

THE APSLEY Advocate

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

15 July 2026

State Champions! Europambela Team Sweeps the Podium

What an exciting weekend for the Europambela crew at the Boonah Working Stock Dog Club Queensland State Championships!

The Queensland State Championships attract many of Australia's leading working stock dog handlers, making the Europambela team's results an outstanding achievement.

Tony Overton along with Sandy and Mandy Carlon had an incredible weekend, with seven dogs between them making it to the Top 15 in the State.

The trio filled all three podium positions in the Queensland State Championships. Tony came away with the title with his favourite female, Gwydir Zeva. He also finished second with Braziers Bonnie, while Mandy Carlon placed third with Ballydine Abby.

In the Open, Mandy managed to pip Tony off the perch, taking out the win with Ballydine Abby, with Tony finishing in second and fourth.

The New England crew didn't stop there, keeping the streak going in the Novice. Michael Clarke and Slug came out on top, followed closely by Sandy Carlon and Ballydine Heidi in second, with Mandy placing third and fourth with Ballydine Sunny and Ballydine Hank respectively.

Tony also had some fun in the Maiden with the young dog Insight Lux, who continues to go from strength to strength, running an impressive 99 in the first round. This young dog has a very exciting future ahead. Fellow New Englander Margo Hogan also had a great time in the Maiden coming away with second and fifth.



The weekly Tuesday night dog training sessions at Europambela are definitely paying off — not always easy when it's dark and only 8 degrees outside!

"Feel free to join us if you're keen to get some practice in on trained sheep here at Europambela, 5:30pm Tuesdays," Tony said. Tony thanked the Boonah Working Stock Dog Club, the judges, sponsors, sheep donors, and everyone who helped out in the yards over the weekend.

"The Gwydir Kelpie team are absolutely firing on Coprice dog food, with plenty of energy, a beautiful shine, and quick recovery after their runs," Tony commented.

The team are now preparing for the Australian Utility Championships in Nyngan later this month.

Congratulations on these outstanding achievements at the State Championships.

Tony can be contacted on 0409 503 423 if you would like to join the weekly dog training sessions.

**HAYES TOTAL
HOME
MAINTENANCE**

Painting

- Painting new homes/repaints
- Pressure cleaning exterior roofs/driveways, home/commercial properties
- Kitchen make-overs, spraying bench tops/cupboard doors
- Garage floor/driveway coatings
- Decorative finishes
- Roof spraying
- Home repairs/renovations

Over 25 years experience!

Ph 0407 712 857

Lic 66637c

ABN 84 593 961 350

ADVERTISEMENT

Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS



Electorate Office Armidale

Suite 1, 175 Rusden Street
Armidale NSW 2350
02 6772 5552
PO Box 77
Armidale NSW 2350

northernregion@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Electorate Office Moree

Suite 2-6, 161 Bal 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 Bal Street,
Moree NSW 2400. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

COBBER WORKING DOG
\$55 PER BAG

WVVS
WALCHA VETERINARY SUPPLIES

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

Aussie meat 1st ingredient

Sustained energy

COBBER
Working Dog
28% PROTEIN • 18% FAT



OXLEY GROUP
HEAVY EQUIPMENT HIRE

CURRENT EQUIPMENT READY FOR HIRE
D6T Dozer, 45t Excavator, 40t Dump Truck
OHIO QUARRY OPENING SEPTEMBER 2026

 SKID STEER LOADER teaser grade, stick rake, loader, post driver	 40t ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCK	 D6T XL DOZER stick rake and pipelaying	 5t-45t EXCAVATORS grabs, tilt bucket GPS, augers	 1 TRACTOR 20t mulching slashers, mulcher, pipelaying	 TIPPER and WATER CART
---	--	---	---	---	---

OUR EXPERTISE

- Civil Infrastructure
- Bridges
- Quarries, Crushing & Gravel
- Dam Construction
- Airstrips
- Bulk Earthworks
- Shed Pads & Construction
- Trenching & Pipelaying
- Bush Fire Mitigation
- Mulching & Heavy Slashing
- Stormwater
- GPS, Laser, Survey & Drone Services

CALL NOW ON 0403 726 780

www.oxleycivil.com.au
info@oxleycivil.com.au



FENCING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Protect your property and invest in your land with professional, durable solutions tailored for the rural landscape.

FENCING SERVICES

Focused on large scale project & annual programs 'HeatonAg' provides:

- **Standard Steel Fencing**
- **Exclusion Fencing**
- **Security Fencing**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Enhance your land's health and meet your conservation goals:

- **Erosion Control:** Professional grading, drainage solutions, and ground stabilisation to prevent soil loss.
- **Tree Planting:** Large-scale re-vegetation and windbreak installation to improve shelter and biodiversity.

SAFETY, QUALITY, QUANTITY | LOCALLY OWNED

Contact:

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

around the traps

By MAT LARKINGS

One of the strongest indicators of where the cattle market is heading often isn't seen in the saleyards, it's seen inside the processing plants. This week we've watched southern processing activity fall away sharply as winter tightens its grip and well-finished cattle become increasingly difficult to source. National slaughter has retreated from the record levels experienced through autumn, with processors across southern Australia winding back shifts as numbers tighten. At first glance, that appears bullish for producers but the international picture is telling a slightly different story.

Australian processors are now facing a classic squeeze. While the supply of slaughter cattle is tightening domestically, returns from export markets are coming under increasing pressure. Manufacturing beef values have softened as Brazil redirects enormous volumes of lower-priced beef into the United States after moving closer to filling its own Chinese quota, while Australia's exports into China continue to face a 55% tariff after this year's safeguard quota was triggered in June. The result is a tougher trading environment for processors despite having fewer cattle to buy.

For producers, it's important to separate these two forces. The domestic supply of quality cattle is becoming increasingly scarce as winter progresses, and that should continue to underpin competition for well-finished stock. However, processors are also battling lower export margins, particularly in manufacturing beef, meaning they have less room to absorb higher livestock prices. It creates a fascinating market dynamic where cattle numbers are tightening, yet international headwinds continue to influence pricing. As always, those who understand both the local supply story and the global demand picture will be best placed to make sound marketing decisions over the months ahead.

Shifting our attention to the sheep industry, it was encouraging to see the confidence and optimism coming out of LambEx this week. Bringing together more than 1,400 producers, processors, exporters and industry leaders, the overwhelming message wasn't about simply surviving the next dry spell or chasing the next market spike. Instead, the focus was firmly on building a more productive, profitable and resilient industry through better genetics, smarter technology, objective measurement and stronger leadership. Just as importantly, there was a united commitment to better tell the Australian lamb story, reinforcing the quality, sustainability and integrity of the product we produce. It was refreshing to see an industry focused on innovation and long-term opportunity rather than dwelling on recent challenges, a positive sign for the future of Australia's sheep and lamb sector.

Unfortunately, while one part of Australian agriculture is focused on producing more food and fibre, another national story raises serious questions about the direction of government policy. The Federal Government's approval of the sale of Rushy Lagoon, Tasmania's largest farming property, to a UK-managed forestry investment fund has become one of the biggest talking points in rural Australia. The 21,745-hectare beef, dairy and cropping enterprise is set to undergo significant expansion of forestry, conservation and carbon-credit projects. What makes this decision particularly difficult to accept is that the Commonwealth's own Clean Energy Finance Corporation is contributing \$69 million of taxpayer-backed investment to the broader \$142 million project. In other words, the Federal Government has not merely approved the foreign acquisition of a major Australian agricultural asset, it is helping finance a transition of productive farmland away from its traditional role in food production.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers has defended the decision on economic, environmental and employment grounds, but rural Australians are entitled to ask some difficult questions. How can governments continue telling producers that food security, productivity and sovereign capability are national priorities while using taxpayer funds to assist foreign-controlled investment in agricultural land that will have a greater focus on carbon and forestry returns? Farmers are being asked to produce more **Cont. over...**



Cont. from Page 2

with less, meet increasing environmental and compliance obligations and remain globally competitive, yet many will understandably question whether government policy is backing Australian food producers with the same enthusiasm that it is backing carbon investment. It is a debate that extends well beyond one Tasmanian property, it goes to the heart of what we want Australia's agricultural landscape to look like for the next generation.

Monday's Tamworth sale was a wash, rinse and repeat scenario. Just over 1300 head of cattle yarded a similar number to last week that saw all major buyers present for buying competition. Yearling steers saw an improvement up to 30c/kg resulting in steers to feed, up to 400c/kg. Heavy feeder steers were slightly back, making 470c/kg to 598c/kg. Yearling heifers also saw an improvement up to 20c/kg resulting in heifers to feed, up to 569c/kg. Light restocker cattle were slightly back, with steers between 494c/kg and 642c/kg and heifers 482c/kg and 555c/kg this was 20c/kg cheaper from the previous week. Lighter cows eased slightly while heavy cows held firm.

The sheep and lamb market was back in numbers and eased slightly however still firm with plenty of buyer competition.

Overall, the market remains very positive with demand continuing.

Gridiron win for Australia

By A.J. Cross

Representing Australia at any sport is certainly a great achievement and it was no different for Connor Thompson when he was a member of the Australian American Football (Gridiron) Under 18's team who defeated New Zealand 34 to 22 'Across the Ditch' last Saturday.

Connor plays in the offensive team weighing in at 140kilos and stands just under 200 centimetres (or around 6ft 5 in) which no doubt intimidates his opponents somewhat.

The 'Big Unit' celebrated his 18th Birthday last Saturday where his parents and former Walcha Police members Jimmy and Michelle Thompson were in attendance to make the occasion just that little bit more special.

Jimmy and Michelle were publicans at the Halifax Hotel in Queensland after they left Walcha, around 20 years ago. Although they have sold the pub they still live in the district.



Jimmy and Michelle Thompson celebrating in NZ with Connor on his 18th birthday



Stock and Property Watch

www.nutrienharcourts.com.au

Water, Stone, Space and something ...

For Sale
Expressions of Interest



**224 Niangala-Walcha Road,
Niangala NSW**

- 420ha
- A rare offering in the tightly held Niangala district
- Featuring two charming stone homes set amongst established gardens
- Improved pastures conservatively carrying 200 cows and calves, 26 mostly spring-fed dams
- Approximately 950mm annual rainfall
- Established truffle enterprise
- Brand new workshop infrastructure
- Productivity, lifestyle appeal and future potential in one of New England's most sought after locations.

Mathew Larkings
0427 002 427





FERAL PIG CONTROL THERMAL EQUIPMENT

Cody McKenna

Phone: 0429 797 016 ♦ Email: codybuckaroo@hotmail.com



Leisa will be closing the Emporium On Derby doors on the 31st of July and handing the keys over to the new lovely owner of Emporium On Derby

Follow our Facebook page over the coming weeks for updates and the announcement of the re-opening date.

6N Derby Street, Walcha 2354 | 10am to 3pm



WEALTH ARCHITECTS

Design the life you want and let us take care of the rest.



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.

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

Tamworth

22 – 24 Bourke St Tamworth 2340

Walcha

12 Derby St Walcha 2354

P: 6768 4560

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

The ATO is warning not to rush to lodge

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is reminding Walcha residents to slow down at the start of tax time, warning that rushing to lodge can lead to delays and amendments.

Taxpayers who lodge as soon as the financial year ticks over risk submitting incomplete and inaccurate returns, which can trigger processing delays and follow up contact from the ATO.

Last year taxpayers who lodged before pre-fill were more than twice as likely to have their returns amended.

The ATO corrected more than 140,000 individual tax returns where discrepancies appeared in employment income, interest, dividends, welfare payments, Medicare levy exemptions and private health insurance.

The ATO's data matching program adjusted more than 595,000 individual tax returns due to missing income, overstated deductions and tax credits, and other discrepancies.

ATO Assistant Commissioner Anita Challen says taxpayers can save time and effort by waiting until all their pre-fill is available.

'While the ATO welcomes taxpayers' enthusiasm at the start of tax time, the numbers don't lie – lodging too early creates more work for taxpayers,' Ms Challen said.

'Many taxpayers assume getting in first means getting a faster refund, but that is not always the case. Early lodgment increases the likelihood of missing information and mistakes being made, which can delay processing and require amendments.'

'We know doing your tax return isn't at the top of most people's to-do lists, but we see many still rush to get it done. It's worth taking the time to get it right the first time,' she said.

For the quickest and most seamless lodgment experience, wait until late July.

By late July, most pre-fill information is available in returns, including wages, bank interest, government payments and private health insurance details.

'The ATO collects and pre-fills a wide range of information to make tax time easier,' said Ms Challen.

'Taxpayers simply need to check the information, add in any missing information, including cash income, and eligible deductions.'

The ATO encourages taxpayers to use the time before pre-fill is available to:

- **Download the ATO app to track employment income, store expense records, and receive account notifications**
- **Check personal information and bank details are up to date**
- **Check the ATO occupation guides to see what deductions they may be eligible to claim.**

thumbs



👉 To Adam Dark and Tim Baumer from Darks Plumbing for their outstanding help and workmanship in fixing our hot water system. Special thanks to Adam for coming out at midnight with a smile to make everything safe. Your kindness and professionalism are greatly appreciated.

👉 To Ella at the Walcha Laverty for her wonderful service to the community

👉 To the people involved in the Old Craft Shop cover up, you have done a fantastic job creating a beautiful new banner.

👉 To all responsible for the incredible clean up and burning of heaps at the Golf Club. A mammoth effort.

👉 To the organisers of the *Winterfest*, for a wonderful weekend.

👉 To the people who are ordering food from the Coles Delivery Truck, you're hurting our local businesses.

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.

Winterfest warms Walcha

Winter arrived in style for Walcha over the weekend, with locals and visitors embracing the chilly weather to celebrate the town's annual *Winterfest*.

The Twilight Festival on Saturday evening created a warm and welcoming atmosphere despite the cold, with families enjoying children's activities, live music and the chance to experience a touch of Walcha's famous winter weather.

Organiser Fiona Barden said the evening was a wonderful success. "The mulled wine sold out early, and Luke Prout's music created the perfect atmosphere, allowing people to slow down, relax and enjoy the evening," she said.

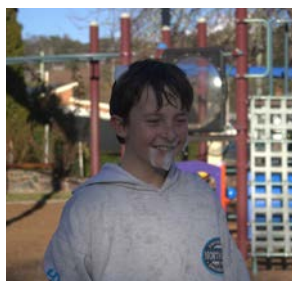
The festivities continued on Sunday morning, when Walcha's signature grey winter skies gradually gave way to sunshine, encouraging visitors to wander through the markets and explore the town's shops and cafés.

Local businesses also shared in the success of the weekend, with many reporting a steady stream of customers from outside the district. "Our businesses were busy on Sunday. Shop owners said it was definitely worthwhile opening, with lots of visitors coming through their stores from out of town," Fiona said.

With another successful *Winterfest* now complete, Fiona said it was pleasing to see the event continue to grow. "It's encouraging that we've had such wonderful support for the Winter Festival over the past two years," she said.

Winterfest once again showcased Walcha at its best, bringing together the community while welcoming visitors to experience the town's unique winter charm.

Photos taken by Amelia Parish and Cameron Hayton



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

~~\$420,000~~
\$380,000
ONO



Great Location

- Lovely flat block
- Walking distance to shops
- Two bedroom with built ins to main
- Lounge room with wood fire
- Kitchen dining area
- Closed in verandah front and back
- Neat & tidy backyard with rainwater tank and workshop
- Very tidy shed with roller door

Locally owned and operated



*Early
morning*



*Or late
at night*



*Nurse
advice
24/7*

Ask

1800 *medicare*



1800 633 422



Or connect
via the app



Australian Government

Speak to a registered nurse, 24/7,
for free advice on any non-emergency
health concern.

For more information visit

www.medicare.gov.au/1800



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Rental properties hit crisis point



Essential workers relocating to Walcha are being forced to stay in Airbnb accommodation or commute from neighbouring towns due to an extreme shortage of available rental properties in the district.

The issue has become apparent following the expansion of the NSW Government's free service, The Welcome Experience, which commenced in Walcha on 1 July 2026. The service

supports essential workers and their families with housing options, childcare, employment opportunities for partners, sporting groups and community networks.

Katrina George, who has been appointed as The Welcome Experience Local Connector for Walcha, said the expansion is already generating interest from essential workers looking to move to the area, but the lack of available housing is making it difficult for people to take up local job opportunities.

"We have paramedics, nurses, teachers, police officers and other essential workers who want to live and work in Walcha, but without suitable accommodation many are having to stay in short-term accommodation or travel significant distances to get to work," Ms George said.

Katrina explained that she is able to put people directly in contact with the essential worker, so they can meet and interview them, to make sure they are the right fit for each other. "There is also no requirement for the lease to be long term, it can be for three months,

six months, or any term you agree on," she said.

Under the Welcome Experience Program, Katrina supports the following professions:

- NSW Health
- NSW Department of Education
- NSW Police Force
- Fire and Rescue NSW
- Department of Communities and Justice
- Non-NSW Government health professionals (e.g., allied health, aged care, dentist, disability care, GP)
- Non-NSW Government education agencies (e.g. Early Childhood)
- Veterinary Services
- Rural Fire Services
- Local Government Employees

As Katrina explained, these people are professionals and together with their families they want to make Walcha their hometown. "Walcha is at risk of losing these people and not being able to attract newcomers if we can't work together to solve this situation."

"We're encouraging property owners and the community to come forward if they know of rental properties, granny flats or other accommodation options that may be available. The property owner can be connected directly with the essential worker to discuss suitable rental agreements and lease terms. Every additional housing opportunity can help attract and retain the essential workers our community needs."

Katrina can be contacted on 0417 222 545 or by email kgeorge@rdani.org.au

And remember, it could provide an additional income stream for you, as well as helping the community retain our essential workers.



Walcha

*When it comes to Livestock Rural
& Residential Property*

Let us do the HARD YARDS

Contact us to list your property today!

Courtney Wark
0436 479 158

Andrew Blomfield
0447 925 700



dcco.com.au



3W Fitzroy Street
WALCHA NSW



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	PREMIUM	STANDARD	PREMIUM
FROM	FROM	FROM	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



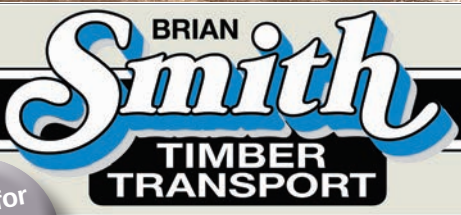
www.elitefodder.com.au



Find us on
Facebook




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



BRIAN Smith
TIMBER TRANSPORT

WALCHA
02 67772126

Bonnie Smith 0429 772 077
Brian Smith 0427 780 216

Call us for
your large
Transport
needs

Friends of Riverview

The Friends of Riverview held its AGM. All positions remain the same.

Patron Val Wall
President Olive Chandler
Vice President Anne Martin
Secretary Jan Cross
Treasurer Don Murchie
Gift Organiser Carol Bird
Christmas Stocking Organiser.....Janine Wright
Bingo Organiser.....Jan Cross and Olive Chandler

President's Report 2025/2026

The aim of Friends of Riverview is to be able to add something extra to daily living of these special Residents who have lived long and sometimes very different lives to what we all know today by either money for little extras or time spent in their company.

Members of Friends are active in different areas to suit their availability. Some help with fundraising while others are active volunteers within the Facility helping with bingo, reading, visits, bus trips, the shop and Happy Hour.

Fundraising comes in the way of Street Stalls which we have two annually and catering when asked. Our two Street Stalls raised an amazing \$2,190.95. Thank you to our members for working, supplying saleable goods and supporting the raffle and to Rhonda and Gary Olrich and Kate and Sam Lisle for generously supplying wood for our raffles. Some of our Residents knit baby wear, crochet rugs, make book marks and cards for our Street Stalls. How wonderful is that.

In this last year we have bought with accumulated funds shade umbrellas and stands, 4 small coffee tables for 2 lounge rooms, picture frames for each room in which to place the months calendar of activities and outdoor chairs being delivered in July.

From fundraising we support Bingo mornings by buying prizes, bus trips, morning tea outings, special lunches craft supplies, papers, Easter Eggs, gifts for Mother's and Father's Day, birthdays and Christmas stocking fillers of which there are 33.

Thank you to the community for the continued support in giving of the following generous donations: Regional Australia Bank with their Community Partnership program and those RAB members who have nominated Friends as their Charity to receive in an amount \$ 2194.88, Garden Club \$ 2000, Show Society \$1500, St Paul's PWA \$200, WAMATS \$1000 and the families of Residents and community members for their donations.

Julie Blake was our Facility Manager for many wonderful years and saw the transition into Council and the appointment of Kate Lisle. Thank you Julie for the time spent and time given beyond your job description. Kate has been Facility Manager for almost 10 months now. Her smiles welcome everyone.

We value the interaction at our meetings with Kate and the wonderful RAOs Brenda, Carol and Tonia. This enables us to be supportive. To Tracey and Chloe Hoy who monogram the face washers for each Resident's birthday, free of charge, thank you. To Carol for wrapping the face washers, writing on the cards and delivering in time for birthdays and also being available to give the Christmas stockings out on Christmas morning, thank you.

To Janine for the amazing and caring thought put into buying the Christmas stocking fillers for each Resident (33), thank you.

To the amazing staff who keep things moving every day and the staff and community who came to the rescue with the massive snow fall and fallouts from this, thank you.

Now to our members: Jan for organising all that falls into the lap of a secretary and volunteer, thank you. Don for keeping our finances in order and the extras taken on when investigating the "generator", thank you. Mary Moran for checking the books are in order, thank you. Chloe for setting up our first Facebook page, thank you. To our members for always being available to help and be supportive, thank you.

To Walcha Council for the ongoing process of improving Apsley Riverview Residential Aged Care Facility and being there for the community.

We received a Certificate from Brendan Moylan, member for Northern Tablelands in recognition of our contribution to Riverview.

Last year in August we were very saddened to have lost our Patron Hazel Cameron, her loss was felt by many. Thoughts go to those who are no longer with us, but we had the privilege to know by being a little part of this Facility.

what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Sad to hear former Walcha Central School teacher Andrew Osborn left this world last weekend in his family home at Bathurst where he has lived since leaving here 37 years ago in 1989. He was 76 years old. Not only did Andy teach plenty of us here in town he was a very good basketballer as well. Condolences to his wife Pauline (nee Rooney) along with all other family members and his friends. May Andrew Stephen Osborn Rest In Peace.

...

Anyone who read the front page of last weeks *Apsley Advocate* would be aware of the fantastic achievement by local axeman Austin Scrivener, who was named 2026 Tree Feller of the Year, when the NSW Axemen's Association held their inaugural awards night recently in the Hunter Valley. Good on ya Austin.

...

Congratulations to Cross Brother's Butchery on taking out Best Butcher titles in the New England for the second consecutive year, adding to their Best Quality category they won in 2024. Voters pointed out exceptional meat, outstanding customer service and unwavering community support as the reason they voted for our local business. Well done to the team at the butchery.

...

Walcha's 'Golden Haired Wonder Child' Steph Sweeney was back in town last week where we caught up for a yarn and a couple of beverages at the B.C. The talented all-round sportsman has been dismantling some of his sporting trophies along with those of wife Debra, sons Mitchell, Cameron and Hayden by taking the figurines off the top. Stevie was wondering if anyone could use them because he didn't particularly want to toss them out. If you would like some please contact me and I'll pass the message on.

...

The Walcha/Uralla intertown Squash Challenge continues tonight with visitors expected to arrive about 5.30pm. President James Norton indicated that up to 20 players from each club will be having a hit when Uralla will be out for some revenge after Walcha won the last outing. A BBQ will be in operation and spectators are welcome to attend.

...

Best of luck to Walcha Central School runners Veja-Lee Petuha and Lachie Provost along with TAS athlete Emily Ussher when they compete in the NSW All Schools Cross Country Championships next Tuesday at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre in Horsley Park. Go Gettum Guys.

...

So close but yet so far off the mark for our local 'fearless forecasters', Willy Brennan and Simeon Cross when they attempted to predict weather conditions for last Sunday's 3 person golf event. Personally I can't

remember being so cold on a golf course anywhere, but wearing shorts certainly didn't help. Then low and behold the following day there wasn't a cloud in the sky. Well done to all involved in making the fundraiser for Rotary exchange student Matisse Pascoe such a successful one - both organisers and players.

...

The Walcha Snooker Club will be holding a social friendly competition this Sunday at the old Ex-Services Club, now operating as the Walcha Bar and Grill. Whether you are a seasoned player or just keen for a game, everyone is welcome to shoot a cue from 1.30pm.

...

Big Wigs of the Week – Apsley - Ben Partridge, Scotty Withers picked the card (wow); B.C. - Neil Dunn, Barry Kliendienst; Newie - Rodney 'Doogs' Newman, all 12 pts; T.B.W Cafe - Trent Stackman, Laura Kuhr, Jacki Nash, 10 pts; Vet Supplies - Raya Kirby, D.J. Bird, Adam Barillaro 8 pts.

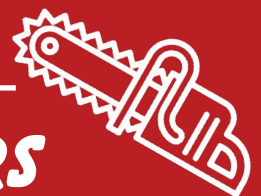
...

As Michael Lee Aday (Meatloaf) once sung 'two out of three ain't bad'. But that wasn't the case for Peter Sendallin the Newie 777's tipping competition last Saturday. When 'Tazima' saluted at Rosehill and then 'Hellova Nature' got up at Doomben, Peter was the only tipster left in but unfortunately he didn't select 'Winnasedge' at Caulfield.



... TICK'S PICK'S ...

THIS WEEK AT APSLEY MOTORS



~~\$2,099~~ - NOW \$1,849 INC GST

STIHL MS462C

- ♦ The lightest high-performance saw in the 70cc class
- ♦ Excellent manoeuvrability & outstanding acceleration

72.2cc ♦ 50cm/20" Bar ♦ 4.4KW ♦ 6.0KG



STIHL FS94C & FS94RC

- ♦ Engineered for the pros
- ♦ Strong cutting performance while remaining economical
- ♦ Mows large areas effectively

24.1cc ♦ 0.9KW/1.2HP ♦ 4.9KG

~~\$749~~ - NOW \$699 INC GST



~~\$899~~ - NOW \$799 INC GST

STIHL MS251

- ♦ A powerful mid-range chainsaw
- ♦ Great choice for firewood & farm maintenance

45.6cc ♦ 45cm/18" Bar ♦ 2.2KW ♦ 4.9KG

FOR MORE INFO OR TO MAKE ONE YOURS CALL JAYDEN OR JAMES (TICK) 02 6777 2755

Nutrien Boulton's

2026 BULL SALES



7TH
AUGUST

**SOUTHCOTE
SHORTHORNS**



12TH
AUGUST

HAZELDEAN ANGUS



HIGHRENT
ANGUS

2ND
SEPTEMBER

HIGHRENT ANGUS



9TH
SEPTEMBER

BEN NEVIS ANGUS



Contact

Mat Larkings 0427 002 427
Dan Coulthurst 0419 879 793

Simon Newton 0467 660 320
Miles Archdale 0428 660 326

Maddie Davidson
0429 002 651



Wednesday Golf

A draw for partners, for a fun round of an Irish stableford, was played on Wednesday, for the Donna Martin and Cheryl McDonald trophy. The scores were all very close.

The winning pair of Penny King and Cark Street, with 56 points were only 1 point ahead of second place-getters Margaret Davidson and Katie Smith with 55 points.

The next sweepstake winners only another point behind were Julie Hoad and Anne Martin with 54 points.

Sue Partridge was closest to the pin on Hole 3 and Cheryl McDonald took out the second shot on Hole 16.

Today we are playing stroke, with putting and monthly mug for the Captain's trophy. It is also the fifth medal round.

At the Nineteenth

Considering how inclement the weather conditions were last Sunday, a good field of 48 players teed off in a 3 person ambrose event for trophies donated by Cross Brothers Butchery, where the Bird Boys trio Darren, Dion and his son Nixon ran out the winners after they registered a 56^{1/2} nett.

The competition was also a fundraiser for Rotary exchange Matisse Pascoe, who is travelling abroad next year. Runners up were six time Walcha Club champion Andrew Bowden (2018 to 2023) his father Jamie and Ross King, less than a shot off the pace on 57^{2/3}.



(Left to Right) Nixon Bird, Dion Bird, John Cross and Darren Bird

The remaining sweepstakes went to Armidale players Jarrod Butler and Brad Major who teamed up with Dom Hill from Guyra to card 60^{2/3}. Allan Green, Allan Laurie and Robert Smith 61. Will Brennan, Don Brooks and Peter Norbury 62^{2/3}. Michael Stackman, Reece Martin and Murdoc Chawner 63. Angus Warden, Will and Lee Fletcher 63. Team Ussher: Ben, Sonia and Hugo claimed the 'much sought after' Bradman's Bat with 79^{1/2} nett.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Mollydooker Allan Laurie (3), Will Archdale (9), Byron Cross (16) and Jamie Bowden (18).

Competition organiser John McCormack racked up 20 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday from runner up Jenny Lisle who counted out Vicki Heffernan on 18 points. No N.T.P winner on 3.

This Sunday is a BAM 2 person event for trophies donated by Will Archdale to be played under the format: 1st 6 holes 4BBB, 2nd 6 holes Aggregate and 3rd 6 holes Multiplier. The Gunnedah Open is also on offer this Sunday.

Polocrosse

Once again, the Walcha Polocrosse Club headed west to find some warmer weather at the Narrabri Carnival for their 50th year running. The Narrabri Club holds an annual Junior competition, where players under the age of 16 form mixed teams with players from all over Australia.

Walcha member Mia Goodwin joined the Biamble team with players from Guyra, Gulgong, Lake George and Tasmania. The team went down in their grading game on Saturday, landing them in the B Grade competition for the weekend. The kids made a comeback in their afternoon game, taking out Trail Race 13 – 2. On Sunday Biamble stepped out against Turnbull Livestock in the Semi-Final, only just scraping their way to the final with a 10 – 9 win. Unfortunately, their luck ran out in the final against Silver Hills, going down 9 – 13. However they still brought home the Runner Up prize in the Junior B Grade.

This weekend the Walcha 1 team consisted of John Donnelly, Simon Wall, Simon Keen, Marlee Wall, Kersten Wall and Kerri-Lea Harris playing in the C/D Open Split Grade. Saturday morning the team faced off against Quirindi 2, winning 16 – 9. The celebrations were short lived however when they played the Mendooran team in the afternoon, going down in a tough game 9 – 15. Their first win on Saturday landed them in a Semi-Final Sunday morning against the West Vic's, another tough game, with Walcha ultimately losing that game as well, placing them into the D Grade final that afternoon. Walcha came face to face with the Mendooran team once again and unfortunately went down by one goal, still coming home with the D Grade runners up prize. Goal scorer John Donnelly also came home with Best Number 1, due to his outstanding performance.

Our rookie players, Patrick Keen and Will Nicholls joined forces with two Guyra and two Narrabri players in the F Grade Open. The Tablelands team lost both games on Saturday against Inverell 2 and Galloping Gully 3 and went down in their Sunday game to the Westerners. Although they did not have much luck with winning, both men enjoyed their games and are ready to take on the next carnival.

And finally our Sub-Junior player Patrick Daley teamed up with kids from Inverell, Tumbarumba, Cassilis and Yass in the A Grade Subbies. They faced some hard competition on Saturday, losing to Gulbrook and the Rockets. On Sunday they tried their hardest against the Guyra team but ultimately went down by two goals.



John Donnelly scoring a goal on Savanna
Photo by Miss Kayellebe Photography

KNOWLA LIVESTOCK BULL & FEMALE SALE

OPEN DAY
THIS FRIDAY 17 JULY 10AM

SALE DAY
FRIDAY 31 JULY 1PM

'Kangara'
3 Whites Road Kia Ora, Gloucester

- 84 Angus Bulls
- 6 PTIC Stud Heifers
- 100 EU Commercial Heifers

Elders Walcha 6774 2600
James Laurie 0439 616 003
Ted Laurie 0428 472 948
Allan Laurie 0455 821 394
Shane Rule 0427 456 878



THE NEW ENGLAND REZ On Life Support

The New England REZ is all but dead. It is only the desperate measures of Minister Penny Sharpe that is keeping it alive.

We know from EnergyCo's own studies that there isn't enough water in the region to support construction of the REZ, with demand expected to increase 50 per cent over the wider study area and over 1,000 per cent in Walcha. There isn't enough water or wastewater treatment capacity. The workforce isn't anywhere near large enough to support construction, and there is no housing to support a transient workforce of thousands. This is in an area where rental vacancy has been sitting near zero for years. The social impacts on our region would be immense.

Now we are learning that turbines cannot be transported over the Moonbis without periods of closure on the New England Highway. If this national highway needs closure periods across six days out of every week, for nearly two years, just for the Winterbourne project alone, what will it look like for construction of the whole REZ? Like most issues, EnergyCo has failed to respond on how this will be addressed in its Port to REZ road network documents.

Energy experts have identified that this project is likely to cost \$20 billion, all to be borne by electricity users. "It will single-handedly poison NSW's prospects of having cost-competitive electricity into the future," says Aidan Morrison, Director of Energy Research at the Centre for Independent Studies.

There's little enthusiasm from the generators either. A consortium of major renewable developers, including Tilt Renewables, Squadron Energy, Iberdrola, Acciona and Ark Energy, has instead pitched an alternative

"Inland Renewable Energy Region" around Broken Hill and western NSW to the energy market operator, citing "strong resource fundamentals, low development constraints and supportive local communities." The same submission argues existing renewable energy zones are "constrained by social licence, land use and hosting capacity limitations" — exactly the problems this community has been raising about New England for years.

The Coalition has recognised this doesn't stack up. Both the Liberals and Nationals have committed to capping the New England REZ if elected, arguing it makes more sense to generate power closer to where it's actually used. Their plan puts more solar around Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, and also backs a new zone further west near Broken Hill — the same option renewable developers themselves have been pushing as a better alternative. Our own state member, Brendan Moylan, has strongly supported and pushed this policy, standing up in Parliament on behalf of the tens of thousands of people who have signed the petition against the New England REZ.

The only reason this project isn't dead already is that Energy Minister Penny Sharpe *refuses to let it go*.





Death Notice

Elizabeth Jeanne Elder
'Liz'

31/05/1941 - 6/07/2026

Of Hill Street, Walcha.

Dearly loved wife of Tony (dec'd)

Loving mother & mother-in-law of Alex & Sam, and John & Lea.

Much loved Grannie of Georgie-Anna & Amelia-Grace.

Aged 85 years

A Funeral Service was held on Monday 13th July 2026

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Public Notice

BETTER BORES & PUMPS

Don't Settle for Dust - Drill for Water!

Our Water Drilling Rig is in the Area.

No Rain. No Run-Off.

Work Guaranteed. Phone 0428 667 842

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.

No charge for JP services.

Walcha Council

Public Truck Wash Bay

Temporary Closure



Residents are advised that the public Truck Wash Bay will be temporarily closed from Tuesday 21 July to Thursday 23 July 2026 (inclusive) to allow for scheduled maintenance works.

The facility is expected to reopen on Friday 24 July 2026. However, should the works be delayed due to adverse weather conditions, the reopening date may be postponed. Any changes will be communicated to the public as soon as possible.

We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Stephen Parry, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

WINDOW CLEANING

Do not panic Fletcher Chappell and Lockie Chappell will clean windows for you while I am away.

Fletcher: 0457 834 196

Please do not call as I am away.

Cal Krossley

Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Council

Public Exhibition - Draft Conflict of Interest in the Development Assessment Process



At its meeting of 24 June 2026, Walcha Council endorsed the exhibition of a draft Conflict of Interest in the Development Assessment Policy.

The draft policy outlines how conflicts of interest associated with Council-related development applications will be identified, managed and documented, and is a requirement of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

The draft policy is on exhibition from Wednesday 15 July 2026 to Sunday 9 August 2026 and is available to be viewed:

- Electronically on the public notices section of Council's website.
- In hard copy at the Walcha Council customer service counter (2W Hamilton Street, Walcha) and at the Walcha Library (42N Derby Street, Walcha).

All submissions must be received by 11.59pm on Sunday 9 August 2026. Submission must be in writing, must quote reference number W26/166, and can be submitted by:

- Email to council@walcha.nsw.gov.au.
- Post to PO Box 2, Walcha 2354.
- In-person to Council's customer service counter at 2W Hamilton Street, Walcha.

For further information, contact Brett Gardiner, Council's Senior Manager Strategic Planning & Environment on (02) 6774 2500 or by email at council@walcha.nsw.gov.au.

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

Walcha Home Furnishing

Now Open

Buying and Selling

Quality Furniture

PH: Dave 0427 771 469

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.

For Sale (cont)

Plants left over from Open Gardens and seedlings propagated at Walcha Mens Shed. \$1 each or \$5 per punnet. Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Hino Motorhome - Reg until 1/2/27, Model: 1988, BV-28-CP. New Awnning, New Diesel Heater, 3/4 Fridge, Toilet & Shower, Hot Water System, Microwave, 2 Burner Gas Stove. \$40,000 ONO. Ph Ivan 0429 889 990.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Business Group AGM - Thursday 13th August 5.30pm at Walcha Bar and Grill. Contact Fiona Barden 0429 690 679 or walchabusinessgroup@gmail.com.

Raffle Results

Golf Club Monster Wood raffle winner Diana Lisle. Our next monster raffle on 31 July. Thanks for your support.

Cross Bros Butchery Golf Trophy Day - Raffle fundraiser for Matisse Pascoe 12mth Rotary exchange 2027. Grease gun: L McElroy, Solar panel Bank: D Porter, Tooheys Eskey: Jamie Marchant, 2L Bourbon: Jackson Marchant, Walcha Tyre Service Voucher: Don McHattan, Cafe Graze pack: L Lemming, New Beginnings Hair voucher: J Olrich, New Beginnings Hair pack: W Fletcher, Cross Bros voucher: Coog Cross. THANK YOU to all who donated prizes and supported the raffle.

telecottage
WALCHA

**Need a sale catalogue
designed & printed?**

Support your local business



Contact us today

6777 1111

wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au



WALCHA LAW

- PROPERTY • ESTATES • WILLS
- POWER OF ATTORNEY & ENDURING GUARDIAN DRAFTING
- FAMILY LAW & MEDIATION

Sophie Thomson

Director/Solicitor

James Levingston

Consultant/Solicitor

6777 2066

info@walchalaw.com.au

– Local lawyers for over 76 years –
Incorporating Patterson Byfield and Bryen

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

lee.harrison@electrical@gmail.com

LICENCE NO. 480735C

CCTV | SECURITY SYSTEMS | RE-WIRES | LIGHTING & POWER | SAFETY
SWITCH UPGRADES | RENOVATIONS | INSTALLATIONS & MAINTENANCE
| FULLY LICENCED & INSURED

AQF3 ARBORIST

Tree lopping & removal

Truck

Bobcat

Post hole digger

Trencher

Woolshed Cleaning

treetopservices@bigpond.com

Scott Kermode
0427 100 889

TREETOP
services

New England IT

ONSITE COMPUTER SERVICE + SALES

Tim Sutton 0414 874 523

A pure taste with little waste!
PURE RAIN TANK CLEANERS



0428 320 985

CHIROPRACTOR

Samantha Goor

B.Sc. Anatomy (NSW) M Chiroprac (Macq)

Tuesday & Friday from 9.00am

6777 1340

**MOBILE-FIX
AUTO+AIR**
Mobile Repairer & Airconditioning Specialist
Licenced Vehicle Repairer
Lic.No.46696 RTA Lic.No. AU22616
PATRICK STACE – WALCHA
Mob. 0428 780 077 Ph. 6778 0595



Andrew: 0427 549 748

Toni: 0421 972 354

DEAN BOFINGER

PAINTER

0437 406 753 | bofingerdean@hotmail.com

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.

church notices



ANGLICAN

July 19 - Walcha Service 9.30am

July 26 - 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

Marchant

BROS. PTY. LTD. 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 16 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 17 3.00pm – Close

Free Bingo drawn at 6.30pm

Raffles drawn at 7pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

ALL YOU CAN EAT CHRISTMAS SMORGASBORD

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

Saturday 18 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 19 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

MEMBERS DRAW

DRAWN AFTER THE RAFFLES

FRIDAY \$950

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

Come down on Wednesday night at 6pm for some Boot Scoot'n fun with our Line Dancing classes. \$10 for an hour of pure toe tapping fun

Christmas in July this Friday. Prizes for the best dressed child and best dressed adult. Santa Claus is due around 7.30pm

Bistro open on Thursday night, don't cook, let the dinner ladies take care of that for you

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, Quikspray Trailers
4x4 Tractors & Casotti's

