

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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25 March 2026

## Quota inducts 2026 leaders

### From Lyn Smith

Last Wednesday Quota inducted their fifty-second group of leaders. We were joined in our celebration by Mayor Eric Noakes and Sherry, Lions Club president Peter McIvor and Vicki, Rotary Club president Andrew Burgess, other members of Rotary and Lions, partners and friends.

The new executive is president Lyn Smith, vice president Janice Rizzi, secretary Julie Yates, treasurer Pam Makeham, projects director Mary Hoare, social events director Sonya Sweeney, fundraising director Sue Reardon and public officer and assistant treasurer Diane Bazeley.

Quota was chartered in Walcha on April 15, 1975. Since then, members have worked to raise money for community projects, to assist disadvantaged men, women and children, both locally and wider afield. They have also initiated many projects including Australia Day, Quota Park, Walcha Soundtrail and Walcha Callers Guide. Hearing and speech research and support for cochlear implants, mental health seminars, raising awareness of cancer in its many forms and other health issues. We have also supported schools, seniors, and youth and the Walcha Library.

Our major fundraiser was the Book Fair which is held in the Youth Club Hall. It will be held this year from March 30 to April 17 (closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday). Donated books can be dropped at the Hall on March 29, 30 & 31.

We have a Mothers' Day raffle each year and tickets this year will be at the Book Fair and at the street stall on May 1 & 8.

Last year we held our inaugural Ladies Day Out luncheon and fashion parade featuring Paperdolls, New Birds and Emporium on Derby and Lisa from Glamour Empire beauty salon in Tamworth who gave a makeup



Incoming Quota President Lyn Smith (front right) and her incoming team for 2026

demonstration. 130 women attended a very enjoyable and successful day. It is hoped to have another Ladies Day Out this year.

Outgoing president Janice thanked members for their work during 2025. We donated \$1,000, together with other groups, so that the free skin cancer check bus returned to the Walcha Show. Book Week donations to Walcha Central, St Patricks and Walcha Preschool continued and regular donations to the Saturday afternoon Youth Group.

Other donations included \$1,000 to the Walcha Library for audio books, \$500 of personal hygiene products were purchased locally for 'Share the Dignity' bags, \$600 to Youth Off the Street, \$550 for Walcha Central School scholarships. We sponsored cochlear implant recipient Kirsten to attend a Deaf Camp and a guest speaker at a club meeting.

Softfall was laid in Quota Park, and we donated \$10,000 towards this project in partnership with Walcha Council. Money is provided for craft materials at the Elizabeth Crosse wing of the hospital, and every week members Mary Hoare and Linda Ballard provide craft activities supported by Jane Moore, Evie Hayton and the Anglican Church.

We supported the Garden Club, manning the gates for their Open Garden weekend.

Janice thanked the outgoing Board and members for their work during 2025 and Di and Cheryl at the Bowling Club for their excellent meals for our meetings.



### MICHAEL McHUGH BA LLB (Hons)

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Australian Legal Practitioner

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### WALCHA By Appointment

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Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

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SCAN HERE



Please RSVP 27th of  
March 2026

This Cyber Security Awareness  
Support for Vulnerable Groups grant  
activity received grant funding from  
the Australian Government.



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Funding  
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Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

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# around the traps

By BRUCE RUTHERFORD

Simon has been held up this morning and has passed the Traps back to me. There is so much going on around the globe it is not going to be a difficult job!

First, the weather. It is probably the most uninteresting thing going on in our lives at the minute, but if you are on the eastern fall, you are probably wondering what everyone on the western side of the range is whinging about. I took a run to Nowendoc for the Dog Sale a week or so ago and could not believe how good the country was east of the top of the range. It looks a picture down there and worth the drive just to get your fix of green. I am told Yarowitch is much the same and having seen a few photos while talking to people at the Walcha Show, it looks wonderful. For everyone on the top of the range and heading west, we are not so lucky and it is decision time if you have not already made some.

What I find extraordinary is how dry the country is after such a wet year last year and an average start to the year. Rainfall has been far from a disaster, but the combination of the heat and the wind has just been too much for the country to bear. Without a break, it is going to be a long winter for a big central part of NSW and up into southern QLD.

The good news is there has been a decent break in the dry weather further south and they are back in business. I had a call from an agent in the south this week, a blast from the past wondering if there was anything for sale up here. It has been a long time since a phone call like that has come from southern NSW and a very welcome one. Given the numbers of livestock that have been moving through markets from Dubbo through to Gunnedah, to Tamworth, livestock values have held together extremely well. So we are very lucky we have buyers to soak up the numbers at this point. It takes me back to the run of dry autumns we had in the early to mid 1990s and again in the early 2000s, when at those times the only buyers in the market were speculators and values were very hard to take.

I have to say the Middle East crisis is more than worrying. We have a US President who has no regard for diplomacy and simply does not seem to care. Some of the statements coming out of the White House almost have him as a mad man who thinks he can say whatever he wants, and no regard for the truth. He acts like he is in the school playground, with his language and use of social media to communicate with regimes. Has the US learned anything about the Middle East over the last 50 years? Those guys know how to play the long game and will create their own havoc while they do. In my view the Iranians have the Trump card (no pun intended) when it comes to the Strait of Hormuz and the global energy crisis created by America and allies. They are already letting some ships through it is all about the payment! This is not going away fast.

The concerning thing for Australia is that Albo and his ministers appear to have no idea how the country runs and the mess we are in when it comes to energy and fuel. One minister thinks we have no issues running out of fuel and still getting food to supermarkets because apparently we have electric trucks! Another recently did not appear to know the difference between petrol and diesel. If it wasn't so serious it would be amusing. Fuel supplies to Walcha and similar sized towns seem to be a problem as the independent suppliers cannot get supplies from the big oil companies. Minister Bowen claims daily there is not a problem and there is more fuel here now than there has been. If that is the case why are we having these problems? The more the likes of Bowen and Albo say there is no problem, it appears there is and the consequences are enormous for our country.

This fuel crisis is not a recent problem. We have had consecutive governments aware of this issue for decades and yet here we are. Politicians need to stop blaming one another, put the 'one liners' in the bin and actually do something about the problem. I for one am very tired of governments of all persuasions as they spend all their time and energy looking after their own backsides rather than actually fixing something.

Many of you will have seen the proposal by Vestas to develop our local Caravan Park and the invitation from Walcha Council for public comment. For the development to happen, Vestas have to acquire the park which is no doubt dependent on the Winterbourne Wind project being given the green light by the IPC. It appears to me that if this development is approved, and our local Caravan Park becomes a temporary workers village, Walcha will potentially lose access to the many tourists who would otherwise stay overnight in Walcha. This would be a terrible outcome for many Walcha businesses in my view. Walcha needs to ask the question, is this the outcome we want and is this the right place for such a village? Personally, I think not, but you can make a submission to Walcha Council by this Friday if you wish to have your say.

# Much-Loved *New Birds* Boutique seeks new owner

After almost two decades at *The New Birds* boutique, Shelley Relf has decided it is time to slow down a little and has put the iconic ladies boutique on the market.

Originally started by Jan Weber and Barb Fenwicke over 50 years ago, *The New Birds* has had the same name and same location for all of its trading life.

Shelley said she has absolutely loved her time at the shop and has some fabulous memories of her 17 years at *The New Birds*. "I have had an absolute ball, and have really enjoyed the people and conversations, as well as the changes in fashion each season brings," she said.

After leaving school Shelley studied fashion and she has always had a love of the industry. "It is a great business for someone who enjoys fashion," Shelley commented.

When looking back at her time at the New Birds, Shelley said that it is iconic for a small country town to have had a quality boutique operating from the same location for over 50 years. "It would be detrimental to Walcha's business community to see the store go."

The New Birds has always had a great reputation for stocking beautiful winter clothing, due mostly to our climate. "I have always aimed to cater for different styles and ages as well," Shelley said.

Shelley is not ready to give up on the fashion industry completely though as she is still hoping to continue her work with alterations, however she is also looking forward to slowing down a little and having more time to spend with her grandchildren.

"It has been a wonderful business to have and you can make it work with a family and grandchildren, we have had the most wonderful buying trips with the grandkids in tow, and I will take away many fabulous memories."

If you are interested in speaking to Shelley about purchasing the business, she can be contacted on 0488 921 816.



## Stock and Property Watch

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**Weise Investments - EU**

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**Blackhill Pastoral Co**

100 Angus, Mixed Sex

**Birralee - EU**

70 Angus Steers

**AJ Scott**

90 Angus X, Mixed Sex

**Rizzi Partnership**

30 Angus, Mixed Sex

**JD & MR Davidson**

50 Angus & Angus X, Mixed Sex

**Miramoonaa Pastoral Co**

55 Angus Steers

32 Angus Heifers

#### WEANERS

**Brange Plains - EU**  
100 Angus Steers, Weaned

**D & N Powell - EU**

100 Angus Steers

**Cobrabald Pastoral Co - EU**

50 Weaned Angus Steers  
Highrent/Hazeldean/Knowla/  
Glen Morgan Blood  
Grass fed eligible

**KB & DC Davidson - EU**

60 Angus Steers

**BJ & TK Carseldine**

50 Angus, Mixed Sex

**J & L Radburn**

40 Speckle Park, Mixed Sex

**ME & TA Worth - EU**

35 Angus X, Heifers

**Pallet FT P/L**

40 Speckle Park, Mixed Sex

**Mt Carrington**

30 Angus X, Mixed Sex

#### FEEDERS

**Glen Collin Pastoral Co**  
1000 Angus Steers  
Bovilis Vacc, EU & Non EU

**GCM Grazing**

300 Angus Steers  
Bovilis Vacc, EU & Non EU

**M&N Livestock**

400 Angus Steers  
150 XB Steers  
75 XB Feeder Heifers

**RJ & EJ Lockyer - EU**

300 Heifers  
PTE

**Top Waterloo Pastoral Co - EU**

80 Angus Steers  
Bovilis Vacc

**JP & SK Zorgdrager - EU**

50 Angus Heifers  
PTE

**McRae Pastoral**

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#### BREEDERS

**Cobrabald Pastoral Co - EU**  
70 Angus Heifers - Heifer Select  
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55 Angus Cows PTIC  
Joined to LBW Angus Bulls

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**This Thursday  
26 March 2026  
@ 6pm**

Simon Newton 0467 660 320 • Mathew Larkings 0427 002 427 • Miles Archdale 0428 660 326 • Dan Coulthurst 0419 879 793  
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# Easter Opening Hours





Good Friday	Closed
Easter Saturday	Closed
Easter Sunday	Closed
Easter Monday	Closed

# letters to the editor



It is with immense disappointment that Walcha Council has decided to not continue to run the **Walcha Motorcycle Rally (WMR)**.

The aim of the WMR was to promote Walcha as a leading motorcycling, touring and tourism destination. And in this it succeeded.

The 2025 event delivered a highly successful two-day program, reinforcing Walcha's position as a premier regional destination for motorcycle tourism. At the same time, the WMR supported the local economy through increased and return visitation, boosting accommodation, hospitality and retail spend. Community engagement remained strong, exhibitor satisfaction was high, attracting visitors from vast areas of NSW and interstate.

Over the 3 days of the 2025 event, bank data shows the total spend in the Walcha LGA was \$345,000, of which \$103,000 was direct tourist spend (an increase of 3% from 2024). Over the last four years visitation from the WMR has injected between \$1-1.2 million into the Walcha economy.

Sadly, an unfortunate and serious incident occurred on Saturday evening of last years event within the Showground arena, resulting in multiple injuries. The coordinated response by volunteers, emergency services, staff and community members were exemplary. It's hoped that all those injured have recovered or are on the road to recovery. Our thoughts remain with you all.

The 2025 event recorded a loss of approximately \$19,000. Without the incident-related costs and bar closure, the deficit would likely have been closer to \$9,000.

Every other year the event has made a small profit, (a total of \$12,000 in the previous 4 years). These profits were not confined into a specific WMR fund; they went into Council general funds. If a restricted fund was set up, as previously recommended by the Advisory Committee, this would have reduced the net loss of 2025 substantially. All Council Staff (admin and outdoor) involved in the event, were costed against the event. Until 2025 the event had not been a cost to Council. This is the first year, the event has been underwritten by council. Claims by some Councillors that the Rally is a financial burden on Council has not been the case until 2025.

The event's social media channels recorded high engagement in the lead up to and during the Rally, as well as maintaining strong momentum post Rally. The WMR Facebook page has grown from 3,700 followers in 2024 to 5,805 followers by the end of 2025.

Facebook had 1.1 million views (up 985.2%) 462,800 viewers (up 1.4K%). Instagram had 49,000 views (up 1.1K%) and 19,000 reach (up 3.0K%).

If the decision of Councillors is to not support the future running of the Walcha Motorcycle Rally, a tourism run event, then this demonstrates that this Council does not support the tourism area running an event in any form. The WMR ticks off a clear item and action on Councils CSP (Community Strategic Plan) for tourism and aligns with DNSW (Destination NSW) and DNCO (Destination Country and Outback) Destination Management Plans.

The Walcha Motorcycle Rally provides a great benefit to the local community and economy as the **2025 External Rally Review** states - found via this link on Council's website <https://walcha.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Feb25-Item-7.8-Att-1-Walcha-Motorcycle-Rally-Review-Australian-Centre-for-Regional-Events-2025.pdf>

The flow on effect is evident, not just on the weekend the event is held, but year-round for both Touring and Adventure Bikes to Walcha.

To all the ticket holders, volunteers, sponsors, local businesses and members of this community, your support has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thank you to all those that have worked in the Tourism Office over the years of the Rally. A very special acknowledgement to Susie Crawford, Bec Whillock and especially Lisa Kirton for their commitment, passion and input they have put into the organisation of this event.

Thank you to the Council staff, Councillors and volunteers who have also been involved with the Rally over the years. We can all be proud of what was built and created. *One of the best Motorcycle Rally's in Australia.*

**From a Member of Walcha Motorcycle Rally Advisory Committee.**

## 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




**THE QUOTA BOOK FAIR WILL BE HELD 6 APRIL - 17 APRIL 2026**

# RUGBY

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## Opportunity to visit Central West R.E.Z.

Walcha High Country Guardians are conducting a one day coach trip to the Merotherie Road area, near DUNEDOO, this Sunday, the 29th of March, to better understand the impacts of new Transmissions Lines and associated Renewal Energy Projects and accommodation camps.

This opportunity was primarily for impacted landholders, however there are still seats available.

Any locals who would like to view this area and hear from locals Anna Bowman and Sally Edwards are invited to attend. Please contact Gary Olrich, on 0402 432 132 for details by Friday the 27th of March. There is minimal cost associated with this offer.

Gary Olrich

## Bingo

If you are looking for something to do on a Friday afternoon, why not come along to the Walcha Bowling Club from 2pm for a game of bingo.

For anyone new to town, it is a good way to meet new people. It's also great for keeping your brain active and having fun. I've got life long friendships from attending bingo over the years. While we don't play for sheep stations (too much hard work in that!!), we have a good time & a good laugh.

You do have to be a member of the club to play, but that's only \$15 for a years membership. It's only \$15 for 20 games.

Even if you've never played before someone can help you.

So, we'd love you to come along & have a game with us. If you need further details call the club during opening hours on 67772077.

Suzie Harrison

## Recycling Update

### Milk bottle lids, tea bag and bread tags

The last pick up for the above recycling will be on Friday 27 March.

Please drop off any items to the Visitor Information Centre by 26 March. Unfortunately, there is no longer a market for tea bag tags (they can go in your Council recycling) - the rules and regulations are making it difficult for volunteers to collect the other recyclables, having done it for many years.

Tea bag STRINGS can still be collected and left at the Craft Shop. RING-PULLS can still be collected and left at the Visitor Information Centre.

If anyone knows of someone else that can take this on please let the community know.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this recycling, you've saved hundreds of kilos from going into landfill. Well done Walcha.

Suzie Harrison

# Your Library - Your Say

Central North Regional Libraries (CNRL) is a shared network made up of 15 libraries across six Local Government Areas, of which Walcha is a member library, working collaboratively through the regional network to provide a broader range of services, collections and expertise.

The CNRL Strategic Plan is due to be renewed and we're looking for input from community members to help shape the future of the network.

If you'd like to share your thoughts and ideas on the future of these important community assets, please complete this survey <https://haveyoursay.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/cnrl-strategic-plan> before 5pm Monday 30 March

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**YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**  
**APRIL 2026**

**STORYTIME** Walcha Library  
 10 - 11am Tues 7/4  
 Ages: Bubs - 8yrs

**PICTURE PLATES** Cost \$22  
 Decorate at Walcha Library 11am Thurs 9/4  
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 Collect a template and decorate at home  
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 Questions?  
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**NETBALL CLINIC**  
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 Ages 8+ Cost \$5 [Book online](#)

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## Show Results

### Needlework

**Champion Quilt** Denise Wall. **Champion Needlework** Diana Lisle - cross stitch on Aida cloth. **Junior Champion** Flo Davey - piece of work, own choice.

**\*\*The feature section for next year will be Patchwork Article or Garment - Quilts not accepted.**

### Cooking

**Champion Card** and **Champion Ribbon** Samantha Lockyer for her chocolate cake. **Feature Cake** (Ginger Sponge) 1st Samantha Bailey. **Most Successful Exhibitor** Stuart Wellings. A \$40 IGA Voucher was donated by Vic McIvor congratulations to these exhibitors.

**Mens Section;** new record of 23 entries. **Feature Cake** Murray Power. **Champion Card and Ribbon** Murray Power, 2nd John Stanton, Highly Commended Dennis Makeham. **Over 70's Section;** **Feature Cake** (Passionfruit Cake), **Champion Ribbon** and **Champion Card** Fay Lulham. **Junior Section;** **Yr1 - Yr12 Champion Ribbon** and **Champion Card** Olivia Barnes (Red Velvet Choc Chip Biscuits). **High School Students Yr7 - Yr12, Feature Cake** (Jam Drops) 1st Arizona Bayley, 2nd Maya Hogan. **Primary School Students, Yr1 - Yr6 Feature Cake (Autumn in Walcha)** 1st Harry Fletcher, 2nd Oscar Young - 19 entries, all children awarded Highly Commended. **Encouragement Award (donated by Chief Stewardess Vic McIvor)** and **Patty Cakes** 1st Penny Wauch. **Five Years and Under (Arrowroot Biscuits, decorated)** 1st Ollie Wauch, 2nd Lane Elms - 57 entries, all children awarded Highly Commended.

### Horses

**Led Registered Australian Stock Horse Mare or Filly, Champion** Jorja Power - Glenlee Rivoli Africa, **Reserve** Jess Bull - Viewhill Honeymoon. **Led Registered Australian Stock Horse Gelding, Champion** Len Partridge - Cool Fantasy Black Cadillac, **Reserve** Phoebe Kerin - More Power to You. **Supreme Led Registered Australian Stock Horse,** Len Partridge - Cool Fantasy Black Cadillac. **Ridden Breed Pony, Champion** Chelsea Amos - Karina Park Lillyanna, **Reserve** Isabella Amos - Blau Haut-Chocolat. **Ridden Quarter Horse or Any Other Breed, Champion** Chelsea Amos - Blau Haut-Chocolat, **Reserve** Steph Woodbridge - Gimlet. **Registered Ridden Australian Stock Horse Hack, Champion** Phoebe Kerin - Cool Down Sheza Pearler to You. **Reserve** Jorja Power - Glenlee Rivoli Africa. **Registered Ridden Australian Stock Horse Working Horse, Champion** Mathew Barwick - Cantali Pimms. **Reserve,** Phoebe Kerin - Cool Down Sheza Pearler to You. **Registered Junior Ridden Australian Stock Horse, Champion** Evie Barwick - Palmers Zulu, **Reserve** Phoebe Grills - Palmers Imprint. **Supreme Ridden Registered Australian Stock Horse,** Mathew Barwick - Cantali Pimms. **Thoroughbred Led, Champion** Sam Croft - Zenna, **Reserve** Dominic Magann - Black Muscat. **ANSA Led, Champion** Sam Croft - Zenna, **Reserve** Chelsea Amos - Kereena Park Izabella. **Any Other Breed over 15hh Led, Champion** Jade Amos - Kereena Park Izabella, **Reserve** Destinee Lockyer - Orana Park Ziggy. **Pure or Part Quarter Horse Led, Champion** Kamilia Gent - Done up Obvious, **Reserve** Piper Byrne - Cowgirls Rule. **Any Other Breed 14hh ne 15hh Led, Champion** Shae Partridge - SP Renegade, **Reserve** Chelsea Amos - Blau Haut-Chocolat. **Miniature Led, Champion** Naomi Germain - Pagan Cottage Deanne. **Registered Saddle Pony Led, Champion** Chelsea Amos - Blau Haut-Chocolat, **Reserve** Bethany Rhode - Bamborough Moonglow. **Registered Riding Pony Led, Champion** Chelsea Amos - Kereena Park Lilliana, **Reserve** Isabel Amos - Blau Haut-Chocolat. **Registered Welsh or Part Welsh Pony Led, Champion** Bethany Rhode - Bamborough Moonglow, **Reserve** Alanna Rieder - Beaumont Moonlight Melody. **Stud Book Pony Led, Champion** Bethany Rhode - Bamborough Moonglow, **Reserve** Carol Purdy - Burncoose Eclipse. **Any Other Breed NE 14hh Led, Champion** Steph Woodbridge - Franky, **Reserve** Carol Purdy - Dunwood Gracefully Yours. **Ridden Breed Hack, Champion** Shae Partridge - SP Renegade, **Reserve** Jade Amos - Kereena Park Isabella. **Walcha District Junior Girl Rider, Champion** Phoebe Grills, **Reserve** Evie Barwick. **Walcha District Junior Boy Rider, Champion** Benji Provost, **Reserve** William Barwick. **Walcha District Senior Girl Rider, Champion** Sybella Miller, **Reserve** Mia Goodwin.

More results next week.....

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**Ben Fussell (Operations Management)** ... 0448 964 519



**E.O.I**



Land Size - 531 Ha\* | 1,312 Ac\*

## A Benchmark New England Grazing & Lifestyle Holding

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### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Closing: 5pm, Friday 8th May 2026**

**Address:** "Wyanga" 195 Gills Road,  
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**Contact:** Andrew Blomfield  
0428 667 402  
ablomfield@dcco.com.au



**FOR SALE**

Land Size - 35.51 Ha\* | 87.74 Ac\*



## Rare Lifestyle & Grazing Estate

"Langleigh" is a tightly held 35.51 hectare rural lifestyle estate just minutes from Walcha, offering a blend of productivity, convenience and high quality living. The property features an architect designed residence set among elevated, manicured gardens with sweeping valley views, complemented by prime pastures, strong water security and excellent infrastructure. With approximately 30 hectares recently re sown to high performance fescue and the capacity to run around 60 head of cattle, the estate suits grazing, equine pursuits or premium rural living. Its proximity to Walcha, and easy access to Armidale and Tamworth, makes it a genuine turn key holding.

### FOR SALE - \$3,100,000

**Address:** "Langleigh" 14503 Thunderbolts Way  
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**Contact:** Andrew Blomfield  
0428 667 402  
ablomfield@dcco.com.au



# Mick takes out double at Walcha Show



At the recent Walcha Show, Mick and Jen Sweeney had great success in the Wool section. They won the Champion Merino Fleece, which also won the Grand Champion Fleece of the Show. This fleece weighed 9.5kg, was 18.2 micron and had a yield of 76%. The score total score was 94.5 out of a 100. Another merino fleece of theirs, in this section, scored 94, just behind the Champion fleece.

In addition to this, they won the Champion Crossbred fleece of the Show. This fleece weighed 7.2 kg, was 26.1 micron and had a yield of 76%. In the wrap up after the Show, it was pointed out that this achievement hasn't been done in at least 40 years of living memory and from those in the know, it is unlikely that it has ever been done before.

Mick stated that the Grand Champion fleece was something he had been trying to achieve for 40 years, having missed out by half a point, several times in previous shows. "To finally get the Grand Champion and then double up with the Champion Crossbred, in what seems to have been the first time ever, feels pretty amazing," a well satisfied Mick said.

The Merino fleece will now go to the Sydney Royal Easter Show as part of the district Exhibits competition.

thumbs



- ✦ To all the volunteers that make our local show fabulous. Favourite weekend of the year for the kids.
- ✦ To Linmac for winning the tug-o-war at the show.
- ✦ To Yvette Stanton, Walcha's world-class embroiderer for holding two weekends of workshops attracting people from all over Australia, as far away as WA to Walcha.
- ✦ To friends and paramedics, Dan and Justin, for helping me following a fall at the Bowling Club.
- ✦ To the Yarrowitch Public School for hosting an afternoon with residents from Riverview Aged Care. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves and found it hard to leave, Well done to our beautiful hosts.
- ✦ To our Walcha Fire and Rescue and S.E.S on Sunday evening for saving one of our native birds caught by his foot upside down in a huge gum tree. You guys are awesome, a huge thank you.
- ✦ To Dale Webber and the show committee for helping the oldies on Saturday of the show with entry to the showgrounds.
- ✦ To Mayor Noakes and all involved for all you have achieved in one short year after taking over the running of Riverview.
- ✦ To Di and Cheryl at the Bowling Club for their last minute catering for our small family function. It was amazing.
- ✦ To David Hooker for his fresh fruit and vegetables.

**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.**

An advertisement for bush fire preparedness. It features five firefighters in yellow gear standing in a line in a wooded area. The text "ONE EMBER CAN END IT." is written in large, bold, red letters on the left. On the right, the text reads "Your neighbours are bush fire ready. Are you?" followed by a paragraph about preparing homes for ember attacks. At the bottom, it says "It's easy to get prepared at myfireplan.com.au" and includes logos for RFS, Fire + Rescue, and NSW.

**Sad to hear locals Cecil Dunn and Les O'Neill along with regular Walcha visitor Johnny Wright** have left this world during recent times. Condolences to the family and friends of all three men. May Cecil, Les and 'Jack' all Rest in Peace.

...

**By all accounts 'Minoru'/'Craigend' resident Pauline White** found herself in some distress the other day when she sat on a Trout fishing lure and it became embedded in the back of her leg. Unable to remove the lure Pauline called on her father Denis 'Mick' White for help but when good Samaritan Mick arrived with long-nose pliers and side cutters to do the job Pauline jumped up off the lounge and dislodged the lure herself. Ouch.

...

**Congratulations to local athlete and Year 12 TAS student Emily Ussher** on winning the female division of the Armidale Running Festival 10 kilometre event recently when she stopped the clock at 42 minutes 43 seconds. Instead of collecting her \$500 prizemoney Emily generously donated her winnings to the event's chosen charity - Rory's Race to end Duchenne. Emily's kind gesture would have just about brought a tear to the eyes of her proud parents Ben and Sonia at the time.

...

**Congratulations to 8 time Walcha Golf Club Champion Simeon Cross** on winning the Mens division of the New England Golf Veterans Pennants individual competition last week. Simone scored 174 (30,48,32,33,31) points over the five rounds to sneak home by a point from his stablemate Wayne Brennan 174 (33,33,30,39,38). Good on ya.

...

**Local Veteran Cricketers Bill Duncan and Barry Hoy** represented New England Over 60's at Peter Fenwicke Oval last Sunday where they went down to Mid North Coast by a few wickets. N.E scored 156 runs of which Bill contributed 20 and Baz 19 before M.N.C chased that score down.

**Best of luck to all Touch Football teams** playing in their respective grand finals tomorrow when the 50th season of Walcha Touch is finalised. Local touch kicked off on the fairways of the Golf Club in October 1976 before moving to its current home John Oxley Sportsground a few years later when team numbers grew too big for the Golf Club to accommodate. Hopefully weather conditions will be better than what the elimination finals were played in last Thursday.

...

**Best of luck also to our Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade Cricket team** when they do battle with Easts Yellow in their Armidale District Grand Final this Saturday at Lambert Park in Armidale. Walcha/Uralla have qualified for every 2nd Grade 'Big Dance' since they joined the Armidale competition four seasons ago having won one and lost two. Hopefully that percentage will increase to 50% on Saturday. Go Gettum Boys.

...

**Big Wigs of the Week - Vet Supplies - Raya Kirby** somehow 'Picked the Card'. Might have to contact Raya for a few tips the way I'm going at the moment! **Newie - Katlyn Gollan, Paul Hicks** 14 points; **Apsley - Scotty Kirby** 14 points after picking the card in the opening round; **B.C - Judy and Marie Eckford, Kathy Carter, John Dobson, Tom Wicks, John Watts** 12 pts; **Darks Plumbing - Arokiya, Adam; Hayley and Georgia Bird; Thunderbolts - Lisa and Cindy Swanton, Jacki Nash, Bec Bullock, Miles Lawrence, Brett Gardiner** 10 pts.

...

**My much better half Linda** was excited to receive a free face cream sample a while back but wasn't too thrilled when she applied the cream. On further investigation it wasn't actually face cream but hair conditioner instead which was rapidly removed very shortly after. Sometimes reading the instructions does help Dear.

...

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## Tennis

Round 5 of the 26 Summer Comp was played out on Tues 17th March under overcast skies.

Leader of the pack is Jock Rutherford on 85 points. Only one point behind on 84 points is Harry Locke who has taken Todd Whillock's spot with Peter Tape in third position on 70 points. Well done to these players and everyone that competed on the night.

The next Club meeting will be held on Mon 13th April at 6.30pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

There will be an Eskimo Comp starting on Tues 28th April, it will be Graded doubles climb the ladder format. Nominations close on 21st April. Names to Trev 0459 799 119 or Hyde 0427 780 391. See you all at the net soon.

## Ladies Bowls

A fabulous game was played by Lyn Burnell and Sari Andrews in the Major Singles. It was level pegging all the way with 32 ends being played. Finally Lyn managed to narrowly win 25-24. A very enjoyable game of pairs was played last Thursday with Pam Makeham and Lyn Burnell winning against Debbie Richards and Lee McCoy. Margaret Tickle will play Marie Spink, marker Jan Cross, in the last game of the Minor Singles tomorrow. In the Major Singles Lee McCoy will play Janice Rizzi, marker Debbie Richards. Keep in mind our Beginners Day on Thursday 30 April. Invite a friend or two to join us for a game of bowls. There will be a coach to assist new players. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start.

## Bowls

Thursday results: John McCormack, Denis Makeham & Tony Batterham defeated Barry Kliendienst, Noel Goodwin & Peter Halliday 16/13. The new comers were in good form.

Our pennant players are at home to Kootingal this Saturday. The players are primed to finish the year on a winning note. Good luck. Play commences at 11am.

The B grade singles commence this Sunday March 29th at 11.30 am. Draw: Adam Hall v Miles Lawrence marker Mick Wall, Stephen Bath v Matt Andrews marker Dayson Andrews The A grade singles commence on Saturday 18th April Nominations close 10th April.

Twilight bowls is on again this Friday. Good bowling. Don't be short.

## At the Nineteenth

The monthly Stroke Medal Round was played last Sunday for a trophy donated by Andrew Robertson where Bill Fletcher won the event after he carded an impressive 63 nett which also entitled him to the B Grade mug.

A grade went to Alstonville visitor and former Walcha Club Champion (1974 and 75) Greg Cross after he registered a 68 nett while Tim Baumer won C Grade with a 66 nett.

Sweepstakes to Don Brooks 69, Wayne Brennan, Nixon Bird, Willy Brennan and Angus Warden all 70 on countback from Lee Fletcher and Jock Rutherford.

Best scratch score was a five over par 75 by Nixon Bird which included an eagle on the 15th hole whereas Don Brooks eagled the 17th after he chipped in from around 160 metres. Both players picked up four balls each from the 'Eagles Nest' sponsored by Darks Plumbing.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Wayne Brennan (3), Dean Hart (9), Bill Fletcher (16) and Andrew Crawford (18).

Long drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus were drilled by Nixon Bird (A), Craig Morgan (B) and Daniel Boyd (C).

The putting competition was won by Wayne Brennan with 23 putts on countback from Jamie Bowden whereas the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for most putts was eagerly received by Andrew Crawford with 33 jabs but only on countback from Jenny Lisle.

In Match Play Bill Fletcher defeated Will Brennan 4 and 3. Wayne Brennan downed Andrew Robertson 1 up while Will Archdale snuck home 1 up from Allan Laurie.

Last Saturday Lyn Levingston accumulated 18 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition from Runner Up Pete Whellan on 16 points.

N.T.P on 3 to Debbie Richards.

Walcha players travelled to Glen Innes for the final round of the New England Veterans Pennants competition last Thursday where they finished equal second in the final points score with Guyra on 30 points.

Uralla won their first Vets Pennants competition after finishing the five round competition on 42 points, Glen Innes scored 28 points and Armidale 20 points.

Walcha residents Tim Beaumont and Jenny Lisle were members of the winning Uralla team.

The NSWVGA are conducting their annual Sandgreen Championships here at Walcha this week. Best of luck to all players competing.

Next Sunday a Par Event is scheduled where Brian Lynch is in charge of supplying the prize.

### Golf Club AGM

Nothing changed when the Walcha Golf Club held their Annual General Meeting two Sundays ago. President Miles Archdale was re-instated along with Secretary Anthea Nivison and Treasurer Margaret Davidson who has commenced her 17th term in that position and is also Patron of the club.

Captain Willy Brennan has agreed to line up for his 22nd

year. Handicapper Don Brooks for his 17th and Publicity Officer AJ Cross for his 23rd term.

The general committee remains the same - Lee Fletcher (VP), Caroline Street, Sue Partridge, John McCormack, Michael Stackman, Craig Morgan, Jim Nivison and Allan Green.

## Cricket

Walcha/Uralla will play Easts Yellow in the Armidale District 2nd Grade Cricket Grand Final this Saturday at Lambert Park after Easts Yellow defeated Minor Premiers Easts Green by 6 runs in Armidale last Sunday.

Walcha/Uralla were meant to play Easts Yellow in the Preliminary Final last Saturday after they lost their major semi final to Easts Green by 9 runs the previous weekend. Easts Green however played an unregistered player in the major semi final and were disqualified presenting Walcha/Uralla with a ticket to the 'Big Dance'.

Since joining the Armidale competition in 2022/23 Walcha/Uralla have qualified for the last four 2nd Grade grand finals in succession where they defeated Easts first up before going down to TAS the following season and then Easts Green 12 months ago.

Selectors have 14 qualified players to choose from for the Grand Final - Will Archdale, Ed Blomfield, Daniel Boyd, Brett Dwyer, Will Fletcher, David Ford, Jay Grills, Matt Harper, Barry Hoy, Cameron and Peter Mooney, Shannon Rafferty, Josh Wearne and Grant Youll.

Best of luck in the 'Big One' Boys.

## Touch Football

The 2025/26 Walcha Touch Football season will be finalised when four grand finals are decided on Thursday:

### Juniors:

Red v Yellow (Field 2)..... 5:15pm

### C Grade:

Junior Roos v Apsley Ball Tearers (Field 3) ..... 6:00pm

### B Grade:

Old Gold v Outlaws (Field 2)..... 6.00pm

### A Grade:

Vikings v Coco Jumbo (Field 2) ..... 6.30pm

Presentations will follow games before leading to the New England Hotel for end of season celebrations.

Elimination finals results from last week:

### A Grade:

Vikings def ABTS 4-3; Coco Jumbo def Water Buffaloes 2-0.

### B Grade:

Outlaws def B.C. Cougars 3-2 in extra time, Old Gold def Top Pub 4-2.

### C Grade:

Apsley Ball Tearers def Spiked Punch 8-4.

### Juniors

Yellow def Blue 5-4 in extra time.

## Wednesday Golf

Wednesday saw a great roll up to play stableford for Lorraine Walshe's trophy.

The winner was Sal McCormack with an impressive 42 points.

Sweepstakes were won by Julie Presnell, and Lorraine Walshe, both 40 points, Simone Sweeney 39, Vicki Heffernan and Cheryl McDonald, both on 38 and Julie Olrich on 37.

Pip Monie was the sharpest shooter on Hole 3 and our daily winner Sal McCormack took out the second shot on 18.

The NEDGA tournament was played over Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Guyra and 16 of our girls attended. Some results are as follows:

NEDGA Champion 2nd Division, Sue Partridge.

18 Hole Gross winner 2nd Day, 2nd Division, Pauline Carter.

Marie Trim Trophy, 36 Hole Nett Super vet, Jill Burnell.

NTP 1st Day, 2nd Division, Hole 7, Julie Hoad.

Division 2, Card draw, NTP, Hole 9, Rose Baumer. Vicki Heffernan and Jill Burnell were the runners up in Division 2 in Monday's foursomes.

Balls were won by Cheryl McDonald, Donna Martin, Vicki Heffernan, Simone Sweeney, Cark Street, Sal McCormack, Alison Cameron, Julie Olrich, Polly Locke, Ann Martin, Jill Burnell and Katie Smith.

As it is the Veterans Week of golf being played here this week, we are having a club trophy here today for anyone who is up to playing. No pressure, as most have had a full few days of chasing the white ball around the paddock!!



Rose Baumer, Pauline Carter, Sue Partridge, Julie Hoad and Jill Burnell



## Funeral Notice

**Cecil James Dunn**

02/02/1941 - 18/03/2026

Of 'Wendouree' Walcha.

Beloved husband of Carol.

Loving father and father-in-law of Evan & Kylie and Leanda & Ian.

Treasured pop of Jessica, Rowan, James, Georgia, Megan, Hannah, & Mathew.

Adored great-grandfather of Claire, Levi, Evelyn & Addison.

Loved brother, brother-in-law, cousin, uncle and great-uncle of his family.

Dear friend to many.

Aged 85 years

Funeral to be held at Piddingtons Funeral home, Uralla Road Armidale, Wednesday 25th March 2026 commencing at 12pm.

**Piddingtons Armidale (02) 6772 2288**

## Funeral Notice (cont)

**Leslie Vincent O'Neill**

19/03/2026

Of 'Days Mountain', Walcha

Beloved husband of Robyn.

Loving father and father-in-law of Jennifer & David.

Much loved Poppy of Mark & Emily.

Loved brother and brother-in-law of Kevin & Jo (both dec'd), Aileen & Ken, and Mary & Peter and a much loved uncle of their families.

Aged 84 years

A graveside celebration of Les's life will be held at the Walcha General Cemetery on Thursday 26th March 2026 commencing at 2pm.

**Piddingtons Armidale (02) 6772 2288**

## Public Notices (cont)

Sign up to play rugby for us and you can go in the draw to win a \$100 Rebel Voucher!

If you've already registered, that's ok, fill in the competition form and you're in the draw to score.

Step into rugby today at nsw.rugby

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## Hay Hay Hay

**This weeks special**, big heavy round bales of Lucerne \$190 plus. Small bales \$20. First class Lucerne \$220. Phone George 0427 018 493.

## Meeting Notice

RSL meeting 5.30pm Thursday 26 at the Walcha Bowling Club. All welcome.

## In Memoriam

**Helen Mason**

29/3/2025

Loved and missed everyday.

Neil and your nieces and nephews

## Public Notices

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**bendemeerartshow.org** online entries will close 5pm, Saturday 11th April.



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

### ANGLICAN

**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  
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## WHAT'S ON?

**Thursday 26** 12.00pm – Close

**BOWLS** 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

**Friday 27** 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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**Saturday 28** 11.00am – Close

**5.00PM BISTRO**

**Sunday 29** 11.00am – Close

**12.00PM BISTRO**

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

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 will be cleaning out the room on Saturday. Any unclaimed items will be sold or disposed of.

Come on down on Saturday night for our new members draw. The Saturday draw is separate to the Friday draw and will be drawn between 7pm and 8pm on Saturday nights and will jackpot by \$100 a week.

Do you live in the 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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