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New Birds changes hands

One of Walcha's most iconic boutiques has officially entered a new chapter, with local woman Jordy Young taking over ownership of New Birds.

The much-loved boutique has been part of the Walcha community since 1972 and has become far more than just a clothing store over the years. For generations of local women, New Birds has been the place to visit for everyday fashion, workwear, race outfits, wedding attire and special occasions, with many customers sharing memories of shopping there with mothers, daughters and friends.

For the past 17 years, the boutique has been owned and operated by Shelley, who has continued the legacy first created by Jan Weber and Barb Fenwicke more than 50 years ago. Remarkably, the store still operates from the very same building where it first began, adding to the history and charm that so many locals have come to love.

Throughout the decades, New Birds has built a reputation not only for quality clothing and personalised service, but also for being a welcoming space where locals could stop in for a chat, browse the latest styles and catch up with familiar faces. The boutique has remained a constant presence in Walcha through changing fashion trends and changing times, something few businesses can say after more than half a century.

Jordy officially stepped into the role this week and is excited to continue building on the boutique's strong foundation while also bringing fresh ideas to the business. Alongside continuing the women's fashion side of the store, Jordy hopes to introduce men's clothing in the future and create a dedicated space to showcase her existing art and wedding business.

The transition marks an exciting time for both Jordy and the wider community, with many locals pleased to see the business remain in local hands.

Small businesses play such an important role in country towns, and New Birds has long been one of Walcha's standout stores.



Former New Birds owner Shelley Relf with new owner Jordy Young
See page 3 for more photos

To celebrate Shelley's final day at the helm, the boutique hosted a "last hurrah" on Saturday afternoon. Friends, customers and supporters gathered in store to enjoy drinks, share stories and reflect on the many memories made within the walls of the boutique over the years.

While it is the end of an era for Shelley, it is also the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Jordy and for New Birds itself.

Congratulations to Shelley on 17 successful years owning and operating one of Walcha's loved stores, and congratulations to Jordy for taking on such an iconic local business. It is wonderful to see New Birds remain part of the Walcha community and continue its story for many years to come.



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around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

Everyone was breathing a sigh of relief after last week's rainfall as falls from 30-70mm fell around the district. Some people for the past 10 days have now received anywhere from 100-200mm of rain with the winter outlook improving. Travelling throughout the northwest, the cereal and fodder crops which have been planted over the last month are now up and out of the ground. These crops look good and they will have had enough moisture to get them to grazing stage which will mean demand for stock will increase, or more hay will be made in the spring as reserves remain incredibly low for the area. June itself is looking wet with the chance of more rain over the next few weeks looking promising on the forecast. Frosts have once again been minimal, and the night time temps aren't forecast to drop below zero for another week.

The rainfall last week was widespread and fell over drought-stricken areas like the north west and areas that had destocked for the past six months. No one is out of the woods yet, but the optimism is back and the dry sown paddocks have germinated. The rise in the cattle market over the last few months has been sharp and the EYCI has surged to its highest level since 2022. Restocker cattle have seen 40-60c/kg lifts week on week with Angus steers now demanding \$6/kg liveweight and better. Local bred EU Angus steers weighing 245kg made \$6.30/kg on AuctionsPlus last Friday while a run of 228kg EU Angus steers topped the sale and made a whopping \$7.08c/kg, \$1620 per head. Those prices were last week, and I'd expect the values to pick up again after the surge in values in the physical saleyard markets this week. Feeder steers are bouncing away with Angus steers punching well north of \$5.50/kg through the yards this week and a run of EU Angus X feeders making 582c/kg on AuctionsPlus last Friday. Processors are trying to keep a lid on cow market, but the processor demand has pushed the best of the cows north of 440c/kg this week and numbers are beginning to run short. Processors are making hay while the sun shines with 166,446 head processed just last week, the highest level since 2015 while the USA is buying our mince hand over fist at present. You know it's going to be a shortage of cows when a large processor has been buying large runs of cows to put back in the paddock to process during the winter months.

The One Nation party has surged past the Labor government in the latest popularity poles as the latest federal budget continues to sink the Labor party. We are still a long way out from the next election, but it could be possible that history could be made if Pauline Hanson resigned as a senator and ran for a seat in the lower house. It would be a long shot for her party, but their popularity is growing and anything is possible. The One Nation party would need to win most of the seats in the House of Representatives or form a coalition with another major party. It might have been under different circumstances, but I remember when they said Donald Trump would never be the President of the United States of America, well they got that wrong.

Not only is the beef market on fire but the sheep and lamb market remain as firm as ever with restocking breeding ewes in hot demand. A decent run of young scanned in lamb ewes demands over \$300 no matter the breed and we have seen the absolute tops making \$420 just last week.

The three major saleyard centres through the north west have all had significant number reductions through their fat sales with just 3000 cattle yarded between them. It was only four weeks ago and the numbers were more like 15,000 cattle. Restocker cattle went to another level on Monday in Tamworth with weaner steers making 582c/kg, heifers 512c/kg while feeder steers topped at 559c/kg and the heifer portion made to 525c/kg. Heavy yielding kill cows topped at 430c/kg for 737kg while quality store cows made to 383c/kg. A small yarding of 1180 sheep and lambs met strong competition with the best of the trades making \$315, while heavy exports topped at \$428. A reminder there is no fat sale in Tamworth next Monday due to the long weekend.

New Birds celebration



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CRG positions available

Two Community Reference Groups (CRGs) were formed in 2025 to share information and feedback about the New England REZ between EnergyCo, key stakeholders and the wider community.

We're now inviting applications for 4 people to join our North and South CRGs (2 in each group). We're seeking locals with demonstrated involvement in their community, including with social, service, environment, First Nations and industry groups.

Find out more about the CRGs, the role of members and how to apply at energyco.nsw.gov.au or scan the **QR code**.

Applications close on **5 June 2026**.

The next CRG meetings are planned for Uralla on Monday 15 June (North), and Muswellbrook on Tuesday 16 June (South).

Contact us

For more information, contact our team on **1800 061 114** (9am-5pm Mon-Fri) or email nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au

Visit energyco.nsw.gov.au for our latest project updates.



LT1091

Local pair graduate from Kapooka

Two of Australia's newest Army recruits, Callum Hodgkinson and Jasmine Lynch, proudly marched out of the Kapooka Army Recruit Training Centre on Friday, May 29, after successfully completing 13 weeks of military training.

The graduation parade marked the culmination of months of hard work, discipline and determination as the pair officially became Australian Army soldiers. Family and friends travelled to witness the special occasion and celebrate the achievements of the two young recruits.

During their time at Kapooka, Callum and Jasmine undertook physically and mentally demanding training designed to prepare them for life in the Australian Defence Force. The course included field exercises, weapons training, teamwork, fitness, leadership and military discipline.

Callum Hodgkinson will now continue his training in Wagga Wagga at the RAAF Base, where he will spend the next 18 months studying to become an aircraft technician. His specialised training will prepare him for a role maintaining and servicing military aircraft.

Jasmine Lynch will soon begin the next stage of her Army career in Puckapunyal, Victoria, before eventually heading to Oakey in Queensland to train as a fuel specialist.

Callum's mother, Kim Townsend, is a former Walcha resident, and both families said they were incredibly proud of the pair and all they have achieved so far.

The graduation of Callum and Jasmine is a significant milestone and reflects the commitment and dedication required to serve in the Australian Army. Their achievements have been warmly celebrated by family, friends and the wider community as they begin exciting new careers in the Defence Force.



thumbs



- 👉 To the fairy who replaced the old lines on our clothes line. You are a very special person. Thank you.
- 👉 To Dr Samantha Wu at White Leaf Dental for removing my back molar tooth causing me lots of problems. You are awesome, thank you.
- 👉 To Mayor Eric Noakes and all Walcha Council and Staff and General Manager Stephen Perry; as well as Walcha Garden Club and the Walcha Council's Beautification Advisory Committee. Thank you for a most enjoyable presentation and gathering for recipients of various gardening awards and hospitality.
- 👉 To New Birds owner Jordy - a big welcome to the business community.

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.

Livestock risks can emerge following patchy rainfall

North West Local Land Services is reminding livestock producers to closely monitor stock health following recent rainfall events that may result in the emergence of patchy green pick across parts of the region.

While conditions remain dry across much of the North West, rain events combined with warm soil temperatures can trigger sudden pasture responses that may create livestock health risks.

North West Local Land Services District Veterinarian, Heidi Austin, said producers should be particularly aware of the potential for issues such as pulpy kidney, bloat and metabolic disorders when livestock transition suddenly from dry feed or grain-based rations onto fresh green feed.

“Sudden changes in feed can create significant health risks for livestock, particularly young or fast-growing animals, or stock with limited vaccination history,” Heidi said.

Pulpy kidney is caused by the overgrowth of clostridial bacteria in the gut associated with consuming high carbohydrate feed. Animals being supplemented with heavy grain feeding or moved onto fresh green pasture can be at increased risk.

Livestock producers are also being reminded that fresh green pick can contain very high water content, often up to 90 per cent, which means stock may still require supplementary feeding even when paddocks begin to green up.

Heidi continued, “Pastures can take several weeks before they provide useful feed value, depending on pasture species, pasture density and the amount of rainfall received.”

“Continuing supplementary feeding while pasture establishes can



help reduce livestock health risks and avoid overgrazing recovering paddocks.”

North West Local Land Services also encourages producers to carefully manage grazing pressure following rainfall events, including using smaller paddocks where possible and slowing paddock rotations to allow recovering pastures additional growth time. The myStockFeed planner is a tool available through the NSW DroughtHub that can help producers with feed planning and livestock nutrition decisions.

For more information about livestock health or supplementary feeding, contact your Local Land Services District Veterinarian or Livestock Officer on 1300 795 299.

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RUGBY REPORT

WALCHA V ROBB COLLEGE

By Eric the Spider

The Walcha Rams secured a convincing 62-26 victory over Robb College in what started as a scrappy, hard-fought contest before the home side's superior structure and fitness eventually took control. The opening stages were far from ideal for Walcha. The Rams were guilty of giving away cheap penalties and territory, and Robb College made them pay. The visitors looked sharp early, capitalising on Walcha's errors to build a handy lead and keep the Rams on the back foot for the first 20-25 minutes. However, once the Rams settled and began executing their game plan, the momentum shifted dramatically. They found their rhythm in attack, tightened up defensively, and started rolling through the phases. What began as a competitive arm-wrestle turned into a dominant display as Walcha's forwards and backs clicked into gear. The final scoreline flattered the Rams slightly, but few could argue they didn't deserve the win. Once they found their structure, Robb simply couldn't contain them. Walcha ran in a total of nine tries to four, showcasing their attacking potential when the basics were done right. Billy "Squat Rack" Porter was again one of Walcha's best. The big back-rower produced strong carries throughout, making metres after contact and setting a high work rate that lifted those around him. His ability to get over the gain line consistently was a key factor in the Rams' second-half dominance. In defence, Chaden "The Chad" Hawkins was outstanding. He was everywhere, putting in try-saving tackles and driving his teammates to a higher standard. His aggression in the contact area disrupted Robb's attack on several occasions and was a major reason Walcha were able to turn the game around. James "The New Dad" Anderson provided stability in the set piece. His work at lineout and scrum time was reliable

throughout, giving Walcha the platform they needed to launch attacks. At five-eighth, Hamish "Double Smoked" Heeney had one of his best games in recent weeks. He controlled the tempo nicely, distributing well to both sides of the field and making smart decisions with ball in hand. His ability to organise the team around the park was crucial in shifting the momentum. Fullback Eddie "Pitty" Pitt also impressed. He fielded several testing kicks cleanly and counter-attacked strongly, gaining valuable metres with his running. His composure under pressure helped relieve the early territorial disadvantage.

The Rams' forward pack grew into the game as it progressed. Once they started winning the collisions and slowing down Robb's ruck ball, the visitors struggled to maintain their early intensity. Walcha's ability to score multiple tries from structured phases in the second half highlighted the difference in class. While the result was positive, the Rams will know they cannot afford such a slow start against stronger opposition later in the season. The early lapses in concentration and discipline gave Robb a foothold they shouldn't have had. However, the way Walcha responded — working back into their structures and wearing down the opposition — was pleasing.

This win keeps Walcha Rams unbeaten this season and provides valuable momentum heading into the next week. Next week the Walcha Rams have a grand final rematch taking on the Armidale Blues. It is also the Walcha Rugby Club Sponsors Day, so be sure to come out and cheer on the The Mighty Walcha Rams in what is set to be a cracking day.

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Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

The NSW Labor Government's Energy Legislation Amendment (Prioritising Renewable Energy) Bill, introduced to the Parliament in May, is a blatant attack on private property rights in regional New South Wales. It shifts power away from landholders, local councils and regional communities and places it in the hands of the Minister, making it easier for renewable and transmission projects to proceed despite the concerns of those whose land, livelihoods and property values may be directly affected.

I spoke and voted against the Bill, as did the NSW Opposition.

The Bill grants extraordinary powers to the Minister to prioritise renewable energy and transmission projects, allowing the Government to override legitimate concerns raised by neighbouring landholders, local councils and affected communities. It weakens scrutiny, centralises decision making in Sydney and reduces the influence of those who will bear the impacts.

What makes this even more concerning is that the Government knows these impacts exist. EnergyCo has acknowledged the pressures renewable energy developments place on water resources, housing, workforce accommodation, roads, waste management and local infrastructure across regional NSW. Rather than working with communities, councils and landholders to address these challenges and develop practical solutions, Labor has chosen to legislate its way around them. Instead of fixing the problems, the NSW Government is giving the Minister greater powers to push projects through while sidelining legitimate concerns.

This legislation sends a clear message that local knowledge, community consultation and council input are obstacles to be overcome rather than voices that deserve to be heard. It treats regional communities as places where industrial-scale development can be imposed with fewer checks, fewer questions and fewer rights.

Those of us who live in regional communities are not asking for special treatment, we are just asking for fairness.

This Bill further centralises power in Macquarie Street and diminishes the role of those most affected. That is not consultation. That is not accountability. It is an erosion of property rights.

Those of us who proudly live in regional NSW should not be expected to simply accept decisions handed down from Sydney. Communities deserve respect, transparency and a meaningful role in the planning process. This Bill delivers the opposite, which is why I strongly opposed it and will continue to do so.

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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Young Walcha singer's passion rewarded with Eisteddfod success

Nine-year-old Evie Hayton of Walcha has been recognised for her remarkable love of music, recently taking out first place in the 10 years and Under Vocal Solo section at the 2026 Armidale Eisteddfod with her performance of *Part of Your World*.

The achievement follows another successful week for the young singer, who also placed first and second while performing with the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) Cantilena Singers choir.

While the awards are a wonderful recognition of her talent and hard work, those who know Evie best say her success is simply the natural result of a lifelong love of singing.

"Evie has been singing since before she could talk," said her father, Cameron Hayton.

"She sings from the moment she wakes up until the moment she goes to bed. Whether she's in the car, around the house, helping with chores or playing outside, there is usually a song being sung somewhere in the background."

Music has become a significant part of Evie's life and her involvement extends well beyond competitions and formal performances.

A regular member of Walcha Anglican Church, Evie sings as part of weekly worship and is also known for sharing her music with residents and staff at the Elizabeth Crosse Wing of Walcha Hospital, where her performances have brought joy to many older members of the community.

"It is not something she does for trophies or recognition," Mr Hayton said. "She genuinely loves singing and loves sharing that joy with other people."

Her recent achievements also highlight the important role organisations such as the Armidale Eisteddfod Society and the New England Conservatorium of Music play in nurturing young talent across regional New South Wales.

Founded in 2003, NCOM has provided high-quality music education opportunities to young people throughout the New England region. For more than four decades, the Armidale Eisteddfod has also encouraged young performers to develop their skills, build confidence, and express themselves through the performing arts.

The Hayton family expressed their gratitude to Evie's teacher, choir directors, accompanists, volunteers and organisers who have invested their time and expertise into helping young people discover and develop their gifts.

Evie will continue her musical journey this week when she performs at a NCOM concert on Tuesday evening, another opportunity to share the passion for music that has become such a defining part of her young life.

Whether on a stage, at church, in the community or simply singing around the family home, one thing is certain: Evie Hayton loves to sing, and those around her are better for it.



Safe shooting grant powers up Walcha Gun Club

Walcha Clay Target Association has gone from strength to strength in recent years and the hardworking club again undergo more upgrades after securing a grant through the Safe Shooting Program 2025-26.

\$19,531 was received by the club to install a solar panel and battery system to replace the current generator system.

“The Walcha Clay Target Association is a busy sporting club with multiple shoots per month and further competitive events which draw shooters from as far away as the coast and interstate,” Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan said.

“Their main power supply for the clubhouse and their equipment is a generator which is noisy and costly to run.

“By installing solar and a battery system, the club can eliminate the need for the loud generator and have a constant power source.

“It is great to see the club come along in leaps and bounds with this grant heading their way.”

Walcha Clay Target Association member Greg Brunson said the new power system will ensure the club’s facilities can be used more efficiently by their members and guests.

“Replacing the existing generator with a solar panel and battery system will significantly improve the Walcha Gun Club’s facilities in several ways,” he said.

“The current generator is noisy, inefficient, and costly to operate, which impacts both the comfort of members and the club’s long-term sustainability.

“The project will replace the existing noisy, inefficient generator with



Walcha Clay Target Association president Kevin Bourke with Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan at the clubhouse.

a clean, quiet solar panel and battery system, providing reliable renewable energy to power the club’s facilities while reducing emissions, operating costs, and environmental impact.”



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what's the goss

with AJ Cross

There would be plenty of people in our community saddened by the news Karen Bloomfield left this world last week including Walcha Central School where she was Aboriginal Educational Officer along with Walcha Thumbs Up and Noticeboard where she was a team member. At times we both agreed to disagree but there is absolutely no doubt Karen was totally committed to her beliefs no matter what they were. Condolences to her partner Tor, her boys Teraia and Jaxon all other family members and her many friends. May Karen Anne Bloomfield Rest in Peace.

Changing Gears - Happy Birthday to son-in-law Joshua Lloyd Wellings who celebrates 40 years on the planet this very day. Hope you have a very special day Josh with fellow family members.

There was a slight hiccup in the 'At the 19th' Golf report last week when Nutrien Boultons were down to provide trophies for last Sundays event when it should have been Darks Plumbing. I have spoken to the Golf Club Publicity Officer who would like to apologise for any inconvenience and hopes it won't happen again but did mention that's not a guarantee because D.O.B and fading memory may enter the equation at times.

Golf Club Secretary Anthea Nivison helped out by sending emails to all club members advising them of the mistake. My Apsley Advocate boss experienced her own memory loss when she turned up for a doctors appointment last Thursday only to be advised it was actually booked for this week. Hopefully Anthea will get it right tomorrow.

Last Saturday marked the 264th time the Walcha Park Run was on offer where an extraordinary thing happened when Adam Barillaro was first to brace the tape in a winning time of 21 minutes 20 seconds. Nothing strange about that except a week earlier he won in 21 minutes 20 seconds exactly the same time to the second. Adam was making a running comeback after a six year break and found it hard to believe the two times were identical. Talk about Ground hog Day!

The Walcha Park Run is a free fun and friendly weekly 5 kilometre community event where participants are invited to walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate at 8.00am every Saturday. The starting point of the course is situated at the corner of Hill and Middle Streets where organisers welcome any volunteers to assist with the running of the competition.

A funny thing happened at the Bowling Club last Thursday - well not lay down on the carpet, kick your legs in the air, while rubbing your stomach and roaring with laughter funny but humorous anyway. While filling out my footy tipping card I witnessed kitchen co-boss Dianne Byrne attempting to contact B.C Director Darrell 'Bikie' Brazel by mobile phone. No big deal about that except 'Bikie' was sitting at the end of the bench I was at and Di was less than five metres away at a table where she was with her kitchen co-boss Cheryl Stackman.

A couple of Sundays ago five Walcha Golfers represented our club at the annual Werris Creek Mens Open which attracted a modest attendance of just 34 players. Best of the Walcha boys was Owen Presnell who teamed up with Uralla's Jon Izzard to win the Front 9 holes and finish third overall on 41 stableford points. Michael Stackman and Darren Bird racked up 36 pts whereas Dion and Nixon Bird scored 33 pts which included the A Grade drive by Nixon.

Big Wigs of the Week - TBW Cafe - Cathy Brooks; Newie - Charlie Brown both Picked the Card; B.C - Julie McLennan, Troy LeStrande, Kristian Rizzi, Mark Peters, Adam Hall; Apsley - Sophie Cooper all 12 pts. Vet Supplies - D.J Bird 10 pts. The week before Judy and Marie Eckford Picked the Card at the B.C while Katie and Jim Bob Smith did the same at the Apsley. Special mention to Dragons tragic Shane Britten, Sharks faithfuls Lyn Levinston and Tony Martin who sadly missed out on points after they went against their teams who won last weekend.

Morning tea at the Men's shed

Walcha Council Community Care was pleased to attend a morning tea at the Men's Shed on 15 May. Community Care clients were warmly welcomed by Men's Shed members and enjoyed a generous selection of refreshments, followed by a guided tour of the facility. More than 30 clients attended and were highly impressed by the range of activities and opportunities available.

The Men's Shed provides a valuable community space where members regularly participate in woodworking, horticultural projects, and the repair and restoration of items for local residents. In addition to its workshop activities, the Men's Shed offer a welcoming environment for people who simply wish to come along, enjoy a cuppa, and have a chat with others in the community. The organisation welcomes new members and is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for anyone interested in becoming involved.

Walcha Council Community Care extends its sincere appreciation to Danny Reardon, Sam Des-Chantel and all Men's Shed members for their hospitality, generosity and the time they dedicated to making the visit such an enjoyable and informative experience.



Yarn bombers need help to decorate McHattan Park

Walcha Yarn Bombing Community Group are looking for people to join them to help decorate the trees in McHattan Park before they celebrate International Yarn Bombing Day next Thursday 11 June.

"We have been busy knitting and crocheting and are now looking for people to help us arrange this in the Park," Lyn O'Connell said.



The group would like help this Thursday 4 June from 10am to 2pm and again on Monday 8 June at the same times. "Come along, have some fun, and help us out," Lyn said.

All you need to do is turn up to McHattan Park during these times and lend a hand.

They are then having a celebration next Thursday 11 June where they will conduct television interviews and join thousands around the world in celebrating International Yarn Bombing Day.

Yarn bombing is a style of street art that uses colorful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn to decorate public objects like trees, statues, and bike racks. Instead of paint, yarn bombers use textiles to add color and foster community connections in urban spaces.

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Tennis

The 2026 Walcha District Tennis Association AGM was held on Monday 11 May. All our Office Bearers were re-elected unopposed. Club Patrons: Max Holstein, Betty Sweeney and Brian Hoad. Club President: Hyde Thomson. Club Vice Presidents: Dennis Wall and Brian Hoad. Club Secretary: Adam Barillaro. Club Treasurer: Sandra Laurie. Junior Development Coordinator Emma Wauch. Congratulations to all these good people. A big thank you to Bevis Hoy for all that he has done for our Club over the years. Bevis will be sadly missed as part of our Club Board.

Bowls

Competition pairs: Noel & Brian Goodwin had a win over Fred Cameron & Snow Bird 15 to 13. It was a close tussle that could have gone either way.

Mixed pairs third round results:

1st Game: Noel Goodwin & Lyn Burnell defeated Pole Bath & Marie Spink 16 to 12, Denis & Pam Makeham defeated Brian Goodwin & Esther Hunt 18/15, Sari & Dacian Andrews defeated Adam & Jules Hall 13/8

2nd Game: Kevin Creighton & Janice Rizzi defeated Stephen Bath & Marie Spink 14/8, Denis & Pam Makeham defeated Adam & Jules Hall 16/15, Brian Goodwin & Esther Hunt defeated Noel Goodwin & Lyn Burnell 22/5. A good day was had by all. The last game will be played on Sunday 14th June.

The John Oxley Triples Carnival is on this weekend starting time 9.30 am Sat & Sunday. Good luck to all.

At the Nineteenth

A 4BBB Stableford Medley for trophies donated by Darks Plumbing was on offer last Sunday. John McCormack and Brian Lynch combined to accumulate 43 points for a comfortable win.

Runners up were James Norton and Will Archdale with 41 points on a countback from Dion Bird and his son Nixon also on 41 whereas the remaining sweepstakes went to Simeon Cross and Col Berry, Michael Stackman and newcomer Reece Martin both on 40 points.

Sharpest Shooter at the 16th pin was Pip Monie while no player was clever enough to land one on the 9th green.

A total of 20 players teed off in the event, played under very cool weather conditions.

No Saturday 9 hole competition last weekend which wasn't a great surprise considering how cold the weather was.

Despite the Nutrien Boultons 2 person ambrose being listed in last weeks 'At the 19th' to be played last Sunday it is in fact this Sunday. The Publicity Officer would like to apologise for any inconvenience.

Netball

Saturday really is the best day of the week, with Walcha's teams once again bringing plenty of energy and spirit to the courts.

While the wet weather unfortunately saw Net Set Go called off, the rest of Walcha's teams still put on a great show!

The Sapphires took on Uralla Pumas once again, going down 20-4, but delivered a much improved performance full of grit and growing confidence. The girls are beginning to flow beautifully together, finding space with their passing and keeping their spirits high when games get tough. Player of the Match went to Kenzie Wark, a pocket rocket full of determination and enthusiastic energy who never stopped trying all game.

The Opals may have finally met their match, going down 15-7 in a close contest against VIP Fireflies. VIP's defence proved strong on the day, but the game has given the girls plenty to work on before the next meeting between the two sides. Savannah Baumer was named Player of the Match for her skill in reading the game and teamwork.

The Pearls continued their dominant form with an impressive 47-8 win over TAS 5. The girls are playing like a well-oiled machine and look as though they've been together for years. Some fantastic high balls, jumping intercepts and flowing passages of play made for exciting viewing, while standout performances from the Petuha sisters were especially fun to watch. A special thank you to Hattie Laurie and Penelope Taylor for stepping in to help the team when numbers were short.

Walcha Pacifica also had a great day on court, coming away with a close 31-27 win over Uralla Cougars. One of the best parts of Pacifica is seeing the friendships, family connections and fun that come from women of all ages playing together. Watching mothers and daughters share the court is something pretty special, and the team continues to show that netball is just as much about connection and enjoyment as it is competition.

Ladies Bowls

Although the weather looked threatening, 30 ladies enjoyed a great morning of bowling on President's day last Thursday. We welcomed members from South Tamworth, Uralla, Tamworth City and Bendemeer. The winners drawn from a hat were Janice Rizzi, Lynelle Crough and Fiona Stanford with runners up Phyllis Hoy, Sue Ninness and Kerry Fitter. A lovely baked lunch and dessert was then enjoyed by all. The three bowl pairs knockout commences tomorrow, 21 ends. Pam Makeham and Margaret Tickle verses Jan Cross and Marie Spink. Esther Hunt and Carmel Ryan verses Wendy Moore and Lee McCoy. There is social bowls for those not participating in the competition 9.00am for a 9.30am start.



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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.

Thank You

Walcha Support Group thanks Susie Harrison, your many helpers and the business houses of Walcha for the recent very successful fundraising Bingo Night. Your generosity is appreciated.

Carol, Evan, Leanda and family would like to thank you all for the visits, phone calls and messages after the passing of Cecil James Dunn. Special thank you to the Walcha staff at MPS, Doctors and staff at the Walcha General Practice in particular Dr Allen and thank you to Kate Lisle and staff at Riverview for your care, love and support.



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

church notices



ANGLICAN

June 7 - Walcha Service 9.30am
Niangala Service 2.00pm

June 14 - Walcha Service 9.30am
Nowendoc Service 2.00pm

June 21 - Walcha Service 9.30am

June 28 - Walcha Service 9.30am

Anglican Church

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We are currently looking for a bowls organiser. If you've got a bit of time and are keen to help out, please contact Adam 0402 019 192.

Don't forget to come on down on Thursday night for dinner. The meals are hot and delicious.

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