

# THE APSLEY Advocate

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22 February 2023

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## Water security for Walcha now only months away



A water security revolution in Walcha is taking shape on a quiet bend of the MacDonald River, with work on the new \$11 million Walcha Off Stream Storage facility on track for completion by the middle of the year.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall was last week joined by Deputy Premier Paul Toole and Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes to inspect progress on the 320 megalitre water project.

The project, which kicked off in October last year, is a joint initiative between the Australian and NSW Governments, with the federal funding portion of \$2 million delivered from the National Water Grid Fund Connections Pathway and the State committing \$9 million from the Safe and Secure Water Program.

"This new storage will quadruple Walcha's river storage capacity, not only building an almost two-year water supply buffer against drought, but it will enable to the community to grow and I commend Walcha Council for moving quickly to have this major project constructed.

"The dam itself is almost complete, with the spillway now under construction ahead of the installation of

all the new pump and pipeline infrastructure in the coming months.

"Everything is on track for council to begin filling the dam, pumping out of the MacDonald River, by the middle of this year.

"This project is the great legacy of that worst drought on record and will ensure that the community can withstand whatever mother nature throws at it in the future."

Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes said the project was one of the most important water infrastructure projects in the region's history and would go a long way towards creating a stronger, more resilient community.

"The new storage dam has been the number one priority for Walcha Council because 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," Cr Noakes said.

"This project has also been a major win for Walcha's economy because projects of this size create jobs and put more money in the till for local businesses."

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## around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Summer was well and truly out in force on the weekend with the thermometer rising into the thirties on Saturday and low forties out on the plains. The heat was enough to brew up a pretty wild storm on Saturday night that dropped anywhere from 20-40mm over some parts of the district. The last week of summer looks to be more than comfortable with our next best chance of rain at the beginning of March. Yes, summer is all but over and we are a mere 6-8 weeks off getting cool.

It's a busy time of year for many producers as the days are becoming shorter and the preparation for winter is well and truly underway. Driving around the district I've have seen alot of tractors and planters sowing crop for the winter months, the weaning of calves has commenced and the pre-testing of females have been booked. The majority of lambs have been weaned and the joining of ewes is just around the corner as everyone ponders if they will have enough feed for winter. No doubt enquires have commenced for hay and grain to supplement the livestock through the harshest parts of winter as we all know how long it can be.

I also wanted to touch on just how bad our phone service still remains to be. I'm gathering I'm not the only one who has a phone that drops out while on a call in town and whose voice messages come through randomly. The phone coverage throughout our district is still terrible and also worrying as the 3G network is set to be shut down in the June of 2024. I hope it will be better with 5G, but alot of people who need cell-fi and boosters in their vehicles and houses to get service all run on 3G as it has a better connection. They have thrown alot of money at a cable that went into the ground and I'm still trying to see the reason why when all the emphasis has moved to more mobile technology and using our phones, ipads and even streaming services. We used to be able to get free to air TV at home, like all the channels and now we struggle to get NBN. Will free to air TV still exist in 10 years or will we be paying for these channels through streaming services?

The EYCI today sits around 750c/kg when compared to 12 months ago, a whopping 1125c/kg, no wonder producers are left scratching their heads. Many weaner producers who are gearing up for the annual sale of their weaners would no doubt be pondering these figures, a price difference of around \$500/hd. That price difference over the entire drop of weaners adds up to a lot of money that won't be available to be spent on improvements or down payments on loans. Tamworth conducted its first of three major weaner sales last Friday with weaner heifers selling from \$950-1250 and steers \$1300-\$1550 depending on breed and quality. Over the hook prices have also followed the same trend, heavy MSA cattle are now around 700c/kg compared to 850c/kg while cows fell from 720c/kg to 550c/kg.

Over the hook lamb prices have remained the firmest over the 12 month period quoted at being 775c/kg 12 months ago to 690c/kg today. Interesting part regarding this figure is that 780c/kg is available for kill lambs at this very moment which I'm guessing was actually higher than this time last year. Mutton has dropped from 530c/kg to 305c/kg carcass weight which is hard to believe mutton was well over 700c/kg 2 years ago.

The first ever Walcha Truck and Machinery Show was held over the weekend and by the sounds of it they had an extremely successful event. It was great to see some real history on display with those old tractors, trucks and motors all still in working order. Amazing how far technology has come, but always great to revisit the past. Well done and I look forward to seeing this event become an annual event for the town.



# New look Golf Clubhouse by the end of the year

Walcha Golf Club last week obtained a monster \$161,305 funding putt, courtesy of the State Government, for the refurbishment and upgrade of its clubhouse. Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall announced.

Adam Marshall was joined by Deputy Premier Paul Toole at the club to deliver the good news and said the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund grant was an exciting win for the 86-year-old Walcha Golf Clubhouse.

"The renovations will provide the Walcha community with a modern and vibrant building that will be used regularly by golfers and also to host many community functions," he said.

"This is a great win for the community of Walcha and everyone who uses these facilities.

"A project on this scale is simply beyond the financial means of a volunteer-run club, so I'm delighted this funding has been secured and I congratulate the club."

Walcha Golf Club President Allan Green said the club was delighted to receive the funding and thanked the State Government for the opportunity to apply for it.



*Walcha Golf Club members Margaret Davidson, Gerry Moran, Allan Green and Jenny Lisle with Deputy Premier Paul Toole and Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall in front of the soon to be renovated Walcha Golf Clubhouse*

"This grant will be used to modernise and restore the ageing building," Allan said.

"It will include the replacement of windows, external cladding with colorbond, upgraded heating, renovation to the women's and men's bathrooms, installing a disability toilet and the installation of a disability ramp.

"The upgrade of our Clubhouse will provide an appropriate physical facility to service the needs of the golfing community within Walcha and surrounding district.

"It will also cater for visitors' needs when tournaments and functions are held at the Club.

"Small clubs such as ours cannot

survive without these grants being available.

"Our Club is mostly run by volunteers and as experienced by the last few years with drought, fires, mice and then COVID.

"It has proved its worth in boosting the wellbeing and mental stability of our community members."

The Club has a builder ready to start the refurbishment, alongside local contractors, and hopes to have the project completed by October this year.

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# Changes to cooking section at Walcha Show

It will not be long now before the cake tins come out again for Walcha Show cooking section on 10-11 March, so pick up a Show Schedule or check online for what category you would like to enter into. Remember, the entries need to be at the pavilion by 10.30am on 9 March and judged at 11am. No late entries accepted.

**Please note:** There was a misprint in the Show Schedule booklet in the Junior – High School section. Feature Kit Kat Slice, eliminate "3 eggs" from the ingredients for the base. It should read 3 x 90g Kit Kat bars, crushed and 50g (2oz) melted butter.

We have altered the Cooking section once again this year so read the schedule carefully before baking and don't forget to bring in your entry form for clarification if necessary.

It is a busy time for the Stewardess's, be patient and wait so you can take your containers home with you as we do not have storage space.

## Handy hints

1. Use the recipe specified for each section as that makes the competition equal.
  2. No cut cake will be accepted.
  3. If it's not in the schedule please don't to bring it in.
  4. Have a deep container so your icing does not stick to the lid.
  5. Advise the Stewardess if you do not want your cooking back on Saturday.
- Encourage your Children to participate
  - If any person needs advice we are happy to help.
  - Your cooking will be marked off before being collected on Saturday evening.
  - The Pavilion will close at 5pm Saturday for unpacking displays and will re-open at 5.30 for collection.
  - Please make every effort to pick up your cooking by 6pm.

**Vic McIvor, Chief Stewardess.**  
**0427 772 950**

# AWI Shearing Update

Australian Wool Innovation's Chairman Jack Laurie says extensive work continues to tackle the challenge around shearing. "Shearing is the number one issue facing many growers and AWI is doubling down on efforts to tackle the problem.

We are doing this through helping roll out modular race delivery systems, increasing training and retention programs for shearers, investigating robotics and working on improving biological fleecing.

The beauty of the modular race delivery system is taking out some of shearing's most physically demanding task – the catch and drag.

As sheep have got bigger that is additional stress on the shearers' body, the modular system removes that.

AWI is working with six engineering companies to take the AWI led design and make them commercially available to growers around Australia.

Interested growers are either looking to retrofit or construct a new shed incorporating the system to reduce costs in upgrading, utilising or replacing older infrastructure".

AWI applied for and received a grant of \$45,000 from the WA Government to further develop the Race Delivery System with a manufacturer in Western Australia. With matching funding from AWI, this will bring the total investment to \$90,000 in 2023. The funding is now being used to engage with RW Engineering and developments are underway to innovate the design and uptake of the Race Delivery System.



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# Rotary Youth in Agriculture (RYAG)

The Walcha Rotary Club is set to welcome more than 30 agriculture students studying in Years 9 to 11 across northern NSW to an exciting RYAG camp. The camp will provide students the opportunity to discover a wealth of information about the modern wool industry and sheep meat industry, potentially guiding career decisions.

The 4 day camp begins on Tuesday 28 February. Rotarians and friends of Rotary will be kept busy with supervision and preparing delicious food to satisfy hungry teenagers. Students will camp dormitory-style at the Walcha Showground and travel to farms where they will get hands-on experience under the guidance of experts in numerous fields, all of whom are generously donating their time.

The packed program includes ram judging, wool classing, fibre testing, genetics, butchering, livestock transport, shearing, embryo transfer, pastures, micro-organism analysis, working with sheep dogs, technology in farm management, low stress stock handling and much more.

The camp culminates on Friday 3 March with a Gala Dinner at the Walcha Golf Club, including a wool fashion parade with students strutting the catwalk.

Walcha Rotary Club extends its grateful thanks to the many generous sponsors and expert presenters who make this event possible.



Achieve the best outcome for your investment and retirement goals. Contact our highly qualified and professional financial adviser today.

**Greig Meyer** is a Certified Financial Planner and principal of PKF Wealth based in Tamworth and Walcha. For more information or to make an appointment contact one of our friendly staff now.

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Greig Meyer is an Authorised Representative of PKF Wealth TMW Pty Ltd

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# A dream came true

## Grand opening of Walcha Men's Shed this Friday



For years local man Bruce Hunt wished to have a Men's Shed. In conversation with Sue Reardon he mentioned this dream, she suggested John Walker could be interested also.

Bruce and John decided at a HACC meeting to ask the question, 'Who would be interested?' A great idea, a great response.

Shortly after a committee comprising of Reg Farrell President, Ron Denham Secretary and Bruce Hunt Shed Manager attended a seminar in Newcastle to gain knowledge to start the shed in Walcha.

Armed with loads of knowledge they launched into action.

Finding a venue proved to be troublesome until the late Gary Smith suggested Amaroo Shed, previously used by the County Council. After lots of planning and hard work the Men's Shed became a reality.

Many years of great mateship and fun followed, also the fine products which have been produced.

Then came the predicament of needing a new site. After much hard work the new building is up and running. It is a great credit to all involved in this huge task, a great asset for many years to come.

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16 months old, September shorn, NSM, Yalgoo blood

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### **300 Dorper Ewe Lambs**

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Michael Spencer  
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# Brad joins the Adcock team



*Nick Hall welcomes Brad Hine to Adcock Partners*

After a career spanning 30 years at the CSIRO in Armidale, Brad Hine has just joined Nick Hall and the Adcock Partners Property and Livestock team. "Following 30 years in livestock research I recently decided it was time for a career change and have been fortunate to be offered the chance to join Adcock Partners working under the expert guidance of Nick Hall," Brad said.

Brad is passionate about the livestock industry and is looking forward to working with local producers to facilitate their livestock selling and purchasing needs. "I will also be available to provide advice on any animal health matters," he said.

Brad lives in Kentucky on a small farm with his wife Amy, daughter Eliza and son Harrison. "Our eldest daughter Isabel is currently living and working in Armidale," Brad commented.

A New Englander through and through, Brad was born in Armidale and has lived in the area for most of his life. "Following my schooling in Armidale I commenced working at CSIRO near Uralla as a trainee technician in 1993. While working as a technician at CSIRO, I completed a Bachelor of Technology in 2001, followed by a Bachelor of Science with Honours in 2003 and a PhD in Immunology in 2008 at UNE."

After completing his PhD Brad worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Canada and then at AgResearch in Hamilton, New Zealand before returning to CSIRO in Armidale in 2012 where he continued to work in the livestock industries as a Research Scientist with a focus on animal health.

Brad can be contacted on 0434 257 198 or [bhine@adcockpartners.com.au](mailto:bhine@adcockpartners.com.au) to discuss your livestock and animal health requirements.

## Handicrafts



Once again it is time to showcase the wonderful talent we have in the Walcha District. Some changes have been made to the classes, so please read the schedule carefully.

- For any pictures that need to be hung, please make sure there are suitable hooks attached.
- All building blocks are to be SMALLER than 40cm x40cm and on a firm base.
- Entries will be accepted on Wednesday 8 March between 2.00pm and 4.30pm and on Thursday morning 9 March until 10.30am.
- Late entries will not be judged.

For all enquiries please contact to Helen Mansfield on 6777 3916 or Jenny Hoy 0427 367 711.



# Generous donations from Photography Club

Walcha Photography Club has donated \$2000 to our local community, presenting \$500 each to the Friends of Riverview, Walcha Support Group, Walcha Men's Shed and the Walcha Neighbourhood Centre.

The photography Club members are very proud to have donated over \$6000 to the community over recent years. The money has chiefly been from the sale of their beautiful calendars, of which the members contribute photos for each year.

The club executive Sue Harrison – President/Secretary and Shelley Marchant – Treasurer, conduct very informative meetings, with the club organising many interesting and social photography days around the Walcha district and nearby towns.

Sue is also Chief Steward for the Photography Section at Walcha Show and combines with club members to make a spectacular display of photos each year.

The club is always keen to include new membership and along with Sue and Shelley, dedicated members Mary Brearley and Christine Ozinga are great contacts for anyone interested in joining the Walcha Photography Club.



thumbs



- 👉 To the organisers of the Truck and Machinery Show. What a great attraction for our town.
- 👉 Thank you to everyone who sent photos to the Advocate from the weekend's Truck and Machinery Show ... we have been inundated! Unfortunately we could only use a small selection.
- 👉 To the ETE (Notley) trucks for slowing down to reduce dust as they pass my house. Very much appreciated.
- 👉 To Jonathan Cross for his care when I needed assistance with my grandchild who was stuck on top of the play equipment in McHattan Park.
- 👉 To the Lions Club for their thoughtfulness and work ethic at a recent town event. It was an absolute pleasure to have you there.

**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.**

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# Let's make a bit of noise about *noise* ..

The first thing to concede is, the Voice for Walcha (VfW), doesn't have a enough answers to the complex question of turbine noise and how it will impact on your life. Not at this point in time, but rest assured we are working towards clarity. We have justifiably challenged Vestas's EIS regarding their noise assessment and potential impacts. We feel that their noise assessments methodologies and conclusions are inaccurate and are to the detriment of community members in the development footprint. We do so, mindful that non-compliant noise from wind turbines remains of paramount health concern for the community. The history of wind farm development confirms it is pervasive in terms of its unfortunate ability to drive residents out of their comfort of their homes and their communities of choice. We of course acknowledge that Vestas has legitimately a right of reply to our submissions and so the onus is on them to refute our submitted concerns.

We do say this, there is little point in building the project, installing the 119 wind turbines to find out the project and/or at least the existing turbine configuration is **non-compliant in regards to noise pollution**. We say the Community needs to be further informed about this crucial issue. So, whilst we await Vestas's response, we urge the Community to continue their inquiry as to what the accuracy of the EIS predictions might mean for their impacted residences. We outline some conclusions hereunder.

## Background

The Voice for Walcha – has made a detailed submission to the Project EIS outlining its concerns on the excessive environmental impacts of the Winterbourne Wind Project. This submission can be viewed online at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects-Winterbourne-Wind> (DPIE Portal). Vestas's Noise Assessment was undertaken by Sonus – this Assessment Report is also included in the Winterbourne EIS at the DPIE Portal. This Assessment references as **Noise Sensitive locations 170 Non Associated Dwellings locations and 51 Involved Dwelling locations**. The latter, Involved Dwellings being those which have a commercial or pecuniary arrangements with the Developer. The Winterbourne EIS confidently concluded that based on predictions from the Sonus Assessment the noise criteria for non-associated dwellings will be compliant. **The VfW doesn't buy this conclusion**. We believe that a more robust application of the Noise Guidelines will reveal **non-compliance across the Project footprint**. Secondly, we also don't buy the conclusion that Host, or Associated Landowners, are excluded from the Bulletin's compliance. We look forward to Vestas's response to this VfW conclusion and to the findings of the commissioned Peer Review.

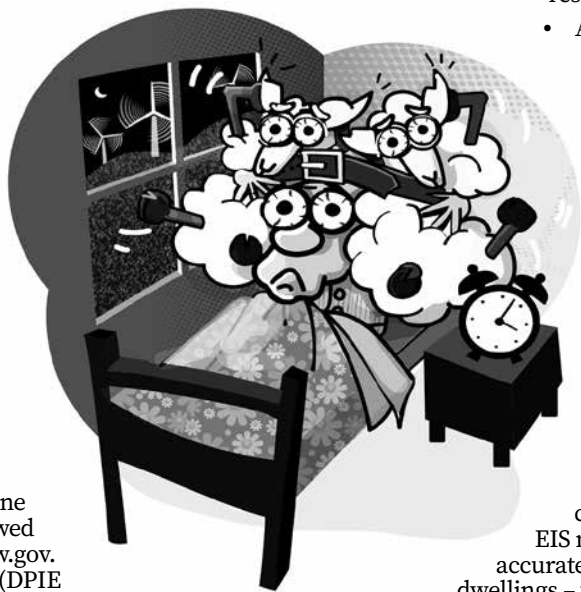
## The EIS Assessment

As to compliance, the EIS Assessment is conducted against the NSW Government's – *Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin* (Bulletin). It provides for the full adoption for the SA Environment Protection Authority *Environmental Noise Guidelines* (SA 2009). These Guidelines specify that predicted equivalent noise level should not exceed **35dB(A)** or the background noise by more than **5dB(A)** - whichever is the greater, at all relevant receivers for wind speeds from cut - in to rated power of wind. Receivers being dwellings in the Project footprint.

The Vestas EIS's Appendix H includes the full Sonus Assessment Report. On behalf of the Community, VfW took the prudent opportunity to secure a **Peer Review** of the Vestas/Sonus assessment report. **This Peer Review is at Annexure A -Part G Response to Health Impact of the VfW Submission**. Acoustic Engineering is complex in its technicality however it is

important that we detail the main conclusions and how this might assist the Community shine a little more light on the EIS's accuracy - whilst we await Vestas's considered response. So, what makes VfW sleep with one eye open on Vestas/Sonus Noise Assessment some key points are as follows:

- If the Peer Review's analysis is validated then Vestas/Sonus's noise assessment **has significantly underestimated the noise impact in the community by at least 14dB**. Given the predictions on offer in the EIS, including a number of dwellings already with marginal predictions, **it is highly likely that many dwellings will be non-compliant ie experiencing noise levels greater than 35dB or background noise plus 5dB**. This presents Vestas and many Hosts landowners with a problem which can only be addressed by a significant reconfiguration of the turbine layout.
- The crux of the VfW's concern is Vestas/Sonus has seemingly created **EIS convenient data interpretation** which increases the ceiling limitation for background noise, and which conversely induces lower noise prediction for respective residences.
  - As we have found in reviewing Vestas's EIS approach is it's unfortunately short on sufficient detail enough to make full sense on impacts. The Noise Assessment is consistent with other reports in the Winterbourne EIS, that is, the noise assessment presents as a scoping study. The Developer has presented an unfinished EIS. This makes assessment challenging and is procedurally unfair to the Community. By way of example as alluded to the Sonus Assessment at section 11 there is little point in putting the Community through an EIS if pre-construction noise assessment results in further contemplation of turbine selection. The EIS must include technical studies and accurate noise assessment for relevant dwellings – turbine layouts etc. In this regard the EIS is deficient as it did not consider different turbine layouts as required by the Guidelines. **These are all critical issues that can't be considered by the Community after the EIS.**
- Essentially Vestas were required to follow the Bulletin to its key requisites of accuracy and conservatism in their assessments and these were in short supply in the Noise Assessment. VfW relies on **all the conclusions offered in the Peer Review**. Some examples are:
  - Vestas/Sonus conducted background noise motoring at 7 dwellings across the project site. These were conducted from 28 November 2021 to 1 February 2022. This assessment was undertaken in summer months when background noise is elevated and should have been conducted in winter months when there is minimal background noise.
  - Vestas/Sonus offered no consideration of the proximity of 'side effects' in their assessments. Side effects being topography and other turbines etc.
  - Vestas/Sonus avoided strict application of the CONCAWE model as required by the Guidelines. This artificially elevated background data.
  - Vestas/Sonus failed to justify in the EIS the location of the met masks and their correlation to background data analysis.
  - Failure to ensure background measuring equipment was deployed in keeping with the accuracy requirements of the Guidelines.



**The VfW would like to offer a drop-in opportunity for the community to attend a Noise Workshop on 1 March, 5 - 7pm upstairs at Walcha Vet Supplies. This will allow the Community to understand both the predictions offered by the EIS and an understanding of the concerns raised by VfW from a dwelling by dwelling perspective. Hosts are welcome.**

Voice for  
Walcha



# 'BONA VISTA'

92 Oxley Drive, Walcha NSW 2354



**An amazing property just 2km drive to Walcha**

**Approx 80.9 ha / 200ac**

- Energy efficient design, generous living and entertaining space and sealed road access to home
- This is very attractive basalt country rising from alluvial river flats to low hills
- Excellent fertiliser history with well established, highly productive perennial pastures
- Water security is a feature with reticulated bore water, huge rainwater catchment and storage space, Apsley River frontage and dams
- Other improvements include a large six bay machinery shed, two bay hayshed, fully enc. barn style shed, a very quaint timber slab hut for picnics and entertaining, cattle yards and more
- Multiple titles and huge potential for future subdivision

*Beautiful  
four bedroom,  
architecturally  
designed home,  
with far too many  
features to list*

**Expressions of interest close 2pm 30 March 2023**  
Inspection strictly by appointment only with selling agents

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**Bruce Rutherford 0428 660 328**

Nutrien Boulton's – 3N Derby Street Walcha. Office 02 6777 2044

[www.nutrienharcourts.com.au](http://www.nutrienharcourts.com.au)

# 'CALALA'

15240 OXLEY HIGHWAY, WALCHA NSW 2354

**An outstanding property from so many perspectives**

## Approx 623.8 ha / 1541.4ac

**Outstanding location just 10km east of Walcha with highway frontage**

- This is very attractive basalt and trap country rising from alluvial black flats to low hills
- Excellent fertiliser history with well established, highly productive perennial pastures
- Water security is a feature with reticulated water, dams, creek, bore and Apsley River frontage
- Other improvements include a machinery shed, huge hayshed, three stand shearing shed, sheep yards, three x cattle yards and so much more
- Significant investment in fencing and working infrastructure has produced outstanding results
- Attractive three bedroom home with two bathrooms, office and open plan living area, fully renovated
- Two road frontages, double frontage to the river and excellent laneway access around the property

For sale by  
**AUCTION**  
11.00am 30 March  
at Walcha Vet  
Supplies



**For Sale by Auction**

**11.00am 30 March at Walcha Vet Supplies**

**Inspections strictly by appointment only with selling agents**

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# Trucks and machines as far as the eye could see!



The first Walcha Truck and Machinery Show roared into life Saturday morning with a tour of Walcha leaving the showgrounds and winding up the road to the Lions Park. The street parade was led by a steam traction engine from Armidale, followed by trucks, wheel tractors, cars, motorcycles and push bikes, all ranging in ages up to 100 plus years.

Inside the grounds there were hundreds of running stationary engines on display, including steam, oil, kerosene and petrol powered. Inside the ring was an array of wheel tractors, trucks and crawlers, some fully restored while others were in running original condition.

There was a procession around the grounds of wheel tractors, along with two wheel tractor tours – one 60km long and another shorter tour which were enjoyed by all. Walcha Truck and Machinery Show was fortunate to have the support and expertise of the Wauchope Yesteryear Truck and Machinery Club to run this event, and as a result the comments from attendees were very positive, some saying it was the best show they had seen.

The organisers would like to thank all of their sponsors for their generosity, the businesses that helped provide goods for auction with the proceeds going to local charities, staff at the Apsley Advocate and all of the volunteers who made the show such a great success.

We look forward to next year's improved show, that will make it bigger and better!

## **The Walcha Truck and Machinery Show Committee**

*Photos courtesy of Leanne Presnell, Melissa O'Keefe and Kathy Howard.*







**What a five star performance** by Walcha/Uralla opening bowler Sinclair Little against Hillgrove in their Armidale District 2nd Grade cricket match at Peter Fenwicke Oval last Saturday. Sinclair sent down 7.4 overs to capture six wickets at a modest cost of 17 runs, which included two boundaries and three wickets. He snared his last three wickets in the space of eight deliveries without conceding a run. Way to go Sinclair.

...

**Little wonder why Charlie Makeham** was voted Flippers 'Swimmer of the Week' after she smashed her 3 x 25metre Individual Medley PB by an amazing 2 minutes and 3 seconds from just under 5 minutes to just under 3 minutes. Good on ya Charlie.

...

**Well done to the 24 Walcha Central School students** who competed at the Armidale Zone PSSA swimming carnival last Thursday. All swimmers tried hard all day with 10 progressing to the next level in individual events, along with three of the four relay teams.

...

**Leading the way was Blaine Cooney** who has made it through in five events closely, followed by Hannah Swain in four, Jess Wellings and Anthea Taylor both in three, while Lucas Eveleigh, Nathan and Tyler Ross, Georgie Blake, Eli Wellings and Penelope Taylor all progressed in one event each. Hope I haven't left anyone out.

...

**Both the Senior Boys and Girls relay teams** won their events in impressive fashion. The boys – Nathan Ross, Dustin and Simon Wellings got their team off to a great start, before 'Anchor Man' Blaine Cooney powered home to touch down first. The girls – Jess Wellings, Georgie Blake and Olivia Mulligan put their team in a very handy position and then watched 'Anchor Woman' Hannah Swain sealed the deal for her team.

...

**The Girls Junior relay team** placed second after the Taylor sisters Anthea and Penelope, Millie Laurie and Sophie Mulligan all swam really well. Unfortunately the Junior Boys Ben Lockyer, Eli Wellings, Kix Brown and Tyler Ross were touched out of third position and as only the top three places in each event go through they missed out. Best of luck to all those swimmers who are off to North West trials in Armidale early next month.

...

**Best of luck** also to Jessica and Annie Patterson-Kane, Lachie Provost, Angus and Grace Fletcher, Grace and Addison Smith, Airlee Tate, Josie Wauch and Henry Blomfield, when they head west to Gunnedah this Friday after qualifying for their Diocesan Swimming Carnival. Go Gettum Guys.

...

**The bloke with the little blue microphone** was up to his old tricks at Armidale Pool last Thursday encouraging all Walcha swimmers to do their best. He started in race one and continued for about 50 races before Taylor sisters Anthea and Penelope and mother Adrienne caught me using the microphone, prompting her to say that she thought that must have been the case because no one could have a voice that loud. My response was that it didn't take Adrienne long to work it out, to which she replied "Yeah I'm a bit slow aren't I" with a smile on her dial.

...

**A big thank you to local 'sculptor' Steve 'Horrie' King** on not only making our I.J. and Colleen Cross Memorial seat but also installing it on the 10th tee at the Golf Club with the assistance of his offsiders Jarrod Smith and Ben Tooth. The timing couldn't have been much better as it is Mum and Dad's trophy this Sunday to be played as a 4BBB Medley.

...

**Talented Jillarooos League Tag** player Kirra-Lee Murphy trialled for the Northern Tigers U/17's Rugby League team at Scully Park recently, where she played her first game of tackle footy and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Although Kirra-Lee missed out on selection she played well scoring a try in her first game.

## Chook washing demo at Farmers' Market

Last Saturday at the Walcha Farmers' Market, members of the Walcha Poultry Club held a chook washing demonstration. Adults and children alike were captivated as Stuart Wellings, Lance Partridge and Archie Little demonstrated how to wash, dry and spruce up poultry.

The demonstration was to help people learn how to prepare their birds for the upcoming poultry competition at the Walcha Show. Feathers, feet and combs were all attended to, and the chickens that they brought along to the market all looked snazzy when they had finished!

It was great to have experienced chook whisperers, Archie, Lance and Stuart sharing their expertise with market attendees. The next Walcha Farmers' Market will be on 18th March, with a



**FRIDAY 10TH & SATURDAY 11TH MARCH**



<b>SHEARING</b>	<b>STUD SHEEP</b>
<b>HORSE EVENTS</b>	<b>STUD CATTLE</b>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	<b>CRAFTS</b>
<b>MAD COW BUSKING COMP</b>	<b>SHOW BAGS</b>

**Plus More, More, More**

Details on Facebook - [walchashow.org.au](http://walchashow.org.au)  
Contact Dale Webber 0459 594 236 or [walchashowsociety@gmail.com](mailto:walchashowsociety@gmail.com)





## Cricket

### Walcha/Urala v Hillgrove

#### Hillgrove Second Grade

H EASTWOOD b S Little .....	1
B MARSHALL c L Fletcher b S Rafferty .....	50
J SHUMACK c B Hoy b S Little .....	0
J MARSHALL c J Grills b B Duncan .....	12
A TAYLOR c L Fletcher b S Little .....	23
D WATERS c J Robertson b S Little .....	14
H EASTWOOD c L Fletcher B M Harper .....	16
C RAINGER b M Harper .....	5
R HARRIS c S Rafferty b S Little .....	0
P SINGH b S Little .....	0
A WATKIN not out .....	0
Total 121. Extras 16. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
S Little 7.4-1-17-6, M Harper 8-2-14-2, J Grills 9-2-17-0,	
B Duncan 8-1-39-1, J Robertson 6-0-22-0, S Rafferty	
6-0-26-1.	

#### Walcha/Urala

E BLOMFIELD c C Rainger b R Harris .....	0
J GRILLS c H Eastwood b P Singh .....	65
D BOYD b J Marshall .....	10
S RAFFERTY c C Rainger b P Singh .....	19
L FLETCHER not out .....	25
C KEEN c H Eastwood b P Singh .....	1
B HOY not out .....	0
Total 121. Extras 18. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
R Harris 5-0-20-1, J Marshall 4-0-37-1, D Walters 3-0-	
22-0, P Sinta 8-2-23-3, H Eastwood 5-0-32-0.	

### Walcha/Urala v Armidale City UNE

#### Armidale Third Grade

M ROOPRAI c J Macfarlane .....	13
K HANDES c B Jex b P Mooney .....	1
M CONROY c & b C Mooney .....	51
A BRERETON b M Tasik .....	5
A BARLIN b D Morley .....	31
J VERUS b J Macfarlane .....	4
R BLACKWELL b W Boyd .....	4
A WORTHINGTON b W Boyd .....	10
J CONNELL not out .....	1
J BROWNE not out .....	0
L LAYCOCK dnb .....	
Total 125. Extras 26. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
C Mooney 7-0-23-1, J Macfarlane 8-1-13-2, P Mooney	
3-0-11-1, B Mansfield 5-0-39-0, M Tasik 5-1-15-1, P	
Morley 4-0-16-1, N Swan 5-0-24-0, W Boyd 3-1-3-2.	

#### Walcha/Urala

N ENDACOTT c K Handes b J Browne .....	11
B JEX b L Laycock .....	10
M TASIK b L Laycock .....	0
N SWAN b L Laycock .....	0
J MACFARLANE c ? b A Brereton .....	61
P MOONEY c ? b A Brereton .....	19
B MANSFIELD lbw M Conroy .....	41
C MOONEY c & b M Conroy .....	10
D MORLEY not out .....	12
W BOYD c L Laycock b M Conroy .....	0
Total 99. Extras 33. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
L Laycock 8-1-15-3, J Browne 8-0-34-1, A Brereton 4-0-	
20-2, M Rooprai 3-0-20-0, M Conroy 6-1-20-3, J Verus	
2-0-19-0.	

Walcha/Urala won their Armidale District second grade match against Hillgrove by five wickets when they did battle at Peter Fenwicke Oval last Saturday. Batting after winning the toss the visitors amassed 137 runs off their 40 overs where the homeside opening bowler Sinclair Little helped restrict Hillgrove to their total when he captured 6/17 off his 7.4 overs. His fellow opener Matt Harper took 2/14 while Bill Duncan

and Shannon Rafferty both snared a wicket each.

In reply Walcha/Urala passed their assignment with 14 overs and five wickets up their sleeve, where opener Jay Grills was the star performer remaining unbeaten on 65 runs which included two 6's and six 4's.

Number five batter Lachie Fletcher was unconquered on 25, whereas Shannon Rafferty 19 and Daniel Boyd 10 both chipped in valuable runs.

Walcha/Urala third grade were defeated by 19 runs when they played City/UNE at Bellevue Oval last Saturday.

The homeside scored 151 runs at a loss of eight wickets of which six of the eight visiting bowlers claimed victims. Wayne Boyd 2/3, Josh McFarlane 2/13, Peter Mooney 1/11, Matt Tasik 1/15, David Morley 1/16 and Cameron Mooney 1/23 all took wickets.

Playing a man short, Walcha/Urala were dismissed for 132 in their 31st over where Brian Mansfield was the main contributor with 41 runs batting at number seven.

Allrounder Peter Mooney scored 19 runs and Nick Endacott 11, while Bob Jex and Cameron Mooney both scored 10 runs each.

## At the 19th

A stroke medal round was played last Sunday for a trophy donated by Craig Morgan, where Jamie Bowden carded a 67 nett to claim the prize and also the B Grade mug.

A Grade went to Michael Stackman with a 69 nett off the back of his seven over par 77 which was the best scratch score on the day.

Club President Allan Green won C Grade after he registered a 75 nett. Sweepstakes went to Ed Churchill 69, Deon Lawrence 71, Owen Presnell 73 and Willy 'Countback King' Brennan 74 after he counted out Don Brooks and Peter Berry. Sharpest shooters at the pins were Michael Stackman (3) and Simone Sweeney (18). Long drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhanded Larry' Asmus were caressed by Andrew Crawford (A), Owen Presnell (B) and Bill Fletcher (C).

The putting competition was won by Michael Stackman after he engaged his flat stick on 21 occasions while Margaret Davidson collected the coveted 'Pink Shirt' after recording 32 jabs.

In Match Play Willy Brennan defeated Peter Berry 2 up.

For the second week in succession Crichton Barr won the weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday but only after counting out Jock McLaren after both players accumulated 18 stableford points. N.T.P. on 3 went to Sue Partridge.

This Sunday is the annual Colleen and IJ Cross Memorial to be played under a 4BBB Medley format.

## Wednesday Golf

It was a stroke, putting and monthly mug comp on Wednesday for a trophy donated by Lorraine Rennie.

We again welcomed four of our beginners, along with Mark Hogan and Bob and Betty Koppman.

Our winner was Simone Sweeney, with an awesome 69 points, counting out Lyn Laurie also with a 69.

Sweepstakes went to Alison Cameron 74, Bob Koppman 75, and Margaret Davidson 77.

NTP on 3 was Jill Burnell and second shot on 18 went to Lorraine Walshe. The monthly mug winners were Simone Sweeney, Division 1, Alison Cameron, Division 2, and Lyn Laurie, Division 3.

Putting was won by Simone Sweeney with 24 points. Let's hope Simone bought some lottery tickets on her way home!

Today we are playing a Graham Betts Stableford qualifier for Betty Borthwick's trophy.

## Flippers

Last week there was only enough time to conduct 4 x 50 metre, 4 x 25 metre and 3 x 25 metre individual medleys. Swimmer of the Week was Charlie Makeham for taking an incredible 2 minutes and 3 seconds off her 3x25 metre I.M.

No less than 40 members gained full points on offer after 40 PBs were set during the I.M's. No movers and shakers in Week 8. It is great to see so many Swimming Club members representing schools at a higher level, some with outstanding results. Keep up the good work guys.

## Bowls

**Dads Army:** The eight players who played on Thursday afternoon were divided into two games of pairs. In the first game Brian Goodwin and Geoff Salt defeated Noel Goodwin and John Watts 19 - 9 and in the second Matt Andrews and Peter Hayes had a come from behind win over Barry Kliendienst and Mick Bullen 19 - 16.

Brian and Geoff won the chooks and Noel Goodwin won the raffle.

## Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday in hot conditions eight lady bowlers turned up and played two games of three bowls pairs, the results being Pat and Janice won 21-8 over Carmel and Marg Tickle the other game Janet and Jan 18-13 over Phyllis and Esther. The Club Championship sheets are on the board with nominations closing on the 23rd March at 12 noon. This Tuesday we are sending two teams to the Guyra Presidents Day. The sheet is also on the board for anyone interested in going to the Bendemeer Presidents Day it's on the 14th March.

## Tennis

Round 2 of the Summer Comp was played out on Tuesday 14 February. Saunders: M Lockyer, D Wall, A Pendlebury and K Dickson (F) defeated Gavrilova: D Clarke, M Ireland, G Wall and A Tozer 29 to 24 in a great close match. Kokkinaakas: B Hoy (F), C Bruce, J Hoy (F) and M Wall defeated Poyrin: D Sweeney, J Jones J Fletcher and D Bird 24 to 18. Tomlianovic: D A Locke, H Locke (F), B Konneron and R Mathews defeated Ebdon: H Thomson, S Blake, K Smith and M Luchich 36 to 23. There will be a working bee on Sunday 26 March at 9.00am. Any help will be appreciated. The next Club meeting will be held on Monday 13 March. See you all at the net soon.

## church notices



**ANGLICAN** Sunday 7.30am Holy Communion, 10am Family Service and Kids Club. **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** for all people of all churches. Held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Walcha 2pm Friday 3rd March.

All welcome. Phone 6777 2543 or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

**PRESBYTERIAN** Walcha Sunday 9.30am. All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

**CATHOLIC** Sunday 10:00am Mass.



## Funeral Notices

**USBACK; Lindsay Robert**  
of 25 Jasmine Close, Cundletown 2430

– 9 February 2023 –  
aged 90 years

Beloved husband of Elaine,  
father of Gail, Trevor and Susan.  
A service for family and friends will be held  
at 12pm Friday 24 February at Manning  
Great Lakes Memorial Gardens, Pampoolah.  
Donations to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter  
Service in lieu of flowers.

**MARTIN; Kenneth Thomas**  
Ken

18 February 2023  
at Armidale, formerly of Walcha.  
Dearly loved husband of Jill (dec'd).  
Loving father of Scott, James,  
Cameron and loved father-in-law  
and grandfather of their families.  
Aged 93 Years  
Privately cremated.  
Piddington's AFDA  
6772 2288

## Birth Notice

Courtney and Kirsten Brown wish to announce  
the long awaited arrival of Charlie Joseph-  
Lee Brown, born 17 February 2023 weighing  
2.81kg. Cindy has made perfection.

## In Memory

**GEORGE**

Death leaves a heartache  
that no one can heal,  
love leaves the memories  
that no one can steal.  
Rest in peace  
10.2.2023

## For Sale

**Good quality** fire wood split and delivered.  
Phone 0427 331 556.

**Ragdoll Kittens** \$500 each. Please phone  
6777 0873.

**Seedlings** for sale at **Walcha Men's Shed**  
including Cauliflower, Zucchini, Succulents,  
Marigold and more. Mon-Wed-Fri 9am – 3pm.

## For Rent

**3 Bedroom cottage.** References essential.  
Phone 0429 772 512

## Meetings

**Walcha Pony Club** AGM Tuesday 28  
February, 7:00pm at the Apsley Hotel.

## Public Notices

**DR GENEVIEVE FREER**  
Phone 6777 2088 0429 668 583



**WALCHA COUNCIL**  
**Walcha Lions Park**  
**Upgrade Works**  
**Commence**

Commencing 6 February 2023 and for the  
duration of March 2023, the Walcha Lions  
Park will be closed to the public for upgrade  
works. This first stage of the upgrade will  
see new playground equipment installed  
and landscaping works begin. The public  
rest rooms will remain Open for use. Please  
exercise caution when in the vicinity of the  
construction site.

PHILLIP HOOD, DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
& DEVELOPMENT  
WALCHA COUNCIL  
PO BOX 2, WALCHA NSW 2354

**Zenziwear** will be closed for the month of  
March. Janine is off to Perth to play with her  
grandbabies. Opening again first week of April.  
Wednesday – Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm.

**The Walcha Community Singers** would  
welcome more participants. We meet most  
Thursday evenings at the Council Chambers  
7pm to 9pm. No cost involved and no talent  
required. The point of the exercise is to enjoy  
ourselves. We like to cater for a variety of  
musical tastes and welcome ideas from the  
membership. Please contact 0427 773 908 if  
you want to know more, or just rock up.

**Junior Tennis Competition** 4 weeks  
from the 6 March – 27 March, on Monday  
evenings beginning at 3:30pm. If you are 8 –  
12 years old and interested in playing, please  
contact Hyde Thompson 0427 780 391 or  
Emma Wauch 0429 958 881 by the 3 March.

## Positions Vacant

**EXPERIENCED FENCER**

Casual position, full time may be required.  
Please call Andrew McGuffog 0428 360 985.

**Casual Bar Staff:** Must have, or be willing to  
obtain an RSA and RCG. Apply in writing to  
Manager, Walcha Bowling Club, PO Box 169  
Walcha. Applications close 10 March 2023.

## Positions Vacant cont.



ST PATRICKS PRIMARY SCHOOL WALCHA

**CLEANER**

**Permanent Part-time, 32 hours per  
fortnight**

Online applications only at <https://arm.catholic.edu.au/employment/positions-vacant>

For further details about the position contact  
Dallas Hyatt, Principal on 6777 2328.

**Applications close 6 March 2023**  
Preferred applicants are subject to  
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vaccination will be required to be provided  
during the recruitment process.

**About us:** Our mission is to provide care and  
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commitment to excellence. We care for and  
nurture the whole person and strive to enable  
our residents to live in a safe and caring  
environment.

**About you:** you want to make a difference in  
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to the provision of a truly person-centred care  
and will be willing to work alongside a team of  
like-minded staff.

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 any of these  
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(Home Care Manager).

Email: [nkazanzidis@pcnsw.org.au](mailto:nkazanzidis@pcnsw.org.au)





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## WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Mon – Wed 4.00pm – Close

Thursday 23 12.00pm – Close

Ladies bowls 9am for 9.30am start  
Social bowls 1.00pm

Friday 24 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

- Mustard stuffed chicken
- Creamy seafood marinara fettuccine
- Sausages & onion gravy
- Normal menu available, takeaway and delicious dessert.

6.00pm Tickets available for raffles –  
meat and veg trays

7.30pm Free Bingo

8.00pm Raffles drawn & Members Draw

Saturday 25 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

2-4pm HAPPY HOUR

Sunday 26 11.00am – Close

12.00pm Bistro open

Children U/10 kids meal free with an  
adult order

12.00pm Meat, fruit and veg raffles

12-2pm HAPPY HOUR

### THIS SUNDAY

\$12 ROAST OF THE DAY  
MIDDAY – HAPPY HOUR  
“EAST GATE  
SINGERS”

### ST PAT'S DAY

FRI – 17 MARCH – 6PM  
IRISH – FOOD, MUSIC &  
DRINKS

**MEMBERS  
DRAW  
\$100**

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR  
2023/2024 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

TOM'S COCKTAIL  
*Cosmopolitan*



Do you live in Walcha Shire? If so you **MUST** be a member to enter the Club  
Social Membership ..... \$15 – Full Membership \$105. PHONE 6777 2077

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