THE APSLEY
Advocate

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21 October 2026

After 50 years Sally calls time on a caring career

When Sally Rutherford trained as a Physiotherapist 50 years ago, she would never have dreamed that by the end of her career people would be receiving treatment through telehealth on the internet!

After 40 years in Walcha Sally has officially entered retirement, treating her last patient at Walcha Physiotherapy in early September before taking a well-earned break seeing the sights of Western Australia.

Winding the clock back 50 years to when it all began - Sally graduated from University in 1978 and completed her registration year at Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick. Her first posting was to Wellington in Western NSW where she was the only Physio at the hospital! It wasn't all bad though, as she met Bruce while she was working in Wellington and they married and moved to Walcha at the beginning of 1986.

How times have changed, because there wasn't any work available for a physiotherapist in Walcha at the time so Sally travelled to Armidale Hospital for 17 years, working part-time whilst fitting in the birth of her three children. "Bruce was amazing in this period as childcare was always a challenge and he had to fill in the gaps in the mornings and afternoons." While she was working in Armidale Sally said she really loved doing Hydrotherapy and the fracture clinic alongside the outpatient Physio.

Just to add a little more into her week, Sally worked with Annette Brown to introduce Early Intervention Physiotherapy for children in Walcha. "I would do home visits, and also work from the Old Infants School behind the hospital," Sally said.

Walcha Physiotherapy then commenced with the assistance of Dr Allen in 1995. "Adrian allowed us to use one of his rooms just across the bridge in his Practice, which was very generous," Sally said. Although this was only a part-time business as Sally and Prue were still travelling to Armidale as well at the time.

The Physiotherapy business grew and Pilates was introduced as a group exercise program shortly after they relocated to the Walcha Gallery of Art building. Their final move came in 2009 when they moved to their current premises. "Prue and I have had an amazingly good working relationship and I am extremely grateful to Prue for our partnership and friendship which has stood the test of time. We have enjoyed great back up from admin staff and would especially like to thank Pip Monie who has also recently retired after working with us for 10 years." Sally said.

In looking back on her career Sally said she is really going to miss the people and her work environment. "I like to see my patients and spend time with them. Telehealth is not really my thing, which really took off in COVID and seems to have become popular over the last seven years. I believe there is nothing like face-to-face contact."

Sally has really enjoyed her work with small groups of people in an exercise environment that is social and rewarding. "You certainly have to be a 'jack-of-all-trades' to practice in the bush." This includes the work they have done with Aged Care both in Walcha, Tamworth and Armidale where Prue and Sally have worked within Riverview and BUPA to provide Physiotherapy to the elderly.

"Physio has certainly changed, and you have to adapt. Keeping up with professional development becomes hard in a small practice. In the early 90's and 2000's we did a lot of weekend courses which I really enjoyed, however most are online these days."

Sally and Prue have been extremely grateful to the doctors in Walcha for the support they have given the practice over the years. "Adrian and the doctors at Walcha Genera Practice have been wonderful," she said.

To farewell her time as a Physiotherapist, the team at Walcha Physiotherapy are holding drinks for Sally this Friday 23 October from 5pm at their office. They would love to have their clients and past clients join them in farewelling Sally.

Walcha Physiotherapy will continue to operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Prue. Olivia Tickle will provide remedial massage on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, as well as Pilates classes four days per week.

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Join us at the Walcha Physiotherapy to wish Sally a Happy Retirement!

Friday 23rd October at 5pm

All are welcome to attend!

around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

The further we head into spring the wetter it is becoming as they now tell us it could be the wettest El Nino on record and a potential wet end to 2026. Last weeks rain was perfect as falls of 25-50mm fell throughout the district which has been a timely follow up to the previous week's rain event. Something big is building for the next two weeks as numerous forecasts are predicting a substantial amount of rain, well anywhere up to 100mm for us. If this kind of rain eventuates then it will be a huge game changer for our season and the truck loads of livestock will need to roll back in again as confidence amongst producers grows with the grass. The forecast looks to include most of the Northern Tablelands and into a large part of southern and central QLD, these parts have remained relatively dry to date for 2026.

It concerns me to hear from some local beef producers that on their return from a trip overseas into a country that was just declared to have had foot a mouth disease outbreak, that they were not asked to walk through foot baths preboarding, nor asked to on re-entry to Australia, or even asked to get rid of their footwear on our home soil. They raised this concern to me as ridiculous. The government is playing a deadly game of Russian roulette with our Australian beef industry due to our national biosecurity measures not being rigorous enough. The Australian biosecurity is a joke considering the lacklustre approach to instances such as this, at least our own locals followed their own stringent protocols with their own biosecurity measures, but seriously this is concerning.

The new year for beef trading couldn't come quick enough with our cold storage facilities bursting at the seams. Two to three processors who do custom kills have reduced killing days due to cold storage issues and caused plenty of headaches for those producers with custom kills with one processor already 2500 cattle behind their annual kill numbers to date. Speaking with one producer who supplies overseas markets with their own meat brand that they were being pushed and pulled around the kill floor, meaning they had lost kill space, next minute brought forward and then pushed back due to the inability for processors to kill animals. The full cold storage, predominantly Wagyu beef from what I'm told which is destined for China is pushing back through the supply chain and making feeder cattle intake at custom fed feedlots quite difficult. Interesting fact is that these premium custom beef brands that are having trouble getting their cattle processed have no trouble selling the product and the consumer is paying the entry tariff on their product.

I cannot see the livestock market backing off anytime soon, especially light restocker cattle if this forecast of weather eventuates. When we look at current values for light cattle back to the paddock, there is still a substantial upside in backgrounding or fattening cattle for the feedlot or kill market. Southern parts of Australia are having some of the best seasonal conditions for quite a while, Queensland will get hot but has a large bulk of feed and if it rains throughout the predicted areas, the lack of livestock will push values even further. Last week on AuctionsPlus we saw light Angus steers hit $7.40/kg, flat back steers in QLD sold to $6.52/kg and local feeder Angus steers made $608c/kg. I think heifers still represent good value with light heifers making from $5.50/kg to $6.00/kg. Breeding units are probably the best value of all with prices ranging from $2500 to $3500 a unit.

A pen of ewes at Wagga last week topped at a record $400.20 for mutton which was a saleyard record and an indication of the lack of mutton around. If you're thinking of purchasing breeding ewes then you better get an overdraft first with SIL XB ewes selling for more than $600 per head, unjoined young ewes from $350-$450 while quality merino ewes are making from $250-$350 unjoined. New season lambs have hit the ground running making more than $6 per kilo liveweight and like our beef market, I can't see this market backing off either with the lack of lambs being born this year compared to last, especially in northern NSW.

Grounded Walcha store soon to open

Grounded Walcha Store opens in early November, and wants local makers, growers and cooks to be part of it.

After a wait of nearly two years, Grounded Store will open its doors in early November. It's a health food store and community space built around supporting local small businesses.

The store will stock wholefoods, herbal teas, cold-pressed juices, snacks and take-home meals. Bulk wholefoods are available to either fill your own container or there are prepacked bags on the shelves. Local produce and local makers will be front and centre.

GET INVOLVED

Grounded Store is set up so local people can sell through the shop.

- Cube rental for makers: If you make, bake or craft something food or wellbeing related, such as preserves, baked goods, teas, skincare, natural remedies or herbal products, you can rent a display cube in the store. Lower cubes are $5 a week and upper cubes are $8 a week, paid monthly in advance. Sellers keep 100% of their sales and look after their own stock and styling. The shop handles the sales and gives each seller a regular shout-out on social media.
- Basket rental for growers: Baskets are ideal for local growers with fresh produce, and the same simple rules apply as for cubes. Prices vary with the size of the basket, so there's an option to suit a small backyard harvest or a bigger crop.
- The Grounded Kitchen: The commercial kitchen is available to hire for local food businesses and home-based makers who need a proper space to cook. Hire includes power, gas, basic equipment and storage, and there's a special introductory rate for new users. It could be the first step in launching a food business, or a way to grow one you already have.

"It's been a long road to get here, and we can't wait to open the doors," said Olivia, owner of Grounded Walcha. “There are so many people in Walcha with brilliant ideas. We want Grounded to be the place where the can reach their goals, or maybe a stepping stone to something even bigger. If you've got something to make or grow, or you've been looking for a kitchen, get in contact."

How to get involved

To enquire about cube or basket rental or kitchen hire, contact Olivia at olivia@groundedwalcha.com.au

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Mayoral Column

Hyde Thomson, Walcha Mayor

It is an incredible honour and privilege to stand before you as Mayor of our great community—a position I accept with absolute respect, dignity, and a clear vision for our future.

I want to thank my fellow councillors for their definitive endorsement. Having their trust, along with the strong backing of Eric Noakes, solidifies my commitment to leading this Council with decisive action. I am also exceptionally proud to have Councillor Rachel Greig as Deputy Mayor. Rachel is sharp, articulate, and fiercely hard-working.

To outgoing Mayor Eric Noakes: thank you for your unbridled enthusiasm and fierce devotion to the people of the Walcha LGA. You have set an exceptionally high bar in advocacy and passion. I deeply value your enduring knowledge and experience, and I welcome your ongoing contributions as we navigate the remainder of this term. To outgoing Deputy Glen O'Brien: Walcha remains incredibly fortunate to have your sharp entrepreneurial mind and proven business success both at Council and within our community.

We may have a new Mayor, but our resolve and commitment remains steadfast. We face significant challenges ahead, and we are ready to meet them head-on.

Foremost among these is seamlessly embedding and facilitating Aged Care into Council services. While the rigorous compliance and regulatory requirements are undeniably amplified by the smaller scale of our facility, we refuse to back down. We know exactly how vital safe, high-quality care is for our aging citizens, and we are working tirelessly to secure it right here in Walcha.

Our eyes are also firmly on the future. In the New Year, we are establishing the Walcha Youth Council. This initiative will actively empower and engage our young people. If we want our youth to carry Walcha into the future, we must make this community an attractive place to live, work, and thrive—and that is exactly what we intend to do.

From sunrise to sunset, this Council is here to care for and support our residents. We will deliver on the fundamentals—roads, rates, and rubbish. We will enforce prudent financial management, optimise waste and water treatment, and aggressively tackle labour recruitment and retention. Furthermore, we will face the region's controversial renewable energy developments with transparent, strong leadership.

We have a powerful Council of eight distinct individuals. Each has volunteered to lead, bringing their own distinct passions to the table, but all are united by a singular, macro vision: to make Walcha a vibrant, united, and resilient place to call home.

There are demanding times ahead, but we are more than capable of overcoming them. I call on every single resident to join us in this effort: 'GIVE GREATER and BE BETTER.' Give greater compassion, give greater empathy, give greater respect, and give greater humility. Be a better person, a better neighbour, and a better citizen. Together, we will set a new standard for Walcha.

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Walcha Support Group luncheon

The Walcha Support Group held its annual luncheon on Thursday 15 October at the Walcha Bowling Club, with the Di and the ladies cooking up a storm and serving a beautiful lunch for those who attended.

The group has been operating for 37 years, providing valuable support to the local community. Initially, the group focused on gathering equipment for palliative care patients, before later expanding its services to include short-term equipment loans for people recovering from operations and accidents.

Over the years, the Walcha Support Group has continued to play an important role in helping local residents access equipment when they need it most.

The group meets at the WCCC on the last Thursday of each month at 1.30pm, and new members are always welcome. Anyone interested in joining the group or learning more about its work is encouraged to come along to a meeting.

Juniors up close with Wallabies

Twenty nine Walcha Junior Rugby players had an unforgettable experience on Saturday, walking around Accor Stadium during the team warm-ups before the Wallabies took on the All Blacks in the Bledisloe Cup.

The young Ram Lambs joined around 2,400 junior rugby players from across the state for the special opportunity, giving them a taste of the excitement and atmosphere of international rugby.

While the scoreboard didn't go the Wallabies way, it certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the Walcha youngsters, who had a ball throughout the day.

There was plenty of dancing, shirts on and off, and a few brushes with fame as the kids snapped selfies and collected signatures from some of the best rugby players in the world.

The fun continued after dark, with the Walcha juniors taking to the field for a game of their own against some new friends from Bathurst Juniors, while parents took the opportunity to refuel at the bar.

It was a fantastic experience for the young players, creating plenty of memories and hopefully inspiring a few future Walcha Wallabies along the way.

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To discuss your financial, retirement, or investment goals, get in touch with our office to arrange a chat with Paul or Andrew.

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Wealth Architects Tamworth is a Corporate Authorised Representative (001247176) of Insight Investment Services Pty Ltd, AFSL 309 996.

letters to the editor

New England Hotel update

Construction will soon begin on the kitchen at the New England Hotel. We ask patrons and the community to take care around the work area, follow signage and stay clear of restricted areas.
Thanks from Perc and the whole team for everyone's patience and cooperation. We look forward to sharing this exciting addition with you!
Megan Tisdell

EnergyCo letters

EnergyCo has sent out letters to landholders in the past few weeks commencing the compulsory acquisition process. No one wants to be forced into a lengthy, expensive and time-consuming legal battle with the NSW Government however that is the consequence of the NEREZ for local landholders. We are united and are pushing back to ensure Walcha doesn't get steamrolled as they have in the Central West Orana REZ. We heard earlier in the year from landholders in the CWOREZ about the disruption, destruction and how promised community funds hadn't materialised.

At the same time EnergyCo has dumped their 16,000 page EIS for the transmission line, and given our Community 29 days to respond despite requests for extensions. The Minns/Sharpe Government isn't even pretending this is a meaningful, consultative process creating the best outcome for the towns and landholders bearing the burden of hosting the infrastructure.

We are so grateful for the fantastic support we have received, however we are again asking for your help. A large number of submissions from Walcha will show that we do not support a poorly planned project with no meaningful consultation, and no benefit to our town in proportion to the burden of hosting large-scale industrial infrastructure. Submissions close on 12 November through the NSW Planning Portal. They don't need to be long or technical. A few paragraphs in your own words is enough, and local knowledge is exactly what the EIS is missing. The *Guardians* and *Voice for Walcha* will be sharing information on how to respond over the coming weeks.

The cost of this transmission infrastructure was estimated at $2 billion, now looks to be blowing out to around $20 billion. Where is Walcha's benefit from this $20 billion project?

Bec Onslow

Woolbrook Market this Saturday

Come along to Woolbrook's first market this Saturday, 24 October.

Woolbrook Parents and Citizens Association would love to welcome everyone to visit our small school and enjoy what the Woolbrook community has to offer.

Celebrate spring, support our little public school (it really does fit on one slippery dip), and enjoy a relaxed community day. There'll be baked goods, a sausage sizzle, locally grown produce, handmade crafts, coffee, face painting and more.

We will have some interesting stalls and offerings, there will be something for everyone. Check out our Facebook page for raffles too.

We hope to see you in Woolbrook this Saturday.

Successful golf Opens weekend

By AJ Cross

Despite threatening weather conditions the Walcha Golf Club managed to host their annual three opens last weekend which attracted around 120 players to tee off over the three days.

The Veterans Open commenced proceedings on Friday where John McCormack accumulated 38 stableford points to sneak home from North Haven visitor representing the Kew Club Steph Sweeney on 37 points in the Nett Division.

Mens Scratch went to David Sweeney on 30 points a couple points clear of runner up Willy Brennan 28.

In the ladies Sally McCormack racked up 37 points to win the Nett from Jenny Lisle 36 whereas Cheryl McDonald took out the scratch with 24 points comfortably clear of R/U Margaret Davidson 20 points.

NTP's to Wayne Brennan (3) and Lee Fletcher (18).

On Saturday the Mixed Open winners were Lee Fletcher and Sally McCormack on 45 points, Runners up were Wayne Brennan and Lyn Levingston 43 while David and Simone Sweeney cruised home in the scratch on 38 points, nine points ahead of Runners Up Miles Archdale and Cheryl McDonald on 29.

NTP's to Lyn Levingston (3), Anthony Connors (9) and Michael Stackman (18).

Last Sunday the Mens Open drew the interest of 56 players where Club President Miles Archdale and his son Will teamed up to win the Scratch Division with a Par score of square for the Card, while runners up were the Brennan Boys Wayne and Willy on -3.

Nett Winners were Barraba Duo Will Sedgewick and Campbell Tonkin on +6 but only after they survived a countback with David McCathie (Armidale) and Rod Evans (Hamilton, Victoria) also on +6.

Front 9 holes winners were Duncan McLean and Anthony Connors from the Uralla Club on +5 whereas the Back 9 holes went to locals Angus Warden and Mitch Crawford on +3.

N.T.Ps to Anthony Connors (3), Campbell Tonkin (16) and Josh Coghlan (18).

Organisers of the three day events would like to thank sponsors Drummond Golf (Port Macquarie) Peter Norbury Motors, Nutrien Boultons and Betts Transport for their valued support over the weekend.

A reminder to all weekly 9 hole event regulars there will be no competition this Saturday due to the Walcha Ladies Open being played.

This Sunday the monthly stroke medal round is on offer where James Norton is in charge of supplying the prize.

Mens Open Winners - Miles and Will Archdale (Scratch) Will Sedgwick and Campbell Tonkin (Nett)

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Have your say on making Walcha more inclusive and accessible

- Walcha Council wants community feedback to shape its next Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- The survey is open for three weeks, from 21 October to 11 November
- It can be completed online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WalchaCouncilAccess

Walcha Council is asking the community to help shape its next Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), with a short online survey opening on Wednesday 21 October 2026.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes and asks how well Council's buildings, footpaths, facilities, services, information and events work for people with disability, and where things could be better.

General Manager Stephen Parry said Council wanted to hear from as many people as possible.

"You don't need to have a disability to take part. If you care for someone, have a family member or friend with disability, or simply notice things around town that make it harder for people to get around or join in, we want to hear from you," Mr Parry said.

"Accessibility is about whether everyone can use our spaces and services. Inclusion goes a step further: it's about people with disability being welcomed, valued and genuinely part of community life and decisions."

Under the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW), every council in NSW must have a DIAP setting out the practical steps it will take to remove barriers for people with disability.

Community feedback for Council's 2022 DIAP led to real changes, including:

- More accessible parking spaces in the town centre and near community facilities
- An inclusive play space with a fenced playground at Lions Park
- Playground upgrades at McHattan Park and Lions Park designed with children with disability and their families in mind
- Improved accessible amenities at John Oxley Sportsground.

The survey closes on Wednesday 11 November 2026 and all responses are anonymous.

Printed copies are available from Council's Hamilton Street office and Walcha Library. For help completing the survey, call Council on (02) 6774 2500.

thumbs

- To the Sports Club for another great lunch at the movies on Friday. Can't wait for more!
- To the group of St Pat's parents who organised the High Country Lunch. It is incredible what a dedicated, small group of parents can achieve when they volunteer their time.
- To Cassie for screening the Sydney Writers Festival sessions in our happy little library - always interesting, always appreciated.
- Thank you to the couple who helped my grandson after his little accident.

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.

NSW GOVERNMENT

Have your say on the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is inviting local communities, interest groups and businesses to have their say on the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2027 from **Wednesday 21 October to 5 pm Tuesday 15 December 2026**.

The draft water sharing plan sets limits on how much water can be taken from the Macleay Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources. It allows for water to be protected for the environment, basic landholder rights and cultural needs and provides secure, legal and tradeable water access rights.

The public exhibition period is an opportunity for water users, community members and other interested parties to provide feedback on proposed changes in the draft Macleay water sharing plan.

To have your say:

- Attend a webinar on Wednesday 4 November from 1 pm to 2 pm.
  Scan the QR code or visit the website to register.
- Attend a face-to-face appointment at Kempsey Macleay RSL Club on Tuesday 10 November 2026.
  Scan the QR code or visit the website to register.
- Attend a face-to-face appointment at Armidale City Bowling Club on Thursday 12 November 2026.
  Scan the QR code or visit the website to register.
- Make an online or written submissions via the website.

For more information:

- Scan the QR code
- Visit water.dcceew.nsw.gov.au/macleay-water-sharing-plan
- Email water.enquiries@dcceew.nsw.gov.au
- Call 1300 081 047.

LT1158

EastGate Walcha

Over 55's Village changes hands

All commercial assets, including the land and the land lease component of EastGate Village have now been sold.

Glenys & Neil Smith designed, built, owned and operated the village since its inception in 2016.

Whilst operating the Caravan Park, Glenys and Neil researched the viability of building an over 55's land lease community in Walcha. The research "stacked up" and so, the inception was underway.

Firstly, Peter & Juanita Stinson's horse paddock was obtained. Thence part of a public road was obtained and both were joined, then under the guidance of Gerry Moran from Walcha Council the village took shape.

Very importantly, if a local contractor was available, it was those that obtained the work.

Uniplan from Armidale was engaged to supply all 12 homes.

The village operated for the first six years of its life as a rental village. Numerous persons are still living in Walcha that commenced renting a home within the village.

Such is the community of Walcha it attracts persons from Australia wide and still does.

It was decided in 2024, the time had come for Glenys & Neil to slow down a little.

Hence – all homes were sold independently, with the land lease component in place.

The concept of land lease is not well understood west of the divide – however this concept is now well proven and with a shortage of housing is bounding ahead.

Community BBQ at Nowendoc Recreation Reserve

A great afternoon was had at the Nowendoc Recreation Reserve on Sunday, with a community BBQ held to bring friends and neighbours together. Old friends reconnected and new friends were made over a delicious lunch that included dessert.

The afternoon also included an historical aspect with the new fireplace getting 'branded' with local pastoral cattle brands, some dating back to the 1900's. A display board reflecting information on the brands and families behind them will be constructed and hung on the shed wall to preserve some local history.

Cheryl Margery and Lorraine Gordon branding the old family cattle brand

Photo credit: Matthew Gordon

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For further information
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what's the goss

with AJ Cross

The 51st season of Walcha Touch Football kicks off this Thursday where 20 teams have nominated for the senior competition and 6 sides will compete in the juniors. Best of luck to all players having a run this season and a big thanks to the small committee that runs the show each week.

•••

Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club didn't get off to the best of starts last weekend when they recieved a bit of a touch up off Ex Services and Hillgrove in their respective 1st and 3rd grade Armidale district competitions last Saturday. Don't worry boys at least now you have removed the off season cobwebs.

•••

Members of the Walcha Junior Rugby Union Club attended the Wallabies/All Blacks Bledisloe Cup test match at Accor Stadium last Saturday, where the players were invited to represent their club in a parade before the main game. By all accounts our Junior Rams were thrilled to be part of the event and probably weren't too concerned the Aussies were hammered by the Kiwis, although the gold and green did win the second half.

•••

Truck driver Beau Smith was pulled over by police for a truck check down at Tamworth recently where he surrendered his licence to be checked. The officer informed Beau he wasn't up for a bribe that day after he was handed a Commonwealth Bank card not a drivers licence by mistake. See Beau for more details.

•••

There was a bit of commotion up at Beau's residence in Apsley Street not long back coming from the room of his son Remy Eli but when mum Bek attempted to locate the noise it was a little difficult. By all accounts Remy had somehow shut himself in a cupboard in his room around 1:00am and couldn't escape before letting his parents know in no uncertain terms of his predicament.

•••

Churchill Street dweller and Wests Tigers supporter Denis 'Mick' White was having a few troubles of his own during recent times in the early hours of the morning when he missed the bed completely while attempting to climb back into it without the light on. Let's just say Mick isn't as young as what he used to be and his tailbone was a bit tender for a few days after.

•••

It certainly isn't 'Pick on Mick' week but that wasn't the only issue Denis experienced in the past fortnight. When he handed over his recently re-issued Medicare Card to be swiped he was kindly informed that the card was about to expire in the very near future. Mick suddenly had that sinking feeling that he had cut up his new card by mistake and kept the old one. At least my former fellow Walcha Council employee had a 'Smile on his Dial' while recounting the details.

•••

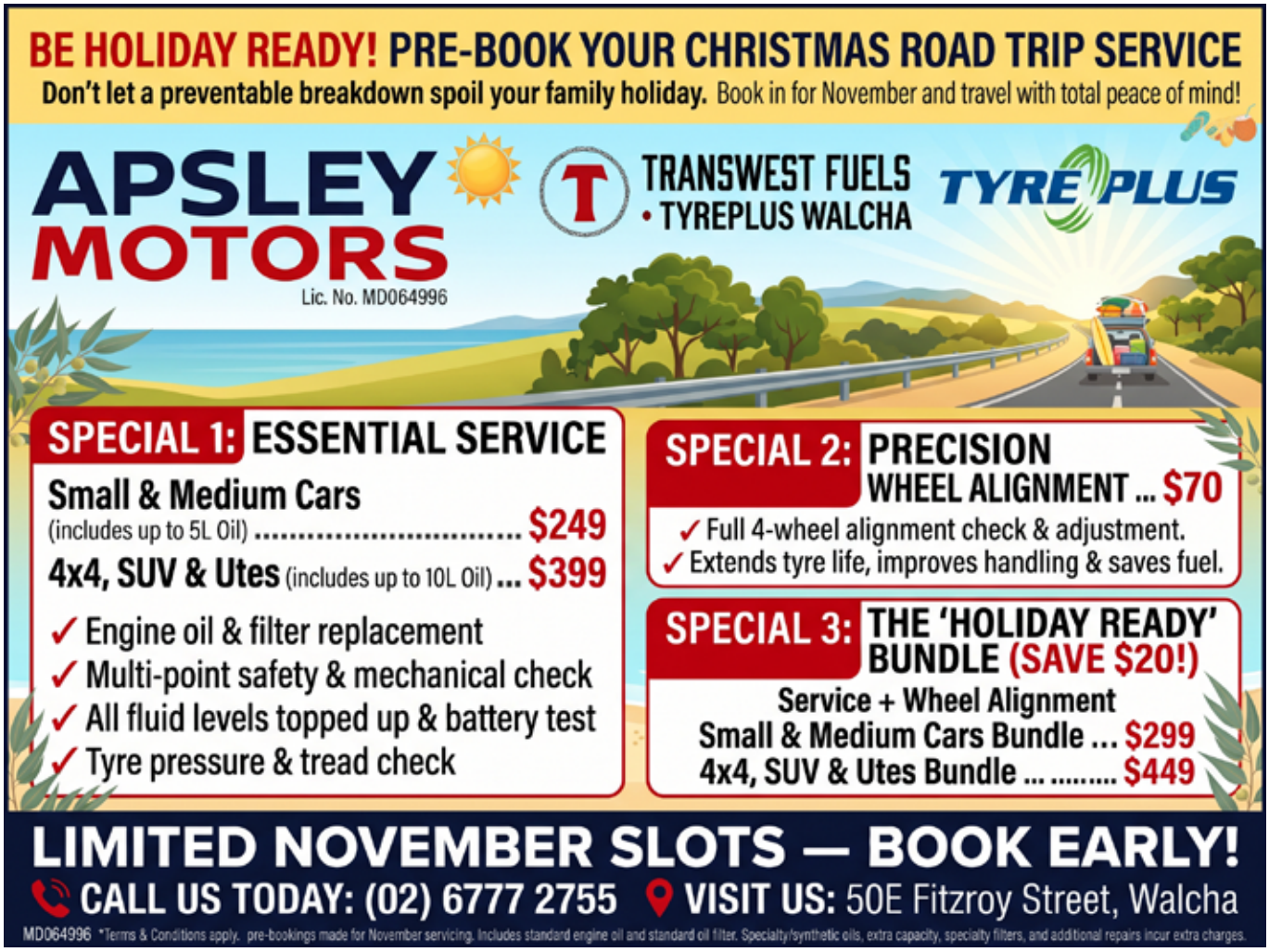
While watching the preview of last Saturdays Big Horse Races being run later that day at Randwick my much better half Linda selected 'Tempted' to win the $20 Million over red hot favorite Ka Ying Rising before asking our favourite son Ben to wager $5 for her. Ben informed his mother 'Tempted' couldn't win and was tempted to keep the $5 and not put it on. Lucky he didn't because 'Tempted' greeted the judge first just ahead of Ka Ying Rising.

•••

Regular visitor to Walcha Rodney 'Doog' Newman wasn't a 'Happy Chappy' last weekend when I spotted him sampling a lemon squash at the Newie with our fellow 2024 Birdsville Races traveller Kev Creighton. 'Doogs' explained he had been suffering from gout for about a month and was well and truly over it despite seeking medical advice which hadn't been too successful. Rodney's day was brightened a bit when 'Apocalyptic' the racehorse he is a part owner of saluted at Randwick to win the Silver Eagle.

•••

What a way to kick off the 2026 Rugby League World Cup when Australia snuck home to defeat New Zealand 24-22 at Allianz Stadium last Thursday. Samoa belted France 78-4 the next day before Tonga rounded up England 30-12 to show both teams are not here just to make up the numbers.



Tennis News

The Walcha District Tennis Association Street Stall was held on Saturday 17 October and was a great success. Thanks to those who helped run the stall and to those who baked goods to sell and most importantly those who purchased tickets. Our winners were: Julie Olrich a load of wood, John Stuart a load of wood, Ben Little a $50 meat voucher and Helen Mansfield a $30 Fruit and Veggie tray.
Don't forget the Tuesday Night Comp starts on Tuesday 27 October and runs for five weeks and Saturday Junior Tennis starts on Sat 31 October and runs for five weeks. See you all at the net soon.

Bowls

Thursday results: Barry Kliendienst & Warwick Hogan defeated Geoff Salt & Denis Makeham 20/14. Brian Goodwin, Justin Rasmussen &Tony Batterham defeated Greg Carter, Peter Halliday & John McCormack 18/12. Brian, Justin & Tony won the vouchers.
Congratulations to Adam Hall for taking on the Presidency again. We also have a new Vice President in Steve McCoy and his wife Lee will be the new treasurer. Congratulations to the new executive along with the board members.
Help celebrate the 90th birthday of our club by attending the fundraiser this Saturday 24th starting 9.30am. Three bowl triples, nominate a team of three, no experience necessary, the more the merrier, lots of fun to be had by all.
Best wishes to Noel, who has been a little unwell. Hope to see you on the green soon.
Twilight bowls are on again this Friday 5.30pm.

Wednesday Golf

Last Wednesday the brave took to the course to play par for Cathy Lisle's trophy. Luckily the day improved and the girls all finished.
The winner for a second week in a row was Pip Monie with -2.
Sweepstakes were won by Sue Partridge -3 and Jenny Lisle -4.
Jenny Lisle also took out the second shot on Hole 16 and no-one made the sand on Hole 3.
Three of our ladies travelled to Coolamon for the weekend to play in the Sandgreen Championships.
I believe no silverware to come home but they were all happy with how they played. I hear the Sandgreen Championships are to be played at Barraba next year. A little closer to home.
This Wednesday we are playing stableford for the Patron's trophy and on Saturday we are hosting our Ladies Open.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club didn't open their 2026/27 Armidale District Cricket campaign in the most promising way when both 1st and 3rd Grades were defeated last Saturday in Armidale.
In 1st Grade against Ex Services at Lambert Park the homeside won the toss and sent Walcha/Uralla in to bat where they managed to score 130 runs before they were dismissed in their 24th over.
Number three batsman Shannon Rafferty top scored for the visitors with 57 runs which included five 4's and three 6's.
Opener Ed Blomfield (11 runs) and middle order batter Cooper Boyd (10 runs) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures while Sundries was second highest on 14.
In reply Ex Services passed their assignment in the 29th over at a loss of six wickets which Jay Grills snared 3/29 whereas Opener Matt Harper, Graham Barnes and Preston Boyd all took a wicket each.
At Jack Vallance Oval Walcha/Uralla won the toss and decided to bat against Hillgrove but could only amass a total of 48 runs off 31 overs.
Opener Brian Muggsy top scored with 11 runs and was the only batsman to reach double figures.
Hillgrove reached their required total inside 12 overs at a loss of just one wicket taken by visiting skipper Nathan Laurie.
This Saturday 1st Grade are drawn to play Easts at the Armidale Sportsground and 3rd Grade will do battle with Easts here at Peter Fenwicke Oval.

Walcha/Uralla v Ex Services 1st Grade

Walcha/Uralla

E BLOMFIELD c R Signh b J Tejpal 11
J GRILLS b D Hogan 5
S RAFFERTY c M Harris b B Smith 57
D BOYD c M Harris b J Tejpal 7
G BARNES b M Harris 5
D FORD b M Harris 5
C BOYD b R Singh 10
B MOORE b R Singh 2
P BOYD lbw R Singh 6
G YOULL c H Thompson b R Singh 7
M HARPER n.o 1

Total 130. Extras 14 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) D Hogan 4-0-27-1, J Tejpal 5-0-23-2, M Harris 4-0-31-2, R Singh 6.5-2-21-4, B Smith 4-0-21-1.

Ex Services

B SMITH c M Harper b J Grills 48
M HARRIS c D Boyd b G Barnes 21
J TEJPAL c B Moore b J Grills 28
R SINGH b P Boyd 6
H THOMPSON lbw J Grills 0
S GOODARE c D Boyd b M Harper 2
D MATTHEWS n.o 12
PRIVATE PLAYER n.o 2

Total 131. Extras 12 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) M Harper 6-1-23-1, D Ford 4.2-0-26-0, G Barnes 3-1-15-1, P Boyd 8-2-35-1, J Grills 7-1-29-3.

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 3rd Grade

Walcha/Uralla

B MUGGSY c P Townsend b M Eastwood 11
B DWYER r.o C Frost 7
M TASIK c A Carey b H Eastwood 1
L HUNT c P Townsend b M Eastwood 6
M BOYD c H Eastwood b S Maxwell 0
N LAURIE c P Townsend b M Eastwood 0
C STODDART lbw S Maxwell 3
C LAURIE b J Williams 1
S HASLEM b C Frost 4
B JEX n.o 6
W COX st P Townsend b H Eastwood 2

Total 48. Extras 7 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) C Frost 7-0-13-1, S Maxwell 8-2-8-2, H Eastwood 7-1-10-2, M Eastwood 4-1-8-3, J Williams 5-2-8-1.

Hillgrove

J FROST n.o 22
B DEXTER c B Jex b N Laurie 13
A STEWART n.o 12

Total 49. Extras 2 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) N Larurie 5-2-10-1, B Dwyer 4-1-21-0, W Cox 1-0-8-0, M Tasik 1-0-5-0, C Stoddart 0.5-0-4-0.

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advocate classifieds

Public Notice

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Tuesday 3rd Nov. 26 at 12.30pm
Walcha Tennis Club
$40 each - Limited numbers
RSVP by 28th
Linda: 0428 139 470
Vic: 0427 772 950

Walcha Law – 02 6777 2066
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The Barber Shop is closed this Friday 23 and Saturday 24.

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

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

Position Vacant

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- Tourism Officer
- Store & Logistics Supervisor
- People & Culture Lead
- Registered Nurse
- Ranger & Compliance Officer
- Manager Urban & Utilities

For more information about these positions or to apply please go to https://bit.ly/WCvacant

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

Raffle Results

The Walcha District Tennis Association street stall was held on Saturday 17 October. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated baked goods. Winners were - Julie Olrich *(Load of wood)*, John Stuart *(Load of wood)*, Ben Little *($50 meat voucher)* and Helen Mansfield *($30 fruit and veggie tray)*.

Hay - Hay - Hay

This weeks special Round oaten bales large lovely soft hay $210 +GST. Large round bales lucerne great stock feed $230 +GST. Small lucerne bales lucerne top quality horse hay $23 +GST call 0427 018 493.

For Sale

Layer pullets, all breeds, 20 weeks. Delivered Friday 23/10/2026. Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Wanted

Vertical Griller in good order. Call 0488 543 330.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Support Group Thursday 29th October 1.30pm WCCC Rooms Middle St. Relaxation 12.30pm, BYO Lunch 1pm, Meeting 1.30pm. All Welcome.

The Walcha Jockey Club AGM will be held on Monday 2 November 2026 at 7pm at the Walcha Council Chambers.

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church notices

ANGLICAN

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.
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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social

BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 23 3.00pm – Close

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Raffles drawn at 8pm

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5.00PM BISTRO

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