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7 October 2026



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Walcha Council mid-term mayoral election outcome

At last weeks Walcha Council ordinary meeting Councillor Hyde Thomson was elected unopposed as Mayor of Walcha by his fellow councillors.

Outgoing Mayor Eric Noakes, who held the position since 2016, did not nominate for a further term and will continue serving as a councillor.

Councillor Rachel Greig was elected unopposed as Deputy Mayor, replacing Councillor Glen O'Brien, who has held the position since 2024.

In NSW, local government elections are held every four years, when residents vote for their councillors.

In councils like Walcha, where the mayor is chosen by councillors rather than directly by voters, the mayor serves a two-year term. Cllr Thomson will serve as Mayor of Walcha until the next local government elections in September 2028.

Speaking after the vote Councillor Thomson said, "I am honoured to serve the community as mayor, and humbled to have the support of my fellow Councillors. I don't take this responsibility lightly. Walcha is a small community with a big heart, and my focus will be on making sure Council keeps listening to residents and delivering the services and projects that matter. I would also like to thank Eric for his decade of leadership and commitment to the region and I look forward to continuing to work closely with Councillors, Council staff and the community in the months ahead."



Councillor Eric Noakes with Councillor Hyde Thomson

Cllr Thomson was first elected to Walcha Council in September 2024. A member of Council's Youth Advisory Committee and Capital Review Committee, outside his official role he is self-employed in the beef livestock industry.

A Walcha local, Cllr Thomson returned to town after finishing school in 1988. He has long been involved in local sport, including as a coach of the Walcha Rams rugby union and a player, and has spoken about sport's role in bringing the community together.

He follows in his family's footsteps, after his father Robert served as a Walcha Councillor around 2010 and his great grandfather (W.R.H Scott) as Walcha Municipality Mayor from 1897-99 then again in 1915.



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around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

Nothing like rain on the roof to lift your confidence as storms floated through the district on Monday evening and delivered from 10 to 25mm. The forecast looks promising over the next fortnight with a huge chance of rain next week which once again look to be storm fronts. The south has once again had another drenching with heavy falls causing some flash flooding for areas. October looks to be our month as the signals improve for moisture throughout the rest of the month and given that we are still in reasonable shape, we could really be sitting quite good by the end of the month.

Origin energy has dropped its plan to develop the proposed 870-megawatt Skyline project 10km west of Walcha. The decision to drop the Skyline renewable project was due to a significant increase in the cost of building a new wind project, a cost nearly 50 per cent higher than quoted to Walcha energy back in 2020. Origin brought the Skyline project from Walcha Energy back in 2024 and we can only image the taxpayers funds that have already been chewed up to get to this stage before dropping the Skyline project. For origin to admit the cost of building this new renewable energy project will far out way the benefits shall also bring all the other proposed projects under financial scrutiny. Given that this major development has been scraped, it begs the question why we need these proposed massive transmission lines when this is the second renewable project to be scraped in the last month. The government has a lot to answer for considering they continue to try and pave their way through with these huge transmission lines hoping the private sector will return to build these renewable projects. We must by now all understand that if they continue to build these renewable energy projects at these exuberated prices then there is no doubt that the extra costs will be passed onto us, the consumers.

Negotiations are under way with Uruguay as their unused beef quote into China might be valuable for Australia to utilise until the end of 2026. Uruguay has stated that they will not be filling their tariff free beef quote in China this year which has also been floated to Brazil, our biggest competitor. China looks to be happy for this to happen, but we are only 3 months from our new quota starting again and if we can't reach an agreement quickly, there will be little for us to benefit. The other unknown is whether the product we have stored in bonded cold storage which is intended for shipment when the quota resets on the 1st of January might be eligible, if it is than it would help to no end. If we can ship some extra product into China over the next 3 months, then it will reduce the bottleneck that is accruing at present for the new year quota reset.

One thing that I have noticed around the district lately is just how worms and lice this season has given everyone a headache. The winter we had was unusually warm and I reckon the worms and liver fluke never really died out due to our lack of frosts. Cattle have especially been looking lousy and very wormy with multiple producers reporting the same issues. The last thing anyone wants is poor productivity in a marginal season due to internal or external parasites. The other concern for many producers is grass tetany and pulpy kidney due to the short green feed which is a consent concern though the stormy season if we don't get enough moisture for the grass to get in front of the livestock.

The predicted rain and big falls in the south have seen an increase in values in online sales and a drop in listings last week. Restocker steers and heifers heading back to the paddock on Auctions plus lifted from 15-30c/kg in value, week on week while cattle suitable to feed lifted 10-15c/kg. Breeding females improved by as much as \$300 a unit to top at \$3540 and remain in the south. We are only 3 months away from the southern weaner sales and talking with agents, they are quoting the weaners to be a lot heavier than last year due to the excellent season.

Wood We Create takes out Sustainable Tourism award

Walcha's Wood We Create has another reason to celebrate, taking home the Excellence in Sustainable Tourism Award at the 2026 Business NSW New England North West Business Excellence Awards in Quirindi on Friday 25 September.

It was also a proud night for Walcha, with four other local finalists recognised across a range of categories. Red Hill Cottage Walcha and The Coffee Window were both finalists in Excellence in Microbusiness, Walcha Business Group was a finalist in Outstanding Local Chamber, and Tim Chandler from Riverview Aged Care was a finalist in Outstanding Employee.

The five finalists represent the diversity of businesses, organisations and people contributing to Walcha's local economy and community, making Wood We Create's win another achievement to celebrate locally.

The award recognises tourism businesses that are making a difference through environmental sustainability, community involvement and the visitor experience — something that sits very naturally with what David and Fiona Barden have been building at Wood We Create.

For resident artist and owner David Barden, the award is particularly meaningful because sustainability has always been a fundamental part of the business.

"This recognition means a great deal because sustainability isn't an add-on for us — it's at the heart of how we operate," David said.

"Every piece we create honours the story of the tree it came from, and every visitor who walks through the gallery learns something about local timbers, craftsmanship and caring for our natural resources."

A big part of Wood We Create's approach is finding a new life for timber that might otherwise go to waste. The business has continued

to increase its use of locally sourced salvaged timber, working with landholders, arborists and Council to recover timber and turn it into unique pieces.

But the experience at Wood We Create goes beyond the finished products.

Through demonstrations, workshops and the gallery's interpretive exhibition, visitors can discover more about our local timbers, where they come from and the craftsmanship involved in turning them into something beautiful and lasting.

The award judges recognised the business's circular approach to timber, its local partnerships, educational storytelling and the way it brings sustainability into the visitor experience.

And it seems visitors appreciate the experience just as much as the judges.

Regular visitor Jennifer Clegg, who travels to Walcha from Sydney, was quick to send her congratulations after hearing about the award.

"Sincere congratulations. Well deserved. I love visiting Wood We Create every time I come to Walcha from my home in Sydney."

For David and Fiona, the award is recognition not only of what they do at Wood We Create, but of the local timber, people and stories that make the business possible.

The win also puts Wood We Create through to the next stage of the Business NSW Awards, where it will be considered in the state judging.

For a small regional business, it is a significant achievement — and another opportunity to put Walcha's creative and sustainable tourism experiences in the spotlight.



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Brendan Moylan MP
MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Fresh solutions needed in domestic violence battle

I spoke in Parliament during the last sitting week to call on the government and departments to look outside Australia for solutions to the scourge of domestic and family violence.

The release of the most recent Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOSCAR) figures continue to paint a grim picture of rates of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a scourge on our society and we need to do more to address it.

In Austria, policymakers adopted a simple principle that shifted the focus of the entire system: The victim stays; the offender leaves. It is known as "whoever hits, leaves".

Spain established specialised courts, dedicated prosecutors and integrated support systems designed specifically to deal with domestic violence matters. The goal was not simply to punish offenders but to create a system that victims could navigate safely and confidently.

In Sweden, policymakers asked a different question altogether. Instead of focusing only on what happens after violence occurs, they concentrated on how to prevent it from occurring in the first place.

We need better integration between police, courts, health services and community organisations, and we need tough and appropriate sentences for perpetrators. Perhaps most importantly, we need the courage to examine ideas that have shown promise elsewhere and ask whether they might work here in NSW.

Walcha mayor signs off

I join the many community members and leaders who commend the decade-long service to Walcha of Eric Noakes following his decision to step down as Walcha Mayor.

Since September 2016, Walcha has been incredibly fortunate to have him as Mayor.

He is hardworking, honest and deeply committed to his community, I'm proud to call him a mate. His wife Sheree has also been a champion for the Walcha community and I thank them both for everything they've given to the community over the past ten years.

I congratulate the new mayor, Councillor Hyde Thomson, elected unopposed for the remainder of this term. Hyde has a wonderful record of community service and will be a terrific mayor.

I also commend outgoing Deputy Mayor Glen O'Brien for his service, and congratulate the incoming Deputy Rachel Greig, who will be a terrific addition to the local leadership team.

Brendan Moylan MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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letters to the editor



The Story Behind the Barbecue

There has been a welcome change in tone around Walcha recently.

After years in which a corner of public conversation has focused on challenges and uncertainty, it is worth reminding ourselves just how much this community has going for it.

Walcha is surrounded by extraordinary natural beauty — landscape, rivers, open country and national parks that cannot be manufactured or replicated. We also sit in one of the most productive agricultural regions on the eastern seaboard, and that has helped build strong businesses, skilled people and generations of local enterprise.

We have transport businesses that are both highly successful and deeply woven into the community through employment, sponsorship and support for local events. We have younger businesses starting up, winning awards and showing confidence in the town. We have an arts community that adds enormously to Walcha's culture and draws visitors from far and wide. There is a lot of positivity, leadership and giving from the drivers of the community.

Very few rural towns can point to the same combination of agriculture, business, culture, landscape and community life.

But perhaps Walcha's greatest strength is harder to measure.

Everyone counts. Everyone contributes, and everyone matters.

For generations, sporting clubs, schools, committees and community groups have relied on people turning up. If a playground needs building, the hands are there. If someone is in trouble, support is quickly organised. If a barbecue is needed, a wood raffle is run, tickets are sold, money is raised and the barbecue is bought.

That process matters. People work together. They build friendships, skills, pride and a shared story. The asset belongs to the group, but the achievement belongs to the community.

That is very different from money offered to a community to build "social licence" for a project.

Instead of people coming together to raise money, community groups can find themselves competing for a pool of outside funding. One group receives it, another misses out. Expectations are created, and sometimes division follows.

The money may still buy the barbecue, but it does not create the same story.

There may still be a plaque, but its purpose is largely to promote the corporate sponsor. It tells us who paid for the asset, not the story of a community that worked together to create it.

Outside investment is not inherently bad, and sensible partnerships can achieve good things. But the promise of money is powerful. It can sound generous and exciting while quietly changing the way a community works — replacing some of the need to rely on one another with reliance on an external donor.

Walcha is a remarkable place. Its strength was built over generations by businesses, families, volunteers, clubs, artists, farmers, teachers, tradespeople and countless others who simply put their hand up when something needed doing.

At a time of considerable change, it is worth reflecting on what we value.

We should retain what is good, think carefully about what we change, and be cautious of things that appear attractive but may weaken something we did not realise was precious until it was gone.

Everyone will have a different opinion, and those opinions matter.

The important thing is that we keep talking, thinking and recognising the value of what we already have.

Walcha has a great deal worth protecting.

Cameron Greig — Walcha resident, occasional wood-affle ticket buyer

Art therapy & counselling coming to Walcha

A new Art Therapy and Counselling practice will soon be joining Grounded, Walcha's new health and wellbeing hub, opening this October.

Many people may know Paula Jenkins as one of Walcha's local artists, though may not be aware that she is also a qualified and practising Art Therapist, having completed a Diploma in Art Therapy and currently finalising a Master of Counselling.

Over the past four years, Paula has delivered art and wellbeing outreach programs to small remote schools, worked as Art Therapist and Artist-in-Residence at BackTrack Youth Works in Armidale, and currently works as the Wellbeing Art Specialist at PLC Armidale. She has also facilitated wellbeing art programs at Walcha Central School and works therapeutically with individual adults across a range of concerns.

Paula will open her clinic room at Grounded, Walcha on Monday 19 October, offering art therapy and general counselling services for children, adolescents and adults.

"Although art therapy is my primary modality, I draw from a range of counselling approaches depending on the individual needs of each client," Paula said. "These include Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Solution-Focused Therapy, Person-Centred Therapy and Narrative Therapy. I enjoy working flexibly and collaboratively, rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach."

Paula can provide support for people experiencing depression, anxiety, trauma and a range of other life challenges and concerns.

What is counselling?

Counselling provides a safe, confidential and supportive space to explore the things that may be affecting your wellbeing, relationships, confidence or sense of self. It can help you make sense of what you're experiencing, develop greater self-awareness, work through

challenges and discover practical ways forward. Counselling is often focused on the here and now, personal growth, coping strategies, relationships and building on your existing strengths.

What is art therapy?

Art therapy uses art alongside the counselling process. The therapist and client may explore what emerges through the artwork, including thoughts, emotions, experiences, patterns and personal meanings, and how these may connect with relationships, self and the world. In this way, art becomes another avenue for communication, insight and therapeutic exploration. For some people, creating an image can make something visible that has been difficult to put into words, opening the way for deeper understanding, reflection and change. Importantly, you don't need to be artistic or have any previous art experience to participate in art therapy. The focus is not on producing a "good" artwork, but on the creative process and what it may reveal or provide for the individual.

Paula is looking forward to bringing art therapy and counselling to Grounded, Walcha and providing another avenue of therapeutic support within the local community.

If you're unsure about what you're experiencing, or have concerns about your mental or physical health, your local GP can also be an important place to start.

For enquiries and bookings, please contact Paula on 0439 384 433, email: paula@paulajenkinscounselling.com, or book online and find further information at www.paulajenkinscounselling.com

Individual sessions are available from Monday 19 October.

Grounded is located at 9W-11W Fitzroy Street, Walcha, with access to the clinic room at the rear of the building.

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Mel rides for the Chopper

Mel Benson recently took on an incredible challenge, joining the 2026 Ride for the Chopper to raise funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

The ride took place from Friday, September 11 to Friday, September 18, with 48 riders and 12 support crew taking part. The group travelled from the Tamworth Helicopter Base to Lightning Ridge, where they spent three nights completing rides around the area before continuing their journey home.

The riders tackled a 10-kilometre loop on the first day, followed by 130 kilometres on Saturday and 106 kilometres on Sunday. The group then travelled by bus to Rowena School, where they met students who had taken part in a colouring-in competition to design the front of this year's ride jerseys. The winning student was presented with a jersey before the riders enjoyed a ride around town with the students.

From Wee Waa, the group continued by bike, travelling through Narrabri, Boggabri and Lake Keepit before arriving back in Tamworth.

Much of the 560-kilometre ride was completed on back roads, with around half of the distance on gravel. The riders also faced strong headwinds on almost every day of the ride.

Mel rode all but eight kilometres of the journey after getting a flat tyre, with the group covering a total elevation of 1,870 metres.

The experience was particularly rewarding for Mel, who had never ridden more than 110 kilometres in a day before the ride and had no previous experience riding in a peloton or the wind.

Mel was also honoured to receive one of four special awards presented at the final evening at Lake Keepit, the 'Aussie True Grit Award', recognising determination, effort and the 'never give up' attitude during the ride.

Mel is already looking forward to taking part again next year.

She would also like to extend a huge thank you to the Walcha community for getting behind her fundraising efforts. Thanks to the generosity and support of local people, Mel has raised more than \$4,200 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, with the 2026 Ride for the Chopper raising close to \$100,000 overall.



EnergyCo

New England Renewable Energy Zone network infrastructure project

Environmental impact statement coming soon

EnergyCo is planning the New England REZ network infrastructure project to connect renewable energy to the electricity grid and deliver reliable power to homes and businesses across NSW.

The environmental impact statement (EIS) assesses how the project could impact people and the environment. The EIS will be open for feedback in the coming weeks.

Learn more

Scan the QR code to visit energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne to learn about the project and EIS so you're ready to have your say.



New England Solar Farm, near Armidale



Walcha Polocrosse AGM

Last Thursday the Walcha Polocrosse Club held our annual end of year AGM and Presentation night. After a long season it was a great night for everyone to catch up and reflect on a great year. Throughout the year club members attended 11 carnivals which included Guyra, Walcha, Inverell, Quirindi, Warwick, Galloping Gully, Narrabri, Maitland, Merriwa, Bunnan and Gulgong.

This season the Walcha teams came home with a total of 3 wins, 5 runners up and 7 best number awards. We also had 5 team members represent the Walcha club in various incentive and state carnivals, Tom Donnelly, Marlee Wall, Kersten Wall, Mia Goodwin and Patrick Daley. Marlee was also selected for the Australian Polocrosse National Championships held in Darwin this year, unfortunately due to the rise in fuel prices at the time they have been postponed until next year.

This year we welcomed four new members Patrick Keen, Deanne Baines, Will and Freddie Nicholls, who all improved greatly over the season.

The following awards were presented at the AGM:

Sub Junior Encouragement – Freddie Nicholls

Best & Fairest Sub Junior – Patrick Daley

Best & Fairest Junior – Mia Goodwin

Most Improved Senior – Will Nicholls

Best & Fairest Senior – Kersten Wall

Players Player – Marlee Wall

Horse of the Year – Jenkins Watchman, owned by Simon Wall

Club Person of the Year – Simon Keen

Congratulations to all our award recipients! We look forward to another great year in 2027 and encourage anyone who wants to have a go to attend our come and try days early next year.

Walcha Student going on Rotary South France Exchange

Matisse Pascoe from Walcha is set to embark on an overseas adventure in January 2027. Sponsored by the Walcha Rotary Club District 9660, Matisse will spend a year living and studying in the beautiful south of France Rotary District 1760.

This exciting opportunity will allow Matisse to immerse herself in French culture, language, and community life, fostering personal growth, independence, and global awareness. The exchange program is designed to develop leadership skills, build international friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of the world beyond Australia.

The 1760 Rotary District encompasses some of the most stunning regions of France, known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and picturesque landscapes. Living with host families and attending local school will provide invaluable experiences that go far beyond classroom learning. This exciting exchange exemplifies the value of cultural exchange programs in enriching young lives and fostering connections that span continents.

On a personal note, Matisse, Kimberlee, Daniel and Bronte Pascoe would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who has supported Matisse's exchange fundraising. 'Your generosity, kindness, and support is truly heartwarming and humbling. We are deeply grateful for the way our family, friends and Walcha community have uplifted and strengthened Matisse with her once in a life-time opportunity' Kimberlee commented.

'Thank you to Walcha Rotary Club District 9660 for being a pillar of support and encouragement whilst all on a voluntary basis. I couldn't do this without you' commented Matisse.

As January 2027 approaches, Matisse prepares to take on this remarkable challenge, representing her community and Australia with enthusiasm and pride.



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Wealth Architects Tamworth has been supporting clients across Tamworth and Walcha for the past 18 months under Paul Macfarlane, Principal and seasoned financial planner.

We're now pleased to welcome Andrew Beer to the team. Andrew brings a wealth of experience to the team, with deep expertise in financial planning, and long-term client care.

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what's the goss

with AJ Cross



So close but yet so far for the Newcastle Knights when they were defeated by the Sydney Roosters 19-18 at Accor Stadium last Sunday evening. Despite the heartbreaking loss what a fantastic effort by the Novocastrians who went within a whisker of becoming the first team to go from Wooden Spooners the previous season to Premiers the next since the Western Suburbs Magpies achieved the feat in 1934 over 90 seasons ago.

...

Heard a whisper Croudace Street resident, my former Walcha Roos teammate and general knock about bloke Peter 'Boodgie' Martin was having trouble starting his digger during not so recent times to the point where he had the fuel pump checked. By all accounts the only thing wrong with the machine was the fuel tank was empty but for all the details catch up with young 'Sloodgie'.

...

Veteran local athlete Taddy MacFarlane competed in the 10 Kilometre event at the Mingara Fun Run at The Entrance late last month. Taddy won the oldest division 70 years and over when he stopped the clock in 59 minutes 19 seconds - Not bad for a bloke who turned 82 earlier this year.

...

The Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club are holding their annual Presentations at the Commercial Hotel this Sunday from 12.30pm. Registrations for the 2026/27 season are open where the club hopes to field two teams again in the Armidale and District competitions which commence Saturday 17th October. Come on boys get your names in.

...

Still on Cricket congratulations to Veterans Barry Hoy and Peter Mooney who were members of the New England Thunderbolts over 50's team that defeated Thornton 5/239 off 45 overs to 10/193 off 43.5 overs at Gloucester at the end of last month to claim the Doug Walters Cup.

...

The Walcha Golf Club are in the process of adopting the Mi Score system where scores for each hole are entered on your phone instead of the old scorecards. It is designed to make the competition organisers job easier but names of players have to be entered in the system well before hit off time. Players who intend on playing on any given day are requested to either call the club or text in their names if they can't be there well before the draw for the day is done.

...

A few weeks ago visitors Brent Bolam was playing a round of golf here on our course with his future brother-in-law James McGuffog when he slam dunked his tee shot into the cup on the ninth green for a 'hole in one'. To suggest the boys were a bit excited would be slightly understating the facts. Brent is the fiance of Erin McGuffog.

...

Well done to Rugby League player Preston Latham on being named Farrer 1st XIII 'Rookie of the Year' when the Memorial Agriculture High School held their 2026 Senior Sportsman's dinner recently.

...

Wouldn't be a bad job being a weather forecaster where you get to make a prediction and get it totally wrong but still get paid. One example of it was last week when it was suggested there would be 100% chance of rain that day which to me should mean there was absolutely no chance it wouldn't rain. Surprise, surprise no moisture that day.

...

Best of luck when the Walcha Pool opens tomorrow 8 October which is over a month earlier than when it usually has opened in the past. Hopefully the weather will be kind despite what the forecasts are. Then again read the previous paragraph.

...



At the Nineteenth

A three way countback was required to determine the winners of the 4BBB Medley stableford competition last Sunday for trophies donated by Pip and Gus Monie after three duos accumulated 49 points each.

Club champion Michael Stackman and Mata Matapakia were declared victorious from Lyn Levingston and Anne Martin, Simone Sweeney and her silent partner Lyn Levingston.

The remaining sweepstake prizes went to Willy Brennan and Peter Berry 48, Cheryl McDonald and Rebecca Hall 47, Penny and Ross King 47, Nick and Will Hall 45, Jon Izzard and Charlie Murray 45, Will and Miles Archdale 44, Lee Fletcher and Andrew Crawford 44.

Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Michael Stackman (9) and Will Hall (16).

In Match Play Waterloo Mayor Ross King downed Angus Warden 2 up.

Last Saturday 10 players teed off in the weekly 9 hole competition where Jenny Lisle racked up 23 stableford points to sneak home from runner up Pete Whellan on 22 points.

N.T.P on 3 to Lee Fletcher.

Despite a few early hiccups Walcha Golf Club is adopting the Mi Score system where scores for each hole are entered on your phone instead of on a scorecard. To assist organisers if you are running late before nominating for any event please contact the club beforehand.

This Sunday is Stableford round for a prize supplied by David Sweeney while the Quirindi Open is also on offer.

Wednesday Golf

We played our second and final round of the Secretary's eclectic on Wednesday.

There was also an individual trophy for the day playing for Janie Fenwicke's trophy.

With a fabulous round carding a 67 nett was our winner, Rose Baumer.

Sweepstakes were won by Robyn Salt, 69, Cheryl McDonald, 69, and Lorraine Walshe with 72.

Cark Street had the best second shot on Hole 7, and the second shot on 18, which was in the hole, was claimed by Cheryl McDonald.

The winner of the two days of the Secretary's Eclectic was one of our Captains, Penny King, with a great 59 nett. Congratulations to Pen.

To explain the eclectic use in the two days of golf -

An eclectic is a multi-round tournament where a players final scorecard is made up of their best individual score on each hole across both rounds.

Simply - Day 1 sets your baseline. Day 2, you have nothing to lose - you either beat your Day 1 score on a hole, or you keep your Day 1 score.

This week we are playing stableford for Rose Baumer's trophy.

Ladies Bowls

Two very enjoyable games were played last Thursday in the beautiful sunshine. A game of triples was played with Lyn Burnell, Esther Hunt and Jan Cross winning against Janice Rizzi, Carmel Ryan and Margaret

Morris. Lee McCoy and Phyllis Hoy had a win against Margaret Tickle and Marie Spink in a game of pairs. Several ladies are going to Uralla next Wednesday for a Friendship day. Please put your name on the board by tomorrow if you wish to play for the Ivy Makeham Singles Trophy commencing 15 October. Don't forget our 90th birthday celebrations on Saturday 24 October. Put your name on the board if you can help out on the day and also wish to play. There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.00am for 9.30am start.

Bowls

Thursday results: Barry Kliendienst, Paul, & Denis Makeham defeated John McCormack, Geoff Salt & Peter Halliday 19/10. Brian Goodwin, Alan Kirby & Warwick Hogan defeated Noel Goodwin, Jamie Wall & Tony Batterham 16 /9.

Barry, Paul & Denis won the vouchers.

Welcome to the new players.

Play starts 1pm every Thursday new players are welcome.

Twilight bowls starts this Friday 5.30pm



Field work taking place for the New England REZ network infrastructure project

EnergyCo is leading the development of the New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ), part of the NSW Government's plan to upgrade the electricity network to power our state now and for the next generation.

The New England REZ will deliver a critical electricity supply to NSW energy consumers and will include new network infrastructure to transfer power from renewable energy projects to consumers, including power lines and substations.

Ongoing field work from Muswellbrook to Armidale

To support and inform the planning and design of the New England REZ, a program of field investigations will continue from October to December 2026. This work also supports the Port to REZ program, which is investigating road upgrades needed to transport large renewable energy equipment safely from the Port of Newcastle to the New England REZ.

You may see workers carrying out geotechnical investigations, surveys, traffic counting, site inspections and other activities in various locations from Muswellbrook to Armidale, including Aberdeen, Rouchel, Gundy, Pages Creek, Barry, Niangala, Walcha, Bendemeer, Moonbi, Uralla and Rocky River.

Most activities will be carried out in publicly accessible areas, such as road reserves. Where investigations need to be carried out on private property, we will consult with landowners directly to seek access permission. This work helps us identify potential constraints and minimise impacts to landowners and the environment as we plan the network infrastructure project and road upgrades.

Contact us

Scan the QR code or visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez for information including work notifications, fact sheets and more. You can also register for email updates to stay informed about our activities.

If you have any questions, get in touch with our team on 1800 061 114 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri) or by emailing nerez@energy.nsw.gov.au. We look forward to hearing from you.



LT1302



Funeral Notice

Robert John Laurie

27th September 2026

of Palmers Island and formerly of
"Brumaxhu" Nowendoc.

Beloved husband of Belinda Laurie.
Loving father of Phoebe, Charlotte and Amy.
Loving step-father of Katie and Dean
Germon

Aged 65 years

A graveside funeral service will be held at
the Nowendoc Cemetery on Friday, 9th
October 2026, commencing at 11am.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

In Memoriam



Dos O'Shannessy

31/10/1963 – 12/10/2022

Sunny Days and Blue Sky's

We will meet again

Funny how time flies

Love always

Linda Scherff OX

Bonnie



Public Notice

Tennis Spring Comp Tues 27 Oct - Tues 24
Nov. Noms close 17 Oct. Names to Michael
0487 898 051 or Hyde 0427 780 391.

Tennis Street Stall - Sat 17 Oct. Helpers
and baked goods needed. Call Sandra 0428
770 954.

Walcha Home Furnishing

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For Sale

Laver pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks.
Delivered Thursday 22/10/2026. Phone Jim
0428 194 105.

Public Notice (cont)

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066

Bree Curtis – Justice of the Peace

Available by appointment only.

No charge for JP services.

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

Walcha Council

**Walcha Preschool - 2027
enrolments now open!**



Enrolments are now open for
children aged between 3 and 5 to attend
Walcha Preschool in 2027.

Children who are turning 3 before 31 July
2027 are eligible to enrol.

If your child turns 3 after 31 July 2027 then
they may also attend if vacancies exist at
the time, however these places cannot be
reserved for them.

Enrolments can be completed online:

[https://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/community/
children-young-people/walcha-preschool.
aspx](https://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/community/children-young-people/walcha-preschool.aspx)

An orientation morning will be held Saturday
30th January 2027 where Preschool staff will
be available to answer questions and help
families prepare for a smooth start.

For more information, please call Alice or Mel
on 02 6777 2117.

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

Walcha Council

Walcha Library

Closure for a Planned

Power Outage – Tuesday &

Wednesday 13 & 14 October 2026

Walcha Council Library will have planned
all-day power outages on Tuesday 13th
& Wednesday 14th of October 2026, to
enable electricians to safely undertake
improvements to the library's electrical
systems.

As a result, the Walcha Library is closed for
those two days. It will reopen during normal
operating hours on Thursday 15th of October
2026.

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

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

Meeting Notice

Walcha Flippers Swimming Club AGM

Tuesday 13th October at 5pm at Walcha
Bowling Club. Come along and help shape
the season ahead. Everyone is welcome!

thumbs



- To the gentleman who paid forward my groceries on Tuesday at IGA. What a lovely gesture.
 - To Cassie McKenna at Walcha library for organising great activities for local children in the school holidays. Thank you. Also to Walcha Council.
 - To all the organisers and helpers for the great youth mash up activities. What a great event. Enjoyed by so many youngster and youth. Super well done. Keep up the great work. We have enjoyed this September holiday activity for many years.
 - To the fun at the BBQ and Music run by the RAMHP. Help is available when you need it.
 - To Walcha Council - the grounds from the levee bank walk to the river look magnificent including the new timber seat opposite the exercise station
 - To Peta Carter for checking in on residential tenants early Tuesday morning before the planned electricity outage.
 - To Toni at the Cafe Royal for a great strong coffee leading up to International Coffee Day.
 - To Olivia Tickle for the Pilates classes - with hints every week on how to improve muscle strength
- 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.**

DEADLINE FOR STORIES AND ADVERTS

Monday 4.30pm



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church notices



ANGLICAN

October 11 - 9.30am Walcha Service
No Nowendoc Service

October 18 - 9.30am Walcha Service

October 25 - 9.30am Walcha Service

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 8 12.00pm – Close

BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 9 3.00pm – Close

Free Bingo drawn at 7.30pm

Raffles drawn at 8pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

Come down and check out the menu board and choose a delicious meal

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

Saturday 10 11.00am – Close

5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 11 11.00am – Close

12.00PM BISTRO

Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

MEMBERS DRAW

DRAWN AFTER THE RAFFLES

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AGM rescheduled for Sunday
18th October at 9.30am

Twilight Bowls start
this Friday 5.45pm

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Call Phyllis on 0439 310 844

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