

THE APSLEY Advocate

CIRCULATION 1920 – P 02 6777 1111 F 02 6777 1112 wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au walchatelecottage.com.au

27 May 2026

A Promise in Venice Walcha artist exhibits on world stage

Venice long regarded as one of the World's Cultural Capitals, has a unique ability to bring together artists, curators, collectors and audiences from across the globe. A beautiful painting from Walcha artist Angus Nivison is now hanging in the city as a part of the biennial contemporary art exhibition called *Personal Structures*.

Carley McLaren from Walcha Gallery of Art received an invitation to curate an Exhibition of works at the Palazzo Mora Venice in March 2025.

The European Culture Centre is a non-profit association that organises exhibitions, cultural projects, publications and educational programs around the world. *Personal Structures* features over 175 established and emerging artists from over 40 countries. The exhibition is spread across three Venice venues: Palazzo Mora, Palazzo Bembo and Marinaressa Gardens. Palazzo Mora is a historic Venetian palace in the Cannaregio district. It is one of the main exhibition venues used by the European Cultural Centre for large-scale international contemporary art exhibitions. The building itself is around 300 years old and is known for combining historic Venetian architecture with experimental contemporary art installations. "To present artworks in such a historic and internationally respected setting was an opportunity hard to say No to," Carley said. "This invitation offered a valuable opportunity for networking, collaboration and cultural exchange for future Walcha projects.

"Presenting Walcha Artist, Angus Nivison's stunning large three panel canvas artwork 200x540cm "Promise" gains exposure to international



audiences, provides collaboration with fellow creatives and industry professionals and builds relationships where a reciprocal exhibition will be offered in the Walcha and the New England Region," Carley commented.

Carley and her daughter Mimi hand delivered the large three panel painting rolled up in a long 2.3 metre plumbing pipe (over sized baggage) with a few mishaps on the way but finally arrived safe and sound in Venice at the Palazzo Mora building ready to be stretched and hung in time for the Exhibition opening on 9 May.

"If you are travelling to Venice please look up the Palazzo Mora Building in the Cannaregio District and call in to see Angus's painting "Promise" on the first floor. It will be on show until 22 November 2026 with free entry.

Carley would like to thank Angus for his patience but mainly her husband Jock who helped her expertly roll the canvas in the plumbing pipe (again) and carrying the 2.3 metre pipe to Border Force and Customs near Sydney Airport for its stamp of approval to leave on the flight to Venice.

THE
NEW BIRDS
BOUTIQUE

Come Join

Shelley & the Girls
for one last
celebration

AT THE NEW BIRDS
2PM TO 4PM SAT 30 MAY

P.S. Wear your
New Birds favourites

FITZROY STREET WALCHA
PH 6777 2002

telecottage
WALCHA

Need a sale
catalogue
designed &
printed?

Support your local business



Contact us today

6777 1111
wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au

Coprice Drover Dog Food

20kg at
\$40
per bag

16% Protein
10% Fat
Made in Australia

WVS
WALCHA VETERINARY SUPPLIES



6 Aberbaldie Road Walcha. Phone 6777 2588 • www.wvs.com.au

around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

Everybody was breathing a sigh of relief as most of the district managed to jag some decent rain last week. It has been the first front of rain pass through for some months now and it delivered widespread moisture of anywhere from 30-50mm with the high country topping out at 90mm for the week. I keep mentioning it, but the district is starting to turn green because the soils are still warm enough for growth. We are all but in June and with no major frost yet, which is rare for Walcha for this time of year. The big news is the next front of moisture is upon us and the forecast is showing from 40-60mm of rain this week, but not just for us but for the entire north west with some areas predicted to exceed 100mm. Tractors, planters and fertiliser spreaders have been working around the clock before the rain arrives as they still have time to grow a decent crop. Regardless of the price of Urea, growing grass at home is still cheaper than carting it in on the back of a truck.

What a difference one week can make in the in the value of livestock, let alone a month. The recent rain and the further prediction of more rain have lifted the beef market at least 30 to 50 percent. The EYCI is now sitting at 911c/kg cwt which is 129c/kg higher than the same time a month ago. The last of the New England weaner sales we had the best of the weaner Angus steers nudging \$5/kg no matter the weight, fast forward to this week and they are marching towards the \$6/kg rate and going on the southern prices will end up well north of that extremely quick. Cows to process and cows to fatten have also lifted 70c/kg in the same period which is a huge benefit to sellers who have hung on through the worst of the market. There is no doubt we have a hard long four months ahead of us, but the rain instils resilience to feed on, and the values make the numbers work.

I discussed my disappointment at the budget last week but probably never touched on how it may affect rural property owners and their business. Doing a bit more reading I found some interesting information that will affect all farming families. The existing 50 percent capital gains tax discount will be scrapped as of 1 July 2027; it will be replaced by an inflation index system and a minimum 30 percent tax on real capital gains. This will be applied to individuals, trusts and partnerships. Farming families have been given a carve out for primary production income on discretionary trusts. But get this, there is no carve out for CGT on land. The thing that will hurt older farming families is that assets purchased pre 1985 have always been exempt from CGT, that is now gone as of 1 July 2027, just like our tax money. The government is once again making it harder to keep farms in families, yet the budget was all about housing affordability, well how's this meant to work other than robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The government is also in hot water after a renewable energy company working on a major energy transmission project in the central west damaged an Aboriginal rock shelter beyond repair while clearing land for power infrastructure. Get this, this even happened after the culturally significant site near Mudgee was identified during the planning process, looks like they will do anything to forge on through with the renewables and I bet this is another costly stuff up paid by the taxpayers.

We are only five months into the 2026 year, and Tamworth have sold more than 140,000 head of cattle to date, that's as many as they sell in a full year. Those figures show us the mass selloff that has been happening since January and regardless of the numbers, the market has been reasonable the entire time. 2326 head of cattle sold to strong demand in Tamworth on Monday with all categories dearer. All cattle sold from 20-40c/kg dearer with weaner steers topping at 572c/kg, heifers to 508c/kg, feeder steers sold to 548c/kg while a run of EU Angus heifers to feed topped at 527c/kg. The cows went to another level surging 40c/kg, store cows made to 365c/kg while heavy cows to process topped at 425c/kg.

Wheelchair Taxi offers independence for local residents

Just before Christmas last year, Angus and John Burnell started the Walcha Taxi Service after some months of the town being without a taxi.

We are very fortunate to have two vehicles servicing our town:

- Taxi 1 has 11 seats
- Taxi 2 has 9 seats and wheelchair access.

This wheelchair access is a very important service, particularly for those who are elderly and the disabled with the drivers, Di and Graham both trained in the wheelchair loading and unloading.

The taxis operate 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays, and from 6am to 10:30pm on Sunday to Thursday.

John said that new rates have been set by the Government for trips from 1 June to take into account the CPI. They have not been able to charge any additional rates due to the fuel price increase, so the increase on June 1 will be very welcome.

Make sure you continue to support this local business.

All bookings can be made by calling the taxi on 0436 131 008.



WOW Day

At Yarrowitch Public School

Last Wednesday Yarrowitch Public School warmly welcomed members of the local community for a special morning tea in celebration of WOW Day – Wear Orange Wednesday. This event is dedicated to thanking the incredible SES and local volunteers whose extraordinary efforts enrich their valley. Community spirit was on display as the community gathered at the school, each bringing along a plate to share. The children engaged in a variety of games together while adults enjoyed a warm cuppa and some delicious morning tea, completed by the gentle rainfall, a much needed blessing for the region. Yarrowitch Public School is proud to be deeply rooted in our community, recognising that our strength comes from community connections. It was a privilege to host this special day, celebrating and honoring the volunteers who make the valley such a wonderful place to live. We extend our sincere gratitude to our local volunteers, along with everyone who joined us and contributed to making WOW Day an enjoyable occasion.



Stock and Property Watch

www.nutrienharcourts.com.au

For Sale
\$1,300,000

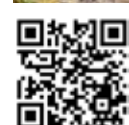


High Country Get Away, Top of the Great Dividing Range

245 Chinnocks Road, Walcha NSW

- 97.79 hectares
- Suitable for livestock grazing or a rural lifestyle/weekender
- Small liveable home ideal for renovations or handyman projects

- Lockable concrete shed
- Dual container machinery shed
- Small set of steel cattle yards
- Great value lifestyle or investment opportunity
- Ideal escape from city life



 **Brendan Moylan MP**
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

ADVERTISEMENT



Electorate Office Armidale
 📍 Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350
 ☎ 02 6772 5552
 ✉ PO Box 77, Armidale NSW 2350
 @ northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Electorate Office Moree
 📍 Suite 2-6, 161 Balo Street
 Moree NSW 2400
 ☎ 02 6752 5002

Electorate Office Inverell
 📍 Inverell Shire Council
 144 Otho Street, Inverell NSW 2360
 ☎ 02 6728 8320

Authorised by Brendan Moylan MP, Suite 2-6, 161 Balo Street, Moree NSW 2400. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Flo Smallmon celebrates turning 90

Flo Smallmon celebrated her 90th Birthday surrounded by family, friends and neighbours last Saturday at the Walcha Bar and Grill. Over sixty people enjoyed catching up over a delicious lunch. Family travelled from Yeppoon, Gold Coast, Moree, Gunnedah, Tamworth and Newcastle.



Walcha has been home for Flo for over fifty years after moving from Moree with her family and settling at Walcha Road.

Many fond memories have been made over the past 90 years, all of which she can share with her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren whom all adore their 'Old Nan'.

Flo wishes to thank everyone who made her milestone special and for all the cards and well wishes received for her birthday.

Success for students at Wingham Beef Week

Thirty four students from Years 7 to 12 and ten head of cattle headed to Wingham Beef Week on Monday 11 May for the week with Mrs Provost, Mrs Brown, Mrs Benson and Ching. Students participated in parading, junior judging, live assessment, meat judging, farmers challenge and educational rotations. Students got to engage with over 500 students from across many other schools and producers as well as industry experts. Students camped for the week and presented the cattle each day for their competitions. They also got to follow the production system of some of the cattle and view them in Wingham Beef Exports before leaving, giving a true reflection from students working with them right from breeding, calving, weaning, showing and finally the final beef product.

There were many outstanding results from our students and cattle. In November we received a Traditional Fleckvieh Simmental as part of the School Steer Challenge from the beef week committee. Students were tasked with breaking him in, caring and feeding, weighing monthly and sending updates to the committee. Out of 13 schools our WCS steer Sox came 5th on the hoof and 5th over the hook.

A lightweight school bred heifer placed 5th in her hoof weight class. Over the hook a steer donated by James Sweeney placed 4th in the light middle weights and a heifer donated by Maria Ireland placed 2nd in the heavyweight class.

In the parading competition WCS had 7 students make the finals, with Eli Wellings placing 5th in the 13 years and Lachie Provost placing 5th in the 14 years. These two students also made the finals in the junior judging competition with Eli placing 5th in the 13yrs and Lachie placing 3rd in the 14 years. Arielle Hinton also placed 4th in the 10-12yrs age group.

Kayleigh Hobbs was selected to represent WCS in the Wingham Beef Week Encouragement award. She sat before a panel of three judges for an interview and was awarded Highly Commended.

Finally, Jacob Wellings placed 4th in the Beef Assessment Meat Judging Competition.



Financial Services



- Rural and Commercial Finance
- Leasing
- Home Loans
- Insurance Premium Funding

Kel Penfold

6766 5309 : 0427 667 118



45ft flat top • 45ft single deck cattle float • 26mtr B Double
19mtr mini B Double • Low Loader available for hire



BRIAN
Smith
TIMBER
TRANSPORT

Call us for
your large
Transport
needs

WALCHA
02 67772126

Bonnie Smith 0429 772 077
Brian Smith 0427 780 216

Accreditation success for Visitor Information Centre



Walcha Tourism is proud to celebrate the continued accreditation of the Walcha Visitor Information Centre following a successful recent onsite review, confirming the Centre's ongoing status as an Accredited Visitor Information Centre (AVIC) and recognising its commitment to delivering high-quality visitor services and promoting the best of the Walcha region.

Walcha's AVIC plays a vital role in welcoming travellers to our town and showcasing the region's spectacular tourism assets. The accreditation report highlighted the Centre's strong visitor engagement, accessible location, comprehensive visitor resources and passionate local knowledge. Our AVIC volunteer team was also nominated in the New England Regional volunteer awards, reflecting the dedication and enthusiasm of the team.

"Our staff and volunteers are often the very first people visitors meet when they arrive in Walcha. Their warmth, local knowledge and passion for the region create memorable experiences for travellers and help showcase everything that makes Walcha special," Ms Annetts said.

Walcha Tourism is now inviting new volunteers to join the team.

If you enjoy meeting people, sharing local stories and helping visitors discover the region, this is a rewarding opportunity to become involved in the community and support local tourism.

Josie selected for NSW State Hockey

Congratulations to St Patrick's student Josie and the Polding team for their phenomenal performance at the NSWPSA Hockey Carnival in Bathurst last week. In a nail-biting grand final, Polding was narrowly defeated 2-1 by the Combined Independent Schools team, finishing the tournament as proud runners-up.

Throughout the carnival, Josie's exceptional skills and fierce determination shone brightly as she competed against the absolute best young hockey players from across the state. Thanks to her outstanding efforts all week, Josie has been selected to represent New South Wales at the Australian Under 12s Hockey Championships, which will be held in Newcastle from October 25th to 30th. Fantastic job, Josie - the St Patrick's community is incredibly proud of you!



REAL ESTATE & LIVESTOCK
pitt.son.walcha@bigpond.com
www.pittsons.com.au

Pitt Son's

OFFICE 6777 2000
Sam Payne 0428 667 404
Ron Vincent 0427 775 821

\$380,000
~~**\$420,000**~~



Great Location

- Lovely flat block
- Walking distance to shops
- Two bedrooms with built ins to the main bedroom
- 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

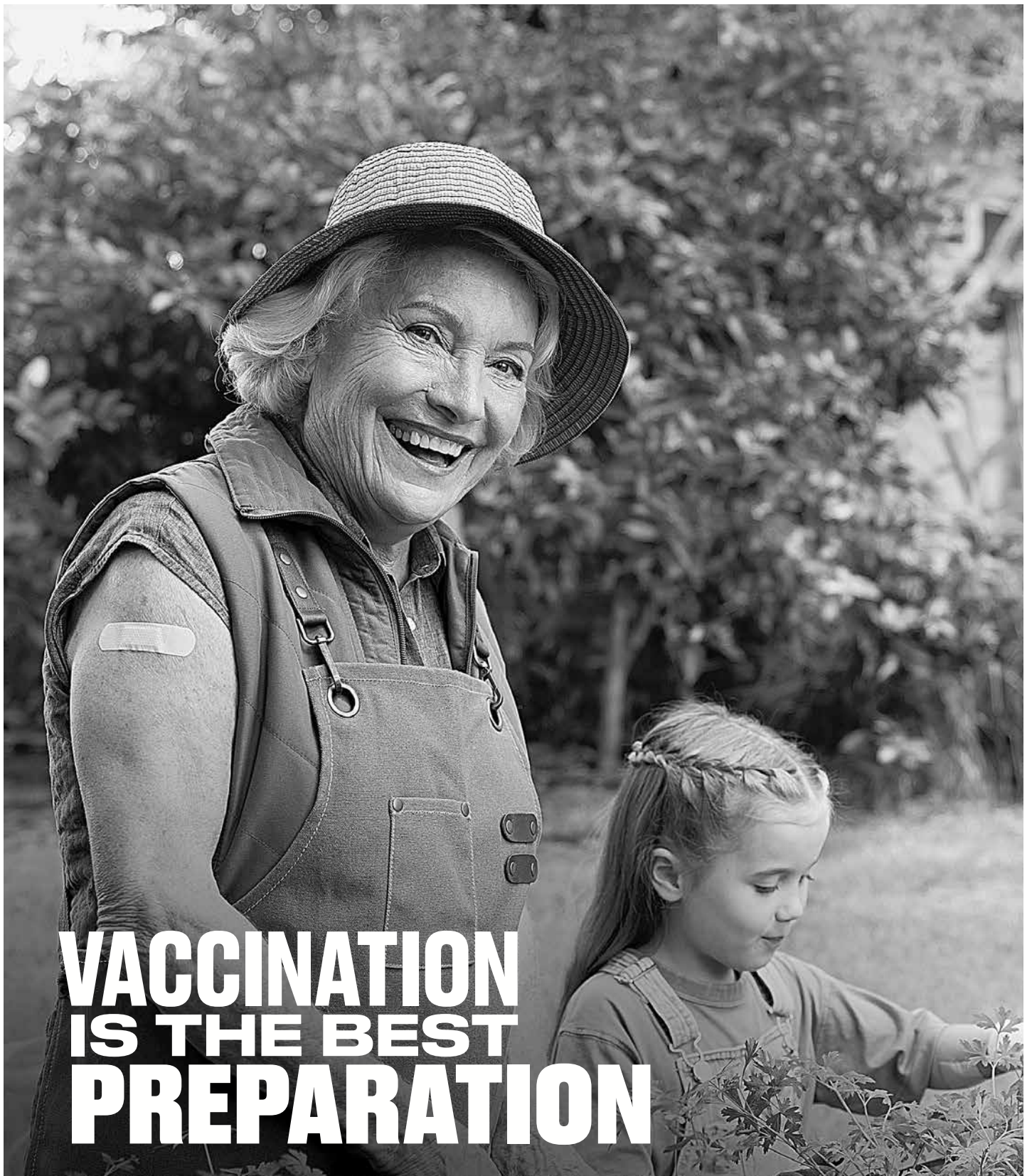
Quiet Location Double Block



\$340,000

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

Locally owned and operated



VACCINATION IS THE BEST PREPARATION

Influenza and COVID-19 viruses are always changing, and the risk of serious illness goes up if you're over 65. By vaccinating regularly, you can protect yourself before a new strain goes around.

**Speak to your health professional
and book your vaccinations today
or visit health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations**



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



RUGBY REPORT

WALCHA V ARMIDALE BAA BAAS

By Eric the Spider

FIRST GRADE

The Walcha Rams first grade continued their impressive unbeaten run in 2025 with a hard-fought 45-24 victory over the Armidale Barbarians at home on Saturday. In a genuine arm-wrestle that lived up to its billing, the Rams showed their class by controlling long periods of the match through disciplined phase play, while the Baa Baas refused to roll over, keeping the contest alive right until the final stages. From the opening whistle, it was clear this was going to be a physical battle. Both packs went at each other with real intent, and the contact was heavy from minute one.

The Rams gradually took the upper hand through their ability to win the breakdown and recycle cleanly, stringing together multiple phases and forcing the Barbarians to make tackle after tackle. Walcha's forward pack laid a strong platform, and once the ball was moved wide, they looked dangerous. The Baa Baas showed plenty of character, hitting back with direct running and capitalising on any loose ball.

They stayed within striking distance for large parts of the game, and their willingness to keep throwing themselves into the contest made it a proper test for the Rams. Joel "Joog Baby" Ballon led the charge as he has done all season. The big man was immense, carrying the ball with real purpose and making dominant metres after contact. His work rate around the park was outstanding, both in attack and defence, and he set the tone for the forward pack. Billy "Squat Rack" Porter was another who stood up in a big way. His attacking runs were powerful and direct, consistently getting over the gain line and putting the Barbarians on the back foot. Defensively, he was brutal — putting on several big shots that stopped the Baa Baas momentum dead in its tracks. Sam "Fastest in the Club" Colwell was in rampaging mood.

The powerful piggy made light work of would-be defenders, shrugging them off and gaining valuable metres every time he touched the ball. He was a constant menace at the breakdown and around the fringes. In the backs, Matty "Lil Tiss" Tisdell and Hamish "Double Smoked" Heeney controlled proceedings nicely. The pair dictated the tempo of the game, kicking well for territory when needed and keeping the attack organised. Their game management was a big reason Walcha were able to maintain control for long periods. Nathan "The Irish Guy" Cullinan had one of his best games in Rams colours, making a mountain of runs, hitting hard in defence, and linking play effectively. His non-stop effort from start to finish was exactly what you want.

The Rams' ability to build pressure through long phases of play proved decisive. While the Baa Baas kept coming and scored some good tries of their own through strong individual efforts, Walcha's finishing and composure in the crucial moments saw them pull clear in the second half. The final scoreline reflected Walcha's dominance in field position and ball control, even if the Baa Baas made them work for every point. This was another solid team performance built on forward grunt and smart decision-making behind the ruck. The unbeaten run continues, and the Rams head into the next block of games with plenty of confidence. For Walcha, the focus now turns to maintaining this momentum. With several strong performers across the park and a squad that's developing real depth, the Rams are looking well-placed as the season progresses.

Next weekend: The Rams travel to Armidale to take on Robb College in what is no doubt going to be an exciting match up. 3 - Joel Ballon (Players Player) 2 - Billy Porter 1 - Sam Colwell.

Major Sponsors



Red: New England Hotel, Marchant Bros, The Bolt Inn, LAWD, Robson Wines of Mudgee, Elders Rural Services, Agriforce Machinery, Super Moto New England and Commercial Hotel.

White: Nutrien Boultons, SN Nivison, Branga Plains Pastoral Co, Walcha Hire, Richos Rural, Nerstane Merino Stud, Peter Norbury Motors and Sarah Day MTA Travel

Club: Thomas Foods, D & C Kermodie, DW & AM Cameron, Merlanie Pastoral Co, Walcha Law, Walcha Vet Supplies and Ben Nevis Angus.

NEVER BIN A BATTERY

Just one battery can spark a fire

Find a safe battery drop-off near you

NSW GOVERNMENT

Proudly funded by the NSW Government.

nirw
NORTHERN IRRIGATION REGIONAL WATER
waste matters in our region

Play Sessions at Uralla

Join us for Uralla Play Sessions at Uralla Memorial Hall in Uralla!

These engaging and fun-filled sessions are scheduled from 10 AM to 12 noon .
dates:
4th and 18th May, 8th and 22nd June
Term 3
3rd and 17th of August, 31st August
14th of September

The sessions are fully funded, . All you need to bring is a hat and a packed lunchbox snack for your child. For further details, feel free to contact Sue at 0267723120 or email sbryan@gubigabun.com.



ELITE FODDER

Quality feed from across Australia to your front gate - Simple reliable and Fair



DELIVERED ARMIDALE & WALCHA REGION

CEREAL HAY (Oaten, Barley, Wheaten)		VETCH HAY	
STANDARD FROM	PREMIUM FROM	STANDARD FROM	PREMIUM FROM
\$515 /pt	\$535 /pt	\$620 /pt	\$690 /pt

LUCERNE, CLOVER & STRAW AVAILABLE - PRICED ON REQUEST

LOADED AND READY TO GO! SECURE YOUR WINTER FEED TODAY!

All prices are based off B-double loads or larger delivered to you and are **Plus GST**.

Feed analysis available on all lines **on request**

CALL JOSH **0427 598 287**
josh@elitefodder.com.au

CALL TIM **0482 583 276**
tim@elitefodder.com.au

www.elitefodder.com.au | [Find us on Facebook](#)

what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Walcha St Patrick's School student Josie Wauch has certainly hit a sporting purple patch of late including representing Polding at the NSW PSSA Hockey Championships in Bathurst last week where she was selected to play for NSW at the National Championships later this year.

Just to 'Ice the Cake' Josie ran third in her 12 years Diocesan Cross Country at Barraba recently and is off to the Polding trials in Sydney next month. Josie will be joined by fellow St Pats student Archie King in Sydney after he finished fifth in his 10 years event at Barraba. Best of luck in the 'Big Smoke' Guys.

There was plenty of talent displayed at the PSSA Touch Football trials played at John Oxley Sportsground last Friday which included schools from the Armidale Zone. The Walcha Central Boys won two of their three games whereas the girls team won one match and lost the other two. Congratulations to Eliza Nivison, Blake McKinnon and Kix Brown on their selection in the Armidale Zone representative teams to play in the North West trials June 23rd.

Walcha Central Primary Rugby League team will be competing at a Knockout/Gala Day in Tamworth on Friday while the Secondary Open Touch Footy team played at Inverell yesterday and the U/16's Touch side are out there today. Busy little Beavers to say the least.

Local golfer Will Nicholls must have been caressing the ball pretty well last Sunday despite going down to Club President Miles Archdale in their 'Match Play' on the first play off hole. Earlier Will drove his ball onto the Par four 14th green to secure an easy birdie and also eagled the eighth hole. According to 'Milo' they had a ding dong battle throughout. Good on ya Boys.

Still on golf it might be over a month away but the Cross Brothers Butchery 3 person ambrose event this year will also be a fundraiser for Rotary Exchange student Matisse Pascoe who will be travelling to France on the adventure of a lifetime. You don't have to be a club member to play so grab a couple of mates to tee off on Sunday July 5th.

The Walcha Netballers won two games and lost two in their Armidale District Association competitions last Saturday. Pearls, who had just been elevated to Division 4 last week, continued their outstanding form with a 47 to 1 over VIP Sharks whereas Opals keeps ACSC Giants scoreless while scoring 35 goals themselves in Primary Division 1. Sapphires went down 18 to 5 in Primary 2 and Pacifica were rounded up by Ladies Social Division ladder leaders VIP Hotshots 43-28. Go Girls.

It may have taken 35 ends to decide the 2026 Walcha Lawn Bowls B Grade final but in the end Miles Lawrence prevailed 31 to 30 in a nail biter over Matt Andrews recently. Matty lead 24 to 15 after 20 ends but four shots on the final end sealed the deal for 'kilometres'.

Calling all spear throwers! The New England Hotel will be conducting a Darts competition tomorrow night Thursday with all the action scheduled to commence at 6.30pm. Prizes and Bragging Rights are up for grabs with nominations being taken from 6.00pm.

Big Wigs of the Week - TBW Cafe - Cindy Swanton; Newie - Jess Wickham, Mick Wall, 'Magpie' Lynch, 'Wilba' Haslem, Simon Newton, Bernie McMaugh, Mitch Foster (All picked the 5 game Card). A number of tipsters at the Apsley Arms and B.C also correctly selected the lot but both competitions include tonight's State of Origin as does Vet Supplies.

Special Mention - Nearing the halfway mark of the NRL Margaret Wellings is leading the family tipping and by all accounts has been for about 9 weeks. Knowing how competitive Marg's husband and sons are no doubt the boys will be attempting to rectify that.

Happy 75th Birthday to Walcha Sporting legend Robert 'Truck' Laurie next Monday and Go the Blues tonight.

thumbs

- 👉 To Cody Woodward for helping the Walcha people in need with the loads of wood.
- 👉 To Shelley from the New Birds, we will all miss you. From a good customer.
- 👉 To Lilly at the Walcha Bowling Club. Great work behind the bar.
- 👉 To Robyn Vincent for over 40 years of caring service cutting hair for the ECW residents at Walcha MPS. Thank you for the many years of friendship, care and smiles you have shared with all residents along the way.
- 👉 To the Chinese Lotus Restaurant at the New England Hotel, we hope you re-open soon. We are hungry.
- 👉 To the dirty ATM's in Derby Street, covered in dust and finger prints.
- 👉 To the employees who park out the front of their employment taking up valuable consumer parking space.
- 👉 To the locals and visitors driving trucks, cars and motorbikes at high speed on South Derby Street heading towards Gloucester. This is a 50km zone, yet some of you reach up to 100km and more. Its only a matter of time before we see an accident.

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.



Ladies Bowls

Seven ladies had a very pleasant game of bowls last week. Debbie Richards playing in two positions won against Carmel Ryan and Lee McCoy. Phyllis Hoy and Margaret Morris had a win against Sheree Noakes and Margaret Tickle. During the morning they held a 'little' morning tea in aid of the cancer Council, collecting money to add to the 'big' morning tea being held at the tennis club. A reminder that it is an 8am start tomorrow to prepare for President's Day. We are expecting visitors from five other clubs. Wishing everyone a great day.

Wednesday Golf

It was a tough day at the office for the girls, after the welcomed rain.

A very different game after all the run we have been used to!

We played a par event for the Jeannette Wark Memorial trophy, and it was great to have John join us for lunch and present the trophy.

The scores showed that we are back to a bit of reality!

Our winner was Donna Martin with -3, on a countback from Pip Monie -3.

Sweepstakes were won by Cheryl McDonald, Pauline Carter, Cark Street and Sal Rutherford all on -4.

The second shot on Hole 16 was claimed by Pauline Carter with a shot in the hole. No-one was on Hole 3.

Today is a draw for partners for a 4BBB playing for Maddie Lance and Bec Hall's trophy.



Bowls

The pairs championships starts this Saturday: Mick & Red v Robert & Greg, Brian & Noel v Snow & Fred. One game of 18 ends commencing at 11.30am. All other teams have a bye.

The next round of the mixed pairs is on Sunday: There are no byes so all teams have 2 games, the first commencing at 9.30am.

At the Nineteenth

A good field of 27 players teed off in a Stableford round last Sunday for a trophy donated by Darren Bird who didn't play as he was competing in the Werris Creek Open.

Winner Brian Lynch accumulated 41 points to finish a couple of points clear of President Miles Archdale, Andrew Robertson, Tim Baumer, Lee Fletcher and David Sweeney all on 39 points.

The remaining sweepstake prizes went to Will Nicholls and Jenny Lisle both on 38 points whereas the final ball was collected by James Norton on a countback from Jim Nivison, Mitch Crawford and Pauline Carter after all four players racked up 36 points.

In Match Play Miles Archdale needed an extra hole to defeat Will Nicholls after they were all square after the regulation 18 holes.

The 'Eagles Nest' proudly sponsored by Darks Plumbing was robbed of three balls after Will Nicholls carded a two under par three on the par five eighth hole.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Tim Baumer (3) and Jock McLaren (18).

Last Saturday 12 players competed in the weekly 9 hole competition where Peter Whellan counted out organiser John McCormack to win with 18 points.

No N.T.P. on 3. This Sunday is a 2 person ambrose where Nutrien Boultons are in charge of supplying the prize.

Netball

There was plenty of passing, pivoting and loud cries of "HERE IF YOU NEED!" as Walcha's netballers returned to the courts last weekend for another big day of competition. Our Net Set Go girls had an absolute ball, with plenty of giggling, dancing and excitement while still showing off some impressive development in skills. Bella Norton and Mackenzie Larkings wowed spectators with some wicked bounce passes, while Zaje Petuha had her opponents worn out early with her lightning-fast footwork and energy across the court.

The Sapphires faced a really tough and physical match against Uralla Pumas, going down 18-5, but the girls never dropped their spirits. Harriet Laurie summed it up perfectly saying, "Even though we got smashed, we had a lot of fun playing in some new positions and with each other." The girls should be proud of the way they gave everything a go and supported each other throughout the game. Penelope Taylor was awarded Player of the Match for her strong effort and determination.

The Opals had a dominant 35-0 win over ACSC Giants, but the highlight of the game was seeing the whole team swapping from their usual positions to try something new. It was fantastic to see everyone stepping outside their comfort zones, and encouraging each other. Christina Fontanella earned Player of the Match honours after another impressive performance.

The Pearls continued their strong season with a convincing 47-1 win over VIP Sharks. The team worked beautifully together and Georgia Clayworth was named Player of the Match for her outstanding game. A special shout out must also go to Charlie Makeham and Penelope Taylor for jumping up 2 divisions to help after already playing their own game when the Pearls were short on players. Well done team.

Walcha Pacifica also put in a strong performance against VIP Hotshots, going down 43-28 in a fast-paced and entertaining match. When asked about Player of the Match honours, the team laughed, "Nah, we don't pick one because the ladies might fight over it!"

Rebee claims North West RMS tennis title in outstanding debut tournament

Young tennis player Rebee Wark delivered an outstanding first time performance at the 2026 North West RMS Tournament held in Tamworth on Sunday, 17th May.

Remarkably, Rebee only began playing tennis in October last year under the guidance of Emma Wauch.

Rebee narrowly lost his opening match 6 games to 4, but bounced back with a strong second-round victory, winning 6-4. He continued his winning form in the third round with a convincing 6-3 result, before dominating the fourth round 6-2.

In the quarter finals, Rebee was locked in a tight contest at 4 games all when his opponent retired injured. He made the most of the opportunity, securing a solid 6-3 semi final win to earn a place in the grand final.

There, Rebee faced William Buchan in what proved to be a fantastic match. Playing with confidence and composure, Rebee claimed the championship with a 6-3 victory.

It was an amazing achievement for Rebee, who is now looking forward to his next tournament in Inverell on the weekend.



Rebee with runner up William and tournament director Mitch Power



Meeting Notices

Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday 5th June at the Walcha Bowling Club commencing 9.30am. Enquiries S Law 0467 450 243, D Lisle 0429 799 083. New members most welcome.

The Walcha Bushmens Campdraft and Rodeo Assoc AGM will be held at the New England Hotel Meeting Room, 6.30pm, Wednesday 10th 2026. All positions will be declared vacant. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Ebony on 0439 950 708. New committee members are more than welcome to attend.

Walcha RSL Sub Branch meeting and AGM at the Bowling Club Thursday 28 May at 5.30pm.

Raffle Results

The Rotary Club of Walcha is pleased to announce that Neil Brearley won the annual wood raffle. We would like to thank all those who generously supported the Fund Raiser.

Public Notice

The Walcha Council Beautification Advisory Committee has completed judging for the Walcha Township Garden Street Appeal Competition for Spring 2025, Summer 2025/2026 and Autumn 2026.



This initiative encourages residents to contribute to the appearance, character and liveability of the Walcha township through the presentation and maintenance of their gardens and streetscapes.

Thank you to all residents who take pride in their gardens and properties and continue to help make Walcha an attractive and welcoming community. Judges commented on the high standard of gardens across all seasons, with final decisions proving very difficult.

Residents selected for awards will be recognised by Council at a presentation to be held at the Walcha Council Chambers today, Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

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

Public Notice (cont)

The Barber shop will be closed this Saturday.

For Sale

SO HOT FIREWOOD - Keep warm this season. Premium well seasoned hardwood. Locally owned and operated supporting our rural community. Call now to place your order 0428 370 356.

Gal Box Trailer Tipper single 1 Axle with cage. 7 foot by 4 foot. Registered until end of June. As new condition. \$1650. 0418 136 867.

Firewood Top of the Range dry wood in log form. Delivered in town. Ph John 0427 500 110.

Local students shine at Regional Cross Country Trials

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

Last Friday, 26 dedicated students from St Patrick's Primary travelled to Barraba to compete in the Armidale Catholic Schools Cross Country Trials. Despite battling incredibly windy conditions on the course, the team performed exceptionally well against the region's best. A significant number of local runners placed within the top 10 or 20 of their respective divisions, with the majority of the team successfully beating their personal best times and placements from last year.

Standout individual achievements of the day went to Josie, who secured a fantastic 3rd place overall in the 12 Years Girls event, and Archie, who crossed the line in an impressive 5th place for the 10 Years Boys. Thanks to their stellar efforts, both Archie and Josie have officially qualified to represent Armidale Catholic Schools at the Polding Cross Country Trials, which will be held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre on June 24th. The whole school community wishes them the absolute best of luck as they head to Sydney. A sincere thank you goes out to all the local parents and grandparents who made the trip to Barraba to support the team and ensure the students could participate. Your ongoing encouragement makes these wonderful youth opportunities possible.



Most members of the St Patrick's Primary Cross Country Team at the ACS Cross Country Trials at Barraba.

New sign for Irish Town

A few years ago, a huge storm blew the sign at "Homeleigh", Irish Town, away and since then the property has seen more wear and tear. Most recently the slabs of the original hut were stolen, so now only the weatherboard timber cottage, "Homeleigh", survives. This iconic site is all that remains of a community of Irish settlers who took up blocks of land in the mid-nineteenth century, with holdings stretching along either side of Thunderbolts Way. "Homeleigh" was built in 1889 and was the home of the Bird, Blake and Betts families.

In the 1990s, along with the Council, the Walcha and District Historical Society sought to preserve the site, commissioning an archaeological report. Some restoration work was completed and a sign erected. Later the site was listed as a local heritage item in the Walcha Local Environmental Plan, 2012.

For the past six months, in response to local community concern, members of the Walcha Historical Society have been discussing options for Irish Town. With limited funds available, and as the site has deteriorated significantly in recent years, with the buildings appearing beyond repair, we have funded a new sign. It has now been erected with black and white images of what "Homeleigh" looked like in the 1960s. At the very least, this is a small demonstration to show that Walcha's history and heritage is valued and acknowledged by the local community.





SELF STORAGE

NORTH STREET – WALCHA
Various sized sheds
Security fenced

0439 584 344
 or 0428 653 307



Serving Homes, Business & Rural Properties

- ✓ General Pest Control (Spiders, Ants, Cockroaches & more)
- ✓ Timber Pest & Termite Inspections
- ✓ Termite Treatment & Monitoring Systems
- ✓ Rodent Control & Baiting Programs
- ✓ Wild Animal Control



Also offering Property Maintenance
 & Rural Contracting services

Licensed & Insured | Local & Reliable

0437 532 954

CHIROPRACTOR

Samantha Goor

B.Sc. Anatomy (NSW) M Chiroprac (Macq)
Tuesday & Friday from 9.00am
6777 1340



PATRICK STACE – WALCHA
 Mob. 0428 780 077 Ph. 6778 0595

Nick Moore PLUMBING & EXCAVATION SERVICES

WALCHA & SURROUNDING AREAS



Highly qualified and experienced plumber
 All aspects of Plumbing and Gas Fitting
 Wood heater installation
 Roofing and Guttering
 Gold License No 59555C

Nick 0418 691 306
 nickmoore203@yahoo.com.au
 Katy 0422 034 660

LUX ELECTRICAL

LEE HARRISON
 0448 840 461
 leeharriselectrical@gmail.com

LICENCE NO. 480735C
 CCTV | SECURITY SYSTEMS | RE-WIRES | LIGHTING & POWER | SAFETY SWITCH UPGRADES | RENOVATIONS | INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE
 | FULLY LICENCED & INSURED

A G W RURAL CONTRACTING

GPS Equipped boom spraying
Andrew Wauch 0427 549 748

AQF3 ARBORIST

Tree lopping & removal
 Truck
 Bobcat
 Post hole digger
 Trencher
 Woolshed Cleaning

Scott Kermode
0427 100 889

TREETOP services
 treeopservices@bigpond.com

ENGINEERING

John Wall

- Stock floats • Feeders • Sheep & cattle yards • Steel framed sheds & mobile welding
- 6778 0588 • 0428 778 087**



Andrew: 0427 549 748
Toni: 0421 972 354

STACES FAST FREIGHT

Delivering
 Tamworth – Walcha
0429 608 409



KG's CAR DETAILING
 Ph: 0419 469 405

CA & TL GOODWIN CONTRACTING SERVICES

We specialise in:

- Rural fencing
- Stock work
- Machinery operation
- Fully insured with competitive rates
- Servicing the New England and surrounding areas

Call Craig: 0428 780 150 or Tracy: 0428 422 860

church notices



ANGLICAN

May 31 - 9.30am Combined Service with Presbyterian's at Anglican Church South St 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

DISCLAIMER LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are submitted on the condition that The Walcha Telecottage as the publisher of The Apsley Advocate may edit and has the right to, and license third parties to reproduce in electronic form and communicate these letters. They are published at the discretion of the Editor and Board. The Apsley Advocate is printed by The Walcha Telecottage, PO Box 116 Walcha NSW 2354. Phone 6777 1111 Fax 6777 1112. The Walcha Technology Co Operative Limited, the Editor and Staff of this Newspaper have published any article here-in in good faith and bear no responsibility in respect to the accuracy of the information contained in such article. Any person or persons publishing material in this Newspaper do so in the knowledge that they shall personally accept any responsibility for the accuracy and other correctness of such articles and also accept full responsibility for the legal consequences if it be found that the article contains any inaccuracies in the contents of any such articles.

DEADLINE MONDAY 4.30PM Editor: Anthea Nivison. Advertising/Sport: Joscisca Matapakia, Kate Connors and Kersten Wall.

Marchant

BROS. PTY. Est. 2000



BULK WATER DELIVERY AVAILABLE

A FULL RANGE OF AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT & EARTHMOVING

Dam construction/maintenance, stick raking, gravel available, road building, site prep, pipe laying and all timber work. Check out our website for the full range of machinery, attachments and services available.

Earthmoving and Heavy Haulage Transport
Jason 0427 490 487 • Jamie 0429 771 351

02 6777 2024 marchantbros@bigpond.com
 www.marchantbros.com.au

WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

"Let the good times roll"

WHAT'S ON?

Thursday 28 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 29 2.00pm – Close

Free Bingo drawn at 6.30pm

Raffles drawn at 7pm

Friday Night Specials

- Surf and Chirp
- Parmesan Crusted Baked Fish
- Crockpot Braised Beef, served on a bed of creamy mash with a crusty bun

• Home deliveries • Town limits only
FOR CATERING NEEDS CALL:
 Dianna – 0412 536 760 or 5722 6003

Saturday 30 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 31 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

MEMBERS DRAW

DRAWN AFTER THE RAFFLES

FRIDAY \$600

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR 2025/2026 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

Don't feel like cooking on a Thursday night?

Our bistro is now open for dinner. Come on down and enjoy one of our meals. Generous serving size, always delicious and very reasonably priced. Also open for dinner on Friday and Saturday and lunch on Sunday.

Please remember, the Club is owned by the members and runs to support the community. The more people who utilise the facilities, the more we can offer the community.

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



OK EARTHMOVING

SPECIALISING IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

- Bulldozers
- Excavator 2t - 30t
- Truck and Dogs
- Gravel supply
- Graders
- Rollers
- Skid steers + multiple attachments
- Forestry mulching
- Land development
- Large Dam construction

Peter O'Keefe : 0429 944 821

Will O'Keefe : 0488 925 845



Proudly servicing Walcha and surrounding districts for over 30 years



Wayne Hoy: 0427 281 060
 Matthew Hoy: 0427 322 640
 Aaron Bullen: 0409 776 340

SPRAYING EXCAVATING EARTHMOVING

GPS & Auto Steer Equipped

Remote Aerial Spraying & Spreading
 4x4 Truck & Boomspray, Quickspray Trailers
 4x4 Tractors & Casotti's



Communities call on Premier Chris Minns to intervene after consultation descends into Trespass Allegations, Police Reports and Claims of Misconduct

NEW ENGLAND AND UPPER HUNTER, NSW -

Community groups, residents and landholders from the Upper Hunter and New England regions have called on Premier Chris Minns to personally intervene in the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) rollout following a series of allegations involving EnergyCo's consultation process under Minister Penny Sharpe.

The body says the Minns Government has allowed the consultation process to deteriorate to the point where communities are alleging trespass on private property, misleading conduct by contractors, failures in community engagement, omissions in environmental documentation and incidents resulting in police reports being filed.

Community representatives say responsibility now sits directly with Premier Minns and his Government, and are demanding he personally meet with affected landholders, suspend the current consultation process and commit to an independent review of how the REZ is being managed across the region.

Effective immediately, the body has suspended all participation in EnergyCo's New England REZ consultation process. The groups say that unless Premier Minns intervenes directly and commits to reforms by 18/6/26, they will permanently withdraw all cooperation and engagement with the process.

The body says confidence in EnergyCo and the consultation framework overseen by Minister Sharpe has collapsed, with many residents believing the process is focused on progressing predetermined outcomes rather than genuine community consultation.

Among the specific incidents cited by the body are:

- **Unauthorised Entry & Police Involvement**
EnergyCo representatives or contractors entered private property without permission, resulting in landholders ordering them off the premises and a police report subsequently being filed.
- **Misrepresentation**
Contractors allegedly misrepresented their identities and objectives when questioned by local residents.
- **Official Misconduct and Dismissal**
An EnergyCo employee was recently dismissed following an incident in a regional café, where they were reportedly overheard making disparaging remarks about local residents and the organisation responsible for community engagement.
- **Community Distress**
A Walcha resident was approached regarding a proposed transmission corridor on their land without prior warning or engagement, causing significant distress.
- **Environmental Omissions**
Government documentation allegedly omitted critical endangered species information during inter-agency consultation, which was only rectified after concerns were raised by Forestry NSW staff.
- **Predetermined Outcomes**
Senior project representatives allegedly stated the REZ would proceed "no matter what" and that the project footprint would be expanded, reinforcing local concerns the consultation was merely a rubber-stamping exercise.

CONT OVER >



Communities call on Premier Chris Minns to intervene after consultation descends into Trespass Allegations, Police Reports and Claims of Misconduct

Federal Member for New England Barnaby Joyce said Chris Minns promised regional communities would be partners in this transition. “Instead, people are reporting contractors entering farms without permission, police reports being filed, and a consultation process that many locals believe was decided before it even began,” Mr Joyce said. “When officials are allegedly mocking the very communities they are meant to engage with, the Premier cannot wash his hands of it. This process is happening under his Government and under his Minister’s watch.”

Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said more than 20,000 people backed the ePetition opposing the new transmission corridor, yet the Minns Government continues to ignore affected landholders. “EnergyCo has repeatedly failed to properly engage with communities during the renewable energy rollout,” Mr Moylan said. “Landholders deserve genuine consultation, not press releases and bureaucratic spin.”

NSW Shadow Minister for Energy James Griffin said the Minns Labor Government spend a lot of time talking about community benefits, but they won’t even meet with the communities they’re impacting the most. “The energy industry has made it clear they need the Minns Labor Government to do more than issue press releases and pose for photo opportunities to build social licence in regional communities,” Mr Griffin said.

The body spokesperson Damien Timbs said local families have given thousands of hours to this process in good faith, only to see their goodwill abused. “We will not continue participating in a process that asks communities to provide legitimacy while their concerns are ignored,” Mr Timbs said. “This is a line in the sand. It is unacceptable that decisions affecting New England families are being driven by an organisation with diminishing community trust and little genuine local representation.”

If any community members would like to discuss please reach out to High Country Guardians OR Voice for Walcha

Anna Young

0401 362 120

anna.thew@hotmail.com

Damien Timbs

0488 772 307



Rouchel Brook
ACTION GROUP



Friends of
Kentucky
Action Group

Salisbury Plains
ACTION GROUP

BATTING FOR
BOORLONG
ACTION GROUP



VALLEY ALLIANCE
Our Homes, Land, Community & Future



DUNGOWAN CREEK
ALLIANCE