

THE APSLEY Advocate

CIRCULATION 1920 – P 02 6777 1111 F 02 6777 1112 wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au walchatelecottage.com.au

4 March 2026



13 – 14 MARCH

WHAT'S ON FRIDAY NIGHT

- Official Show Opening
- Announcement of 2026 Walcha Young Woman
 - Dog Races
- Working Dog's Revenge
- Sheep Penning Showdown
 - Dog Jump Comp
- Dinkum Dinosaur Comedy Puppet Show

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

- Pavilions • Horses
 - Sheep • Cattle
- Skin Check Truck
- Blacksmithing Demonstrations
- Dinkum Dinosaur Show
- Moving, Roaring Baby Dinosaur Zoo

PET SHOW

10.00am Saturday

SATURDAY NIGHT

- Line Dancing (4:30pm)
 - Tug-of-War Team Competitions
- Men's Cake Auction
- Dinkum Dinosaur Show

SPECIAL APPEARANCE

Lu & Jarch Broadcasting
Live on Radio Triple M
Showground, 2–4pm Friday

ATTRACTIONS

- Side Show Alley
- Dog Trials • Ag Bike Comp
 - Fashion Parade
 - Woodchop
- Aviary Bird Display
- Grand Parade

www.walchashow.org.au

New England Sculpture Track begins

The first sculpture for the New England Sculpture Track (NEST) was installed last Wednesday and Thursday near the foot bridge on the levee bank along the Apsley River.

Named *Sound of Silence*, this sculpture was created by Western Australian artist Tony Davis and featured in *Sculpture by the Sea* in 2024.

Walcha artist Stephen King has been working on the concept of the Sculpture Track for some years, and to have the first sculpture installed is exciting. He explained that the idea of the Track is to bring visitors off the highway and into our small towns. "We have been working with Bendemeer, Woolbrook, Walcha Road and Walcha communities to develop this concept. There is also a possibility that Uralla will join the Track in the future," Stephen said.

"This Sculpture Track will help make a fresh connection between the four small towns who are working collaboratively," he said.

Tony is an acclaimed artist having won *Sculpture by the Sea* three years ago. We have reprinted a part of his artist statement on *Sound of Silence*: As early as 1908, in 'The Golden West Annual', the editor warned "our magnificent south west forests will be cut out in a short time. That most excellent timber, Jarrah, will have completely vanished in a few years." 115 years later, logging has finally ceased. *Sound Of Silence* is a celebration of this and with the termination of logging Jarrah, Marri and Karri trees, the sound of machinery and chainsaws etc has fallen silent.

Sadly, now, the only remaining threat to this forest is the mining activities of the American company, Alcoa, with their clear-felling and clearing of vast swathes of south west forest to remove the bauxite subsoil upon which the entire Jarrah ecosystem thrives; this activity, with its scant rehabilitation



processes is coming under ever increasing scrutiny and public disquiet.

The form strongly references a wind instrument bell mouth, up-ended, at rest, and silent. The "bell-mouth" is split, allowing the viewer to access and engage with both the outside and inside space.

The timber used in this sculpture was sustainably sourced by selectively milling timber from "low grade" Jarrah logs destined as firewood.



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By SIMON NEWTON

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COMPETITIVE RATES

Good to see that easterly breeze hasn't stopped for the last week as it would ruin a good dry spell for the district. There is a huge low sitting in the middle of Australia which has produced large amounts of rain spreading for the NT, SA, southern NSW and Victoria. Rainfall totals have exceeded yearly averages in just one day, but it has been very welcomed for drought-stricken areas in the south. Another tropical low is forming off the QLD coast and the system is set to come in south of Rockhampton which will produce plenty of rain over the flood impacted areas from earlier in the year. Let's hope all this monsoonal moisture in the northern part of Australia will eventually push down to us as parts of our district are extremely dry and crops are struggling. We are in March but if we can jag some decent rain, day and night temperatures are still warm enough to grow some quality feed before the frosts arrive.

The unfolding conflict in the Middle East will affect Australian agricultural supply chains on multiple fronts with oil already increasing in value and pushing fuel prices up at the bowser. The conflict has disrupted major shipping routes, closed seaports and shutdown airspace that will disrupt the distribution of Australian red meat, especially sheep meat. Chilled protein which has a shorter shelf life is flown in by air and those markets have stopped overnight, let alone the fact people in those regions have been told to stay at home, directly impacting domestic meat sales. The Middle East conflict continues to escalate and it's unclear how long it will continue, one thing we know is that it will affect the Australian agricultural sector in a negative way, pushing up input prices and disrupting product sales.

Last week's Advocate released a notice of proposed development from the Winterbourne Wind Pty Ltd seeking development consent for the redevelopment and expansion of the Walcha Caravan Park. The proposal included the demolition of 9 existing cabins and the construction of 36 new accommodation cabins which would potentially house renewable energy workers. This is a huge development for Walcha and one that might not be sustainable considering the extent of our town services. If you have any objections to this proposal then you have until 27 March to write a submission surrounding the proposal. What I find interesting is on the same page of the classifieds an Expression of Interest has been advertised by Walcha Council inviting interest from our community members surrounding the uniqueness of Walcha and what a special place it is to live. I've said it before; these renewable energy projects will change the identity of our small town. No, we don't want to live in the past, but we also don't need to live with the burden of wrecking the identity, the community and the scenery of Walcha just to keep the lights on for everyone else.

The Walcha Show is only a week away and is set to be another jam-packed event for the local community. Do yourself a favour and get involved in one of the multiple activities on offer and support our town, I hear the call-out has gone far and wide for the hotly contested Tug o War.

The lamb market has been on fire with heavy export lambs breaking yard records throughout the previous week. \$472.20 topped the market in Wagga last Thursday, Dubbo lambs on Monday topped at \$476.20 for a pen of 94kg bullock lambs while the best of the Tamworth lambs made to \$400. What has been on fire is the restocking lambs, anything under 40kg, shorn and the right breed have made from 550-600c/kg liveweight with some isolated sales topping at over 700c/kg liveweight. We saw hook values hit nearly hit 13/kg at the height of the winter market last year, question is what it will get to this year.

Another large yarding of cattle in Tamworth on Monday with 4690 yarded. The best of the weaner steers topped at 534c/kg, feeder steers made to 509c.kg while hfrs to feed reached 443c/kg. Heavy kill cows remained fully firm and topped at 389c/kg while a large run of store cows sold to 360c/kg. Cattle continue to run throughout the North West and the Northern Tablelands due to the dry, 7200 in Gunnedah on Tuesday and over 4000 in Inverell.

Local Land Services

Improve your on-farm feral pig control

Join Northern Tablelands Local Land Services at the Walcha Showground on Thursday 19 March for a free feral pig information session.

See practical demonstrations, learn about best-practice feral pig control methods and connect with other Walcha landholders.

Register for this event by scanning the QR code below or call Michael Smart, Land Services Officer on 0427 960 788 for more information.



Humour Heels

Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Walcha is participating in Smile Month in support of the Clown Doctors during March. The Walcha branch is selling Clown Doctor socks (Adults \$16.95 Kids \$14.95) and accepting public donations.

Customers can also donate by transferring to this account using the reference: SMILE Walcha Donation. Account name - Smile Day Account BSB: 062-155 Account No: 10372603

For over 26 years, CommBank Staff Foundation has proudly supported the Clown Doctors to bring laughter, joy and comfort to sick kids across Australia. These highly trained performers work hand in hand with medical teams in hospitals and hospices, using humour and play to transform sterile hospital rooms into brighter, lighter spaces for children and their families.

CommBank Staff Foundation will match all customer donations and profit raised through sock sales, up to \$100,000 throughout March.



Letters to the editor



To the newly elected deputy leader of the federal Liberals National Coalition, Jane Hume, whose negative comments about having to speak slowly to those down in the cockies corner have deeply offended a lot of farmers and country folk.

Yes, Jane, you are probably right, farmers would have to be a bit thick when you consider these facts:

- We have no control over input prices.
- We have no control over the weather. We can't even get accurate weather predictions due to the politicized B.O.M.
- We have no control over the prices we receive for our produce.
- We have very few holidays, if any.
- We have no sick leave entitlements.
- We battle droughts, floods and bush fires.

Can you imagine any other enterprise that would survive under such conditions? We are 2.5% of the population, yet we produce enough food to feed 80 million people worldwide.

We provide an export industry for Australia that helps to pay for the damage caused by disastrous, uninformed decisions made by both State and Federal governments.

We make it possible for cities like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to exist - a hefty proportion of city dwellers believe that food is produced in supermarkets and meat is grown in butchers' shops. Count the number of trucks on Australia's highways that carry the essentials of life, i.e. food, clothing etc from north, south and west to the densely populated Australian cities.

Australia's population has never experienced food queues and food riots as have occurred in other countries of the world. So, Ms Hume, you should get down on bended knee and thank the good Lord that there are people dumb enough to keep producing food year after year, drought after drought, flood after flood, bushfire after bushfire and incompetent government after incompetent government, so that you can have milk in your coffee, and not have to listen to your borborygmi.

Adrian Pollard



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St Pat's smash it in the pool

Last Friday, eleven students from St Patrick's Primary showcased their talent at the Armidale Catholic Swimming Trials in Inverell, braving the windy conditions.

The competition kicked off with Josie swimming in the Open Girls 100m, where she secured a commendable 17th place overall. Next, our students took to the pool for the 50m Freestyle events. In the 10 years boys division, Oscar led the way finishing 10th, followed by Freddie in 12th, Archie in 17th, and Harry F in 20th. In the 10 years girls event, Mila T swam a great race to finish 33rd overall. Will represented the school in the 11 years boys, securing 14th place, while Airlee placed 23rd in the 11 years girls division.

Our 12 years girls also swam incredibly well, with Josie finishing 18th and Flo right behind her in 20th. Over in the Senior Boys division, Shaun and Benji put in strong performances to place 21st and 22nd, respectively.

A major highlight of the day was the Junior Boys Relay Team, consisting of Oscar, Archie, Freddie, and Harry F. Despite being one of the



Most of the St Patrick's Swimming Team that competed at the Diocesan Swimming Trials last Friday

smallest schools in the race and lining up against much larger schools from Tamworth and Gunnedah, the boys delivered an incredible performance. They powered through the water to achieve an impressive 3rd place overall - a fantastic result!

The Backstroke events followed, with Oscar securing 11th place overall in the Junior Boys 50m Backstroke. Wrapping up our competition, Josie and Flo swam exceptionally well in their respective Backstroke heats, finishing 16th and 18th overall.

Finally, a massive thank you goes to Mrs Davey for supervising the team on the day. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the many parents and grandparents who travelled to Inverell to support our students. Your encouragement from the sidelines is deeply appreciated and made it a wonderful experience for everyone involved!

Vegetable and Produce

Think you're not a gardener, but have some pretty nice-looking veggies in the patch this year? Bring them in to the main pavilion at the Walcha Show on Thursday the 12th before 10.30am

Have a look at the schedule and check the details of how many of each vegetable you need – often entries can't be judged because they are short a couple of beans or a rhubarb stalk.

Pick greens early in the morning if you can and keep them moist on the way to the showgrounds. We have vases and water for silverbeet, but if you're entering the collection of vegetables or herbs, you need to think about how you will keep your entries hydrated.

Vegetables like carrots, beetroot, and rhubarb present better for the duration of the show if their tops are trimmed one or two centimetres above the root or stalk.

All enquiries to Eliza Lockyer 0499 698 999



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Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Walcha Show

The Walcha Show is just around the corner on March 13 and 14 and I encourage the community to get along and support this annual event. There's something for everyone at the show from sideshows, shearing, live weight competitions, flowers, artwork, horses and more. It promises to be another great show!

Northern Tablelands Regional Organisation Of Councils

Mayors and general managers from the Northern Tablelands councils and I met at Bingara's Living Classroom on Monday to discuss issues affecting the region. The forum allowed the mayors to put forward shared challenges, support each other and collaborate on how to better represent the area. Healthcare, roads and water supply were shared concerns from all councils.

2026 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

I encourage people from the community to put a remarkable volunteer's name forward to be recognised by nominating them for the 2026 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards.

- There are seven categories for the awards:
- Young volunteer (24 years and under)
- Adult volunteer (25 to 64 years)
- Senior volunteer (65 years and over)
- Volunteer team
- Emergency volunteer
- Volunteer leader
- Not-for-profit voluntary governance

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit The Centre for Volunteering's website: www.volunteering.com.au/nominations-open-for-2026-nsw-volunteer-of-the-year-awards

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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NATIONALS for Regional NSW

Authorised by Brendan Moylan MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Join World Day of Prayer today

From Anglican Church

Today, the combined churches of Walcha will join in the 'World Day of Prayer' (4th March). This international movement shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. The 2026 service is brought to us by our Nigerian sisters who share stories of Jesus' presence with them throughout the struggles and anxieties of life in such a violent country. According to Open Doors' World Watch List 2026, almost 3500 Nigerian Christians were killed for their faith during 2025. Come and find out why they have chosen the theme "I will give you rest" from the words of Jesus recorded in the gospel of Matthew.

We have a personal God who is interested in us and all we do. Nothing is too big or small for him. Our world needs peace and solace and the only one who can give us these is our creator God through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is all powerful and will listen to those who call out to him. Even if you don't believe at this stage of your life, you are welcome to come and listen and even ask questions later.

The service will include prayers to our all-powerful God, singing, a short explanation of this year's theme, and stories from Nigerian women (brought to us by members of our local church communities). Start time is 12 noon at Walcha Anglican Church (St Andrews - Church of England) 5N South St. A light lunch will follow at 12:30. Any donations received on the day will help the Bible Society of Australia to bring Bibles, healing, and help for Nigeria's displaced. Both men and women from our churches and the wider community are welcome. This is a friendly and safe environment for all. Come and see for yourself.

thumbs



- 👍 To Jarrod Smith Carpentry for the great job he has done at the Walcha Historical Society Museum.
- 👍 To the generosity and support of our local businesses for events.
- 👍 To our local NSW Fire Brigade members.
- 👍 To Paul Fritsch for all his help getting our pool upgraded.
- 👍 To a great day at the pool reopening. Thank you to Rotary for the sausage sizzle and Logan for great coffee. Also, a big thanks to all who organised the day. Council staff and volunteers.
- 👍 To the workers and Council staff for the fantastic pool refurbishment. So good to be able to get in and out of the pool easily with the new walkway, especially for the oldies and people with disability, or doing rehabilitation.
- 👍 To James Rogers, for climbing aboard the ECW bus outing on Friday to share his knowledge in relation to not just Walcha's newest sculpture but also about the 'Sculpture Trail' in and around our district. You added another dimension to the residents' excursion with your willingness to share your enthusiasm and knowledge.
- 👍 To our postie Molly who always has a cheery attitude and delivers parcels with care.
- 👍 To Rotary for cooking a delicious BBQ at the pool re-opening.
- 👍 To Walcha Council for the amazing upgrades to the pool, hopefully the weather stays warm for us to enjoy.
- 👍 To all the WCS kids who tried so hard at PSSA swimming. Well done to Rupert, Patrick, Billy, Max & Toby who will represent Walcha at North West next week.

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.

Seniors of all ages enjoyed tennis tournament

From Hyde Thomson

We are back! The Walcha District Tennis Association's 2026 Brian Smith Timber Transport Seniors Tournament was run over the weekend after a year off.

Thanks to our little committee, we braved the return of the tournament and the unknown and we relished in its atmosphere and success.

Fortuitously entries were below what we expected which allowed us to cut our teeth and the players got to play more tennis. We received 35 male and female entries from Dubbo to Inverell, Boggabri to Port Macquarie with an age variation from 33 to 86, playing in 7 different events. Thank you to the local players who also participated.

Thank you also to our local businesses who willingly and generously supported our little club's tournament. These funds not only assisted the running of the tournament but will be indispensable in supporting our 40+ junior tennis players and contributing to the maintenance and renewal of the tennis facilities.

Hopefully we will continue to rebuild next year, and we look forward to seeing some more local entries coming forward in 2027.

Raffle results: 1st prize Helen Burge, 2nd prize Ange Savouski, 3rd prize Jock McLaren and 4th prize Rebecca Boulet.



Runners Up in the Mens Doubles Pool B Tom Hoy and Kris Wall with Walcha Tennis Club President Hyde Thomson. Below: Jock McLaren and Stephen Hoy taking a break



Walcha Show photography printing

Walcha Show Photography entries close next Monday 9 March. Walcha Telecottage can print your entries this week. You can email them to us on wtc@walchateleccottage.com.au

Due to deadlines we are unable to print any photos next Monday morning.



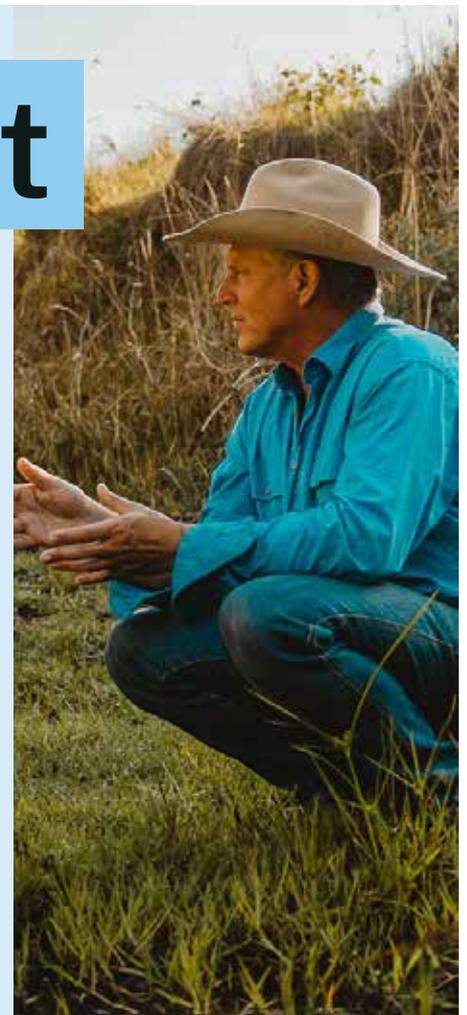
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Autumn Action Starts in March

THURSDAY 12th MARCH

Inverell Early Bird Weaner Sale
In Conjunction with Colin Say & Co and
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Inverell Saleyards, Sale Start 10am

SUNDAY 15th MARCH

Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale
Interfaced with AuctionsPlus
Nowendoc Showgrounds
Pre-Works start at 9am, Sale Starts 1pm

FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Nutrien New England Weaner Sale
Nutrien Armidale & Nutrien Boultons
Armidale Saleyards
Sale Start 10am

SATURDAY 21st MARCH

Wauchope Feature Female Sale
Interfaced with StockLive
Wauchope Saleyards
Sale Start 10am

THURSDAY 26th MARCH

Nutrien Boultons Twilight Weaner, Feeder & Breeder Sale
AuctionsPlus Only
Sale Start 6pm



Contacts

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

Nutrien Boulton's Wauchope
John Corrigan - 0427 871 157
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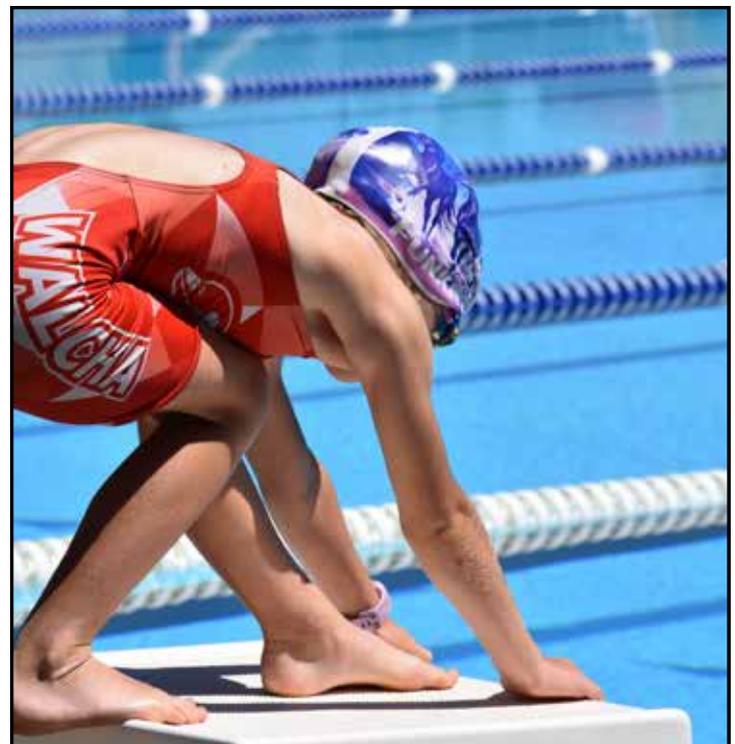


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Close scores at Walcha Gun Club annual shoot

Walcha Gun Club held its Two Day Open Shoot on 15-15 February. Overcast and windy conditions made it difficult for the 59 shooters who travelled from Queensland, Hunter Valley and coastal regions.

With over \$7000 in prizemoney up for grabs, scores reflected great competition with plenty of red on the board. After Saturdays 150

targets Brewarrina shooter Dallas Codrington dropped one clay to lead 149/150, closely followed by John Reid from Guyra, Helen Overton from Tamworth and Jessica Robb from Queensland.

Sundays shoot promised better conditions and scores proved just that. After another 100 targets a few shoot offs were required

to set placings in all grades from 1st to 5th. Also for Juniors, Ladies and Veterans.

Special mention to new local shooter Cameron Turner who was competing in his first open shoot. Cameron won C grade leading all the way.

Winners were:

Overall Dallas Codrington 249/250

AA Grade John Reid 247/250

2nd..... Helen Overton 247/250

3rd Jessica Robb 245/250

4th..... Mark Ullman 244/250

5th..... John Lisle 244/250

A Grade..... Bill Fletcher 245/250

2nd..... Katrina Rumbel 244/250

3rd Stewart Bowden 241/250

4th..... Scott Hanshaw 240/250

5th Ray Christie 239/250

B Grade..... Jesse Crosby 240/250

2nd..... Alfred Azzopardi 239/250

3rd Cameron Smith 235/250

4th Howard Ryan 235/250

5th Hans Model 235/250

Junior High Gun .. Myla Crosby 187/250

Ladies High Gun.. Helen Overton 247/250

Vets High Gun John Lisle 244/250



Prize winners at the recent Walcha Gun Club two day shoot. Locals include Cameron Turner, Bill Fletcher and John Lisle



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Former Walcha resident Peter Stinson left this world late last month at Old Bar and was farewelled at Taree last Wednesday. Condolences to all his family members and friends. May Peter Ralph Stinson Rest in Peace.

...

Congratulations to Walcha Central School students Toby Wellings and Rupert Fletcher on qualifying for the North West PSSA Swimming Trials after performing well at the Armidale District Zone Carnival last week. Toby finished third in the Senior Boys 50 metre Butterfly whereas Rupert touched down second in his Junior Boys 50 metres Backstroke event.

...

Well done also to the Junior Boys Relay Patrick O'Connell, Billy Young, Max Martin and Rupert Fletcher who finished third in their 4x50 metre event to also qualify. All five swimmers will be in action at the North West Trials at Monkton Aquatic Centre in Armidale next Monday. Five Secondary School students will represent Walcha Central next Tuesday at their North West Trials. Best of luck to all competitors.

...

A total of 19 W.C.S Swimmers competed in the Armidale District PSSA Zone Carnival and considering they had very limited preparation due to our pool being closed for renovations all deserve a pat on the back for the way they

went. A special mention for Issy Moody-Nixon on her eye catching performance in her junior 50 metre Butterfly. Certainly is an unique style Issy.

...

Congratulations to Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade cricket captain Ed Blomfield on being named 2AD Senior Sportstar last week. Ed was selected in NSW Emus squad to play in the National Masters Over 40's Championships in Adelaide earlier in the year assisting his team to win three of their four games. Good on ya Edward.

...

Still on cricket there was a whisper doing the rounds that 2020/21 Walcha Cricketer of Year and E.R Brazel Memorial trophy winner Luke Wellings made a comeback last Saturday when he played alongside his youngest son Dustin in the TAS 2ndXI at Peter Fenwicke Oval against Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade.

...

Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade must have some fairly handy 'Rain Dancers' in their team because if the moisture didn't arrive last Saturday they were in more trouble than 'Speed Gordon' at 7 for 45 chasing 224 runs.

...

Congratulations to Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade opening batsman and Walcha Cricketer of the Year 2019/20 Shannon Rafferty on scoring a ton at Rologas Oval in Armidale last Saturday. 'Raff' belted the Armidale United bowlers to the

boundary nine times on his way to 104 runs. Well done 'Raff'.

...

Apsley Advocate Sporting Editor Joscisca Matapakia was a bit disappointed when she was promised a present from her good friend Daniel Boyd last weekend, and when it arrived wasn't quite as exciting as what Jojo expected. Daniel presented Jojo with the 2nd Grade Cricket score books after A.U.C.C had failed to fill out their part of the Play Cricket site which meant Jojo would have access to print the scoreboard in this weeks Advocate Sport. So much for the flowers Jojo.

...

'Quiet Valley' grazieress and my sister in law Sandra Laurie has been upgrading her kitchen during very recent times and reckons it is cool that five of her former Maths students she taught at Walcha Central have been or will be tradesmen on the project. Plumbers Adam Dark and Tim Baumer, plasterer Jesse Lordanic, electrician Lee Harrison and builder Josh Wellings all had 'Sandy' as their Maths tutor a few years ago.

...

Great to see the Walcha Memorial Baths up and running after a Community Fun Day was held at the pool last Saturday. Hopefully the weather will stay kind especially after the way it has been ideal for most of the swimming season and pool users can enjoy a few more dips before closing day.



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Wednesday Golf

Another good field of 24 players last Wednesday saw Sal Rutherford with a wonderful nett score of 66, run out the winner in the Stroke event, playing for Lorraine Rennie's trophy.

The runner up was Polly Locke on a countback, also with a great score of 66 nett.

The following sweepstakes went to Pip Monie 67, Cheryl McDonald 70, Robyn Salt 79, Jenny Lisle 71 and Margaret Davidson 71.

Nearest the pin on Hole 3 was Julie Olrich and Anne Martin took out the second shot on Hole 18.

There was no putting competition as there is no way of recording putts with the new scoring system.

Monthly mugs were won by Cheryl McDonald, Polly Locke and Sally Rutherford.

This week we are playing stableford for a trophy donated by Peter Norbury.

Ladies Bowls

In the Minor Singles Lee McCoy had a win against Marie Spink and Carmel Ryan won against Lee McCoy in a very close game 25-22. Lee had the lead until towards the end when Carmel crept in to win. Margaret Tickle will play Lee McCoy tomorrow with Pam Makeham as marker and Carmel Ryan plays Marie Spink, marker Jan Cross. Last Thursday Esther Hunt, Marie Spink and Lyn Burnell played a game of triples against Janice Rizzi, Debbie Richards and Margaret Tickle and had a good win. The Major Singles commence 12 March so please write your name on the board if you wish to play. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start.

Bowls

Our pennant players travelled to Kootingal on Saturday and were defeated 63 to 52. Jamie Kerr's side had a good win and the other two sides just got pipped on the post. This Saturday they travel to North Tamworth for the last away game, good luck.

Bowlers enjoyed the first round of the mixed pairs that was played last Sunday. Two sides had two wins but all sides are still in contention. The next round is to be played on Sunday March 15.

B grade singles nominations close on 23rd March.

At the Nineteenth

The second round of the 2026 Mens Golf Club Championships was contested last Sunday where Will Archdale doubled his lead to six shots after carding his second six over par 76 in succession.

Equal leader after the opening round Simeon Cross is currently in second position with Michael Stackman on 158 just one stroke in front of Wayne Brennan 159.

Reigning C Grade Champion Allan Laurie leads B Grade on 171 from Darren Bird and Don Brooks both on 172 after first round leader Angus Warden found the going a bit tough and is now 175 with Jack McLaren.

In C Grade Bill Fletcher sits on 182 holding a very comfortable 16 shot advantage over Brian Lynch 198 while Tim Baumer is running third on 200.

Daily overall winner was 'Mollydooker' Allan Laurie after he registered a 64 nett to sneak home from Peter Berry and Willy Brennan both on 65 and in doing so collected a trophy donated by club secretary Anthea Nivison.

The remaining sweepstakes went to Don Brooks 66, Jock McLaren 66, Billy Fletcher 67 and Darren Bird 67.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Jack McLaren (3), Michael Stackman (9), Simone Sweeney (16) and James Norton (18).

Last Saturday the weekly 9 hole competition attracted 11 players where Jack McLaren accumulated 19 stableford points to win from runner up Vicki Heffernan on 18 points. No N.T.P winner on 3.

This Sunday is the closing round of the Mens Championships where Club President Miles Archdale is in charge of supplying the prize.

Club members please note your Annual General Meeting has been changed from 8th March to 15th March.

Tennis

Round 2 of the 26 Summer Comp was played out on Tues 24th Feb under lights in perfect tennis conditions.

Leaders of the pack are Peter Tape and Jock Rutherford on 33 points. Well done to these players. Hot on their heels are Hyde Thomson and Jake Wellings on 30 points each and just behind them is Todd Whillock on a cool 29 points. Well done also to these players and everyone that played on the night. As always a big shout out to our floaters Mata Matapakia and Will Archdale. Our floaters are a very important part of the Comp.

Our next Club Meeting will be held on Mon 9th March at 6.30 pm. See you all at the net soon.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla easily won their Armidale District 2nd Grade fixture against Armidale United at Rologas Oval while here at Peter Fenwicke Oval the homeside escaped certain defeat when the 3rd Grade game was abandoned due to rain against TAS 2nd XI.

Up at Armidale the visitors won the toss and batted where opener Shannon Rafferty was the star performer when he belted 104 runs to lead his team to a total of 230 runs at a loss of six wickets off their 40 overs.

He received valuable support from David Ford 47 runs not out, Cameron Mooney 29 and Daniel Boyd 22.

The homeside failed their assignment by 177 runs after they were dismissed for 53 in their 29th over.

Chief wicket takers were Daniel Boyd 3 wickets for 2 runs and Will Fletcher 3 for 4 whereas opener Matt Harper 2 for 5 and David Ford 1 for 7 were also successful.

In third Grade TAS 2nd XI won the toss and batted where they compiled 224 runs at a loss of eight wickets.

Teenager Owen Morley was the hosts most successful trundler with 2 for 19 while Nathan Swan 2/32, Brian Mullen 1/16, David Morley 1/27, Bob Jex 1/30 and Will Cox 1/32 all captured wickets.

Walcha/Uralla were 7 for 45 midway through their 15th over after Gary Brown (12 runs) was the only batsman to reach double figures before the rain came.

This Saturday 2nd Grade host Hillgrove while 3rd Grade travel to Wakefield to take on TAS 3rd XI in the final competition games of both grades.

Walcha/Uralla v Armidale United 2nd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

J WEARNE lbw Iroshan.....	4
S RAFFERTY c Ethan b Iroshan.....	104
B DWYER lbw Iroshan.....	0
D BOYD lbw Saiful.....	22
C MOONEY c Nandan b Sakib.....	29
D FORD n.o.....	47
W ARCHDALE st Asif b Sakib.....	7
B HOY n.o.....	7
Total 220. Extras 10	

Bowling (overs/maidens/wkts/runs): Iroshan 8-0-3-31, Nandan 8-0-0-46, Saiful 8-0-1-57, Ethan 7-0-0-34, Sakib 7-2-14, Tuki 7-0-0-12.

Armidale United

IROSHAN c Wearne b Harper.....	17
NANDAN lbw b Harper.....	0
ANKIT b Fletcher.....	5
SAKIB b D Ford.....	1
TUKU b Fletcher.....	2
SAIFUL lbw Fletcher.....	3
ASIF n.o.....	19
FAHIM b Boyd.....	0
ETHAN b Boyd.....	3
KANGESH lbw Boyd.....	0
Total 53. Extras 3.	

Bowling (overs/maidens/wkts/runs): M Harper 5-1-2-5, C Mooney 7-2-0-31, D Ford 5-1-1-7, W Fletcher 6-3-3-4, P Mooney 2-1-0-4, D Boyd 4-3-3-2.

Walcha/Uralla v TAS Second 3rd Grade

TAS Second XI

J ROGERS b D Morley.....	33
J KELLAWAY c B Mullen b O Morley.....	8
J FARRELL b B Jex.....	68
M CLOUT b W Cox.....	1
FILL-IN st B Ussher b N Swan.....	30
J PALFREYMAN b N Swan.....	0
G DOUGLAS-MENZIES c G Brown b B Mullen.....	40
FILL-IN retired n.o.....	18
FILL-IN c H Swan b O Morley.....	10
FILL-IN n.o.....	0
Total 224 (40 overs) Extras 16	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): B Ussher 8-0-61-0, O Morley 4-1-0-19-2, D Morley 8-0-27-1, W Cox 4-0-32-1, N Swan 8-0-32-2, B Jex 5-0-30-1, B Mullen 1.5-0-16-1, H Swan 1-0-2-0.

Walcha/Uralla

O MORLEY b J Farrell.....	0
R BLOOMFIELD b J Farrell.....	2
B MULLEN c Fill-in b G Douglas-Menzies.....	7
H WILLIAMS c Fill-in b G Douglas-Menzies.....	0
D MORLEY retired n.o.....	1
G BROWN lbw J Palfreyman.....	12
H SWAN b Fill-in.....	0
N SWAN n.o.....	7
W COX r.o Fill-in.....	0
B JEX n.o.....	0
Total 45 (14.3 overs) Extras 16	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): J Farrell 4-1-4-2, G Douglas-Menzies 4-0-10-2, Fill-in 2-0-11-1, J Palfreyman 3-0-9-1, Fill-in 1.3-0-7-0.

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Memorial

Memorial for Kathleen Marion Lee to be held 7 March, 10.30am at the Kingdom Hall 210N North Street.

Save the Date

Walcha Garden Club Annual luncheon Friday, 4th September, 2026 at the Walcha Bowling Club.

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 | 0429 668 583

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.
No charge for JP services.

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.

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

Walcha Council



Important notice to our valued ratepayers

If you have received a Water notice via email or post with the due date of the 20.02.2026 please ignore it.

Due to a technical fault the notices were issued with the incorrect due date.

You will receive an updated notice with the correct due date either by email or post (whichever option you have requested).

The correct due date is 26.03.2026.

If you don't receive a corrected notice please contact Council on 02 6774 2500 and we will be happy to reissue one.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.

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

Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Council



Notice Of Proposed Development

Application Number: 10.2026.6

Walcha Council has received an application from Winterbourne Wind Pty Ltd seeking development consent for the redevelopment and expansion of the Walcha Caravan Park, 113N Middle Street, Walcha. The proposal includes the demolition of existing structures (9 existing cabins and ancillary buildings) and the construction of new accommodation cabins, and associated engineering and servicing upgrades to support the expanded facility. The redevelopment will include the retention of 6 existing cabins and the construction of 36 new accommodation cabins including associated access and amenity improvements.

Development application 10.2026.6 is "integrated development" under section 4.46 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The proposal involves works in proximity to a prescribed waterway requiring approval from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) under section 91 of the Water Management Act 2000.

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 27 March 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 27 March 2026.

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

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Meeting Notices

Walcha Golf Club AGM Sunday 15th March 9am at the club house. All members welcome.

Walcha Junior Indoor Hockey AGM. Monday 16 March at 6pm at the Top of the New England Hotel. Call Jess Williams 0418 827 088.

Walcha United Football Club AGM Commercial Hotel 6pm 10 March. Any enquiries call 0427 483 039.



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or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

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Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am
Youth Group every Saturday 5pm - 7pm, during term.
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Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC
Sunday Mass 10.00am

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