

THE APSLEY Advocate

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16 September 2026

Power outage Many businesses will be closed

Essential Energy will complete important maintenance on the high voltage powerline supplying power to Uralla, Walcha and surrounding areas on Tuesday, 29 September 2026.

A planned power outage is required so crews can safely complete the work and is scheduled to occur from 9am to 4pm, conditions permitting.

The maintenance is necessary to support the ongoing safety and reliability of the electricity network supplying the area, ahead of summer and the start of the bushfire season.

Power is supplied to Uralla and Walcha via a radial feeder, which means there is no alternate route or power supply source available while this maintenance is carried out.

Affected customers will receive Essential Energy's standard planned outage notification closer to the date, confirming the outage details.

Customers can help prepare by switching off and unplugging sensitive appliances before the outage, storing water if they rely on electric pumps, and keeping fridge and freezer doors closed while the power is off.

Tips to prepare for and manage outages can be found at essentialenergy.com.au/outage-tips.

Customers who rely on powered medical or life support equipment should ensure they are registered with their electricity retailer and have a back-up plan in place. Planning resources can be found at lifesupport.poweroutageplan.com.au

Essential Energy appreciates the communities' understanding while this important work is carried out.



The whole district, 4267 customers, will be affected by this power outage from 9am to 4pm on Tuesday 29 September.

Walcha Telecottage will be closed all day, with *The Advocate* being printed on Monday 28 September, so please submit your items and advertising next week to allow for earlier printing

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around the traps



By MAT LARKINGS

Bull selling season is drawing to a close and there have been some tremendous results recorded across the state this year. While the headlines naturally follow the big averages and record-priced bulls, I think our local seedstock producers deserve a particularly big wrap for the results they have achieved given the season we have just come through.

The New England has traditionally been home to some of the largest commercial breeding herds in the state. However, the seasonal conditions through autumn forced a significant sell-down of breeding females, with large numbers of cows finding their way into processing plants or leaving the district and, in many cases, the state.

That reduction in our breeding herd has an obvious flow-on effect for the local bull market. Fewer cows to join ultimately means fewer bulls required, so to see our local studs continue to achieve strong clearances and averages in that environment is a great endorsement of the quality of cattle they are producing and the reputations they have built.

It is also easy to underestimate what it costs to get a bull to sale day. Genetics, joining costs, pasture and supplementary feed, performance recording, animal health, semen testing, preparation and marketing all come before the hammer falls. On top of that, breeders have carried these bulls through a particularly challenging season, and not every bull born is ultimately good enough to make the sale team.

For commercial producers, the purchase price also needs some perspective. The difference between a \$6000 bull and a \$20,000 bull can sound substantial on sale day, but when that investment is spread across the progeny he produces throughout his working life and the genetic impact on the future of the herd, the difference becomes considerably smaller. Buying the right bull rather than simply the cheapest bull can be one of the better investments we make in a breeding operation.

The strong results achieved locally this spring should therefore be seen as more than just good bull sales. They are a vote of confidence in our local genetics and a credit to the studs that have continued investing in their programs through what has been a challenging twelve months.

While there has been plenty happening in the cattle job, the sheep market is certainly worth watching as well.

Last week we saw first cross ewes sell to an extraordinary \$620 per head. On face value, \$620 sounds like a tremendous amount of money for a ewe, but with where lamb prices are currently sitting, it probably wouldn't take as long as you might think for a good ewe to pay for herself.

Two sales I'll be watching with plenty of interest today (Tuesday) are the Gnadbro Pastoral Co First Cross Ewe Sale and the Narrandera 1st X Ewe Sale. Both have historically been premium sales and should give us a very good indication of where confidence sits in the breeding ewe market.

It is particularly interesting from a New England perspective. We have seen an enormous number of sheep leave our area over recent years and in many districts sheep numbers would be as low as we have seen for generations.

There have been good reasons for that. Sheep producers have battled wildly fluctuating lamb hook prices, wild dogs, labour requirements, shearing costs and increasingly difficult worm burdens. Drench resistance and the importance of maintaining good drench efficacy have become major management considerations, particularly through wet seasons. For plenty of producers, cattle have simply been the easier option.

But markets have a wonderful way of changing attitudes. If lambs and breeding ewes continue producing these sorts of returns, it may be enough to tempt some producers back towards ovine. Rebuilding sheep numbers in the New England won't happen overnight, but at current values there is certainly more incentive to have the conversation.

We are putting an enormous amount of faith in weather maps, long-range forecasts and dramatic headlines appearing in our social media feeds. Every second week there seems to be another prediction of flooding rain, Super El Niño, La Niña or some other looming weather event — all backed by colourful weather maps promising what is going to happen three weeks out.

Some of the information is useful, but we need to remember what social media is primarily designed for — entertainment and engagement, not necessarily education. The more dramatic the headline, the more likely we are to click on it. That doesn't necessarily make the forecast more accurate.

Use the information, watch the forecasts and listen to the experts — but perhaps keep one eye on the paddock as well.

Join the celebrations at Linmac this Saturday



Daniel Abra, James Sherwood, Brian Mansfield, James Curtis and Lisa Green are looking forward to the birthday celebrations on Saturday

It's celebration time at Linmac Co this week, to mark one year since Will Nicholls, Charlie Norton and their families Deanne Baines and Alison Jones, took over from John Cross. To celebrate they are having a BBQ at Linmac Co (211N Pakington St) this Saturday 19th September from midday and would love to see the community there to celebrate with them. The store will be open from 8:30am, "We encourage people to come and have a look at some of our new products and grab some food," Charlie said.

It has been a year of growth for the business with lots of new products in store including the Husqvarna range, Kincrome tools, BOC range, Micky Bull clothing and many more. "We still have James Curtis doing an excellent job of small motor repairs and servicing. He has a passion for chainsaws and mowers," Ali commented. "Brian Mansfield continues to work hard in metal fabrication and Lisa is a whiz in the office and able to deal with all enquiries."

Linmac Co recently welcomed a second year Apprentice in metal fabrication and engineering - Daniel Abra from Woolbrook, who previously attended Walcha Central School. Daniel completed his first year in Tamworth before starting with Linmac Co at the end of July. Next week Daniel will compete at WeldSkills in Tamworth against the best metal fabricators in the region to gain a spot in the State level of the competition.

James Sherwood has also joined the team in the last few weeks. He is fully qualified in metal fabrication and engineering and has moved to Walcha from Loomberah. James was also previously employed in Tamworth and is enjoying the variety of work at Linmac Co.

"We are committed to providing quality local services to our community," Ali said. In the last few months the business has expanded operating hours to include Saturday mornings from 8:30am-1pm.



Stock and Property Watch
www.nutrienharcourts.com.au



Online Machinery Clearing Sale

29 October – 2 November

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Dan Coulthurst 0419 879 793

Help kick-start Woolbrook Market

Woolbrook Parents and Citizens Association is inviting expressions of interest from the talented people of the New England for our first Woolbrook Market.

This inaugural event, set for Saturday, October 24, will celebrate spring, bring the community together and support the small Woolbrook Public School which fits on one slippery dip, with delicious baked goods, a sausage sizzle, locally-grown produce, handmade items, crafts, coffee, face painting and more.

We are hoping to generate enough interest to get this exciting new community initiative off the ground to run an annual event and bring people together in our little village, giving residents and visitors a chance to shop locally while supporting the school and anyone with an entrepreneurial spirit.

We are keen to hear from crafty-types, makers, growers, small businesses and anyone with anything unique or interesting to sell.

Each stall will cost \$25 to host and those funds will go to Woolbrook P&C. A certificate of currency is required to be shown and all stallholders have to hold a current Working With Childrens Check, which is free.

Message Kerri McKern to register your interest on 0400 395 047.



1080 Aerial Baiting

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is conducting an aerial baiting program from Monday 21 September 2026 to Monday 5 October 2026. The operation will use 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison for the control of wild dogs and foxes.

The program will take place in the following reserves:

- Cottan-Bimbang NP & SCA
- Curracabundi NP
- Mummel Gulf NP & SCA
- Nowendoc NP
- Oxley Wild Rivers NP & SCA
- Tomalla NR
- Tuggolo Creek NR
- Werrikimbe NP & SCA

The program is designed to minimise predator impacts on wildlife, especially threatened species, and to minimise the impact of wild dogs on neighbouring stock.

Signs will be placed at the entry to the baiting location. Domestic pets are not permitted in NSW National Parks managed lands. Pets and working dogs may be affected (1080 is lethal to cats and dogs). Pets and working dogs must be restrained or muzzled in the vicinity and must not enter the baiting location. In the event of accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance.

Please contact the local New England NPWS area office for more information on 02 6777 4700.

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.

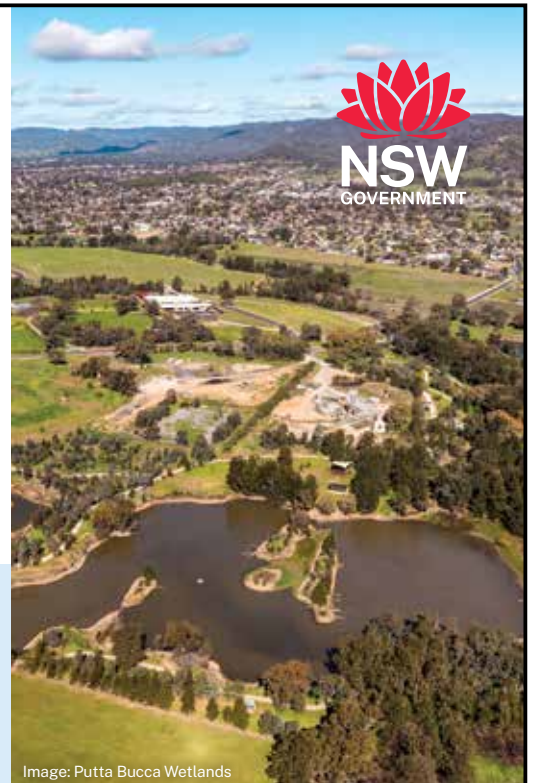


Image: Putta Bucca Wetlands

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.



Life Membership for Julie

The Walcha Garden Club hosted guest speaker Colleen Southwell at their Annual luncheon on Friday 4th September, at the Walcha Bar Grill. One hundred and eight people attended including visitors from ten other visiting garden clubs. Garden Clubs of Australia President, Lorraine Emerson, was also in attendance. We were delighted to have Lorraine present long serving Walcha Garden Club member, Julie Ireland, her life membership badge. Congratulations Julie.



Jenny Hoy, Garden Clubs of Australia President, Lorraine Emerson, Guest speaker Colleen Southwell, Julie Ireland, Diana Lisle, Dar Brooks, Walcha Garden Club President, Sue Law.

Members created beautiful flower arrangements using Jenny Bullen's stunning natives flowers, which she commercially grows at Nowendoc, along with other members spring flowers. The Walcha Stitches and Quilting group staged a beautiful display of their creations for the event.

Colleen Southwell, from Orange, who is a garden designer, horticulturalist, watercolour artist and makes amazing paper work creations, gave a wonderful presentation on her beautiful garden.

We were fortunate to have Colleen conduct two workshops at the Walcha Sports Club over the weekend. On Saturday, 11 people attended the watercolour painting workshop and seven attended on Sunday for the paper feather making day.

thumbs



- 👉 To the Walcha Rams reserve grade for winning the grand final, well done!
- 👉 To Olivia and Mel at the Walcha Vet Clinic for their kindness and care on the passing of Ruby.
- 👉 To the repeated shaming of locals who choose to have groceries delivered from Coles. There are many reasons someone may use grocery delivery. Seeing a delivery truck outside someone's home tells you very little about how else they support our town or where they spend their money. Encouraging people to shop locally is one thing. Repeatedly judging them for their personal choices is another. A strong community should have room for both. Thank you

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.

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Application for Appointment of Board Members

Woolbrook Recreation Reserve Land Manager

Ever wondered who is responsible for keeping Crown reserves operating?

Countless facilities like showgrounds, local halls and parks are run by Statutory Land Manager Boards, made up of people just like you. People who understand the need and have a desire to manage public land and assets for the benefit of the entire community.

Your role as a Board Member is voluntary, but the rewards of giving something back to the community are priceless.

We are looking for a good mix of people with a variety of skills, however, sound business and financial management skills and objective decision-making expertise would be a distinct advantage.

Don't let this opportunity to do something for yourself and your community pass you by – contact us today.

The Woolbrook Recreation Reserve Land Manager manages the Reserve No. 46983 at Woolbrook notified on 6-Sep-1911 for Public Recreation. The term of appointment will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Application for membership can be made via portal.crownland.nsw.gov.au

All applications are required to be lodged by **14-Oct-2026**.

For further information: - contact contact Angie Wetzler on 02 67703110 or go to www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/reserve-manager

LT1313

Central Schools State Finals

From WCS

During Week 7, our students travelled to Dubbo for the N S W C H S S A Central Schools State Finals, competing across three action-packed days of touch football,



rugby league and netball. It was an outstanding few days of sport, with our teams producing some fantastic performances and returning home with an impressive collection of two gold and three silver medals.

Touch Football

Our touch footballers enjoyed an exceptional two days, with all three teams finishing on the podium.

The Under 16 Boys were crowned State Champions, completing a brilliant undefeated campaign to claim the gold medal. The boys won all five of their matches, including strong victories over Lake Cargelligo, Coolamon, Molong, Uralla and Boorowa. Their performances throughout the day were outstanding, scoring 36 tries while conceding just 17. Flynn O'Connell capped off a fantastic tournament by being named MVP.

The Under 16 Girls also had a terrific tournament, winning four of their five matches to finish as silver medallists. They recorded wins over Lake Cargelligo, Coolah, Boorowa and Coolamon, with their only defeat coming against eventual champions Bingara. Their consistency across the tournament earned them a well-deserved second-place finish.

Our Open Boys continued the touch football success, also bringing home a silver medal. They finished the tournament with four wins from five matches, including victories over Gulargambone, Dunedoo, Boorowa and Woodenbong. Their only loss was a narrow 5-4 result against eventual champions Coolamon. Flynn O'Connell was again recognised for an outstanding individual performance, earning his second MVP award of the State Finals.

Rugby League

The success continued on the rugby league field, highlighted by a superb performance from our Under 14 Boys, who were crowned State Champions. The team remained undefeated, recording wins over Boorowa and Baradine/Gulargambone before defeating Lake Cargelligo in the semi-final and Warren in the grand final to secure the gold medal. Kobie Brown's talent was recognised when he was named MVP.

Our Under 16 Boys also competed strongly. After defeating Boorowa in their opening match, they progressed through to the semi-finals before their campaign came to an end against Guyra.

The Open Boys added another medal to our tally, finishing as State silver medallists after another strong showing against the best Central Schools team from across NSW.

Netball

Our Under 16 Girls Netball team rounded out the State Finals with a competitive day on court. The girls recorded an emphatic 41-2 victory over Dunedoo, fought out a 20-all draw with Lake Cargelligo, and continued to compete hard throughout a challenging draw featuring some very strong opposition. Thank you to Nikita Wallace for her coaching and support at Inverell and Thea Dunn for giving up a huge amount of time coaching the team twice a week. Xaphyn Petuha was recognised for her performance in every match, being named the tournament MVP.

Thank you to the attending teachers and parents for always supporting our students. Overall, it was an incredibly successful trip to Dubbo. To have five teams finish with State medals, including two State Championships, is an outstanding achievement and reflects the talent, determination and teamwork of our students. Just as importantly, our students represented the school with honour across all three days of competition.



Yarrowitch Public School



Transition 2026

Starting Term 4
Every Tuesday starting from 20th October to 24th November - 9am till 3pm

Yarrowitch Public School is excited to offer a Transition to School program for 2027 school age students. As a small rural school, we pride ourselves on our strong focus on literacy and numeracy, while also providing rich access to technology, hands-on problem solving and creative learning. Staff support and nurture each student to develop their individual talents through personalised learning, guidance and a focus on building confidence and curiosity. This welcoming and engaging program helps children feel confident and connected as they begin their school journey. All families are warmly invited to join us!

Please contact Yarrowitch Public School for further information.

 6777 7582
 yarrowitch-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
 <https://yarrowitch-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Follow our Facebook page using the QR code



[ENROL NOW](#)

"Along Campfire Road"

By Sue Jackson

My exhibition "Along Campfire Road", is based on the beautiful area where I live. The stunning views and light create some impressive wow moments, which I need to share, so I try to capture those moments in my work.

After losing my darling son Tim to cancer in 2017, I decided to study art as a distraction from the grief. This degree, "Fine Art and Visual Culture" through Curtin University changed my life. It has allowed me to rediscover my joy through artistic practice and teaching others to really see and experience the amazing world around them.



**EXHIBITION OPENING -
Sue Jackson at
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Rural Health in the spotlight



Walcha CWA branch had the pleasure of hosting a Rural Health discussion last Wednesday with the intent of developing a Health Action Plan for the Walcha community. The discussion was led by a panel of health professionals and community leaders who addressed the questions of what is working in Walcha, what gaps exist and how can we improve the services that we have. The discussion was facilitated by Anthea Nivison and the panel members were Cr Eric Noakes, Dr Deng Abiem, Karen Jenkins (Walcha Health Service Manager), Rebecca Smith and David Percival from Hunter New England Health Community and Integrated Services. Members for the Walcha Local Health Committee were also present along with members of CWA, Quota, Lions and Rotary.

It was a very informative meeting with people having the opportunity to learn more about the provision of health care in Walcha, which is unique from other rural locations. It was positive to hear that staff from Hunter New England Health are very open to hearing what the community have to say about services that are working and others that would be beneficial. Rebecca and David gave an insight into what issues are general across the state and how other small communities have been able to find solutions.

The biggest message from the day was simply communication. Fortunately, there were the right people in the room to be able to help spread the message across the community.

The biggest issue identified was the lack of health workers. Walcha General Practice has been trying to recruit another doctor into town for some time, and Dr Deng outlined the barriers that need to be addressed during this process. Likewise, Karen talked about the shortage of nurses at the hospital and how the lack of rental accommodation in town is making it impossible for potential recruits to stay in Walcha. The other major issue is the lack of aged care places to accommodate the number of residents who need more care. Elderly Walcha residents have been unable to get a room at either Riverview or the Elizabeth Crosse Wing and have had to go to another town for a placement.

A couple of other problems came up that may be easier to address and include:

- The loss of the Red Cross blood donation service
- Increased radiography at the Walcha hospital
- Unreliability of pathology services
- A formal Welcoming Experience for new nurses and doctors
- Sharing of information about what and when Allied Services are in Walcha
- Better interaction between the Local Health Committee and the community.

These will be followed up by the Walcha CWA members.

This meeting was not intended to be a conclusive event but rather the beginning of an ongoing community consultation and discussion. We are very grateful to Anthea, Eric, Dr Deng, Karen, Rebecca and David for their time, contribution and advice, which made this event possible.



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<https://cnrl.events.mylibrary.digital>

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*bookings essential; as sessions not run every week



St Pat's athletes excel



Five athletes from St Patrick's Primary School recently travelled to Glendale to compete in the Polding Athletics Carnival, representing both their school and the Armidale Catholic Schools Diocese. Competing against the top primary school athletes from across northern New South Wales, the team demonstrated great skill, determination, and sportsmanship on the regional stage.

The field events saw some great performances across the board. Josie led the charge with a standout display in the Senior Girls Discus, finishing 4th overall and coming close to a podium position. In the Junior Boys High Jump, Thibaud cleared 1.20 metres to secure 7th place, while Audrey and Rebee both delivered strong performances in tough fields, each earning 16th place in the Junior Girls Discus and Senior Boys Discus respectively.

Rounding out the day's successes, Benji placed 17th in the 12 Years Boys Long Jump while also finishing 14th overall in the 12 Years Boys 1500-metre event.

Reaching the Polding level is a major milestone in primary school athletics. The entire St Patrick's community extends its warm congratulations to Audrey, Benji, Josie, Rebee, and Thibaud on their brilliant achievements and for representing their school and region with pride.

Accompanying photo: The St Patrick's team that competed at the Polding Athletics Carnival held in Glendale last week.

Markets this Saturday



The Walcha Farmers' Market will spring out of hibernation this Saturday at McHattan Park after its winter break.

Around 20 stalls will offer locally grown and crafted products that align with the market's theme, "Make it, Bake it, Grow it".

Two new stalls will be welcomed to the market – one offering mushrooms, and

the other a range of jams and relishes.

There'll be foodie treats of smoked trout, goat dairy products, spicy condiments, cakes, biscuits, Middle-Eastern and Thai food, and the Rotary BBQ.

It's time to get back in the veggie garden and plant some seedlings from the Men's Shed or the Community Stall, and to squeeze a bit more colour into the ornamental beds.

There'll be photography and pottery for sale, natural health and beauty products, plus local history books.

If you're overrun with eggs, vegetables or plants, please bring them to the Community Stall and we can sell them for a small commission, or in-kind volunteering.

Grab a coffee from local Logan Stace and catch up with friends among the blossoms. The market is held in McHattan Park from 8.30am till 12.30pm on the third Saturday of the month.



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Walcha Council Library & Youth

SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2026

Feelgood Fitness Fun

9.30am: 5-8yrs
10.30am: 8-12yrs
12 noon: 12yrs & up/highschool
Peter Fenwicke Oval
Fun new group fitness activities for local youth!
BOTH TUESDAYS 29/9 & 6/10

Mandala Art

1pm-3pm Ages 8+
Walcha Library
THURSDAY 1/10

Lego Club

2.30-4pm
Ages 5+
Walcha Library
FRIDAY 2/10

Storytime

Teddy Bears Picnic
Walcha Library
10am All ages
TUESDAY 6/10

Robot Castle Siege

1.30-2.30pm Ages 6+
Walcha Library
WEDNESDAY 7/10

Dance Party

10am - 11am
Ages 5-15yrs.
@ the old preschool building on
THURSDAY 8/10

Creative Craft @ the library

10am - 11.30
Ages 7+
FRIDAY 9/10

EXCURSIONS

Co-funded by the **NSW GOVERNMENT**

Tamworth Escape

Wed 30th Sept
Escape Room & Cinema
Bus leaves Walcha Library
1pm return by 6pm
Ages 16yrs + only

Teen getaway!

Wed 7th Oct
Bus to Tamworth to visit the Cinema & get lunch
Bus leaves Walcha Library
10am return by 5pm
Ages 12yrs +

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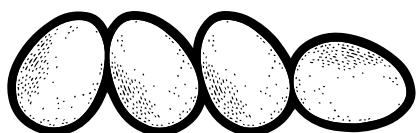
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with AJ Cross



Congratulations to our youngest daughter Lauren and her partner Dylan Cloake on the arrival of their daughter Hallie who weighed in at a bit under 4 kilograms when she was born last week to make Linda and myself very proud grandparents - again!

...

Congratulations to the Walcha Rams on winning the New England Rugby Reserve Grade competition when they defeated Albies 39 to 24 at Bellevue Oval U.N.E. last Saturday. The Reggies certainly didn't have it all their own way but got home comfortably in the end. Good on ya Boys.

...

Spare a thought for Albies who played in three grand finals last Saturday and sadly for them lost the lot, including 41 to 22 in 1st Grade to the Armidale Blues and 31 to 19 in 3rd Grade to the Tenterfield Bumblebees who are coached by former Walcha St Pats School teacher Phil Jones. The weekend before Inverell experienced a '3-Peat' of their own when they lost all three Group 19 Rugby League Grand Finals they played in at Woodville Oval, both Mens deciders to Uralla and the Ladies League Tag to Glen Innes.

...

Best of luck to our three Walcha Netball teams Pacifica (Ladies), Pearls (Div 4) and Opals (Primary Div 1) when they play their Armidale Netball Grand Finals this Saturday. Hopefully some local business houses will deck out their shops in Green and Gold colours to show support for the girls. Go Walcha.

...

Former Walcha Lions Club member John Aspinall departed this world early last week and will be farewelled at St Andrews Anglican Church this Thursday 17th September from 2.30pm. Condolences to his son Michael along with all other family members and friends. May Warren John Aspinall Rest in Peace.

...

Not a bad effort by Walcha Central School at the State Central Schools Championships in Dubbo recently where the U/16's Boys Touch and U/14's Rugby League teams finished Champions. The

U/16's Girls Touch, Open Rugby League and Open Boys Touch all were Runners Up whereas U/16's Girls Netball and U/16's Rugby League both came in 3rd. To top it all off Flynn O'Connell was named Player of the Championships in both Opens and U/16's Touch, Kobie Brown Best Player in U/14's Rugby League while Xaphyn Petuha was judged to be Player of the U/16's Netball Tournament. A Great effort all-round not only by the players but also by their support crew-bus drivers Bonnie Brown and Jodie Provost along with their fellow teacher Ben Ussher.

...

The Wauchope Blues Ladies League Tag team including Mischa and Amahli Kennedy, granddaughters of Ron and Jenny Latham, defeated Taree City Panthers in their Group 3 Grand Final 16-14 in extra time where Mischa scored the winning try at Wingham last Saturday. Their brother Bodhi played halfback for Wauchope who went down 32-6 to old Bar Beach Pirates in the U/18's decider.

...

The New England Hotel held their End of Season Footy Tipping Party last Saturday where local law enforcer Jed Wittig was named 'Biggest Wig of the Year' after he accumulated 308 points during the 27 round competition. Runner up was Mitch Foster 302 just ahead of Lacey Newton, Ellie Clarke her husband Brent and Tom Donnelly all equal 3rd on 300. Good on ya Guys.

...

Although Jed won comfortably he wasn't all that happy simply because he rostered himself on for work duties last Sunday and couldn't join in the celebrations on the day. Little doubt Jed would have enjoyed a beverage or three after he finished work.

...

Never let a chance go bye. Last Saturday there was a horse Savvy Hallie running in Race 7 at Rosehill Gardens and after the birth of my granddaughter Hallie earlier in the week it should have been a given. No, I was far too clever to have a small wager on the horse who saluted at very tasty odds.

**Best of luck to the Walcha Netball teams
who have made it into the Grand Final!**

Walcha Pacifica • Walcha Pearls • Walcha Opals

All teams play this Saturday in Armidale



Wednesday Golf

Anthea Nivison was the trophy donor on Wednesday. We played stroke along with the monthly mug.

Vicki Heffernan was our winner with a 68 nett and the sweepstake winners were Sue Partridge 69 nett, Simone Sweeney 72 nett, Margaret Davidson 73 nett, counting out Maddie Lance with 73 nett.

Nearest the pin on 16 was Simone Sweeney and the second shot on Hole 7 was taken out by our daily winner Vicki Heffernan.

The monthly mugs were won by Simone Sweeney - Division 1, Maddie Lance - Division 2, and Pip Monie - Division 3.

This week we are starting the day with our AGM beginning at 9a.m. followed by a stableford game playing for Sal Rutherford's trophy.

On Saturday the Walcha Ladies Pennants team consisting of Donna Martin, Sue Partridge, Anne Martin, Cark Street and Robyn Salt, competed in the final round of the Southern Division Pennants.

We were the overall winners and will now go on to play in the final of the NEDGA District Pennants against the Northern Division.



Saturdays Pennant team - Robyn Salt, Anne Martin, Cark Street, Sue Partridge and Donna Martin.

Bowls

Thursday Bowls Results: Tony Batterham & Peter Halliday played well to defeat John McCormack & Denis Makeham 17/16.

Barry Kliendienst & Geoff Salt defeated Brian Goodwin & Tony Martin 15/10.

Barry & Geoff won the Vouchers. Robbie won the chook. Now the weather is warming up, would be good to see a few more bowlers on the green.

At the Nineteenth

First round leaders Daniel Boyd and Tim Baumer converted their five stableford point lead into an eight point advantage in the final round of the 2026 4BBB Mens Club Championships when they carded an impressive 51 points last Sunday.

The 'Dynamic Duo' snuck home by a single point to collect trophies donated by Peter Norbury and Tony Asmus while Runners Up Anne Martin and Lyn Levingston registered a very handy 50 points to claim a Sweepstakes prize.

The remaining sweepstakes went to club champion Michael Stackman and Murdoc Chawner 49, Owen Presnell and Rohan Chandler 47, Cheryl McDonald and Julie Hoad 47, Jim Nivison and Angus Warden 46.

Sharpest shooters at the Pins were Julie Hoad (3) and Tim Baumer (18).

Scratch Winners were Daniel Boyd and Tim Baumer after they closed with an even par 70 to finish with a two round total of 144 two shots ahead of equal halfway mark leaders Lee Fletcher and Bruce Rutherford on 146 (74,72).

Best Nett Score also went to Tim Baumer and Daniel Boyd on 98 points (47,51) but as all players are eligible for just one major trophy Runners Up Murdoc Chawner and Michael Stackman 90 (41,49) will pick up the prize on Presentation Night.

Last Saturday 7 players teed off in the weekly 9 hole competition where Brian Lynch racked up 23 stableford points to finish four points ahead of Runner Up Pete Whellan. No N.T.P on 3.

This Sunday is the Monthly Stroke Medal Round where Andrew Crawford is in charge of supplying the prize.

Tennis News

Round 2 of the Spring Prelude Comp was played out on Tues 8th September in chilly conditions.

At this stage the top 4 are: Sam Payne on 45, Hyde Thomson on 37, Ed Blomfield on 36 and Dave Healey, Emma Wauch, Wyatt Hayton in a three way tie on 31. A big thank you to our floaters Trevor Gibson, Jock Rutherford and Michael Lockyer.

The Spring Night Comp will be a 5 week competition starting on Tues 27th October and conclude on Tues 24th November the spring comp starts at 6:15pm sharp please arrive at the club house at 6:05pm. The format will be four a side graded doubles. Names to Michael Lockyer on 0487 898 051 or Hyde Thomson on 0427 780 391. Nominations close on Saturday 17th October.

The Street Stall is booked in for Saturday 17th October. Anyone that can help man the stall or supply baked treats to sell on the stall please let Sandra Laurie know on 0428 770 954. See you all at the net soon.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday the 3 Bowl Triples Championship continued with Pam Makeham, Jan Cross and Janice Rizzi winning against Esther Hunt, Margaret Tickle and Wendy Moore. Lyn Burnell, Sheree Noakes, Marie Spink and Phyllis Hoy played a very enjoyable game of pairs. Tomorrow Team 2 Lyn Burnell, Carmel Ryan and Marie Spink will play Team 3 Pam Makeham, Jan Cross and Janice Rizzi. Team 1 Esther Hunt, Wendy Moore and Marg Tickle have a bye. There will be social bowls tomorrow for those not participating in the triples and for prospective new members 9.00am for 9.30am start.

Netball

Dearest Gentle Reader, It is this author's great pleasure to report the latest from the netball courts...

WALCHA IS HEADING TO GRAND FINAL DAY — in all three remaining divisions!

The green and gold were out in force for finals, and every Walcha team that took the court this weekend did exactly what was required of them.

The Rams gave us a pretty spectacular Grand Final weekend last week, and Walcha certainly knows how to turn out the red and white when required.

But red and white has had its moment... Now, dear readers, it's the netballers' turn to make some headlines.

Walcha Opals 24 def. VIP 7

VIP came out guns blazing, taking the first quarter 4-3, but the Opals weren't about to be rattled. They kept things simple, settled into their game and then absolutely took off!

The second quarter was the turning point. The Opals piled

on the goals while holding VIP scoreless, taking a 10-4 lead into half-time. From there, the momentum just kept building 19-5 at three-quarter time before finishing with a very well-earned 24-7 victory.

Hugh, as always, dominated in defence, pulling out some very swift little moves to keep his opposition guessing. Savannah and Frankie were equally strong, making the most of every opportunity and cleaning up rebounds.

At the other end, Flo, Hannah and Aria worked beautifully in and around the goal circle, popping up goals every time the opportunity presented itself, while Lyzie, Airlee, Lucy and Christina covered the centre court with confidence. One of the loveliest things about watching this team now is reflecting on just how much every single player has grown throughout the season. Choosing a Coaches' Player at the end of the year has become an almost impossible task because, week after week, someone steps up and takes their game to another level.

The Opals will meet VIP Fireflies in the GRAND FINAL next weekend.

They are tough — but we're tougher!!

Walcha Pearls 29 def. TAS 19

The Pearls came ready for a fight this week after last weekend's heartbreaking loss, and there was no way they were going to let another one slip through their fingers!

The first quarter was a real arm wrestle, with the two sides evenly matched and neither willing to give much away. But once the Pearls settled into their rhythm in the second quarter, they took off, building a lead that TAS spent the rest of the game trying — unsuccessfully — to close.

The fierce sister combo of Veja and Xaphyn were relentless in defence, applying enormous pressure and making TAS work for each and every opportunity. Their tight defensive effort created plenty of turnover ball for the Pearls to capitalise on down the court.

At the shooting end, Puna, Arley and Belle had fantastic games, keeping the scoreboard ticking over, while Emilie, Madison and Georgia worked tirelessly through the centre court, linking attack and defence and keeping the ball moving.

It was a beautifully composed and convincing 29-19 win from a Pearls side that clearly had something to prove.

Last week hurt.

This week, they answered.

Walcha Pacifika 26 def. VIP Fun Bags 23

And last, but definitely not least, our favourite women's team finished off the trifecta!

A couple of players were away this week, and Amba could only play the first two quarters before duty called at the hospital, but Pacifika didn't miss a beat.

The team play was on point and the defence was awesome, keeping the opposition shooters well away from getting too close to their ring. Pacifika held a lead of at least six goals for much of the game and worked hard to hold off a late challenge from the Fun Bags.

And Apiti was simply way too fast this week, getting plenty of shots up before Aubrey Maine even had the chance to start yelling again.

Three teams took the court.

Three teams got the job done.

Three Walcha teams are heading to the GRAND FINAL! So, Dearest Gentle Readers, after the red and white signs, streamers and balloons that covered Walcha last weekend, there is only one thing left to do...

Now it's your turn to get behind the netball Club with THREE teams in the grand final.

Let's turn Saturday GREEN AND GOLD!

Playing Times:

Walcha Pearls & Pacifika 4pm
Walcha Opals 2.30pm



Funeral Notice

Warren John Aspinall "John"

25/07/1943 - 07/09/2026

Of Starvation Hill, Walcha.

Loving partner of Nona (dec'd).

Dearly loved father and father-in-law of Michael & Maree, and Timothy (dec'd).

Adored Poppy of Ashleigh, Timothy, Kurtis and Eleanor.

Loved brother and brother-in-law of Neville (dec'd) & Barbara, Annette and much loved uncle of their families.

Members of the Walcha Lions Club are warmly invited to participate in a Guard of Honour following the service at the Church.

Aged 83 years

A funeral service will be held at St Andrews Anglican Church, Walcha on Thursday 17th September 2026 commencing at 2.30pm followed by interment at the Walcha General Cemetery.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Public Notice

Rick's Odd Jobs and Yard Maintenance
Service will be unavailable from 21/9/2026. Regular service will resume on 19/10/2026. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

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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 Support Group Thursday 24th September 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle St. Relaxation 12.30pm, BYO Lunch 1pm, Meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

Senior Hockey AGM Thursday 24 September 6pm at upstairs Newy. Team noms to Arokiya 0488 199 667.

For Sale

Clark Bobcat S130 2009 model 2300 hours plus extras. Daihatsu Delta Tipper 1990 model. \$85,000. Contact Gary 0417 249 663.

Position Vacant

Volunteer driver for Walcha Council Community Care



We're seeking a volunteer driver to help transport clients within business hours, in Walcha, Armidale and Tamworth, approximately 2-3 drives per week.

Applicants must hold fully comprehensive car insurance and a vehicle less than 10 years old, and be willing to obtain a Passenger Transport Licence (medical assessment only), an NDIS worker check, and annual driver training.

A mobile phone, basic paperwork skills, and money handling are also required.

For further information, please contact Community Care on (02) 6774 2471.

Brian Smith Timber Transport

We're looking for a reliable person to wash trucks on Saturdays.

- Hours: 7:00am – 5:00pm
- Every Saturday
- Must be reliable and willing to work

Great opportunity for someone looking for regular Saturday work.

Please contact Brian Smith on 0427 780 216.

Raffle Results

Walcha & District Historical Society Street stall 11.9.2026. **\$50. Cross Bros Butchery voucher** - Nerida Hoy. **\$50. Emporium on Derby voucher** - Helen Wauch. **\$50. Fuel voucher - Mountain Motors** - Louise Clarke. **\$50. Fuel voucher - Walcha Tyre Service** - Gail Brazel. **\$50. New Birds voucher** - Olive Chandler. Thank you to everyone who supported WDHS stall.

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church notices

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

ANGLICAN

September 20 - Walcha Service 9.30am

September 27 - Walcha Service 9.30am

Anglican Church

Phone 6777 2543

or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am

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

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12.00PM BISTRO

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YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR 2026/2027 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

The nomination sheet is up at the club for our fundraiser on Saturday 24th October. Put your team on the sheet or contact Adam on 0402019192. Loan bowls available and help on the day for inexperienced players. Plenty of fun to be had by all.

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**

THE APSLEY Advocate

Power outage deadline!

Please submit your items and advertising next week to allow for earlier printing due to the power outage on Tuesday 29 September

The Walcha Telecottage will be closed on Tuesday 29 September



Contact us today

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wtc@walchateleccottage.com.au