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11 March 2026

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It's Show Time!!

The sideshows have rolled in, and a full field of trade exhibits are heading to Walcha showground. The main pavilion will be bursting with entries. Beautiful, fragrant flowers will top off the spectacle. The wool fleeces are being judged. If you haven't already guessed, it is Showtime and the showground is buzzing!

"All of our old favourites will be at the Show, and we have a new line up of entertainment for all ages. Families will love the Dinkum Dinosaurs experience, featuring a hilarious puppet show. Meet Turbo the Magic Dinosaur, explore the Baby Dinosaur Zoo, see fossils up close, and enjoy plenty of photo opportunities in this fun-filled interactive experience for all ages. Performances are scheduled over the two days, with the 'Zoo' open all day from 9am", Show President, Angus Monie said.

Following their popularity last year, members of the Professional Farriers Association NSW are returning to the Show, demonstrating their impressive blacksmithing skills.

For something completely different and entertaining, there'll be a very special appearance by *Lu & Jarch*, broadcasting live on radio Triple M from the Show on Friday, 2pm to 4pm. Drop by and have a listen and a laugh, maybe even get a photograph.

The exciting Six Bar Horse Jumping competition will wrap up the horse events on Friday afternoon before there's fun and laughter with some crazy dog races – pooches of all shapes and sizes, domestic and working, are invited to compete!

The Show will be officially opened in front of the bar at 6pm on Friday by Brendan Moylan MP, Member for Northern Tablelands, with special awards being presented to very worthy recipients and the announcement of our 2026 Walcha Young Woman.

The ever-popular Dog Jumping will start the Friday evening entertainment, followed by the Working Dog's Revenge – the Sheep Penning Showdown! Get a team of three mates together and step into the yard to attempt what working dogs make look effortless. The team has to simply guide three stubborn sheep into a pen using nothing but teamwork and determination. It's part skill, part chaos, and entirely at the mercy of the sheep! Who will triumph? The working dog judges will be the toughest scrutineers to please! Teams of three: 15 and under 18 years, 18yrs and over. Register just prior to the start. Stay on for the fantastic fireworks lighting up the sky.

The Australian Skin Cancer Foundation Skin Check Truck will be on the showground both days. It is free to have a skin check done, after Show entry.

Livestock competitions are a big drawcard to the Show and will be held over the two days. Woodchop competition will be back on Saturday.

The motorbike competitions commence at 9:00am Saturday. Kids, bring along your pets for the pet competition on Saturday, 10am in front of the main pavilion. Check out the Aviary Bird display and Poultry pavilion. The Cattle Dog Challenge begins Saturday afternoon with the final at 6.30pm. This and the Yard Dog Trials on Saturday will both be great events, the skills of the dogs and handlers are something else.

If you love Line Dancing or just want to give it a crack, head to the bar area on Saturday afternoon. All ages, beginners or experienced, are welcome to join in the fun, starting with a demonstration.

If you love the rumble of a side-by-side, make sure you are ringside after the horse events, Saturday afternoon for the Side-by-Side Shootout! A first for Walcha Show!

The much-loved, ever-competitive Tug-of-War competition returns late Saturday afternoon – fun for all ages! Cash prizes! Get your teams of 7 together, jump on our website for entry forms and rules. Register prior to the start of competitions.

With a full two-day program, strong community support and something for all ages, the Walcha Show once again promises to deliver the best little show with the biggest heart!

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around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

This easterly winds just won't let up and they continue to drive the chance of any decent moisture away. The easterly stopped on Saturday and the storm clouds brewed up and delivered from 10-20mm of rain for some with some isolated falls topping at 50mm. Those who have been missing the previous storms seem to be continuing to miss out on any moisture as the more I drive around the district, the worse some parts are becoming. The reality is a frost can come at any time now, let's hope they don't show up for a few months. QLD is getting absolutely belted with rain with major flooding throughout the state and into the NT, it's hard to believe with that much moisture in the north that is just hasn't come down.

The war in the Middle East is starting to strangle parts of the world with the closure of the strait of Hormuz which is a crucial, narrow waterway which serves as a major conduit for global trade. The escalating war in Iran has put Australia's fuel supply at risk, now. Even though only 20% of our oil comes through that passage, this closure affects refined oil on its way to us. Rerouting these ships causes significant delays and higher costs to get the refined oil to us. Currently Australia has approximately 34 days of diesel and petrol, or so we are told which believe it or not falls below the 90-day international energy agency standard. Australia imports 90% of its refined fuel and we are highly exposed to shortages and global conflict. The government for the last two decades has a lot to answer for; we are an energy rich nation and yet we rely so heavily on overseas fuel supplies. I bet those who voted for Net Zero might have a different opinion once you can't get any food from the supermarket as we have no diesel to put in the trucks to get the food to the supermarket. Everything arrives on a truck, hay, grain, livestock, processed food for the supermarket and everything that goes into your day-to-day living. The worst part is that they tell us the war will be over directly, well which previous war has ended in 8 days, it's like predicting the weather, no one really has any idea especially with Trump involved. Fuel prices have already jumped by 70c a litre. Two things you can guarantee, it will get dearer again, and the extra cost will continue to be passed on down the line to the consumer. Every time a barrel of oil goes up $10 US a barrel, it adds 10c/litre to our fuel price and I'm still trying to figure out why it's already gone through the roof. It's the panic buying scenario all over again with fuel this time compared to toilet paper, as I quote Miles Archdale, "Mark my words this will end in tears". Not only are we staring down the barrel of supply issues for all of us, but these rising costs will only add pressure to inflation and increase the chance of another rate rise within the week. Spare a thought for a few private meat companies that have ships loaded with meat sitting on the water currently with no home and unable to return to Australian waters.

The Middle East conflict is causing extreme disruption to global financial markets, but our beef and sheep markets continue to defy the odds. The New England and northwest saleyards continue to bulge at the seams with large numbers continuing to run. 5320 head of cattle were yarded in Tamworth on Monday with all categories quoted as dearer. The best of the weaner steers topped at 540c/kg, hfrs topped at 444c/kg, feeder steer made to 510c/kg while the heifer portion topped 442c/kg. The processing cattle picked up from 10-25c/kg, especially with strong interest from QLD processors with rain affected consignments from the north as heavy export cattle topped at 480c/kg while the best of the heavy cows made to 425c/kg. Another 10,000 head of cattle sold on Tuesday between Gunnedah and Inverell.

Enough doom and gloom as our annual Walcha Show is this weekend and make sure you take the time to see one of the best rural shows in NSW. Plenty of things to see and do and no doubt the hotly contested cooking section will be well supported. Reminder for everyone the Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Auction will be held this Sunday at Nowendoc and for more information talk to one of the team at Nutrien Boulton's.

Boulton's first Working Dog Sale at this Sunday

Nutrien Boulton's are excited to be hosting their first ever Working Dog Sale this Sunday, March 15 at the Nowendoc Recreation Grounds.

The day will feature a line-up of 13 quality working dogs from a range of vendors, with dogs suited to both sheep and cattle work. The aim of the sale is to give buyers access to reliable, practical working dogs while also providing a platform for vendors to showcase the strength of their breeding and training programs. The day will begin at 9am with Pre-Works, giving everyone the opportunity to see the dogs working before the auction. This will be followed by the Ben Nevis Vendor Shoot-Out, where each vendor can compete using either their sale dog or another dog from their team. The sale itself will start at 1pm and will be interfaced with AuctionsPlus, meaning buyers who are unable to attend in person will still be able to bid online.

Alongside the sale there will be trade stores operating throughout the day and catering available thanks to the Couatwong Creek Campdraft Committee, plus Logan Stace's Coffee To Go, making it a great day out. With demonstrations, competition and the auction itself all on the program, the event promises to be a great day for dog enthusiasts and livestock producers alike.

Second in Poetry Competition

In late January, local poet, Julie Butler, was thrilled to learn that she had been awarded 2nd Prize in The 20th Annual Writers Digest Literary Magazine's Chapbook Competition. A Chapbook is a collection of poems written by the author with a stipulated number of pages. This particular competition being to 1-25 pages, the entry being able to contain up to 25 shorter poems, or one epic 25-page poem, and/or a combination of shorter and longer poems.

Julie is a 'three-verse' poet and her submission for this competition was a series of 25 short poems titled "*The Museum of Forgotten Things*". The submissions are judged as a whole, so in Julie's case all of her 25 poems.

The Writers Digest is a premier resource for writers, serving both novice and professional writers. The competition Julie entered received over 1,000 submissions from around the world so it's a tremendous achievement to have received second place.

Other 2025 successes for Julie included being shortlisted in the *Kyogle Writers Festival Poetry Competition*, winning the *RD Walshe National Writing for the Environment Poetry Prize*, 2nd Prize in *The Fellowship of Australian Writers Lambing Flat Poetry Competition.* Then in February 2026, having one of her poems read at the laying of a plaque at the property "River Bends" at Narrandera where the legendary buckjumping horse "Rocky Ned" is buried.

Nutrien Boulton's

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Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale

Sunday 15 March 2026

Nowendoc Recreation Grounds

• **Pre-Works** 9am • **Ben Nevis Vendor Shoot Out** 12pm • **Sale** 1pm

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Pre-Works and Dog Sale
Pre-Works will run from 9am. 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 to view catalogue

Come along and enjoy a great day out!

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

Nutrien Boulton's Walcha ■ 3n Derby Street Walcha ■ 6777 2044

Mayoral Column

Eric Noakes, Walcha Mayor

With it now being a year since Council transitioned Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility into its portfolio, it seems to be an appropriate time to reflect on that year and look forward to the next. Obviously, this decision to step into aged care was a carefully planned and executed decision with the strong backing of the community. To say it has been a year of extensive and exhaustive learning and adjustments would be an understatement. With the new Aged Care Standards being introduced in early November 2025 the volume of work for council, board members and staff has been challenging.

You may recall that a committee was established to provide oversight and advice to council. This committee consists of three doctors, Leanne Morton, Alison Jones and Adrian Allen, along with Clr Anne-Marie Pointing and myself. Director of Corporate and Community Christian Martin sat on this committee also, but with his departure from Walcha Council will see a new director appointed to assume this role. I believe the Walcha community will never be able to repay the volunteers, the three doctors, on this committee for the time, dedication and experience they bring. Riverview would not be capable of operating to the standards and compliance it does without their input.

One major change was that of the facility manager. Long time and dedicated manager Julie Blake, resigned after many years of service and assisting in the sometimes difficult transition from Presbyterian Aged Care to Walcha Council. The facility we took over is testament to Julie's passion and knowledge of aged care and the local community.

This role has been filled by another local, registered nurse Kate Lisle who most of the community know through her roles in that field. Kate has assumed this role with vigour and is proving to be a great successor to Julie.

Other positives have been the gaining of an Aged Care Grant for Council to provide accommodation to both agency and longer-term staff who wish to work in our facility. The grant for $890,000 will be utilised to fill a gap that was signaled from day one of the transition and enhance accommodation security for Riverview staff.

Another gap that was seen early was that of a generator to provide power when the grid fails. This gap was highlighted during last years snowstorm, and was reinforced with summer storms. With the assistance of our service clubs a 150kva generator has been purchased and will be in situ in the coming weeks. After negotiations Origin Energy has donated a 75kw solar system to Council, along with inverters and batteries to reduce the power costs and provide some backup. Running parallel to both of the above the main switchboard will be replaced to support these upgrades and address safety concerns, as the current board is outdated and inadequate. Contrary to what I constantly hear Riverview does not need rewiring.

The subdivision of the land is almost complete. The ever concerning cottonwood trees' days are numbered and safety is being improved for visitor access.

While on capital works, we are repainting, reflooring and generally updating rooms as they become available. Along with converting three other under-utilised rooms to residents rooms and improving paths and security we have been able to stay in a solid financial position. This position is obviously made possible by the transfer of the facility at no capital cost to council.

It is well known that Aged Care has massive challenges, the withdrawal of McLean Care from the sector being a prime example of the pressures faced. Through the transition we were forthright in the

Mayoral Column

Continued from Page 4

challenges this move presented, both financial and clinical. Obviously, both of these challenges remain and probably will do well into the future but I believe with the experienced help we receive, backing of the community and careful management we will see this facility continue to provide an essential service within tight financial barriers and ever changing standards that apply.

Friends of Riverview continue to work independently of Council providing so much to enhance the lives of our residents. Their tireless work in fundraising is to be applauded.

Moving forward, with a focus on excellent clinical care, a homely atmosphere, high quality and caring staff along with nutritional food we aim to, and I believe are achieving great outcomes for our community.

Coupled with all that is going on at Riverview, council is exploring the opportunity to set up a charitable trust to assist in the long term maintenance and if ever required, expansion of the facility. I have been approached on numerous occasions to replicate the fundraising that led to the building of Riverview in the first place. The aim is that this trust will have tax deductible status and will not encroach on other groups/ clubs etc. that currently support the facility. The structure and purpose of this will be updated as it moves along.

Riverview will always be an essential part of Walcha's social web, and I believe that in Council's hands it faces a bright future. As a small community the decision to run this facility was the right one, and having progressed through the first year as a community we will build on its strengths and provide the care that our residents deserve.

27th Annual Niangala Prawn and Chicken Night

The small but mighty community of Niangala held its 27th annual Prawn and Chicken night on 28 February with 85 people in attendance.

The Hall, defying its age of 98 years was heaving during the festivities and shenanigans that included a Calcutta for the Prawn Peeling Race, a monster raffle and live music by Brent Larkin. Under the watchful eye of Judge, and past champion, Jordy Young - what unfolded could be best be described as resembling a knife fight in a phone booth! Cassie McKenna blitzed the field of prawn peeling hopefuls that included the likes of Walcha stalwart Guy Lord and a young German import who was equally traumatised and amused by the experience. The night concluded with bellies full of delicious food and sore feet from carving up the dance floor.

A huge thank you to the supporting local businesses that donated to the raffle.

There will be no mention of the small ice cream container of left over prawns that made a trip in an esky to Newcastle on Monday and were opened in the car Tuesday afternoon by a six year old hoping for yummy home cooking – needless to say he has been put off prawns for life. Despite this setback the dedicated committee are already poised to make the 2027 Prawn and Chicken night bigger and better, committed to continuing the tradition of small community gatherings.

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Library Celebrates NSW Women's Week

Last week *Walcha Library Book Club* held a special morning tea at their March meeting, celebrating NSW Women's Week, in the lead up to International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March. Instead of their usual book discussion, the group decided to converse about stories and achievements of amazing women who inspire and encourage them.

The library has hosted this book group for decades with the current members having been part of it for 3-16 years. They themselves deserve recognition for keeping such a precious group going. Supported by the library, with book kits loaned through Central Northern Regional Libraries, members simultaneously read a book, and then discuss it over a cuppa at the library each month. This month's book didn't quite impress, so the group agreed to celebrate amazing women and mark NSW Women's Week. Sharing great female authors and recommended reads, as well as stories about inspirational women in their lives. From older students at school who went on to change worlds that didn't want women in them, to women who braved the seas and sailed around the world. There were brave mums, grandmothers, wives, sisters, and daughters—women we may not have seen as superheroes at the time, but who we can now recognise were quietly moving mountains. There were interesting discussions about women from different eras, countries, regions of Australia and cultures, as well as lots of recommendations of female authors such as Jane Austen, Harper Lee, Di Morrisey, Louisa May Alcott, Larissa Behrendt, Anita Heiss, Tara Westover and many more.

Mayor Eric Noakes and Councillor Adam Iuston were invited guests, they respectfully listened and learned from the stories shared. They also shared some of their own stories about the amazing women who have inspired them over the years. It was a great opportunity to discuss and highlight the importance of women's voices and the value of Walcha's Library with these local government leaders. They now have a long list of recommended reading and female authors to try. The library had hoped to host local Uralla author Bridget Van der Eyk to discuss her contemporary romance fiction novels during the Womens Week events, but her talk has been postponed. She will now visit the library at 5:30pm on Monday 16 March. All are welcome, please RSVP to library staff on 6774 2550.

Walcha Library Services Co-Ordinator, Cassie McKenna, Mayor Eric Noakes, Sheina Allerton, Margaret Cawley, Clr Adam Iuston, Nerida Hoy, Margaret Carter and Gene Swindell

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Winter Trials for St Pat's students

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

Last Friday, a group of St Patrick's Primary School students travelled to Armidale to compete in the Armidale Catholic Schools Winter Trials.

Representing our school across three sports were Phoebe (Girls' Football); Hunter, Marcus, Rebee, and Shaun (Boys' Football); Flo, Hannah, and Harriet (Netball); and Airlee, Lucy, and Josie (Girls' Hockey). The event gathered athletes from the region, offering them a chance to demonstrate their abilities and vie for a spot to represent our diocese at the Polding Winter Trials.

The school is proud of how the students represented our school community, playing with enthusiasm and respect. We also want to extend a thank you to the parents, coaches, and teachers who travelled with the students and supported them on the day.

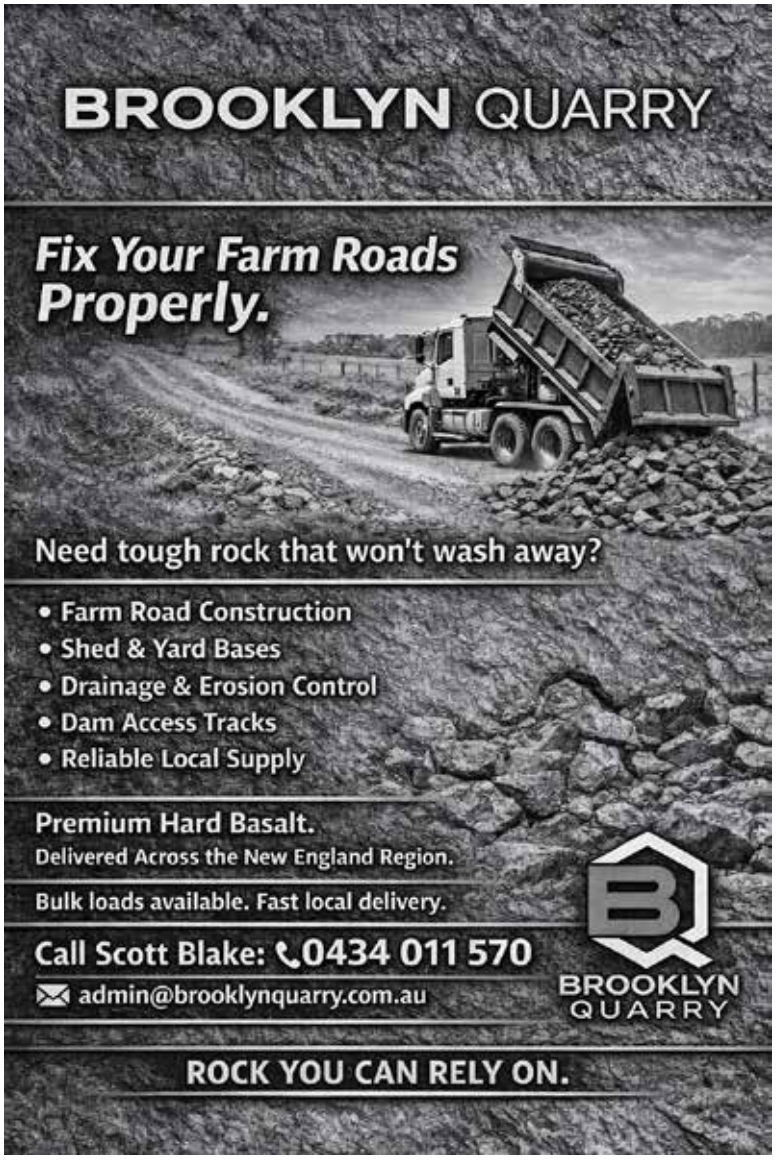
A shout-out goes to Rebee and Shaun, who made it to the probables versus possibles match in Boys' Football.

Congratulations are in order for Airlee, Lucy, and Josie on their selection to the Armidale Catholic Schools Girls' Hockey team, and to Phoebe on her successful selection for the Girls' Football team.

The St Patrick's team who competed at the Armidale Catholic Schools Winter Trials at Armidale last Friday

All four girls will be heading to Bathurst on Friday, 1st May, to showcase their skills at the Polding Winter Trials.

Well done to everyone involved!



Volunteer Grants Open

The Australian Government Volunteer Grants Program provides funding for organisations that increase participation in volunteering and focus on the inclusion of vulnerable people.

The Volunteer Grants program is an initiative established to support local volunteers, ensuring they can continue their valuable work in the community safely and appropriately.

"I always say there are three types of people in this world, the ones that throw rubbish out a car window, those that complain about those that throw rubbish out the car window and there are those that pick it up. This program supports those special people in our community that pick it up," Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said.

"Whether it's volunteering with the local CWA, helping in the canteen at the local ag show, reading to the elderly at the nursing home, or responding to fires with the State Emergency Service, our volunteers play an important role in our communities," Mr Joyce said.

"These grants can help pay for equipment at your junior sports club or for promotional items that increase participation to volunteer, as well as reimburse fuel costs and expenses associated with transport, training and accreditation," Mr Joyce said.

"For further information regarding the Volunteer Grants Program please reach out to my Office 02 6761 3080 or download the expressions of interest form from my website at www.barnabyjoyce.com.au .

Please note Expressions of Interest close Friday 27 March 2026.

Golf Championships 2026 decided

By A.J Cross

The final round of the Mens Championships was contested last Sunday despite the threatening weather conditions where a play off was required to determine who the 2026 club champion would be after second round leader Will Archdale and Micheal Stackman finished level when they completed the third round of the 54 hole event.

Trailing by six shots going into the final 18 holes Stackman shot a 7 over par 77 compared to 83 registered by Archdale before a 3 hole play off was called for on holes 1,8 and 9.

On the ninth Archdale conceded a short putt for Stackman to become the third first time club champion in the past three years following in the footsteps of captain Willy Brennan (2024) and Lee Fletcher last year.

Both Stackman 235 (81,77,77) and Archdale 235 (76,76,83) found trouble at times last Sunday but both had their chances finishing five strokes ahead of Wayne Brennan 240 (79,80,81).

In B Grade, first round leader Angus Warden bounced back from a disappointing 2nd Round to win with a total of 261 (82,93,86) just ahead of runner up Jack McLaren 263 (90,85,88).

In C Grade Bill Fletcher lead all the way winning with 279 (95,87,97) to finish 17 shots ahead of runner up Tim Baumer 296.

The Nick Cross Memorial for best nett score over the 3 Rounds was taken out by Jack McLaren 213 (73,68,72) after he snuck home from Wayne Brennan 214 (70,71,73) who did receive some consolation when he was declared Veterans winner.

Former Junior Club Champion Nixon Bird carded a one under par 69 to street the field winning the daily trophy donated by Club President Miles Archdale with an impressive 62 nett.

Sweepstakes went to Andrew Crawford 70, David Sweeney 70, Michael Stackamn 71, Lee Fletcher 71 and Jack McLaren 72 on a countback from Angus Warden 72.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Lee Fletcher (3), Wayne Brennan (9), Simeon Cross (alias Jack McLaren) (16) and Willy Brennan (18).

Last Saturday organiser John McCormack won the weekly 9 hole competition after he racked up 18 stableford points to relegate Lorraine Rennie to runner up on 17 points.

No N.T.P on 3.

This Sunday is the annual Colleen and I.J Cross Memorial while members are reminded their Annual General meeting is also scheduled for Sunday 9am.

2026 Walcha Golf Club Champions - Angus Warden (B), Michael Stackman (A), Wayne Brennan (Vets) and Bill Fletcher (C).

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what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Congratulations to the newest Walcha Golf Club Champion Michael 'Dessie' Stackman on becoming a first time A Grade titleholder after defeating Will Archdale in a three-hole playoff last Sunday. I was fortunate enough to tag along with the pair for the final 18 holes where both players experienced both good times and not so good. Former champions Simeon Cross and Wayne Brennan were also in the cut up which made for an enjoyable afternoon despite, in their own words, some ordinary golf at times. Thank you boys, I certainly enjoyed it.

•••

Since 2016 Walcha Golf Club have had five first time champions Andrew Brennan (2016) his father Wayne (2017) club captain Willy Brennan (2024) Lee Fletcher (2025) and now Michael Stackman (2026). Between 2018 and 2023 Andrew 'Buddha' Bowden threw a spanner in the works when he won six in succession.

•••

After two rounds of the Golf Championships 'Mollydooker' Allan 'Toby' Laurie was leading B Grade and was also in the running for the Nick Cross Memorial Trophy for best nett score over three rounds. Lefthander Al was a no show last Sunday due to family commitments which goes to show where his priorities lie. Good on ya 'Toby'!

•••

Above the bed where my much better half Linda and myself lay our weary heads to rest at night is a shelf, with a number of items on it including a couple of photos housed in picture frames. Our Burmese cat Monte likes to jump up onto the shelf. During recent times I mentioned to Linda it was only a matter of time before he dislodged something.

•••

Well it wasn't long later that I experienced a very rude awakening when my 'furry friend' knocked one of the pictures off the shelf and it landed on the side of my face drawing blood. To say Monte wasn't in the good books is a slight understatement.

•••

Sister in law Sandra Laurie headed out to Mudgee to visit her son Andrew and his family last weekend bumping into former Walcha Central School teacher Pete Adcock and my son-in-law Josh Wellings when she called into the Coolah Bakery on the way. Must be a popular place the Coolah Bakery because on the way home she ran into Anthea and Jimmy Nivison in the same 'Pie Shop'.

•••

Bad luck to Owen Presnell who was the only Tipster to select the winners of the first two races in the Newie 777's competition last Saturday. Unfortunately for the 'Omen' he selected 11 instead of 1 in the race event that mattered.

•••

Talented young sporting all rounder Max Martin certainly was a busy little beaver last weekend when he played cricket for the Walcha/Uralla under 11's in Armidale on Saturday then travelled to Newcastle for Development Squad Representative training on Sunday before attending the North West Swimming Trials in Armidale on Monday. Parents Sam and Jody were probably a bit weary by Monday night also.

•••

The NRL Rugby League season is off and running with a number of footy tipping competitions already causing a few headaches for tipsters who had trouble selecting winners during the opening round but there was the odd participant where that wasn't the case.

•••

Big wigs of the week – Bowling Club Judy Eckford, Apsley Arms Scotty Withers where both picked the card. Come on you two how did you do that? Newie Emma Hillier, Pat, Billy Fletcher, Lachy Fletcher, Sam Slater and Evan Dunn 14pts; Vet Supplies Tahlia Bird 14; Thunderbolts Lisa Swanton, Alena Stackman, Leanne Presnell 12; Darks Plumbing Katie Bird, Snow Bird12 pts.

•••

The hard luck story of the round would have to go to Brad Wadley at the B.C. after he failed to select a winner between the Broncos and the Panthers which cost him any chance of 'Picking the Card' as he correctly selected the other 7 winners. Bet it doesn't happen again this week Brad!

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For more information visit **cleanout.com.au**

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NSW GOVERNMENT

nirw

thumbs

- To Walcha Support Group for the lovely gift they gave to my son Billy.
- To Walcha Vets for their professional, competent and reasonably priced service. Compassionate, caring, wonderful people.
- To Anne and Petrina for tidying up the pot plants at Riverview.
- To John for the wonderful vegetable donations to Riverview.
- To the Walcha Bowling Club Social Committee for catering a recent Wake.
- To Adam Hall for playing The Last Post at a recent funeral.
- To Steph at New Beginnings Hair Studio, you are awesome.
- To Stephen King, another great sculpture added to our community.
- To Adrian Pollard for his letter in last weeks Advocate.
- To Nat at Service NSW for being so kind and helpful. What an asset to Council you are.
- To Carly at NRMA for being so helpful with info for a deceased estate. Nothing was too hard for her.

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.

Tennis

Round 3 of the 26 Summer Comp was played out on Tues 3rd March under clear skies. Leader of the pack is Jock Rutherford on 51 points. Well done Jock you are playing very consistent Tennis. Coming 2nd is Todd Whillock on 48 points. In 3rd place is Peter Tape on 47 points. Well done Todd and Peter.
Our next Club Meeting will be held on Mon 9th March at 6.30pm. See you all at the net soon.

Wednesday Golf

It was the perfect day for golf last Wednesday. There were three players on fire who came in with 42 stableford points for a trophy from Peter Norbury. Jill Burnell won on a countback from Pauline Carter and Sue Partridge. The following sweepstakes went to Vicki Heffernan, 39, Sal Rutherford 39 and Simone Sweeney 38.
The second shot on Hole 7 was won by Julie Hoad and the second shot on Hole 18 went to Vicki Heffernan.
Today is a stroke, monthly mug and medal round playing for treasurer Ann Martin's trophy.

Ladies Bowls

Two Minor Singles games were closely contested last week. Margaret Tickle was leading for at least the first ten ends against Lee McCoy. Lee fought back to win 25-17. Marie Spink and Carmel Ryan had another very closely contested game each taking it in turns to win a point or two to make it even. Carmel was the victor 25-23. Tomorrow Carmel Ryan plays Margaret Tickle, marker Lee McCoy. Although there are still Minor Singles games to be played, the Major Singles will commence tomorrow with Pam Makeham playing Jan Cross, marker Marie Spink. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start.

Bowls

Thursday bowls: Barry Kliendienst & Noel Goodwin defeated Tony Batterham & Brian Goodwin 21 to 12. Denis Makeham & Warwick Hogan defeated Peter Hayes & Geoff Salt 18 to 9. Barry & Noel won the chooks and Joe was the raffle winner.
Our pennant players played at North Tamworth last Saturday and were defeated 57 to 49. This was a vast improvement on the first round game. Mat Hamel's side had a good win. This Saturday they play Inverell Sporties at home. A win is not far away. Good luck. Starting time is 11am.
There will be no twilight bowls this Friday we will be all at the Show.
The next two rounds of the mixed pairs are on this Sunday 15th. Starting time 9.30am.
B grade singles nominations close 23rd March.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade progressed to the semi finals of their Armidale District Cricket competition after having a draw with Hillgrove last Saturday when play was abandoned at Peter Fenwicke Oval due to rain.
Hillgrove won the toss and batted amassing 181 runs for a loss of 8 wickets off their 40 overs where Will Fletcher was the leading wicket taker with 3 for 23, opener David Ford snared 2 for 45 whereas Matt Harper, Peter Mooney and his son Cameron all claimed a victim each.
The homeside had reached 133 runs for a loss of 4 wickets in their 32nd over when the rain came.
Brett Dwyer was unconquered on 39, opener Josh Wearne made 38 Shannon Rafferty 17, Barry Hoy 14 and Cameron Mooney 11.
Earlier Hillgrove opener Dave Moffitt was unlucky not to make a century when he remained 96 not out after batting throughout his team innings.
Up at TAS Wakefield Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade batted after winning the toss accumulating 171 runs at a loss of 8 wickets from their 40 overs.
Veteran Dave Morley 61 runs and Gary Brown 31 put on an unbeaten 85 runs 9th wicket partnership to give the homeside something to chase.
Mitch Foster 16 and Brian Mullen also contributed to the team total.
The hosts TAS 3rd Grade passed their assignment with 9 overs up their sleeve.
Thanks mainly to a 3rd wicket partnership between Greg Bryant 88 and Vernon Toakly 57 who put on 150 runs without a dismissal.
TAS 3rd Grade won by 8 wickets.
Walcha/Uralla 3rd Grade finished 5th on the point score ladder and can take a well earned rest until next season.
Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade on the other hand finished 2nd on their points score ladder on 37 points behind Easts Green 40 but ahead of Easts Yellow 32, Hillgrove 31, Armidale City/UNE 30 and Armidale United 17.
This Saturday Minor Premiers Easts Green host Walcha/Uralla in the opening round of the finals at Lambert Park in Armidale.

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 2nd Grade

Hillgrove

D MOFFITT n.o 96
I GALPATHAGE c J Wearne b W Fletcher 28
M LAURIE c B Dwyer b W Fletcher 9
R EASTWOOD b W Fletcher 0
B HEFFERNAN c B Dwyer b P Mooney 0
T CHAPMAN c W Archdale b C Mooney 24
H FREEMAN c C Mooney b M Harper 9
D WATERS b D Ford 4
L EASTWOOD c W Fletcher b D Ford 3
Total 181 (40 overs). Extras 8

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): M Harper 8-0-45-1, D Ford 8-0-45-2, C Mooney 8-0-36-1, W Fletcher 8-2-23-3, P Mooney 8-1-30-1.

Walcha/Uralla

J WEARNE c A Dullaway b D Waters 38
S RAFFERTY c I Galpathage b M Laurie 17
B DWYER n.o 39
B HOY r.o T Chapman 14
C MOONEY c H Freeman b T Chapman 11
D Ford n.o 0
Total 133 (31.3 overs). Extras 14

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): A Dullaway 2-0-10-0, J Tomes 4-0-28-0, H Freeman 4-0-14-0, M Laurie 6-2-24-1, T Chapman 7.3-0-27-1, D Waters 5-0-19-1.

Walcha/Uralla v TAS Third XI 3rd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

R BLOOMFIELD c T Cameron b J Wood 3
O MORLEY b V Toakley 1
B MULLEN c G Byrant b A Byrne 13
N SWAN c A Byrne b J Wood 2
N LAURIE b T Cameron 5
M FOSTER b A Byrne 16
D MORLEY n.o 61
H WILLIAMS c X Stephen b V Toakley 5
B JEX B N Stone 6
G BROWN n.o 31
Total 171 (40 overs). Extras 28

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): V Toakley 8-0-18-2, J Wood 7-0-31-2, T Cameron 4-0-18-1, A Byrne 6-0-34-2, N Stone 5-0-21-1, G Bryant 3-1-6-0, G Byrant 6-0-24-0, C Rose 1-0-16-0.

TAS Third XI

X STEPHEN c B Jex b O Morley 9
T CAMERON c R Bloomfield b N Laurie 4
G BRYANT n.o 88
V TOAKLEY n.o 57
Total 172 (30.4 overs). Extras 14

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): O Morley 5-1-18-1, N Laurie 7-0-34-1, N Swan 5-0-33-0, M Foster 5-0-29-0, W Cox 3-0-7-0, D Morley 3-0-18-0, B Jex 2-0-20-0, Gary Brown 0.4-0-9-0.

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Funeral Notices

Dorothy Alice Fitzgerald
'Dot'
nee Hoy

Loving mother of Diane Stackman. Loved grandmother of Paul, Ben & Chrystle. Much loved great-grandmother of Harper, Abbi, Asha, Parkah & Presley.

Aged 91 years

Graveside Funeral Service to be held at the Walcha General Cemetery on Monday 16th March 2026 commencing at 10am.

Piddingtons Armidale (02) 6772 2288

Neil Francis Hoy
25.09.1949 – 03.03.2026

Peacefully passed away at Emmaus. Late of Port Macquarie and formerly of Walcha. Loving Husband of Dawn, Brother, Brother-in-law and Uncle to many.

Aged 76 years.

A celebration of Neil's life will be held at the Emmaus Chapel, Colonel Barney Drive, Port Macquarie on Wednesday 18th March 2026 commencing at 11am.

Mid Coast Funerals 65841233

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
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SHOW LUNCHEON PAVILION
Open 9am – 4pm Friday and Saturday. **Morning/Afternoon Tea:** Tea / Coffee and Slice $5, Sandwiches $8. **Lunch:** 12 – 2pm inc dessert, tea / coffee $20 • Lasagne and salad • Roast beef with gravy, baked potatoes and pumpkin salad • Chicken caesar salad.

Blackberry spraying. Call 0428 776 494.

Fireworks will be held on Friday evening, 13 March, during the Walcha Show at the showground.

Walcha Council

Walcha Memorial Baths will be closed to the public for the Small Schools Swimming Carnival on Friday, 13 March 2026, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

We thank the public for their understanding and apologise for any inconvenience.

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

Public Notice *(cont)*

Walcha Council

Tree Removal - Derby Street

Council will be overseeing and assisting with traffic management for the removal of a dead tree located between the Walcha Council Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility and 54N Derby Street.

The works are expected to take place within the next fortnight.

Council will provide further updates, including the confirmed date of works, once arrangements with the contractor have been finalised.

Residents are advised to follow all traffic directions during this time.

Council thanks the community for their patience and cooperation.

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.

NSW Farmers AGM, 6pm, Walcha Bowling Club. Xavier Martin NSW Farmers President will be in attendance along with Tony Mahar the Renewable Energy infrastructure Commissioner. Dinner available at your own expense. Please RSVP to Carnie Kermode 0428 776 452 or ck@orandumbie.com.au.

WALCHA SHOW
- SINCE 1878 -

GATE ROSTER

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

Derby Street (Main Gate)
8.00 -10.00am ..... Jordie Muller/Caroly Laurie
10.00 - 12 noon... Mandy Gunn/Mitch Crawford
12.00 - 2.00pm ..... Floss Hurt
2.00 - 4.00pm ..... Floss Hurt
4.00 - 6.00pm .. Soph Thomson/Susie Crawford
6.00 - 8.00pm ..... Angus & Lisa Kirton

North Street
8.00 -10.00am ..... Stephen Bath
10.00 - 12 noon..... Angus Laurie
12.00 - 2.00pm ..... Will Fletcher
2.00 - 4.00pm ..... Mitch Crawford
4.00 - 6.00pm ..... Angus Kirton
6.00 - 8.00pm ..... Plum Henry

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

Derby Street (Main Gate)
8.00 -10.00am .... Angus Kirton/Sean Pendleton
10.00 - 12 noon..... Angus Kirton/Ted Fenwicke
12.00 - 2.00pm ..... J&H Mansfield
2.00 - 4.00pm ..... Sally Rutherford/Prue Morgan
4.00 - 6.00pm ..... Mitch & Susie Crawford

North Street
8.00 -10.00am ..... Stephen Bath
10.00 - 12 noon..... John Busby
12.00 - 2.00pm ..... Will Fletcher
2.00 - 4.00pm ..... Bec Onslow
4.00 - 6.00pm ..... Ben Fussell/Ella Flemming

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DEADLINE MONDAY 4.30PM Editor: Anthea Nivison and Susie Crawford. Advertising/ Sport: Joscisca Matapakia and Kate Connors.

church notices

ANGLICAN

March 15 - 9.30am service in Parish Hall, Harvest Festival and wild action to follow

March 22 - 9.30am Walcha Service

March 29 - 9.30am Combined Service with Presbyterian's at St Paul's 10e Hill Street

Anglican Church
Phone 6777 2543
or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

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

CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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WHAT'S ON?

Thursday 12 12.00pm – Close
BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 13 2.00pm – Close
2.00PM BINGO **6.00PM** BISTRO
6pm Raffle tickets meat & vege trays
7.30PM FREE BINGO
8.00PM Raffles and Members draw

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- *Prawn & Mango Poke Bowl*
- *Sausage in Tomato & Onion Gravy*
- *Parmesan Crusted Chicken*

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Saturday 14 11.00am – Close
5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 15 11.00am – Close
12.00PM BISTRO
Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

MEMBERS DRAW $100
YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR 2025/2026 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

No Twilight this Friday. Enjoy the Walcha Show then come over for dinner and the raffles.

If anyone has any old bowls or other equipment in the bowls room they no longer use, can you please come and collect them as we need to clear the space. Any unclaimed items will be sold or disposed of.

DO YOU LIVE IN WALCHA SHIRE?
If so you MUST be a member to enter the Club **Social Membership $15. Full Membership $120**. PHONE 6777 2077

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WALCHA SHOW
- SINCE 1878 -

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

Please note some times are approximates only

8.30am	• **Horse Events Commence** Rings 1, 2, 3 and Jumping Arena
9.00am	• **Main Pavilion Displays Open** Wool Fleeces, Fruit and Vegetables, Farm Produce, Photography, Cooking, Preserves, Jams and Jellies, Handicrafts including Hostel, Nursing Home and Day Care Section, Needlework, Knitting and Crochet, Fine Art and School Art Entries, Woodwork and Metalwork
9.30am	• **Merino Sheep Judging** • **Junior Merino and Meat Sheep Judging** • **Lions BBQ opens**
10.30am	• **Prime Lamb Judging**
11.00am	• **Dinkum Dinosaurs Comedy Puppet Show**
11.30am	• **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
12 noon	• **Flower Pavilion Opens** • **Bar Opens**
1.00pm	• **Junior Beef Cattle Judging**
2.00pm	• **Blacksmithing Demonstration** • **Junior Heifer Show** • **Junior Paraders Judging**
2 – 4pm	• **Triple M Live Radio Broadcast with Lu & Jarch**
3.30pm	• **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
4.00pm	• **Junior and Open Six Bar Horse Jumping**
4.30pm	• **Turbo the Magic Dinosaur Show**
5.30pm	• **Dog Races**
6.00pm	• **Official Show Opening** by Brendan Moylan MP, Member for Northern Tablelands • Announcement of Walcha's 2026 Young Woman
6.30pm	• **Dog Jumping Competition**
7.00pm	• **Dinkum Dinosaurs Comedy Puppet Show**
7 – 8pm	• **The Working Dog's Revenge – Sheep Penning Showdown**
8.30pm	• **Fireworks**
11.00pm	• Bar Closes

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Skin Check Truck
8.30am to 4.30pm

No appointments, limited capacity

Proudly sponsored by Lions Club of Walcha, Rotary Club of Walcha, Quota Club of Walcha, AgriForce Machinery Gunnedah, Walcha Garden Club, Harvey Morris Motorcycles, Branga Plains Pastoral Co

Program is subject to change

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

Please note some times are approximates only

6.30am	• **Lions BBQ Opens**
8.00am	• **Yard Dog Trials** – Open followed by Novice (Local Trial followed by Maiden Sunday 8.00am) • **Horse Events Commence** Rings 1, 2, 3 and Jumping Arena • **Stud Beef Cattle Judging**
9.00am	• **Meat Sheep Judging** • **Aviary Bird Display Opens** • **Main Pavilion Displays Open** • **Flower Pavilion Opens** • Poultry Judging
9.30am	**Motor Bike Competition** • 8yrs & under: practice 9.00am, races 9.30am • 9 – 12yrs: practice 10.30am, races 11.00am • 13 – 16yrs: practice 11.30am, races 11.40am • Seniors – practice 12.15pm, races 12.30pm
10.00am	• **Pet Show – in front of the main pavilion** • **Woodchop Competition Commences** • **Bar Opens**
10.30am	• **Dinkum Dinosaurs Comedy Puppet Show** • **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
12 noon	• **Turbo the Magic Dinosaur Show** • **Poultry Pavilion Opens**
12.30pm	• **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
2.00pm	• **Grand Parade**
2.30pm	• **Dinkum Dinosaurs Comedy Puppet Show** • **Blacksmithing Demonstration** • **Aviary Birds Awards announced**
3.00pm	• **Cattle Dog Challenge Rounds** (Final 6.30pm) (Judge's talk 2.30pm) • **Peanut Scatter** • **New Birds Boutique Fashion Parade**
3.30pm	• **Horse Sporting Events**
4.00pm	• **Turbo the Magic Dinosaur Show**
4.30pm	• **Line Dancing @ Bar area** • **Side-by-Side Shootout** (after horse sporting)
5.00pm	• **Tug-of-War Competition under 18 year old's** • Pavilions Close (Photography closes at 4.30pm)
5.30pm	• Collect Items from Pavilion (strictly 5.30 – 6.00pm)
6.00pm	• **Dinkum Dinosaurs Comedy Show**
6.30pm	• **Tug-of-War Competition – 18 years +** • **Cattle Dog Challenge Final** • **Men's Cooking Auction** and other Pavilion entries – in front of the Bar Pavilion
11.00pm	• Bar Closes

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Refer to the program above for show times.

WALCHA SHOW
- SINCE 1878 -

WALCHA SHOWGROUND

Vehicles entering the Showgrounds is strictly limited to those with livestock and horses or with an Orange 2026 Car Stand Ticket.

Follow us on Facebook @ Walcha Show or visit our website www.walchashow.org.au