

THE APSLEY Advocate

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6 May 2026

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Why Walcha Council said Yes to EnergyCo funding

Close vote sees funding accepted to support studies without adding cost to the community

By Stephen Parry, General Manager

Last Wednesday at its ordinary monthly meeting, Walcha Council considered the issue of whether to accept an offer of additional funding from EnergyCo. The funding was directed at enabling Council to evaluate the effects of renewable energy infrastructure projects, by commissioning impact assessments, feasibility studies and the like, without the costs falling on ratepayers.

Due to a confidential obligation contained within an existing agreement, this debate was held both in the public and closed (confidential) segments of the Council meeting. In the open part of the meeting, Council debated the desirability of accepting additional funding without reference to any specific amount as that was captured by an obligation of confidentiality. This approach was taken in the spirit of being as transparent as possible, yet respecting contractual responsibilities.

In a delicately poised debate, which required the Mayor to exercise a casting vote, Council resolved to accept additional funding. Feedback from members of the community, since the meeting was held, has sought to understand the rationale behind the Council decision.

The following reasons are therefore provided on why Council made this decision:

1. The decision places importance on protecting ratepayers from unfunded costs in trying to evaluate and plan for impacts on Council infrastructure arising from renewable energy projects.

2. The decision recognises the high probability that renewable energy infrastructure is likely to be constructed in the Walcha LGA.
3. The decision, albeit by a fine margin, puts pragmatism and the needs of ratepayers first, rather than adopting a pure ideological approach, where opposition to renewable energy is sustained, irrespective of future costs that might be incurred.
4. The decision does not inhibit Council in vociferously contesting aspects of EnergyCo's renewable energy proposals. If anything, it will assist the Council in commissioning expert evaluations so that proposals can be robustly critiqued and vigorous advocacy, armed with appropriate data and evidence, can be presented to protect Council and community interests.
5. There are no impediments within the proposed funding offer to restrict Council in advocating its preferred position on renewable energy development.
6. The Council's Position Statement on Renewable Energy, developed in December 2025, has not changed as a result of this decision.

The meeting was live streamed and can be viewed on Council's website. Please note the internet connection was lost for a small period of time, while this item was being debated and Cr Hyde Thompson was speaking. A full audio recording of the meeting, which captures all of the debate on this matter, is also available on the Council website.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

April finished the way it started, dry, but what we do have in our favour at present is the temperature. Generally, we have started our fires in early April and I'm guessing only very few have thus far, but it will only take a drop of rain to drop the temperature. Once again, the forecast looks promising for a change, but the BOM has got it wrong before. Every time I turn social media on at present, a new forecast is popping up showing a decent change through mid-May which I hope is right for everyone. I am still optimistic that rain is on its way, I look for any signs to help keep positive because there is a lot of negativity out there at present and rightfully so, but the 20 plus black cockatoos flying around home on Sunday have kept me believing for now.

The Middle East conflict has carried such a weight on our cost of living, the cost to Agricultural inputs has risen dramatically and played a major role in our current selloff of livestock due to the dry. Has anyone had a look at their grocery bill lately, it's getting out of hand. Diesel has dropped back to 240-250c/litre over the past week, petrol is currently back to normal but for how long will these prices last considering the inability for the USA and Iran to reach a peace treaty. Nearly everything that is transported throughout Australia, especially rural areas arrive on the back of a truck, or needs diesel during its transportation. The sharpe rise in all Agricultural inputs has been extraordinary to say the least. Take Poly pipe for instance which has risen nearly 50 per cent in value since January and yes, obviously the demand has doubled due to the dry but overall freight. The product to produce poly and the cost to manufacture it has sky rocketed. Fertiliser is another commodity that we rely too heavily on from overseas with Urea doubling in price alone. Our supply has more than halved with 50 per cent less Urea in the country compared to the same month of April last year. Reports are coming through that our own Urea plant in Western Australia is getting built which will supply 50 percent of Australia's Urea needs, finally some good news that farmers will be happy to hear, long term investments that will help all farmers.

The cost of freight, the widespread dryness and our lack of confidence in world politics have seen a massive selloff of cows, probably the biggest in history for an extremely short period of time. The dramatic selloff has been way faster than what would normally have happened purely based on three issues, fodder and fuel price coupled with global tensions surrounding export markets. Looking at the previous 2 years of trade, there has been a mass slaughter of females from southern QLD to Victoria last year. If we can jag some decent widespread rain then it will ignite the beef market, especially cows. Take for example, store cows which have lifted \$1 per kilo in value in just 2 weeks highlighting a real shortage coming for winter. No wonder a southern processor has snapped up country around Katherine in the NT to secure a depot for cows to process in Victoria during times of low supply. Locally, we have sold and continued to sell cattle hand over fist as economically hand feeding hasn't stacked up. Nor are we filled with confidence from the BOM forecast for the rest of 2026 that it will rain at all this year, but they have been wrong before and that is costly prediction either way you look at it.

Looking at the current yardings throughout northern NSW and southern QLD the numbers seem to be backing off, and I think we are on the downhill slide to the lack of supply. Weaners have all but been sold through the tablelands and the cancellation of the Armidale weaner sale is an example of the lack of weaners remaining. Southern markets have reacted to a rain front which saw falls of 25-50mm fall through southern NSW. Heavy kill cows topped at 380c/kg in Wagga on Monday while the best of the cows in Tamworth made to 340c/kg. Feeders picked up and made to 500c/kg for steers and 470c/kg in Wagga on Monday with Tamworth yielding similar results for the same cattle. Light restockers have started to improve with Angus steers lifting nearly 50c/kg on Auction plus last Friday while heifers improved and topped at 430c/kg. Keep an eye on this lamb market because the lack of supply will make for some interesting times ahead for slaughter values. Word is that some processors are already reducing kill shifts or moving towards killing more goats.



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Contact:

Dave Healey (Quotes and Admin) 0490 307 766
Ben Fussell (Operations Management) ... 0448 964 519

Marlee strikes again

Over the weekend members of the Walcha Polocrosse Club, Marlee and Kersten Wall, travelled to Warwick to play for New South Wales in the Barastoc Interstate Challenge. Both ladies faced off against Queensland over three days of intense competition, Kersten's team worked hard to gain ground against the maroons but ultimately came runners up in the 21-26 year old mixed competition.

Marlee's intermediate ladies team won all three of their games, coming out on top as the champions of their grade. Although there was a wide range of gifted players, Marlee stood out in the final game earning herself the Player of the Match award. Marlee's horse "Watchy" excelled in all of their games, and once again took home the Champion Australian Stockhorse Award. Congratulations on your outstanding achievement ladies.



Chiropractic care

Local Chiropractor, Samantha Goor is currently in her 33rd year of serving the Walcha community, travelling here twice a week to treat residents since March 1994.

Chiropractic Care maintains that the health of your spine and nervous system are interrelated.

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Samantha is available for appointments on Tuesdays and Fridays. Appointments can be made by calling the office on 6777 1340.



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Contact **ANDREW WARK:**
0427 040 832

letters to the editor



Sad treatment of dogs in town

It has come to the attention of a number of concerned residents that many homes in our town have dogs chained or caged and never having a break. Intensive confinement or long term restraint can severely damage their physical and psychological well being. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained or intensively confined in anyway, become neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive. (A aggressive dog most times cannot be re homed and usually results in a sad ending for the dog.)

It is illegal under state-based **Animal Welfare Acts** and **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act** if the dog is not provided with basic needs.

Chaining a dog 24/7 without proper care is considered a failure of an owners duty of care, which can lead to serious penalties.

It is a situation to see any animal in such a sad condition, lonely, bored and probably wondering what it has done to deserve being chained up for life. With winter months coming, urge people to consider their animals welfare and treat them with compassion. Exercise, perhaps a walk, warm bedding, food and water and the care and love they deserve.

From a concerned community member

Tribute to Joy Hogbin

The ladies and Sam from the Presbyterian Op Shop wish to pay a sincere tribute to Joy Hogbin.

Joy commenced volunteering around 2018 and was a wonderful worker, and organiser. She joined the Presbyterian Womens Association a few years ago and became a co-ordinator in the management of the business.

Under her guidance every aspect of the shop was managed extremely well. She organised the shop and the rosters as well as supervising deliveries. Repairs were attended to immediately.

We would also like to thank Rev. Graham Barnes for his assistance given to Joy.

Joy was friendly and helpful to all, and also very happy to chat to all. Joy, may you Rest in Peace.

Beulah Green

2026 Census jobs

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is now hiring more than 16,000 Field Officers for the 2026 Census.

Field Officers are a key part of the Census team. These jobs provide an opportunity for people across Australia to play a role in making sure their community is counted in this year's Census.

Emily Walter, Census National Spokesperson, said Field Officers will be hired locally, where possible, to provide local knowledge and support to their community.

"Field Officers will answer the public's questions about the Census, deliver Census letters and forms and follow up with those who have not responded."

Field Officers will also support people who require additional assistance to complete their Census.

Applications for a range of other Census jobs, including Field Managers and Mobile Field Representatives, are open now at www.census.abs.gov.au/jobs (<http://www.census.abs.gov.au/jobs>)

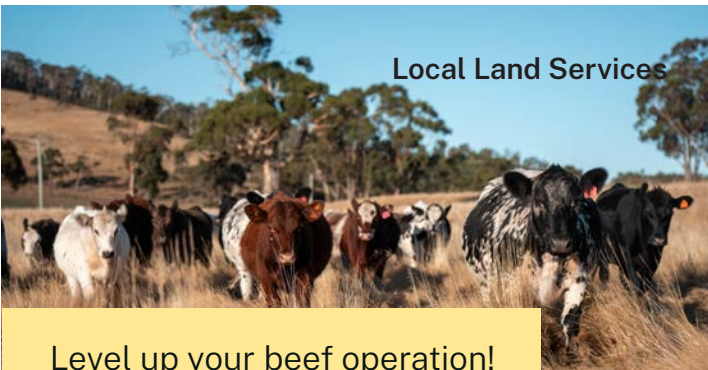
What is the hourly rate for Census Field Officers?

The hourly rate for Census Field Officers is \$31.19 (inclusive of 25 per cent casual loading), plus superannuation.

Is training provided?

Applicants will need to be available to complete paid online training prior to commencing work in the field.


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



Scan to
register or call
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Walcha Road War Memorial revitalised

Walcha Council has successfully secured funding under the Community Building Partnership Program 2025 to upgrade access to the Walcha Road War Memorial. This project involved replacing the existing wooden steps with durable granite stone stairs and installing steel handrails, providing safe and improved access for the community.

The grant required a co-contribution from Council, which allowed additional enhancements, including plantings, decorative pebble laying, cleaning of the marble obelisk, and a general tidy-up of the surrounding area.

This project received strong support from the Walcha Council Arts & Tourism Advisory Committee and the Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee with sculptures installed at the site as part of the New England Sculpture Track. This artistic trail begins at Bendemeer, passes through Woolbrook, Walcha Road, Walcha's Open Air Gallery, with potential expansion to Uralla.

Sculptures installed at the Memorial site include:

- "Mallet Handlers" a pair of sculptures crafted and donated by Stephen King, positioned on either side of the stairs.
- "Light Horse" a steel panel sculpture by Graham Bray, restored and slightly modified to sit higher in the cenotaph space.
- "Levitation" a steel composition of triangular prisms donated by sculptor Tony Davis.
- "The View" a timber sculpture crafted and donated by Stephen King.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Council, local committees, community members and generous artists, the project was

successfully completed in time for Anzac Day 2026, enhancing both the safety and aesthetic appeal of this important historical community site.



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Quiet Location



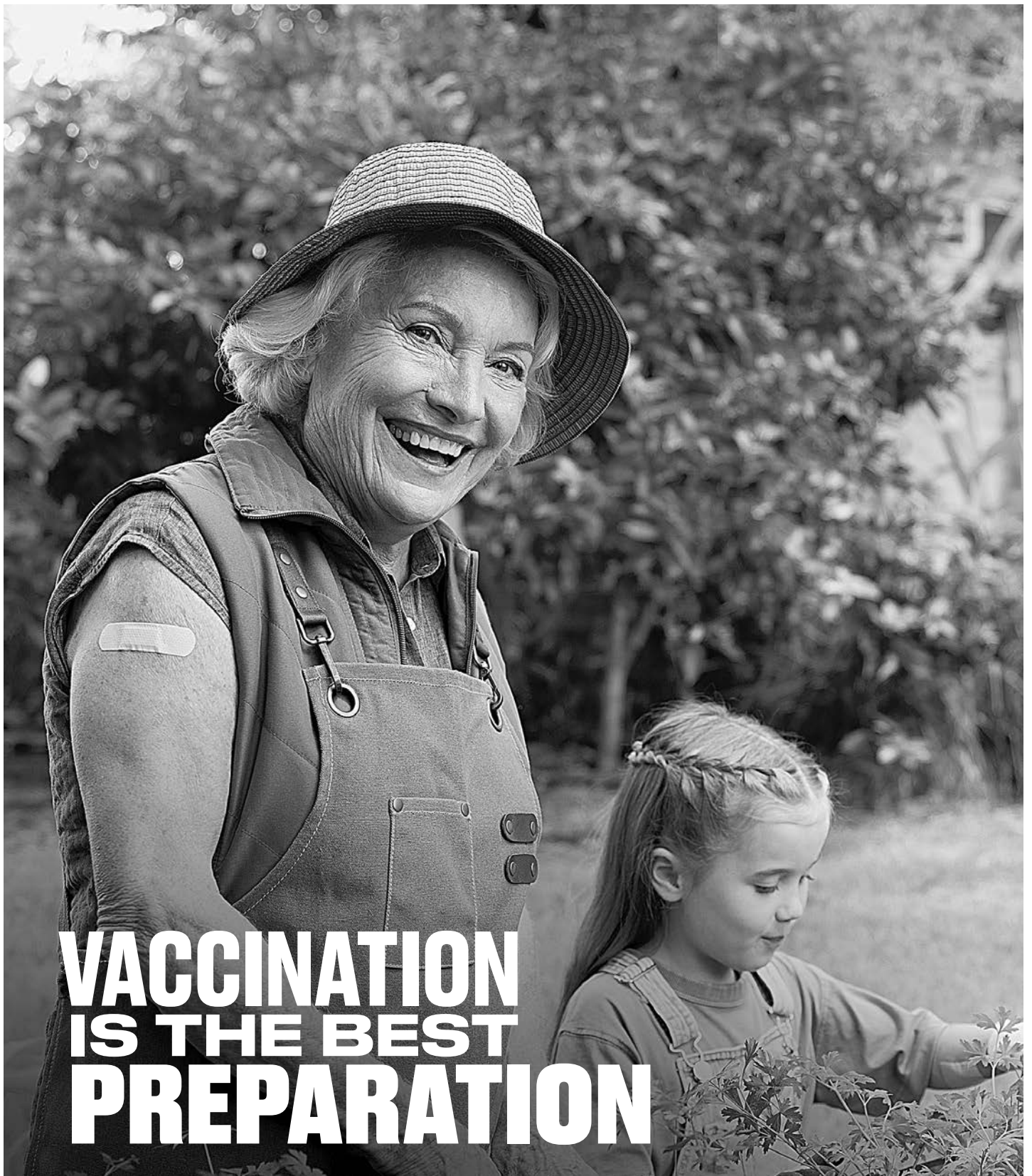
- Double block
 - Comfortable cottage style home with two bedrooms, lounge room, spacious kitchen and bathroom with a shower and tub
 - Has had a new roof, aluminum windows and new skin in recent years
 - Double garage with electric doors and separate workshop at rear of shed
 - Lovely quiet spot on edge of town with great views
- ~~\$360,000~~
\$340,000



Great Location

- Lovely flat block
- Walking distance to shops
- Two bedroom with built ins
- Lounge room with wood fire
- Bathroom renovated in recent years
- Kitchen dining area
- Closed in verandah front and back
- Neat & tidy backyard with rainwater tank and workshop
- Very tidy shed with roller door
- Extra land purchased for further development

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HIGHRENT ANGUS

INFORMATION AND OPEN DAY

Highrent Angus invites you to our annual
Information and Open Day on Tuesday 12th May

Using Genetics to increase efficiency in Beef Herds

DISCUSSION BEGINS at 11am with a great line up of speakers:

- **Sam Clark, UNE:** Genetic measurements for feed efficiency and methane production
- **Brad Hine, Angus Australia:** Novel resilience traits for Angus cattle
- **Alex Ball, Rural Analytics:** Using sexed semen as a drought recovery tool

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

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WHERE TO NOW FOR THE NEW ENGLAND REZ?

SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026 | 4:30PM
WALCHA BOWLING CLUB

Guest Speaker: **Aiden Morrison**

**The Economics, Engineering and Energy
Policy challenges - a lot is changing.**

Unsure about the New England REZ?
Sitting on the fence?

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Walcha in a 45 min presentation + Q&A.

*Dinner will be available (for purchase)
following the event.*

Submit your questions to Aiden in advance,
or ask on the night. Email your questions
to ... us@voiceforwalcha.com ... or
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Challenge yourself - Challenge the experts



Aidan Morrison is the Director of Energy at the Centre for Independent Studies. Prior to joining CIS, he worked as a data scientist and software developer, with experience building modelling tools for industries including finance and energy. Originally qualified in physics, he has also been an entrepreneur, working on projects spanning defence, hospitality, and tech. He rose to prominence in 2023 following a viral thread on Twitter/X, which exposed the CSIRO's GenCost report for treating firming costs for renewable energy as 'sunk'. Their research and expertise is heavily cited in regulatory consultations and parliamentary inquiries. Aidan contributes to regular opinion columns and he is a frequent commentator on Sky News and 2GB radio.

All welcome | No pressure | Just information

Bingo fundraiser for Walcha Support group

The Walcha Support Group will hold its final bingo fundraiser on Saturday, May 9 at the Walcha Bowling Club, raising much-needed funds to continue supporting those in genuine need within the community.

The evening will begin at 6:30pm, with bingo books available for purchase from 6:00pm. Books will be \$20, with jackpot sheets available for \$1 each.

Raffle tickets are already on sale at the Bowling Club for \$1 each, with a wide variety of prizes on offer. Items include household goods, clothing, jewellery, fuel and other vouchers, wood, gas cylinders, eskies, alcohol, wine, toys and more. Any additional prize donations are greatly appreciated, and any leftover items will be added to the raffle.

The club kitchen will be open from 5:00pm for those wishing to enjoy an early dinner, offering both snack baskets for \$15 and the regular bistro menu. Supper will also be available for a gold coin or other donation.

Potted plants will be available for purchase throughout the day at the club.

The event is open to everyone, including men, women and children, and no prior experience is needed. Volunteers will be on hand to assist new players and ensure everyone can enjoy the evening.

Community members are encouraged to come along for a great night out while supporting a worthwhile local cause.

LOCAL BUSINESSES Meet Council's new Strategic Planning Manager

Walcha's business community is being encouraged to connect, share ideas and hear directly from Council at an upcoming networking event hosted by the Walcha Business Group.

The event will be held on Tuesday, 12 May at the Walcha Bar and Grill (67W Fitzroy Street), running from 5.30pm to 7.00pm, with local business owners invited to attend.

A key feature of the evening will be the opportunity to meet Walcha Council's new Senior Manager of Strategic Planning and Environment, Brett Gardiner. Having recently joined Council, Mr Gardiner brings extensive experience in local government, with a focus on planning, economic development and business support. He is expected to outline his role and share how he plans to work alongside local businesses.

The evening will begin with informal networking, giving attendees the chance to catch up and hear what others in the local business community are doing. Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase.

From around 6.15pm, the focus will shift to a short presentation on business insurance by Trina Fletcher of Westlawn Insurance, followed by Mr Gardiner's address and a question-and-answer session, concluding around 7pm. Attendees are welcome to stay on for dinner at their own expense.

"The event is a valuable opportunity for local businesses to build connections, stay informed and have their voices heard," said Walcha Business Group Vice-President Cameron Hayton.

While RSVPs are not essential, those wishing to attend, stay for dinner, or seek further information can contact Fiona Barden on 0429 690 679.

ADVERTISEMENT



Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Tax free tries, taxed out triage

If you want a quick read on the Government's priorities, don't wait for the Budget, just watch the rugby league transfer market.

Right now, Canberra is happy to back tax free deals that see players like Jarome Luai head to Papua New Guinea on about \$1.2 million a year. And fair enough, most of us would sign that contract in a heartbeat.

But here's the question doing the rounds in regional NSW; if it's good enough for footy players, why isn't it good enough for our healthcare workers?

Because when those of us living in country communities ask for help attracting doctors, nurses and allied health staff, the tune changes. Suddenly it's "too complex." There are "no simple solutions." We "can't touch the tax system."

Apparently, tax is sacred, unless you can throw a cut out pass and step off your left foot.

If tax free incentives are sensible policy to get a five eighth to Port Moresby, how exactly do they become reckless economics when it comes to getting a GP to Armidale, a paediatrician to Inverell or a registered nurse to Glen Innes?

That's not complexity. That's a political choice.

And it's one regional communities are living with every day. Our hospitals are chronically short staffed, patients are waiting hours, clinicians are stretched to breaking point and nearly every GP's books are closed.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth has shown it's more than willing to use the tax system when it suits. Just not for the people keeping regional communities alive.

So, here's a simple idea, try the same approach for healthcare. Targeted, time limited tax-free income for doctors nurses and allied health care professionals who commit to the bush.

Because incentives work and the Government knows it. It just prefers not to admit it when the solution involves regional Australia instead of a headline.

No one begrudges a footy player earning a good living. But when the Government can bend the rules for rugby league and won't do the same for basic healthcare, people notice.

So, it really comes down to this:

If it's good enough for footy players, it should be good enough for the people keeping our communities alive.

Because right now, we're paying locums thousands a day and wheeling laptops into emergency departments to fill gaps. A sensible tax incentive would be cheaper and a whole lot better for patients.

Less spin, more doctors. If the government can establish tax free incomes for an NRL venture, they can do the same for the bush.

That's a policy worth signing.

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

📍 Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350

☎ 02 6772 5552 (Armidale) 02 6752 5002 (Moree)

✉ northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

📧 brendanmoylanmp

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🇳🇸 NATIONALS for Regional NSW

Authorised by Brendan Moylan MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Apsley Falls Arch Restoration



Staff from the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service recently completed the restoration work on a section of the original Apsley Falls archway. The original archway was sited next to the Oxley Highway but was deemed unsafe and too expensive to repair and therefore removed in 2022.

To recognise the various works the Walcha community have done at Apsley Falls, and to preserve a significant piece of local history, it was decided to restore a section of the arch and associated steel lettering, which includes a new interpretation sign. The renovated section of the arch is now situated in the picnic area at Apsley Falls.

Area Manager for New England Area, Mike Greig, says on behalf of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service we would like to thank the Walcha District & Historical Society for their input into this project. This restoration demonstrates the strong connections the Walcha community have had with Apsley Falls over time. NPWS will continue to promote the historic and cultural heritage values associated with our national parks and reserves into the future.

thumbs



- 👍 To the Walcha Bar & Grill for a beautiful meal at the restaurant last night.
- 👍 To the Walcha Gardening Club for the beautiful clean up at Walcha MPS. Your hard work has made a lovely difference - truly appreciated by the whole community.
- 👍 To Walcha - Wonderful, proper, good little town. Love you all Tomarto.
- 👍 To the Walcha Council grading team at Enfield North Road Yarrowitch, amazing job very much appreciated.
- 👍 To local people who support out of town grocery deliveries. It's more important than ever to support local businesses and 'Shop Locally'.

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.

Fire Station Open Day

Behind-the-scenes look at local emergency response

The crew from Fire and Rescue NSW Station 481 Walcha will be opening the station doors to the community on Saturday 9th May from 10am to 2pm as part of the statewide Open Day program.

The event will give locals a chance to get up close with firefighters, appliance and emergency equipment while learning practical safety skills that could one day save a life.

The Open Day is designed to be hands-on, interactive and family-friendly, with demonstrations and activities showcasing the broad capability of the local station and the realities of modern emergency response.

Visitors will be able to:

- Explore the fire truck, rescue gear and breathing apparatus
- Watch live firefighting and operational demonstrations
- Feel the real force of a charged fire hose and spray water under supervision
- Feel the real force to do CPR
- Observe door-entry and rescue demonstrations
- Learn what to do after a road crash and how to safely assist before emergency crews arrive
- Talk with firefighters about home fire safety and emergency preparedness
- Learn about lithium-ion battery safety and safe practices around battery-powered tools, charging systems and workshop equipment

Community members will also be able to book free Home Fire Safety Visits, where firefighters can visit homes to provide practical fire safety advice, smoke alarm checks and emergency planning guidance.

The crew will be available throughout the day to answer questions about emergency response operations; community safety and the role local firefighters play across the region.

Open Day provides an opportunity for people of all ages to engage directly with firefighters in a relaxed environment while gaining a better understanding of the work carried out by emergency services every day.

Families are encouraged to attend, meet the crew, ask questions, and experience the equipment and demonstrations firsthand.



St Patrick's Primary Kindergarten Open Morning

19 May 2026
9:30am

Register now



67772328 spwadmin@arm.catholic.edu.au

The banner features a large photo of a smiling boy in a blue shirt and a dark hat. Below it are three circular inset photos of other children. The background is a mix of green foliage and a stone wall.



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To discuss your financial, retirement, or investment goals, get in touch with our office to arrange a chat with Paul or Andrew.

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WALCHA SHOW
- SINCE 1878 -

Merino Flock Ewe Competition

Friday 8 May

Meet at the Commercial Hotel
at 8am to begin tour.
Light lunch provided
Further details contact – 0418 587 643

NSW Stud  **Breeders**
ASSOCIATION

what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Hard working, Presbyterian Women's Association Op Shop Co-ordinator Joy Hogbin left this world last month and was farewelled with a celebration of Life Service at the Walcha Cemetery last Thursday. Joy will be sadly missed especially by her fellow Op Shop teammates. May Irene Joy Hogbin Rest in Peace.

...

What a great start to the 2026 Netball season by the Walcha Pearls Secondary School team when they scored an amazing 52-5 victory over the Armidale Catholic Sports Club Lightning last Saturday. Sisters Veja-Lee and Xaphyn Petuha, Belle Saxby, Georgia Clayworth, Emilie Davis, Puna Matapakia and Arley Olsen all contributed to the win. Go Girls.

...

According to Walcha grazier Jock Nivison he and his six fellow local thrill seekers Charlie Street, Jock Fletcher, Dave Clarke, Rob Mulligan, Andrew Blomfield and Nick Jenkins along with Richard Post from Guyra shared a great time when they recently tackled the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. Jock reckons the training the boys did beforehand certainly helped them cover the 134 kilometers in eight days with the Australian Kokoda Tours and spoke in only glowing terms about the whole experience including the history and sacrifices made by young Australians in World War II.

...

During the recent school holidays local resident Sophia Marchant represented PLC Armidale at the IGSSA Dance under the guidance of the Sydney Dance Company where each dancer was tutored in 4 styles - Lyrical, Jazz, JFH and Contemporary. Despite coming home sore from some gruelling workouts Sophia thoroughly loved the experience which she shared with two of her PLC schoolmates.

...

Bad luck to Walcha Central School Primary Cricket team when they were defeated by a much stronger Tamworth Public School side who had the luxury of selecting a squad from heaps more players. There were some good individual performances by the Walcha team members including the fielding effort by the only girl in the outfit, Myla Eveleigh, who had plenty of work to do in the outfield and refused to leave the ground after suffering a blow to her arm late in the homesides innings.

...

Well done to the Walcha Central School students Cameron Mooney, Nathan Ross, cousins Simon and Jake Wellings when they represented North West at the NSW Swimming Championships in Sydney last week. The boys took over 5 seconds off their qualifying time in the 4x50 metre 16 years freestyle relay when they stopped the clock at 2 minutes 03 seconds while Cameron bettered his qualifying time in both his 50 metre freestyle (28.42 sec) and 100 metre Freestyle (1 min 08 sec). Good on ya Boys.

...

The New England Hotel is conducting a Trivia Night at the pub next Wednesday 13th May commencing at 6.30pm which will be a fundraiser for the *Man's Not a Camel* Mystery Box Rally where local duo Jed Wittig and Cameron Norbury will be lining up for their fourth outback run. There is a maximum of 10 teams (4 to 8 people) at a cost of \$5 per player - So come on get your team together and register ASAP, if not sooner, for a chance of taking the crown off reigning title holders Le Cross and Co.

...

Table 2 at the B.C lunchtime raffles last Sunday was certainly a 'Girls Day Out' where Tracey Crisp collected two meat trays, Lisa Swanton and Jacki Nash one each whereas Emma Hillier won the door prize. 'Disco' Dave Butler and 'Tomarto' Martin also sitting at table 2 picked up one each while the only other person on the table Jo Wicks sadly missed out.

...

Bid Wigs of the Week - Newie - Lacey Newton, Cindy Brown, Ellie Clarke, Ben Cross, Cameron Norbury 28 pts; TBW Cafe - Jacki Nash 14 pts; B.C - Carley Goodwin, Tom Wicks 14 pts; Vet Supplies - Tahlia Bird, Katie Cummings 12 pts; Apsley - Karrin Scott, Jess Litchfield, Meg Taylor, Cheryl Weeks, Adam Tate, Ian Cameron, Beau Smith, Ben Partridge 12 pts. The reason the Newie Tipsters picked up 28 each points was because of 'Double Points' round which will also happen again in Rds 17 and 25. The B.C and Apsley have chosen not to do the double points rounds.



RUGBY REPORT WALCHA V GLEN INNES

RESERVES

Walcha supporters were treated to a dominant display by the Reggies as second grade produced a comprehensive 36-5 victory over Glen Innes at Walcha on Saturday. With first grade enjoying a well-earned bye, all eyes were on the home side, and the players repaid the faith of the crowd with a performance that mixed patience, power and polish. The scoreline flattered neither team — it reflected a day when Walcha's structure and intent gradually overwhelmed an initially physical and determined Glen Innes outfit.

The game began as a tight tussle, both teams feeling each other out and probing for weaknesses. Glen Innes were particularly physical up front and earned early respect with some big, committed tackles that tested the Reggies' ball security and patience. Walcha's commitment to holding their shape and sticking to the game plan paid dividends. Reggies maintained a disciplined defensive line, forcing errors at crucial moments and slowly turning field position in their favour.

From that solid foundation the Reggies began to win the territory battle. Smart kicking, aggressive chases and consistent set-piece execution pinned Glen Innes deep in their own half and made the visitors play from uncomfortable positions. The forwards did the hard work; the backs took advantage when the opportunity arose. The scoreboard opened and once the first points went on the board the home side's confidence grew.

Troy Tape was influential all day. Effective at the set piece, he ensured the platform was steady and reliable, while around the paddock he showed good awareness and covered ground to support both attack and defence. His work in the tight won clean ball and allowed the backline to operate with front-foot ball for much of the contest.

Ben Burwell put in a busy, all-action performance — he was involved

in everything. Whether it was linking play, carrying in the heavy stuff, or making the hard defensive read. Complementing him, Ben Fussell provided the direct, bruising ball-carrying that gets a team rolling. His dominant carries early and often punched holes in the visitor's defence and set up phases that the backs could exploit.

Hunter Scrivener was a constant attacking threat and proved hard to handle when the ball came his way. His line running and ability to finish under pressure added a cutting edge to Walcha's attack. In the centres, Andrew Kelly was direct and honest with his attack, taking contact, committing defenders and consistently presenting front-foot ball to the rest of the side. New recruit Jordan Hill enjoyed an excellent first outing in Reggies colours — composed in defence, confident in attack and showing the kind of touches that bodes well for future weeks.

Defence remained a feature of the day; the Reggies did not allow Glen Innes to settle into any rhythm after the opening exchanges. The pressure applied by our forwards and the accurate tackling across the park frustrated the visitors and turned several promising Glen Innes raids into turnovers and restart opportunities.

As the contest wore on, Walcha's game management saw them control tempo, recycle possession efficiently and take scoring chances when they came. The result was a convincing 36-5 margin that reflected the collective effort: forwards laying the platform, backs finishing, and individuals stepping up in key moments.

The win will be welcomed by the club and supporters alike. Next Saturday the Reggies travel to Dorrigo in second grade, while first grade again has the bye. If this performance is any indicator, the momentum is with Walcha heading into what promises to be another competitive weekend.

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Tennis

The Walcha District Tennis Association A.G.M Monday 11th May, 6.30pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Bowls

Two games of bowls on Thursday, Barry H, Willy and Warick were too good for Bun, John and Peter, while Noel, Peter and Mark defeated Barry K, Tony and Don. In the Triples Championship, Fred, Matt and Garth defeated Noel, Bun and Dace by 1 point to take out the Triples Championship with Noel, Bun and Dace ending as runners up. Noel, Bun and Dace had an epic struggle against Mick, Red and Adam earlier in the day where they emerged victorious. The final game of the Triples Championship will be between Mick, Red and Adam and Johnny Byrnes, Buck and Scotty in a few weeks to battle it out for last place. The fours Championships commence on 16th May at 9.30am. The draw will be on the board by the end of the week.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday saw us playing a Graham Betts qualifier stableford for Suzanne O'Keefe's trophy. We also welcomed seven Uralla players for the qualifier round. Our winner with an outstanding 48 stableford points was Anthea Nivison. Huge congratulations to Anthea. Unfortunately, due to the fact that we have preferred lies in place, Anthea could not join Donna Martin on the record board with the 48. Our sweepstakes winners were all excellent scores as well, with Bec Hall on 43 points, Penny King 40, Suzanne O'Keefe 39, Julie Olrich 39, and Simone Sweeney 39. Our two winners claimed the nearest the pins, with Bec Hall on Hole 3 and Anthea Nivison on Hole 16. Today is another stableford round playing for Robyn Salt's trophy.

At the Nineteenth

A Par event was played last Sunday for a trophy donated by John McCormack where Daniel Boyd registered a more than handy score of +8 to collect the prize. Sweepstakes went to Caroline Street +5, Julie Presnell +5, Julie Hoad +4, Margaret Davidson +3, James Norton +3 and Jock McLaren +2. NTP on 9 to Margaret Davidson.

In Matchplay Jock McLaren snuck home against Will Archdale 1 up. Angus Warden eagled the 8th hole to rob the 'Nest' sponsored by Darks Plumbing of just 1 ball after visitor David 'Daktyl' Carlon emptied it the previous Sunday with a hole in one on the 18th. Not quite as good as your 'Albatross' 12 months ago 'Gus'. Eight players represented the Walcha Club at the Barraba Open last Sunday where 'Molleydooker' Dion Bird and his son Nixon carded +6 the same score as club champion Michael Stackman and Darren Bird. Club President Miles Archdale and Andrew Crawford scored 43 whereas Don Brooks and Simeon Cross finished with +1. The weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday was won by Mark Hogan after he racked up 20 stableford points a point clear of runner up Brian Lynch who counted out Jenny Lisle on 19 points. No N.T.P winner on 3. This Saturday the monthly stroke medal round is scheduled where Lachy Fletcher is in charge of supplying the prize.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday we welcomed beginners to our ladies bowls. They experienced a great morning of learning the basic techniques of bowling. A huge thank you to Nanette who travelled from Armidale to share her wealth of knowledge and expertise on 'all things bowling'. Everyone had fun and we hope the new players will join us on a Thursday morning for bowls. A beautiful lunch was enjoyed by all. There is social bowls tomorrow 9am for a 9.30am start.

Walcha netball excited for a new season

The 2026 netball season has officially kicked off, and it's already shaping up to be a fantastic year for our Walcha teams.

While our younger age groups had a bye in the opening round, there was plenty of excitement surrounding the debut of our new high school team, the Walcha Pearls. Taking on ACSC Lightning, the Pearls made a statement in their first ever game, securing a dominant 52 – 5 win.

It was also great to see our women's team, Walcha Pacifika, back on the court for their first game of the season. They gave it their all in a tough match against VIP Hotshots, with the final score 49 – 22 in favour of the Hotshots.

With such a strong start and plenty of enthusiasm across all age groups, the season this year is looking bright for Walcha netball.



Junior Rugby Gala Day



Pictured are the mighty Walcha Under 6s after their skills and drills session on Sunday at the Walcha Junior Rugby Carnival. There were 65 Under 6's in the sessions from Gunnedah, Inverell, Moree, Barraba, Quirindi, Scone, Narrabri, Armidale and Tamworth.

Over 400 players converged on Walcha for the carnival.

Back Row: Dougal Fletcher, Ollie Wauch, Rudy Young, Patrick Young
Front Row: Ivy Martin, Ava Betts, Isabelle King, Eleanor Cameron, Georgia McKinnon, Poppy Betts.

advocate classifieds



In Memoriam

Pauline Levingston
 28.10.1940 - 4.5.2023

Three years have gone, we don't know where. You left your family in God's own care. Miss you forever, Lloyd, Katie, Lynette, Fiona, Nicole, Melanie and their family.

Public Notice

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066
Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace
 Available by appointment only.
 No charge for JP services.

Church service at Woolbrook church,
 2pm, this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes
 6777 2539.

Garage Sale

Saturday May 9th, 8.30am. Combined garage sale at Carey's 118s Derby St - BACKYARD Undercover. Variety of goods, bits and pieces. Parking - front lawn.

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For Sale (cont)

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Meeting Notice

The Walcha District Tennis Ass. A.G.M, Monday 11th May, 6.30pm. All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

Woolbrook RFS AGM, Saturday 16 May 2026. Woolbrook AIF Hall at 10am. All welcome.

Come along, have a chat, ask questions, and see how you can be involved, big or small. Because if you have got kids in Little A's, you are already part of it. Now is your chance to help shape what comes next. Commercial Hotel, Walcha. Monday 25th May. 5.30pm.

Meeting Notice (cont)

Moona Winterbourne RFS AGM this Thursday, 5.30pm at the fire shed. All welcome and encouraged to see the new fire truck.

Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC)

Notice of General Member Meeting
 24.05.2026 | 11am | Amaroo LALC Cafe

1. Welcome/Open Address
2. Attendance/Apologies
3. Roads to Home
4. Minutes of previous member meeting
5. Correspondence
6. New Membership Applications
7. Proposed Land Dealing, Sale of Asset 116E Apsley Street
8. Section 66a – Employment of LALC Board Members Policy (Approved Work Policy for Board Members)
9. Membership Policy
10. Board Member Remuneration Policy
11. Housing Policy
12. Housing
13. Next member meeting date and time

Light refreshments provided.
 All questions relating to this meeting should be directed to the Chairperson, Ms Katrina Bloomfield at the Amaroo LALC Office on (02) 6777 1100 or via email to chair@amaroolalc.com.au during business hours.



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2.00pm Nowendoc Service
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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