

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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## Keeping Walcha Moving Cameron Norbury takes the reins

Another Walcha business has a new owner with Cameron Norbury purchasing the business and workshop which Peter Norbury Mechanical operates from, at the eastern end of Fitzroy Street.

Although Cameron is not planning on making any changes commenting, "everything will continue as normal."

Campbell Berryman is the resident mechanic and has worked there for the past 12 months and is able to offer a full range of mechanical services which includes:

- General mechanical maintenance and servicing
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- All general mechanical issues

"Campbell will continue to provide the top quality service that he has been doing for 12 months, and it is great to be serving the needs of the Walcha

community," Cameron commented.

The building has a long history with mechanical repairs in Walcha, with Darrell Parsons being the person who had the shed built when he was a shareholder of LP Cross & Co. This was in the early 1970's. Darrell trained two apprentices whilst he was working from the shed, Porky Levingston and Billy Pearce.

The shed has since been owned by John Stuart and Peter Norbury, before Cameron purchased it last month to continue offering mechanical repairs from the premises. With almost 60 years of spanners turning, engines running and repairs being carried out under its roof, the workshop seems to have diesel pulsing through its walls. It is a building steeped in mechanical history and one that has served generations of Walcha motorists, farmers and businesses.

For service and repairs, bookings can be made by calling 6777 2944 or Cameron on 0448 231 658. "Or you can drop in and see Campbell," Cameron said.

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**around the traps**



By SIMON NEWTON

Another mild week of winter weather has past and the week ahead appears to be frost free again. The little fronts that pass through the district are keeping things quite damp with another chance of rain forecasted over the weekend. Speaking with people who travelled south this week, and they saw nothing but green crops with little to no livestock on the paddocks. Pretty much from Wagga north to the QLD border, crops have been planted over the last month and are up, out of the ground with numerous farmers stating another fall and they will have a bumper grazing crop. We can see the change in our annual crops locally; I reckon we have more than tripled the kilograms of dry matter per hectare in the last month alone. Another thing we have noticed is the slow down of livestock existing our district, which is the case for the majority of NSW and the real reason behind the rise in the beef market.

China has just recently recognised Brazil as free of foot and mouth disease opening the world largest beef market fully to the world largest beef exporter. Interestingly the Chinese have declared them free from FMD just as both Australia and Argentina reached their export tariff quotas. I believe this is a clear indication that China is trying to manipulate and control world beef prices other than just looking after their domestic production.

The increased popularity of scraping Australia's target to reach net zero emissions by 2050 is growing as the One Nation party builds momentum. The Coalition has now not only promised to scrape the net zero target but they have also vowed to scrape the safeguard mechanism that forces big emitting companies to purchase carbon credits if they exceed a certain limit of emissions. If the Coalition regains government from Labor at the next election, or the One Nation Party somehow forms government then you could almost say goodbye to the carbon market. I know a lot of farmers have invested in Carbon farming and measuring Carbon sequestration, but those Carbon credits might just be worthless with a change of government. It also has me thinking of how many properties were purchased on the back of carbon farming and buying farms for carbon credits or locking farms up to offset emissions. Plenty of farms that were seen to have little value due to the excessive vegetation were sold to companies and farmers for excessive prices as people chased property suitable for carbon farming alone.

Gina Rinehart, Australia richest person has thrown her support behind the One Nation Party and gifted the party a private aircraft valued at \$1.5 million which I'm guessing won't be the last donation as we edge closer to the next election. Allies like Gina Rinehart and her large donations will always come under debate due to policy discussions and the ability for people to manipulate politics through money. Gina has also just recently purchased more than \$1.4 billion dollar stake in SpaceX, her largest single investment outside of iron ore made by her company.

The rise in the cattle market has seen the trade out of livestock purchased over the previous three months. It was clear in the Tamworth market on Monday with a large penning of yearling cattle of grain bins which had all been purchased throughout the Autumn period. The rise in the market has given those producers a huge return on investment in a short period of time, regardless of the cost of feeding. The EYCI has nearly hit 1000 c/kg CW as the demand continues to outstrip supply and producers grow in confidence about the season. Wauchope store cattle sale on Saturday was as dear as I have seen it over the last two years with light Angus steers nudging \$7/kg and heifers making well into the \$5 range. Auction plus went to another level with Angus steers making 780c/kg for 145kg while heifers topped at 660c/kg for 236kg. The biggest improvement has been the F1 Wagyu/Angus market with 200kg steers making 785c/kg and the heifer portion 720c/kg. Feeder cattle continue to rise on the back of limited supply with \$6/kg now common for Angus steers and \$5.50/kg for Angus heifers to feed. 2272 cattle yarded in Tamworth on Monday with all restocker cattle quoted dearer while all export cattle were quoted cheaper. Weaners topped at 654c/kg for Angus steers while the heifer portion made to 554c/kg. Feeder steer made to 582.2c/kg while the heifers topped at 559.2c/kg. Heavy prime cattle eased with the best of the heavy cows topping at 406c/k while the best of the heavy cows topped at 435c/kg in Wagga on Monday. 3230 Sheep and lambs were yarded in Tamworth on Monday with the lamb market trading slightly cheaper than the previous fortnight. Best of the trade weights topped at \$335, heavy trades sold to \$375 while the heavy export lambs made to \$420. Mutton was in hot demand with the best of the mutton exceeding 1000c/kg carcass price with the best of the mutton topping at \$300.

# Walcha celebrates International Yarn Bombing day

International Yarn Bombing Day was celebrated in Walcha on Thursday, June 11, with a colourful display at McHattan Park attracting locals to admire the creative works hanging from the trees.

Community members gathered throughout the day to view the vibrant yarn creations and enjoy a coffee from Coffee To Go while catching up with friends and fellow members of the Yarn Bombing Group.

The Walcha Yarn Bombing Community Group was formed to encourage people to get out of the house, meet new people and connect with others through a shared love of knitting and crochet. When the group was established, Walcha Council provided a community grant to help purchase knitting needles, wool, storage and other supplies needed to get the project underway. The group also welcomes donations to help keep the initiative growing.

Yarn bombing originated in Ireland and Scotland before spreading around the world. The colourful form of street art uses knitted and crocheted pieces to decorate public spaces, replacing traditional paint or chalk with vibrant displays. Trees, statues and street furniture are transformed through yarn creations designed to spread joy, spark conversation and sometimes draw attention to social causes.

The Walcha display continues to be a community effort, with Woolbrook Public School, the Walcha Men's Shed and the Walcha Library Youth Group each decorating a tree to add colour and creativity to the park.

Students from Woolbrook Public School created a collection of small knitted turtles and travelled to Walcha to decorate their tree in person, adding a special touch to the celebration.

The annual display once again highlighted the creativity, community spirit and teamwork that make Walcha's Yarn Bombing project such a great local event.



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## Contract ending

To the community of Walcha, we have been advised by a short phone call that our TrainLink bus service contract of almost 30 years will not be renewed. We were completely unaware that a tender had been called, so as of 30 June our service will end. In that phone call we were advised a new contractor will deliver a bigger and better service.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our drivers, past and present for helping out, as this rail service is twice a day, seven days a week, Christmas included.

A big thank you to the girls at the Tamworth Railway Station for their assistance when the manifest didn't turn up.

Also a huge thank you to Tracey Hoy for all her behind the scenes hard work over the years we have been in business, as there have been many ups and downs. Thank you.

It has been a pleasure to transport our locals and visitors to and from the train.

Once again, come the end of June will be our last run.

**John and Margaret Cross**

## Thank you ENERGY CO

Thank you EnergyCo, for your decision to change the route, Impeccable timing, while I was driving in my ute.

Thank You EnergyCo, you have woken the sleeping bear, You just didn't realise, there are a lot of people who care.

Your propaganda, it is always on repeat,  
Your email consultation, I always like to delete.

Your incompetence, is totally beyond belief,  
Your unlimited credit, your only real relief.

Your presentations are full of deceit,  
So much for the opportunity to meet and greet.  
This proposed transmission, is a financial fail,  
Destroying the Environment, we are ready for jail.

Your contempt for us is one of many sins,  
Trumped only by the condescending of Premier Chris Minns.  
Then there's Penny 'Not So' Sharpe in her designer RED eyewear,  
Throwing millions at our Councils, BRIBERY, everyone pays the fare.

All the impacted landholders, from the bottom to the top  
Have had enough of this debacle, there's no more we can cop.

So, to Parliament we go, it is time for us to act,  
See you on June 25th, now for action and the facts.

**Gary Olrich**

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**FOR SALE - Contact Agent**

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# Records Shattered as St Patrick's Athletics Carnival Wraps Up

After a rain-affected delay and a high jump washout a fortnight ago, St Patrick's Primary School finally welcomed a spectacular, sun-drenched day for the running of its main school athletics carnival on Wednesday 10th Jun . The entire event officially wrapped up on Friday (12th June) afternoon with the final completion of the high jump and the formal sports presentation, bringing the school's 2026 athletics season to a highly successful close.

It was a sensational celebration of sportsmanship, house spirit, and local talent. One of the afternoon's absolute highlights was the annual Year 6 vs. Parents and Teachers relay race. The competition was fierce, the crowd was roaring, and while the team effort was spectacular all around, one parent—who shall remain strictly nameless—definitely stole the show with an unforgettable performance on the track!

This year's carnival will be remembered for the staggering number of long-standing school records that were completely shattered. A massive congratulations goes to Thibaud, who smashed the Junior Boys High Jump record by an amazing 13cm with a clearance of 1.24m. The previous record of 1.11m had been jointly held by various former students and was last equalled by A. Greig back in 2011.

In the field events, Josie put on a dominant display to set a new record in the Senior Girls Discus with a massive throw of 28.60m, comfortably eclipsing the previous record of 20.10m set just last year by Jessica P-K. Meanwhile, Lucy R put on an equally stellar performance in the 11 Years Girls Shot Put; her distance of 7.21m was over half a metre better than the previous record of 6.58m set last year by Josie.

The school also witnessed a fantastic day of competition from Phoebe, who managed to break two individual school records. First, she blazed down the track in the 11 Year Girls 200m with a spectacular time of

34.41 seconds, overtaking the previous record of 34.97 seconds set by T. Macarthur-Onslow back in 2018. Phoebe then took to the pit and jumped a fantastic 3.36m in the Long Jump, breaking the 2024 record of 3.21m previously held by Jessica P-K.

An event of this scale simply cannot happen without a massive team effort behind the scenes. St Patrick's extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs Pittman and Mrs Rizzi for their tireless coordination, as well as the wonderful army of parent and community helpers who stepped up to assist across both days.

The overall house victory for 2026 went to a very proud Apsley House. The official Age Champions and Runners-Up for the carnival are as follows:

- Juvenile Girl: Champion: Poppy | Runner-up: Tess
- Juvenile Boy: Champion: Finn | Runner-up: Alistair
- Junior Girl: Champion: Harriet | Runner-up: Eve
- Junior Boy: Champion: Archer | Runner-up: Levi W
- 11 Year Girl: Joint Champions: Phoebe & Lucy | Runner-up: Airlee
- 11 Year Boy: Champion: Will | Runner-up: Hudson & Isaac
- Senior Girl: Champion: Josie | Runner-up: Ellody
- Senior Boy: Champion: Benji | Runner-up: Rebee

Following the final review of the carnival's elite results, an impressive squad of 24 students has qualified to represent St Patrick's at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival in Tamworth on Wednesday, 5th August.

Congratulations and best of luck to: Benji, Shaun, Rebee, Josie, Airlee, Phoebe, Lucy, Will, Harriet, Audrey, Mila, Eve, Archer, Oscar, Levi, Archie, McKenzie, Harper, Jack P, Angus, Harry M, Harry K, Tallulah, and Thibaud!

*See page 14 for photo*

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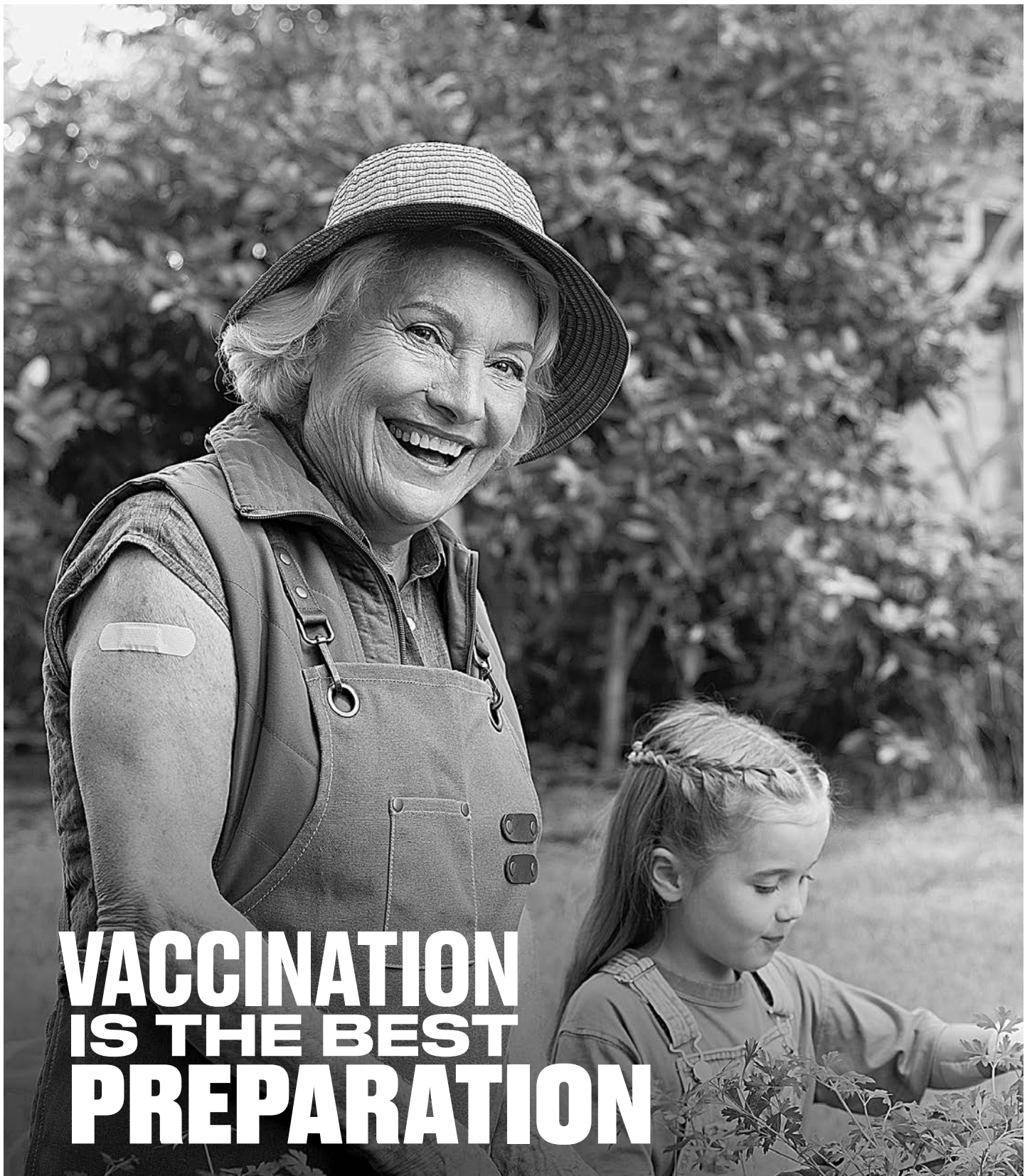


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# Future PLC Armidale Girls Invited to Moonwalk into their Secondary School Adventure

Girls entering Year 7 in 2027 and 2028 are being invited to experience one of PLC Armidale's most anticipated traditions, with a special Experience Day and Boarding Sleepover culminating in the College's legendary End of Semester Guild Song Battle.

On Friday, 26 June, prospective students will step into the vibrant life of PLC Armidale, meeting future classmates, exploring the campus and discovering the friendships, opportunities and sense of belonging that define the College community.

The highlight of the day will be the Guild Song Battle, a much-loved PLC Armidale tradition that sees students compete in spectacular musical performances. This year, the Guilds will pay tribute to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, bringing to life four of his greatest hits through dazzling choreography, outstanding vocals and infectious school spirit.

Before the performance, all girls currently in Year 6 will also have the opportunity to experience boarding life with an overnight sleepover in the PLC Armidale Boarding House. Filled with games, activities and shared experiences, the sleepover provides an authentic glimpse into the welcoming community that has made PLC Armidale the preeminent regional all-girls boarding school.

PLC Armidale Head of Senior School, Kate Clynch said the Experience Day was designed to help girls feel excited and confident about the transition to secondary school.

"Choosing a secondary school is one of the biggest milestones for a young person and their family," Mrs Clynch said.

"We want girls to leave our Experience Day knowing that PLC

Armidale is a place where they will be known, encouraged and challenged to become the very best version of themselves.

"There is something incredibly special about seeing our Guilds come together for Guild Song Battle. While the performances are fantastic, what really shines through is the sense of belonging, teamwork and joy that defines our College culture. It is one of the highlights of the school year and a wonderful way for prospective students to experience the energy and spirit of our College."

With a little moonwalking magic, plenty of school spirit and the chance to make lifelong friendships, this promises to be an unforgettable introduction to life at PLC Armidale. Reservations can be made via Humanitix at <https://events.humanitix.com/sleepover-and-guild-song-battle-experience>.




## Yarrowitch Public School Playgroup

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## Tribute – Karen Anne Bloomfield ‘Kazz’



A beautiful service was held on Friday, 12 June, at Piddingtons Chapel in Armidale to celebrate the life of Karen Anne Bloomfield, affectionately known as "Kazz". At just 44 years of age, Karen's life was tragically cut short following complications from breast cancer treatment.

More than 500 people attended the service, with many travelling from across the region and beyond, while another 50 gathered at Walcha Central School's MPC Hall to watch the livestream. A traditional Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony honoured Karen's Dunghutti heritage, while heartfelt tributes from family, friends, students and colleagues highlighted the profound impact she had on so many lives.

Born in Walcha on 30 March 1982 to Kerrie and Gary Bloomfield, Karen grew up surrounded by a large and loving family. She was a caring sister, loyal friend and devoted mother to her two sons, Teraia and Jaxon. She was their biggest supporter, cheering them on through every sporting achievement and encouraging them to embrace every opportunity that came their way.

Karen shared a special bond with her partner, Tor, whose love and support helped her through her cancer journey. In recent years, she found immense joy in becoming a grandmother to Keanu and Tevani. Her grandchildren brought her endless happiness, and she treasured every moment spent with them.

After completing her HSC at Walcha Central School in 1999, Karen studied Social and Emotional Wellbeing through UNE and was named Walcha's Young Citizen of the Year in 2000. She went on to dedicate much of her life to supporting young people and her community, becoming an Aboriginal Education Officer at Walcha Central School in 2014.

Karen was passionate about Indigenous education and worked tirelessly to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. She helped introduce cultural programs, established the school's interactive Acknowledgement of Country, assisted with the publication of Aunty Sue's Story of the Dhulawang Girin: The Rainbow Serpent, and played a key role in projects such as the school's Yarning Circle. Her artwork remains proudly displayed throughout the school and forms part of the identity of its sports houses and community spaces.

In 2023, Karen was recognised with the Hidden Treasures Honour Roll Award for her outstanding volunteer service to rural communities.

Karen's office door was always open, and students naturally gravitated to her warmth, guidance and encouragement. She was a passionate advocate, mentor and friend whose influence extended far beyond the classroom.

Karen's family and friends take comfort in knowing her legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched, the opportunities she created and the love she shared so freely. Walcha is a better place for having known her, loved her and been loved by her.

**Written by Cassie McKenna, with permission from Karen's family.**

# Mystery Journey Awaits Jed and Cameron

Walcha locals Jed and Cameron are preparing to hit the road once again as they take part in this year's Mystery Box Rally, raising funds for the Cancer Council while embarking on an unforgettable adventure.

The pair will set off on Friday, 23 October, joining other participants from across Australia for the six-day rally, which begins and ends in Charleville, Queensland.

What makes the Mystery Box Rally unique is that participants have no idea where they will be travelling each day. The route and overnight destination are kept a secret and only revealed to teams each morning before they depart.

Adding to the challenge, all vehicles entered in the rally must be at least 25 years old and two-wheel drive, putting both drivers and their cars to the test as they navigate thousands of kilometres of Australian roads.

Competing under the team name "Man's Not a Camel", Jed and Cameron are taking on the event to help raise money and awareness for the Cancer Council. To be eligible to participate, every team must raise a minimum of \$4,000, with all funds going directly towards cancer research, prevention and support services.

As the October start date approaches, Jed and Cameron are busy preparing their vehicle and fundraising efforts, hoping the community will get behind them as they take on the challenge and help make a difference in the fight against cancer.



## New England REZ Mobile Offices

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EnergyCo is upgrading the grid to unlock clean, reliable and affordable electricity. Our role is to maximise the opportunities created by the transformation of the NSW electricity system by coordinating investment in renewable energy zones (REZ) across the state. By upgrading and extending our network, we are unlocking investment in solar, wind and batteries in the places best suited to host it.

We are developing the New England REZ, which will deliver critical electricity supply to NSW energy consumers as coal-fired power stations close. The REZ will include new network infrastructure to transfer power from renewable energy projects to consumers, including lines and substations. It will also provide once-in-a-generation economic opportunity for the region by providing funding generated from fees paid by projects with an access right to connect to the REZ network infrastructure.

### Drop in and chat with us about the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)

EnergyCo will be in your area soon with our New England REZ mobile office. These are a temporary place you can drop in and speak with members of the project team.

You can stop by to learn more about the New England REZ, discuss what is happening in your area, ask questions and share feedback. No appointment is needed.

Our mobile offices will visit towns and communities across the project area on a regular basis, using central and accessible locations to make it easier for people to meet with us closer to home.

To find out when we will be in your area, visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerezevents](http://energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerezevents) or scan the QR code.

### Contact us

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## thumbs



- 👉 To Commercial Hotel for a great meal on Thursday night.
- 👉 To dentist Dr Samantha Wu (White Leaf Dental) for performing my complex two hour dental procedure with NO PAIN during or after the treatment.
- 👉 To the girls at the Multipurpose service center for remembering my birthday.
- 👉 To Michelle at CBA for amazing customer service.
- 👉 To Ces & Wayne Breanan who helped me in my recent fall, thank you so much.
- 👉 To Jenny Hoy our amazing Breast Cancer morning tea organiser.
- 👉 To the Walcha Council for the clean toilets in McHattan Park always well presented with hot water and a floral arrangement.
- 👉 To the Walcha Council for their shocking effort "fixing" the Lakes Road.
- 👉 To the truck drivers who drive extremely fast in the main street, it is only a matter of time until something happens.

**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.**

Local Land Services

## Join your local fox baiting group today!

We're offering free baits for the control of foxes to all eligible group baiting program participants.

Our fox baiting program is running again in June and July 2026 and we are encouraging all landholders around Walcha, Armidale and Guyra to get involved. Help us work together to control fox populations in the New England!

To get involved, contact us on (02) 6770 2000 or head to our website for more information by scanning the QR code or visiting [nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-bait-collection](http://nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-bait-collection)



# Rare Double Honour for Bergen Firefighters

The Bergen Rural Fire Brigade has been recognised with the NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation for the second time in less than 12 months, with the award presented in Armidale last weekend.

The honour is one of the RFS's highest forms of recognition and it is extremely rare for the same brigade to receive the award twice in a single year.

The latest commendation follows a previous award presented earlier this year for the brigade's outstanding response to a serious motor vehicle accident near Thunderbolts Way.

The repeat recognition highlights the dedication, professionalism and commitment of Bergen's volunteer firefighters, who continue to serve their community whenever called upon.

Receiving the Commissioner's Certificate of Commendation twice in one year is a remarkable achievement and one that the entire brigade can be proud of.



*Liz Ferris (Chief Super Intendant Rural Fire Service), James Goodwin, Matt Hoy (Capitan), Robert Gardiner, Bobby Gardiner*



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Wealth Architects Tamworth has been supporting clients across Tamworth and Walcha for the past 18 months under Paul Macfarlane, Principal and seasoned financial planner.

We're now pleased to welcome Andrew Beer to the team. Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the team, with deep expertise in financial planning, and long-term client care.

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Wealth Architects Tamworth is a Corporate Authorised Representative (001247176) of Insight Investment Services Pty Ltd, AFSL 309 996.

## Last week for tourism award nominations

Don't miss the opportunity to showcase your business and celebrate your achievements, as the NSW Tourism Award nominations come to a close this

**Friday 19th of June.**

# what's the goss



with AJ Cross

**Congratulations to Walcha embroiderer** Yvette Stanton being awarded an order of Australia Medal when the Kings Birthday Honours were announced earlier this month. Yvette joins the other members of the Walcha Community who have received OAM's which I'm not going to attempt to name in fear of leaving someone out.

**Well done to Walcha Central School** students Lachie Provost and Veja-Lee Petuha on qualifying for the North West Cross Country team after handing in good performances at trials at Coolah last Thursday. Best of luck to both Lachie and Veja-Lee when they head to the 'Big Smoke' to compete in the NSW All Schools Country Championships July 21st. A pat on the back for all the other Walcha Central runners who lined up at Coolah last week.

**At the start of the 2026** Armidale District Netball Association the Walcha Pearls were listed to play in Division 5 which they did for three weeks before they were elevated to Division 4 due to dominant early season form. The Pearls defeated Lightning 52-5, Geckos 32-1 and Uralla Leopards 35-15 in Division 5 before netting Sharks 47-1, TAS 47-8 and the NEGS Red 56-0 last Saturday. You wouldn't have to be capable of installing a nose cone on a rocket or splitting an atom in your spare time to suggest Division 3 is calling for the girls. With those sort of scorelines it couldn't be much fun for either team. Go the Pearls.

**Former Walcha Squash Club** Champion Greg Flack was back in town last weekend where he took the opportunity to have a hit with reigning club champion Will Nicholls and President James Norton for about 90 minutes. Greg won C Grade in 1988 as a 14 year old, B Grade the following year and then the 'Big One' in 1995 before leaving Walcha over 30 years ago.

**Still on Squash** Walcha will be hosting Uralla in their regular 'Intertown' visit here next Tuesday week June 30th. Walcha gave Uralla a bit of a toweling when they traveled north last year so the visitors will be out for revenge this time around. All the action is predicted to commence when the Uralla players arrive hopefully around 5.30pm.

**The Walcha Snooker Club** will be conducting a friendly competition this Sunday 21st June at the Walcha Bar and Grill commencing at 1.30pm. All players are invited to participate whether your a seasoned campaigner or a beginner and all in between. If you are interested grab a few mates and join in for a fun afternoon where you can display your cue skills.

**The Newie 777's competition** where each punter is required to select the winner of race 7 at Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne each Saturday, went right down to the wire last weekend. After 'Big Papa' greeted the judge at Rosehill and 'Tron Bolt' saluted at Eagle Farm. Mal Ballard, Janelle Brennan and A.J.Cross were the only three tipsters remaining out of the 20 or so participants.

**Prize money had jackpotted to \$474** with all three remaining selecting different horses and when former English wrestler Mal correctly picked 'Stra and Deal' at Sandown he collected the cash.

**Big wig of the week** Bowling Club, Lyn Levingston selected the shortened fire game card and was the only tipster in the Apsley, Newie, T.B.W Cafe, Vet Supplies and B.C competitions to do so. There were too many people to mention who picked four out of five at the other venues. The Apsley, Vet Supplies and B.C still have one game remaining when the State Of Origin is played tonight.

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# RUGBY REPORT WALCHA V BARRABA

By Eric the Spider

The Walcha Rams travelled to Barraba on Saturday and returned with a solid 35-7 win in what was a physical, forward-dominated contest. In front of a vocal home crowd, the Rams asserted control early and never really relinquished it, producing a disciplined defensive effort and clinical set-piece work that ultimately proved the difference. From the opening whistle, the game carried an edge. Both sides committed to heavy contact, with the opening quarter defined by repeated collisions in the middle of the park.

Barraba came out eager to use their home advantage and threw plenty of width at the visitors, but Walcha's defensive line was organised and aggressive. Time and again the Rams repelled the Barraba phases, forcing turnovers or forcing the hosts into hurried kicks that handed Walcha valuable territory. A hallmark of Walcha's performance was their ability to exit their own territory under pressure. On several occasions deep in their 22, the Rams' forwards and backs combined effectively to clear their lines, relieving pressure and resetting the defensive line higher up the field. This exit game prevented Barraba from building any sustained pressure and kept the scoreboard in Walcha's favour. The set-piece battle was another area where Walcha held a clear upper hand. The Rams' scrum was dominant, winning several penalties and turning

over Barraba possession on their own feed on more than one occasion. This platform allowed Walcha to play in the right areas of the field and limited Barraba's attacking opportunities.

James Anderson and Nathan Cullinan were outstanding in the front row. Anderson's work at prop was relentless — strong in the scrum, mobile in the loose, and always looking to carry. Cullinan at hooker was equally influential, nailing his lineout throws and putting significant pressure on Barraba's own set-piece. Their combination provided the stable platform the backs needed.

Ross Monie was a standout. He seemed to be involved in almost every defensive action, putting in shot after shot and winning crucial turnovers at the breakdown. His physicality set the tone for Walcha's defence and disrupted Barraba's rhythm throughout. At half-back, Matty Tisdell had a man of the match performance, orchestrating proceedings with a mature performance. He controlled the tempo nicely, varying his service between quick ball and slower, more structured phases. His distribution to the outside backs was accurate, and he made several telling kicks that pinned Barraba deep in their own half. Tisdell's game management was a key factor in Walcha maintaining control for long periods. Out wide, Hunter O'Connell had a strong game in defence. He read Barraba's attacking shape well and repeatedly shut down threats on the edges, forcing them back inside where Walcha's forwards were waiting. His decision-making under pressure was excellent and prevented what could have been several dangerous overlaps.

*Continued onto next page...*

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While the forwards laid the foundation, Walcha's ability to convert territory and possession into points was clinical. Their five tries came from a mixture of forward drives, slick backline moves, and opportunistic efforts after turnovers. Barraba managed one try in response, but struggled to maintain any real momentum as Walcha's defence continued to squeeze them. The Rams' bench contributed strongly when introduced, maintaining the intensity and physical edge that had been established from the start. This was a mature performance from Walcha.

They played the conditions and the referee smartly, minimised errors, and capitalised on their set-piece dominance. While there is still room for improvement — particularly in finishing some of the attacking opportunities created — the foundations shown in Barraba were impressive.

**NEXT WEEKEND:** The Walcha Rams have a bye in both grades which rounds out the first round of matches with Walcha well placed in both grades. 3 - Matty Tisdell (players player) 2 - Ross Monie 1 - Ed Churchill.



Photo credit: Barraba Rugby Union Club

## advocate sport



### At the Nineteenth

The monthly Stroke Medal round attracted 24 players who played for a trophy donated by D.A. Locke where former club President Barry Hoad registered a 65 nett to win the event and also take out B Grade just one shot ahead of Margaret Davidson and Craig Morgan both on 66 nett. Best scratch score was carded by Wayne Brennan, who was returning from injury, with an 80 off the stick which equated to the best A Grade score of 73 nett. C Grade went to John McCormack also on 73 nett. Sweepstakes to Craig Morgan and Margaret Davidson on 66 whereas Simone Sweeney collected the final prize on 68 nett.

Long drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus were caressed by David Sweeney (A), Simone Sweeney (B) and coastal visitor Neil Dark (C).

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Michael Stackman (3), Jamie Bowden (9), Simeon Cross (16) and Wayne Brennan (18).

The Putting Competition was taken out by Margaret Davidson after she engaged her flat stick on 22 occasions while Anne Martin received the coveted 'Pink Shirt' for Most putts with 37 jabs.

Last Saturday competition organiser John McCormack won the weekly 9 hole event after he racked up 22 stableford points well clear of runner up Pete Whellan on 18. No N.T.P on 3.

This Sunday is a stableford Round where Will Nicholls is in charge of supplying the prize.

### Ladies Bowls

Due to the weather conditions no bowls were played last Thursday. Hopefully the three bowl pairs championship games will be played during the week with the finals being tomorrow. The monthly meeting is also tomorrow 1pm in the clubhouse. There is social bowls 9.00am for a 9.30am start for those not playing in the championship.

### Wednesday Golf

We played a stroke round last Wednesday with monthly mug, along with the fourth medal round, playing for Prue Morgan's trophy.

Our winner with a fabulous nett score of 67 was Maddie

Lance. Sweepstakes was won by Margaret Davidson with 70, Penny King 72, Sue Partridge 73 and Cark Street 74, counting out her playing partners Julie Hoad and Sal McCormack both on 74.

The monthly mug winners were A Grade- Margaret Davidson, B Grade - Penny King and C Grade - Maddie Lance.

No-one reached the sand for nearest to the pin on 3. Second shot on Hole 7 was Anthea Nivison. Second shot on Hole 16 was Sue Partridge with a birdie, and second shot on Hole 18 was Simone Sweeney.

Today we are playing stableford for the Town v Country show down.

The trophies will be donated by Julie Olrich and Julie Hoad.

### Netball

I love Saturday netball! And Walcha in the green and gold never disappoints!

The Walcha Pearls continued their dominant season with a 56-0 win over NEGS Red. While the scoreboard certainly reflects the talent within this team, the real success story is the culture they have created. The Pearls are a beautifully inclusive group who ensure every player has an opportunity to develop, feel good about themselves and enjoy the game. Their kindness, encouragement and sportsmanship are every bit as impressive as their netball skills. Player of the Week went to little Harriet Laurie, who stepped up from the Sapphires and proved that determination comes in all sizes.

The Walcha Opals recorded a strong 24-10 victory over ACSC Phoenix. The girls and Hugh showed great defensive pressure right across the court, creating excellent turnovers and limiting opportunities for their opposition. As the game progressed, the speed of attack became a real highlight, moving the ball quickly and confidently down the court. It's been really fun to watch the team learn to read the play, anticipate where the next pass is heading and find space to support their teammates—and it all looks magical on the court! Player of the Week was Mila Tate, whose energy, positivity and enthusiasm make her an absolute vibe both on and off the court.

The Walcha Sapphires celebrated their first win of the season, defeating NEGS Primary 12-5. The girls are beginning to gel beautifully and are playing more and more like a team every week. Their confidence grew

throughout the match as they realised just how capable they are, and it was wonderful to watch. The excitement after the final whistle said it all, with several players proudly declaring, "Wow, we're actually pretty good!" It was a fantastic reward for all the hard work they've been putting in. Player of the Week was Ella Waters, our goal-shooting extraordinaire, whose accuracy under the post was instrumental in the Sapphires' success.

Walcha Pacifica came up against a classy VIP Funbags outfit this week, but they certainly didn't make things easy for them. Going down 27-16, Funbags got the points, but Pacifica got the memories.

A bunch of mums and aunts having a run, a laugh, and giving it a crack. The scoreboard is what it is, but the good vibes never miss.

'See you next week for another dose of cardio we didn't ask for.'

A huge congratulations to all players, coaches, umpires and families for another fantastic week of Walcha Netball. Bring on next Saturday!

### Bowls

The mixed pair's championships were completed last Sunday. Congratulations to Kyle Goodwin and Sari Andrews who are this year's champions.

Results of last round:

- Brian Goodwin & Esther Hunt def Kevin Creighton & Janice Rizzi 16/9
- Kyle Goodwin & Sari Andrews def Stephen Bath & Marie Spink 17/4.
- Noel Goodwin & Lyn Burnell def Denis & Pam Makeham 17/6
- Adam & Jules Hall def Mick Wall & Lee McCoy 18/12.

First Place: Kyle & Sari 6 wins 59 ends

Second: Pam & Denis 6 wins 50 ends

Third: Noel & Lyn 5 wins 55 ends

Fourth: Brian & Esther 5 wins 52 ends

Thanks to all who participated & to Adam for his perseverance in getting the job done.

Championship Pairs: Mick Wall & Michael Hoy fresh from a stint in the Rocky Mountains defeated Jamie Kerr & Greg Carter 25/15 .Good Game. Don't be short.

# classifieds

## Public Notice

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

## Walcha Council

**Public Exhibition**  
**Draft 2026-2027**  
**Operational Plan**



Council, at its Ordinary Meeting held on 27 May 2026, approved the DRAFT 2026 - 2027 Operational Plan, inclusive of the budget, fees and charges and Revenue Policy. The DRAFT Operational Plan will be on public exhibition for a period of 28 days as per the Local Government Act 1993 Section 405(3).

The Plan is available to view on Council's website: [www.walcha.nsw.gov.au](http://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au). Council will accept submissions on the Draft Operational Plan until 5.00pm Friday 26 June 2026.

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

## Help Wanted

Looking for someone to help an elderly lady. Part time in Walcha. Please reply to P.O. Box 244.

## Public Notice (cont)

**Walcha Home Furnishing**  
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## Walcha Snooker Club

The Walcha Snooker Club invites members of the community to attend a Snooker Competition on Sunday 21st June at Walcha Bar & Grill. The event will commence at 1:30 pm and is free of charge to enter. There will be prizes to be won, and players of all skill levels are encouraged to come along for an afternoon of friendly competition and fun.

## Meeting Notice

**Walcha Support Group** Thursday 25th June 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle St. BYO Lunch 1pm Meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

**AGM Friends of Riverview** Wednesday 1 July, 4pm, Willow Wing. New members welcome.

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## Thank You

**On behalf of the Bloomfield family and Teraia and Jaxon**, we would like to sincerely thank everyone for the love, support, prayers, flowers, messages, and kindness shown to us during this heartbreaking time. The comfort and strength you have all given our family means more than words can say. We will forever be grateful for the care and support shown to Kazz and all of us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

# St Patrick's Primary Athletics Carnival Champions and Runner Up



## Thank you

A Special thanks to Dr Jones, Johnno Byrnes and Poll Bath for all your help over the time of my Wifes operation and sickness.  
Thank you George and Nigel Woodward.





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## church notices



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**June 28** - Walcha Service 9.30am

Anglican Church

Phone 6777 2543

or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am

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

We'd love for you to join us.

All welcome.

Phone 6777 2539.

### CATHOLIC

**Sunday Mass** 10.00am

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**BOWLS** 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

**BINGO** 12.30pm

**Friday 19** 2.00pm – Close

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**12.00PM BISTRO**

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