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Built to Last: Norm Goodwin reflects on 51 years of craftsmanship

Celebrations were held on Easter Sunday when Norm Goodwin reached 69 years of age, and retired after 51 years as a welder and fabricator.

When Norm was half way through Year 12 he decided to take up an apprenticeship with Neville Partridge at 'Neverpart' Engineering which was located in the same building as

Linmac Co. "I spent 8 years with Neville before he sold the business to Lindsay McMillan and it became Linmac." Norm said they were great days and they were building huge 24 foot stick rakes for dozers to go out west. "We also started building quad, triple and double axle loaders, Neville was a very clever engineer. There were six people working here then, and we were using stick welders!" He vividly recalls that his first pay cheque was \$54 per week, and he says it went further than his pay cheques do now.

Norm then worked at Fenning Timber Mill where he continued to weld, and fix everything. He also spent time working with Charlie Szpitalak panelbeating and welding for about 12 months, as well as working for Buster Fenwicke.

However, he returned to where his career began at the Linmac shed and worked for John Cross at Linmac for over 30 years. "I have absolutely loved my time here and met some good people. When you do a job for them you get to know them, which has been the best part."



Norm puts the finishing touches to his 197th, and last ute tray before retiring

A large part of Norm's work for the last 24 years has been building ute trays. This started by accident really. "I bought an old ute and thought I would try to make a tray for it. After I finished it, John Cross and I thought we might be able to sell some, so we started advertising them," Norm laughed.

He has written down every tray he has built since 2002. Before he clocked off on his last

day, Norm had to put the finishing touches to his 197th tray! He is also a very talented engineer as the trays were all different designs and for many different vehicles. "I did a tray for an F250 from Canberra, and built quite a few for Guyra Council, and some have gone to Grafton and Dungog."

Norm estimated that each tray, including powder coating and fitting would take him around two weeks to complete. As he looked back on his career and said that there haven't been too many massive changes in the industry.

He is looking forward to slowing down and playing more bowls, with a carnival at Urunga in July on the calendar with his boys. "I would also like to do some travel," he said.

By the time you read this, hopefully he will have ticked a few things off the list Barb has made for him to do around the house, because he said it was quite a long one!

Enjoy your retirement Norm, you have thoroughly earned it!



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around the traps



By BRUCE RUTHERFORD

A swipe across the weather forecasters' apps does not make for good reading. The forecasts are pointing to a much more significant El-Nino event than we have had for some time. They will all tell you it doesn't necessarily mean rainfall will dry up, but at this point I will take a lot of convincing otherwise. It is not just the rainfall, it is the combination of less rainfall, hotter days than normal and the wind. Surface water is becoming an issue for some and after such a wet year last year that is hard to believe. The country is parched and remembering a time when the season has come more unstuck in a short time frame is difficult. At this point in time the mild weather has been favourable, but with frosts appearing now, feed reserves will disappear quickly, and winter may well be a long one.

Some have been lucky enough to get crops up and running for winter feed, but I am also seeing others who have planted crops and the seed is still sitting in the ground. We do need some urgent rain to get crops going before colder weather moves in.

The good news is that livestock markets are still historically very buoyant and despite record cattle numbers coming forward through northern NSW and southern QLD and on top of a couple of short weeks, markets have held firm. Tamworth yarded another massive 7500 cattle on Monday with large numbers of cows on offer. The market was firm to dearer for many descriptions. Gunnedah has another 7000 plus yarding today (Tuesday) which I suspect will follow suit. Armidale yarded 3500 last Thursday which was also firm to dearer for most restocker cattle and slightly cheaper for the large number of cows. The interesting feature of the cattle market at present seems to be the demand for processing cows. Southern buyers are trying hard to secure cows with weight and the heavy cows are still selling very well. I suspect they are all expecting the tap to turn off at some point and for numbers to die as quickly as they have come forward, but right now it appears numbers will keep coming.

The sheep and lamb market continue to be a real surprise. For the producers who have filled the grain bins this year it has certainly paid off. Sheep of all descriptions are selling at extraordinary prices. Mutton values in most markets are quoted well above the 800 c/kg mark while heavy lambs are quoted from 1100 to 1200 c/kg and good trade lambs up to 1300 c/kg on MLA market reports. In many market reports we have seen extra heavy lambs selling in dollar terms to the mid \$400's with most heavy lambs in the high \$300's to early \$400's. Heavy trade lambs are regularly selling to \$300 plus while most seem to range between \$250 and \$300. Restocker types are also still in high demand from feeders with weight rewarded and sales up to the mid \$200's for the right lambs. It is so good to see sheep producers rewarded for the effort they put in while processors seem willing to keep competing at these levels. I still remember so many tough years in the sheep business and am very happy for those who have kept the faith.

With the numbers of cows being sold out of dry areas in the north of NSW and southern QLD, it is hard to imagine that if it does rain one day, female cattle are going to be very scarce. Many of the cows being sold are going to processors as it seems to me, there is a discount applies to a PTIC female as restocker's do not want to compete at processor levels. Given the numbers of cattle in the USA are critically low, you would have to think we have entered a time when at some point demand will be enormous and those who have kept some females will get the benefit. I know that has been said many times, but it must weigh on the minds of everyone as they watch their last load of females go down the road in the dust.



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Men's cakes raised \$4500

A sweet success for wellbeing and Walcha community organisations

The Men's Cake Section at the 2026 Walcha Show was once again a standout feature, with a record 23 entries and strong community support highlighting its growing importance.

A big thank you and congratulations goes to all who entered, along with Chief Stewardess Vicki Mclvor and her team for their work coordinating the Cooking Section. Their efforts helped create an inclusive and welcoming space that encourages participation, connection, and community pride.

Beyond the competition, the Men's Cake section plays a meaningful role in supporting mental health and wellbeing. By bringing men together through a shared activity, it provides an opportunity to connect, build confidence, and reduce social isolation—particularly important in rural communities.

The Men's Cake auction was hugely successful, raising an impressive \$4,500. Strong contributions from the auction of Triple M's Lu and Jarch's cakes helped drive the great result, with Lu's cake bringing in a third of the funds. Their sponsors, TradieSpec, were also right behind it, with boss Tim purchasing the Champion Cake baked by Murray Power.

The funds raised from the auction were donated back into the community, with Friends of Riverview, the Walcha Men's Shed and the Walcha Support Group each receiving \$1,500. These organisations play a vital role in supporting wellbeing, meaning the impact of the Men's Cake Section has extended well beyond the Show itself.

The Walcha Show Society also acknowledged the support behind the wider event, thanking all sponsors, particularly major sponsor Origin Energy, whose backing plays a key role in keeping the Show running each year.



Angus Monie President Walcha Show Society, Dale Webber Secretary Walcha Show Society, Vicki Mclvor Chief Stewardess Cooking Section, Don Murchie Friends of Riverview, Danny Reardon Walcha Men's Shed, Jock Fletcher Vice President, Walcha Show Society

Thanks were also extended to all stewards and volunteers across the sections, along with the Walcha Show Committee for their ongoing support.

"The 2026 Show once again proved a success, continuing to showcase not only the strengths of the Walcha community, but also its commitment to supporting connection, wellbeing, and resilience," said President, Angus Monie. "We are already working on putting together another great Show for the Walcha community to enjoy in 2027."



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Kindergarten Orientation

Friday 5 June 2026
9:15 – 11am

Walcha Central School invites parents and children beginning Kindergarten in 2027 to our Kindergarten orientation and classroom experience.

Meet in the school library
Morning tea provided.



a journey of learning from K to 12

Phone 6777 2777
154e North Street
RSVP by 1 June

Paging Walcha locals ...

Fire & Rescue NSW needs volunteers



Walcha needs a few more locals to step forward when the pager goes off. When an emergency happens, the response comes from within. Locals protecting locals. People who know the streets, the properties, the families.

At Fire and Rescue NSW Station 481, that responsibility sits with a small, tight-knit crew — defined not by the uniform, but by their willingness to step forward when it counts. These Firefighters could be your neighbour, parents at school pickup, a colleague, someone you've seen at Parkrun or had a chat with in town.

Station 481 needs a few more of them, as they are currently operating at half capacity. The capability is there — but the workload is falling on too few people and in a regional town, that matters. Difficult moments can come with no warning and happen more often than people realise - with the outcome being dependant on who is available, trained, and ready.

"We're not looking for superheroes; we're looking for reliable people who want to keep our community safe when it matters most," Deputy-Captain Paul Fritsch said.

The role fits around everyday life — farmers, tradies, business owners, remote workers. Members commit availability, train regularly, and respond when needed. In return, they earn more than a pay cheque. Gaining real skills — firefighting, rescue and first aid along with confidence, resilience and the ability to stay calm under pressure.

But what keeps them there is simple - the Crew; trust built in training, shared experiences and knowing the person next to you has your back.

"It becomes part of who you are," Firefighter Douglas said.

Importantly, training is provided and no prior experience is required - the only requirement is commitment.

Locals can learn more by attending: drill nights, where the Fire Station is open to the public, held 6–8pm Tuesday 14 & 28 April. An information session at the Commercial Hotel from 6:30pm 23 April. Firefighters will also be present at Walcha Parkrun each Saturday and during ANZAC Day commemorations.

No pressure, just a conversation. This isn't about numbers, it's about ensuring there are enough people ready when that next call comes. In Walcha, that responsibility sits with the people who call it home.

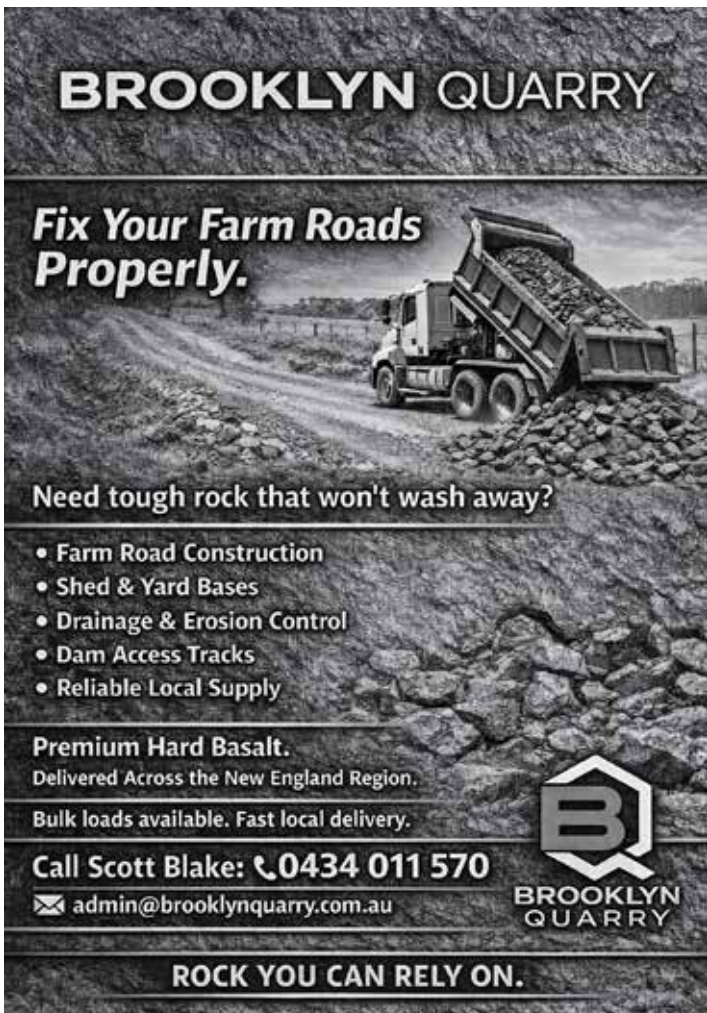
Applications close on 30 April at 11:59pm.

Lions Christmas cakes

Walcha Lion, Lloyd Levingston wanted to thank the Walcha community for purchasing their Christmas cakes and puddings. "Money raised goes towards helping the needy in our district, as well as cancer research and people suffering other medical conditions," Lloyd said.



He also thanked the local businesses who sold the cakes for them, including Walcha Telecottage, Post Office, Cross Bros, Coffee Window, Commonwealth Bank and Regional Australia Bank.



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Sydney Royal Easter Show successes from Walcha

Walcha members have done it again, returning home with outstanding results from the Sydney Royal Easter Show. With multiple members of our community competing across a range of events and classes, they all represented themselves and our town exceptionally well.

Glenburnie Merino Stud performed extremely well, taking out Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ram, Grand Champion Superfine Wool Poll Merino Ewe, and Reserve Grand Champion Ultrafine Wool Poll Merino Ram. They also placed third in the RAS Pair and first in the Merino or Poll Merino Production Class 62 Ewe.

Walcha polocrosse superstar subbie Patrick Daley made his Sydney Show debut in the Under 12 Sub-Junior Polocrosse competition. Patrick and his team finished runners-up, with Patrick also taking home the Best Number 3 award. Well done to Patrick and his team.

More results to come next week...



Bateson Pittman and father Paul Pittman showing their Merino Ram and RAS pair and Patrick Daley ready for his Polocrosse game

Nasal flu vaccine

Young children across NSW can now receive protection against influenza with the launch of a needle-free nasal spray flu vaccine in participating community pharmacies.

The NSW Government funded program makes FluMist®, a nasal spray influenza vaccine, available at no cost for children aged 2, 3 and 4, (the cost is \$55 per dose for outside this age bracket), helping families protect their kids ahead of the 2026 flu season.

NSW Branch President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Mario Barone, said the program removes one of the biggest barriers to childhood vaccination. "For many children, the fear of needles can be overwhelming. Being able to receive flu protection through a simple nasal spray makes the experience much easier and far less stressful."

"Complications from influenza can be particularly high among young children, which is why it's so important to get vaccinated before flu season really takes hold."

"Early vaccination helps protect children, their families, and the broader community."

NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park said the goal of rolling out the free nasal spray flu vaccines for 2-4 year olds is to increase vaccine uptake following a record flu season in 2025.

"The immunisation rate of children under 5 is only 24%, far lower than we need it to be," Minister Park said.

Walcha's Kings Pharmacy is participating in this program. They will order in FluMist®, nasal spray influenza vaccine, as required, which generally comes in on overnight delivery.

If you wish to have your child vaccinated with FluMist you will need to call Kings Pharmacy on 6777 2744 to make arrangements.

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New England Rugby Season Kicks Off This Weekend!



Peter Fenwicke Oval. Reggies kick off 1.45pm & First Grade kick off 3.15pm

2026 Home Games:

April 18	Albies
May 2	Glen Innes (Reggies Only)
May 23	Barbarians
June 6	Armidale Blue, Sponsors Day
June 27	Tamworth Magpies
July 18	Dorrigo (Reggies only)
August 1	Robb College, Ladies Day
August 15	Barraba, Old Boys Day.

(Ticketed lunch for all Old Boys on Old Boys Day)

Club memberships now on sale, membership forms available from Richo's Rural, via email wrucsecretary@outlook.com or can be paid at the gate on Saturday. \$80 single membership or \$120 couple

Farmers Market 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 barbecue. There'll be face painting for the kids, and the Historical Society will be in attendance.



Cattle

Limousin: Snr & Grand Champion Heifer Clifton 'Meg V30', Jnr Champion Heifer Clifton 'Meg V40'. **Gelbvih** Jnr Champion Heifer Rocky Creek 'Wendella'. **Simmentals:** Jnr & Grand Champion Heifer Valley Creek 'Headwig'. **Jnr Champion Bull** Logie 'Winston', **Snr & Grand Champion Bull** Logie 'Vodka'. **Lincoln Red:** Jnr & Grand Champion Heifer Leonay 'Victoria', **Jnr & Grand Champion Bull** Leonay 'Wozza', **Breeders Group** Leonay. **Speckle Park:** Jnr Champion Heifer KJ Hill 'Wendy', **Snr & Grand Champion Heifer** Gotcha 'Joy Joy'. **Devons:** Snr & Grand Champion Heifer Not A Lot 'Chelsea'. **Charolais:** Jnr & Grand Champion Heifer Myona 'Penny V10E' **Herefords & Poll Herefords:** Jnr Champion Heifer Yalgoo V375, **Snr & Grand Champion Heifer** Te Angie 'Duchess', **Jnr & Grand Champion Bull** Te Angie 'Velociraptor', **Snr Champion Bull** Te Angie 'Unbelievable'. **Shorthorns:** Jnr & Grand Champion Heifer Southcote W215, **Jnr Champion Bull** Southcote W203 **Grand Champion Bull** Southcote W203 **Breeders Group** Southcote **Angus:** Jnr Champion Heifer Bonny Brooke Dorgammer V23 **Senior Champion Heifer** Ben Nevis Jean S47 **Grand Champion Heifer** Ben Nevis Jean S47 **Jnr Champion Bull** The Station Monty V98 **Senior Champion Bull** The Station Cracking U122 **Grand Champion Bull** The Station Cracking U122 **Breeders Group** The Station (Cracking Group) **Cairnie Trophy** The Station **Angus Nairn Park Trophy** The Station **Angus Yalgoo Trophy** Ben Nevis Jean S47 **Ivybank Trophy** The Station **Angus Southcote**



Supreme Trophy The Station **Angus Cracking U122** **Chris Lisle Memorial Trophy** The Station **Angus Jnr Heifer Show:** Jnr Champion Heifer The Station Economix W32 **Reserve Jnr Champion Heifer** Clifton Wynn W26 **Snr Champion Heifer** Bonny Brooke Dorgammer **Reserve Snr Champion Heifer** Clifton Vuggie V44 **Grand Champion Heifer** The Station Economix **Pure Bred Steer** NEGS **Winston Cross Bred Steer** NEGS Waylon **Grand Champion Steer** NEGS **Winston Paraders 10yrs & Under** Lucy Martin **11yrs** Zara McGilchrist **12yrs** Matilda McCoy **13yrs** Frankie Nivison **14yrs** Chloe Baiden **15yrs** Jacob Sottello **16yrs** Amelia Miller **17yrs** Heidi Zwiers **18yrs plus** Jess Taylor.



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IMPORTANT NOTICE Change to office hours- Effective from April 2026

Mon to Thurs 8.30am - 5pm
Friday open by appointment only

To discuss your requirements please contact the Walcha office on 6777 2377



- ✦ To Geraldine, Harrison and Rebecca for brining Easter eggs and great joy to each and every resident of Riverview. Thank you.
- ✦ To Rev. Neil Hunt for his awesome Good Friday service held in the old St Andrew's Anglican Church. What a clear articulate voice and message you send.
- ✦ To our local 'firies' for coming to my rescue when I was absolutely convinced my car was about to explode...turns out it was just a flat tyre! Not my finest moment but definitely one of the quickest ways to meet so many of the RFS at once. Greatly appreciated, thank you.
- ✦ To Rhiannon at Community Care for taking care of me on Friday.
- ✦ To Thunderbolts Cafe for a great catering job for our parents 60th anniversary. Beautiful, well presented food delivered on time.
- ✦ To Walcha Tennis Club - a perfect venue for a 60th anniversary and for putting the hire fees back into junior tennis programs.
- ✦ To Wauchope author Rob Tickle for his book on 'Capt. Robert Andrew Wauch' and the book launch held at the Museum Open Day on Sunday.
- ✦ A big thanks to Troy from Walcha Council for his quick response and helpfulness when looking at ways to make our property entrance safer.
- ✦ Thank you to Jason Marchant who helped with a job at the Museum on Saturday with his trusty forklift. Much appreciated.
- ✦ To the volunteers who made the Walcha Historical Society Open Day a success
- ✦ To Lloyd Levingston for helping me out of trouble when my car would not start.
- ✦ To the Apsley Hotel for a great meal.
- ✦ To whoever removed/stole the slabs from the original Irish Town hut. Shame on you.

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.

Diamonds for Robin and Maggi

Robin and Maggi Stace were surrounded by their family on Saturday when they celebrated 60 years of marriage at Walcha Tennis Club.

They were married in Port Macquarie on 9 April 1966 and moved to Walcha not long after this. They had three daughters: Jodie, Amanda and Loretta who were all present at the celebrations, along with their children.



Robin worked at Fenning Timber Mill for many years before starting his gardening and pruning business which he later sold to Scott Kermode.

Maggi has been heavily involved in the Walcha community with the Anglican Church, as well as patchwork groups. "Mum was also a very active member of the P&C, and was always driving us around to sporting events, Brownies, Girl Guides and Music lessons," daughter Loretta Blanch recalled. Many will also remember Maggi for her wonderful baby sitting and Day Care Service which saw her caring for many young children over 17 years of providing the service to young families.

Loretta thanked Thunderbolts Way Cafe for doing a wonderful job in catering for this family celebration.



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Ages 8+ [Book online](#)

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Successful Quota Book Fair in its final days

The Quota Book Fair is deeply rooted in the diary as an annual favourite for both the community and travellers alike.

Tremendous volunteers work tirelessly to sort, scrutinise and clean the books to ensure they are well presented. Every single book is looked over with a fine-tooth comb, checking for anything that would make it unsuitable for sale. This strict quality control has built and maintained a strong reputation for a high standard of books and other items at the fair. (jigsaws, puzzles, magazines and more).

This project that involves all of the Walcha Quota Club, with help from amazing volunteers. "The Book Fair wouldn't be possible without the incredible support from the community through their book donations," said Christine Hamel "along with buying books year in year out and some locals offering very generous donations".

An estimate upwards of 5,000 books were donated this year with 2,500-3,000 having been sold already.

Walcha Quota Club began in 1975, in that 51 years, \$515,230 has been raised, with support given towards; Hearing & Speech, Walcha Council and Library, Quota Park, Cancer Awareness and Research, Mental Health, Walcha Hospital and Elizabeth Crosse Wing, Schools, Youth, Seniors, Women, World Service, the Community and general donations.

Don't miss out on great deals this Thursday and Friday, with the 'Fill a Bag for \$5' campaign as the Book Fair comes to a close this Friday 17 April at 4pm.



What's the Historical Society covering up?

Curiosity is building in Walcha, with locals invited to take part in a rather unusual "cover-up".

The Walcha Historical Society, in partnership with the Walcha Business Group, is calling on the community to help shine a light on the past by temporarily covering part of it up.

As part of a creative fundraising initiative, residents and visitors are encouraged to buy raffle tickets to help fund the "cover-up" of the old Craft Shop building on the corner of South and Fitzroy Streets.

While the building now sits in a state of disrepair, the Historical Society sees an opportunity not only to acknowledge its current condition, but also to celebrate its rich history. The cover-up will take the form of a large banner featuring historical images of the building through different eras, showing how it evolved from a bustling merchant store into a much-loved craft shop and an important part of Walcha's main street.

Funds raised on the day will go towards producing the banner, which will later be installed as an engaging streetscape feature for both locals and visitors passing through or stopping in McHattan Park.

A raffle featuring prizes generously donated by local businesses will help support the project.

Community members are encouraged to visit the Historical Society's stall on Fitzroy Street on Saturday 18 April, between 8.30am and 12.30pm. With plenty happening in town that morning, including the Farmers Market, it is a good opportunity to stop by, buy a ticket, and support a project designed to uncover and celebrate the stories that have shaped Walcha.

what's the goss



with AJ Cross

Happy Birthday to a couple of prominent long time local business men when they celebrate today and tomorrow. Peter 'Granite' Norbury hits 70 years on the planet this very day whereas John Cross reaches 80 years young 24 hours later. Doesn't seem like 20 years since 'Granite' Willy Brennan and myself enjoyed our 50th Birthday Party at the Golf Club in 2006. Many Happy Returns of your respective days Pete and John.

...

Still on the subject of birthdays local veteran allround sporting legend and Parramatta supporter Max Holstein racked up 94 trips around the sun since he was born in 1932 just a few weeks after the Sydney Harbour was opened. Max shared his birth year with his fellow Golf Club Life Members John 'Ming' Mann and Irwin 'I.J.' Cross. Hope you had a good one yesterday Max.

...

Quite a number of years ago I was a tennis floater where Max and I played a doubles match together. When I asked him which side of the court he preferred Max politely suggested I select my best side and he would handle the other side. During play I noticed Max didn't play any backhand shots he just changed hands to play forehand. Next time you play a game of tennis give it ago - you will probably find its a bit harder than what it sounds.

...

Great to hear my former Wizards touch footy teammate Daniel Kermodie is on the road to recovery after he cheated death or serious injury when he rolled his 4 wheel bike into a dam on his property while working with some cattle last week. Thankfully things went in Daniel's favour because it could have been a whole lot worse.

...

Just before Easter my much better half Linda purchased a box of Easter eggs to hold an egg hunt on Good Friday when our family enjoyed lunch at our residence. Problem was Linda hid the eggs that well from the Grandkids leading up to that day she couldn't find them for the Egg Hunt despite practically tipping our house upside down.

...

Alternative arrangements were made for the 'Egg Hunt' but a week to the day the eggs were found when Linda located them behind a large bottle of coffee in our pantry cupboard much to her delight. When I was told there was no need for Walcha residents to know about her little ordeal I begged to differ.

...

What a great performance by local year 7 student Katie Rizzi on being selected in the PLC Armidale tennis team to compete in the recent Tildesley Shield in Sydney where she played against much older Year 11 and 12 girls. The competition is open to leading NSW Independent Schools and is believed to be Australia's oldest tennis tournament. Way to go Katie.

...

Best of luck to the Walcha Rams when they kick off their 2026 New England Rugby Union campaign here at Peter Fenwicke Oval this Saturday against Albies in both 1st Grade and Reggies. Go the Red and Whites.

...

Seven local thrillseekers Jock Nivison, Charlie Street, Jock Fletcher, Rob Mulligan, Dave Clarke, Andrew Blomfield and Nick Jenkins along with Richard Post from Guyra are currently on their way to tackle the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. The boys are expected to finish their 96 kilometre journey in 9 days before attending an Anzac Day Dawn Service at Bomana War Cementry in Port Moresby. Go Gettum Boys.

...

Big Wigs of the Week - Round 6 Newie - Margaret Swanton; Bowling Club - Mona Roi (both 14); TBW Cafe - Laura Kuhr, Leanne Presnell; Darks Plumbing - Lilah Dark, Hayley Bird (all 12); Apsley - Pete Ferris, Cheryl Weeks, Adam Tate, Meg Taylor (10 pts); Vet Supplies - Raya Kirby, Apii Fontanella, Pete King, Jason Scott, Mata Matapakia (6 pts). Special mention - At the B.C Mel Bird and Brad Wadley (0 pts).

...

In Round 5 three tipsters Josh Kevill (Apsley), Johnny Byrne (Newie) and G.J Natty (B.C) all 'Picked the Card'. At the Bowlies G.J Natty would have also had he taken his beloved Sea Eagles in Round 5 but sadly Gary didn't and missed out on bonus points. To say 'Riley' has been copping some flack since 'misunderinjudgement' is understating the fact.



Tennis

Round 7 the championship round of the 2026 Summer Comp was played on Tue 31 March in perfect tennis conditions.

This year our Champion is Jock Rutherford on 103 points. Jock produced 4 perfect rounds of 18 out of 6 rounds played. Great consistent Tennis Jock. In second position D A Locke on 101



Jock Rutherford. 2026 Summer Comp Champion

points. In third position Michael Lockyer on 100 points. A special mention for Jacob Wellings one of our Juniors players who took out fourth position with a total of 96 points. Well done Jacob. Only a few points separated 1st to 4th positions. Great tough Tennis. Well done to these top players and everyone who competed in the tournament. A big thank you to all our floaters who kept the show on the road.

This years Eskimo Comp starts on 28 April and will run for six weeks. It will be graded doubles climb the ladder format. Names to Trev 0459 799 119 and Hyde 0427 780 391. Nominations close on 21 April. See you all at the net soon.

Ladies Bowls

A closely contested game of bowls occurred between Lyn Burnell and Lee McCoy in the Major singles with Lee dashing ahead winning 25-15. Lee then played Pam Makeham in the finals of the Major Singles in yet another close scoring game with Lee winning 25-21 after 28 ends. Two weeks ago Janice Rizzi and Pam Makeham narrowly beat Joy Sly and Esther Hunt 10-8. Last week Joy Sly, Debbie Richards and Marie Spink had a win against Jan Cross, Janice Rizzi and Esther Hunt in a social game. At this stage there are two teams going to play in South Tamworth's President's Day on Thursday 23 April. Pam Makeham, Sari Andrews and Debbie Richards in one team and Esther Hunt, Janice Rizzi and Lee McCoy in the other team. The Pairs Competition has been postponed until June. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start. Following bowls the monthly meeting will be held at 1pm in the clubhouse.

Wednesday Golf

Numbers were down slightly on Wednesday 1st April for the IGA stableford round. Our winner was Anthea Nivison with a brilliant stableford score of 42 points. Runner up with another great score of 39 points was Cheryl McDonald. Sweepstakes were won by Julie Hoad with 37 points. Cheryl McDonald was NTP on Hole 3 and Jenny Lisle claimed the second shot on Hole 16.

Last Wednesday we played a par round for a trophy donated by Deb Richards. Great to see a good roll up after the Easter break. Sue Partridge totally smashed the field with +7. Cark Street was the runner up with +3 and sweepstakes went to Sal McCormack with +3, Margaret Davidson +2, Katie Smith +1, Lorraine Walshe +1 and Pip Monie, square. NTP on Hole 3 was Robyn Salt, Hole

16 to Rose Baumer, second shot Hole 9 was Lorraine Walshe, and second shot on Hole 18, Pauline Carter.

This week we are playing our first round of the Championships for the Drew's Seafood Trophy. It is also the first round of the Vets Championships.

Saturday will see us playing the second round of the Championships for the Gallery of Art Trophy. It will also be stroke, putting and the monthly mug.

Best of luck to all playing in the Championships.

At the Nineteenth

A stableford round was played last Sunday for a trophy donated by Mitch Crawford where Jock McLaren was declared the winner after a countback with Don Brooks on 36 points.

Sweepstakes went to the runner up, Jenny Lisle, Vicki Heffernan and Col Berry (all on 35), Nixon Bird and Michael Stackman (both 34) on countback from Anne Martin, visitor Jack Callanan, who registered the best score of 39 points, also received a ball after he was ineligible to win the event as he wasn't a member. N.T.P on 3 to Ross King.

The previous Sunday the annual 'Kanga Cup' 4 person Ambrose Memorial in memory of 'Molleydooker' Ray Boyd was played where less than one shot separated the top three teams.

Winners were Jim Nivison, Dougal Payne, Jock McLaren and his son Charlie 55 1/8 runners up were Don Brooks, Simeon Cross, Col Berry and his son Peter 55 3/4 just ahead of third place getters Wayne Brennan, Anne Martin, Pauline Carter and her sister Sue Partridge 56.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Simeon Cross (9) and Wayne Brennan (18).

Last Saturday Robert Smith blitzed the field in the weekly 9 hole competition when he racked up 24 stableford points to finish well clear of runner up Pete Whellan on 19.

Fair chance 'Jim Bob' Smith won't be playing off the same handicap he did last Saturday the next time he tees off. A good field of 13 players competed.

The Saturday before the consistent Anne Martin accumulated 21 stableford points to win the 9 holes from Brian Lynch who carded 18 points. N.T.P on 3 to Jenny Lisle.

This Sunday is the monthly Stroke Medal Round where Angus 'Fatty' Crawford is in charge of supplying the prize.

Bowls

Thursday results: Noel Goodwin, Peter Hayes & Warwick Hogan defeated Adam Hall, Mark Hogan & Don Mahoney 15/4. Barry Kliendienst x2 defeated Tony Asmus & John McCormack 17/13.

B Grade singles: Miles Lawrence & Adam Hall played 39 ends to find the winner. Miles finally won 31/26. Great effort. Matt Andrews played and defeated his son Dacian. You will get him next time Dace. Miles & Matt will now play in the final.

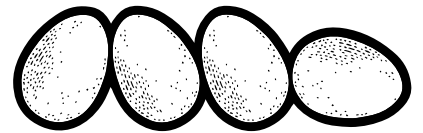
Triples: John Byrne, Buck Byrne & Scott Withers had a good win over Brian Goodwin, Noel Goodwin & Dacian Andrews 19/9. Tony Asmus, Jason Asmus and Adam Hall defeated Fred Cameron, Mat Hamel & Garth Clare 18/10. A Grade Singles this Saturday 18th April, games will commence at 11 30 am.

- Neil Dunn v Brian Goodwin, marker Ross Ballinger
- Fred Cameron v Stephen Goodwin, marker Mick Wall.
- Robert Kerr v Noel Goodwin, marker Miles Lawrence
- Kyle Goodwin v Barry Kliendienst, marker Mat Hamel. Good luck to all.

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Shoreline Oysters will be at the Farmers
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Winter Squash comp starting Tues 28 April.
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Thank you



Special thanks

For flowers, gifts, phone calls, visits and
transport. Heather Scott

The Walcha Community for their kindness
and support during my employment in
Walcha. I relocated to Walcha to follow my
Employment. It is with great disappointment
that my employment at the local tip (Waste
Facility) has ended. Once again thank you
to the lovely Walcha Community for their
support and kindness. **Bill.**

**Walcha and District Historical Society
Open Day success!**

As part of the Sunday trading day for Walcha businesses last weekend, the Historical Society hosted an Open Day. On a classic autumnal Walcha day, over 60 visitors came through the museum complex, many for the first time.

The vintage cars and trucks were a highlight and drew attention to the "Remember When ..." theme. And the tiger moth plane, responsible for the first aerial spreading of superphosphate in Australia and housed at the museum, reminded visitors of the changes and improvements to flight travel.

After enjoying a cup of tea and delicious scones and jam, over 35 people, including members of the local Wauch family, attended the launch of Rob Tickle's book, *Captain Robert Andrew Wauch*, whose descendants lived for many years at St Leonards and Branga Park. Copies of the book can be purchased through the Historical Society for \$30.

For those new to Walcha and interested in history, why not come

along to our next meeting on 30 May at the Local History Centre.

For more information, contact President, Melanie Oppenheimer, on ph. 0417 219 006 or enquiries@walchadhs.com.au.





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April 26 - Family Service 9.30am

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