This year we have introduced a Novice Dahlia Class for those who haven't previously won a First Prize in a Dahlia class at the Walcha Show. Please study the schedule and enter your flowers, foliage and pot plants. Entries will be taken from 10am – 5.30pm Thursday 12 March and again on Friday morning from 7.30am. NO entries will be taken after 9am. If you are entering in the Decorative Section, please contact Julie Ireland with your entries by Friday 6 March.

We are holding a Demonstration Day on 'staging entries' on Saturday 28 February from 9.30am – 2.00pm at the Flower Pavilion. Please join us and bring along your lunch, chair and a few flowers so we can help with your entries. Morning tea provided.

Enquiries to: **Julie Ireland** 0427 776 469



Pet Show

The judging of the Pet Show will take place in front of the Main Pavilion at the new time of 10.00am on Saturday 14 March.

Handlers must be children, with the competition open to all school students up to Year 10, including pre-schoolers. Exhibitors must provide their own suitable cage, pen or lead, and are able to enter as many classes as they like. Puppies and kittens must have their eyes open and it is recommended that your pet's vaccinations be up-to-date.

There are eight classes, including Best Bird, Insect, Cat or Kitten, large dog, toy dog or puppy, trick pet, decorated pet and a section for a pet not mentioned.

Enquiries to: **Betsy Norton**

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Youth Group is Back!

Youth in school years 5 – 9 are invited to check out Youth Group and join in some hot weather fun this Saturday night. Water games will cool everyone down, so come dressed to get wet, and bring a towel and change of clothes if you want to dry off.

Youth Group is FREE to come along to, it meets every Saturday night in the Presbyterian church hall and yard from 5pm - 7pm. We spend time playing lots of games, and trying out fun challenges and activities. Each week we also look at a passage from the Bible and have dinner together.

For more information contact Graham & Karen Barnes, walchapc@gmail.com or 6777 2539.



Winter Olympic billy-cart-bobsledding with Jazz Hayton (Youth Group Leader)

Walcha Businesses invited to Networking Night

The Walcha Business Group is thrilled to announce its first Business Networking Event for 2026! Whether you're a long-time local operator, a new business in town, or simply keen to connect with others in the business community, join us on Tuesday 24 February at the Walcha Bowling Club for an evening of opportunities to connect, collaborate and help shape what the year ahead could look like for business in Walcha.

From 5:30pm to 7:30pm, mingle with fellow business owners and operators, share your ideas, and discover what's happening across the local business landscape. Enjoy a delicious set-menu dinner and be part of shaping new initiatives that will support and grow our community. Your voice matters — come along and let us know what would make a real difference to your business!

The Walcha Business Group Board hopes the evening will be a positive way to kick off the year — bringing people together, hearing what the business community is looking for, and creating a strong sense of collaboration and momentum heading into 2026. "We're genuinely looking forward to bringing local businesses together, so we can identify shared needs and work on joint solutions," says Fiona Barden, President of the Business Group.

Tickets are \$15 per person for members and \$25 per person for non-members (dinner included). Drinks available at the bar. RSVP by 5:00pm Sunday 22 February by email to walchabusinessgroup@gmail.com or by phone on 0429 690 679. If you're interested in becoming a member of the Walcha Business Group, please contact Fiona on 0429 690 679 or Cameron on 0488 990 777.

We can't wait to see you there—come along, bring a mate, and help make 2026 a big year for local business!

Walcha Farmers' Market this weekend

Guyra spuds are on the menu at this Saturday's Walcha Farmers' Market at McHatten Park. It's the best time of the year for fresh produce, and there'll be a great range of fruit and vegetables from local gardens.

If you've got surplus to share, you can bring along your bounty, including eggs, condiments, and plants, to the Community Stall. If you volunteer for a couple of hours on the stall, the 20 per cent commission is waived. Alongside the veg, there'll be oysters and trout, honey, salami and goat dairy products.

You'll be able to take home fresh flowers, and plants to pop in before the first frost. If you're looking for a gift, or something special for yourself, locals artists and makers may have something that catches your eye. The market is on from 8.30am till 12.30pm in McHatten Park on Saturday.



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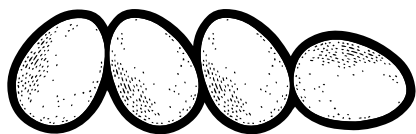
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what's the goss

with AJ Cross



Long term Walcha Hospital Auxiliary member Irene Simpson was farewelled at the St Andrews Anglican Church on Monday at the age of 88 years and was the beloved wife of the late Barry Simpson. Condolences to her daughter Sandra and son Peter along with all other family members and friends. May Irene Edith Simpson (nee Hogno) Rest in Peace.

...

Sad to hear talented footballer of yesteryear Peter 'Cedric' O'Brien who played for clubs including Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Armidale left this world late last month at the age of 69 years. He certainly gave the Walcha Roos plenty to think about in Group 19 back in the 1980's and 90's with his great ball skills. Sort of hits home, considering 'Cedric' was born two days before myself. RIP 'Bluey'.

...

Last Friday South Street resident, Dick Bowden celebrated 90 years on the planet but when his daughter Sue asked me to mention the milestone in last weeks WTGoss? She failed to tell me that she was turning 60 years young on the same day. Hope both Dick and Sue had enjoyable birthdays.

...

Congratulations to Walcha Junior Netballers Lilah Tate (U/14's), Grace Smith (13's), Alice Swilks and Aggie Street (12's) and Airlee Tate (11's) on being selected in the Armidale District Netball Association representative teams. Go girls.

...

Congratulations to the organisers of the Walcha Antique Machinery and Truck Show (WAMATS) held last weekend. One of the many highlights was the Parade through town on Saturday morning and it would be interesting to know how many individual vehicles were involved. At one stage I had counted up to 130 before losing concentration and there were more after that. Well done to all participants one and all, including Darrell Parsons who drove his Kingswood Station Wagon formerly owned by IJ Cross.

...

Two heads are better than one well as a rule anyway. My much better half Linda and her sister Sandra Laurie were all set to attend a Hospital Auxiliary meeting last week when they were informed by fellow committee member, Vicki McIvor, that the meeting was actually on this week. Hopefully the girls get it right tomorrow night.

...

A while I called into the IGA Deli and after collecting my purchases off Sariann Andrews I attempted to pay her directly for the goods. To say the look I received from the lawn bowling champion was one of surprise would be understanding it before Sariann directed me to the appropriate checkout counter to seal the deal.

...

A reminder to all Footy Tipsters that the NRL competition commences on Sunday March 1st and the usual suspects are conducting competitions at the Newie, Bowling Club and Apsley Arms while the Walcha Bar and Grill will also be running one. All interested tipsters are requested to get their names in at the various venues.

...

The 2026 Walcha Mens' Golf Championships commence this Sunday with the 3 round competition running over the next 3 weekends. Reigning champions are Lee Fletcher (A Grade and Veterans) along with Mollydookers Jamie Bowden (8 time B Grade champion) and Allan Laurie (C Grade). Best of luck to all competitors.

...

Congratulations to A Grade golfer David Sweeney on winning the final of the final of the 2025 Match Play Championships when he snuck home 1 up against Lee Fletcher last Sunday. Di heard a whisper that 'Sween' was very happy to win the event as he will now get his name up on an honour board, not far from where his wife Simone has hers as A Grade Ladies Champion. Well done David.

...

The Newie 777's horse racing tipping competition went off for the second Saturday on the trot when 'Cafe Millenium' saluted the judge at Flemington, 'Joliestar' got up at Randwick before 'Green Fly' was first past the post at Eagle Farm. Although the prize pot wasn't huge the bloke who won it was fairly happy with himself having collected the cash on two of the last three occasions after splitting the dollars with Michael 'Red' Hoy a while back. Hint – I have known him for 69 years – every single minute of that time.





Wednesday Golf

Unfortunately we did not get any new beginners on Wednesday, but still had a good roll up of players for a par event, playing for Marg Higgins trophy.

Our winner with a great score of +5 was Katie Smith, who counted out Robyn Salt also on +5. The following sweepstakes were won by Pauline Carter +3, Polly Locke +3 and Anne Martin with square.

Nearest the pin on Hole 3 was Alison Cameron, and second shot on 18 was Lorraine Walshe. Donna Martin had the best second shot on Hole 7.

This Wednesday the 18 February, will be stableford playing for Betty Borthwick's trophy.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday there was a game of Triples played. It started off rather dismal for Jan Cross, Lyn Burnell and Rosie Aitken who had gained three points after ten ends. They then scored 10 on the last two ends just losing to Debbie Richards, Janice Rizzi and Pam Makeham 14-13. We held a very successful street stall last Friday with Suzie Fortescue winning the fuel voucher and Bruce Rutherford winning the meat voucher. Thank you to everyone who supported the stall in some way.

The Minor Singles commence tomorrow with Marie Spink playing Lee McCoy, marker Lyn Burnell. The remaining games will be announced soon. Our monthly meeting is tomorrow commencing 1.00pm in the clubhouse. There will be social bowls tomorrow.

Bowls

Thursday Bowls: Eight bowlers played two games of pairs. Brian Goodwin and Peter Batterham were defeated by Tony Asmus and Tony Batterham 17 to 7. John McCormack and Denis Makeham defeated Barry Hoad and Noel Goodwin 16 to 8.

The two Tonys won the chooks.

North Tamworth pennant side was too good for our Walcha side last Sunday winning 80 to 58. All players will benefit from the game and be ready to take on Inverell this Saturday.

Mixed pairs Championships start on the 1 March. Sheets and particulars are on the board for all events.

Thursday bowls and twilight bowls are on again this week.

At the Nineteenth

The Monthly Stroke Medal Round was played last Sunday where 'Molleydooker' Darren Bird blitzed the field after carding a very tidy 61 nett to collect a trophy donated by club handicapper Don Brooks and the C Grade Mug.

A Grade went Michael Stackman with a 70 nett off the back of the best scratch score on the day a six over par 76 whereas club captain Willy Brennan took out B Grade with 71 nett.

Sweepstakes went to James Norton 69, David Sweeney 71, Lee Fletcher 72 and Andrew Robertson 72.

Long Drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhanded Larry' Asmus were quilted by David Sweeney (A), Angus Warden (B) and Julie Hoad (C).

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Wayne Brennan (3) and Lee Fletcher (both 9 and 18).

The putting competition was won by Angus Warden after he engaged his flat stick on 24 occasions but had to count out Andrew Robertson to do so, while Owen Presnell eagerly received the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for most putts with 31 jabs.

The final of the 2025 Match Play competition was held last Sunday where David Sweeney defeated Club Champion Lee Fletcher 1 up in a close one. In the 2026 Match Play Michael Stackman rounded up Alex Gill 3 and 2, Andrew Robertson downed Col Berry 6 and 5 whereas Angus Warden got the job done against Barry Hoad 6 and 5 also. Last Saturday Jock McLaren won the weekly 9 hole competition after he racked up 16 stableford points to sneak home from Runner Up John McCormack on 15 points in a three way countback with Jock McLaren and Anne Martin who hit the most accurate tee shot on the 3rd hole.

This Sunday is the opening round of the 2026 Club Championships where skipper Willy Brennan is in charge of supplying the daily prize and he did indicate that now he is retired and on the Pension the trophy may not be quite as big as yesteryear.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla won their 2nd Grade match and lost their 3rd Grade game when Round 10 of the Armidale District Cricket competitions were played last Saturday.

At Harris Park in Armidale Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade were sent into bat by Easts Green and were dismissed for 160 runs off 30 overs.

Openers Ed Blomfield and Josh Wearne put on a first wicket partnership of 40 runs before the latter was caught for 18 runs.

Ed Blomfield went on to top score with 35, Jay Grills chipped in with 28, Peter Mooney 19, Barry Hoy 18, David Ford 14 and Daniel Boyd 11.

In reply the home side were dismissed in their 33rd over, 17 runs, short of what they needed after Walcha/Uralla openers David Ford 4 for 28 and Matt Harper 3/25 did most of the damages. All bowlers used were successful with Daniel Boyd, Jay Grills and Ed Blomfield snaring a wicket each. Here at Peter Fenwicke Oval the home side won the toss and invited Hillgrove 3rd Grade to bat where they accumulated 183 runs at a loss of 8 wickets off their 40 overs.

Veteran David Morley captured 3/29 and his son Owen 2/19 while Ben Ussher, Nathan Swan and Will Cox all took a wicket each.

Walcha/Uralla were dismissed for 88 runs in their 32 over 95 runs short of their target.

Skipper Nathan Laurie played a lone hand scoring an unbeaten 40 runs whereas Ben Ussher was the only other batter to reach double figures with 13 runs.

This Saturday in Round 11 Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade host Easts Yellow at Peter Fenwicke Oval and 3rd Grade travel to Newling Oval to take on Ex Services.

Walcha/Uralla v East 2nd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

J WEARNE c L Taylor b J Davies.....	18
E BLOMFIELD c J Miller b J Davies.....	35
D BOYD c P Brealey b J Davies.....	11
S RAFFERTY b M Northam	2
P MOONEY b T Mitchell	19
J GRILLS c P Brealey b L Taylor	28
D FORD c P Brealey b B Moran.....	14
B HOY lbw B Swilks	18
G YOULL c J Miller b B Moran	0
H BLOMFIELD b B Swilks	0
M HARPER n.o	1
Total 160 (30 overs) Extras 14	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): B Swilks 5-1-20-2, B Moran 8-1-36-2, J Davies 6-0-13-3, M Northam 5-0-40-1, T Mitchell 4-0-23-1, L Taylor 2-0-24-1.

Easts

G SWILKS c P Mooney b M Harper.....	0
N MILLER c B Hoy b D Ford	8
J MILLER c B Hoy b M Harper	0
C MORAN b D Ford	0
J DAVIES c D Ford b D Boyd	43
B MORAN c B Hoy b D Ford	0
P BREALEY c? b J Grills	9
M NORTHAM c J Wearne b M Harper.....	18
T MITCHELL b D Ford	24
L TAYLOR n.o.....	19
B SWILKS c P Mooney b E Blomfield.....	14
Total 143 (32.4 overs) Extras 8	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): M Harper 6.3-2-25-3, D Ford 8-0-28-4, D Boyd 7.3-0-28-1, J Grills 7-0-37-1, E Blomfield 3.4-0-22-1.

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 3rd Grade

Hillgrove

A COWAN b D Morley.....	26
P TOWNSEND c W Cox b B Ussher	4
A STEWART lbw D Morley	38
B DEXTER c&b D Morley	9
J FROST b O Morley.....	17
C HUNTER c W Cox b O Morley	58
T JONES b N Swan	19
C FROST c N Swan b W Cox	3
T LLOYD n.o.....	2
C VAN DER VEER n.o.....	1
Total 183 (40 overs) Extras 6	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): B Ussher 8-0-28-1, N Laurie 6-1-19-0, D Morley 8-0-29-3, B Dwyer 5-0-36-0, N Swan 6-0-33-1, B Jex 3-0-16-0, O Morley 3-0-19-2, W Cox 1-0-2-1.

Walcha/Uralla

B MULLEN c T Jones b C van der Veer	5
D MORLEY c J Frost b C van der Veer.....	2
B DWYER st T Jones b T Lloyd.....	6
O MORLEY t Lloyd	0
N SWAN b C van der Veer	0
N LAURIE n.o.....	40
C LAURIE lbw C Hunter.....	1
B USSHER c J Frost b R van der Veer	13
B JEX r.o A Cowan	2
H WILLIAMS c J Frost b C Frost	6
W COX st T Jones b T Lloyd	5
Total 88 (32 overs) Extras 8	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt): C van der Veer 8-4-9-3, C Frost 7-2-8-1, T Lloyd 7-1-17-3, C Hunter 5-0-20-1, R van der Veer 4-0-26-1, A Stewart 1-0-6-0.

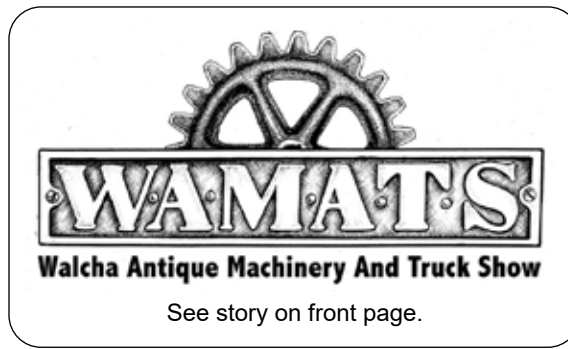
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Expressions of Interest

Walcha Council Call For Expressions Of Interest – Shaping Walcha's Identity: Walcha 2050



Walcha Council is inviting expressions of interest from community members who would like to volunteer their time, ideas and local knowledge to help shape Walcha's future identity.

We are seeking a diverse group of community-minded individuals who are passionate about sharing their perspectives on what makes Walcha a unique and special place to live, work and visit. A community forum is being planned with a maximum of 80 people to discuss, answer questions and generate ideas under the guidance of a professional facilitator. Details are as follows:

First Community Session

- Walcha Vet Supplies
- Tuesday, 31 March 2026
- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

For more information please call 02 6774 2500

If you are interested please send us your expression of interest by the **04 March 2026** - email council@walcha.nsw.gov.au or write to: PO Box 2 Walcha 2534. Elected members of the Council will be determining the final list of invitees to this meeting. It needs to be emphasised that this is just the start of what is expected to be a long term project.

Be a part of defining Walcha's future together!

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

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
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Shoreline Oysters will be at the Farmers Markets this Saturday.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for Nigeria on Wednesday 4 March in Anglican Church South Street starting at 12 noon followed by light lunch. Everyone welcome.

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- Part-Time Library Officer

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

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

Meeting Notices

Walcha Support Group Thursday 26th February 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle Street. Relaxation 12.30pm BYO Lunch 1pm Meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

Raffle Results

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Support Group Results from WAMATS Raffle. **1st Prize: Marg McFarland, 2nd Prize: Jamie Hayes, 3rd Prize: Peter Goldspring,** (generously donating his load of firewood back for auction, with all proceeds benefiting the group.) and **4th Prize: Sue Law**

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Anglican church

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

All welcome.

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6pm Raffle tickets meat & vege trays

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12.00PM BISTRO

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