

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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07 September 2022



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## Digging our new dam

One of the most important water infrastructure projects for our region is underway! Work has started on our 300 megalitre Off Stream storage project to help drought proof the town.

Mayor Eric Noakes was very excited to see shovels in the ground. "The new storage dam has been the number one priority for Walcha Council. It will enable us to be better prepared to face the devastation of drought events by providing a safer and more secure source of drinking water."

Costing \$11 million, the project also includes upgrading a river offtake pumping station, upgrades to the water inlet structure, new access roads and fencing, and new pipework to connect the dam to the nearby town water supply pump station.

Early works packages have been completed that include site clearing, fencing and construction of an unsealed access road. The main contract work started on the 15 August with the project expected to be finished by the middle of next year.

Member for New England Barnaby Joyce is very pleased that the dam construction has commenced. "This project is so important for Walcha, giving current and future businesses ease of mind should we face another drought," he said.

The dam has been jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments. The National Water Grid Fund Connections Pathway is contributing \$2 million and the NSW Government's Safe and Secure Water Program is investing \$9 million.

In 2019 we faced lengthy and harsh water restrictions because our small 80 megalitre off-creek water storage was not big enough. "The new dam will quadruple the river storage capacity transforming the way Walcha manages its water resources, particularly during droughts," NSW Lands and Water Minister, Kevin Anderson said.

*NOTE: During construction there will be increased traffic movements through town and to the site. Council anticipates the impact will be minimal and thanks the community for their understanding.*



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## around the traps



By BRUCE RUTHERFORD

Recently I have had to travel through the Liverpool Plains to the central west regularly and I have been amazed at the transformation of the country over the last month. It was very wintry a month ago and with a lot of surface water across the plains and Mudgee to Bathurst looking much like Walcha. But as the weeks have ticked over, first the wattle sprang to life, then clover, and now the grasses are growing rapidly. Spring has begun in a rush right through to the tablelands and the country looks a picture. As I was driving across the Liverpool Plains on Monday afternoon, following a few warmer days the crops have grown enormously, noticeably. It was so good to see the change. Pastures are growing around here too, but we have a long way to go before we catch up.

Livestock throughput is usually at its lowest point for the year in these months and prices respond to that. Lamb numbers have been an exception to this, with higher weekly slaughter numbers than the same time last year and also higher than the year before that. Mutton numbers have continued to fall by comparison and forecasters are predicting we will see values rise for mutton as a result. It will be interesting to watch the lamb numbers as we head into spring properly and how the market responds. To this point I think many producers have been disappointed with prices through winter, given the bullish forecasts late last year.

Cattle numbers have remained fairly static year-on-year for the last few years and values have remained steady. The EYCI has recovered from its low point of around 880 c/kg DW in late July to be sitting at 1021 c/kg DW this week. Restockers have been the mainstay and realising just how good spring and summer are going to be, have been actively back and buying. As the cattle herd has been rebuilding, we have seen slaughter numbers steadily decline since the end of 2019, but we may expect to see more processing cattle about by this coming autumn. If you see some of the stuff coming out about forecasts for the cattle market, they remain very bullish and positive about international demand. It is a very positive outlook brought about by drought in the US and continued demand for protein from developing countries.

There were a couple of extraordinary Angus bull sales in the south last week. Millah Murrah at Bathurst sold 128 bulls to a top of \$160,000 and an all breeds record sale average of \$43,633! According to the report in The Land the first 20 bulls were averaging \$60,300 and the sale grossed \$5.585m. On Friday Milwillah Angus at Young had another extraordinary result with 112 bulls offered and sold to a top of \$200,000 and an amazing average of \$30,450. There were a lot of studs represented in the buyers list at both sales and a lot of repeat buyers which must say something for the cattle. Options to buy bulls are running out and Ben Nevis sale is on this Wednesday. We really hope there are a lot of locals there to support Stu and Erica for their annual sale.

The local forum around wind farms conducted at the Bowling Club last week certainly attracted plenty of interest and thanks to those who organised it. Although a good crowd attended, it was disappointing there were not more people from in town or many involved in the wind farming projects represented in the room. I can understand that many of the wind farm hosts may have thought this was going to be a negative meeting, but it was disappointing to me that there were no speakers involved in the project(s) wishing to express their view. From the meeting it is obvious there is opposition to the projects and a questionnaire many completed after the meeting certainly highlights that. Council has some work to do if they are to represent all constituents. I think that if the returns on these wind towers are as lucrative as expressed in the meeting, the hosts and the community are being hoodwinked. In my view, if we have to have wind farms it is the community that needs to see a quality return, not just individuals as it is set out. It is the community that is being asked to bear a significant load once we enter the construction phase of these projects. Traffic movements alone will be crippling to a lot of business, not to mention wear and tear on infrastructure. The other aspect which is totally objectional to me is the scale of these projects being proposed for Walcha. To have a proposal of 550 turbines in our district is far from satisfactory in my view and not in the interests of the community. This would only create development on an industrial scale, with the combination of towers and high voltage power lines too much to bear. I have tried to keep an open mind with this discussion, but I am having trouble seeing what good can come to Walcha if development on this scale is approved. I don't want to live in a divided community, nor one with lights on every hill in sight. Our community has been our strength and should remain so. In moderation it may work.

# Wind Farm meeting answers some of the community's questions

It was a packed house at the Walcha Bowling Club on Wednesday night when community members, landholders and a panel of speakers informed the community about wind farm projects planned for our district.

Facilitated by Cameron Greig, who explained to the community at the beginning of the evening that the group he has helped form, Renewable Energy Walcha Awareness Group (reWag) is aimed at being an approachable community group who want Responsible Renewable Development. "We are not anti-renewable, however we feel there is a gap in information being provided to the community, which is the aim of this meeting tonight."

## KEY POINTS TO COME FROM THE SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

### Mark Foggarty – Lawyer, Bushticity

- New England, and in particular, Southern New England (Walcha and district) is doing the heavy lifting when it comes to producing the NSW Government's target of 8GW of generation from the New England REZ.
- You need to have a co-ordinated response to the EIS which is scheduled for release shortly.
- The cumulative impact of these projects on the region is huge.

### Eric Noakes

- Developers will not be able to use Walcha Council's water supply.
- Council is a part of two groups which will assist in working through impacts of these developments. These include Coalition of Councils in the New England REZ (Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Walcha, Uralla); and Coalition of REZ Mayors, which includes Councils in the Western zone (Central West-Orana REZ) as well.
- The Community Fund for Walcha has been set at \$750,000 p.a.

### Karen Zirkler – Kentucky Farmer and Community Member

- You need to rely on the power of your community during the EIS process. It is a huge amount of work, but time is of the essence, as you only have 28 days to respond.

- Get organised, share the load and support each other.
- Every person and every business can make a submission. Each one has to be unique from each entity's viewpoint.
- If there are more than 50 objections to the EIS then the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is triggered.

### Peter Barton – Wellington Farmer and Community Member

#### **"A conversation of what large scale renewables look like and the impact on community five years on"**

- Positives of wind turbines in our area included income for landholders, income through the Community Fund, some local jobs – not too many, roads are maintained.
- Negatives have been: no local long term jobs, no real boom during construction of wind farms, very hard to move livestock, or get to the school bus. It turned neighbours against neighbours, which was the worst impact of all. It was horrible to observe.
- Things to be wary of: Annual payment to landholder at the start – these buy your silence. Make sure neighbours are recompensed so the community isn't torn. It certainly does devalue your land. Locals are agents for overseas companies, and the money you are being paid is definitely not enough for decommissioning.

### Max Mawhinney

- This is a great turnout and it is great that people are taking an interest.
- There is a lot of money to be made in the production of energy.
- In the UK the impacts of the electricity price hike with renewables has made it very difficult on pensioners.
- Europe is rationing electricity as they are using more than they are producing. We will have similar price pressures as Europe is experiencing. We will have high energy prices for years.
- The Walcha community should secure a higher benefit from these increased prices.
- Landholders should engage with their neighbours before signing up.



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**Antiques:** Emmco electric fuel bowser metre pump, ships tank, avery scales, fuel pump, oil drums, wooden yard gates, tools, indoor &

outdoor furniture, lounges, gas & electric heaters, electric lift chairs, fridges, doors.

**Outside entries include:** Honda GX 200 pumps, Yamaha AG100, electric fence units, stihl DG85 blower, chains, worm test microscope, honda 5.5hp croplands pump with reel & 600L tank, porcelain insulators, pencil auger, Suzuki DR200, 1995 Isuzu FVM1400, Engle 12V/240V fridge, Arc Welder, 2 x Lamb marking cradles, 16' cattle crate with sheep decks, Farmline 530 4WD Tractor & Slasher, Hardi 400L Boomspray, 5 Bag Spreader tow behind quad, Round bale feeder, 3PL bale spike, Air Compressor, Diesel generator, 3 Phase outlet & 2x240 power outlets, Cement Mixer with electric motor on wheels, Lincon handmig welder plus numerous other items.

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## letters to the editor



### Dear Diary...

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2025 Spring has just kicked-off in Walcha. I'd love to go to the new exhibition at the Art Gallery at Tamworth but, of course, there's no way I can get there with the onslaught of 'turbine trucks' blocking the Oxley Highway. Wow, 2025 sure has turned out to be a pretty rotten year.

Sadly, I can't go to Armidale when I feel like it, either. The never-ending stream of turbine-related B-doubles and trucks make it just about impossible to get past the John Oxley fields.

You know, I can still remember that community meeting, way back in August 2022. Good roll-up; about 300 Walcha folk crowded into the Bowlo. I was especially saddened to hear first-hand stories of how Australian employees of overseas developers were being downright unethical in their communications. It was that night that I began to realise the reality of Walcha becoming the centre of the so-called REZ. By the end of that meeting, it was obvious it should be renamed, Regional Engagement Zilch.

Don't get me wrong dear diary. I understand the imperative around renewable energy. What I don't understand is why the state government didn't respect our community and respect us as citizens of this state. Why didn't they come to Walcha and talk with us (not at us) before the projects kicked-off. With local knowledge and expertise, combined with the experience of wind farm planners, we could have looked at the challenges and solutions together.

But it wasn't to be. The comment, at another meeting, made by a shiny Energy Co. executive: that 'of course, Walcha couldn't use the community chest to buy new footy jumpers' was an 'Ah-Ha' moment for me. The comment smacked of city arrogance, as well as ignorance about the number of very well-educated people in the Walcha area. I realised that in the desperate quest for the state to have new sources of energy, Walcha is expendable. The message was that we are regarded as proverbial country hicks and surely the sugar-coated community chest should be enough to shut us up.

Now, in 2025, we are living the nightmare.

I can't help but wonder if some of the host landowners now regret their decision. They have had their own challenges and I wonder if the money they are making has made it worthwhile. I actually feel sorry for them. Of course, we'll never know if any of the host farmers did have regrets as their silence was bought when they signed their contracts.

But I feel even more sorry for us folk in town. Of course, some people on the turbine access roads sold up and left town early, when they realised their quality of life would be zero. Hell, there's been so many issues ... many of them unforeseen.

Naturally the tourists stopped coming ... too much of a hassle on the roads. Guess it's not surprising that a few businesses have gone under.

Of course, there's been no available accommodation for some time, so anyone planning a Walcha wedding, or any kind of gathering or festival had to scrap that idea.

If stress is the gap between where you are, and where you want to be, there is an awfully big gap in Walcha. I reckon most people in town would give anything to be back where we were in 2022: a cohesive community with a vibrant atmosphere.

Of course, looking back to 2022, I realise we couldn't have stopped the turbine juggernaut. But I can't help wondering if we could have done more.

Could we at least have united together and explored other ideas; such as alternatives to wind turbines, or seeing if there was a way the trucks could completely bypass the town. Could we have done more to ensure that there was clear (no-waiting) access in and out of the town to both Tamworth and Armidale; that goods could continue to be delivered to Walcha; that kids could get to school in Armidale; that Fire & Rescue could get where needed; that people could continue to live and run their businesses unheeded; and that we could stay a tourist destination.

Yes, dear diary, any alternate ideas would have required some out-of-the box thinking, plus time to do that thinking. Unfortunately, we didn't have the luxury of time. Our last hope was the chance to respond to the EIS in September/October 2022. We had just 28 days to somehow read and respond to the horrendously huge document. That was the key opportunity for the community to speak up; to do our very best to lessen the impact of what was to come.

Ah, I'd better stop raving. It's all too late now, anyway. We're no longer Walcha ... 'where wild rivers run'; we're Walcha ... 'where wild turbines hum'.

Anyway, gotta go. I'm off to Gloucester to do some shopping. Yep, it's four hours round-trip but at least the shops are stocked and it sure is nice to get out of Walcha for a while.

**K (written by Kerry Fair)**

# Wednesday's Wind Farm Development Community Forum

Organisers of the community forum would like to thank the Walcha community for a strong showing and interest in the discussions held last Wednesday. It was estimated that there were 250 – 300 in attendance at the meeting. The forum was aimed at anyone interested, and it was great to see a wide variety of people in attendance, from interested and committed hosting landholders from a range of projects, as well as community members who have serious concerns about the project.

The organisers were humbled by the support of this conversation and encouraged by the strong indication by over 40 people to directly assist with continuing the work that is being done to inform the community of the enormous scale of the projects being planned, and the impact these projects will have on the town and surrounds.

A survey was handed out to attendees, most attendees and couples handing in a result at the end of the night, some being returned to us still. While the sample size of 161 survey results is by no means able to be called an accurate vote, it is a compelling indication of the sentiments surrounding the plans for Walcha.

The panel speakers delivered their material and then participated in a Q+A session. They covered topics including;

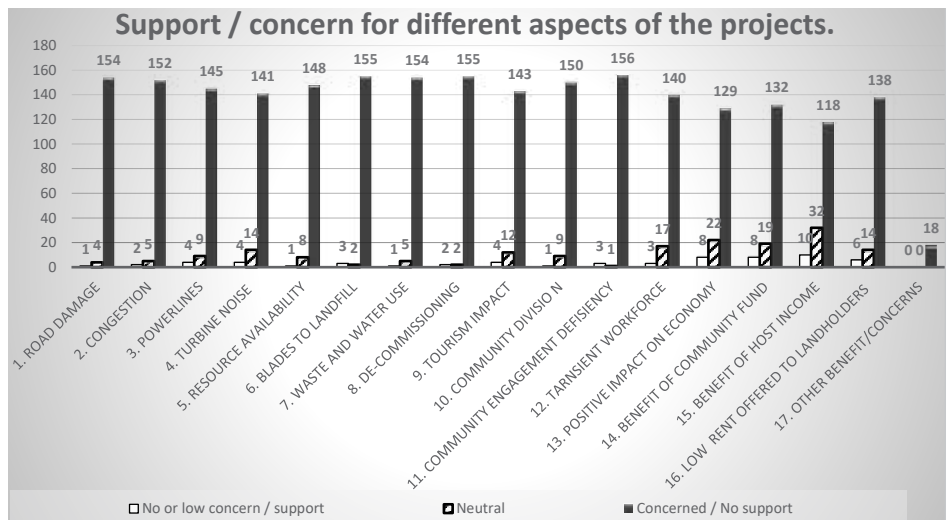
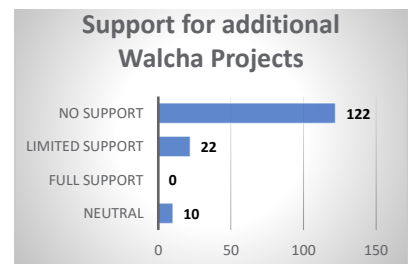
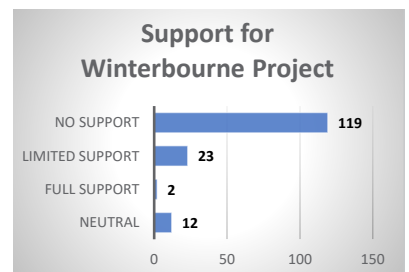
- How the REZ zone legislation was implemented, imposed and fits into the community of Walcha.
- Details of the EIS process, the projects planned

for our area, and how the Walcha community can and needs to get involved, to help shape Walcha over the next 1 – 2 generations.

- The risks and important issues that potential hosting landholders need to be aware of.
- The economics of large-scale developments, and the implications for landholders and communities.

*By The Greig family, the Timbs family, Michael Luchich and Kate Durak.*

**Tables show the results of completed surveys from the night.**



## Oxley Highway Road Closure

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2022

Motorists are advised of changed traffic conditions from next week on the Oxley Highway to carry out major restoration work at Mount Seaview.

As part of this work, the Oxley Highway will be closed between Knodingbul and Forbes River Roads on the following dates and times:

- **13 September – 6 October**  
Every Tuesday to Thursday from 7:00am to 4:30pm
- **11 October – 16 December**  
Every Tuesday to Thursday from 7:00am to 4:30pm, as well as each Friday from 7:00am to 3:00pm.

### Special Event exceptions

These will apply to the road closures on the following dates:

- **17 – 18 November** – Walcha Motorbike Rally
- **1 – 2 December** – State Touch Football Finals

Road closures are required as there is insufficient room for traffic to pass while crews are using the large machinery required for this work.

Transport for NSW aims to complete the restoration of up to six landslips. This will allow for the removal of at least two sets of traffic lights from Mount Seaview, improving journey times significantly.

Transport for NSW encourages motorists to plan their trips around these closures, avoid the area during work hours and defer the trip if possible. Transport for NSW thanks motorists for their patience during this important work.

Motorists can register for SMS notifications about closures on the Oxley by visiting [nswroads.work/oxleyrecovery](https://nswroads.work/oxleyrecovery).

**For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW app, visit [livetraffic.com](https://livetraffic.com) or call 132 701.**



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## Youdales Hut Open Day

**Join the celebrations**

**Sunday 23 October**  
**10am-2pm**

Located deep in the Kunderang Brook Valley of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, Youdales Hut represents an important part of the regions' pastoral and cultural history. Built by grazier Alan Youdale and Patrick Hogno in 1941, Youdales Hut served as a cattle mustering facility and accommodation for the Youdale family while they worked the gorge landscape.

After the Hut was destroyed during the 2019-2020 bushfires, NPWS staff, volunteers and contractors have rebuilt the Hut to its former glory using traditional bush carpentry methods.

The day will include a historical walk of the area with NPWS Ranger, presentations and a BBQ lunch.

**All attendees must have a low-range 4WD to access the site.**

**For more information visit [nswparks.info/hut](https://nswparks.info/hut)**

**Bookings essential**

Contact NPWS Walcha Office by 5pm Thursday 20 October  
(02) 6777 4700 or alternatively  
[nps.wa@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nps.wa@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Photo: The rebuilt Youdales Hut, (David Waugh/DPE)

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# Book Week Fun at St Patrick's School



Left to right: Heather Scott and granddaughter Pheobe. Ron and Theresa Mann with Miley Oakley. Ann and Pat Pendlebury, Darcie Owen and Toya McKenzie.



Above: Three generations – Maria Ireland with grandchildren Jack, Lachie and Benji Provost with mum Jodie.



Above: Katrina and Rob Blomfield with grandchildren Anna and Nina.



Koby Brennan with mum Tash, dad Luke and sister Maddie.



Left: Nathaniel Morris with his uncle Ron Towney and his nan Elva.

Below: Bruce Southeron with Chris and Mackenzie Larkings.



Left: Jo and David Wauch with grandchildren Penny and Josie. Above Right: Levi Williams with great grandparents Carol and Cecil Dunn



## Children enjoyed the classroom visits at St Patrick's School



All smiles at last Friday mornings Book Week Parade.

**Clockwise:** James Norton with daughter Bella. Campbell Laurie and Greg Patterson. Mackenzie Gollan with Marg and Mike Gollan. Oscar Young with his dad Richard. Carol Flanagan with Harry McMaugh.



## Anna selected on rural health inquiry panel

The NSW Government has announced the unveiling of a new Regional Health Ministerial Advisory Panel, which includes two leading health professionals from the Tamworth electorate.

Chaired by Richard Colbran, CEO of the NSW Rural Doctors Network, the panel will advise the Minister for Regional Health, the Secretary of NSW Health and the Coordinator-General of the Regional Health Division on opportunities and solutions to improve healthcare, hospital, and support services in regional NSW.



Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson said Walcha's Anna Barwick and Tamworth's Professor Jenny May would be part of the panel, providing local knowledge and ensuring our region's voice is heard.

"Both Anna Barwick and Professor May are well respected leading health professionals who know better than anyone the issues we face when it comes to healthcare in our region," Kevin Anderson said.

"They are passionate about improving health outcomes for our communities and I know their strong voice will be critical to improving outcomes in the New England North West."

Minister for Regional Health Bronnie Taylor said she will work closely with the panel to create a new regional health plan, which will be released later this year.

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# CWA Invitation to the community

Next Wednesday 14 September at 9.30am Walcha Country Women's Association will be celebrating 100 years of CWA in NSW by donating a beautifully made wooden seat to McHattan Park for all to enjoy. The seat was made by Neil Turner.

The Country Women's Association will also be celebrating their Awareness Week and would like to invite members of the community to come along to the unveiling and stay for a cuppa and scones afterwards.

We will be happy to answer any questions if ladies are interested in joining, or just come along for a chat and morning tea. We would love to see you there to help our local Branch celebrate this occasion.

On a sad note, we would like to extend our condolences to Claire's Brazel's family.

Claire's Branch – Niangala, and Walcha Branch belong to a larger group called Wanthella, which she was a Patron of. Claire was also a Show Judge and a very supportive member for many years and she will be sadly missed by us all.

There will be more lovely cooking at our Street stall on the 16 September.

**Vic McIvor – President**

# Busy season for veteran cricketers

**By A.J Cross**

Although Walcha Cricket has been on the decline for the past few years, Veterans Cricket has enjoyed a continuous growth and now involves age groups of over 40's, 50's, 55's, 60's, 65's and 70's, along with women's competitions.

New England has a local competition comprising of four teams – Walcha/Uralla, Inverell, Guyra and Armidale where teams play once a month October to March. New England teams compete in age groups 50's to 70's where cricket is played in a good competition spirit.

The over 60's State titles are being held in Penrith from 16 – 21 October, where New England will be looking to defend their Division 2 title. In attempting this they will be assisted by local players Wayne Boyd, Stephen Haslem, Bill Duncan and Steph Sweeney.

In late November the National over 60's Championships will take place in Geelong, with New England players Steph Sweeney, Bill Duncan, Jim Boland, Tony Butler, Brian Starkey and Craig Stoddart all



*Vets Cricketers Bill Duncan and Wayne Boyd are looking forward to a big season.*

being picked to represent NSW.

At the end of October the NSW Over 70's Championships are scheduled for Coffs Harbour and six time 'Walcha Cricketer of the Year' Peter Boyd (1982, 83, 91, 95, 99 and 2007) will be a member of a combined squad, made up of players from his own club Tamworth and the Western Wildfires to compete in the tournament. Another 'Walcha Cricketer of the Year' Bob Jex (2002) is also a regular player in the New England competition.

A State of Origin tournament involving over 50's to 70's female teams is played annually and is scheduled in Coffs Harbour next March.

Thanks to local Newsagent Bill Duncan on his input into this story.



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## At the Nineteenth

Reigning 4BBB champions Miles Archdale and Willy Brennan survived a three way countback to win the nett section of the 2022 4BBB Men's Championships opening round last Sunday, which entitled them to prizes supplied by Jim Nivison and Jock McLaren.

Played in less than ideal weather conditions, the winners carded a score of 39 stableford points the same as runners up Lee Fletcher and David Sweeney. Margaret Davidson and Simone Sweeney also accumulated 39 points despite being ineligible to win the major two round men's event.

The remaining sweepstakes went to Don Brooks and Barry Hoad after they registered 37 points.

Going into the second and final round this Sunday, where Peter Norbury and Tony Asmus are in charge of donating the trophies, Lee Fletcher and David Sweeney lead the scratch division on 75 off the stick from Miles Archdale and Willy Brennan on 77 who recovered from being five over par after five holes. Sharpest shooters at the pins were Lee Fletcher (3) and Will Brennan (18).

There was a whisper Club President Allan Green pulled off a little party trick on the fourth tee last Sunday, when he hit his tee further than the ball. See Greeny for details about how he did it.

Please note: The second round of the 4BBB Championships has been rescheduled for this Sunday, not per program book, where a stableford round for Alex Gill's trophy is listed which is now on the following Sunday.

## Bowls

**Dads Army:** Owing to the Ladies District Bowls Senior Pairs Championships being played in Walcha on Thursday there will be no Dads Army games.

On Thursday, two games of pairs were played with mixed results. In the first game Brian Goodwin and John Watts had a runaway win against Mick Bullen and Geoff Salt, while in the second game Peter Hayes and John McCormack defeated Noel Goodwin and Eric O'Keefe 12 – 11 after the score was 11 all with one end to play.

Peter and John McCormack won the chooks and John Watts won the raffle. See you all in two weeks.

## Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday in sunny conditions eight lady bowlers played two games of pairs. Results were as follows: Pat and Lyn defeated June and Di Bazeley 22 – 13, while Esther and Marg Tickle defeated Jan and Janice 14 – 12.

The club welcomed Di Bazeley and we hope she will continue playing bowls. This week there will be no Social Bowls as the club is hosting the New England District Senior Pairs good luck to the Walcha Ladies who are playing.

## Wednesday Golf

A Four Ball Multiplier Draw for Partners was played on Wednesday. The trophies were donated by Vicki Heffernan and Jill Burnell and the winners were Katie Smith and Donna Martin who accumulated a score of 75 points. The sweepstakes were won by Julie Olrich and Sally Rutherford with 67 and the next sweepstakes went to the prize givers, Vicki Heffernan and Jill Burnell with 63.

NTP on the third hole was Pauline Carter and Cark Street won the second shot on Hole 18.

With the weather causing some grief with the program of late, the Stroke, Monthly Mug, Putting, Golden Jubilee 5th Medal round, playing for the President's Trophy has been rescheduled for today's event.

## Tennis

The 2022 Spring Eskimo Comp kicked off on Tuesday 30 August.

We had a great roll up with 24 players competing. Top scorers on the night with a score of 18 from a possible 18 were Emma Waugh, Chris Bruce, Michael Luchich and Kris Wall. Good luck to all playing this week.

## What's the Goss

With A.J. CROSS



**Local Aussie Rules players Nicholas Buckland and Daniel Boyd** will line up for the New England Nomads in the AFL North West Grand Final against Tamworth Swans at No 1 Oval in Tamworth this Saturday. Former Nomads player and Walcha resident Morgan Dunn now plays for the Swans who finished Minor Premiers and will go into the decider as favourites. Best of luck in the 'Big One' boys.

...

**The Nomads finished in fourth position** after the regular season before defeating the Tamworth Kangaroos 103 – 78 in the minor semi final where Daniel was named one of the Nomads' best players. Last Saturday the Nomads travelled to Varley Oval where they rounded up the Inverell Saints 72 – 71 in a nail biter Preliminary Final, with 'Nico' kicking a goal. The Swans progressed to the Grand Final after downing the Saints 128 – 96 in the Major Semi Final.

...

**Bad luck to the Denman Devils who were defeated 42 – 6** by the Scone Thoroughbreds in the Group 21 Rugby League Grand Final last Sunday after trailing 18-0 at half time. Former Walcha Roo Brody Smith was a bench player for the Devils, while Fraser Evans missed the match after suffering a broken thumb in the Preliminary Final. The 'Devils' were coached by Liam Foran, brother of Manly Sea Eagles five eighth Kieran Foran.

...

**The Walcha/Uralla Jillaroos and Tigeroos** are holding a dress up night at the Walcha Bowling Club this Saturday evening from 7:30pm, where 'Terra Firma' will be providing the entertainment. Willing participants are invited to dress up in 1980's attire which should provide plenty of entertainment in itself.

...

**Walcha Senior Cricket in conjunction with Uralla Junior Cricket** have kindly offered to subsidise a junior cricket clinic on 26 and 27 September. Registration prices have been dramatically reduced and the clinic will be conducted at John Oxley Sportsground under the guidance of experienced coaches Tony Dudgeon and Trevor Irvine. Check it out on [dudgeonacademy.com.au](http://dudgeonacademy.com.au) if you are interested.

...

**If someone offered you \$120 million to change your employer** most people would probably give it some thought. I find it interesting that when Aussie golfer Cameron Smith declared he had joined the rebel LIV Golf Tour and turned his back on the US PGA there were plenty of people howling him down about his decision to do so. The majority of people have an opinion, (and wouldn't it be a boring old world if we were all the same?) but once again I ask the question – How would you go if someone offered you \$120 million to change employer?

...

**Walcha Central School were represented at a Central Schools Carnival** at Dubbo last week in both Rugby League and Touch Football meeting with mixed results. The Open Boys League won on forfeit and the U/16's League finished fourth but should have been third after they blew a game against Coolah. The Open Touch team came fourth while the U/16's finished third with team member Shaun McKenna voted player of the tournament by the referees.

...

**Organiser Ben Ussher would like to give the boys a wrap** – not only on their efforts on the field, but their general conduct was a credit to Walcha Central. He also gave his offside Bonnie Brown a thumbs up for her driving skills and all round help. Good on ya guys.

...

**Footy Tipping Big Wigs of the Week:** Bowling Club – Debbie Richards 14 points; Newie – Audie Dunn, Lachie Fletcher, Peter Steep, Perc Berry, Charlotte Lyon all on 14 points; Apsley – Riley Swift-Bird, Ian Cameron, Neil G.P. all 12 points.

...

**Footy Tipping Big Wigs of the Year:** Bowling Club – Tommy LeStrande 296, Gerry Moran 286, Barb Jamieson 280, Jagger Jamieson 280. Newie – Ben Little 292, Filbert Green 290, Johnny O'Hara 288. Apsley – Neil G.P. 282, Ian Cameron 274, AJC 270, Carly Goodwin 264. A big thank you to organisers Gordon Michie (Bowling Club), Michelle Wayte (Newie) and Ganesh Sedhain (Apsley) for their assistance with the scores each week.



## Position Vacant

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### National Parks & Wildlife Service



Requires contract office cleaners for Armidale and Walcha cleaning for two evenings per week. Tenders close 4 October 2022. For an information pack please email: [npws.nea@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.nea@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Raffle Results

**Walcha Hospital Auxillary** – winners: Kylie Faux, Mike Faulkner, Jan Cross, Mary Kuhr and Allan Kermode. We are grateful for all the support given.

**Walcha Womens Bowling Assoc.** 1st Don McHattan, 2nd Paul Hicks. Many thanks.

## Public Notices

**DR GENEVIEVE FREER**  
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**LAVERTY WILL BE CLOSED**  
this Thursday 8 September.

**Presbyterian Church service at Woolbrook church, 2.00pm this Sunday.** For info call Graeme Barnes on 6777 2539

### WALCHA COUNCIL Draft Policies on Public Exhibition



The Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 31 August 2022 approved the Draft Social Media Policy and the Draft Community Grants & Donations Policy. These Policies will be on public exhibition on Council's website: <http://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/news.aspx> until Friday, 30 September 2022. During this time written submissions on the Draft Policies will be received by Council.

Barry Omundson – General Manager  
Walcha Council, PO Box 2  
Walcha NSW 2354

## Public Notices (cont'd)

### New England Community College UPCOMING COURSES

- WHS White Card Course
- First Aid Course

We are seeking expressions of Interest in the above courses. Please call 6779 2132 or email [admin@gala.org.au](mailto:admin@gala.org.au) and leave your details so we can save you a spot and arrange workbooks for the first aid.

**ARE U OK DAY** Thursday 8 September at Mountain Motors. Call in and for a gold coin donation, share a muffin or a cupcake to support this great cause.

## For Sale

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## Thank You

A special thank you to Dr Allen, Dr Deng, Douglas Bellamy and the wonderful staff at Walcha Hospital for their professional and loving care of my dear Aunt Iris Smith over the last six years. It has been greatly appreciated and was comforting to know she was with such loving, caring people. Barbara and Noel Dunn.

**Highrent Angus and Full Circle Angus** would like to thank all successful bidders and under bidders of our second combined sale. Top price Highrent General S214 purchased by Don McRae for \$25,000. Top Full Circle bull R54 purchased by Daniel Kermode for \$22,000. The combined sale average of 50 bulls was \$10,698. Several bulls went down to Victoria, others to QLD and many staying locally purchased by new and repeat buyers.

## Found

**Security ID toggle** found on the footpath near PKF. Call in to collect if yours.

## Garage Sale

### GARAGE SALE

**Saturday 10 September • 71w North St**  
From 8.00am to 1.00pm

Moving House – everything must go.  
Carpentry tools, furniture and household items. All undercover.

## thumbs



- 👍 To our awesome neighbours, the Yarrowitch and Bergen Fire Brigade for lending a helping hand after our mishap on the Tia Diggins Road.
- 👍 To Walcha Post Office for always being helpful and providing such a top level of service – we are a lucky town to have you.
- 👍 To the Walcha Physio ladies for the amazing work they do and providing such a positive, helpful experience every time.
- 👍 To Bec at the Bowling Club for the last minute organising of music for the Father's Day lunch.
- 👍 To the Mayor, GM and the Councillor who sensibly decided against attending the expensive knees-up that is the Local Govt Annual Conference at the Crowne Plaza in the Hunter Valley this year. Action on financial restraint, rather than just talking about it, makes ratepayers happy!
- 👍 To St Patrick's School staff for the great breakfast and morning tea. An enjoyable morning.
- 👍 Vikki Campion for her excellent article in Saturday's Telegraph (Sept 3) concerning the contentious Walcha Wind Farms.
- 👍 To the well attended community forum held at the Bowling Club last Wednesday.
- 👍 To the wind farm developers who declined to attend the forum held at the Bowling Club last Wednesday.
- 👍 To the very one sided and extremely biased Forum at the Bowling Club last week. The community needs impartial, accurate information at this time.

**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.**



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Contact us on 6777 2543 or email:  
walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

**Walcha:** Sunday – 9.30am and  
Woolbrook 2pm. Everybody welcome to  
join us.

For info call Graham Barnes 6777 2539

**CATHOLIC** Sunday 10.00am Mass

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 6.00pm Bistro  
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 • Hawaiian Chicken Burger  
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**Saturday 10** Open 11am  
**Men's Pennants Bowls**  
 6.00pm Bistro

**Sunday 11** Open 11am  
**Men's Pennant Bowls**  
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