

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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27 April 2022



*This Saturday*  
**30 APRIL  
RUGBY**

AT PETER FENWICKE OVAL

*Rams v Moree*

Both Grades playing  
Reserves 1.45pm  
First Grade 3.00pm



## Chopping their way to success at the Royal



Above: Murray Wilton, RAS General Manager, presented Austin with the Most Successful Competitor sash and trophy axe.

Top Right: Emily and Mitchell placed second in the Jack and Jill Double Handed Sawing. Right: Mitch and Austin with their haul of ribbons.



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While Mitchell, Emily and Austin Scrivener have won woodchop and sawing ribbons at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in the past, nothing to date has compared to their haul in 2022.

Both Mitch and Austin, who competed every day for twelve consecutive days, were regulars on the podium picking up 20 ribbons between them.

Mitchell brought home two individual blues, winning the 300mm Standing Block and 300mm Open Underhand Handicaps, placing second in a further five events and third in one. Younger brother Austin won three events – the 250mm Standing Block, 275mm Tree Felling and the 275mm Underhand – placing second in four events and third in three. The brothers were also members of the winning North Coast Axemen's team for the annual NSW Inter-

Association relay, and Austin captained the NSW Under 21's Team that finished second to Victoria in a 'best of three' relay event over the Easter weekend.

Earlier at the show Emily Scrivener competed in the final of the Jill and Jill Double Handed Sawing Championship with Cheyanne Girvan (ACT), while in the Jack and Jill Sawing she picked up a second place teaming up with brother Mitch, just missing out on first by a fraction of a second.

By far the highlight of this years Royal for the family was Austin taking out the title of the Most Successful Competitor in Single Handed Handicap Events. The winner is decided by a pointscore system for all axemen and women and on Easter Monday Austin was presented with the winners sash and a specially engraved Trophy Axe.



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# around the traps



By **BRUCE RUTHERFORD**

Little has changed on the weather front since the last Traps was written a fortnight ago. The easterly weather hangs on the hills, but we have seen a bit more sunshine than we had through March while temperatures have remained mild and relatively stable. To have arrived at ANZAC day on the calendar and not had a serious frost is fairly unusual. I have no doubt we are very close to a frost event, but with this easterly air flow we have been fortunate to have avoided a good one until now. When we do get a run of frosty nights the feed quality will suddenly go off, and for some reason that is always a shock! This year may be different with the quality of feed we have right now, but the native pastures won't handle the frosty nights, and there is a huge bulk of them this year.

In the good old days, we would have been in the final days before weaner sales in the Walcha saleyards in early May. There were some pretty cold mornings up on the hill with clear skies, frozen gates and no prospect of the temperatures improving before the cattle were drafted and penned. I have to say they are days I miss. There was always a lot of hype around the weaner sales which generated its own level of activity. They were something to look forward to. The laneways crammed with buyers and sellers with so much banter. Weaner sales were simply a great spectacle for Walcha and it was always wonderful to see the pens full of so many quality calves. We will never see that again. With such a great season, some of the calves I have seen recently are exceptional and it does send me back to that time and wonder how the yarding on the hill would present.

Tamworth agents yarded around 7,000 calves last week in their feature weaner sale and from all accounts produced a solid result. I am told good quality, vendor bred weaners were hard to buy and prices held up well. The secondary types with a bit less weight were more buyable which seems to be an emerging trend. Reports from other centres have indicated there is resistance to buy the secondary cattle and prices have become a little irregular for them. The tops of both the steer and heifer calves realised around \$2500 in Tamworth which is pretty much what has been happening in other centres. There have been quite a few sales in the last couple of weeks at Inverell, Glen Innes, Armidale and Tamworth and they have all produced excellent results. It seems to me that it is very hard to buy a well bred British bred steer or heifer under \$2100, while the crossbreds are a little cheaper than that. But not much. I think the buyers are now considering the value down the track and the large numbers of western bred and Queensland crossbreds that have been selling so well are meeting with a little less enthusiasm from southern buyers.

In regular livestock markets we have not seen a sale in Tamworth for a couple of weeks due to public holidays over Easter and ANZAC day. However, the other regular markets have conducted sales and market trends are generally easier for most processing cattle. Rain in Queensland last week may have slowed numbers a little and prolonged what appears to be the trend of a few numbers coming forward and processors being more selective. It does appear inevitable we will reach a time when numbers will increase and values will ease, but it also seems that this will not be a sudden process unless it is forced on the market by poor seasonal conditions. At this point there is still a lot of feed around and as a consequence a lot of buyers. Happy days.

Anyone who saw the 4 Corners report this week about the rise of JBS in the meat business globally would have to be a little concerned for our markets and the security of our local processors. I am not sure why this has taken so long to come to light as the main accusation around the company is the corruption they admitted to back in 2017. They admitted to bribing officials and other corrupt conduct which resulted in a slap over the wrist for the two main players, effectively. The program highlights how this company benefitted from its corrupt activity and has been allowed to grow at an alarming rate through this scandal. JBS is the biggest player in the meat industry globally and in Australia. I am also not sure why our own government has allowed this company to keep taking out the competition, and it does point to how governments can be so easily led by the big companies. However, the 4 Corners argument about the salmon industry in Tassie is not a valid one as it seems to me that JBS is just doing what Huon was already doing. The fact they have taken over Huon is not great, but was Huon or any other buyer going to do anything different in the way they managed this business? I think this was more about the business play, who won and who lost than the pollution created by salmon farming. If you have not seen the program, it is worth going to ABC iView and looking it up.



# Back to school after great holiday break

With children heading back to the classroom this week for Term 2, there will be plenty to talk about after a jam-packed school holiday program in Walcha over Easter. Walcha Council provided a number of fun activities for local families.

There was a very successful Youth Week Festival, a series of exciting lino printing workshops held at Walcha Handmade, an interesting Earthquake Survival Workshop run by Tamworth Library CNRL staff and a Lego Club 'Animation Challenge'.

Families also made great use of the free Jigsaw Puzzle Library these holidays too.



# Sydney Show success for Shalimar Park

The Shalimar Park Merino Stud excelled at this year's RAS Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Their two tooth Ultra Fine Ewe was awarded Supreme Ewe of the Show, and also won the prestigious "Tom Culley Award" for the Supreme Junior Merino Sheep of the Show.

Alison van Eyk and her grandson Jack Carlon took a team of seven merino sheep to the RAS Sydney Easter Show and came home with seven broad ribbons.

The Shalimar Park Ultra Fine Ewe was also awarded the Supreme sheep of the Walcha Show last month.



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### Keeping the community informed

Neoen will hold a Covid-Safe Community Drop-In Session in person to share project information and to hear your thoughts on stage 1 of the Thunderbolt Energy Hub.

Meet members of our project team, view maps, receive a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents, learn more about the project and submit your views to us via a feedback survey. The Thunderbolt Energy Hub is expected to bring significant community benefits, jobs and investment to the local and regional economy.

For more information:

✉ [contact@thunderboltenergyhub.com.au](mailto:contact@thunderboltenergyhub.com.au) ☎ 1800 966 207 🌐 [thunderboltenergyhub.com.au](http://thunderboltenergyhub.com.au)

## E-Tag hire no longer available



For more than 14 years the Walcha Telecottage has offered an E-Tag service to those in our community travelling to metropolitan areas, with tags available to hire for a small weekly fee of \$5.00, plus any tolls incurred on their travels.

Earlier this year TfNSW's E-Toll website was updated and now no longer allows easy access to isolate individual tolls incurred by travellers across our numerous tags. Unfortunately with this change the Telecottage has decided to no longer offer this service.

You can open your own E-Toll account three ways: simply go online at **[www.myetoll.transport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.myetoll.transport.nsw.gov.au)**, call 13 18 65 or visit a Service NSW centre.

E-Toll offer two account options: an **E-Toll Tag** account which has no registration or account fees, you receive a tag for your vehicle (like those supplied by the Telecottage) and simply pay the tolls you travel, or a **E-Toll Tagless** account where fees do apply.

If you would like assistance organising your own account, staff at Walcha Telecottage will be able to assist you for a \$20 charge.

We would like to thank all in the community who patronised this service.

## thumbs



- 👉 Thank you Marlene Cotten for your gorgeous donation of flowers for residents at Elizabeth Crosse Wing. They really make their day.
- 👉 To Chris Betts for helping tourists change their tyre as they were travelling through over Easter.
- 👉 Ann at the Post Office for going to a lot of effort to get me three special books from the catalogue. The team are always doing an amazing job and we are very grateful to have their level of customer service in town.
- 👉 To the eight young people who were involved in planning the Youth Week Festival.
- 👉 To the person or persons who dumped a kitten at the Niangala Waste Transfer Station.

**Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must include your name and contact details. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.**



## EOI for 2022 HSC Presiding Officer & Supervisors

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Essential requirements for Supervisors and Presiding officer listed online

*Presiding officer and supervisors must not have a friend or close relative sitting the HSC at any school or be an employee of the school*

**Must be available: Wed 12 Oct – Mon 7 Dec 2022**

Enquiries

Amanda Cooper, Principal, Walcha Central School  
[walcha-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:walcha-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



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# Celebrating NSW Youth Week

NSW Youth Week was celebrated last week with a raft of activities for kids of all ages at Peter Fenwicke oval for Walcha's Youth Week Festival.

The Walcha Warrior obstacle course tested many! Kids also enjoyed the touch football workshop and expression station.

The ninja warrior style obstacle course was hired from Terrain Training on the Gold Coast, and set up 17 adjustable obstacles for all ages. Almost 70 young people aged from three to 18 participated in the day, with some adventurous parents having a go too!

Walcha Council Youth staff and wonderful volunteers also provided a group canvas for youth to have their say on what's important to them, and a BBQ lunch.

Walcha Touch Football Association provided some workshop skills and drills and ran some games too which made for a really fun day.



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# letters to the editor



I write in response to the Mayor's column titled "Financial Sustainability of Council being Reviewed" which appeared in the *Apsley Advocate* on 13 April 2022. The column lacks context, is misleading and is extremely disappointing not only for myself, but for the management and Councillors who have served Walcha Council over the past 11 years and have put countless hours into ensuring that Walcha Council is financially sustainable and can stand alone. The Mayor's column cannot go unchallenged.

In the opening paragraph of the column, the Mayor has noted that IPART has recently granted a 0.7% rate cap increase for councils in NSW. I agree that the rate cap being set at 0.7 percent makes it very difficult for councils to balance the budget. However, I can assure you after my 35 years in NSW local government, low rate caps are not new and have been the case for a number of years. Local Government as a whole need to continue to lobby the State Government for a more realistic rate cap.

In the third paragraph of the Mayor's column, he refers to natural disasters that have occurred over the last 5 years putting pressures on reserves, and that these reserves have proved inadequate. Like the rate cap, natural disasters are not new and have not been confined to the last 5 years. Another disaster that occurred, the management of which is worthy of note, was the Global Financial Crisis. I agree that the funding arrangements are not ideal, but I can assure you that prior to 2019, Council was able to manage these events without a detrimental effect on Council's financial position, as demonstrated below.

I respectfully disagree with Professor Joseph Drew's view which he has formed after 'delving' into the last 11 years of Walcha Council's finances that, and I quote *"a pattern of a decline in council's financial stability has emerged"* and *"I'm going back eleven years in financial data and can confirm for you that this problem is at least 11 years in the making, it is not something that has suddenly arrived over the last 3 years"*. During my time as General Manager, Walcha Council's finances were under enormous external scrutiny including a number of Boundaries Commission Hearings, a Fit for the Future examination by the Office of Local Government and a substantial Promoting Better Practice Review by the Office of Local Government. All rural councils face financial pressure from time to time, however after all this scrutiny, Walcha Council was deemed financially sustainable and able to stand alone, an outcome which is in vast contrast to Professor Joseph Drew's "desktop review". Had Walcha Council not had quality governance and proven financial management, I have no doubt that Walcha Council would have been amalgamated.

The Mayor's comment in the fifth paragraph of the column and I quote *"Over a minimum of these 11 years council has maintained a tenuous financial position through the revaluations of assets, conversion of assets to cash and reduction in unrestricted cash"*, does not make sense. Each year Walcha Council is required to complete an audited set of financial statements. These accounts amongst other information include a set of financial performance indicators and, without complicating the issue, one of these indicators is "Unrestricted Current Ratio", which I believe the Mayor is referring to when he states *"reduction in unrestricted cash"*. This Unrestricted Current Ratio is used to assess the adequacy of working capital after excluding all restricted assets and liabilities. The benchmark set by the State Government is greater than 1.5:1.

I have reproduced the ratios below for the last ten years, from Council's publicly available financial statements. The Mayor's statement is confusing to say the least.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
3.6:1	2.78:1	2.57:1	2.59:1	4.59:1	4.54:1	6.48:1	3.96:1	3.28:1	2.69:1

In the sixth paragraph of the Mayor's column he continues to say and I quote *"from 2014 to 2019 our staff increased by 33%."* There is very little context to this comment. The staff numbers did increase over this time for a number of reasons, the most significant being Council was successful in gaining a multi-million dollar, multi-year grant to upgrade the Thunderbolts Way. An assessment of the workforce was undertaken to ensure we had the additional skills and labor required to deliver the project. This assessment also took into account potential staff retirements, to ensure that when the funding ran out Council was not over staffed and as valued employees retired, transfer of knowledge and consistency within the workforce was maintained. I do not believe that Walcha Council was over-staffed in 2019.

Unfortunately, in the past 3 years Walcha Council has lost the majority of the engineering team as well as a number of long-standing employees. The loss of corporate knowledge that goes with these resignations is immense. In this time there appears to have been a need to supplement the workforce with a number of consultants. Perhaps the Mayor can provide greater details of the budget overruns in employee benefits and oncosts of \$750,000 and in administration costs of \$287,000 in the financial year ending 30 June 2021? While I do not have access to the workings of Walcha Council's finances for the last couple of years, I believe these overruns and those of the previous year may go some way to explaining why, in the last published set of Financial Statements, Walcha Council had a negative working funds balance of \$2.459 million.

In the ninth paragraph of the column, the Mayor goes on to state that *"Of higher concern is Walcha's submission to the IPART Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposal in 2014. Under sustainability it states, "In its proposal, the council relies on the successful application for and adoption of a permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) from 2016 to 2017 of 15.6% cumulative over 2 years (10.5% above rate peg)". As the lead time for a SRV is around 2 years this should have been started in 2014. If this proposal had been implemented as stipulated by council's submission and documented by IPART many of the current issues would have been averted."*

I agree that the potential SRV was a part of the Fit for the Future submission, however a number of strategies were proposed and implemented to increase Council efficiency and negate the need for higher rates. These strategies are documented in Council's submission to the Boundaries Commission in 2016 regarding the proposed merger of Walcha Council with Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire & Uralla Shire Councils which stated, *"these improvements have resulted in Walcha Council no longer requiring the proposed special rate variation that was included in its Fit for the Future submission to IPART"*. Over the last five years 83 New South Wales councils have applied for a Special Rate Variation both Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Councils are amongst these. Our modest infrastructure backlog and lack of need for a Special Rate Variation is a strong testament to our strong capacity in financial and asset management. Over the last five years 83 NSW councils have applied for a Special Rate Variation, both Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Councils are amongst these. Our modest infrastructure backlog and lack of need for a Special Rate Variation is testament to Council's strong financial and asset management at that time."

My last task in my role as General Manager was to present, in conjunction with Councils External Auditor the 2019 "General Purpose Financial Statements" to Council. This statement included the following cash backed reserves, which is cash set aside for future use. On top of these reserves, Council also had a working funds balance of \$1,259,000.

Plant and vehicle replacement .....	\$ 1,453,146
Infrastructure replacement .....	\$ 1,570,807
Employees leave entitlement .....	\$ 757,607
Housing Investment .....	\$ 251,251
Landfills upgrade .....	\$ 11,113
Preschool .....	\$ 58,833
Quarries remediation .....	\$ 312,922
Tip site remediation .....	\$ 161,602
Project Development .....	\$ 100,000
Total internal restrictions .....	<b>\$ 4,676,824</b>

Walcha Council may not have been the "richest" Council in the State, but I believe cash reserves of over \$5.9 million at 30 June 2019, would be seen as more than adequate going forward. It is extremely disappointing, given the above facts, that a review of Council's Financial Sustainability is now deemed necessary.

I appreciate these figures may be confusing and I am more than happy to discuss this issue with staff, past councillors, present councillors and more importantly any member of the community.

**Jack O'Hara (0427 772 086)**  
**B.Bus. MBA(acct), GAICD, FIPA**



# What's the Goss

With A.J. CROSS



**Walcha Golf Club Ladies Champion** Cheryl McDonald won her 13th title recently but had to battle all the way in doing so. She had to survive a four hole playoff with 2002 Champion Simone Sweeney after both players finished the three round 54 hole competition equal. Cheryl nearly chipped in on the fourth playoff hole before tapping in her putt to finalise the championship.

...

**After winning her first Club Championship** in 2009 Cheryl then won five in succession before Rebecca Andrews interrupted the run in 2014. Cheryl then took back over in 2015 and has won the last eight titles on the trot. While still a junior Rebecca won two championships in 1998 and 1999 before going back to back in 2000 and 2001.

...

**With her most recent victory** Cheryl is now fourth on the list of winners who have won the most championships behind Mrs T.C. Fenwicke (18) Colleen Cross (17) and Margaret Davidson (14). Back in 1928 -1930 Miss P. Fenwicke was the first player to win a hat trick of titles and while all the above mentioned have also achieved the feat, Brenda Walker is the only other player to do so 1995 - 1997.

...

**What a great effort by the Scrivener brothers** Austin and Mitchell when they competed in the woodchopping at the Royal Easter Show recently. Austin was named most successful competitor in the single handed handicap events which is open to all competitors, male and female, and attracted around 130 participants this year. By all accounts Mitchell was also right up there in contention only to be edged out by his younger brother.

...

**Both boys performed well throughout the 2022 Sydney Royal** but Mitch needed a few more wins towards the end of the Show to catch younger brother Austin in the pointscore. They both hoped if they didn't win the trophy pointscore, the other did. Austin was extremely happy to claim the title and trophy axe, which was made even more special by winning it at the 200th Sydney Royal Easter Show.

**The annual Kanga Cup** in memory of late Golf Club member Raymond 'Kanga' Boyd was played for on Easter Sunday where a modest field of 20 players teed off in the four person ambrose event. Club officials secretary Jenny Lisle, captain Willy Brennan, handicapper Don Brooks teamed up with 'Mollydooker' Mal Ballard to win the trophy after registering a 56<sup>3/4</sup> nett. Runners up were Drew and Nixon Bird, Pauline Carter and her sister Sue Partridge just <sup>1/4</sup> of a stroke off the pace.

...

**Best of luck to local swimmer Cody Wellings** when he represents The Armidale School at the State swimming titles in Homebush early next month after gaining selection in the North Coast Independent Schools squad earlier in the year. Cody competed in six in individual events at Alstonville where he finished third in both his 50 and 100 metre freestyle events along with another third place in his 50 metre backstroke. Go Gettum' Code.

...

**At the same NCIS trials in Alstonville**, Claudia Kirton competed in five events including the 50 metre backstroke where she equalled her qualifying time. In his 50 metre freestyle race Jack Power went under 30 seconds when he stopped the clock in 29:66 seconds.

...

**Congratulations to local Polocrosse players** Thomas Donnelly and Marlee Wall on their recent performances at the National Championships in Ballarat earlier in the month. Tom collected a gold medal when his NSW U/21 Mixed side defeated a Polocrosse Association Australia team 32 - 21 while Marlee picked up a silver medal when her NSW Mixed Junior No.2 side went down to Queensland 18 - 17.

...

**To make it a family affair Tom's father** Tony and Marlee's dad Simon were Assistant coaches to both the Master's Men's and Open Men's teams while Tony also officiated in his spare time umpiring two games.

...

**Last, but far from least**, all the very best wishes to West Tigers supporter and Walcha Council employee Troy LeStrande as he continues on his road to recovery. According to his son Jake that despite having lost 35kg, and mobility is a challenge, Troy is in good spirits. Stick with it 'Old Mate' we are all behind you.

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# RUGBY REPORT

## WALCHA V QUIRINDI

By Eric the Spider

### RESERVES

A beautiful warm day greeted the Walcha Rams on Saturday as they travelled to Quirindi to take on the Lions in the second round of the Central North Competition. The afternoon began with Walcha fielding a reserve grade team. A mixture of new and old faces took the field for Walcha to take on an army of Quirindi players.

Walcha began the game holding onto the ball for a number of phases, showing great promise. Some strong running early in the game from Tom "sausage specialist" Hoy managed to get Walcha over the gain line. James "Big Tissy" Tisdell helped create some opportunities for the Rams with some nice offloading and support play. Some strong defence from the Quirindi Lions turned the ball over and Walcha were forced to defend for long long periods. Hayden "Jamillionaire" Jarman enjoyed this defence putting some big hits on, rocking the Quirindi attack. Archie "Sheepman" Lawrence was in everything, carrying the ball well and defending strongly. Ben "Junkyard Dog" Burwell was living up to his name ferociously tearing around, throwing his 60kg frame into everything both sides of the ball. Cameron "Knuckle" Norbury showed his versatility taking the kicking duties upon himself, albeit with mixed results. In the end Quirindi were too strong for the Rams running away winners 62-7. A huge positive for the club managing to get a reserve grade team together. We're hoping a few more players come out of the "woodworks" throughout the year to help out.

### FIRSTS

After a week off the Rams were feeling fresh and ready to rumble against a promising Quirindi lineup. The Rams didn't have the perfect start, fumbling the kick off allowing Quirindi to go

straight on the attack. The Walcha defence was solid and holding strong against a big Lions pack. Billy "squat rack" Porter was keen for the contest making a few excellent tackles early on. Quirindi struck first, opening the scoring up with an early penalty goal to lead 3-0. Walcha's discipline early cost them, giving away penalties in their own half which forced the Rams to defend their own line. Toby "from Congi" was everywhere in defence, starting the game strong getting off the line quickly and making a number of tackles. Quirindi managed to penetrate the Rams defence scoring a try out wide and increasing their lead to 10-0. Walcha cleaned up their discipline and finally got some possession holding onto the ball and working themselves into the game. A perfectly executed attacking lineout lead to Walcha's first points with the ball swinging back to the blindside to find Sam "just carry" Lomax barge his way over the top of his opposite winger to open the Rams scoring. The Rams were trailing 10-5. The next period of play saw both teams vying for possession and territory. Edgar "mates call me bragsy" Bragg had big impacts on both sides of the ball, running well and disrupting the Quirindi ball. Walcha managed to hold the ball for long periods of the first half resulting in two quick tries off the back of some strong running from Wally "the slippery Somerton sheep breeder" and Sam "fastest in the club" Colwell. The first half came to an end with Walcha leading 15-12.

The second half began in a similar fashion to the first with the two teams locked in an arm wrestle for territory. Walcha's set piece was working nicely with Henry "loved up les" Leslie hitting the mark on his line outs laying a platform for the backs to attack. Matt "nickname pending" Williams continued to get Walcha across the gain line with some bruising runs. Walcha's ill-discipline hurt them again with a number of penalties going against them allowing Quirindi to take the advantage, scoring a try and kicking two penalty goals. Ritchie "the wombat" Hunt had another big game with his trademark burrowing runs. Matt "lil tissy" Tisdell played well directing the forwards around and providing good service for the backs. Joel "joog baby" Ballon got through a mountain of work laying a strong base for the rest of the forward pack. In the end the Rams ill-discipline and handling errors cost them with Quirindi winning the game 30-20. A good effort from the lads but plenty still to work on.

This weekend The Walcha Rams take on the Moree Bulls at Walcha which is shaping up to be an exciting contest.



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## Bowls

**Dads Army:** Two games of triples were played on Thursday afternoon. Jason Asmus and Barry Kliendienst (who played twice) got two shots on the last end to defeat Noel Goodwin, Peter Hayes and Warwick Hogan 14 – 13. The second game saw Tony Asmus, John McCormack and Adam Hall after leading 19 – 4 at the eleventh end hang on to win 20 – 16 against Terry Parker, Eric O'Keefe and John Watts. Tony's team won the chooks and the raffle was won by Terry Parker.

**Draw for this weekend:** Saturday 1pm start. A Grade singles: S Goodwin v A McGuffog, marker G Clare. Mixed Pairs: J Asmus & D Richards v B Goodwin and E Hunt.

## Ladies Bowls

Last week there was two games played in the Major Singles and resulted in wins for Sari over Esther and Debbie over Veronica, and in Thursday's semi final Debbie defeated Sari. The final will be played on Thursday 28 April between Debbie and Taina marker June. Also on 28 April Three Bowl Pairs will commence, the draw being Janice and Wendy v's Veronica and Pat.

Last Thursday there was a game of consistency played between Wendy, Pat and Janice result not known.

We received an invitation for Uralla's Pam Westbury Day on 11 May with nominations closing the 6 May sheet on board for names. Presidents Day will be 25 May.

## Wednesday Golf

**Results from 13 April:** What a thrilling finish it was for the final day of the Championships last Wednesday. Simone Sweeney and Cheryl McDonald both ended the third round with scores of 265. It was then play off time and after playing the first three holes they were still even, which meant they then had to continue and head to Hole 10. A nail biting finish with Cheryl winning the hole, one stroke ahead of Simone. Congratulations to both girls. Cheryl again our Club Champion for 2022 and Simone our runner-up. This is the thirteenth time Cheryl has been our Champion.

The B Grade Champion was Julie Olrich with a score of 307 and the runner up was Sue Partridge with 311, and the C Grade Champion was Prue Morgan with a score of 326 and the runner up was Pauline Carter with 350. Three hard fought days of golf and congratulations to all.

The Europambela Jug was won by our co-captain Donna Martin and Sue Partridge took out the Veterans Championship. Well done girls.

The overall winner for the day and playing for the Paperdolls trophy was Prue Morgan 72 nett, and sweepstakes went to Jenny Lisle 73, Simone Sweeney 76, Sue Partridge, Donna Martin and Alison Cameron all 78, Margaret Davidson 79, and Katie Smith 80, on a countback.

No-one reached the sand on 16 and Julie Olrich claimed the second shot on 7.

**Results – 20 April:** A reduced field played a Stableford round on Wednesday for Robyn Salt's trophy. Jenny Lisle was the winner with 36 points and sweepstakes went to Deb Richards and Katie Smith both with 31 points. Rose Baumer was NTP on 3 and Marg Parsons took out the best shot on 16.

Today we are playing a Graham Betts Stableford for the Sarah Day MTA Travel Trophy.

## At the 19th

A B.A.M Medley was played last Sunday for trophies donated by Owen and Julie Presnell, where just over half the field completed the 18 hole journey due to the damp weather conditions.

Winners were Club Treasurer Margaret Davidson and new member Jeff Etheridge after they carded 54 points to sneak home from David and Simone Sweeney on 53 points. The remaining Sweepstake prizes went to Gavin White and Kyle Goodwin, Don Brooks and Rose Baumer both 48 points. Allan Green and Jenny Lisle 47 points and Drew and Dion Bird 39 points.

B.A.M is played under a format where Best Ball is used for the first six holes, aggregate for the next six then multiplier for the final six.

On Easter Sunday the annual 'Kanga Cup' was contested, where Will Brennan, Don Brooks, Jenny Lisle and Mal Ballard registered 56<sup>3/4</sup> nett to win in a photo finish from Drew and Nixon Bird, Pauline Carter and Sue Partridge on 57 nett.

The final sweepstakes prizes went to Dion and Tahlia Bird, Mel Clark and her mother Jenny Tierney on 61<sup>1/2</sup>.

Last Saturday Drew Bird accumulated 15 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition on countback from John McCormack.

Ladies winner was Pauline Carter on 16 points from Margaret Parsons 15 points. The Saturday before Nixon Bird racked up 14 points to win in a countback from Col Higgins while Marg Higgins compiled 13 points to win the Ladies division from Jenny Lisle on 8 points.

This Sunday is a Par round for John McCormack's trophy and the Barraba Open is also on. Here at home tee off time is 11.30am and will remain that way throughout winter.

## Gun Club

This month's shoot on Saturday 9 April broke attendance records with over 30 shooters competing across all grades. The Club's name is spreading through shooting circles as a place to visit and we hosted four car loads of travellers from Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie who made the trip for the day.

Event 1: 50 Target Double Barrel: AA Kevin Bourke/John Lisle/Romeo Spagnolo. A Dustin Hone, B Graham Sweeney, C Dean Rumbel.

Event 2: 25 Target Single Barrel plus 25 Target Points Score: AA Neale Smith/Adam Hone, C Ross Aston, B Jamie Poole, D James Abell

Event 3: 50 Target Graded Meterage: AA Kevin Bourke, A Ross Aston, B Graham Sweeney, C Hans Model/Dean Rumbel. Overall High Gun: Ross Aston

Special mention to Adam Hall and Julie Greentree who, to assist the club, donated an Easter Raffle – Easter Eggs won by Charlie Ward and wine won by Jamie Poole.

The Club's AGM was held at the completion of competition. President Kevin Bourke; Vice-President John Lisle; Secretary/Treasurer Bill Fletcher.

On Sunday 10 April we held a come and try day. Twelve keen people came along and all went home with a thirst for action on the range. Another day will be held after winter when the days are longer and warmer again.

Remember: if you don't miss – you will win.

## Rugby League

The newly formed Walcha/Uralla Rugby League Club were drawn to play Glen Innes in the opening round of the Group 19 competition this Saturday but as Glen has withdrawn from the competition both the men's and women's teams will have to wait until Saturday week before they get a run.

Five Walcha players Jock Abraham, Drew Bird, Harley Cox, Steve and Mitchell Eveleigh have indicated they are keen to play with the combination team while Walcha women make up the majority of numbers in the Ladies League Tag side.

Walcha players include Anika McKenna, Nicola and Jordyn Hoy, Caitlin Harris, Caitlin Hollis, Joscisca Matapakia, Kirra Murphy, Finlai Bird, Natasha Foster, Jess Swanton, Hannah Byrne, Karin Warnemindie-Green, Jorjie Ledingham and Olivia Haslem.

Both teams are scheduled to play Narwan at Armidale in Round 2 Saturday 7 May.

Due to various reasons Walcha won't get to host a home game until the Saturday after the June Long Weekend when the Moree Boomerangs are drawn to play hear.

## Tennis

The Junior Coaching Clinic held on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 April was a great success, with 22 players taking part in the event. The juniors were taught different tennis strokes and introduced to fun tennis games that were designed to improve their shot making.

Thanks to the coaches, mums, dads and volunteers who helped on both days. A big thank you to Walcha Council who provided the Sports Grant that made the two-day event possible. See you all at the net soon.



WALCHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

# OPEN DAY

**Saturday 30 April**  
**10am – 4pm Pioneer Cottage**  
**FREE ENTRY**

CAR AND BIKE DISPLAY  
CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DISPLAY

**DEVONSHIRE TEAS**  
**SAUSAGE SIZZLE \$5**

# Walcha Historical Society's 60th celebrations

From Jane Morrison

The events are now drawing to a close for our celebration, only one last Open Day to go on the 30 April and what an Open Day it will be. Apart from the Free Entry, there will be the Cars and Bikes on display, a display of children's clothes in the Wool Hall, \$5 Devonshire Teas and \$5 Sausage Sizzle.

The last two events were the 20 April talk in the Library History Centre, where those who attended heard stories on the early residents and the reasons for their coming to Walcha from Nerida, then we heard some interesting tales Vic Galvin had discovered from his searches on the history of local families. We had some tales for those attending on their own families, finishing with lots of laughter to accompany the wine and cheese.

The Open Day on 23 April was very successful despite the cold, wet and Covid. Three of Walcha's Councillors attended and were very impressed by the updates to the museum and the variety of the exhibits on display. Visitors from out of town and some locals who had not been to the museum in many years were also very complimentary of

the care and preservation of the artefacts on display. The Devonshire Teas and sausage sizzle proved very popular. Thanks also to George and Cherie Pethard for bringing along their beautiful Morris Minor which proved a wonderful photo opportunity in front of the museum.

We hope you will join us for the final Open Day, we are sure you will have an interesting time checking out the exhibits what make up the History of Walcha.



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## In Memoriam

**Wayne Stephen PARTRIDGE**  
10-7-55 to 27-4-16

We hold you close within our hearts  
and there you will remain.

To walk with us through our lives,  
until we meet again.

Dearly loved, sadly missed.

Susie, Lindsay & Becco, Dallas & Amanda.

Adam & Alison & Dylan & Stephen,  
Tanya & Lee and their families.

## Meetings

**Walcha Bushmen's Campdraft** and Rodeo Association AGM will be held on Wednesday 1 June 2022, 7.00pm at Walcha Vet Supplies Board Room. All positions will be declared vacant and anyone interested in joining the committee is encouraged to attend. Gemma Clarke Secretary: 0407 203 198.

**The Walcha Tennis Association** AGM will be held at the Club House on Mon 9 May at 6.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

**Saturday 7 May** Ingelba Hall Committee AGM 9.00am, Ingelba RFS AGM 10.00am. Both to be held at the Ingelba Hall.

## For Sale

**Layer pullets.** All breeds. 20 wks. Delivered Friday 13 May. **Phone Jim 0428 194 105.**

## Garage Sale

**Saturday 30 April**, 163W Evans Street. 8.30am – 1.00pm. Baby gear, bed frame and various household items.

## Public Notices

**Walcha Junior Indoor Hockey** are calling for registrations for children school years K-12. More information is available on the registration form <https://tinyurl.com/485s5vyj> Anticipate season start Thursday 12th May, NO LATE players accepted. There may be a "Come and Try afternoon" Thursday 28th April, need to register first.

### Do you need a Housesitter in August?

My parents are coming to Walcha for the month of August to help out with Grandparent duties, and they are needing somewhere to stay. If you're escaping the cold and need someone to care for your home, please get in touch. Phone Karla Lovell: 0437 319 383.

**Walcha Garden Club Community Day & Meeting** Friday 6 May, at Apsley Riverview Hostel commencing 9.00am. Morning tea provided. Please BYO gardening equipment. For catering purposes please contact D Bazeley on 0403 464 865 or D.Lisle on 0429 799 083.

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Contact us on 6777 2543 or email [walchaanglican@gmail.com](mailto:walchaanglican@gmail.com)

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 6.00pm Bistro

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7.00pm Fruit and Veg raffles  
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## Saturday 30 April

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## Sunday 1 May

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