

THE APSLEY Advocate

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14 September 2022

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Ask 'R U OK? any day



Thursday 8 September was R U OK's national day of action when we are reminded that every day is a day when you can ask someone – 'Are you OK?'.

This year the team at Mountain Motors provided a space where locals could drop in, catch up and grab some delicious cakes and treats while supporting and recognising the cause.

With several tumultuous years of late, many Australians, young and old, have struggled with their mental health. R U OK? inspires and empowers us to connect with people around us and start a conversation with those who may be struggling or just not behaving like themselves. You don't need to be an expert to reach out – just a good friend and a great listener.

Use the following four steps and have a conversation that could change a life: 1. Ask R U OK?, 2. Listen, 3. Encourage action and 4. Check in.

The team at Mountain Motors would like to thank those who popped in and supported their R U OK? day. For information visit www.ruok.org.au



Pictured from top left enjoying some morning tea at Mountain Motors: Phillipa Lawrence, Laura Welsh and Caroline Feltham, apprentice mechanic Iona Stanton, and Wendy and Gordon Bird.

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around the traps



By **BRUCE RUTHERFORD**

When was the last time you can remember having to mow the lawn weekly in the first weeks of September? Not to mention letting the fire go out for the day! A combination of no frosts and longer days, and suddenly pastures are growing like never before at this time of year. Just the visible difference in paddocks in the space of a couple of weeks between stock movements is remarkable. Last week I highlighted the growth further west where we expect it to be, but locally spring is well under way and pastures are now growing well – which is a huge relief after such a long winter.

Livestock are also starting to move after a tough, wet winter and little quality in the feed. You can already see the coats of cattle improving which is the first sign things are on the move. Clover has potential to cause some grief and already we are seeing some cattle a bit puffy. It will be the year to have your vaccinations right up to date in my view, and if they, are you will stand a chance of getting them through. Elsewhere, the season is humming and talking with farmers in the west during the week, they are getting harvest ready. Canola starts coming off in about three weeks at Walgett and no doubt cereals are not too far off starting further north of that. There is plenty of discussion around rain and how that may play out, but everyone is keen to get going as soon as they can.

The Ben Nevis Angus bull sale produced a wonderful result last Wednesday with all 76 bulls sold at auction and a record average for the stud of \$20,600. The amazing thing about the sale was how even the bidding was from one lot to the next and from start to finish. The sale topped at \$40,000 twice (both yearlings), and then sold another yearling bull for \$38,000. The yearling bulls sold extremely well, with the 31 selling to \$40,000 and averaging \$21,161. Of the eighteen month old bulls, 45 sold to a top of \$36,000 and averaged \$20,200. It was a great result for a great line up of bulls. Thanks to all the local buyers who turned up to make the day a success. Stud sales do rely on the local buyers, and while there was a lot of activity on AuctionsPlus and plenty of out of town buyers, local bidders kept plugging away and keeping the market going.

The bull selling season has been amazing this year and it is hard to imagine how it could get better. Stud cattle producers are probably thankful the market has been so strong, but in some ways wishing it was more affordable for their clients. It will be interesting to see how it plays out, but many producers have scoured the country this last year or so trying to find ways of producing calves more economically. Some have taken the step into breeding their own replacements, but that is a huge commitment and one that involves much more management. I did ask one stud principal some weeks ago if he was concerned about this trend and his answer was pretty interesting. He said that over many years of breeding there have been a lot of people start breeding replacement bulls, but then they work out that managing paddocks full of bulls is not as easy as it sounds. Many go back to buying their replacements after a few years of taking that path. So, his focus is breeding better, more functional and efficient cattle with the hope that his clients see the improvement in their own herds along the way. Probably a great attitude to have in that situation.

It should not have been a shock to hear of Queen Elizabeth's passing, given she has not been in the best of health. However, it did come as a shock and understandably there has been a huge out pouring of grief around the globe from all who knew her. Her time in the top job has spanned some 70 years and she has sworn in a total of 15 Prime Ministers in the British parliament, the first being Churchill and the last two days before she passed. I guess this is the opportunity the republican movement in Australia has been waiting for and we will see a push for another referendum on whether we remain in the Commonwealth. It is interesting the government has decided we should have a day of mourning on the 22nd of this month. Why not the day of her funeral? It seems a little hypocritical to me that those in the republican movement should even consider taking the day off. But maybe that is going too far. Either way, nobody can question the service the Queen has given to the Commonwealth and the cause for good in so many ways. May she rest in peace.

A 'blue lease on life'

The young and the not so young had a great day on Saturday near the Ohio North Rest Area in support of another important organisation that raises awareness of mental wellbeing.

Organised by Angus Scrivener, community members gathered to partake in the painting of a dead tree, which now stands proud and tall. Walcha now boasts a lovely bright blue tree as part of it's landscape. Make sure to keep an eye out next time you are traveling north out of town. The tree is located on the right as you approach the rest area, set back off the road.

Rotary were there on the day in support providing a scrumptious BBQ, a craft table

was set up for youngsters with 'stick trees' in pots and plenty of blue paint, and there was even a visit from the local fire brigade.

Angus would like to thank everyone who came along and enjoyed a chat, a cuppa and helped with the painting of the tree. He would also like to thank the numerous organisations around Walcha and beyond for making the day a great success.



Pictured right: Hunter and Angus Scrivener leading the charge with blue paint.



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SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2022 @ 10AM

Farm equipment: Bromar 36 bag Feed Trailer plus scales, Advantage 1800 feeders x15 + rubber matting, Massey Ferguson 135 diesel tractor, 3mx2m Dean Trailer registered, Hardie 600lt boom spray x6m, Rapid Plas 400 lt trough x6, 3mx2m dean dual wheel tipping farm trailer, farm trailer 6'x12', New Holand silage/hay feed out wagon 6'x8', silage grab, 3.5mx2m farm trailer, Peak Hill air rotate sheep handler, Peak Hill force race, rotate sheep handler, Stevlon wool press, loose lic feed trailers, loose lic covered tyre feeders, feed troughs, hay feeders, loose timber(hardwood & pine), steel posts, gates, fencing materials, electric fence energisers, round concrete troughs, culvert pipes 3'x8', auger pto 16', pencil auger electric, Stihl 056 chain saw, Honda TRX 400 quad bike, HE silo 40 ton wheat, Aquila silo 40 ton wheat x2, 8 ton wheat silo, Ram Sale pens x40, portable sheep race, Sunbeam variable speed overhead geared plant, sheep panels, Arrow portable loading ramp – sheep, cattle panels & gates, pine fence posts, calf marking cradle, Ruddway cattle scales & weigh beams, lamb marking cradle x6, Sunbeam clippers, RM russel air foot parers, tools, windmill & trough fittings, roofing iron.

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 Izuzu 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, CF Moto 500cc Quad Bike with Spray Tank plus numerous other items.

Terms: ID required – bid card numbers system operating. Cash or approved cheque on sale day.

Catering: refreshments & bbq lunch available on site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

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letters to the editor



INFRASOUND – the noise you cannot hear

I'm a Sydney resident who regularly holidays in the beautiful New England and who is closely following the "wind turbines for Walcha" debate.

I'm deeply concerned for the people, livestock and fauna in and around the Walcha area to learn turbine proponents claim that turbine generated infrasound (below 20 Hertz and therefore inaudible yet still being felt by heart muscle fibres and other sensitive tissues) either doesn't exist or is a made up story by Luddite knuckle draggers that, for no good reason, oppose renewables.

Infrasound and the emotional, mental and physical stress it can inflict on the hearts and minds of all sentient beings is a well-documented scientific fact, one that was taught to me as a student in Naturopath College in the early 1970s. It's no Johnny come lately narrative dreamed up for the purpose of deceiving and misleading - it's the anti-infrasound brigade who are doing that.

In one of our college text books, Psycho-Dietetics, a treatise on the effect of good nutrition and lack of it on the brain, mind, moods and emotions, Author Dr Emmanuel Cheraskin MD of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA was so concerned about the deleterious mental health effects wrought by infrasound he devoted a whole chapter of his book to it.

Fortunately for us, vitamin company Blackmores sponsored Dr Cheraskin on a lecture tour of Australia in 1976. Dr Cheraskin explained to us how insurance company records and school attendance records clearly showed that in Chicago, on high infrasound days, motor vehicle accidents and school absenteeism were abnormally high. This, not surprisingly, struck a chord with an audience fully aware of Sydney as an uptight, truculent, truant town with a road rage problem. Not something you would wish on relaxed and working Walcha but which could happen given that the recent German research records infrasound travelling over a 20 kilometre radius. Scary stuff.

Dr Cheraskin went on to recall cases of infrasound from improperly fitted air-conditioning units bringing discord, low morale and high absenteeism to once harmonious, productive office environments, and how high infrasound levels around NASA launching pads significantly impaired the Astronauts ability to do mathematical calculations or translate verbal instructions accurately.

In a documentary (2018) by the science programme "planet e". – Infrasound, the experiment conducted by a medical team in Mainz University Medical Centre, Germany, led by researcher Professor Christian-Friedrich Vahl is most revealing. Under laboratory conditions Professor Vahl's team conducted a double blind control study of the effects of infrasound on individual heart muscle fibres. The excised experimental muscle fibres exposed to infrasound became up to 20% weaker whereas the non-infrasound exposed control fibres showed no decline in strength. This is significant. The stronger the heart the more blood it can pump uphill, against gravity, to the brain. The more the brain is suffused with blood, oxygen and nutrients the stronger, more functional and resistant to stress it is. It therefore stands to reason that the anxiety, insomnia, depression, dysperception and mood swings suffered by wind turbine refugees may, in part, be attributed to infrasound weakened heart muscles.

It seems reasonable to expect the heart muscle of livestock and fauna to also weaken by up to 20% in response to the stress of infrasound in the same way as human heart muscle, especially from the large 6MW wind turbines that spread their sound over a 20 kilometre radius which I understand are proposed for the Walcha area.

If for nothing else, for health sake I would urge all residents in the New England to stand against the wind turbine projects in and around the Walcha area before it's too late.

Phillip Alexander



A Reality Check on Wind Farms

By Max Mawhinney for "Voice for WALCHA"

At the Walcha Community Forum held last Wednesday 31st August to discuss the impacts to Walcha and district of the Winterbourne and other proposed Wind Farm projects, information was presented regarding the escalating price of energy markets, both globally and in Australia.

Also discussed were the terms and conditions a Land Owner should seek, along with legal issues that should be considered before entering into any binding agreements.

Global energy prices have been escalating for some time and Australia is no exception. With the looming closure of NSW coal fired power stations (Liddell 2023, Eraring 2025, Vale's Point 2028, Bayswater 2033 and Mt Piper 2040) NSW energy markets will be under immense and growing pressure if alternate energy sources are not completed to replace our reliable supply of base load power. For a real time view of the Australian Energy market, go to Whitehaven Coal/ Energy Market and log in at peak and off peak times.

Over a period of several years a number of land holders were presented with an option by Mirus Wind Pty Ltd to exclusively give that company seven years to investigate the feasibility of placing large wind turbines on the Land Holders land. For much of the period from 2016 to early 2020 the NSW Spot price of power as reported by the Australian Energy Regulator was around \$85/megawatt hour. At that price the \$30,000 annual rental per turbine intimated seemed realistic. Since that period, NSW energy market prices have increased considerably with the 2020/21 financial year weighted spot price being \$144/megawatt hour. The second quarter average in 2022 (the most recent reported) hit \$321/ megawatt hour.

Based on the information contained in the WinterbourneFarm.com.au website, the proposed Winterbourne wind farm will comprise 119 wind turbines, each 230 metres tall, and produce "2,100,000 Megawatt Hours of saleable energy annually". At last years price of \$144/MWH, that equals over \$302 million in revenue. If the price was equal to the last reported quarter (\$321/MWH) revenue would equal over \$674 million. Based on the more conservative 20/21 spot price of \$144/Megawatt hour, this equates to over \$2.5 million annual revenue per turbine. The website also reported cost to construct the complete project of \$1 billion or \$8.4 million per turbine.

Once erected, these turbines do not require a lot of employees or materials to maintain, so the profit generated by these projects is enormous. Therefore the capacity to financially benefit both the land holder and the Walcha community is equally large. Given Australian energy prices, a land rental of \$30,000 per turbine per annum would seem grossly inadequate and there should be a significant share, (say 20%), of the revenue generated from wind turbines paid, to be shared with the land holder and the Walcha community.

The Winterbourne wind project has been conditionally on sold by Vestas to Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, a Denmark based corporation, with Vestas (also a Danish based Corporation) holding 25% share of the project, together with the interim development and management rights.

It is not clear at what stage the legal process has reached with the Winterbourne Wind Farm land holders.

Negotiations with a Wind Turbine Developer

We understand that a number of other projects are in various stages of negotiation within the Walcha district and with various developers.

If a land owner is in discussion with a Wind Farm Developer, it is likely that a confidentiality agreement will be required prior to receiving comprehensive legal documentation. The Wind Farm developer will rightly claim that they are seeking to keep commercially sensitive negotiations secret.

The, perhaps unintended, consequence of signing this Confidentiality Agreement is to prevent a land owner sharing any information regarding terms and conditions with other land holders within the potential wind farm location. This means that the ability of the land owner to leverage negotiations from both a commercial and legal perspective will be severely contained. *Continued on page 6 >*



Ladies of Walcha and surrounds

It's time to get hands on

Together



Walcha ladies this one is for you ...

Lets 'Get Ready' and get our hands dirty with a Ladies Tradie session. We will tinker in the shed and share snippets of tradie tips to improve your handy-person skills.

Local automotive specialist Dave Ledingham will join us for tips on vehicle basics and troubleshooting. Chainsaw specialist trainer Peter Berry will show you how to keep your garden gear going with tools of trade demonstrations and a Q&A.

Think ... let's get the gennie going and show you how to sharpen your chains on the saw! You never know when you might need it.

DATE: Saturday 29 October 2022

TIME: 9.00am – 1.00pm

WHAT TO BRING: Comfortable work clothes, sturdy boots, any PPE you may have e.g. safety glasses and gloves. Plus the manual from your car, truck, bike, mower, chainsaw, etc (if you have it).

WHERE: Woolbrook Stampede Ground

INCLUSIONS: Morning tea and lunch

COST: FREE

RSVP: Contact Brooke Jeffery bjeffery@walcha.nsw.gov.au or phone 67774 2500

Participants must be over 18 years



Continued from page 5 >

If a Confidentiality Agreement is signed, it is likely that the land owner will be presented with a comprehensive set of documents that will include, amongst other documents, a Development Option, Development Terms and Conditions and a Lease Agreement. The Development Option will likely be for a significant term (several years) and once signed, the land owner will be bound by all the terms and conditions contained within the raft of documents annexed to that Option. It is likely that the Wind Farm Developer will have the right to lodge a caveat on title restricting the possible sale of the land unless the incoming buyer agrees to be bound by these same documents. This will apply to even a succession planning transfer.

As it is likely that the developer will use the services of a top tier legal firm, a land owner will need to seek specific legal expertise (with no reflection in any way on smaller country legal firms) to ensure that the raft of documents entered into incorporate terms and conditions that protect the land owners interests. This will be a major battle, requiring a lot of money for this process.

Unfortunately, without collaboration with neighbours to present a united front, individual land owners will be at a huge disadvantage dealing with professional developers whose representatives do this for a living, employing

legal firms that already have standard documents that provide the Developer with all the protection he needs, with little protection that land owners need.

This process of binding the land owner with a confidentiality agreement allows the developer the freedom to "pick off" individual land holders, knowing that each land holder is unable to collaboratively negotiate. It leads to suspicion and division amongst friends and within a community.

We ask that the wind farm promoters drop the facade of hiding negotiations behind confidentiality agreements and allow open discussion with disclosure of proposed terms and conditions, rather than taking advantage of land owners who, individually, clearly can not compete on any level footing with multi billion dollar, frequently foreign corporations and their highly paid legal teams.

Remember, what you do as a land holder today with wind farm operators is multi generational. With a seven year option and 25 year lease, plus 30 year option agreements, together with registered leases and caveats on your titles, you will be stuck with what you sign for up to 62 years.

My message is **"DO NOT SIGN A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT!"**



Dear Editor

Alternative energy companies must follow the legislation, regulation and planning processes of the day. Our state government, in power for nearly a decade, legislated the current rules of the game. A major first world company has responded to those rules. It is not the cause of community concerns. Be clear about who is.

Vilifying individuals or groups outside of government will not see grievances addressed. Critically, in setting the rules our state government has failed to address community concerns.

Arguments if they are to be effective should be directed at our state government. Are people lining up to meet with their local member? A politician will always engage if they believe their richly remunerated career is at risk if they ignore a major community issue.

Our government has mismanaged this process by failing to engage effectively with community. Focus the campaign on it.

Susan Armstead, Kentucky

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Mayoral Column

Eric Noakes, Walcha Mayor

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

General Manager (GM)

Barry Omundson presented to Council his review of our organisational structure at last week's Council Meeting. After an election it is a legislative requirement for the GM to review the structure within 12 months. At the outset, Councillors and I are very happy with the new direction of Council under Barry's leadership. The new structure will see an improvement in service delivery and a reduction in costs. GM Barry's view, supported by Council, was that we were a little top heavy and not as effective in areas where we should be. Subsequently there have been three redundancies in the management area. Three positions that are no longer on the organisational chart and funded, saving conservatively over \$200,000. Council has gone from what was effectively a four directorate structure to just two directorates, reporting to the GM. This will provide a more strategic approach enabling long term visions to be realised, while less reactive responses operationally. A major change is in our planning and development area. The planning functions are now combined with the infrastructure functions enabling a more seamless response to an increasing development demand. Currently the planning

and development elements are contracted services on a 2-day a week basis, however the new planning services commencing shortly will be three days: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. These are the days you book in to see a planner, for example, if you want to build a shed, or an extension. Building inspections remain difficult to manage, with the resources available both internally and externally very limited, and the usual 48 hours notice will still be required. Please understand we are managing this function as best we can with what we have. This area is not about being able to afford the service delivery required, rather our ability to find the required resources to actually do the job. Financially it is not cost effective to have a five day week service in the planning and development area, however should the demand increase substantially then this would be reviewed. Other areas strengthened by the new structure include risk management, safety and infrastructure.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

This week will see our first workshop with Professor Drew who, with his team, is undertaking our Financial Sustainability Review, as previously mentioned. The changes to Council's structure will undoubtedly enhance services and reduce costs, however

that alone will not come close to balancing our books. Once Council has had the chance to digest Professors Drews work we will be out in the community next month to discuss with you what we have found and what we may need to do to ensure our financial sustainability. Rest assured, Council is taking measures to increase our efficiency and effectiveness while reducing costs where we can.

OFFICE CHANGES

Many of you have no doubt noticed the changes to the customer foyer and counter areas at Council, including the relocation of the Service NSW counter. Walcha Council received funding from the Department of Planning to create a planning space where customers are able to complete online Development Application lodgements with the NSW Planning Portal. This was an excellent opportunity to improve the customer service area and accessibility to the Service NSW counter, while creating an additional customer meeting area at Council. Service NSW have also generously provided funding for the relocation of the Service NSW counter with the project overall receiving 100% external funding. We strongly believe these changes will enhance your experience with us now and into the future and we look forward to seeing you at Council soon.

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Walcha Rugby League charity auction gives back

Earlier this year, on 23 July the Walcha Rugby League Club held their annual Ladies Charity Auction.

The Club was thrilled to raise over \$10,000 to support their chosen charities for 2022 – Walcha Support Group and the Starlight Children's Foundation.

The money was raised with a jersey auction after the Walcha/Uralla Jillaroos game against Inverell. On Tuesday last week, Club President Michael Aspinall presented Sue Reardon from Walcha Support Group with a cheque for \$4,900. The Starlight Foundation also received a cheque for the same amount from the Club.



Above: Sue Reardon of Walcha Support Group being presented a cheque from Michael Aspinall. Right: The Jillaroos Starlight jerseys that were auctioned after the game back in July.

- ✦ To Karen Bloomfield and her team for organising an amazing NAIDOC Ceremony and activities at Walcha Central School. It was a great way to celebrate achievement and share our indigenous cultures.
- ✦ To all the parents, family and community who participated in the WCS NAIDOC Ceremony.
- ✦ To 'Tiddalick' and all his animal friends – you were so brave up on the stage and should be very proud of your wonderful performance!
- ✦ To those who checked in with their friends for R U OK day and support each other, as 'it's OK to not be OK'.
- ✦ To Angus Scrivener's dedication to the Blue Tree Project.
- ✦ To Walcha Council employees for the wonderful and kind 'get well' wishes and beautiful flowers. Miss you.
- ✦ To Hannah Byrne for her amazing chainsaw skills when helping me remove a giant tree that fell over my gate.
- ✦ To the appalling state of Brackendale Road.
- ✦ To the person who 'Thumbs Downed' the wind project meeting at the Bowling Club. We were informed that a representative from Walcha Energy was invited, accepted, and then declined a day before the event. What was inaccurate about the information on the night? Perhaps you would be so kind as to enlighten us?
- ✦ To the division that the proposed Wind Farm development is having on our beautiful community. It will be hard to repair whether it goes ahead or not.

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.

Success for 'Wendy' at Rusty Iron Rally

John Donnelly and Laura Welsh headed to Macksville's annual Rusty Iron Rally on the weekend with their 1964 International AB130 Truck they call Wendy. An event that Laura and her dad Ken (who owns a third share in Wendy) have been attending for many a year, the rally showcases oil and steam engines, vintage tractors, cars, bikes and trucks, working machinery displays and tractor sled pulling, along with antique, collectable and art and craft stalls.

As members of the Oxley Riders in Walcha, the trio were able to enter 'the old girl' Wendy and were over the moon when she was named as Runner up for the Best 1300 Weight Truck.

Tony Donnelly also attended, entering his Massey Ferguson 168 multi-power – which is a very special piece of machinery in the Donnelly family. Despite what seemed like endless rain and pools of mud, Tony joined the parade between showers. All-in-all it was a great weekend with family and friends and some special memories were created. Here's to Wendy and her next adventure!



John Donnelly, Laura Welsh, her father Ken and their beloved Wendy

Visit the markets to get your garden started



With the weather warming up and the trees in springtime blossom, this Saturday 17 September, the Walcha Farmers' Market's new season commences! In celebration of spring, the market will have a focus on plants so that market-goers can get a fabulous start on preparing their gardens for the new growing season.

In addition to newcomers Rocking Horse Natives and local schoolgirl's Sienna's Seedlings, we will have more plants from Kate's Cacti and Succulents, Kentucky Tree Nursery, and Carinya North Nursery.

But it isn't all about plants! For a bit of furry and feathered fun for the kids, at 10:30am, there will be a Pet Parade. Children are encouraged to dress up their pets and bring them along to the

parade. Be as silly, fun and creative as you like. There will be prizes!

As well as the new plant stalls, Trish Beattie will bring her food van along with salads, toasties and drinks. Favourite local stalls Deano's Smoked Trout, Stamp Ahead, Moodee and Sass, Ivan Thomas Woodwork, Nan's Homestyle Condiments, and The Bush Patisserie also return for the new season. Howard, the Banjo Man, will be back to entertain us with his gentle voice and lively playing. Rotary will be again running their delicious barbecue, and the Walcha Farmers' Market Community Stall will be open for you to bring your made, baked or grown goods to sell.

Markets are from 8:30am until 12:30pm at McHattan Park, Walcha. Emerge from your winter slumber and celebrate the new season with us!

Junior Cricket Clinic now subsidised!

Walcha Senior Cricket in conjunction with Uralla Junior Cricket have kindly offered to subsidise the Junior Cricket Clinic to be held in the first week of the upcoming school holidays.

The prices have been reduced since initially advertised and updated on the link for booking. For those who have already registered prior to the subsidy, you will be contacted and reimbursed the difference.

New clinic prices are as follows:

9 – 14 Years	Two days now \$95 (reduced from \$165)	One day is now \$60
6 – 9 Years	Two days now \$60 (reduced from \$95)	One day now \$35

There are currently 30 spots available in the 9 – 14 years age group and 15 spots in the 6 – 9 years. Make sure you book in soon so you don't miss out.



Affordable venue and equipment ready for hire

An affordable venue, a fully upgraded kitchen and plenty of equipment available to hire and use off-site. Walcha's Multi-Purpose Community Centre is an ideal inexpensive venue for a big event. Situated on the grounds of Walcha Central School on North St with loads of parking available, sporting teams will also attest that when you need a wet-weather training venue for your team – it is a great option to keep training on, rain, hail or shine! If you are planning a function at your home or property and need extra tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery – our hospitality equipment is ready for you to come and hire. On page 6 you will find the price list which shows how affordable each of the hire options are.

Bookings can be made by contacting Walcha Central School on 6777 2777 or email walcha-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au during school terms, and Walcha Council 6774 2500 council@walcha.nsw.gov.au during school holidays. See ad on page 6.

The Brilliance of Brass

The 'Brilliance of Brass' is on again! This once a year event featuring the 'Gunnedah Shire Band' and the 'Tamworth RSL Brass Band' will be performing on Saturday 17 September, 7pm, at the Capitol Theatre in Tamworth.

Walcha's friendly delivery driver Nathan Stace from 'Stace's Fast Freight, can't recommend this musical treat highly enough. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that his mother plays the trumpet in the Tamworth RSL Brass Band. Regardless Nathan assures us that these bands are well worth a listen.

You can book on line at:
capitoltheatretamworth.com.au
Phone: 6767 5200

Spring INTO THE FARMERS' MARKET THIS SATURDAY

**KICK START THE SEASON
BY JOINING US FOR AN
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MUCH MORE!!!**



**Plus KIDS ...
BRING ALONG YOUR
FAVOURITE PET FOR
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NEW STALLHOLDERS WELCOME
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WALCHA COUNCIL SPRING HOLIDAY BREAK

Kids Games

Tues 27 - Fri 30th September 9.30am - 12.30pm



Egyptian Adventure

K - Yr 4
Walcha Anglican
Church Hall, South St

Walcha Jumanji Games

Yrs 5-10
Walcha Presbyterian
Church Hall, Hill St



Register via QR code

For more info call Ben 67772543 or Graham 67772539

Lego challenge

Walcha Library
Ages 8-11yrs
Tues 27th Sept
3-4pm

Stargazing

John Oxley Oval
All ages - parent
supervision please
Tues 27th Sept 7pm

Storyplate Art - \$15

Walcha Handmade
Ages 7+ Wed 28th Sept
2pm - 3pm

CNRL Robot Red Rover

Walcha Library
Ages 9+
Tues 4th Oct
2-3pm

Spring Storytime & Insect catcher craft

McHattan Park
All ages
Tues 4th Oct 10am

Mindful Munchkins Yoga & Meditation

Walcha Motel
Restaurant
Ages 5- 11
Thurs 6th Oct
11am - 1pm

Book your place 67742550 or library@walcha.nsw.gov.au



Bus trip excursions

For ages 12+



Scan QR code
to register

- Tamworth Escape Room**
Wednesday 28th Sept 12.30 - 5pm
- Kootingal Laser Tag**
Friday 30th Sept 12.30 - 5pm
- Armidale Sport & Rec and Cinema**
Friday 7th Oct 9am - 5pm

Free - limited places available

This program was supported by the Office for Regional Youth
Holiday Break program and NSW Government



Give meditation a chance



Sheetal Puri is offering a free trial Guided Meditation session once per month prior to enrolling in your journey to wellness.

"Meditation is not a kind of exercise in which you strive to be perfect, instead it is a way of being yourself and being consistent in your life", she said.

Sheetal has found meditation makes her feel grounded, be in the present moment and have a positive attitude. Her journey with meditation started nine years back, at a time when she was going through some challenges in her life. She opened up to a friend who is a Meditation Guide and now meditates every day.

Our lives often are on 'Auto Mode' and we forget to enjoy it instead of feeling burdened. Stress and tension regarding family, work, etc; all too often become the struggle of our lives and meditation will help our bodies to clear the mind, feel the lightness and be well.

She says to practice meditation you don't need to wear robes or chant. It's all about infusing MINDFULNESS in your mind and paying attention to your body and soul.

She invites you to come along on this Guided Meditation Journey with her and is offering:

FREE 45 minute session on

**Wednesday 28 September 11.00am or 5.30pm at the
Walcha Motel, 31w Fitzroy Street.**

There are limited places so please call **Sheetal on 0474 291 525** or email givemeditationachance@gmail.com to book your spot.

Give meditation a try and if it is for you, board and experience the JOURNEY TO MEDITATION with your guide Sheetal.

School Holiday activities are back!

The Walcha Council is organising a huge Spring Holiday Break Program for the upcoming September/October school holidays. There are a wide variety of activities planned and there's sure to be something for Walcha youth of all ages.

The biggest addition to the program will be three bus trip excursions available for those school students over 12 years. The excursions include Tamworth Escape Rooms, Kootingal Laser Tag, Armidale Sport and Rec Centre and the Cinema. These organised trips, under the supervision of Council staff, have been chosen in consultation with local young people. With no cost to the participants, these trips have been funded by the Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break program and the NSW Government.

The program will also consist of activities for younger children, including a new activity 'Stargazing' - where you can meet up at the oval to check out the stars with the help of Chris Wyatt and his telescope. 'Mindful Munchkins' is another fun, new activity designed specifically for younger children, where children will enjoy a meditation and yoga session.

Along with these new activities, the school holiday staples of a Lego Challenge, CNRL Robot workshop and Storytime will remain in the program. Council Librarian Cassie McKenna will be putting a different spin on Storytime these holidays - with the weather warming up, these will be held outside in McHattan Park and include Spring craft, building and decorating bug catchers.

The Council is also sponsoring the 'Storyplate Art' workshop at Walcha Handmade, while the 'Egyptian Adventure and Walcha Jumanji Games' run by the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches will be supported by Resilience NSW.

Limited places will be available in most activities, so bookings must be made online, using the QR codes provided in the program launched next week, or by calling the Walcha Library on 6774 2550.

Free art and photography workshops

walcha
handmade
community co-operative ltd

Make sure you don't miss out on attending one of the FREE workshops being held at Walcha Handmade.

Whether you enjoy photography or would like to hone your artistic skills, there is a work shop to suit you.

Watercolour with Michelle - for bookings call 0413 113 544

This weekend - Saturday 17 September
5 - 11 years of age 10.00am - 12.00pm
12 - 18 years of age 12.30 - 2.30pm

Photography with Tasha - for bookings call 0437 523 027

24 September 10 - 15 years of age 10.30am - 12.00pm
16+ years of age 1.00 - 2.30pm
8 October 10 - 15 years of age 10.30am - 12.00pm
16+ years of age 1.00 - 2.30pm

Acrylic with Sue - for bookings call 0429 135 831

1 October 18+ years of age from 1.00pm

These workshops are supported by the Country Arts Support Program, delivered by Arts North West and funded by Create NSW.

2022 Junior Indoor Hockey Presentation



Years 4 – 5 White Lightning won against Red Sharks. White Lightning – Coach Jodie Provost, Rachel Poflowski, Charlie McKern, Ethan Olrich, Lachie Provost, Olivia Hoy, Henry Blomfield. Red Sharks – Coach Kim Lisle, Mark Grayling, Grace Curtis, Nate Powell, Jack Lisle, Georgina Arundale-Fuller.

2022 Junior Hockey Players with their trophies and special awards



The 2022 Walcha Junior Indoor Hockey competition finished the season with the Grand Final games and presentations.

Some exciting hockey was played on the day with the first two games needing extra time and the third being decided in the last eight seconds. A special thanks to all the organisers, referees and helpers making for a great season of hockey. A big shout out to all the players.

Minor Premiers

Years 2 – 3 Blue Clouds
Years 4 – 5 White Lightning
Years 6 – 12 Green Snakes

Year 2 – 3 Individual Awards

Boy Emmett Powell
Girl Hannah Marchant
Encouragement Awards Thomas Lisle and Florence Davey
Most Consistent Awards Benji Provost and Josie Wauch
Highest Goal Scorers Katie Rizzi and Jess Patterson-Kane

Year 4 – 5 Individual Awards

Boy Tylar Foster-Wall
Girl Hannah Swain
Encouragement Awards Nate Powell and Ellie Hoy
Most Consistent Awards Angus Fletcher and Olivia Hoy
Highest Goal Scorers Annie Paterson-Kane and Ethan Olrich

Year 6 – 12 Individual Awards

Boy Jazz Hayton
Girl Bella Hayton
Encouragement Awards Logan Stace, Ella Lynch and Tahlia Bird
Most Consistent Awards Angus Scrivener and Charlotte Mooney
Highest Goal Scorers Hunter Scrivener and Cameron Mooney



Years 2 – 3 Blue Clouds won against White Milkos. White Milkos – coach Charlotte Mooney, Katie Rizzi, Ellody Hoy, Grace Fletcher, Lexi McKern, Tom Lisle, Kix Brown. Blue Clouds – Coach Stuart Lawrence, Jess Patterson-Kane, Rebee Wark, Emily Grayling, Claire Williams, Valerie Ham, Millie Laurie.



Years 6 – 12 Green Snakes won against Redbacks. Redbacks – James McLaren, Angus Scrivener, Cameron Mooney, Bella Hayton, Jasmine Lynch. Green Snakes – Ella Lynch, Olivia Brown, Logan Stace, Micah Hayton, Olivia McKenna, Hunter Scrivener, Koby Brennan.

What's the Goss

With A.J. CROSS



Congratulations to the New England Nomads on winning the AFL North West Premiership last Saturday at No 1 oval in Tamworth. The Nomads, including Walcha players Nicholas Buckland and Daniel Boyd, defeated minor premiers and firm favourites the Tamworth Swans 76 (11 goals, 10 behinds) to 70 (10 goals, 10 behinds) in an evenly matched grand final.

Left: Morgan Dunn (centre) congratulates Daniel Boyd and Nic Buckland on their North West Aussie Rules victory last Saturday.

...

The Nomads finished the regular season in fourth position on the point score ladder before rounding up the Tamworth Kangaroos 103 to 78 in the minor semi-final. They then snuck home 72 – 71 against Inverell Saints in the elimination final to qualify for the big dance.

...

Scores were locked up at 14 points at quarter time before the Swans, including Morgan Dunn who kicked a goal, lead 41 – 30 at the big break ahead of the Nomads holding a 62 – 69 advantage at three quarter time and then hung on for victory. Good on ya boys.

...

What a performance by Walcha Central School student Blaine Cooney when he won the discus and shot put at the North West Athletics Carnival in Tamworth recently. A total of 14 Walcha Central athletes competed and according to organiser Sonia Ussher, all displayed great sportsmanship, skill and resilience in their events. Blaine will now represent North West at the State Titles in Sydney in October. Well done to all 14 competitors.

...

Gee didn't I cop some from a few family members when my niece Audi Dunn was listed in the Newie Footy Tipping Big Wigs of the week as Audie last week. Luckily I still had my original 'Whats the Goss' copy sent to the Apsley Advocate which proved I spelt Audi correctly. Sometime 'spellcheck' works in your favour and sometimes it doesn't.

...

During recent times there has been a sandwich board on the footpath outside our house advertising Roof Painting Plus – Tile and Colorbond restorations prompting more than one person to ask if I was taking on a new business. Be rest assured that won't be happening – wearing two pairs of socks and I'm too far off the ground.

...

A few days ago a pleasant middle aged bloke Stewart Gervaise and his son Stu Junior turned up at home asking if they could paint our roof for a very reasonable price. Linda and myself are very happy with the job the boys did, but the proof will be in the pudding when we see how long the paint job is effective for. Put it this way, it was a lot cheaper than replacing the roof which was what we were thinking about doing. Since the job was completed the sandwich board has turned up a few other residences around town.

Annabelle competes at Polding

Congratulations to St Patrick's School student Annabelle Patterson-Kane for her recent athletics success.

On Tuesday 23 August, Annabelle competed at diocesan athletics carnival in Tamworth, where she was the only representative for St Patrick's School in the 11 Years Girl's section. Competing in the middle distance running event, the 800m, Annie led for nearly the entire race, only to be pipped on the finish line. Finishing second, Annie gained selection in the Armidale Diocesan Squad for the Polding Athletics Championships.

On Friday 9 September, Annie headed to Newcastle and attended the Polding Championships held at the Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale. Annie ran a fantastic race in a field of twelve very competitive runners. Annie placed sixth and was very proud to run a personal best of 2:52 minutes. Well done Annie.



...

The Walcha Golf Club will be the place to be on Saturday 8 October when the Vicki Szpitalak Memorial Golf Day is being held. Registrations will be taken from 9.30am for a 10.00am shotgun start to the Three Person Ambrose event. A sausage sizzle will be on offer for lunch with nibbles available afterwards. Come on grab a couple of mates, male or female, for a fun day out.

...

The annual NSW Veteran Men's 4BBB State Sand Green Championships will be played in Narromine this coming weekend where a number of players will be representing Walcha. Nominations have been taken from Hay, Woolongong, Manilla, Uralla, Trangie, Nyngan, Orange, Wellington and Warren, with reigning champions Richard McLean and Peter Hutchinson from Cobar out to defend their title. Best of luck to our boys, who no doubt will adhere to 'Moderation is the Key'.

...

What a remarkable life lived by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. You must have been living under a rock if you aren't aware the Queen died last week after reigning for 70 years. 'God Save the King' will certainly get a bit of getting used to now King Charles III has taken over as 'Royal Ruler'. May Queen Elizabeth II Rest in Peace.



Tennis

Round 2 of the 2022 Spring Eskimo Comp was played out on Tuesday 6 September in chilly conditions with 24 players competing. Top scorers on the night with 18 points were Emma Waugh, Pip Palmer, Matt Palmer, Nick Buckland and Dennis Wall. Thanks as always to our floaters who keep the comp on track. Good luck to all players next week.

Bowls

Results of this weekend pennants. **Saturday** Walcha won against Glen Innes 8-2, 56-52. **Sunday** Walcha lost against Uralla 8-2, 58-54. Teams will be worked out by mid week and players notified by phone call or text.

Dads Army: Eight players were present on Thursday afternoon for Dads Army. Two games of pairs were played where Eric O'Keefe and John Watts defeated Noel Goodwin and Warwick Hogan 15 - 11 and Mick Bullen and Mark Hogan had a big win over Peter Hayes and John McCormack.

Mick and Mark won the chooks and Max Holstein won the raffle.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday and Friday we were hosts to the District Senior Pairs with Walcha represented by two teams of Jan and Veronica and Janice and Esther but were unfortunately knocked out in the first round. The winners were H. Alexander and M. South (Armidale City) who defeated J. Bray and P. Dade (Uralla) in the Final. The Walcha Lady Bowlers would like to thank Tony and

Noel for preparing the rinks on both days. Also, the playing bowlers would like to thank Phyllis and helpers for a lovely morning tea and lunch. It was greatly appreciated by all including the officials.

This Thursday there is social Bowls followed by our Monthly Meeting at 1pm.

At the 19th

The second and concluding round of the 2022 4BBB Championships was played last Sunday where David Sweeney and Lee Fletcher finished clear winners in the scratch division after they carded a 76 off the stick to go with their first round 75 giving them a total of 151. Runners-up were reigning champions Miles Archdale and Willy Brennan on 157 (77, 80) while day light was third.

Nett champions are Drew Bird and Michael Stackman after they compiled 78 stableford points (35, 43) over the two rounds a couple of points clear of Don Brooks and Barry Hoad on 76 points (37, 39). The scratch winners did have the best nett score of 81 (39, 42) but players are only eligible for one major trophy event.

Last Sunday Peter Norbury and Tony Asmus donated trophies for the daily event which was won by Kyle Goodwin and Deon Lawrence after they racked up an impressive 45 points. Sweepstakes went to Drew Bird and Michael Stackman 43, Lee Fletcher and David Sweeney, D.A. Locke and Jock McLaren, Margaret Davidson and Jenny Lisle all on 42 points. NTP on 3 to Michael Stackman.

Last Saturday John McCormack compiled 17 points to win the weekly 9 hole competition but had to survive a countback with Matthew Palmer before doing so.

Ladies winner was Sue Partridge on 11 points, runner-up was her sister Pauline Carter on 9 points whereas NTP on

3 went to John McCormack.

Last week four players travelled to Dorrig to compete in a Vets event where Neil Dark registered the best Walcha score 33 stableford points ahead of Wayne Brennan 30, Peter Norbury and Col Berry both on 29.

Best of luck to the golfers who are representing Walcha at the annual Men's 4BBB State Championships this weekend at Narromine.

Here on the homefront a stableford round is on offer for a prize supplied by Alex Gill.

A reminder about the Vicki Szpitalak Memorial Golf Day scheduled for Saturday 8 October. The event is a 3 person ambrase, 9:30am registrations for a 10am start. Grab a couple of mates and come for a fun day out.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday's golf was a stroke round, with putting, monthly mug, and the Golden Jubilee 5th Medal round, playing for the Presidents trophy.

Congratulations to the winner, Lorraine Walshe who came home with a sizzling score of 67 nett.

Sue Partridge was the first sweepstakes winner with a 72 nett, and second sweepstakes went to Julie Hoad also with a 72 nett.

Lorraine Walshe was the putting winner with an outstanding 21 putts. Julie Olrich took out NTP on the third hole and no-one reached the sand on Hole 16.

The monthly mug winners were Margaret Davidson, A Grade - 75 nett, Lorraine Walshe, B Grade - 67 nett, and Kerrie Hollis, C Grade - 75 nett.

A 9am start is on the cards for today's play which is the rescheduled 27 Hole Foursomes Championships - Elders donating the trophy.



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AIN/Cert 3 Care Workers full time, part time and casual

Immunisation requirements: you must have had both Covid shots plus a booster and the flu shot in order to work in an aged care facility.

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Employment with Presbyterian Aged Care is subject to satisfactory background checks which include a National Police Check and reference checks. To be successful in these roles you must hold valid working rights in Australia.

If you are interested in applying for these positions, please contact Julie Blake (Facility Manager) or speak to our office staff for a full job description.

Phone: 02 6777 4400

Email: jblake@pcnsw.org.au

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

Work Wanted

Farm Work/Metal Fabrication 16 yo male finishing Year 10 at the end of 2022 looking for farm work and or work in metal fabrication. Please phone Stuart on 0429 142 649.

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 0429 668 583

Memorial Services

GEGIER: Philip Raymond
A memorial service of thanksgiving for Philip will be held on Friday 23rd September at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Walcha commencing at 11.00am.

HARRIS: Maxwell Vernon

8th September 2022
of Walcha, formerly of Tumut.
Loving father of Linda (Dar), Alison, Graham, David, Clare and loved father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather of their families.

Aged 95 Years

Privately Cremated
A Memorial Service will be held at the Walcha Men's Shed on Saturday 17th September 2022 commencing at 12:00pm.

Piddington's AFDA 6772 2288

In Memoriam

Kemp James Haines

11/3/1972 to 16/9/2010

Love always mum, Kim, Ron, Simone and Natasha.

For Sale

Rennai Gas Heater – Avenger. Still has 12 months warranty, \$1,100. Phone 0427 099 934.

Thank you

THE FAMILY OF CLAIRE BRAZEL

Would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Riverview Aged Care for your care and support of Claire in her time with you, and the kindness and compassion shown to all her family. As Patron of Riverview Claire experienced first hand just how wonderful and caring all the staff are and often commented how fortunate we are to have such an amazing facility in Walcha.

Our sincere thanks extend also to Dr Deng and the wonderful caring staff at Walcha Hospital. Your thoughtfulness, care and compassion toward Claire and her family at this difficult time was so much appreciated.

The family would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the kind people who have expressed their sympathy and condolences on the passing of Claire.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

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Walcha Historical Society Street Stall – Petrol voucher to Fay Lawlor, fish voucher Chris Hamel, meat voucher Burgh Blomfield, portable gas stove Jason Marchant and men's gift pack Peter Sendall.

Meetings

Walcha Flippers Swimming Club AGM Wednesday 21 September, 5.00pm at the Walcha Bowling Club. All welcome. New members encouraged.

Walcha Show Society AGM will be held on Wednesday 21 September at 7.00pm at the Walcha Sports Club. General Committee meeting to follow. Enquiries to Dale Webber, Secretary 6777 8191

Walcha Indoor Hockey Association wishes to advise that its Senior Hockey AGM will be held on Monday 26 September at the Apsley Hotel from 6.00pm. We would love to see some new faces. All are welcome. Team nominations to Jordie 0427 727 990 or Peta 0407 350 781 before Monday 26 September.

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Earthmoving and Heavy Haulage Transport
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 www.marchantbros.com.au

WALCHA **BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB**

2022/23
 Membership
 now due

Wednesday 14 Open 4pm

Thursday 15 Open 12pm

9.00am
 1.00pm Social Bowls – all welcome
 1.00pm Ladies bowls meeting

Friday 16 Open 2pm

9.00am
 2.00pm BINGO
 6.00pm Bistro
 • Homemade Lasagne
 • Crumbed Whiting Fillets
 • Surf & Chirp
 8.00pm Fruit & Veg raffles
 followed by Members Draw

Saturday 17 Open 11am
 6.00pm Bistro

Sunday 18 Open 11am
 12.00pm Bistro open
 1.00pm Meat, fruit & veg raffles

**AGM
 THIS SUNDAY
 10AM 18TH SEPTEMBER**

MEMBERS DRAW
\$150
 YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR
 2021/2022 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

TOM'S COCKTAIL OF
 THE WEEK

Mystery



Monday to Wednesday 4.00pm to close
 Thursday 12 midday to close
 Friday 2.00pm to close
 Saturday and Sunday 11am to close
Phone 6777 2077

Do you live in Walcha Shire?
 If so you **MUST** be a member
 to enter the Club.
 Social Membership \$15
 Full Membership \$105

FOR ALL YOUR EARTHWORKS TRANSPORT AND ELECTRICAL NEEDS



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