

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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9 September 2026

## Year of the Ram It's Grand Final Week

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2026 certainly has been the Year of the Ram for our local rugby club with both the First and Reserve Grade teams making the finals.

It was an absolutely heartbreaking end for the First Grade team who went down to Albies in the final minute of the game last Saturday when they ran away with a length-of-the-field try to secure their place in the Grand Final this Saturday.

However, the Reserves played hard in a tough back-and-forth contest to defeat the Blues and clinch a Grand Final berth for the 2026 Premiership.

Grand Final fever has hit town with shopfronts, mailboxes, fence lines, and anything you can dream of decorating being turned into red and

white this week to pump up the Rams in readiness for their big game on Saturday.

"They will need the same noise and numbers," the Rugby Club commented.

"Get behind them. Wear the jumper, get to the ground early, and make it a Rams Day. The Reggies have earned the shot. The rest of the Club can help them finish it."

**NEW ENGLAND RUGBY UNION GRAND FINAL  
Saturday 12 September**

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Walcha v St Albert's College  
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# around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

You don't have to travel far off the hills to see some green crops and fat livestock as Tamworth and surrounds looks a picture. Talking with people who live around Gunnedah, and they mentioned how good their season was and how quickly it had improved since winter. Grain crops look to be powering ahead, as well as the natural herbages for livestock which they all stated will be gone as quickly as they grew as it continues to heat up. I was amazed at the amount of people I was speaking to over the weekend that had sent large numbers of cattle away back in Autumn and predominantly to QLD. The interesting part is they are already being asked to move on with the expected heat set to take its toll on their grasses so the next move will be interesting. Unless you can find agistment in the south which would be the only safe bet at present, it's a tricky spot to be in with our current forecast unless, you decide to sell. If we can jag a couple of inches of rain directly, we will be set for a huge spring, and you can see how much the annual and permanent pasture crops have grown just over the last 3 weeks.

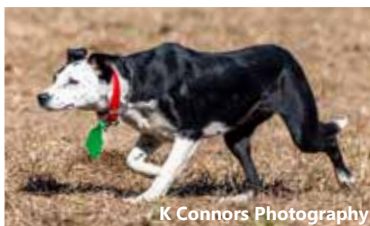
A new Angus and all breeds national seedstock record price was set last week with an Angus bull who fetched \$420,000, exceeding the previous record set by a Wagyu bull by \$20,000. Not only did the Millah Murrah stud set an Australian record for the highest price bull but they had a whopping average of \$37,578 which would have to be one of the highest averages, if not the record for a sale average. The strength of the bull sales has been tremendous with sale averages improving as the bull selling season draws to a close in a few weeks, especially the southern sales which is a representation of their current season.

EYCI cracked 1000c/kg late last week with restocker's keen to acquire light weaners to put back into grass filled paddocks in the south. The national saleyards numbers have dropped by as much as 20,000 head to 50,000 hd yarded since the start of August. Numbers throughout our region may start to climb as the temperatures heat up and our season hangs in the balance. What we are seeing in multiple centres is that the weight of the cattle compared to to same time last year has improved, probably more so in the south and north. Southern yardings are suggesting the cattle are 40-60kg heavier than the previous year due to the better season adding more value to the livestock. We are getting plenty of phone calls with southern buyers looking to replace these cattle who are now extremely active in our markets, especially store condition animals with plenty of frame. AuctionsPlus last week went to another level with light Angus steers making more than \$7/kg, Angus heifers made \$6.30/kg while feeder steers stepped up once again to see Angus feeders hit \$6.30, a long way in front of the physical market. Breeder cattle continue to strengthen, especially in the south with young Angus females in the prime of their lives making from \$3600-\$4000 a unit which is where they should be given the price of the weaner market.

The El Nino is forecasted to peak in late spring early summer with temperatures already on the rise across the eastern states. Parts of western QLD have already been forecasted to hit high thirties and with the threat of bush fire season upon us, bush fires are already causing havoc across southern QLD, and along the great divide. The threat is heightened given the extra warm weather and the expectation that we will have a severe storm season. It was evident on Saturday night when that small front whipped through the region with huge gusts of wind. I only mentioned last week that we hadn't had much wind, well I may have helped bring that on. We haven't had much rain, but I hope this has the same effect as my wind statement last week. Judging by the black cockatoos I've seen over the last week there should be plenty of rain coming, or maybe they are just nesting specifically around my house just to taunt me!

# Woolbrook Stampede Dog Trial

The Woolbrook Stampede Cattle Dog Trial will be held at the Woolbrook Sportsground this weekend, from Friday 11 to Sunday 13 September.



The event is expected to bring plenty of competitors, working dogs and spectators to Woolbrook, with entries received across the Maiden, Novice and Open classes.

Due to the large number of entries, the first round of the Open will be held on Friday, with the competition getting underway from 6am on Saturday for those unable to compete on Friday.

Saturday will see the Open continue, followed by the Maiden and Novice Judges Talk and competition. On Sunday, competitors will continue through the Maiden and Novice rounds before the finals of all three classes are held.

There will also be plenty happening throughout the weekend for spectators, with the Woolbrook School P&C running a raffle, a canteen operating across the weekend, as well as a sausage sizzle on Friday night. A dinner and Calcutta will also be held on Saturday night.

Everyone is welcome to head along to the Woolbrook Sportsground and watch the action. Updates will be posted on the Woolbrook Stampede Facebook page.

# Mending at the Men's Shed

Do you have a chair leg that needs repairing, a cupboard that needs a door rehinged, a flat pack item that needs assembling, a watch that needs a new battery or just the kitchen knives need sharpening? These are just some of the many jobs that can be undertaken by the chaps at the Walcha Men's Shed.

Recently we have repaired and painted three garden seats for the Historical Society, built a new mail box for the Woolbrook School, repaired and then made more wooden toy trucks for the Pre-school. Perhaps one of the biggest projects has been making 70 wooden stockman's tool boxes which were ordered by Stockman's Supplies in Tamworth. These boxes must be sought after as we believe 20 more are needed. Another order was for a child's table and chairs. It was a unique design as all the pieces are slotted together, no nails, screws or glue. The chaps who worked on the first order are so impressed with the design they are making another one which will be on display at the next Farmer's Market and anyone wanting one can order one. Also don't forget we propagate plants which will be available at the markets.

Thanks to grants from the Australian Men's Shed Association and Origin Energy the kitchen area has been completely upgraded with a new stove and exhaust system, new island bench containing big storage drawers, new bench tops and tiling along the walls. Apart from electrical and gas plumbing all the work has been carried out by members.

The Men's Shed is open to any man of any age and any skill (or none at all). It is a great venue to sit and chat about old memories either in a sunny corner or over a cup of tea or coffee. Quite a few men just come for the morning tea at 10am where they can enjoy the wonderful cakes and slices provided by our own cook, Sam or our wonderful supporter, Lorraine. Recently we have been asking a member to tell us their life story at the 2nd Wednesday of the month morning tea. As we have a vast range of members this has proved very interesting. Then on the last Wednesday of each month Sam cooks up a lovely lunch for those who put their name down. The shed is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm with an hours break for lunch from 12 till 1pm. Any member of the public is welcome to visit and view the wonderful facility we have here in Walcha.



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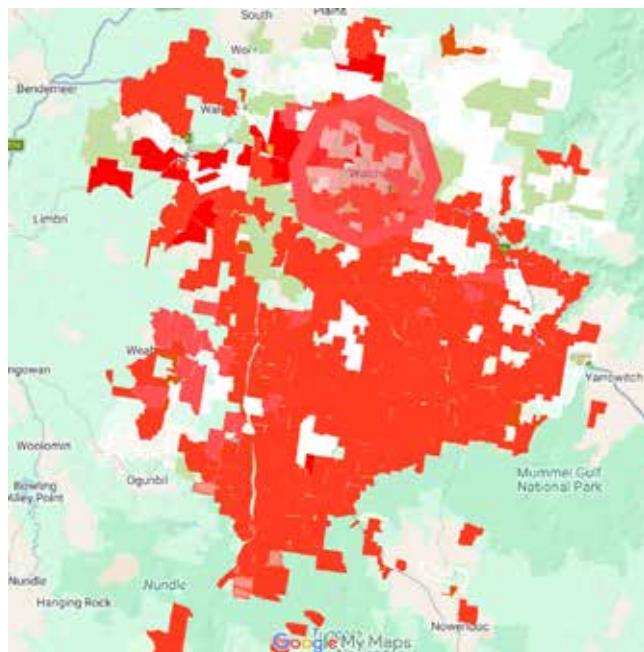
# WHCG map development

## From WHCG

Over the past few weeks, the Walcha High Country Guardians (WHCG) have been working on developing a map of our region to signify the lack of social licence towards hosting renewable projects and its associated infrastructure. The resulting image speaks volumes; there is no room for the development of any new generation projects, hosting the transmission lines or the workers camps.

This map is also a stark contrast to the original map Walcha Energy produced which blanketed our entire region with proposed generation projects, misrepresenting our community and misleading the Government to believe the support was here to develop the NE REZ to 8GW. With this many landowners opposed to hosting, we believe this is clear evidence to cap the REZ at its current generation and scrap the transmission line along with its workers camps.

Thank you to everyone in the community who has contributed to developing the map up to this point. If you haven't had your property added to the map or think your property is incorrect, please contact Tabitha at [whcg.funding@gmail.com](mailto:whcg.funding@gmail.com) to have your property updated.



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## Barrell race feature at Pony Camp

The Walcha Pony Club is getting ready for another exciting annual pony camp, with a week of riding, learning and plenty of fun planned for young riders.

The annual camp will run from Tuesday, 6 October to Saturday, 10 October, giving members the opportunity to spend the week riding and developing their skills under the guidance of experienced instructors who specialise in their chosen disciplines.

The week will finish with the club's Gymkhana on Saturday, 10 October, where riders will be able to put their skills into practice and enjoy a day of competition.

A highlight of the week will be the Team Barrel Race on Wednesday, 7 October at 5pm. The community is invited to come along, watch the action and support the Pony Club as they raise money for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The event promises plenty of excitement while supporting an important service that plays a vital role across regional communities.

For those who are new to pony club or are interested in finding out more, the Walcha Pony Club will also be holding an Instruction Day on Sunday, 20 September. The day is an opportunity for new members to come along, have a go and see what pony club is all about.

With riding, instruction, competition and community fundraising all on the program, the Walcha Pony Club's annual camp is set to be a great week for both riders and the wider community.

Everyone is welcome to come along and support the team barrel race and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter fundraiser. For more information contact Mathew Barwick 0429 694 239, Amanda Latham 0418 420 676, Johnno Byrne 0447 060 693.



# Local artist brings colour and creativity to Walcha

Walcha artist Natalia Rudnicki is set to showcase her love of colour and creativity with a special art exhibition at the Old Newsagency from Wednesday, 30 September to Saturday, 10 October.

The exhibition will feature around 100 original artworks, all available for purchase, along with a selection of Natalia's handmade jewellery.

Natalia is a well-established artist with a diverse creative background spanning more than 30 years. She holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts and a Diploma in Teaching and is a semi-retired visual arts teacher, having spent three decades teaching and inspiring students through art.

Working across a range of mediums including acrylics, pastels, printmaking, photography and digital art, Natalia draws much of her inspiration from the colour and beauty of her surroundings, particularly Australian flora and fauna.

Her artwork has been exhibited and sold throughout Australia and Poland, with recent exhibitions and displays in Bendemeer, Uralla and Kootingal. Through her established studio, *Art Graphics*, Natalia has also completed numerous commissioned works.

"I am totally inspired by colour and have been doing art for a very long time," Natalia said.

Alongside the exhibition, Natalia will also be sharing her skills with the community as part of

*Create in Walcha* on Saturday, 3 October, when she will host a lino printing workshop at the old Newsagency.

Lino printing is a relief printmaking technique where an artist carves a design into a sheet of linoleum, rolls ink over the raised surface and then presses it onto paper or fabric to create a print.

With extensive experience teaching art workshops on the South Coast and in Sydney, Natalia is looking forward to giving participants the opportunity to explore the technique and create their own artwork.

The exhibition provides an opportunity for locals and visitors to experience Natalia's varied body of work, with plenty of colour, creativity and inspiration on display throughout the 11-day exhibition.



# Touch Football success



Walcha Central School had amazing results at the U/16 Touch Football State Finals for Central Schools in Dubbo.

The girls finished second in NSW, while the boys were crowned State Champions. The Opens team also put in a fantastic effort, claiming a silver medal.

A special congratulations goes to Flynn O'Connell, who was named Best and Fairest for the finals in both the U/16 and Opens divisions.

It was a great effort from all teams, with Walcha Central School bringing home two silver medals and a gold medal at state level for touch football.

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# Who are EnergyCo?

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## Who are EnergyCo?

EnergyCo is responsible for planning and coordinating the network infrastructure needed to support NSW's renewable energy zones (REZs). EnergyCo recognises the important role the south west region is playing in the state's energy transition and is committed to working closely with local communities throughout the journey.

## What is the South West Renewable Energy Zone?

The South West REZ is one of five REZs being delivered across NSW to help keep the lights on as ageing coal-fired power stations retire. Stretching from west of Jerilderie to the Victorian border near Mildura, it will unlock 3.56 gigawatts of wind, solar and battery storage capacity, enough to power up to 1.6 million homes and support more than around 1,690 direct local jobs per year during construction.

## Community and Employment Benefits for the region

Communities hosting new renewable energy infrastructure in the South West are being invited to help shape a \$60 million program that will deliver lasting local benefits for decades to come.

EnergyCo has launched consultation on the South West REZ Community and Employment Benefit Program, funded through access fees paid by renewable energy developers connecting to the South West REZ transmission network.

Locals are invited to have their say and help shape how the program is designed and delivered to maximise lasting benefits for the region. To have your say, visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/sw-cebp](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/sw-cebp). The survey is open until Friday 18 September 2026.

This approach follows the successful rollout of community benefit funding in the Central-West Orana REZ.

Examples of projects where community benefit funding has been delivered in the Central-West Orana REZ, include key worker

accommodation in Mudgee, converting an old fire station into a youth centre in Gulgong and upgrades to early education services facilities for children in Dunedoo.

EnergyCo are also delivering a range of programs including career days and business events, industry briefings and training, all which support local businesses, school leavers and people interested in working on South West REZ projects.

To find out more visit [energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/south-west-rez](https://energyco.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/south-west-rez)



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# RUGBY REPORT FINALS

By Eric the Spider

## REGGIES

Walcha Reggies booked their place in the grand final with a tough, well-executed 28-19 win over the Armidale Blues at Bellevue Oval. It was the sort of finals performance the Rams needed: physical up front, organised in defence, and clinical enough when chances came.

The Blues came out with plenty of intent and looked dangerous early, stretching Walcha across the park and forcing the visitors to scramble. That is where the Rams' structure held. Harry Partridge was outstanding in defence, repeatedly stepping up and rattling Blues attackers before they could get over the gain line. His hits set the tone and gave the rest of the line time to fold in.

Nick Rogers' service from nine was flawless. Clean, quick ball off the deck and a calm head at the breakdown meant Walcha could play on the front foot instead of living off scraps. When the Rams did get go-forward, it usually started through the midfield. Jordan Hill and Andrew Kelly were solid all afternoon, hitting the line hard and adding the extra metres that turned half-chances into genuine pressure. Their work in the 13 channel kept the Blues guessing and created space out wide.

Ben Fussell continued his excellent form with some rampaging runs that regularly bent the Armidale defensive line. Every time Walcha needed a lift, Big Fuss put his hand up, carrying through contact and giving the pack something to work off. Those charges, combined with patient phase play, eventually told on the scoreboard.

At the back, Hunter Thornbury had an excellent game at fullback. He was composed under the high ball and, more importantly, made a number of covering tackles when the Blues looked set to break. Several times the home side thought they were away only for Thornbury to appear and shut the door. That last line of defence was the difference in a match that never quite got away from either side.

Walcha's pack won enough of the collisions to keep the game in the right parts of the field. They were not flashy, but they were consistent: first to the breakdown, tidy at the set piece, and unwilling to give the Blues cheap ball. When Armidale did find space, the Rams' scramble defence held. The 28-19 scoreline flattered the contest a little in the last quarter; Walcha had done the hard work earlier and then managed the game well once they had their noses in front.

It was a complete team effort, Reserve grade now head into the grand final with belief and a clear idea of how they want to play. A grand final awaits. If the Rams can produce another display like this — tight defence, sharp service, and go-forward through the middle — they will give themselves every chance.

## FIRST GRADE

Walcha's first-grade season ended in the cruellest way at Bellevue

Oval, falling 53-48 to St Alberts College after a runaway try in the last minute. It was a high-scoring preliminary final in which both sides threw everything at it, and for 79 minutes neither team could kick away. Then Albies found one last gap, went the length, and the Rams were left with nothing but a long trip home.

The contest see-sawed from the opening whistle. Every time Walcha punched a hole, St Alberts answered. Every time the College looked set to squeeze the game, the Rams came again. It was physical, direct rugby, and Walcha's best work came when they ran straight and hard at the Albies line rather than looking for the pretty option.

Sam Colwell was at his destructive best. He rampaged in attack all afternoon, bending defenders and giving the Rams a platform they could play off, and he did it for the full 80 minutes. There was no drip-feeding him minutes off the pine — Colwell stayed on and kept asking the same question of the St Alberts defence.

Banjo Lawrence threw himself into the attack the same way. Time and again he ran into the Albies line, taking the heavy contact and forcing the College to reload. That willingness to go first created the space others used later in the phase.

Ross Monie was big at both ends. In attack he carried with purpose; in defence he was a constant presence around the ball, slowing Albies' recycle and making them earn every metre. On a day when the scoreboard never settled, that two-way work kept Walcha in the fight.

Out wide, Hamish Heeney laid the platform with some dominant carries. He didn't just finish attacks — he started them, getting the Rams over the gain line on the edges and giving the backline a chance to play. Michael Paull had a good game on the wing and finished off the attack well when the ball finally came his way. Those two linked neatly whenever Walcha went around rather than through.

At the back, Eddie Pitt played well at fullback. His kicking was sound, both from the tee and in general play, and he added a layer of attack out wide that St Alberts had to respect. Pitt's presence meant Walcha always had a second option when the middle of the park got congested.

For all that, the game would not sit still. Leads changed, the try line kept getting crossed, and both packs emptied the tank. Walcha will replay the last minute for a while. A season's work came down to one missed assignment and a runaway, and that is a hard way to go out.

There is no dressing it up: it was heartbreaking. But it was also a performance the club can stand by. The Rams played with physical, direct attack, punched holes in a good St Alberts side, and stayed in a shootout that could have gone either way until the final play. The manner of the loss will sting. The way they played should not.

First grade's year is done, but the club's isn't. Reserve grade take on St Alberts College in the grand final at Bellevue Oval, Armidale and they will need the same noise and numbers.

Get behind them. Wear the jumper, get to the ground early, and make it a Rams Day. The Reggies have earned the shot. The rest of the club can help them finish it.

**Brendan Moylan MP**  
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## RUGBY UNION GRAND FINAL

# WALCHA RAMS

## VS.

# ST ALBERT'S COLLEGE



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# Bridge Competition comes to Walcha

On 22 and 23 August Walcha's Oxley Bridge Club hosted a weekend of bridge, bridge and more bridge. This is known as a Bridge Congress and was attended by an army of visiting enthusiasts from the Gold Coast, Sydney, the Central Coast, Quirindi, Gunnedah, Armidale and Glen Innes. The venue was the Walcha Sports Club where locals play competitively every week.

Holding an event like this in Walcha is an opportunity to showcase our community's hospitality and to put some extra money into local businesses. Visitors stayed at the Walcha Motel and B'n'Bs close to town. Ganesh and his team from the Apsley Arms Hotel catered for the festive dinner on the Saturday night and impressed everyone with a delicious meal. Visitors went to the Bar & Grill for breakfast or other café venues around town. Bridge seems to be quite an appetite enhancer as indicated by the consumption of homemade soups, cakes, biscuits and slices served up by the keen cooks in the ranks of the Oxley Bridge Club. Olive Chandler deserves a big thank you for her super fresh and tasty sandwiches for lunch on the first day. More than a few players were pleased to leave on Sunday evening with packs of extra food for the journey.

All that good tucker proved to be brain food for the most skilled players. Ian Price and Brian Glover from Armidale were in the winners' circle taking out the Championship while David Tucker and daughter Susan were runners up. In a special category for locals, Tim and Janie Fenwicke were top in the Championship with the consolation prize awarded to Di Bazeley and Janice Monie.

Bridge is a mentally stimulating game and a very sociable activity for players of any age. Beginners can learn in a relaxed environment at the Walcha Tennis Club on Monday mornings starting at 10am. The Oxley Bridge Club is keen to re-introduce evening bridge for all skill levels so if you would like to find out more please contact Andrew on 0412 667 789.

## thumbs



- 👍 To Brian Smith, such a generous member of our community.
- 👍 To the lovely lady who supplied donuts to Apsley Riverview residents, staff and visitors on Friday afternoon for happy hour. So very thoughtful.
- 👍 To Walcha Quota Club for their generous donation towards our Preschool library. Your support helps us continue building a wonderful collection of books for our children to enjoy.
- 👍 To Walcha Council office I visited today to return the gym entry fob I had lost, then found. Nat & Danielle are always helpful processing my errors.
- 👍 To the beautiful Wattle on the river bank walk. We need more.
- 👍 To Ayush in IGA for the wonderful vegetables
- 👍 To Karen, Rebecca, Suzie, Mat, Milo, Peta and Gary for their help with the Apsley Arms Hotel auction.
- 👍 To the Coles truck that come to Walcha from Armidale. Shop Locally.

**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.**

# quota clippings



Chris Hamel, Publicity Officer

Quota has been part of the local community since 1974. The following year it became a fully functioning club for women with the aim to serve country and community. Members have continued this unbroken service.

In the last two months we were very pleased to welcome to membership of our club two new members, Kylie Marchant and Jennifer Strack. These women are already contributing new ideas, and we look forward to a long association.

Members enjoy being part of a group that provides among other things, funds for the Walcha Youth Group on quarterly basis. As of this week quarterly funding commenced for the Walcha Community Centre also known as The Hub. Bek McFarlane was guest speaker at our last meeting and told us about the work done at the centre and the challenges they face providing support to our community. Quota also provides funding for weekly craft sessions at our hospital's Elizabeth Crosse Wing. Two of our members with two community members attend each week to help the residents participate in the craft activities. You can see some of their efforts at Walcha Coffee.

Quota recently donated funds, along with Rotary and Lions clubs, for a large diesel generator for Apsley Riverview Hostel. Our very well supported Book Fair is on each year during the autumn school holidays. It must be the ultimate method of recycling books, magazines and jigsaws. We continue participate in Australia Day Breakfast in the Park with members still on the Walcha Council organising committee and helping with catering and organisation. These activities plus many more make up an interesting and worthwhile Quota year.

Last month for our Friendship Night our guest speaker was Erica Halliday who gave us a very interesting and amusing insight into her family and their cattle stud Ben Nevis. Next month we are holding our Fabulous Feast of Fashion with our Ladies Day Out luncheon at the Bowling Club on 10th October. Tickets for this event are available at Paperdolls. Tickets are limited so get in early and secure your place.

We would love to hear from any ladies in the community who would like to know more about being a part of Quota. Contact Lyn Smith our President or Julie Yates or anyone you know who is a member of Quota. We would love to hear from you.

## Walcha rallies for Nepal

The Walcha community has once again shown its generosity, raising an incredible \$27,650 to support people affected by the devastating floods in Nepal.

The funds were raised through an auction, raffle, donations, an Apsley meal and drinks deal, and direct bank contributions.

The total included:

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Auction.....                     | \$16,985 |
| Donations .....                  | \$4,650  |
| Raffle .....                     | \$3,600  |
| Apsley meal and drinks deal..... | \$1,735  |
| Direct bank deposits .....       | \$700    |

The Nepalese community would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended, donated, bought raffle tickets, placed auction bids or supported the event in any way.

A special thank you goes to the volunteers who helped organise and run the raffle and auction: Suzie Harrison, Mat Larkings, Milo Archdale, Peta Carter, Gary Olrich and Rebecca Taiki.

The support from local businesses, families and individuals made this incredible result possible.

For families in Nepal who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods, the road to recovery will be long. While we cannot take away their loss, this contribution will provide practical support and a reminder that they are not alone.

The Nepalese community extends its heartfelt thanks to the people of Walcha for opening their hearts and standing alongside them in support of Nepal.



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*Walcha*

## Wishing the Walcha Reserve Grade



# *Good Luck*

## in the Grand Final!



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## what's the goss



with AJ Cross

**What a great weekend of footy** both at Bellevue Oval in Armidale and Woodville Oval at Uralla where I was fortunate enough to attend on both days in the very pleasant viewing conditions.

...

**Congratulations to the Walcha Rams** Reserve Grade team who qualified for their New England Rugby Grand Final after they defeated the Armidale Blues 28 to 19 last Saturday. Best of luck to the Rams Reggies when they do battle with Albies in the 'Big Dance' at Bellevue this Saturday around 12 noon.

...

**Sadly the Rams 1st Grade team** went down to Albies 53 to 48 in a high scoring affair after the winners scored a length of the field try in the final minute of the Preliminary Final. So close yet so far Boys.

...

**Reminds me of 1983** Group 19 Rugby League Grand Final when the Walcha Roos lead well into the last minute only to get run down by Narwan with just 23 seconds remaining on the clock and we didn't get the chance to kick off before Brian William 'Bon' Sweeney rang the full-time bell. It's still the most disappointing episode in my sporting career by the length of the straight which no doubt the Rams 1st Grade players had a taste of last Saturday despite being one game short of the 'Big Dance'.

...

**The party is probably still going on** up the road at Uralla after the Tigers won both 1st and Reserve Grade Group 19 Rugby League Grand Finals last Sunday. There were plenty of Walcha people in what would be the biggest crowd I've seen at Woodville Oval who witnessed Inverell being defeated in all three grades including the Ladies League Tag against Glen Innes.

...

**Still on League** a couple of Walcha boys Corbin and Preston Latham were members of the Werris Creek Magpies who defeated North Tamworth 36 to 10 in the Group 4 U/18's at Kitchener Oval last Saturday. Hooker Corbin scored a try for the Magpies who went Back to Back Premiers whereas Preston played lock. Good on ya boys.

...

**Roos Premiership winning coach Ron Latham** and his wife Jenny were certainly proud grandparents last weekend but it didn't stop there. This weekend their grandson Bodhi Kennedy (son of Melissa and Shawn) will line up in the Group 3 under 18's Grand Final at Wingham on Saturday while his sisters Amahli and Mischa are playing in the Ladies League decider. Looks like another road trip for Ronnie and Jenny.

...

**Well done to Team - Answers Pending** Leanne Presnell, Peta Lisle, Dave Campbell, Miles Lawrence, John Cross and Steve Hammond on winning the 'Man's Not a Camel' Mystery Box Tour Fundraiser at the Newie last Wednesday night after racking up an impressive score of 40 points. Due to previous commitments I was unable to attend but did notice my usual team 'Le Cross and Co' finished sadly off the pace.

...

**The weekly Newie 777's**, which had jackpotted to \$476, was won by Janelle Brennan after 'she' correctly selected the winners of Race 7 in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne last Saturday. Janelle's husband Willy entered her selections 'Fukubana' at Eagle Farm 'Headley Grange' at Randwick and 'Evaporate' at Sandown but when he attempted to collect the prize money was informed Janelle had to do that in person which happened on Sunday. Lucky it was Janelle and not Willy's hound 'Ringo' who has retired from punting but has been known to have been entered in the 777's before.

...

**Big Wigs of the Week** - Apsley - Amanda Swain, Stirrer Cross, Brian Smith, Beau Smith; B.C - Kyle Goodwin, John Dobson (all 14 pts), T.B.W Cafe - Jacki Nash, Leanne Presnell; Newie - Carl Green, Billy Fletcher, Cindy Brown, Shane Britten, Charlie Brown, Rachel McMaugh, 'Dwarf' Neil, Ben Little, Sue Neil, John McCormack, Brian Lynch, Zac Mallise (all 12 pts), Vet Supplies - practically all tipsters got 10 pts.

...

**Tipping Parties** - Newie - this Saturday at 1.00pm, B.C - Saturday 19th at 3.00pm and Apsley - Saturday 26th time TBA.



## Tennis News

**Round 1** of the 2026 Spring Prelude Comp kicked off on Tues 1st September under clear skies.

A big thanks to Club President Hyde Thomson for getting things organized in my absence. Also thanks to the players who stepped up on short notice. Sam Payne, Ed Blomfield, Emma Wauch, Hyde Thomson, Dave Healey, Wyatt Hayton, Mish Luchich and Bridget Hone. Welcome to Bridget a new player at our Club.

After round 1 our top four are: Dave Healey on 23, Sam Payne on 20, Hyde Thomson on 18 and Ed Blomfield on 16. Thanks everyone for a great night of Tennis. If anyone else would like to play or float there is room. Contact Trev on 0459 799 119 ASAP.

The next Club meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th September at 6.30pm all members are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you all at the net soon.

## Wednesday Golf

It was a game of stableford on Wednesday playing for Alison Cameron's trophy.

Julie Olrich stormed home the winner after accumulating 41 points.

Sweepstakes went to Sally McCormack with 38 points, Robyn Salt with 38, Anne Martin with 37 and Cheryl McDonald with 35 points.

There was no-one on Hole 3 for NTP and the second shot on Hole 16 was won by Julie Olrich. The second shot on Hole 7 was claimed by Julie Presnell.

Several girls travelled to Inverell on Wednesday to play in the NEDGA Veterans championships.

Congratulations to Simone Sweeney and Penny King who came away being runners up in the Scratch.

This Wednesday is a stroke round, along with putting and monthly mug, playing for Anthea Nivison's trophy.

## Bowls

**Thursday Results:** Noel Goodwin, John McCormack & Tony Martin had a narrow win over Barry Kliendienst x2 & Peter Halliday 15/13. Brian Goodwin, Geoff Salt & Warwick Hogan defeated Greg Carter, Justin & Don Mahoney 17/11. Welcome back Geoff and welcome to Justin.

Brian, Geoff & Warwick won the vouchers & Justin was the chook winner.

## Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday the 3 Bowl Triples Championship commenced with Team 1 Esther Hunt, Marg Tickle and Wendy Moore losing by one point in a very close game to Team 2 Lyn Burnell, Carmel Ryan and Marie Spink 15-14. A social game of triples was played with Pam Makeham and Jan Cross, who played in two positions, winning by one point also, against Debbie Richards, Janice Rizzi and Phyllis Hoy. Tomorrow Team 1 Esther Hunt, Wendy Moore and Marg Tickle play Team 3 Pam Makeham, Jan Cross and Janice Rizzi. Team 2 has a bye. The monthly meeting is 17 September, 1pm in the clubhouse. There will be social bowls tomorrow for those not participating in the triples and for prospective new members 9.00am for 9.30am start.

## At the Nineteenth

Former Walcha Mayor Alex Gill provided the trophy for the Stableford Round played last Sunday where James Norton accumulated 44 points to win the event comfortably by four points.

Sweepstakes went to Andrew Crawford, Lee Fletcher, Murdoc Chawner and Mata Matapakia all on 40 pts, Willy Brennan 38, Ross King 37, Wayne Brennan and Anne Martin both 36.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Andrew Ceawford (9) and Vicki Heffernan (16) of the 26 players who teed off.

Last Saturday Pete Whellan won the weekly 9 hole competition after he racked 19 stableford points sneaking home from Runner Up Vicki Heffernan 18 points on countback from Anne Martin and Lorraine Rennie also on 18.

N.T.P on 3 went to Vicki Heffernan.

This Sunday is the second and final round of the 2026 Mens 4BBB Championships where Peter Norbury and Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus are in charge of supplying the prizes. Currently Daniel Boyd and Tim Baumer lead the Nett Division on 47 points five points clear of Lee Fletcher and Bruce Rutherford whereas both teams carded four over par 74 to be co-leaders of the scratch section of the event.

## Netball

### FINALS WEEK ONE!

No green and gold victories on the scoreboard this weekend, but still plenty to be proud of. Great netball, huge effort and, as always, the kind of sportsmanship that makes Walcha Netball pretty easy to cheer for!

### PLC Red 11 def. Walcha Sapphires 6

I stood in the middle of the Sapphires and Opals game and honestly, my neck feels like I've spent the afternoon watching Wimbledon!

The Sapphires have NEVER, EVER played this well. Haven't these little legends come such a long way!

They fought for every ball, worked beautifully together and gave PLC a real run for their money.

Sadly, that brings their season to an end, but hopefully not their netball careers! Gallant in defeat right to the very end, their attitude towards the game and, more importantly, towards each other has been absolutely brilliant all season.

Thank you Amanda and Kelly for all your hard work this season!

### VIP Fireflies 30 def. Walcha Opals 11

Look, it wasn't the score we were hoping for, but the Opals still played some beautiful netball against a ferocious team!

The Fireflies piled on a few too many goals in the first two quarters, leaving the Opals with a mountain to climb. But they kept fighting, kept chasing and never dropped their heads. The good news? Their season isn't over yet!

If anything, I reckon this loss has just made them hungrier. They've got another chance next weekend and something tells me they'll be turning up ready to bring it!

### VIP Dolphins 35 def. Walcha Pearls 33

I could hear this game before I was even out of the car park!!!

WHAT. A. GAME.

Most of the Pearls had spent the week in Dubbo representing their school for various sports, so there had to be some seriously tired legs out there. BUT you wouldn't have known it!

Nothing could separate the teams at full time — 29 ALL! Nail Biter!!

Into overtime they went for two five-minute halves. The Pearls got their ponytails in front in the first five, before VIP fought back and took the lead in the dying minutes to finish 35-33.

Not the result they wanted, but after the week they'd had, what an enormous effort. And the best part? They live to fight another day!

You've got this girls!

### Walcha Pacifika — Uralla Cougars forfeit

Unfortunately, Pacifika didn't get their chance to sparkle, with Uralla forfeiting their elimination final.

Maybe they heard Aunty Maine was coming and decided not to risk it?

Either way, Pacifika are through and ready to have a crack next weekend!

So, no wins on the scoreboard this week, but plenty of heart, skill and fantastic sportsmanship on display.

For the Sapphires, that's a wrap on a season they should be incredibly proud of. For the Opals, Pearls and Pacifika...

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# classifieds

## Public Notice

**Church service at Woolbrook Church,** 2pm, this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes 6777 2539.

**The Barber Shop** is closed this Saturday 12 September.

### Walcha Rams 2027 Tour Fundraising



The Walcha Rams Rugby Union Club are fundraising for their 2027 tour of England and Ireland, commemorating 50 years since the club's first overseas tour in 1977.

The touring squad is available for paid work and odd jobs to help raise funds for the trip. We are looking for opportunities including wood cutting, shed cleaning, fence removal, property maintenance, general labouring, gutter cleaning for summer and other jobs.

If you have a job that needs doing and would like to support the Walcha Rams, please contact:

**James Anderson** – 0497 106 781

**Harry King** – 0428 772 050

Any job, big or small, is greatly appreciated.

## Public Notice (cont)

### Walcha Council Water notices update



Council advises it is currently experiencing technical issues with its internal systems and print house, causing delays in the processing and publishing of water notices.

Council apologises for any inconvenience and thanks residents for their patience while the matter is resolved.

Please be assured that all affected notices will carry a standard minimum of 21 days from the issue date to pay.

For further information, please call Council on (02) 6774 2500.

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

## Position Vacant

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

## Meeting Notice

**AGM Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service** Walcha Volunteer Support Group 28th September, 2.30pm, Eastgate Village Kitchen Block, 60E North Street, Walcha. New members most welcome. Olive 0428 772 067.

**Walcha Touch AGM** will be held at New England Hotel on Thursday September 17 at 6pm. All positions declared vacant. A representative from each team to attend.

**Walcha Show Society AGM** will be held on Wednesday 16 September at 7.00pm at the Walcha Sports Club. General Committee meeting to follow. Enquiries to Dale Webber, Secretary 6777 8191.

## Room for Rent

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## Raffle Results

**Walcha Hospital Aux.** Stall 4.9.26, **1st** - Fay Lawlor, **2nd** - Pippie O'Brien, **3rd** - Linda Cross and **4th** - Chris Hamel. Thank you for supporting our stall.

### Walcha Home Furnishing Now Open

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# VIC volunteers celebrate with 2026 Regional Volunteer Award

Walcha's Visitor Information Centre (VIC) volunteer team has been recognised amongst some of the region's most dedicated volunteers at the New England-Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year Awards.

The awards were hosted by The Centre for Volunteering at the Armidale Bowling Club last Thursday, celebrating the contributions of local volunteers and volunteer teams.

Walcha's VIC volunteers were nominated in the Volunteer Team category, with the Country Women's Association of NSW – Armidale Branch ultimately named Volunteer Team of the Year.

Representing and accepting the nominee recognition certificate on behalf of the Walcha VIC volunteers were Albert Egli, Lorna Egli, Don Murchie and Kerry Dickson, as well as VIC Tourism Officer Corinne Annetts. Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes and Member for Northern Tablelands Brendan Moylan MP proudly joined the volunteers on-stage to congratulate them.

Congratulations were also extended to Armidale volunteer Jenny Bourke, who was named the 2026 New England-Northern Inland Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her work across three leading community organisations.

Walcha's VIC volunteers are incredible ambassadors for Walcha Tourism. Every day they welcome visitors with a warm smile and friendly face, helping people discover the experiences, attractions and stories that make Walcha such a special place to visit – creating memorable experiences and a greater connection to the region.

The celebrations followed a successful VIC Volunteer Refresher Afternoon last Wednesday, where nine volunteers caught up, learned new skills and built a greater understanding of the requirements for maintaining Australian Visitor Information Centre (AVIC) accreditation.

### Joining Walcha's VIC volunteer team

The Walcha VIC is always looking to welcome new volunteers.

Whether you're a student seeking work experience, a new parent wanting to get involved in the community, someone who's recently moved to Walcha, or a retiree looking for a rewarding way to meet people and stay connected, volunteering at the VIC is a welcoming and enjoyable way to be part of the community.

If you're interested in joining the friendly team of Walcha VIC volunteers, pop into the Visitor Information Centre or give them a call on 6774 2460.

# trade and professions



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## church notices



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Anglican Church  
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or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am  
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We'd love for you to join us.  
All welcome.  
Phone 6777 2539.

### CATHOLIC

**Sunday Mass 10.00am**

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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

**Friday 11** 3.00pm – Close

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**Sunday 13** 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

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