

THE APSLEY Advocate

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

12 August 2026

New chapter for Emporium On Derby

Some of you may already know that the much-loved Emporium on Derby has changed hands, with local Kayla Bakewell officially taking over the boutique on 1 August.

Emporium on Derby first opened its doors in May 2023, with Leisa Drake behind the counter and quickly becoming a familiar and much-loved face around town. Over the past three years, Leisa has built the boutique into a welcoming space for women in Walcha and created a loyal following along the way.

Now, the boutique is beginning a new chapter with Kayla at the helm.

A Walcha local herself, Kayla has loved Emporium since it first opened and said the opportunity to take on a business she already knew and loved was too special to pass up.

"I've always loved Emporium and what Leisa had created, and when the opportunity came up to take it over, it was one of those decisions that felt both incredibly exciting and slightly terrifying!" Kayla said.

Kayla officially took over the business on 1 August and has spent the past couple of weeks getting everything ready to reopen the doors.

Emporium will officially reopen this Friday 14 August, with Kayla holding a small celebration from 4pm to 6pm to welcome customers and mark the start of her new venture.

While there will be some changes over time, Kayla wants to keep the things people already love about Emporium while slowly putting her own touch on the store.

She hopes to introduce some new brands in the future and would eventually love to bring kids' clothing into the boutique as well.

There are also plans for shopping nights, events and a few other little things throughout the year to give people another reason to pop into the store.

For Kayla, taking on a local business is about more than just owning a shop.

"I'm really excited to be taking on a business in the town I grew up in. I think supporting local businesses and keeping people shopping locally is so important for a small community like ours, and I'd love Emporium to continue being a part of Walcha for many years to come," she said.

While Kayla admits there is plenty to learn along the way, she is excited for what is ahead and to see where this new chapter takes Emporium on Derby.

The doors will be open from 4pm to 6pm on Friday 14 August, with everyone welcome to pop in, have a look around and wish Kayla all the best in her new venture.



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
northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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

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

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

telecottage
WALCHA

**We can design and
print almost anything
you require.**

- Catalogues
- Brochures
- Flyers
- Newsletters
- Business Cards
- Letterheads
- Invoice Books
- Invitations
- Postcards
- Signs
- and more ...

Phone 6777 1111
wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au

ARIAT GEAR BAG SALE

**JUNIOR
\$60**

**FULL SIZE
\$100**



WVS
WALCHA VETERINARY SUPPLIES

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



WALCHA BUSINESS GROUP

INTRODUCING WALCHA'S BUSINESS AWARDS

The Walcha Business Group invites you to enter the inaugural Walcha Business Awards - celebrating our amazing local businesses.

Entries are via a simple nomination process, followed by a short interview to hear all about your plans, achievements and what your customers love.

Details on categories and how to enter at www.walchabusinessgroup.com.au/awards

Nominations close 5pm 30 August 2026

NB: Save the date for the Award Celebration Friday 13 November



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 SIMON NEWTON

You could not have got a better day than Saturday for winter weather but by Monday Walcha had shown its true winter colours. Monday was a typical winters day, rain, snow, sleet and a bucket load of wind which meant it was freezing. The rain has been timely and falls of 15-20mm have fallen throughout the district and given our pastures a much needed boost after a run of severe frosts last week. The weather ahead looks promising for the next 10 days, the odd frost but mainly a chance of some easterly drizzle which shall keep things damp next week. It's amazing what a little rain will do, it doesn't take a lot of moisture to keep things ticking along at this time of year. Mudgee, then south to Victoria and into SA all managed to yield some excellent rainfall totals with falls anywhere from 25-100mm which will keep those areas looking in pretty good shape heading into spring.

It seems the government will stop at nothing to sell our farms to pursue its extreme green agenda. Cobungra Station is set to be sold to the Silva Carbon Origination Fund, a foreign backed investment company which is set to plant trees across the entire 31,290-hectare property near Omeo in Victoria. Currently, Cobungra is currently before the Foreign Investment Board, but we fear just like the sale of Tasmania's largest property "Rushy Lagoon", it will be rushed through to continue Labor's push towards a green future. The worst part is that these foreign owned companies are buying productive agricultural land to transform into tree plantations to take full advantage of selling carbon credits. The sale of both these properties will equate to over 100,000 acres of prime agricultural land being planted under trees resulting in a huge loss of livestock production and food on our plates. The concerning part is where will this stop now given the government has shown their willingness to allow foreign owned investment companies to turn our productive agricultural land into carbon credit money machines, this is ludicrous and the repercussions will be long lasting.

On Monday the Walcha High Country Guardians hosted leaders of the NSW opposition comprising Kellie Sloane, Gurmeh Singh and Brendan Moylan on a learning mission to New England, specifically the proposed transmission line corridor, the workers camps and more broadly the New England REZ. They spent much of Monday in Walcha looking at the proposed corridor and talking to impacted farmers. They have taken a great interest in this planned infrastructure and have vowed to review the REZ and scrap the transmission lines. They have done a lot of consultation with energy experts, and their policy now is to build a REZ zone in Sydney on the many industrial roof tops as well as build a REZ zone around Broken Hill where it is much cheaper to build and more efficient. Walcha is at a turning point and if the government builds the workers hub planned at Walcha Road and the subsidies keep coming, we can only anticipate a flood of developer interest in building renewable projects around Walcha and Uralla. There is a public meeting this Thursday 13th at 5.30pm at the Bowling Club for anyone interested in finding out more about the workers camp and other plans going forward.

The ACCC is finally commencing an inquiry into regional mobile coverage across Australia and whether regulating wholesale access to some mobile service could improve mobile service. This means that all service providers would have access to infrastructure they need to provide competitive communications services. The ACCC is looking at domestic roaming services which would allow the use of another provider's network outside their own coverage area. Declaring a radio access network service which could allow providers to share infrastructure, all in the hope of improving our mobile coverage which would not be hard.

The cattle market is showing signs of constant weather warnings as the predicted super El Nino has everybody getting a little trigger happy with their livestock. Light restocker cattle and background yearlings for the paddock have softened considerably whereas the feeder and kill cattle remained relatively firm given the excessive numbers in the north. Best of our cows are still hitting \$4/kg, even with our quota issues, feeder steers are still knocking on \$6/kg while the heifer portion made to 550 in Tamworth on Monday. Those with weight and condition sell extremely well, those that are light in condition, not heavy enough for the feedlot are feeling the heat on pricing.

Couatwong Creek Ladies Clinic



Heidi Smith instructing over the weekend
Photo: K Connors Photography

The Couatwong Creek Ladies Campdraft Clinic was held over the weekend with the amazing Heidi Smith, bringing together 20 ladies from across the region for a weekend of horsemanship, education, mindset and plenty of laughs.

The clinic, held at Nowendoc Recreation Ground, was the largest the Couatwong Creek committee has hosted, with ladies travelling from all over the state to spend the weekend learning and developing their skills both on and off the horse.

Heidi has built a business around

educating women and helping them achieve their individual goals, with her clinics focusing on much more than simply improving horsemanship.

Throughout the weekend, the ladies worked on understanding what they wanted to achieve with their horses and in their chosen sport, before creating a plan to help them reach those goals. Alongside the practical horsemanship, there was a strong focus on mindset, confidence and working on the person in the saddle.

The clinic provided a great opportunity for the ladies to learn from Heidi, share experiences and enjoy time with like-minded women who all share a passion for horses.

With plenty of laughs throughout the weekend, the Couatwong Creek Ladies Clinic was a great success.

Cracker record breaking bull

The Station Angus had once again produced another extremely big bull, with Cracker breaking his big brother's record from last year weighing in at 1426 kilograms (1.426 tonne). Cracker won the Heaviest Bull Competition at the 2026 Ekka. Alan Scrivener is currently at the Ekka with Cracker meeting all of his excited fans.



Stock and Property Watch

www.nutrienharcourts.com.au

WANTED

2 to 3 decks of Angus Feeder Steers

Must have quality genetics
On farm rate

Contact
Simon Newton 0467 660 320

HIGHRENT ANGUS BULL SALE 2026



WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER AUCTIONSPLUS ONLY

Pre Sale Inspections

Friday 28 August 10am-2.00pm
Wednesday 2 September 9.30am-12.30pm

Mat Larkings 0427 002 427

Ladies Day raises \$13,500 for Friends of Riverview

The Walcha Rugby Club has once again shown the strength of the local community, raising an incredible \$13,500 for Friends of Riverview through the club's annual Ladies Day fundraiser.

Each year, the Walcha Rugby Club members vote on a local organisation to receive the proceeds from Ladies Day, with the fundraiser being a true community effort. The day brings together the club, local businesses, families and supporters, with the money raised going back into an organisation doing important work within the Walcha community.

This year, Friends of Riverview was chosen as the recipient, with Rugby Club representatives Katie Cummins and Jessica Anderson presenting the cheque to Friends of Riverview President Olive Chandler.

Friends of Riverview works to add something extra to the daily lives of the residents of Apsley Riverview Residential Aged Care Facility. The group supports residents through both financial contributions and, just as importantly, the time and companionship of its volunteers.

Members are involved in a range of activities including bingo, reading, visits, bus trips, the shop and Happy Hour, while others help with fundraising and catering.

The funds raised throughout the year allow Friends of Riverview to provide prizes for bingo mornings, support bus trips and morning tea outings, special lunches, craft supplies, Easter eggs, gifts for Mother's and Father's Day, birthday celebrations and Christmas stocking fillers for all 33 residents.

Over the past year, Friends of Riverview has also used accumulated funds to purchase shade umbrellas and stands, coffee tables for the lounge rooms, picture frames for activity calendars and outdoor chairs for the facility.

The \$13,500 raised by the Walcha Rugby Club will help Friends of Riverview continue providing these extras and creating special moments for the residents of Riverview.

Friends of Riverview President Olive Chandler thanked the community for its continued support and acknowledged the many volunteers and organisations who contribute to the group throughout the year.

Friends of Riverview is always welcoming new members, whether you have time to volunteer, would like to help with fundraising or simply want to be involved in supporting the residents of Riverview.



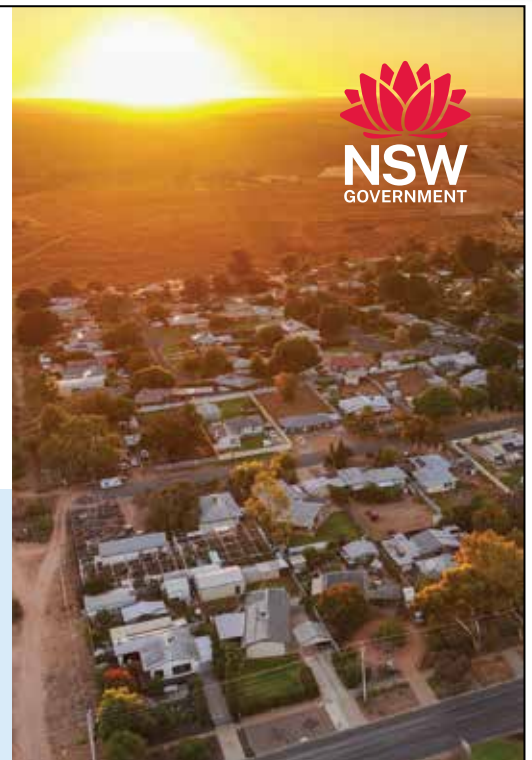
EnergyCo

Have your say on the Community and Employment Benefit Program

The Community and Employment Benefit Program will invest in projects and programs that deliver legacy outcomes to local communities in and near the South West Renewable Energy Zone.

There are 3 ways to have your say:

- Join a webinar to learn more and ask questions
- Complete the online survey
- Visit a community drop-in session and speak with the team.



Scan the QR to find out more

Visit the website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/sw-cebp or email south.west.community@energyco.nsw.gov.au for more information.



Walcha Business Awards to celebrate local business success

Walcha's business community will have a new opportunity to celebrate its achievements this year, with the inaugural Walcha Business Awards set to recognise the businesses, leaders, employees and organisations that help make the community what it is.

The awards, being developed by the Walcha Business Group, will take a deliberately simple approach to nominations. Rather than lengthy written submissions, nominees will initially only need to provide their name, contact details, the award category they are nominating in and 25 words or less explaining why they excel in that category.

Award categories include:

- Business Excellence – Business to Business
- Business Excellence – Business to Consumer
- New & Emerging Business
- Business Innovation
- Business Leader
- Young Business Leader
- Community Organisation
- Outstanding Employee

Shortlisted nominees will then have a short interview with the judges, either face-to-face, online or by submitting a video. Questions will be provided in advance, giving nominees the

opportunity to talk about their achievements, future plans and what their customers love about them.

Finalists will then receive a site visit before the winners are selected, giving judges the opportunity to see the business in action and gain an even better understanding of its contribution and achievements.

Key dates:

12 - 30 August: Nominations open

1 September: Nominees contacted to schedule appointments

By 24 September: Interviews completed

25 September - 10 October: Judging

11 October: Finalists announced

11-30 October: Finalist site visits

13 November: Walcha Business Awards

The awards night on 13 November will provide an opportunity for the wider community to come together to celebrate local business and acknowledge the people who contribute to its success. Details will be released later in the year.

Whether you are a business owner, employee, customer or community member, start thinking about who deserves to be recognised.

Find the award categories and nomination details at walchabusinessgroup.com.au/awards

thumbs



- 👍 To our fabulous Ramettes at ladies day
- 👍 To Thunderbolts Cafe grazing platters at Ladies Day, beautifully presented and yummy!
- 👍 To Walcha Coffee for the best coffee, croissants and conversation in town.
- 👍 To Ganesh at the Apsley Hotel for supporting our Mahjong group to meet on Monday afternoons.
- 👍 To Meg at Walcha Council Community Care for assisting me with my challenging technical needs last Tuesday
- 👍 To James who went above and beyond for calling into NRMA when my car had no battery and for also helping me with my NBN.

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.

REAL ESTATE & LIVESTOCK

pitt.son.walcha@bigpond.com

www.pittsons.com.au

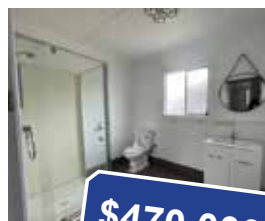
Pitt Son's

OFFICE 6777 2000

Sam Payne 0428 667 404

Ron Vincent 0427 775 821

Open Plan Living



\$470,000

Well Priced

- Three bedrooms, built ins to main
- Open plan, lounge, dining and kitchen
- Near new kitchen and bathroom
- Woodfire
- Ceiling fully insulated
- Reverse cycle air con
- Near new hot water system
- Well fenced

Quiet Location, Double Block



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

Locally owned and operated



Quiet the head noise

Worried, stressed, or overwhelmed? Check in on your mental health with **free access** to new online self-guided tools. Plus telehealth support from qualified mental health practitioners.

mentalhealthcheckin.gov.au

1800 595 212

8:30am – 5pm weekdays (except public holidays)

medicare

Mental Health Check In



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.



RUGBY REPORT

By Eric the Spider
RESERVE GRADE

The Reserves put in their best performance of the season on Saturday, travelling to Armidale and beating the Blues 46-17 in a strong, well-controlled game. From the start the Rams looked sharp. They played with purpose, won the collisions and finished their chances well. By half-time they had built a solid 27-17 lead. After the break they took complete control, shutting the Blues out for the entire second half and adding more points of their own. The forwards did a good job setting the platform. Sam Martin and Ben Fussell were excellent up front, carrying hard, cleaning out well and giving the backs plenty of front-foot ball. The pack worked hard as a group and made life difficult for the Blues around the ruck and in the tight exchanges. Steve McNally was everywhere. He popped up in attack, defence and at the breakdown, always working hard and linking the forwards and backs. His effort never dropped and he had a big influence on the game. When the ball went wide the Rams were hard to stop. Andrew Kelly ran direct and with purpose, hitting the line hard and creating space for those around him. His strong, straight running continually put the Blues under pressure. At fullback Michael Paull showed his true class. He was solid under the high ball, made good decisions and looked dangerous on the counter-attack. His work at the back gave the Rams confidence and helped them control the game in both halves. Overall it was a complete team performance. They played simple, effective rugby and never let the Blues back into the contest. They were strong up front, clinical out wide and disciplined for the full eighty minutes. A very good result and one that should give them plenty of confidence heading into the rest of the season.

FIRST GRADE

The Rams took on the Armidale Blues in a top-of-the-table clash on Saturday and came away on the wrong end of a 41-25 scoreline. It was a game of two very different halves, with the Rams left to rue a poor first 40 that ultimately cost them the result. In the first half Walcha simply didn't play well enough. They gave away too much possession through repeated errors and poor decision-making.

The Blues were gifted far too much field position and capitalised every time. A string of missed tackles also proved costly, allowing Armidale to cross for tries that should never have been scored. By half-time the Rams were staring at a 29-3 deficit and looking short of answers. Nathan Cullinan was one of the few who held his standard, organising the defensive line and talking constantly even as the pressure mounted.

After the break the response was much better. Walcha started playing a more direct brand of rugby. The forwards began to carry hard and straight, getting over the advantage line and giving the side some real go-forward. Sam Colwell was huge in this period. He never stopped working, kept putting his hand up for the ball and made a big number of carries that helped drag the Rams back into the contest. Richie Hunt also carried strongly and proved hard to stop once he got over the gain line, repeatedly making metres and forcing the Blues to commit extra defenders. That simple, physical approach created space out wide and the backs finally had room to work. In one seven-minute burst the Rams scored three tries. There was nothing fancy about them — just good hard rugby, quick ball from the breakdown and players hitting the line with purpose. Hamish Heeney threw himself into the collisions with real physicality during this spell, winning his share of the contact and helping the pack get genuine momentum. Suddenly the Blues were on the back foot and the game had some real life in it. For a period in the second half Walcha dominated territory and possession. They controlled the collisions and forced Armidale into a more defensive mindset. Nathan Cullinan's set piece work remained solid throughout and his communication continued to keep the defensive line connected. The comeback never quite got close enough, though, and the early damage proved too much to overcome. Overall the Rams will be disappointed with the result. The first half was well below the standard required at this level of the competition, but the response after half-time showed what the side is capable of when they play direct and physical rugby. There are clear lessons to take into the coming weeks, particularly around reducing errors and staying switched on in defence for the full eighty minutes.

Next weekend: The Walcha Rams take on Barraba at Walcha for Old Boys Day. All the former Walcha Old Boys are encouraged to come wearing their old Walcha Rams Rugby Jerseys and support the boys.

Major Sponsors



NAIRN PARK ANGUS



NP
EST 1962

Paddock BULL SALE

Nairn Park has placed a strong emphasis on fertility, structural soundness and docility, alongside the carcass traits that inspired the stud's founding. All bulls have undergone rigorous testing for reproductive and structural soundness.

Nairn Park has continued to invest in elite sires from:

CLUNIE
RANGE

LANDFALL
SL284

LANDFALL
SIGNATURE

DUNOON

50

+ HEAD

offered for sale in the paddock.

STERLING
PACIFIC

MURDEDUKE
QUARTERBACK

To arrange an inspection contact:

Troy Davey

Rob Costello

0427 157 557

0429 778 144



3W Fitzroy Street
WALCHA NSW

COMMUNITY FORUM

What will the WORKERS CAMPS and REZ mean for YOU?

What will it mean if this *is forced* on our town?
Worker camps .. Water .. Roads .. Businesses .. Local Services

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST | 5:30PM
WALCHA BOWLING CLUB

Everyone welcome, and encouraged to attend

Come along and hear what is being proposed and what it could mean for everyone who lives, works or runs a business in Walcha.

- **Workers camps and housing** - what could they mean for housing availability, community services and the town?
- **Water** - how much will construction need, and where will it come from? Who has priority?
- **Businesses & Roads** - what could around 52 months of road impacts for each wind project - plus longer REZ works - mean for customers, deliveries, freight and tourism?
- **Emma Bowman from CWO REZ** - a lived experience of a community dealing with large-scale REZ development.

EnergyCo and Penny Sharpe have been invited
... attendance TBC



IF YOU LIVE, WORK OR RUN A BUSINESS IN WALCHA, **THIS MATTERS**

Walcha Central School Careers Expo

Walcha Central School threw open its gates to the local business community last Wednesday 5 August, hosting its annual Careers Expo for students from Kindergarten right through to Year 12.



Around 260 students took part in the event, which brought together dozens of local and regional employers, training providers and community organisations. They gave students a first-hand look at the career paths available to them, both in Walcha and across the wider New England and Northern Tablelands region.

Organisations represented on the day included the Commonwealth Bank, Nutrien Boulton's Real Estate, Walcha Motel, Davidson, Cameron & Co, the Rotary Club of Walcha, Careers Network, TAFE NSW, the NSW Department of Education's School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships and Educational Pathways Program teams, NSW Police, Healthwise, Best Community Services, Oorala Aboriginal Centre and Walcha Council.

Walcha Central School's Careers Expo coordinator, Emma Ireland, said the event wouldn't be possible without the generosity of organisations who gave up their time to attend.

"We're so grateful for the incredible support we receive from our local businesses, employers and training organisations each year," she said.

"Our Careers Expo gives students from the very youngest right up to our senior students the chance to see the huge range of careers and pathways available to them, many of them right here in their own town. It's a fantastic opportunity for them to ask questions and think about their futures."

Walcha Council brought a large contingent of staff to this year's event, including its Roads crew, who set up trucks and equipment in the school yard to give students an up-close look at the machinery it takes to keep local roads in good condition. Staff from Council's library and preschool were also on hand to talk to students about their roles.

Walcha Council's General Manager Stephen Parry said Council was proud to take part in the Careers Expo each year.

"As one of the largest employers in our community, Council staff are pleased to show students the huge variety of jobs that go into running a local government. We want our young people to know there are real, rewarding careers for them right here in Walcha," Mr Parry said.

Walcha Central School extended a big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to attend and support students on the day.



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.



JOIN US FOR
OUR RE-OPENING

Friday 14 | 4pm to 6pm

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

Walcha Garden Club

President's Report 2025-26

From President Sue Law

I was voted in as President in August 2025 and I now present my report for the 2025 -26 year.

It has been a wonderful year full of fellowship and enjoyment for me and hopefully for all the members of the Garden Club.

The Annual Luncheon in September 2025 held at the Golf Club, chaired by Phyllis Hoy, had an excellent attendance with the guest speaker Angela Sole presenting on Cold Climate Plants. The set-up team did a wonderful display of flower arrangements and three of our extremely knowledgeable members, Barb Dunn, Hep Tozer and Helen Scrivener manned the Plant Stall. Add to that the raffle prizes, the day turned into a wonderful luncheon enjoyed by those there.

In October the club members visited Vin and Bill Carsen's Garden holding the meeting on their verandah. I came away very envious of their stone wall.

Then came November. Following much hard work and planning by the sub-committee the Open Garden Festival was held. The five gardens were so well presented and other than the weather turning cold the weekend was a great success raising just over \$21,000. The Club donated \$25,000 to eight other organisations. I thank the following Garden owners for their hard work and opening their gardens for others to enjoy: Allan and Colleen Green, Ivy Bank; Ros Wall, Summerfield; Richard and Lorraine Walsh, Huntly; Allan and Jenny Laurie, Banchory; and Daniel and Carnie Kermod, Orandumbie. Thank you to all members who assisted in any way to make the weekend a success.

Following the Open Gardens a Reflections Meeting was held where everyone was able to contribute to a positive and negative review of the weekend. I thank all who were there as these reflections will assist the next sub-committee in preparation for Open Gardens 2027.

In December the Christmas party was held at Jim and Jules Young, Sallywood. It was a beautiful day sitting under the trees and enjoying good

food and fellowship.

Following January recess our first meeting for 2026 was held at Gerry and Mary Moran's home in town. The distribution of the Festival's funds was confirmed by members and the lovely Garden books, created by Mary Brearley, were given to the garden owners. A discussion and vote was held re the holding of an Open Gardens Festival in 2027 with a resounding 'yes' received. Also, in February training days for Staging of Flower presentation for the upcoming Show was held, led by Julie Ireland and Phyllis Hoy.

In March, the Walcha Show with many members assisting Julie Ireland in the Horticultural Shed with such a wonderful presentation of flowers from our district. And to top the weekend off Julie won the Olga Lisle Trophy.

In April, even with the fuel crisis upon us, four cars visited three gardens in Guyra. It was a lovely day although we could already see the effects of the dry weather on the gardens visited.

In May a Community Day was held on what was probably the coldest day in May and I thank the seven people who weathered that day. Also, in May I attended the Rotary 70th Anniversary dinner celebration representing the Garden Club.

In June Diana Lisle gave us her wonderful presentation on gardens/flowers from around the world. The Ogunbil/Dungowan Valley Garden Club luncheon was attended by four of our members. Diana Lisle being very successful at their raffles and door prizes.

In July we had Warren Yeomens from Greenhills Orchards visit the meeting to talk about the devastation post the snow event August 2025 and the recovery of his orchard.

I wish to thank you, the members of the Walcha Garden Club for your contributions in anything you may do such as providing morning tea treats at meetings, flowers/plants for discussion, purchasing raffle tickets, offering your home/garden for meetings and to contributing to discussions at meetings. Your opinion and input is important to me.

I want to thank members of the sub-committee for your efforts in preparation for the Open garden Festival and look forward to the formation of the next sub-committee for the 2027 festival.

Lastly, to Diana and Jenny – thank you for all you do in your roles as Secretary and Treasurer. There is so much that you both do that assists our Club to grow and prosper. Thank you



30x Sale Bulls Viewing & Open Day

Niangala NSW

Thursday 27 August 2026
9.30am – 2pm
 Morning tea and lunch provided

Guest Speakers

Market Dynamics

Patrick Warmoll and Bob Barker from Jacks Creek

Bull Fertility

Marg Shedden from Apex Breeding

IVF and MOET

Dr Udo Mahne and Dr Vicky Cameron

Genetic Selections

RSVP: www.rocalawagyu.com/rsvp



Dave Woodley 0427 335 631 | www.rocalawagyu.com



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



BRIAN
Smith
TIMBER
TRANSPORT

Call us for
 your large
 Transport
 needs

WALCHA

02 67772126

Bonnie Smith 0429 772 077

Brian Smith 0427 780 216

what's the goss

with AJ Cross

So sad to hear former Walcha Council General Manager Rob Callaghan left this world recently after battling health issues over the past few years. Rob was not only in charge of Council for around two decades from the 1980's to 2003 he was active with numerous sporting groups including the Walcha Rams, Baa Baas, Cricket and Golf Clubs to name a few.

Rob played for our Rugby League Cricket team in the late 1980's and early 1990's, he was a Baa Baas Golden Oldies teammate plenty of times and was a fairly handy golfer as well. I remember one day at the golf club when my ball seemed to be spending more time in the rough than on the fairway Rob offered me some advice- 'Instead of attempting to play a miracle recovery shot take your medicine and chip out'. Probably should have listened.

When I was first employed by Walcha Council in 1980 Ken Croskell was the Town Clerk (General Manager) for a couple of years before Rob replaced him and then Jack O'Hara took over in 2003 and went to 2019. During my 42 years with Council I was fortunate enough to have two good mates as my 'Big Boss' for the majority of that time. Condolences to Rob's wife Jenny, daughters Fiona and Peta, son Tim along with all other

family members and friends.

Congratulations to talented Walcha Central School sportsperson Kix Brown on winning the 12 years Boys High Jump at the North West PSSA Athletics carnival in Tamworth last week. Kix cleared the bar at an impressive 1.58 metres an incredible 10cms higher than his previous Personal Best to set a new Zone record. Way to go Kix.

Heard a bit of a whisper New England Hotel Publican Peter Berry may have got his departure time from Armidale Airport slightly mixed up a couple of weekends ago when he was flying to Adelaide for a Timber Training conference. 'Perky' arrived at Armidale for take off around 1.30pm on the Saturday only to be informed it wasn't happening until 24 hours later.

Instead of returning home to Walcha 'Perc' decided to book into a Motel in Armidale to avoid any potential embarrassment from workmates and friends before flying out the next day. To his credit Peter did inform his Newie Manager Megan Tisdell about what had happened even though it was a few days later. Surely no-one would have brought what had happened up and hopefully it will stay that way. Good Luck 'Perc'.

Gee it was great to catch up with my former Walcha Roos teammate Steve Stronach and his son Tyson for a couple of beverages at

the Newie last Thursday afternoon. The boys certainly drew a crowd as you were lucky to get through the front door there were that many people present.

Roosters supporter, Master Painter and Interior Decorator Barry Kliendienst who is currently running second in the Bowling Footy Tipping was keeping an eye on the game between the Raiders and Knights last Sunday when he suddenly declared the fulltime score was 18 all. It didn't take long for his good mate David Garth Clare to inform 'Baz' he was in fact looking at the halftime score.

Big Wigs of the Week - TBWCafe - Cathy Brooks somehow Picked the Card - (Remarkable Really); B.C - 'Bikie' Brazel, Suzie Foster; Vet Supplies - Adam Barillaro; Apsley - Katie Smith, Jim Bob Smith, Newie - Ellie Clarke, Margy Swanton, Cindy Brown, Rachel McMaugh, Suzie Foster, Lachy Fletcher, Charlie Brown and Bill Wake (All 14 points).

Calling all Golfers, Non Golfers and Others - a reminder the annual Workplace Challenge 3 person Ambrose event is scheduled for Sunday 23rd August sponsored by the New England Hotel. Registrations taken from 9.30am for a 10.00am shotgun tee off. Come on grab a couple of mates for a fun day out.



WALCHA RESIDENTS: LOOKING FOR WORK?

VERTO CAN HELP

FREE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY, INJURY OR A HEALTH CONDITION.





FIND MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT



BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS



CONNECT WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS



RECEIVE ONGOING WORKPLACE SUPPORT

FREE SUPPORT AVAILABLE ACROSS WALCHA AND THE NEW ENGLAND REGION.

CALL 1300 4 VERTO VERTO.ORG.AU



Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday Amanda Rose, Esther Hunt, with Debbie Richards and Carmel Ryan sharing a position, lost to Janice Rizzi, Lee McCoy and Jan Cross in a very close game 13-11. The AGM is on 20 August and nominations are to be in by tomorrow. Nomination forms are on the board. There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.00am for a 9.30am start.

Wednesday Golf

We played the second round of the 2 Ball Aggregate Championships on Wednesday for the Davidson, Cameron and Co trophy.

The nett winners were Bec Hall and Anne Martin with 138 points.

The score was on a countback, with two other pairs coming in on 138 points. These sweepstake winners were Margaret Davidson and Simone Sweeney and Julie Olrich and Pauline Carter.

The overall 2 day nett winners were Julie Olrich and Pauline Carter with 279 points. They won the two day nett trophy donated by Katie Smith.

The Aggregate Champions for the two days were Margaret Davidson and Simone Sweeney with 340 points.

This is a major trophy which will be presented at our Presentation Day at the end of the year.

Simone Sweeney was nearest the pin on Hole 3 and Clark Street chipped her ball into the Hole on 16 to win the second shot.

This week is a stableford round playing for Sal McCormack's trophy.

Bowls

Thursday bowls Results: Barry Kliendienst & Don Mahoney defeated Tony Batterham & Warwick Hogan 24/10.

Greg Carter, Simon & John McCormack had a win over Peter Halliday, Mark Hogan & Noel Goodwin 10/9. Greg, Simon & John won the chooks.

Next round of singles is to be played Sat 15th August.

At the Nineteenth

Mens Club Champion Michael Stackman teamed up with Pauline Carter to win the 2026 Mr and Mrs T.C. Fenwicke Memorial Mixed Foursomes Championship after they carded 123 off the stick over 27 holes to finish a comfortable three shots ahead of David and Simone Sweeney on 126 last Sunday.

The 'Dynamic Duo' also registered the best Nett score of 102^{1/2} which entitled them to trophies donated by Col King the daughter of Mr and Mrs T.C Fenwicke.

As the Foursomes Gross and Nett trophies are presentation night prizes where players are eligible for one major prize Rose Baumer and her son Tim were elevated to Nett winners after they finished runners up on 104^{1/4}. The remaining sweepstakes went to Guy and Suz Lord 105^{1/2}, Don Brooks and Sue Partridge 106^{3/4}, Wayne Brennan and Anne Martin 107^{1/4}, Nick and Bec Hall 107^{1/2} and Allan Green and Jenny Lisle 108.

Sharpest shooters at the Pins were Anne Martin (3) and Craig Morgan (18).

Last Saturday competition organiser John McCormack accumulated 20 stableford points to take out the weekly 9 hole competition from Anne Martin on 18 pts.

No player reached the 3rd Beach with their tee shot.

This Sunday is the postponed Monthly Stroke Medal Round where Ollie Crawford is in charge of supplying the prizes whereas the following Sunday the annual Workplace Challenge 3 person Ambrose sponsored by the New England Hotel is scheduled.

Netball

Tell ya what, it's pretty easy to be a Walcha netball supporter! Win or lose, our sportsmanship is next level.

Walcha Sapphires 4 def. by Uralla Pumas 34

The Sparkling Sapphires, always gallant in defeat! Despite the score, there were plenty of little wins happening all over the court.

Ella Goodridge is going from strength to strength. Her goal shooting improves every single week and it's so lovely watching her confidence and pivot style grow.

Penny Wauch and Mila Tate in attack were poetry in motion, working beautifully together and moving the ball down the court with some very clever passing. Isobel Mulligan tried her hand at GK, the exact opposite end of the court to where she usually plays! With a massive smile on her dial, she threw herself into it and did an amazing job.

Player of the Match: Kenzie Wark

Walcha Opals 14 def. by VIP Fireflies 18

It's so fun watching an Opals game! Something amazing is always happening! Hugh Whillock, as always, brought an incredible amount of energy and had a genuine match-up with his opponent. As Walcha's first ever male netball player (hopefully the first of many!), it's so cool to see the enthusiasm he brings every week. Everything Hugh does is with intent, active and forceful in defence, clearing the ball with purpose, plus he's the ultimate gentleman on and off the court.

I'll let Opals player Flo Davey sum this one up, who, I might add, was downed by a rogue elbow and still carried on with impressive resilience! "Although we lost, we had a great game. They were tough and hard, but we played the best we have ever played before."

Player of the Match: Savannah Baumer

Walcha Pearls 65 def. ACSC Mavericks 6

Another fantastic match from the Pearls! A few players short this week, Christina Fontanella from the Opals, tough as nails, stepped up for three quarters before leaving to play her own game. That left the Pearls a player down, but they continued to be phenomenal!

Puna, Arley and Belle made shooting look easy, while Veja and Xaphyn showed us what beautiful defensive pressure looks like. Emille and Belle ate up the midcourt, always seeming to be in the right place at the right time.

Player of the Match: Belle Saxby

Walcha Pacifika 35 def. by VIP Hotshots 44

A close contest for Pacifika this week, with the ladies putting an impressive 35 goals on the board against the Hotshots before Hotshots stole the win. They kept themselves in the game with plenty of fight and that Pacifika spirit we love!

Polocrosse

BUNNAN

Over the weekend the Walcha Polocrosse Club headed to the Bunnan Carnival at their brand-new grounds in Aberdeen. The Walcha 1 team consisted of Marlee Wall, Mia Goodwin, Simon Wall, Dan Daley, Will Nichols and Simon Keen. On Saturday the team had a tough first game against Cassilis, going down 11 goals to 13. They made a come back in their second game against one of the home teams on the main field, Bunnan 2 put up a good fight but unfortunately couldn't keep up with our Walcha team dominating 14 to 9. On the Sunday the team were in the D Grade final against Muswellbrook 2, and came home victorious with an 18 to 11 win. To add to their amazing efforts this weekend they claimed all of the best number awards in their grade, Marlee won best number 1, Mia won best number 2 and Simon Keen won best number 3.

Our young Sub-Junior superstar, Patrick Daley had another cracking weekend on his horse Geebung Jingles. Although they only had enough players to field two whole teams, Patty's section were the runners up for the weekend. He also came home with best number 2 for the second weekend in a row.

Kerri-Lea Harris and Patrick Keen teamed up with Central Coast in the E Grade competition having a ball. Kerri-Lea played the 2 & 3 then in the last game polished off as the 1 and Patrick handled the heat out the back playing the 3 for the weekend.



WALCHA GARDEN CLUB

Annual Luncheon

Friday 4th September

Walcha Bar & Grill
at 9.30am

Cost: \$4.00

Bookings at Paper Dolls
From Friday 7th August

Guest Speaker:
Colleen Southwell

Payments can be made at
Regional Australia Bank
Please add your name as a reference

classifieds

Death Notice

WALES KIRGO, Angela Carmel

11th April, 1948 – 28th July, 2026

Died peacefully at Wolper Jewish Hospital, Woollahra after a valiant battle with cancer. Much loved daughter of Joan Marie Wales (dec.) and Robert Wales (dec). Devoted wife of George Kirgo (dec) and friend of Roger Simpson. Adored mother of Alec Perrin, daughter-in-law Luana Duarte, and granddaughter Alice Perrin. The eldest of six children, she was the much loved mentor and loving sister to her siblings Katrina, Philomena, Aidan, Robert, and Duncan John ("D-J"). Raised in Walcha, NSW until the age of 12, she then lived in Sydney and later spent her life living between Sydney and Los Angeles.

Author, opera lover, literary maven, fierce advocate for writers and the profession of writing across the globe, she will be sorely missed by her multitude of family, friends, and colleagues.

A private cremation was held on Thursday 30th July, 2026. A celebration of her life will be held in late November 2026, venue and time to be advised at a later date.

In Memoriam

Robert Brazel

19.11.1963 - 16.08.2017

You may be gone from my sight
But you were never gone from our hearts
Maree, Kurt and Eleanor

In loving Memory of

Saylem Macquarie Slater

20.12.2002 to 12.08.2018

Love you
Miss you, Miss you

Public Notice

Matisse Pascoe Rotary Youth Exchange

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts fundraiser. Orders by 22 Aug, collect 4 Sept, MPC 3-4pm. <https://matisse-pascoe-fundraising.square.site/> Or phone 0429 135 831.

Vietnam Veterans Day - The Walcha RSL

Sub Branch invites the community to our Vietnam Veterans Day Memorial on Saturday the 15 August. A Memorial Service will be held at 11am at Memorial Park, followed by a lunch at the Bowling Club. All are welcome.

Claim the Date

Walcha Garden Festival, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 November, 2027.

Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.
No charge for JP services.

Walcha Council



Walcha Waste Facility Closure for a Planned Power Outage –

Wednesday 12 August 2026

Essential Energy has advised Walcha Council of a planned all-day power outage today **Wednesday 12 August 2026**, to enable crews to safely undertake improvements to the electricity network in the Walcha area.

As a result, the Walcha Waste Transfer Facility is closed for the day. The outage will affect the gatehouse and associated systems, meaning staff will be unable to operate the facility or process incoming waste.

The facility will reopen during normal operating hours on Friday 14 August 2026, noting that the facility is routinely closed on Thursdays.

The onsite recycling centre remains accessible and can be used as normal during the power outage.

Council apologises for any inconvenience and thanks the community for its understanding.

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

Position Vacant



EnergyCo NSW is Hiring!

Community and Stakeholder Officer

- Temporary full-time role up to 4 years (35 hours per week plus Flex Time)
- Armidale, Newcastle or Sydney location with hybrid working supported -candidates based in Tamworth or New England encouraged to apply
- Regular travel required to the New England region
- Play an important role in community engagement for the New England Renewable Energy Zone

About the role

EnergyCo NSW has an exciting opportunity for an engagement or communications professional to deliver meaningful community and stakeholder engagement outcomes for the New England Renewable Energy Zone.

Working across community events, information sessions and stakeholder meetings, you will prepare clear communications, build respectful and productive relationships, maintain stakeholder records and support a range of engagement initiatives.

To apply: Applications are to be lodged online at www.iworkfor.nsw.gov.au
Please search job reference number **551894**

Inquiries: To find out more about this opportunity, please contact Courtney Harrington via courtney.harrington@energyco.nsw.gov.au

Applications close: Monday 17th August 2026 at 11:55pm

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.

Free wood chip. Please call 6777 4115

1 Dorper Ram to give away, 3 years old. Call 6777 4115.

Hay - Hay - Hay Look

The old hay man has just been supplied with small bales lucerne good quality, and large round bales great stock feed heavy Lucerne. Small \$23+GST, large \$270+GST. Phone George 0427 018 493.

Wanted

Second hand Cattle Crush and Roller Mill for grain. Phone 6777 2896.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Ladies Bowling Club AGM Thursday
21st August, 1pm at Walcha Bowling Club.

classifieds

Raffle Results

Veterans Golf Club Monster Wood raffle winner Brenda Turner. Thanks for your amazing support.



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

trade and professions



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

CHIROPRACTOR

Samantha Goor

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

AQF3 ARBORIST

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



tree topservices@bigpond.com



Andrew: 0427 549 748
Toni: 0421 972 354

A G W RURAL CONTRACTING
GPS Equipped boom spraying
Andrew Wauch 0427 549 748

New England IT ONSITE COMPUTER SERVICE + SALES

Tim Sutton 0414 874 523

MOBILE-FIX AUTO+AIR

Mobile Repairer & Airconditioning Specialist
Licensed Vehicle Repairer
Lic No. 46665, 4624 Lic No. 4622616
PATRICK STACE - WALCHA
Mob. 0428 780 077 Ph. 6778 0595

church notices



ANGLICAN

August 16 - 9.30am Walcha Service
August 23 - 9.30am Walcha Service
August 30 - 9.30am Combined Service with Presbyterians at Walcha Anglican Church
Anglican Church
Phone 6777 2543
or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am
Youth Group every Saturday 5pm - 7pm, during term.
We'd love for you to join us.
All welcome.
Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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

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

Marchant

BROS. PTY. 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



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

WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

"Let the good times roll"

WHAT'S ON?

Thursday 13 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 14 3.00pm – Close

Free Bingo drawn at 6.30pm

Raffles drawn at 7pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

- Lemon & Garlic Butter Baked Fish
- Lamb Casserole Pot Pie
- Chicken & Cashew Stir Fry

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

Saturday 15 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 16 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

MEMBERS DRAW

DRAWN AFTER THE RAFFLES

FRIDAY \$1150

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

Next round of the A grade singles to be played on Saturday

HAPPY HOUR

Tues & Wed 4 – 6pm

\$6.50 schooners

(Price for members only)

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



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

