

THE APSLEY Advocate

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26 August 2026

From Librarian to Author The Adventures of Squidape Launches in Walcha

Walcha Central School librarian John Stanton has added "author" to his list of achievements, with the launch of his first middle-grade novel, *The Adventures of Squidape*, held at the Walcha Motel on Saturday, August 15.

The launch brought together family, friends, local readers and supporters to celebrate the release of John's new book, a cosy mystery aimed at middle-grade readers.

John, who spends his working days surrounded by books and young readers at Walcha Central School, has always had a love of stories, mysteries and puzzles. The idea for *The Adventures of Squidape* began at home, inspired by a nightly tradition with one of his young daughters, who insisted on being told a brand-new story every night.

The book follows Roland Bickering-Jones, a young boy who loves facts, lists and things that make sense. Following the death of his mother, Roland struggles to understand the world around him and finds comfort in an obscure comic book series featuring Squidape, a half-squid, half-ape hero.

When Roland travels with his father to the seaside town of Yumpy, a seemingly ordinary holiday soon turns into a mystery involving a suspicious antique shop, stolen treasures and a group of quirky elderly friends known as The Collectors.

Along the way, Roland discovers that paying attention can be a superpower and that heroes can come in many different forms.

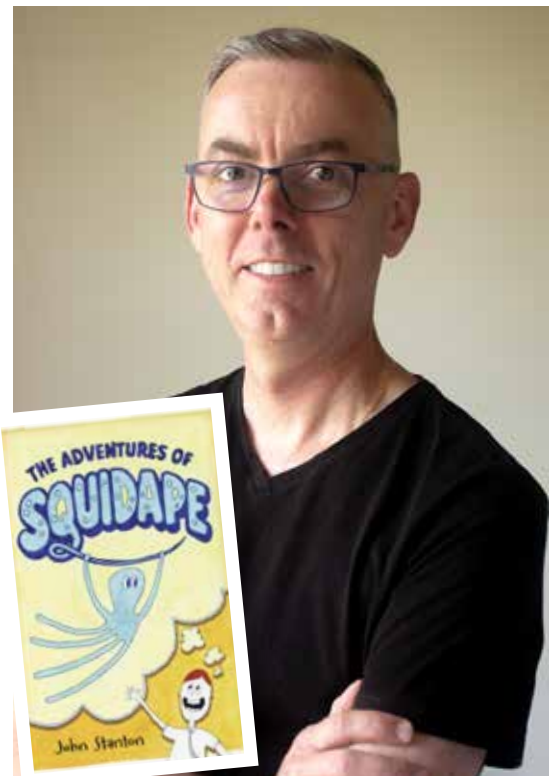
While the story offers plenty of mystery and adventure, John has also woven themes of friendship, loss, courage and connection throughout the book.

John's love of antiques also found its way into the story, with the author often spending his spare

time exploring antique shops in search of hidden treasures.

The Adventures of Squidape is published by Riveted Press and is available through independent bookshops, including Collins Booksellers in Armidale and Tamworth, and online through Booktopia, QBD, and Dymocks.

For John, the launch marks an exciting new chapter, bringing together his love of books, children and storytelling in a story of his own.



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around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

It sure feels and looks like spring has well and truly arrived around our district as the extra sunlight and day length start to really help grass growth. A large widespread front will pass through our district on Tuesday and Wednesday with a forecast of anywhere from 10-20mm expected. If this eventuates then it will help our start to spring and even though the nights are still cool, the grass will continue to grow. Frosts ahead look to be minimal with a slight chance of some over the weekend but our daytime temperatures are now nudging into the high teens which will get the most out of the moisture. Super spreaders have been busy with spreading fertiliser before the predicted front passes through as graziers do what they can to grow as much grass as possible for this time of year, a vital boost in feed volume for a tricky time of year.

What is tricky for everyone is the latest forecast from the BOM that this super El Niño will be the wettest on record! Like what kind of a statement is that and how are people meant to make decision around their forecast, like financial decisions which can really determine if you're in the red or the black. I was speaking with some southern people over the weekend who travelled up from Omeo, and they told me it looked great the whole way, water was sitting in the table drains the entire way to Dubbo. Another person from Deniliquin mentioned that grain growers in that region had all planted barley instead of wheat due to the poor forecast, barley needs less moisture to fill its grain head than wheat. Now due to the extensive rainfall which wasn't predicted the barley has turned yellow, it's nitrogen deficient and too wet so the majority would now be turned into hay. If this is the case, then it's a good result for graziers as we know how hard it has been to acquire hay and the excessive cost due to the lack of it. It's an example of how poor the forecast is, they really are so inaccurate especially the longer they go out. They can't forecast a drought or how bad it will be but currently there are areas already drought declared before it even gets hot. The shires of Balonne, Goondiwindi, Southern Downs and part of the Maranoa in QLD are all drought declared. I can't find anything in NSW that is drought declared but the area from west of Uralla, directly north to the QLD border through Bundarra, Inverell and Ashford are all drought affected. Speaking with a grazer from Bundarra and he mentioned they have had just 180mm of rain for the year to date, that means a lot of rain is needed before the end of the year to get close to their average rainfall. Surface water is also a problem in these areas, those who have sunk bores are fine, but they have been hand feeding since Christmas.

Reading a few articles surrounding our food security last week and it concerns me greatly that we are currently on a trajectory of food production in Australia that will see us potentially be a net food importer by 2040 if things don't change. The reason behind this trajectory is the multiple overlays of environmental legislation and the extensive number of land and water policies which will be the demise of our food security. Currently, 6% of land in Australia is used for cropping and another 8% for highly improved pasture grazing, the rest stuck in the middle between a balance of growing food and maintaining environmental outcomes. We need to come up with a better solution on how we produce food while maintaining environmental biodiversity. Otherwise, if farming families keep getting shutdown with red tape, they will just throw their hands in the air, it's all too hard and we will be at the mercy of other countries for food supply, just like the USA is currently with red meat.

Livestock markets continue to go in opposite directions, clearly the restocker market is driven by rain and the lack of supply meaning it is getting dearer as we edge closer to spring. The feedlot and slaughter markets are getting downward pressure on price from the global meat market, so those physical prices are retreating, but for how long. The interesting part is although the prices for feedlot or slaughter cattle have decreased, you can still deliver cattle in under 2 weeks. The sheep and lamb markets have both retracted in value with lambs now worth \$10.50 to hook while mutton is sitting @ \$7.50. Word is that the USA is potentially going to lift the lamb tariff to 30% from Australia in 2027, now that would pull a lot of value out of our lamb market.

Lions Serve Up support for Riverview

The staff and residents at Apsley Riverview will be absolutely thrilled as their kitchen is receiving a much-needed upgrade thanks to the generosity of Walcha Lions Club.

On Monday evening the Club donated \$20,000 which will be put towards ovens and appliances that need to be upgraded in the kitchen. In presenting the cheque, Lions Club President, Phillip Hamel said that it is a privilege to be able to give local money away to local causes. Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes commented, "It is so hard to make a dollar these days, and giving this large amount to Riverview is greatly appreciated as it will make such a difference."

Eric also thanked Kate Lisle for the fantastic job she is doing as Manager of the facility. "Kate gives a lot, she is such an asset. Having Riverview in local hands is such a good thing for the town, and it will work. Kate, we really appreciate the long hours you put in, having Riverview is a 24 hour operation which can be challenging, and we really appreciate all the extra hours you put in to making it work," Eric said.

The Lions Club also generously donated money on Monday evening to Walcha Support Group, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Ronald McDonald House and Kids Cancer.

The Walcha Lions Club continues to live up to its motto, "We Serve", with its generosity making a very real difference across our community. Through countless hours of volunteering, fundraising and supporting local organisations, Lions members continue to give back in spades, ensuring the money raised locally benefits the people and services that matter most to Walcha.



*Lion Peter McIvor presented cheques to Carolyn Salter of Walcha Support Group and Olive Chandler - Westpac Rescue Helicopter
Below: Kate Lisle and Eric Noakes representing Walcha Council accepted the very generous donation of \$20,000 from Walcha Lions*



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letters to the editor



What a great turn-out at the Bowling Club for the Worker Camp information night. Once again it's Voice for Walcha and the Walcha Guardians having to put a forum on to let residents know what is happening in our town.

Emma Bowman from the Central-West Orana REZ told us what it is like to live alongside the construction of transmission lines, worker camps and hubs. The disruption to people's lives and the destruction of the landscape were depressing to hear about. We are facing years of a chaotic, badly planned rollout. Emma didn't believe the surrounding towns had received any material benefit due to the enclosed nature of the worker camps. The pressure on healthcare had stretched nursing staff significantly, affecting residents at the aged care facility. Contractors building the infrastructure do not appear to be accountable to anyone, no matter what they do.

There is no trust in the NSW Government to get this right. We heard about promises made to councils that have yet to be delivered, and about landholders and communities being asked to accept enormous changes while having little say over what is happening, very little benefit and inadequate compensation that is not in proportion to the scale of construction and disruption. After over 12

months there have been 40 towers out of 800 built in Central Orana REZ, however the NSW Government are still saying construction will only be a few years. The big question of where the water is coming from has never been answered in Central Orana REZ or Walcha. Armidale has essentially said no water, no REZ, such is their concern.

Is there a business case for this transmission line? The situation is changing rapidly with huge uptake of solar and batteries. There has been a recent announcement of a major solar and battery project to connect to the Hunter-Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone on a former mining site. This project is upgrading existing distribution poles and wires instead of building hugely expensive new transmission lines.

The NSW Legislative Council's report into renewable energy zones stated 'Key among the committee's findings was that the government has presided over the roll-out of REZ without a coherent, enforceable, whole-of-government planning framework resulting in predictable and avoidable harm to rural and regional communities.' We will continue to push back against this poorly planned mess.

Bec Onslow

thumbs



- 👍 To Andrew at the Sports Club for the Movie 'Second Hand Lions' fantastic movie, wow.
- 👍 To Dianna Lisle for the rose pruning demo. Thank you for giving so much of your time and knowledge.
- 👍 To Dianna and her staff at The Bowling Club for the lovely meal you provided for my family and friends at my 90th birthday celebrations, also Jo and Tom behind the bar. Thank you.
- 👍 To Terry and the team at the tip for helping out with my dilemma last week.
- 👍 To the staff at the tip for how well they look after the whole area.
- 👍 To the Commercial Hotel for a great dinner, the food has been delicious.
- 👍 To James at LINMAC for being so efficient and his superb mechanical work.

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Create In Walcha returns bigger and better

Create In Walcha is set to return this October, bringing together a talented group of local creatives for a weekend of workshops, learning and plenty of inspiration.

Held over the October long weekend from October 3rd to 5th, the event will be based at Walcha Central School, making use of the school's excellent facilities.

The program offers a wide range of creative workshops, with something for everyone. Yvette Stanton will teach embroidery, while Dave Barden will share his skills in woodturning. Jo Barr will lead a felt hat making workshop, with Sue Jackson teaching acrylic painting and Rosalie Gibson taking participants through weaving.

Bernie Brady will teach leatherwork, while Eliza Lockyer will explore year-round eating from a cold climate garden. Jodi Boyd will lead pottery and Howard Greenwood will introduce participants to the ukulele.

Janine Wright will showcase the creative possibilities of eco printing, while Vicki McIvor will teach participants the art of scone making.

All tutors are local creatives and renowned artists, giving participants the opportunity to learn new skills from people with a passion for their craft.

Create In Walcha aims to provide a fun, relaxed and supportive weekend for people of all skill levels, while also showcasing the wealth of creative talent within the local community.

Tickets are available from www.walchabusinessgroup.com.au/news where more detailed descriptions of each course are also available to help you make your choice of workshop. For further enquiries, please contact Sue Jackson on 0400 425 185 during business hours

or email: sue.18@hotmail.com or Fiona Barden on 0429 690 679 or email: fionaebarden1704@gmail.com

Organisers hope the 2026 event will be the beginning of an annual creative celebration for Walcha, growing into a vibrant and much-loved addition to the town's calendar.



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Don't miss a Feast of Fabulous Fashion



The Quota Club of Walcha is pleased to be hosting the second Ladies Day Out on Saturday 10th October at the Walcha Bowling Club.

We are hosting a Feast of Fabulous Fashion with fashion parades from Paper Dolls House, New Birds and Emporium on Derby as well as Fleece to Fashion presented by Liz Foster. Liz has been the driving force behind Fleece to Fashion and is bringing to us a selection of fine wool garments designed and made by people who are passionate about spreading the wool message. Another special guest who will be showing us some of her creations is Jo Barr who is a textile artist very well known for her felted hats. She has exhibited all over Australia as well as Canada.

We will have on display the Fleece to Fashion wedding dress that Leila Sweeney-McDougall designed and made when she won the award in 2006. Leila is a woman of many talents and these days is more well known for her film making and acting ability in the movie *Just a Farmer*. Claudia Kirton will be modelling the dress and coat she designed and made last year when she was awarded the Fleece to Fashion Encouragement Award. This is made from recycled wool blankets.

This year our lunch will be individually plated and served to our guests at their tables. Our guests will have a choice of a complimentary glass of prosecco or a glass of fruit punch. To go along with this we have a selection of tasty nibbles from a charcuterie board and we will finish up with a selection of cheesecakes for dessert and chocolates to have with tea and coffee

Numbers this year are strictly limited and tickets can be purchased for \$70.00 from Paper Dolls House by 2nd October. For payment by direct deposit please contact Pam Makeham on 0429772419 for bank details. Pam's email address is pamelamakeham@bigpond.com

Special outing for Community care group

Last Friday over 20 seniors tried something different. At the invitation of the Walcha Sports Club, and as part of the Club's new initiatives to be more inclusive, a cheerful group came together at the Sports Club for morning smoko of delicious homemade cakes and slices. This was followed by the movie "Secondhand Lions" on the big screen. It's a rollicking good yarn starring Michael Caine and Robert Duvall in the lead roles as a couple of Texan hillbillies who like shooting at travelling salesman and unlicensed flying. Into their world comes a ten-year-old nephew and everything changes. The audience loved it and a few tissues got used in the closing scene.

After the movie everyone adjourned back to the dining room for a hearty, homemade, winter chicken and vegetable soup with crusty baguettes. The lunch finished off with handmade mixed berries sorbet and lots of added trimmings. More cheerful conversations rounded out the day which was hailed such a success that another is already on the drawing board.

The Sports Club is a venue like no other in Walcha. If you're planning a function, please feel welcome to enquire:

walchasportsclub@gmail.com or Andrew on 0412 667 789

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Walcha & District Historical Society Annual Report

**By Dr Melanie Oppenheimer, President
(Abbreviated report)**

It's been a very busy 12 months for the new Executive and the volunteer members of the Society; and I'd like to thank Shelley Marchant and Mary Brearley (our Secretary and Treasurer respectively) for their hard work. I'd also like to make special mention of our volunteers who work so hard through the year at the Museum, Local History Centre and in our other activities – Jan Cross, Dennis Cooke, Don Murchie, Vicki and Peter McIvor, Kerry Dickson, Mary Graham, James & Anne Levingston, Bob & Lyn Burnell, Lynette & Pam Dorrington, Wayne Finlaison, Katrina & Rob Blomfield, & Lloyd Levingston, Nerida Hoy and our Patrons, Coll King and Pam & Bob Walsh. I'd like to make special mention of our past President, Kate Hoy, on whom we bestowed Life Membership of the Society. We also acknowledge the passing of our member, David Moore.

Our first challenge was the 'snow event' in early August. The resulting storm damage to the Machinery Shed roof required a working bee as we were unable to find a suitable grant and could not afford a loan to remediate the roof. Thanks to Graham Marchant, David Salter, Neil Brearley and Mark Guyot who came to the rescue. We've held two working bees to maintain the Museum Complex, and thanks to the Men's Shed for re-



painting our 3 benches. We've continued to hold a stall at the Walcha Local Markets which has proved very successful in selling books and providing a visible presence in the local community. We decided to reprint three of Bob Walsh's books, Walcha Stories; More Walcha Stories; and Aviation Walcha which are good sellers. Our two annual streets stalls continue to raise well needed funds.

Major projects over the past 12 months include involvement in the 75th Anniversary of "Pasture Wonderland" on 22 November 2025. This recognised the first aerial spreading of superphosphate in Australia by A.S. 'Poss' Nivison on his property, 'Mirani' [The original Tiger Moth plane is housed at the Museum]. David and Carolyn Salter assisted with the organising and I'd like to thank David for his ongoing assistance with the Tiger Moth plane. Thanks to the Commonwealth Bank ladies who helped on the day. This was also the theme for our Australia Day display on 26 January this year. *To be continued*

AGM, 15 August 2026

Incoming Executive: President – Melanie Oppenheimer, Secretary – Shelley Marchant, Treasurer – Mary Brearley, Vice-Presidents – Bob Burnell & Jan Cross, Patron – Coll King & Bob & Pam Walsh, Public Officer – Don Murchie

Continued on page 9...

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Walcha Boys key to The Armidale School's First XV undefeated season

They had already won the AAGPS Third Grade Premiership, but The Armidale School's First XV took on championship status by making it an undefeated season with a 39-0 victory over The King's School Third XV at TAS on Saturday 15 August, with three Walcha boys crucial to success.

Loosehead prop Sinclair Little and fly-half Will Hall had a massive impact for the duration of the game, while Charles Crawford ran on for a stint as scrum-half, for the last quarter of the match. Another Walcha boy, Julian Jenkins, was ready on the bench.

Taking to the field in front of a huge home crowd for TAS Reunion Weekend, it wasn't long before the home team asserted their dominance, with Hall crossing the line in the sixth minute. Just a few minutes later he backed up with his second, Archie McMaster slotting the two points to take it to 12-0. Tries to two teammates added to the tally in the first stanza, with the scoreline at 22-0 at half time.

King's looked to regain a little more territory in the second half but strong defence thwarted two key opportunities. Hall soon bagged his third, again converted by McMaster, with the home team crossing for another two unanswered tries before the whistle, the scoreboard at 39-0.

"The strategy going into the game was just to stick to the structure the team followed for the whole season," said Hall, who was voted player of the match by King's.

Little expanded: "Our forwards gave our backs a really strong platform to launch from which Will and inside centre Archie utilised really well to make the most of all our entries into the opposition's 22 metres with tries, while the fitness we worked hard to build all year, allowed us to maintain our intensity defensively, he said. "That combination helped us not only keep King's scoreless, but our previous two consecutive opponents scoreless."

For Little and Hall, the season also involved rep duties for the Combined AAGPS Second and Third XV respectively in the NSW



Walcha boys Will Hall, Sinclair Little, Charles Crawford and Julian Jenkins with the Col Windon Shield

Schools Rugby Championships in July. From that, Little was then called up for duties with NSW Schools 2.

"Playing at the national championships as well as at GPS, taught me the standards of intensity, preparation and physicality required at a higher level and the understanding of how to lift game-speed tempo to match the style of gameplay within higher level teams and the quality players around me," Little said. "I therefore tried to bring these features back to TAS rugby in our final weeks of training and playing in Term 3 through lifting confidence, stronger communication and a better understanding of how to perform under pressure, which I believe having so many rep players as well as other players who I thought were worthy of selection but didn't get their chance, allowed us to culminate in an undefeated season and keep many opponents scoreless." Prior to the game the team were presented with jerseys by members of the 2016 First XV team, including Walcha's Callan Creighton, who were part of the last TAS team to win the GPS Third grade premiership and back at TAS for their 10-year school reunion. Hall and Little were also members of the TAS First XI that earlier in the year won the Douglas Shield, an independent school's knockout cricket competition, which Little said consolidated the trust, communication and shared standards they had built together.

"The teamwork and attitude developed during the Douglas Shield campaign transferred into rugby and contributed to our success greatly, and I believe that our undefeated rugby season and Douglas Shield victory epitomised our sporting journey together as a group at TAS," Little said.



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Walcha & District Historical Society

Annual Report *continued...*

At the Museum, the surrounds of The Dendroglyph Tree were rebuilt. We held an Open Day – “Remember When?” as part of the Walcha Business Group’s Sunday trading on 12 April 2026. We had over 60 visitors including our Mayor, Eric Noakes, and offered Devonshire Teas and a sausage sizzle. A launch of Rob Tickle’s book Captain Robert Andrew Wauch was held in the afternoon with over 30 people attending including many family members. Over the 12 months we have had around 240 visitors including Niangala School. As a registered charity, we queried why we were being charged land rates for the Museum Complex. We investigated the relevant legislation and presented it to the General Manager of Walcha Council, and we are now exempt from land rates (other than water and sewerage charges). As a small volunteer run organisation this saves us a significant annual cost. We are still trying to raise funds for a new Machinery Shed and are disappointed to be unsuccessful in our grant applications. We will continue to look for new opportunities as our buildings are slowly deteriorating and we need new space to facilitate the other building’s restoration and house our collections in weather proof structures.

In the Local History Centre, volunteers have re-ordered the biographical files and aligned the Past Perfect database. We’ve had over 40 family history enquiries, some of which have resulted in Dennis Cooke driving all over the district photographing graves etc. He is doing a great job and I thank him very much. UNE students have undertaken research projects, and a Charles Sturt University student undertook an 80-hour internship as part of her university course. Supervised by Melanie, she accessioned the Vic Galvin Collection and imputed the data onto Past Perfect. We upgraded the computer and bought a new printer. Melanie liaised with the National Library

of Australia and The Walcha News will be digitised as part of the Trove project through 2026-27. Thanks to Cassie and the librarians for helping us when required.

With the permission from the grant authorities of the Dendroglyph Tree restoration, we used the remaining monies to erect a new sign at ‘Homeleigh’, Irish Town. After much discussion within the membership, it was decided that as the property has deteriorated so much the only course of action left was to replace the original sign with a new updated one. Special thanks to Paul Lockyer and Dorothea Betts for assisting with the text. We plan to create a link on our website with more information in due course. The WHS was approached by the Walcha Business Group to raise money for their community Craft Shop project (to wrap the dilapidated building in a photographic screen). We agreed to assist and held a stall on 18 April. We sold raffle tickets and raised \$631.00. The Old Craft Shop project is now complete, and the building looks much better.

I thank all our members, our donors, and the Walcha Council for their ongoing support. The Walcha & District Historical Society is the memory bank of our local community. Looking to the future, we need to encourage younger members of the community to become involved in the Society and I welcome all suggestions and ways to achieve that. Our next meeting is on Saturday 26 September @1pm at the Museum Complex.

Dr Melanie Oppenheimer
President

EnergyCo

Have your say on the New England Renewable Energy Zone Community and Employment Benefit Program

The New England program will deliver legacy outcomes for local communities, building on the success of the Central-West Orana REZ program which is funding community projects like the expansion of the Putta Bucca Wetlands.

Here’s how to get involved:

- Complete the online survey before 18 September 2026
- Visit a REZ mobile office near you.

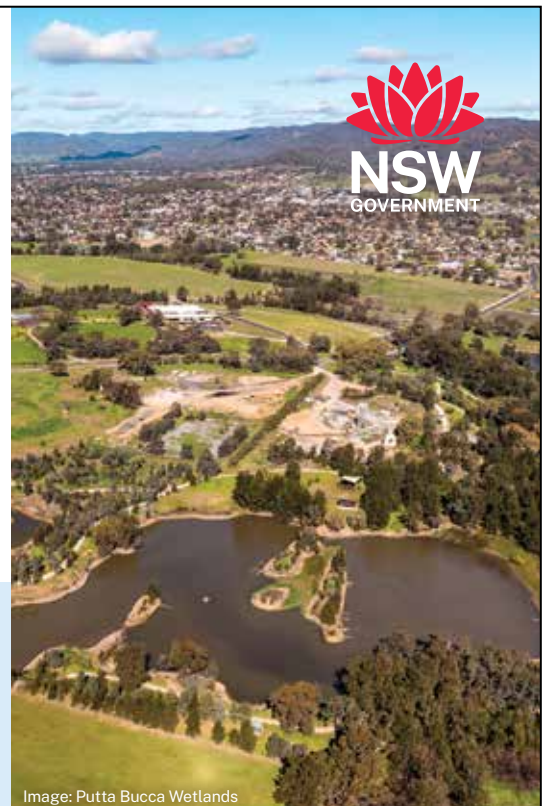


Image: Putta Bucca Wetlands

Scan the QR to have your say

Now is your opportunity to help shape what community benefit funding could deliver in the New England area.



what's the goss



with AJ Cross

Two former Walcha residents will be farewelled at the end of this week. John McLeod, 98 years young, recently of 'Riverview' and formerly of Legge Street and 'Rockvale' will have his life celebrated at the Walcha Sports Club tomorrow Thursday from 2pm. Condolences to his wife Joy along with all other family members and friends.

...

On Friday Vintage Car Enthusiast Gary Dunn will be having a service held at the Uralla Showground commencing at 2.30pm to be followed by a Wake at the same venue where Camping is available for those interested. May Gary Edgar Dunn and John Russell McLeod Both Rest in Peace.

...

Congratulations to annual Workplace Challenge Golf Champions Ross Monie, Ollie Crawford and Nick Rogers who according to club captain Willy Brennan didn't get off to the best of starts when they opened their round on the 17th tee as part of the shotgun commencement. Word has it Ross drilled his tee shot into the dam in front of him before Ollie ploughed his first shot into the water as well. They needn't have worried Nick stepped up and calmly caressed his tee shot straight up the middle of the fairway. And the eventual winners were away.

...

My up the road 'Struggle Street' neighbour Mark 'Turbo' Peters was viewing the results of the English Soccer when he noticed a match between Leeds and Nottingham. Nothing out of the ordinary there but when his much better half Toni had her attention drawn to it her response was along the lines of - 'Nottingham thats where Robin Hood lived.'

...

Quick as a flash Turbo 'politely' corrected Toni by informing her Robin Hood actually resided in Sherwood Forest not Nottingham at

all. Well Toni was sort of on the right track the Sheriff of Nottingham was in point of actual fact Robin's chief opponent and arch rival. See Toni or Turbo if you need more details.

...

Bumped into former Walcha Sheriff Anthony Smith at West Newcastle Leagues Club last Saturday night where he was in a jovial mood after his beloved Sea Eagles belted the Knights 44-24 earlier in the day. As I was dropped off at McDonald Jones Stadium before the game the first person I saw was ex-Walcharite Andy Olrich who was attending the game with his son Archie to cheer on the Knights. Sad day for Andy and Archie really.

...

Let's just say three of our crew, grandsons Toby and Jay along with myself were happy with the result while son-in-law Josh Wellings, his son Simon and my son Ben weren't quite as excited. Thanks to everyone who contributed to my late 70th Birthday celebrations, Manly Sea Eagles winning just iced the cake.

...

Last week in Big Wigs of the Week Apsley Tipster Katie Smith was listed as Picking the Card but through no fault of her own that wasn't the case. When usual card marker Niraj Sarmah wasn't on duty No 2 card marker Ganesh 'Boss' Sedhain attempted the job but somehow had two winning teams down as losers. Nothing Raj couldn't fix when he returned to bar duty a couple of days later.

...

Rd 25 Big Wigs of the Week - Newie - Audi Dunn 28 points (7 out of 8 correct); T.B.W.Cafe - Emma Hillier 14; Vet Supplies - Pete King; Apsley - Henry Williams, Sophie Cooper, Niraj Sarmah, Stirrer Cross, Steve Avery, AJ Cross; BC - Mary Haines, Neil Dunn, Barry Kliendienst, Kristian Rizzi, D.G. Clare and AJ Cross (All 12 pts each)

...

Leaders with 2 Rds remaining - Newie - Jed Wittig 288, Lacey Newton, Tom Donnelly 280; Vet Supplies - Tahlia Bird 254, Mata Matapakia 242, D.J. Bird 238; Apsley - Josh Kevill 254, Adam Tate 252, Jess Litchfield 246, B.C - Barry Kliendienst, D.J. Bird 250, Carly Goodwin 244 T.B.W.Cafe - Miles Lawrence 232, Alena Stackman, Bec Bullock, Lisa Swanton 228. Crisp Cross Challenge Cup - AJC 238, Tracky Crisp 222; 'Struggle Street' Stakes AJC 238 and Turbo 200.

...



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Winners are Grinners

By A.J Cross

The Annual Workplace Challenge 3 Person Ambrose Golf event sponsored by the New England Hotel attracted a very good field of 63 players last Sunday including winners Ross Monie, Ollie Crawford and Nick Rogers who carded 57^{1/2} Nett which entitled the trio to the main prizes.

Runners up were Will Archdale, James Norton and Will Nicholls on 59 who collected vouchers donated by Thunderbolts Way Cafe for their performance.

Sweepstakes went to Michael Stackman, Reece Martin, Murdoc Chawner 59, Willy Brennan, Peter Norbury, Lachy Fletcher 61; Cark Street, David and Pip Leake 61.

Sharpest Shooters at the Pins were Will Nicholls (3), Michael Stackman (9), Billy Rasmussen (16) and Jenny Lisle (18).

The weekly 9 hole competition was called off last Saturday due to the wet weather conditions.

This Sunday the opening round of the 2026 4BBB Championships are scheduled where Jimmy Nivison and Jock McLaren are in charge of donating the trophies.



Winners are Grinners - Ross Monie, Ollie Crawford and Nick Rogers with Newie 'Boss' Peter Berry.

advocate sport

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday a game of triples was played with Esther Hunt, Marie Spink and Carmel Ryan winning against Wendy Moore, Lee McCoy and Phyllis Hoy. At the AGM all positions remained unchanged. The match committee comprises of Phyllis Hoy, Pam Makeham, Wendy Moore and Debbie Richards. Two teams will head to Tamworth tomorrow to play in a triples event at Tamworth City Bowling Club. The 3 Bowl Triples Championship draw has been emailed to members and is on the notice board. It commences 3 September with Team 1 v's Team 2. Team 3 has a bye. Keep in mind to gather a team together for our 90th Birthday Fundraiser on Saturday 24 October. It is a 2 bowl triples event. There will be NO social bowls tomorrow due to members going to play in Tamworth.

Wednesday Golf

We played a stroke round on Wednesday for the President's trophy, along with the monthly mug and the sixth medal round.

Bec Hall was our winner with a great 68 nett. Sweepstakes were won by Donna Martin with a 69 nett, Cark Street with 70 nett, and Sue Partridge with 71 nett, counting out both Pip Monie and Suzanne O'Keefe also on 71 nett.

Bec Hall was on fire winning both nearest the pins. Her shot on Hole 3 was so close to being a hole in one, missing the mark by the weeniest of margins. Her second shot on Hole 16 was also incredibly close.

The monthly mugs were won by Donna Martin - A grade, Cark Street - B grade, and Bec Hall - C grade.

This Wednesday is a 4 Ball multiplier, draw for partners for Vicki Heffernan and Jill Burnell's trophy.

Bowls

Thursday Results: Noel Goodwin & Tony Batterham defeated John McCormack & Don Mahoney 25/10. Denis Makeham & Warwick Hogan had a win over Brian Goodwin & Peter Halliday 18/15. Noel & Tony won the chooks.

Competition Games:

A Grade: Fred Cameron had a good win over Stephen Goodwin 31/26, scores were even after 25 ends but Fred was able to pull out the big shots when needed. Great game fellas. Fred will now play Michael Wall in the next round.

Fours: Brian Goodwin, Noel Goodwin, Dacian Andrews & Adam Hall defeated John Byrne, Buck Byrne, Scott Withers & Darrell Brazel 17/8.

Mat Hamel, Ian Bird, Greg Carter & Stephen Bath had a gritty win over Fred Cameron, Garth Clare, Michael Hoy & Michael Wall 14/8, a really good day of bowls.

Polocrosse

Over the weekend the Dunedoo and Oberon Polocrosse Clubs hosted the annual NSW Club Championships. Walcha members Dan and Pat Daley set out to represent the club, with only young Patrick competing in the Sub-Junior grade. Unfortunately, their weekend was cut short due to wet weather, and all games were called off. Pat played in a muck around game with the adults once the skies cleared before heading back home. Next week will be the last week of the season for the Walcha Polocrosse Club at the Gulgong family weekend.

Netball

With the Opals and Sapphires enjoying a well-earned bye this week, it was up to the Pearls and Pacifika to fly the green and gold flag!

Walcha Pearls def. TAS 5

Another great win for the Pearls, who continue to show why they've been such a force this season. Week after week these girls turn up and work hard for each other! Big thanks to Christina Fontanella, who helped fill in when they were short on players.

Walcha Pacifika def. VIP Fun Bags 25

What a win for Pacifika! Our senior ladies (who will hate that title) got the job done against VIP Fun Bags, adding another great result to what has been a fantastic season for these girls.

This coming weekend marks the end of regular games for the season, and for any teams who don't progress through to finals, the last time they'll pull on the green and gold for 2026.

It's pretty amazing to think that just three short years ago, Walcha didn't have a single netball team. It all started with Meggie Davey having a dream to get Walcha netball up and running and WOW, look what that dream has turned into!

Fast forward three years and we now have teams across all age groups, playing fierce, competitive netball and making their mark on the Armidale competition.

But even better than the wins has been the way our Walcha teams have carried themselves, with great sportsmanship, plenty of heart and a whole lot of fun. I think everyone involved in Walcha Netball can be pretty proud of what we've built.

classifieds

Funeral Notice

John Russell McLeod

15/01/1928-19/08/2026

Recently of Riverview and formerly of Legge Street and 'Rockvale' Walcha.

Dearly beloved husband of Joy.

Loving father and father-in-law of Scot & Marlene, Belinda (dec'd), and Jann & David. Much loved Grandpa of Sally, Rob, & Angus and a loved great-grandpa of Fletcher, Pippa, Elkie, Milla, Maggie & Edie.

Aged 98 years

A celebration of John's life will be held at the Walcha Sports Club from 2pm on Thursday 27th August 2026.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

For Sale

Palomino Camper 2008. \$22,000. Call 0438 722 881.

Laver pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks. Delivered Friday 04/09/2026. Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Funeral Notice (cont)

Gary Edgar Dunn

"Dunny"

11th August 2026

Loving father of Luke, Candy and Allissia

Loving father-in-law of Andy and Tim

Cherished grandfather of Taz, Jett, Khai, Sachi, Lacy and Aayla

Loved brother of Peter, Sue, Wendy and their families

Aged 73 years

A Funeral service to be held at the Uralla Showground, Friday, 28th of August 2026, commencing at 2:30pm

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Meeting Notice

Walcha Road Historic AGM and bi monthly meeting, Thursday the 17th of September 2026 commencing at 6:30pm at the Club Rooms at the Walcha Road Hotel. Enquiries: Kooka 0497 844 316 and Carmel 0410 036 011. New members and visitors are welcome.

Hay - Hay - Hay

Lucerne Hay large round bales, slightly grassy. \$250. Please call George 0427 018 493.

Public Notice

LINE OF CHOICE

There are two types of people in the World. There are the HONEST and there are the REST. The Honest person each day look at themselves in the mirror and ask "Am I thinking and acting above or below the LINE."

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Meeting MHERV

Why does MERHV have an H in it? Shouldn't that be MERV?

Well, the H stands for HEALTH. MHERV is the Men's Health Education Rural Van.

MHERV will be back in Walcha on Monday 31st August and Tuesday 1st September.

MHERV is FREE. It's another great Rotary project that serves our district.

MHERV is an opportunity for men (women are welcome too) to get their blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels checked by a registered nurse. It only takes 5 minutes and could save your life. Because men are notoriously bad at going to the GP for check-ups, Rotary came up with MHERV – the free health check that comes to you.

Every year well over 40,000 Australian men die from preventable diseases.

MHERV has tested over 20,000 men since 2017 finding over 8,000 in need of treatment. That's more than 1 in 3! Of those, 615 were in immediate danger of stroke or heart attack. MHERV can prevent you from becoming another statistic.

Conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high blood sugar which often have little or no apparent symptoms, can build up and lead to sudden unexpected death or long-term incapacity. Don't let it happen to you. Just 5 minutes with MHERV could save your life. On MHERV's previous visits to Walcha, men needing urgent further medical investigation were identified. Tests may show no reason for concern. But isn't it better to be safe than sorry.

Save the date and save your life:

Monday 31st August:

MHERV will be at the Walcha Men's Shed in the morning

Monday 31st August:

In the afternoon MHERV will be outside the Walcha Motel

Tuesday 1st September:

In the morning MHERV will be outside the Walcha Motel.



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church notices



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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

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Thursday 27 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 28 3.00pm – Close

Free Bingo drawn at 6.30pm

Raffles drawn at 7pm

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5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 30 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

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FRIDAY \$1250

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Footy tipping party will be on Saturday 19th September

Start planning! Twilight Bowls will be starting on Friday 9th October. A team nomination sheet will be posted at the club over the week

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