

THE APSLEY Advocate

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Walcha Talent reins supreme at State Level

Walcha's young riders have once again proven the strength of local talent, with four competitors representing the district at the recent New South Wales State Championships held in Gresford.

Leading the charge was Phoebe Grills, who delivered an outstanding performance against some of the state's best young riders. Travelling from Walcha with her horse 'Grills Traveller', Phoebe showcased exceptional skill and consistency across a wide range of events.

Competing in the Bonfield Bounce, Barrel Race, Bending Race, Flag Race and the Sporting Figure of 8, Phoebe secured first place in each event, along with 10th in the Mug Race.

Her efforts saw her crowned the NSW Under 11 Sporting Champion, a testament to her dedication and hard work. She also placed 5th in the Under 13 NSW Campdraft Championship and continued her success in the Challenge, finishing second in both the Working Horse and Utility Pattern. Phoebe was also awarded Champion for Best Presentation and Teamwork in the NSW Challenge as the Zone 13 representative.

Joining Phoebe at the championships were brothers Jack, Benji and Lachie Provost, who also represented Walcha with pride across their respective age groups.

Jack Provost competed in the Under 11 division aboard Tumby, placing 7th in the Figure 8 and Working Pattern, and 10th in the Bonfield Bounce.

Benji Provost delivered a consistent performance in the 11 to 13 division. Riding Elle, he placed 6th in the Flag, 5th in the Bend, Bonfield Bounce and Diamond Flag, 9th in the Barrel and Figure 8, and finished 6th overall in the Sporting. Riding Cisco, he placed 5th in the Utility Pattern, 10th in the Working Pattern and 8th in the Time Trial, finishing 6th overall in the Challenge.

Lachie Provost competed in the 13 to 15 division

with two horses. Riding Gem, he placed 7th in the Campdraft, Barrel and Figure 8, 9th in the Bonfield Bounce and 6th in the Diamond Flag. He also placed 6th in the Campdraft riding La Niña.

The efforts of all four competitors highlight the depth of young talent coming out of the Walcha district.



Top: State Champion, Phoebe Grills.

Below: Brothers Jack, Benji and Lachie Provost at the State Championships

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COMPETITIVE RATES



We sound like a broken record every week, but the season continues to deteriorate around us and the cool weather creeps as we are now only a month off winter. It had been reported of a few small frosts over the last few weeks, but the dry weather has kept the weather warmer than usual for this time of year. Everybody is watching the forecast ahead, looking for a glimmer of hope that rain is on the way, yet it continues to test our resilience. We have a slight chance of some rain over the coming weekend, but nothing substantial.

The district at present looks like it should on the first of September, not the start of May and its going to be a long winter for everyone. Native feed paddocks are already chewed out, what crops germinated are struggling under moisture stress and most of us have already stocked them to utilise some feed before they die. Livestock trucks have continued to roll out of the district in the mass selloff as up until now, livestock prices have outweighed the cost of hand feeding for the next 5 months. Fodder trucks have been rolling in but when most of the fodder, especially hay and cottonseed sit between \$500-650 per ton, people are financially not seeing the reward to feed their animals. The end of the 2019 drought saw fodder prices hit a similar value, but that was at the end of the drought, not the start of it. Values have escalated quickly which is why we have seen a mass selloff. We have been building our numbers since 2019 and no doubt everybody has been fully stocked for some time, from what I can see there are still plenty of numbers about.

Cattle prices are starting to come under some pressure due to the excessive numbers we are seeing through the saleyard system and extended length of time now to get direct consignment cattle processed. Feedlots have ample numbers for the time being and we can all see what is going to happen once the numbers retreat. I can't remember in my time as an agent seeing these kinds of numbers in such a short period of time being sold, seeing places like Tamworth, Gunnedah and Inverell exceed their annual saleyard Livestock numbers by the start of May, that's incredible. I must say the livestock carriers have done an extremely good job with all the excess work they have had to contend with over the last 3 months.

The fuel prices have dropped quite quickly since the government has been able to secure extra 200 million litres of diesel. The Coalition has put forward a bold move to double the nations fuel holding capacity to 60 days' supply, doubling our storage and onshore capacity costing taxpayers \$800 million. If the past month has shown us anything is that we are too reliant on other countries for our necessities. We need to start using some of our own natural resources again to become more self-reliant, use our coal, gas and yes, we need to drill for oil. If we can get back to being more self-reliant as a nation, the less the ripples of conflict around the world will hurt us. Yes, its going to be a cost to get us rolling again but look at what has happened over the last month, your fuel doubled, the cost of everything increased as the extra cost has been passed on down the line. If we want our children to be able to afford to live in this country, we need to make drastic changes now.

China has once again made a strategic move and approved additional beef processing facilities to export product to China. These approvals have come after China applied a 205,000-ton quota on Australian beef exports this year. Considering we have already filled over 50 per cent of the quota by April, it's another financial move as the out of quota product will attain a 55 percent tariff. It's a ploy that will get them cheaper beef and they can see our production is through the roof, another power play.



HIGHRENT ANGUS

INFORMATION AND OPEN DAY TUESDAY 12TH MAY

Using Genetics to increase efficiency in Beef Herds

DISCUSSION BEGINS at 11am with guest speakers:

- **Sam Clark** - Genetic measurements for feed efficiency and methane production
- **Brad Hine** - Immundex and its uses for Angus cattle
- **Alex Ball** - Using sexed semen as a drought recovery tool

MORNING TEA at 10am ● **BBQ LUNCH** at 12:30pm

CATTLE ON DISPLAY 10am to 2pm
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highrentangus@gmail.com

Jo Bacon 0429 773 938 | Andy Burwell 0457 025 399

Golf Champions



Last Wednesday was the final day of the ladies championships for 2026. The numbers playing this year were more than seen in the Championships for quite some time, so well done to all those who played. The sisters, Cheryl

2026 Champions: Katie Smith, Lorraine Walsh, Donna Martin, Cheryl McDonald, Anne Martin and Polly Locke

McDonald and Donna Martin had to have a play off for the A Grade champion, and it was Donna that came up trumps.

The final scores and trophy winners were as follows:

- A Grade Champion** Donna Martin 260
- Runner up** Cheryl McDonald 260
- B Grade Champion** Anne Martin 276
- Runner up** Polly Locke 280
- C Grade Champion** Lorraine Walshe 284
- Runner up** Katie Smith 288

Europambela Jug: Best nett scores over 3 days - 65, 62, 68, Katie Smith. Veterans Champion: Best nett scores for the 1st and 3rd rounds: Katie Smith

Congratulations to all. There were some fantastic scores throughout the three days.

In conjunction with the last day of the championships they also played for the Paperdolls House trophy. The winner was Jenny Lisle with 66 points and sweepstakes went to Vicki Heffernan 67, Pauline Carter 68, Penny King 68, Alison Cameron 69, and Polly Locke 70. Nearest the pins were Alison Cameron (3) and Vicki Heffernan (16).

Twice the Service: Stace's Fast Freight strengthens Walcha connection



Ken from Tamworth Armidale Parcel Express congratulates Nathan Stace on the purchase of the Walcha section of the parcel delivery service

Stace's Fast Freight will now offer two services to Walcha with Nathan Stace purchasing the Walcha section of Tamworth-Armidale Parcel Express business. He will commence operations next Monday 4 May.

This is great news for the Walcha community with Stace's Fast Freight now providing both services to and from Tamworth daily.

Importantly there is a new phone number for the lunch time service, 0461 424 294.

The truck still operates Tuesday to Saturday delivering in the morning with contact details remaining the same 0429 608 409.

The van will operate Monday to Friday picking up in the morning in Tamworth to deliver from lunch times onwards in Walcha. Phone for pick ups 0461 424 294.



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Funding on target for Gun Club upgrade



Gun Club member Kevin Bourke and Brendan Moylan at the spot where the new food preparation area will go

A new barbecue and food preparation area will soon greet members of the Walcha Clay Target Association with Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan announcing a grant to build a new space at the club's home base.

The \$8000 in funding was secured through the Local Sport Grant Program which is aimed at supporting grassroots organisations to improve sport and recreation facilities.

Mr Moylan said the Walcha club hosts monthly meetings for their members, and bigger events which attract competitors from all over the region.

"The Walcha Clay Target Association holds a shoot every month for their 40 members but they also benefit from bigger events which can attract hundreds of people to their grounds," he said.

"The current food preparation setup and barbecue area is not equipped for the club to put meals on and then generate more income to put back into their events.

"Upgraded eating facilities will encourage people to stay longer at the club, build stronger connections with the club, and develop a greater sense of belonging, all of which are key to retaining members and attracting new members over time."

Local Land Services

Level up your beef operation!

North West Local Land Services is hosting the 2026 North West Beef Producers Forum this May.

Stay productive with an update from global market analyst Simon Quilty, tailored seasonal forecasts, advice on confinement feeding and new ag technologies, as well as insights into supply chain requirements.

13 May 2026
Tamworth Jockey Club



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TRIVIA NIGHT

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Another season wraps up for Little Athletics

The 2025/26 Walcha Little Athletics season has come to a close.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our incredible little athletes who showed up each week with enthusiasm, determination, and big smiles. It has been so rewarding to watch your skills develop and your confidence grow across the season.

None of this would have happened without the wonderful adults who came along to help. From running events, measuring results and stepping in wherever needed your support is what makes our club so special. We truly couldn't do it without you.

A very special thank you must go to Kelly Makeham for her outstanding effort behind the scenes this season. Her organisation, planning, and commitment have been instrumental in making the year run so smoothly, and we are incredibly grateful for all the time and energy she has given.

Walcha Little Athletics continues to be a beautiful example of community spirit in action, stayed tuned for our AGM details.



- 👉 To the Walcha Hospital staff for their excellent and professional care, when I presented recently. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful service in our town.
- 👉 To Mitchell and other council workers, for checking that I was ok after having car troubles on Thunderbolts Way last Thursday
- 👉 To Matt at IGA for delivering my groceries and bringing my bin in. Very much appreciated.
- 👉 To Foodworks for their great fresh produce.
- 👉 To Lions ladies for supplying the goodies and helping out at our Lions get together on Sunday. Well done and a big thank you!
- 👉 To David Campbell, President Walcha RSL Sub-branch for his wonderful presentation of the 2026 ANZAC dawn and main service. And to David Salter for making it all special with a fly over and all the volunteers.
- 👉 To the ANZAC service and march it was excellent.
- 👉 To the Postie who entered my house without permission while no one was home.

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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Final days to step forward Firefighter recruitment nears close



In Walcha, the difference between outcomes can come down to one thing: Who is available when the call comes in.

At Fire and Rescue NSW Station 481, that reality is understood every time the pager sounds. And with recruitment nearing its end, the crew is making a final call for locals to step forward.

"We're looking for a few people willing to take responsibility and be part of something bigger than themselves!" Because the role is real. Real incidents. Real pressure. Real decisions.

The role is paid, flexible, and designed to fit alongside existing work. No prior experience is required, with full training provided. But it does require commitment. Showing up. Training. Being ready. And being part of a team that depends on you — just as you depend on them. That team is what defines the station. A small, trusted crew built on shared experience and accountability.

With time running out, the message is simple: If you've thought about it — act now.

Applications close tomorrow at 11:59pm. And once closed, the opportunity may not return for some time. In Walcha, a few people stepping forward can make all the difference.

Sports Club scores lifesaving boost with defibrillator



Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan met with representatives from the Walcha Sports Club to unveil their new Automated External Defibrillator (AED), secured through the Local Sport Defibrillator Program 2025-26.

The program is aimed at providing a grant of up to \$3000 for clubs and facilities across NSW to purchase Automated External Defibrillators.

The Walcha Sports Club has around 150 members and often hires out their facility to local clubs around the area. Mr Moylan congratulated the club for securing one of these life-saving devices.

"Our region spans across a wide area and paramedics often have long distances to travel," Mr Moylan said.

Walcha Sports Club president Casper Ozinga said they have a large member base and external organisations who use the space so it is vital to have such important equipment on hand.

"There are about 150 members plus the Bridge, Show Society, and Film Clubs who use the Sports Club," he said.

"Most of our members are seniors, so they are a risk group.

"The purchase of a defib machine was on the management agenda so we were glad that state government funding became available."



RUGBY REPORT

WALCHA V ALBIES

RESERVES

In a tense Reserve Grade battle at Tamworth Rugby Park on ANZAC Day weekend, the Walcha Rams showed their class with a convincing 37-10 win over the Tamworth Magpies. Walcha's forward pack laid the foundation for the win with a display of dominance.

From the opening kick-off, the Rams looked in control. The Walcha forwards were immense throughout, winning the battle at the breakdown and carrying the ball with real intent. Time and again they punched holes in the Magpies' defensive line with powerful, direct runs that forced Tamworth onto the back foot. The set-piece was solid, and their ability to recycle possession allowed the visitors to dictate the tempo of the game.

Up front, Sam "im back baby" Martin was a standout performer. The big man had a blinder, scoring two well-taken tries and making a number of bustling, barnstorming runs that had the home crowd groaning in frustration.

In the loose, Harry "Kingswood" King was a tackling machine. The flanker seemed to be everywhere, putting in bone-crunching hits and turning over ball at crucial moments. His relentless defensive effort helped keep the Magpies at bay during their periods of pressure. At number 10, Brent "Clarky" Clarke controlled proceedings beautifully. His tactical kicking was on point, consistently putting the Rams into the right areas of the field and forcing Tamworth to play from deep. Jack "Carlo" Carlon also impressed in the forward pack, showing sharp footwork and excellent presence around the field. The Magpies fought valiantly and never gave up, however, they struggled to match Walcha's forward power over the full 80 minutes.

In the end, it was Walcha's control and forward dominance that proved decisive. The Rams will take plenty of confidence from the win, particularly the performance of their pack, as they look ahead to the rest of the New England Rugby season.

A gritty, character-building victory for Walcha — the sort of result that builds premiership momentum. 3 - Brent Clarke, 2 - Troy Tape, 1 - Jack Carlon, PP - Sam Martin

FIRST GRADE

The Walcha Rams produced a commanding performance to dismantle the Tamworth Magpies 51-12 in their New England Rugby clash on

ANZAC Day weekend. The Rams flew out of the blocks and kept the visitors completely scoreless in the first half, building a commanding lead before running away with the contest in the second stanza.

Walcha started the match at a high tempo, putting immediate pressure on the Magpies with aggressive forward carries and sharp backline play. Early tries came thick and fast as the Rams capitalised on their territorial advantage. The forward pack laid a strong platform, winning the physical battle at the breakdown and in the tight, before spreading the ball effectively to create overlaps out wide.

The Rams' ability to recycle possession quickly after the hard yards were done by the big men allowed their backs to cut loose. Walcha's attack looked fluent and dangerous whenever they shifted the ball, stretching the Magpies' defensive line to breaking point.

Billy "Squat Rack" Porter was outstanding in a best-on-ground performance. The dynamic back-rower scored two tries and was a constant menace on both sides of the ball — smashing tackles in defence and hitting the line with real intent in attack. His work rate around the park set the tone for the Rams' dominance. Up front, Sam "fastest in the club" Colwell had one of his best games in recent memory. The prop made several brilliant carries, surprising many by finding himself in open space on more than one occasion and gaining valuable metres after contact. Chaden "The Chad" Hawkins was another who never took a backward step. The versatile player had a strong all-round game, contributing heavily in attack with strong runs and showing relentless chase and defensive effort throughout the full 80 minutes. At fly-half, Hamish "Double Smoked" Heeney controlled the tempo beautifully. His game management was excellent, linking forwards and backs smoothly and making smart decisions that kept Walcha on the front foot. Ed "Pitt Viper" Pitt was superb with the boot, landing multiple penalties and conversions while also applying consistent territorial pressure with his kicking game. His accuracy from the tee helped build the scoreboard pressure that eventually broke the Magpies' resistance. After a dominant first half that saw the Magpies unable to register a single point, Walcha eased off slightly in the second stanza but still managed to pile on further points. The Magpies managed two late consolation tries, but by then the result was never in doubt.

In the end, the Rams did it comfortably. It was a polished team performance built on forward dominance, clinical finishing, and strong game management. Walcha will take plenty of momentum from this big win as they continue their push up the New England Rugby ladder.

3 - Joel Ballon, Chaden Hawkin (players player) 2, Billy Porter 1 - Hamish Heeney

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Best of luck to the Walcha Central School swimmers Cameron Mooney, Nathan Ross, cousins Jake and Simon Wellings when they represent North West at the NSW Swimming Championships at the Sydney Aquatic Centre Homebush this week. The boys will line up in the 16 years 4x50 metre freestyle relay while Cameron qualified for both his 50 and 100 metre freestyle events and Jake in his 100 metre backstroke. Not a bad effort considering the Walcha Pool was closed for the majority of the season for extensive renovations. Go Gettum Guys.

...

Congratulations to Donna Martin on winning her first Walcha Golf Club Ladies A Grade club championship last Wednesday after defeating her sister and 13 time champion Cheryl McDonald in a three hole play off. Well done Don.

...

During a recent trip to Newcastle my daughter Rachael and youngest family member Jay visited a 'Costco' store where she wasn't very excited about the line up of people entering the shop. When she mentioned to Jay 'Look at that line' Jay shrieked, jumped in the air and asked 'where is the lion?' Probably had to have been there.

...

Veteran all-round sporting legend Max Holstien recently celebrated his 94th Birthday and it was around that time his mobile phone accidentally became immersed in water. A quick visit to the microwave didn't quite fix the 'dog and bone' but by all accounts Max has a new mobile in his possession.

...

Congratulations to local veteran cricketers Peter Mooney and Barry Hoy who were members of the New England Over 50's team that defeated Clarence Valley in the Northern Division of the Doug Walters Cup final at Armidale last Sunday. Pete snared a couple of wickets while Bas took two catches at keeper but weren't required to bat as N.E ran in easy winners by 8 wickets with more than 10 overs up their sleeve. N.E. now take on Southern Division winners Newcastle Taveners in the overall final where they will attempt to keep their undefeated record this season intact at a date to be confirmed.

...

Still on Cricket Walcha/Uralla 2nd Grade captain Ed Blomfield has been selected in the NSW Over 40's team to compete in the Cooper Finlay Cup to be played in Brisbane early in June. Captain of the team is former Kentucky all-rounder and 1999/2000 Walcha 'Cricketer of the Year' Jamie Andrews. Well done Edward and Jamie.

...

Nine eager young athletes turned up at Golf Club last Sunday when Cross Country coach Kevin Creighton ran his first session in a while and he was happy with the enthusiasm shown. It's on again this Sunday at 3.45 for 4.00pm start where K.C. has extended an open invitation to any runner keen to have a trot.

...

Big Wigs of the Week - Apsley Arms - Katie Smith, Mick O'Reilly, Niraj Sarmah; B.C - Carly Goodwin, Ross Ballinger, 'Dazza' Bird, Troy LeStrande; Newie - Rachel McMaugh, Fiona McCormack, Jed Wittig (All 10 Picked the Card - How?); TBWCafe - Miles Lawrence, Trent Stackman; Vet Supplies - Tahlia Bird, Apii Fontanella, Cameron Barton (all 14 points).

...

When my across the road neighbor and Dragons supporter Mark Peters was asked if he selected his team last weekend 'Turbo' replied he had but then added he thought they would get beaten by 40 points. I offered to take 38^{1/2} points start to back St George Illawarra for a schooner which was politely declined by Mark which cost him 15 fluid ounces of 'Amber Ale'.

...

Finally Happy 67th Birthday to my oldest sister Tracey this very day. Hope you have a Good 1 'Tracky'.



At the Nineteenth

A 4BBB B.A.M. event was contested last Sunday for trophies donated by Owen and Julie Presnell which attracted 56 players including 22 from the Uralla Club.

B.A.M is played under a format of Holes 1 to 6 Best Ball, Holes 7 to 12 Aggregate Holes, 13 to 18 Multiplier. Sisters Pauline Carter and Sue Partridge were the winners on 68 just ahead of runners up David Sweeney and Ross King 67.

Sweepstakes went to Simone Sweeney and Penny King, Marjie Chappell and Mar Macready (Uralla), Simeon Cross and Wayne Brennan (all 66). Steve Matthews and Phil Robertson (U) 65, Jenny Lisle and Vicki Heffernan 62, Duncan Maclean and Delphine Faulkner (U) 61, Carol Shields and Mary Hyde (U) 60.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Duncan Maclean (1), Allan Laurie (3), Don Brooks (9), Mary Hyde (16) and Uralla's Dave Carlon (18) after he aced the hole. Ladies 2nd shot on the 7th went to Colleen Taggart.

The 'Eagles Nest' proudly sponsored by Darks Plumbing was taken out by 'Daktyll' Carlon on the back of his hole in one on 18.

A big thank you to Cross Brothers Butchery for donating the snags for the sausage sizzle. The weekly Saturday 9 hole competition was won by organiser John McCormack after he accumulated 21 stableford points which included the NTP on 3. Runner up was Crichton Barr after he racked up 19 points.

Next Sunday is a Par event where John McCormack is in charge of supplying the prize whereas the Barraba Open is also on offer.

Ladies Bowls

Four ladies travelled to South Tamworth Bowling Club last Thursday for its President's Day- Lee McCoy, Sari Andrews, Janice Rizzi and Esther Hunt. Sari was in the winning team. There was no social bowls played last week. We look forward to welcoming prospective new players tomorrow at our Beginners Day commencing 9am. Please wear flat soled shoes, thongs or bare feet. Morning Tea and Lunch provided at no cost.

Bowls

Thursday results: Noel Goodwin x2 defeated John McCormack & Tony Batterham 24/13. Denis Makeham, Warwick Hogan & Peter Halliday defeated Brian Goodwin, Peter Hayes & Don Mahoney 14/12. Warwick & Peter played shots that reminded me of Aaron Sherriff in full flight. Denis, Warwick & Peter won the chooks and Don was the winner of the raffle. Competition Triples this Saturday 2nd May, Starting time 9.30 am.

1st Game - Mick Wall, Michael Hoy & Adam Hall play Brian Goodwin, Noel Goodwin & Dacian Andrews.

2nd Game - Brian, Goodwin, Noel Goodwin & Dacian Andrews play Fred Cameron, Mat Hamel & Garth Clare.

John Byrne, Buck Byrne and Scott Withers received a bye and a forfeit.

Nominations for the John Oxley Carnival are on the board. Triples & Pairs on the 6th & 7th of June.



Funeral Notice

Irene Joy Hogbin

12.09.1944 - 22.04.2026

Of South Street Walcha

Loving daughter of the late Jack and Iris Hogbin

Aged 81 years

A graveside funeral service will be held at Walcha cemetery on Thursday 30 April at 12pm

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Home Furnishing

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Meeting Notice

Walcha Garden Club Community Day Friday, 1st May, at the Walcha Health Service, commencing 9am. Please bring your own gardening equipment. Morning tea will be provided. For catering purposes please advise S.Law 0467 450 243 or D.Lisle 0429 799 083 of your attendance. New helpers are most welcome.

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 | 0429 668 583

**FLU CLINICS
Drive Through**

Walcha Showground - Derby Street Entrance
Thursday 7th May

Appointments Essential - 6777 4293

Walcha Road Hotel Trivia Night. This Friday 1st May. 7pm. Must book. Join us for a fun night out. Phone 6777 5829.

Garage Sale

20W Hill Street Walcha. 2nd May, strictly 9.00am to 1.00pm. Household items, workshop tools. All must go.

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ANZAC DAY IN WALCHA

A smaller crowd than in previous years gathered at the War Memorial Monument on Saturday to mark ANZAC Day.

RSL President, David Campbell did a wonderful job researching and organising the 11am Service. He spoke on National Service from the 1950s to the 1970s, where thousands of young Australian men were called up. Known as "Nashos," they trained, served, and shaped the nation's defence history.

Walcha's Eric O'Keefe was a National Serviceman who completed his training in Wacol Brisbane in 1956. He then spent three years in the Hunter River Lancers followed by a further two years of voluntary service in these Reserves.

Phillip Hamel was also a National Serviceman who trained in Singleton as a machine gunner, and then completed his jungle training in Townsville. Phillip was then stationed in Singapore in 1970 as Reserves for the Vietnam War. Whilst stationed in Singapore, Whitlam was elected as our Prime Minister on 2 December 1972 and he abolished National Service. On his return to Australia, Phillip had

to travel to Sydney and be discharged from National Service.

The National Service Act 1964 required all 20-year-old males selected by a birthdate ballot to serve in the army for 24 months of continuous service (reduced to 18 months in 1971), followed by three years in the reserve.

An amendment in May 1965 meant that conscripts could be obliged to serve overseas, and in March 1966 Prime Minister Harold Holt announced that National Servicemen would be sent to Vietnam to join units of the Australian Regular Army.

Between 1964 and the end of the scheme in 1972, 804,286 Australian 20-year-old males registered for National Service.

Congratulations to all the Ex Serviceman, residents who marched in memory of family members, and the school children for Walcha's ANZAC March, as well as Bernie Brady and Piper Byrne who led the parade on their horses. A special mention to David Salter who made the Service even more special with a flyover in his war plane.



*Bernie Brady and Piper Byrne leading the parade
Photo courtesy Robbie Burnett*



Ex Servicemen leading the parade - Adam Hall, Alex Baldry, Roy Westfold and Phillip Hamel



Eric O'Keefe and David Campbell laying wreaths



Anne Martin and Peta Lisle remember family members



Geraldine and Harrison Taiki marching on Saturday



Ivy Martin waves the Australian flag at the Service



A flyover by David Salter during the ANZAC Service



Charlie Brown marching with his grandchild



Bruce Davidson joined Walcha's ANZAC March



Mayor Eric Noakes and wife Sheree laying a wreath on behalf of the community



Vietnam veteran Roy Westfold and wife Coral laying a wreath



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church notices



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May 3 - No Walcha Service. Parish Camp

May 10 - 9.30am Walcha Service

2.00pm Nowendoc Service

May 17 - 9.30am Walcha Service

May 24 - 9.30am Walcha Service

May 31 - 9.30am Combined Service with Presbyterian's at St Paul's 10e Hill Street

Anglican Church

Phone 6777 2543

or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am

Youth Group every Saturday 5pm - 7pm, during term.

We'd love for you to join us.

All welcome.

Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

Friday 1 2.00pm – Close

Friday Night Pasta Night!

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 Dianna – 0412 536 760 or 5722 6003

Saturday 2 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 3 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO
 Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

Friday Night Raffles

Friday night raffles are changing to our earlier cold weather time.

Free bingo at 6.30pm, raffles drawn between 7-8pm

Nomination sheets are up at the Club for anyone wanting to play in our John Oxley Carnival on the June long weekend. Triples on Saturday and Pairs on Sunday.

DO YOU LIVE IN WALCHA SHIRE?

If so you MUST be a member to enter the Club Social Membership \$15. Full Membership \$120. PHONE 6777 2077



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