

THE APSLEY Advocate

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18 March 2026

Historic Shed Spins New Yarn

The historic Emu Creek shearing shed certainly came back to life last Wednesday with around 60 people celebrating the launch of the Vanessa Bell luxury knitwear foundation collection over a long lunch.

Guests travelled from all parts of Australia with some also coming from overseas to support Vanessa and hear the story of how this collection came to fruition.

Vanessa's passion for wool was sparked by her great grandmother Sarah, who knitted her a woollen baby blanket for her son Charlie when they were living in Goulburn over 10 years ago. This blanket was cherished by Vanessa and she soon realised there was a huge gap in the market for quality woollen baby blankets. She went on to produce some prototypes and grew that business.

The launch of this luxury knitwear collection last Wednesday has teamed Vanessa's love of wool, with her earlier career in high fashion and business acumen to produce simply stunning wearable pieces that will last a lifetime.

"My guiding belief is simple: create sustainable, generational pieces that honour the land, the fibre and the wearer. The collection is designed to stand the test of time. We do not need more of the same, we need better. Thoughtful design. Responsible production. Lasting elegance," she commented.

Since moving to Emu Creek last year, Vanessa and her husband Philip have brought the property back into full sheep production, sparking up the old woolshed and completing the first shearing in over two decades. This season they produced 72 bales of Merino wool under the Responsible Wool Standard following their recent accreditation with Elders. Vanessa explained that this was a significant milestone for them and an important step towards growing superfine Merino wool for her future collections from the property.

Listening to Vanessa speak at the luncheon, her passion for this natural fibre shines through. "This is not fashion for the moment, we need to be choosing wool for a healthier life for the planet. In three years these woollen products fully biodegrade in the soil, compared to the microplastics of throw-away fashion which are so prolific in landfill across the globe."

Vanessa has had a huge team helping bring this collection to life from business coaches, and designers through the manufacturing process in heritage mills in Italy who understand the quality of the fibre and true craftsmanship to create unique pieces which stand the test of time. "I wanted the collection to be practical, wearable and chic", which she certainly has achieved.

These beautiful pieces are available online at vanessa-bell.com



Nutrien  **Boulton's**

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The weather for the Show was outstanding even though I think most of us would have been happy to see some rain. The district continues to dry out with no major rain on the forecast for the next week even though we have a chance over the weekend. If you want to feel grass envy head down to Nowendoc, I attended the Nutrien Boultons dog sale on Sunday and the area looks a picture with plenty of feed which is generally how we look at this time of year. The stock trucks have been leaving the district in droves as producers offload early due to the dry and the fact that stock prices are still very good.

The fuel crisis in Australia is far from over as prices skyrocket, fuel becomes harder to attain as rural towns run dry and places like Tilpa have now been without diesel for a week. The prices in one week went from 180c/litre to 280c/litre locally which is a jump in values that I have never seen before. Farmers who generally get fuel delivered, especially for Autumn planting are still waiting for their fuel to be delivered, and we all know what that means if they don't get it. The government have released an emergency 700,000,000 litres of unleaded and diesel to try and help with the current fuel crisis and let's hope it will cap prices and get to our rural and remote areas. Diesel is not a marginal input as it underpins almost every farm operation in rural Australia.

We need a break directly to try and grow some Autumn feed as it is going to be an extremely long winter for most, no feed in May means nothing until September. The price of hay is becoming dearer by the day and harder to find. You best be careful when looking for hay, especially online as I know of a local producer who was quick witted enough to realise someone was trying to scam them, the hay was cheap, had no feed test or ABN number and they wanted full payment prior to trucking.

The Middle East conflict continues to disrupt the distribution of Australian red meat throughout the world with 11 Gulf countries closing their airspace and all sea freight suspended through the Gulf Strait of Hormuz. Container ships carrying Australian red meat have now rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope adding an extra 14 days to the voyage and increasing freight rates to do so. Not only has it increased the freight cost on exporting meat, but concerns have been raised on the shelf-life of the chilled products as they do have an expiry date. They can freeze the product as it sits on the water but it will significantly reduce the value and quality of the product. Protein exporters are redirecting product to other countries such as the USA who is currently importing large volumes of beef and lamb as we already know.

Once again, the annual Walcha Show was a hit for young and old with a great turn out over the two days. It's always nice to see the high-quality produce and products that our local district produces but the newest event of sheep drafting and the almighty tug-o-war were clearly the favourites. Controversy is currently surrounding the final of the tug-o-war with one team supposedly swapping members, we are a competitive town, I will just leave that here.

Tamworth broke yet another record on Monday and yarded more than 7100 cattle in the fat sale which all sold to solid demand. Weaner steers topped at 540c/kg, heifers made to 436.2 while feeder cattle remained fully firm topping at 525c/kg for Angus feeder steers while the heifers made to 445c/kg. Too few heavy export cattle to quote but a large yarding of cows were 20c/kg cheaper on the heavy fat cows topping at 405c/kg to average 388c/kg. The numbers are getting quite excessive and places like Gunnedah and Inverell have started capping numbers due to space, the other issue is getting transport as our livestock carriers are run off their feet at present.

Great success for Boulton's

The inaugural Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale has been declared a success after strong prices and solid support from vendors, buyers and locals over the weekend. The sale saw 11 of the 13 dogs sold on the day and still negotiating the remaining two, returning an average of \$6,546 and attracting interest from both local and interstate buyers through AuctionsPlus. Top price of the sale was \$11,000 for Lot 10, "Ted", offered by Alex Bruce, while the top-priced bitch was Lot 13, "Dot", which sold for \$9,500 for vendor Peter Balmain.

A good crowd turned up on the day to watch the pre-works, Ben Nevis dog trial and the sale, with strong support from the local community. Adding to the day's competition was the Ben Nevis Vendor Shoot Out, which was taken out by Troy Brazier and his dog Connie, earning the pair the cash prize.

Buyers and bidders played a huge part in making the sale a success, registering to bid and supporting the sale both in person and online through AuctionsPlus. Livestock donors the Manning Family and St Clair Pastoral were also thanked, with organisers noting that without livestock there would be no working dog sale. Sponsors Cobber Dog, Virbac, Ben Nevis Angus, BlackJacks Grazing and Davidsons Stock Horses & Working Dogs were also recognised for their support.

A special congratulations to Maddie Davidson for her hard work and dedication in bringing the sale to life. With strong results and excellent community backing, the first Nutrien Boulton's Working Dog Sale has laid a promising foundation for the event for many years to come.



Chukka, Chukka, Chukka Walcha Polocrosse this weekend

Come and enjoy some serious action at the Walcha Polocrosse Carnival this weekend. To be held out at the Racecourse all day on both Saturday and Sunday 21-22 March.

Polocrosse is an equine contact sport demonstrating a blend of incredible horsemanship, athleticism, coordination and tactical manoeuvres. It's exciting, fast and fun – proving to be a great spectator sport.

Walcha is looking to have several teams in play on the day, and able to boast that several of their current players have previously been selected for NSW State teams (Kersten Wall & John Donnelly) and National Teams (Marlee Wall & Thomas Donnelly). While up and coming junior super star, Patrick Daley, has been selected to play at this years Sydney Royal Easter Show. Without a shadow of doubt, the calibre of play will be high at this weekends event.

Entry to the event is free for spectators. Walcha's 'Coffee To Go' cart, a full canteen, and bar are available all day. Bacon & egg rolls will be on offer for breakfast and of course Walcha Polocrosse's famous roast lamb and pork dinner will be available on Saturday night.

Walcha Polocrosse are expecting great teams, great play and a fabulous day out so be sure to come along.



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ATTN: All large scale renewable energy host landowners

I am a fifth generation farmer from Dunedoo, in the Central West of NSW. I too am seriously concerned about the mental health of farmers and rural and regional Australians and about the impacts being faced by rural and regional communities with respect to the "rapid transition to renewable energy".

After reading the opinion piece in *The Land*, October 23rd edition, I am somewhat confused and conflicted by the stance of those who co-authored and/or put their names to the piece, regarding the treatment of renewable energy hosts given my experience throughout the rollout of the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (CWO REZ).

Does this group of landowners champion mental health awareness and support for all farmers, or just those who have chosen to host large scale renewable energy infrastructure? Are there any concerns for people whose properties, businesses, families and communities were unknowingly and unwillingly declared part of a REZ, have found themselves, often suddenly and surprisingly, neighbouring an industrial project that has been through years of negotiations with people they have called friends and neighbours, often for generations, and/or are being forced to "host" high voltage transmission lines to facilitate the "transition"?

Here, on the ground, in the CWO REZ, the first renewable energy zone being rolled out in Australia, we have suffered four years (at least!) of inadequate and disingenuous "community engagement" and "consultation" with regard to the energy transition. Members of our community have been deceived, bullied, harassed, threatened and disrespected throughout the whole process by the NSW Government and renewable energy developers alike. We have had our concerns dismissed, our local knowledge completely ignored and our feedback discarded; all part of the steamrolling of rural and regional communities in the name of a "clean" and "green" energy future. Although this does not excuse any mistreatment of others - can you blame those of us who do not want to host large scale renewable energy infrastructure and are concerned for our livelihoods, families, communities and environment for being frustrated, devastated and at our wits end?

I note that the question was posed in the opinion piece - "since when did it become acceptable to question the integrity of people making decisions about their own land?" Property rights are a valuable core principle, and one I believe in wholeheartedly. There is a major part of the principle those authoring the article have overlooked - the right to your own property rights so long as you are not harming others or violating their equal rights to life, liberty and property. The question remains where do you draw that line for neighbours and community members who are not supportive of large scale renewable energy infrastructure being built on farmland? Would it be wind turbines 100m from your boundary fence or 1.5km from your home? A sea of solar panels 10m from your boundary fence and 100m from your house? Being threatened with compulsory acquisition on the day you find out about a transmission project proposed on your property? High voltage transmission lines splitting your property in two, preventing farm machinery accessing half your place and destroying a lifes work protecting and improving your land from erosion or salinity? Having to move out of your dream home, and build another on a less suitable site, because EnergyCo will not consider relocating transmission lines to lessen the impact on your house? Negative impacts to social services, roads, visual amenity, groundwater, the environment and the potential exacerbation of dangers that are part of life on the land - pollution, bushfires, flooding?

Some people refer to project neighbours who cannot sleep, or function properly, because of the wind turbine noise or vibration, as spreaders of misinformation and disinformation - personally, I call that life experience. As a sufferer of migraines and chronic

headaches I fully understand how shadow flicker, high frequency noise and vibrations could impact those living near wind turbines and I worry for my own health, sanity and productivity when considering large scale renewable energy infrastructure projects, high voltage transmission lines included, close to my own home and property. It appears, that to the authors and signatories of the opinion piece, anyone who reports negative impacts as a result of large scale renewable energy infrastructure would be deemed "anecdotal", to me this is experience that we should be learning from, as it is all the information we have to go by. Experts, who do not live in the area, nor have life long experience of life in rural areas, are carrying out studies and assessing potential project impacts as minimal or insignificant - I would suggest those who are living with the impacts would often not concur with those findings, something those of us living with early construction works for the CWO REZ transmission project have very quickly learnt.

Others say there is no issue regarding fire risk or limitations to fire fighting. I have spoken to two contractors who fly aerial sorties for the purpose of fire fighting for the Rural Fire Service who will refuse to let their pilots fight fires aurally within wind projects or where there are high voltage transmission lines. That is fact. In 2017 this district experienced one of the most severe bushfires - the Sir Ivan Fire. It ravaged 55,000 hectares in three days - most of which was farmland. There is no doubt that without aerial assistance the devastation would have increased dramatically - what will happen when there are wind turbines and transmission lines scattered all throughout the district? How many near misses, or heaven forbid, deaths, will it take for our area, and others, to become a "no fly zones"?

Decommissioning is another contentious issue, and one that sees those opposed to projects often labelled as spreading "misinformation". Fact one - decommissioning is required under the conditions of consent by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). Fact two - most decommissioning conditions only require the removal of infrastructure to 500mm below ground level - what will leaving thousands of tonnes of concrete and hundreds of thousands of steel poles in the ground do to the soil? Fact three - if the renewable energy proponent that owns the project at the end of life defaults, decommissioning is the responsibility of the landowner. Fact four - a proportion of companies lodging applications for renewable energy infrastructure projects are \$10 shelf companies operating under a larger company (check the company structure for Squadron Energy).

How can you all categorically, without doubt, say that there is "strong regional support" for "renewable investment"? I'm sure I can find just as many surveys stating that rural and regional communities are opposed to the large scale renewable energy developments as those that suggest there is overwhelming support. You only have to look at the number of grass roots, community groups popping up all over the state of NSW and in fact, the country, to see there are issues on the ground. I know they have been labelled the "loud minority" but I would suggest it is worth taking the rose coloured glasses off and looking closer.

We may not see things the same way but I believe robust, respectful debate is what is missing in our parliaments and communities, and dealing with our issues openly and transparently is the only way we will find a way forward that does not ultimately ruin rural and regional Australia.

Emma Bowman
Dunedoo NSW

Woolbrook Stampede

It's that time of the year again, when campdrafters from far and wide converge on the township of Woolbrook for their annual stampede.

This Saturday 21 March, the Woolbrook Showground will see campdraft action from dawn until dusk, with 260 keen competitors travelling from all corners of the state to compete.

"The committee were overwhelmed with entries this year and we currently have over 250 on the wait list," said committee member Amanda Scott.

The day's events will commence at 7.00am and include a Maiden, Novice, Open, Ladies, Junior and Juvenile drafts. Popular sporting events such as the bend, barrell and flag races, along with Junior riding classes will commence at 1.00pm. Large and small dog races are also being held on the day, so bring along your canine friend and enjoy some fun.

The annual Vic Robson Memorial Stockman's Chop, which consists of cantering a horse whilst cracking a stock whip and cutting pieces of paper once again is expected to be highly contested this year. The John Stanton trophy will also be awarded to the child that best displays sportsman and horsemanship on the day. With so much action, along with a full canteen and bar. Come along for a drive out to Woolbrook and enjoy a great day.



120 Classic Cars to visit Walcha

Quite the spectacle will arrive in Walcha on Thursday 26 March as the annual 'Half-way Run', organised by VVCAA - Vintage Veterans Chevrolet Association of Australia and Vintage Chevrolet Association of Queensland, make a day trip to our beautiful town.

Every year these two clubs meet at a half way point between Sydney and Brisbane. This year they are basing themselves in Armidale and making a day trip to Walcha.

Their chosen route is Armidale, Uralla, Kentucky, Wollun, Walcha Road, Walcha. Be sure to keep an eye out and give them a friendly wave if you come across them. If you'd like an opportunity to take a closer look they will be stopping in town for a few hours over lunch.

Due to arrive at McHattan Park around lunch time, where they will then have free time to enjoy lunch in town at various local cafes or pubs and meander around the town.

Due to re-congregate at McHattan Park around 2-2:30 to head back to Armidale via Bergen Road, Wollun, Kentucky.



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Future of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally

Walcha Council would like to share an update regarding the Walcha Motorcycle Rally.

Following the unfortunate accident during the Demolition Derby last November, Council has taken time to review its involvement in the event. Our thoughts remain with those who were injured, and we sincerely wish them a full and speedy recovery.

For the past five years, Council has proudly supported the Walcha Motorcycle Rally by providing financial backing, organisational assistance and acting as the legal entity for the event. During this time, the Rally has grown into a much-loved event on the local calendar, attracting visitors from across NSW and interstate while bringing great energy and economic activity to the Walcha community.

As the rally continues to mature and strengthen, Council believes the event is now in a strong position to move toward becoming an independent, community or industry led event. Council will work closely with the Walcha Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee to support a possible transition to help establish the rally under another legal entity.

While Council will be stepping back from financial underwriting and legal responsibility in the future, we remain supportive of the rally and the positive contribution it makes to Walcha's visitor economy. Council has agreed to continue assisting with traffic management and digital promotion to help support the event moving forward.

The Walcha Motorcycle Rally has been built through the passion, commitment and collaboration of many across the community. Council acknowledges the significant effort of the Rally Advisory Committee, volunteers, businesses and supporters who have contributed to establishing the event and growing its reputation as a unique regional gathering for motorcycle enthusiasts.

While there will be no Walcha Motorcycle Rally staged in 2026, we look forward to seeing its continued success in the years ahead, as options are explored for another organisation or group to lead the Rally into its next chapter.

Walcha is a spectacular destination for motorcycle touring and the Walcha Motorcycle Rally plays an important role in showcasing the region to riders from across Australia.

Werrikimbe's 50th celebration - a huge hit

A wonderful day was had by all in attendance to celebrate Werrikimbe National Park's 50th year since being gazetted in 1975.



The day began with a viewing of Mooraback Cabin (available for bookings), followed by ranger led guided walks, Welcome to Country, a smoking ceremony, informative talks from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS),

The celebration was held on a marvellous autumn day, having had to be postponed last year due to inclement weather. The beautiful day made it worth the wait for eager attendees as did the public spotlighting event where some excellent critters also turned up. Brushtail possum, brown antechinus, eastern grey kangaroo, red necked wallaby, diamond python and a beautiful chubby wombat.

There was also a delicious lunch and a beautiful celebratory cake that was on show before it was ceremoniously cut and handed around to be enjoyed.

Presnell's win Cross Memorial Golf

By A.J Cross

Husband and Wife Owen and Julie Presnell won the annual Colleen and I.J. Cross Memorial 4BBB Medley event last Sunday but only after counting out club president Miles Archdale and his son Will on 47 stableford points.

The runners up collected the first sweepstakes prize while the remaining went to Wayne Brennan and Anne Martin 46, Darren and Nixon Bird 44, Michael Stackman and Jamie Bowden 44, Barry Hoad and Jamie Bowden 42, Ross and Penny King 42 on countback from Lee and Ruth Fletcher 42.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Owen Presnell (3) and Penny King (18). Thank to all the players who supported the event last Sunday.



Miles Archdale, Owen Presnell, A.J Cross
Julie Presnell and Will Archdale.

thumbs



- 👉 To Maddie Davidson and the Nutrien Boulton's team for putting on a fantastic dog sale at Nowendoc.
- 👉 To Lloyd Levingston for coming first at the show with his Butter Cake!
- 👉 To the students for helping in the Pavilion. Very impressed with their hard work and smiles.
- 👉 To my new neighbour who just moved here mowing my lawn out on the street.
- 👉 To everyone who helped the Lions in the BBQ Shed at the show. Your help was greatly appreciated.
- 👉 To James Tickle and his helper Sally for running another fantastic motorbike competition at the Walcha Show.
- 👉 The new pool is fantastic and the water temperature is warm.
- 👉 What an amazing show 2026 was, a HUGE success. Thank you to all of you who put so much time and effort into this wonderful event
- 👉 To Sonia and her awesome crew of volunteers for the outstanding catering choices given for three days at the Luncheon Pavilion during the Show. The food was delicious and service with a smile.
- 👉 To the WH&S entity who barred car-stands at the Walcha Show at such late notice, hindering the ability of disabled and elderly people to attend or have a place for respite. No notice made alternative arrangements difficult or impossible. Despite this the Show was incredible. What a great community we have.

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.

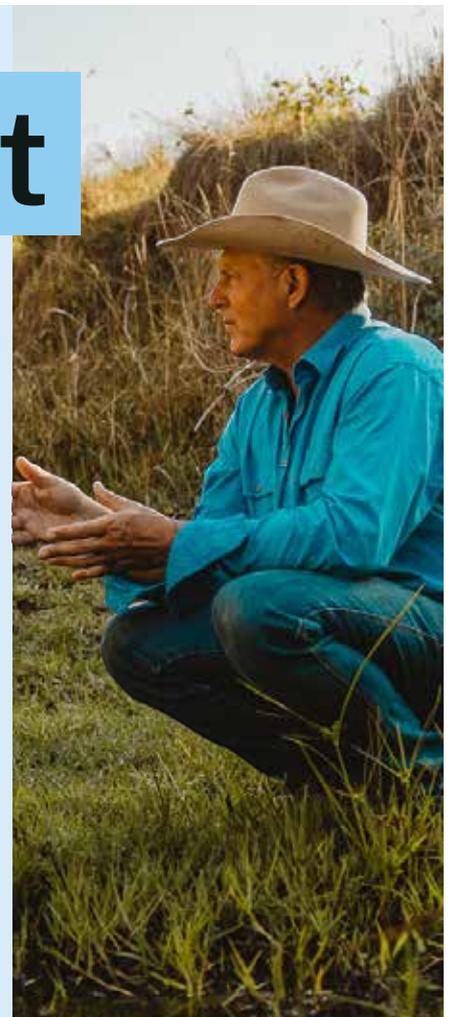
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WALCHA SHOW

From our Chief Stewards

Show Results

Wool Fleece

Grand Champion Fleece Michael & Jenny Sweeney. **Champion X-Bred Fleece** Michael & Jenny Sweeney. **Champion Hogget** judged on commercial value 'Marmindi'. **Champion Ram Fleece** Cara Merino Stud. **Champion Housed Fleece** Glenburnie Merino Stud. **Zegna Fleece** KA & HE Blake. **Pet Fleece** Cooper Broadbent. **Most Successful Open Section** 'Edington'.

Preserves, Jams & Jellies

Champion Preserve Peta Lisle. **Champion Condiment** Nadine Powell. **Champion Jam** Nadine Powell. **Champion Jelly** Audi Dunn. **Champion Marmalade** Peta Lisle. **Champion Men's section** Andrew Corlette. **Champion Junior section** Alex Hobbs. **Grand Champion of Show** Peta Lisle. **Highest point scorer open section** Peta Lisle. **Most successful junior exhibitor** Alex Hobbs. **Hazel Cameron Memorial trophy** Audi Dunn. **Encouragement Award** Michelle Ferrier.

Pet Show

Champion Exhibit Benji (Highland Steer) shown by Max, Lucy and Ivy Martin. **Best Cat or Kitten** Sprinkles. **Pet not mentioned** 1st Benji, 2nd Sonic. **Best Large Dog** 1st Percy, 2nd Honey. **Best Toy Dog or Puppy** 1st Snickers, 2nd Miffy. **Best Trick by Pet** Jogi. **Best Dressed Pet** 1st Rosie, 2nd Mader.

Dog Race

1st Buddy (Jamie Hayes), **2nd** Diesel, **1st** Captain the Muster Dog (Sam Mackaway).

Fine Arts

Open Painting, oil or acrylic on canvas 1st Chris Baker, 2nd Linda Lockyer. **Open Work on Paper, any medium** 1st Gemma King, 2nd Katie Street. **Open Novice, any medium** Equal 1st Ella Luchich/Chris Baker, 2nd James Reilly. **Open, any subject any medium** 1st Katie Street, 2nd Gwen Higgins. **Preschool, any medium** 1st Elyse, 2nd Addison. **Kindergarten, any medium** 1st Rudy Y, 2nd Geraldine T. **8yrs and under, any medium** 1st Jay M-N, 2nd Hadley J. **12yrs and under, any medium** 1st Valeri H, 2nd Tom McN. **17yrs and under, any medium** 1st Georgina B, Equal 2nd Felicity R/Jenna W. **17yrs and under, 3D, any medium** 1st Bessie K, 2nd Meave N. **Junior Landscape Section Highly Commended** Eve H, Eamon B. **Junior Landscape Champion** Eve Young. **Junior Champion** Georgina Blake. **Open Champion** Katie Street

Tug-of-War Competition

U-18yrs 1st 'Henry', 2nd Allsorts. **+18yrs** 1st Linmac, 2nd Tow Trucks.

Woodwork / Metalwork

Article Turned with Wood 1st Mens Shed, 2nd Mens Shed. **Article not mentioned in Schedule** 1st Mens Shed, 2nd Mens Shed. **Nine and U-12yrs** 1st Rebee W. **Twelve and U-18yrs** 1st Jacob W. **Small Article made out of Metal, U-12yrs** 1st Harry McN, 2nd Tom McN. **Small Article made out of Metal, Open** 1st Ben Wickham, 2nd Mens Shed. **Champion** Ben Wickham. **Reserve Champion** Jacob Wellings.

Knitting and Crochet

Champion Piece of Knitting Caroline Street. **Champion Piece of Crochet** Yvonne Mitchell.

Flowers

Novice Dahlia Class Champion Elyce Gleeson (introduced by Bridgett Hone). **Open Dahlia Champion - Darrel Burton Trophy** Bridgett Hone. **Champion Outstanding Rose - Jan Koebel Memorial Trophy** Stephen Hoy. **Champion Miscellaneous Bloom - Borthwick Family Prize** Ros Little. **Champion Potted Plant** Robyn Watts. **Decorative Open; Class 75** Phyllis Hoy, **Class 76** Anna Young, **Class 77** Chris Hoy, **Class 78** Helen Wake, **Class 79 - Olga Lisle Memorial Trophy** Julie Ireland, **Champion Decorative** Helen Wake. **Decorative Restricted; Class 80** Carolyn Salter, **Class 81 - Robyn Lyon Innovation Award** Petrina Martin, **Class 81A - Celebrity Guests Triple MMM** 1st Jack Archdale, Highly Commended Lu, Milo, Lockie, **Champion Restricted** Caroline Salter.

More results next week.....

Jess named Walcha Show Young Woman



At the Opening of Walcha Show on Friday evening, Katie Cummins presented 2026 Young Woman, Jess Cheers with her sash and flowers.

Jess now lives in Walcha, however she grew up on a farm in Karangi with her parents operating a poll Hereford Stud. Jess studied at Tocal Agricultural College obtaining a Certificate III and IV in Agricultural Production.

In 2024 Jess received a Global Footprints

Scholarship where she was granted \$9000 to travel the world and explore agriculture in different countries. "Last year I travelled to West Africa and spent three weeks in a farming village exploring their way of life and seeing how different agriculture looks in a developing country. In three months I head to Canada to use the remainder of my scholarship where I will spend two weeks on a regenerative agriculture property in the Rockies."

"I have grown up showing cattle through my family's stud, which has given me a strong foundation in the agricultural industry. I am passionate about supporting women in agriculture and educating young people about farming and the importance of the industry," Jess said.

Congratulations Bill and Irving



At the Opening of the Walcha Show on Friday night Member for New England Barnaby Joyce had the pleasure of presenting two integral Walcha Show Committee Members with awards.

Irving Greig received honorary Life Membership of the Walcha Show Society for 40 years service on the committee where he has worked tirelessly in the horse ring as well as more recently organising the trade stands.

Bill Fletcher received the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Agricultural Shows Award medal, designed to celebrate and honour the exceptional contributions of individuals within the Show movement across NSW.

Bill has been on the Show Committee for an astounding 47 years. During this time he has been President, Vice President, Senior Vice President and Treasurer on numerous occasions.

In addition to this, Bill has been steward, or steward in charge of numerous sections including horse, showjumping, cattle, pet judging, rodeo and campdraft as well as Sheep Guess the Weight competition.

Congratulations, Bill and Irving, the Walcha Show would not be what it is today without your valuable contributions.

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Farmers Markets this Saturday

This Saturday's Walcha Farmers' Market will have the full range of homegrown and handmade produce. There'll be gluten-free breads, spuds from Guyra, trout, cheese, salami, and sweet treats for your lunchbox. Stallholders will have honey, condiments, and natural beauty and health products.

If you're looking for a piece of garden art, wall art, or photography, local artists will be sharing their work.

The community stall welcomes your excess garden produce, eggs, or home baking. There's Thai food for lunch, a new stall with baklava, coffee, and the Rotary barbeque. There'll be face painting for the kids, and the historical society will be in attendance. The Farmers' Market is on this Saturday in McHattan Park from 8.30am to 12.30pm.

WE NEED your Books?

Our annual Quota Book Fair is on again in April!

If you have books to donate, please drop them off to:

Youth Club Hall from
30th March - 8th April or to
Sue Reardon 61n Thee Street or
Chris Hamel 62n South Street

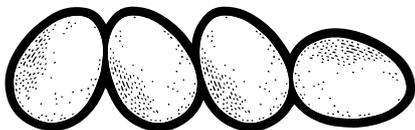


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what's the goss

with AJ Cross



...
Former Walcha resident Neil Hoy left this world earlier this month at Port Macquarie leaving behind his loving wife Dawn. A celebration of Neil's life will be held at the Emmaus Chapel in Port Macquarie today commencing at 11am. Condolences to all Neil's family members and friends. May Neil Francis Hoy Rest in Peace.

...
Probably a good thing to admit when you are wrong which is exactly what happened in last week's Golf Report when Jack McLaren was listed as runner up to winner Angus Warden in the B Grade Championships. In fact long time Club Handicapper Don Brooks finished second a shot behind Gus and a Stroke in Front of Jack. By all accounts there was some colourful text correspondence sent to club captain Willy Brennan about the unintentional oversight which can't be printed here due to the time slot we are in. My humblest apologies Brooksy.

...
Congratulations to Walcha Central School students Nathan Ross, Cameron Mooney, Jake Wellings and his cousin Simon Wellings on qualifying for the NSW Secondary Swimming titles at Homebush Aquatic Centre later in the year. Well done to Tyler Ross along with Primary swimmers Toby Wellings, Rupert Fletcher, Max Martin, Patrick O'Connell and Billy Young who all swum well at the North West Trials at the Monkton Aquatic Centre in Armidale early last week but just missed out on qualifying for state.

...
'Love Palace' CEO, South Sydney Rabbits tragic and Bowling Club director Darrell 'Bikie' Brazel visited Harvey Norman in Tamworth with every intention of purchasing a wok for around \$140. 'Bikie' reports that the sales person was that good at her job he arrived home with a gas stove which cost him \$850 and no wok.

...
On the subject of the Rabbits congratulations to South Sydney winger Alex Johnston who set a new Australian Rugby League try scoring record when he crossed for his 213th touchdown against the Roosters last Friday night. Personally I thought the previous record held by the late great Norths and Manly winger Ken Irvine would never be broken but not only has Johnston done that, as he is only 31 years young he might just add a few more to it.

...
Please don't take this the wrong way especially the people who were involved with the cattle judging at the Walcha Show last Friday as I'm fully aware there is plenty of interest from those in the beef industry. Invited to watch my grandsons Simon and Eli Wellings lead a beast around the judging ring was the only reason I was present for over two hours during which time my excitement levels didn't quite reach fever pitch. After all that I did get to view Simon in action but missed out on 'E's' performance.

...
One thing I did enjoy at the Show though was checking out the Pavillion which is a must see on my list each year. Well done to all exhibitors who put in a great effort right across the board to make a Pavillion visit very worth while. What about the bloke who was runner up in the Chilli section thanks to my much better half Linda. Congratulations to all prize winners.

...
The Newie 777's racehorse competition was won by Ces Brennan last Saturday when 'Big Wigs' saluted at Caulfield, 'Sixties' got up at Rosehill and 'John Rambo' was first to greet the judge at the Gold Coast. Can't believe I originally registered the winning numbers only to cross out 'John Rambo' and change it to 'Hatchet' (who ran a very valiant second last) before handing it to Newie barman Miles Lawrence. Good on ya Cecilia and no doubt you did mention to your husband Wayne how easy it was.

...
Big wigs of the week - Darks Plumbing - Julie Bird; Apsley Arms - 'Digger' Lordanic, Tim Rumbel, Scotty Withers; Newie - Jacki Nash, Brent Clarke, Cindy Brown, Bernie McMaugh, Mitch Foster, Bill 'CWN' Fletcher all 10 tipsters scored 14 pts; Vet Supplies - Mata Matapakia, Apii Fontanella, Adam Barillaro, Peter King TBW Cafe - Jacki Nash all 12; B.C - 13 tipsters scored 12 points each.

...
Last week Scotty Withers was listed as 'Picking the Card' at the Apsley Arms whereas it was actually Scotty Kirby. There are three Scotty's in the Apsley competition who now have surnames written on their tipping cards after the Round 1 confusion.

...
Tip of the week - The Manly Sea Eagles to defeat the Bye!

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Tennis

Round 4 of the 26 Summer Comp was played out on Tues 10th March in pleasant conditions.

Leader of the pack is Jock Rutherford with 69 points and another impressive max score of 18 in round 4. Todd Whillock with a max score of 18 in round 4 also is hot on Jock's heels with 66 points and in 3rd place is Hyde Thomson with 58 points. Well done to these players and everyone who competed on the night.

The next Club Meeting will be held on Mon 13 April at 6.30pm all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you all at the net soon.

Wednesday Golf

Last Wednesday saw us playing stroke, monthly mug, and a medal round for our treasurer Ann Martin's trophy.

It was a very close contest with three players, Polly Locke, Julie Hoard and Ann Martin all coming in with 67 nett.

As it was a major trophy the three then had to have a play off on Holes 1, 8 and 9. The winner was Polly Locke.

Sweepstakes then went to Julie and Ann, along with Pauline Carter and Donna Martin both on 70, Cheryl McDonald 71, Sally McCormack 72, counting out both Vicki Heffernan and Cark Street on 72.

NTP on Hole 3 was Simone Sweeney.

Second shot on Hole 7 was Cheryl McDonald and Vicki Heffernan had a birdie on Hole 16 claiming the second shot on that hole.

Today is a Graham Betts stableford qualifier playing for Lorraine Walshe's trophy.

Remember 8.30 for a 9 a.m. start.

Bowls

Thursday bowls: Thursday results: Barry Kliendienst, Peter Hayes & Geoff Salt defeated Gordon Bird, Tony Batterham & Peter 16 to 3. John McCormack, Mat Andrews x2 defeated Noel Goodwin, Tony Asmus & Brian Goodwin 15 to 6. Good effort.

Our pennants team played Inverell at home last Saturday. They were defeated 60 to 51 overall but won two of the three games played; This was a great effort as they were down on regular players. A special thanks to the players who stepped up and filled in admirably. Manager Jamie did well to get a team on the green.

Kootingal travel here on Saturday 28th for Walcha's last game this year.

Mixed pairs played the second round of games on Sunday. There is one side with 4 wins and 3 sides with 3 wins. We are at the half way mark everyone still has a chance to improve their position. Good luck to all.

B grade singles commence on the 29th March

Little one to the inside!

At the Nineteenth

The annual Colleen and I.J Cross Memorial 4BBB Medley was played last Sunday where Owen and Julie Presnell counted out Miles and Will Archdale to win the event after both duos racked up an impressive 47 points.

A full report should be elsewhere in this Apsley Advocate edition.

Last Saturday Anne Martin notched up 18 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole event after she snuck home in front of Crichton Barr on 17 points. No N.T.P on 3. A number of our local players are going to be very busy for over a week commencing with the final round of the New

England Veteran's Pennants competition at Glen Innes tomorrow Thursday.

Currently Uralla lead on 32 points followed by Walcha 26, Guyra 24, Glen Innes 20 and Armidale 18.

Individually Simeon Cross leads the Player of the Year on 143 points just a point clear of former Walcha player Scotty McLeod and Marg Chapell from Uralla.

Former Walcha Ladies Champion Cheryl McDonald is fifth on 136, Penny King, Wayne Brennan and Lee Fletcher all on 135, David Sweeney 130, Simone Sweeney and Barry Hoard both 128, Ross King 123 are all Walcha players in the Top 25.

The New England District Golf Association will be conducting their 87th annual 3 Day Ladies Tournament at Guyra commencing this Saturday where the Colleen Cross Memorial trophy will be up for grabs for the best N.E.D.G.A player off the stick in the Scratch Division over 18 holes.

Saturday and Sunday 36 holes will be contested in 3 open divisions while on Monday the N.E.D.G.A open Foursomes are scheduled in Divisions 1 and 2.

Walcha have 18 nominations for the Tournament including current ladies champion Simone Sweeney who will tee off in the Champion of Champions event played over 36 holes.

Next week the Walcha Veterans will be hosting the Mens and Ladies Sandgreen Championships over 36 holes on Monday and Tuesday.

Following the Rest Day on Wednesday the 36 hole 4BBB Championships are set down for Thursday and Friday to conclude the Tournament.

All players must be a member of the NSW Veteran Golf Association.

Disappointingly for the player who would have liked to have competed at both Guyra and Walcha on Monday somehow the schedule was overlapped forcing them to select which event they want to tee off in.

Best of luck to all players and hopefully the weather will be kind to competitors and organisers alike.

Ladies Bowls

The Major Singles commenced last Thursday with Pam Makeham convincingly winning against Jan Cross 26-12. Tomorrow Lyn Burnell will play Sari Andrews, marker Pam Makeham. A very closely contested game was played in the Minor Singles with Margaret Tickle winning the challenge against Carmel Ryan 25-18. A game of consistency was played with Margaret Morris, Debbie Richards and Janice Rizzi having a close scoring game. On 26 March the last of the Minor Singles will be played with Marie Spink playing Margaret Tickle, marker Lee McCoy. The monthly meeting will be held tomorrow commencing 1pm in the clubhouse. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla were defeated by Easts Green to the tune of just 9 runs in their Armidale District 2nd Grade Major Semi Final at Lambert Park Armidale last Saturday.

Sent into bat the homeside compiled 189 runs off their 40 overs at the loss of six wickets after Blake Swilks top scored with an unbeaten 69 runs.

Visiting trundlers David Ford 2/29, Matthew Harper 1/22, Peter Mooney 1/27, Daniel Boyd 1/30 and Ed Blomfield 1/53 all were successful at the bowling crease.

In reply openers Jay Grills and Shannon Rafferty got Uralla/Walcha away to a reasonable start of 40 runs before Rafferty was caught for 16 runs early in the 10th

over.

The very next ball the usually reliable Daniel Boyd was caught for a golden duck and when Grills was caught for 31 runs the visitors were 4/54.

A 57 run fifth wicket partnership between skipper Ed Blomfield and Cameron Mooney steadied the ship before Mooney was run out for 16 then Blomfield had his furniture re-arranged for 52.

Walcha/Uralla reached 180 runs with two wickets up their sleeve at the end of their 38th over but when Peter Mooney went for 25 runs and then Grant Youll was dismissed a couple of balls later it was all over Baby Blue. Walcha/Uralla do get another bite of the cherry when they do battle with Easts Yellow in the Preliminary Final this Saturday at a venue to be determined.

Walcha/Uralla v Easts Green 2nd Grade

Easts Green

N MILLER c G Youll b D Ford.....	3
G SWILKS c C Mooney b D Ford.....	4
J MILLER c B Hoy b D Boyd	16
J DAVIES c E Blomfield b P Mooney	20
M NORTHAM b E Blomfield	44
B SWILKS n.o.....	69
C FOSTER b M Harper.....	7
C MORAN n.o	9
Total 189 (40 overs). Extras 17	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): M Harper 6-0-22-1, C Mooney 4-0-17-0, P Mooney 8-1-27-1, D Boyd 7-0-30-1, E Blomfield 7-0-53-1, D Ford 8-0-29-2.

Walcha/Uralla

J GRILLS c M Northam b C Foster	31
S RAFFERTY c N Miller b C Foster	16
D BOYD c J Davies b C Foster	0
B DWYER lbw B Swilks	1
C MOONEY r.o J Davies	16
E BLOMFIELD b C Foster.....	52
D FORD c&b J Davies	18
P MOONEY c J Miller b B Moran	25
B HOY b J Davies	7
G YOULL b J Davies.....	1
M HARPER n.o	0
Total 180 (38.1 overs). Extras 13	

Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts): J Davies 6.2-0-24-3, B Moran 6-0-44-1, B Swilks 8-1-21-1, C Foster 8-1-32-4, T Mitchell 5-0-29-0, L Taylor 5-0-25-0.

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WCS swimming successs

North West Primary and North West Secondary Swimming Championships took place last week, showcasing the incredible talent, determination, and sportsmanship of our young swimmers across the state.

Students from schools across North West dived into the competition with enthusiasm, competing in a range of events including freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, and butterfly. The championships were a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate their swimming skills, improve their personal bests, and foster a spirit of teamwork

Primary

Boys 8-10 4 x 50m freestyle relay 12th - Patrick O'Connell, Billy Young, Max Martin and Rupert Fletcher.

Boys 8-10 50m Backstroke 10th Rupert Fletcher

Boys 12-13 50m Butterfly 10th Toby Wellings



Primary team: Toby Wellings, Max Martin, Patrick O'Connell, Rupert Fletcher, Billy Young

and healthy competition.

We congratulate all participants for their commitment and effort, with many achieving personal milestones and school records. Special recognition goes to the standout swimmers who earned top honours in their categories, displaying exceptional dedication and competitive spirit.

Thank you to all teachers, coaches, volunteers, and families who supported the swimmers.

Secondary - STATE QUALIFIERS!!!

16 years Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 2nd - Nathan, Simon, Cameron and Jacob.

50m and 100m Freestyle 2nd.....Cameron Mooney

100m Backstroke 3rdJacob Wellings



Secondary team: Cameron Mooney, Tyler Ross, Simon Wellings, Nathan Ross, Jacob Wellings

advocateclassifieds



Funeral Notices

Southeron, Bruce Allen

On 11th March, 2026 at Walcha MPS.
Aged 89 years.

Dearly loved husband of Jen (dec). Loving father and father-in-law of Elizabeth & David and Jim & Kayleen. Adored grandfather of Michelle (dec), Bernie, Catherine, Ali, Tonielle, Tess and Taniesha and great grandfather of Mackenzie, Stirling, Riley, Sophie, Amelia and Theodore.

The relatives and friends of the Late Bruce Southeron are respectfully invited to attend his Funeral. A graveside service is appointed to commence at 11:00am on Wednesday 18th March, 2026 in the Walcha Cemetery, Darjeeling Road, Walcha.

Burke & Douglas Funerals (02) 6765 3999

Public Notices

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Public Notices (cont)

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



Meeting Notices

Walcha Support Group Thursday 26th March 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle St. Relaxation 12.30pm, BYO Lunch 1pm, meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

NSW Farmers AGM, 26 March 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.

For Sale

Layer pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks. Delivered Friday 27/03/2026, Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

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Thank You

To the Nursing Staff at Walcha MPS words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for all you have done for Bruce Southeron during his time in Elizabeth Crosse Wing and compassionate professionalism to us during and after his passing last week. Thank you Southeron Family.



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

church notices

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