

THE APSLEY Advocate

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15 March 2023

2023 Walcha Merino Flock Ewe Comp

Friday 17 March

Join our judges Mick Corkhill & Scott Thrift on their tour of some of the district's best commercial Merino flocks.

For more information or to RSVP please call
Angus Laurie 0418 587 643



Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes and Interim General Manager Phil Hood show Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall (on board a skateboard) the plans for the new Skate Park yesterday.

Family Skate Park underway

Tenders are out, and by the end of this year Walcha families will be able to enjoy a brand new skate park thanks to almost \$1 million in funding from the State and Federal Governments.

Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall visited the skate park yesterday to test his ability on the skateboard and announce an additional \$100,000 which will allow Council to fit out the park with seating and landscaping making it a great family play area. "This funding is from the Stronger Country Communities Round 5, and will provide an amazing facility for the town," he said.

The current skate park will be completely demolished and the new facility will be triple the size running from Fitzroy Street through to its current location. "It will

incorporate a basketball half court; scooter run with various pump bumps, ramps and transitions; and an enclosed bowl with beginner to intermediate ramp heights," Walcha Council Interim General Manager, Phil Hood said.

"The whole site has been designed to focus more on younger children. It will be a great family area," he said. Walcha Council received \$866,964 from the Federal/State Governments as a part of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, and with the additional \$100,000 announced yesterday, the project will come in at just under \$1 million.

Council expects to award the tender in mid April, with construction to commence soon after. It is expected to be ready for use in late 2023.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The Walcha Show lived up to its reputation over the weekend as being one of the best country shows. If you didn't attend, well you missed out, it was such a family friendly environment and it was the annual catch up for many locals. There was no doubt that the hotly contested annual Dog Jump, Demolition Derby and the Peanut Drop were by far the favourites for most, especially the kids. I knew firsthand what a sugar high, adrenaline rush and exhaustion looked like after the big event for a four year old – a meltdown.

The weather was extremely kind to all on the weekend with the rain holding off until dark on Saturday night. Falls of 20 to 100mm fell throughout the district with the heaviest of falls south of town. Everyone I spoke to mentioned how dry it had become and that they were sweating on some much needed moisture for winter crops. Falls of 25 to 70mm were widespread through the Central North, with places like Tamworth receiving up to 100mm and other parts like Inverell getting under their first decent fall of rain for some time. The rain is a good start but we all know we need decent follow up rain, especially when temperatures are forecast to reach close to 30 degrees for Walcha at the end of this week.

Northern Australia has been hit with another deluge of rain, with places receiving beyond 500mm causing widespread flooding. For some northern parts this is the second flood for this wet season and by all reports, another costly flood. Queensland's Gulf of Carpentaria has seen catastrophic losses to livestock and infrastructure after experiencing one of the biggest floods in history. It will be weeks before the water completely recedes, people can then start to rebuild. Speaking with some producers a long way further south of the deluge in central and southern Queensland, they stated that they have had one of the best seasons for some time and the latest front has only improved their grazing position for the rest of 2023.

The Brazilian beef industry is entering its fourth week of suspension into China after a case of atypical BSE in a cow was detected. The suspension hasn't created waves of interest from China in Australian beef, but it sounds like there has been increased enquiry for Australian beef from other countries like USA and Korea. The lean grinding beef market has improved over the last month and could continue its rise, especially with the USA herd numbers so low. The Australian beef market could further improve if the imposed ban remains over Brazilian beef entry into China for an extended period of time. Watch this space, but I can still see some price resistance ahead given the dearest of cattle, the long fed cattle are about to hit the market.

Tamworth yarded 1300 cattle on Monday after a wet weekend with all classes except feeder steers firm to dearer. Weaner cattle to restock sold to 486c/kg for Angus steers, while heifers topped at 464c/kg for a consignment of EU Angus heifers out of the Horton. Yearling steers back to the paddock topped at 442c/kg while heifers to feed made up to 355c/kg. Heavy export cattle to kill made 326c/kg while cows topped at 289c/kg.

2200 lambs and 2000 mutton were yarded in Tamworth on Monday, which followed the trend of the southern markets selling to cheaper trend. Trade lambs to process topped at \$176, 660 to 735c/kg while heavy export lambs sold to \$230, 730 to 750c/kg. Better conditioned sheep with a good jacket sold to dearer trends, topping at \$143 for crossbred ewes and \$94 for merino. Last Thursday Wagga yarded 38,000 lambs and 40,000 sheep with trade weight lambs quoted as selling between 640c to 670c/kg carcass weight, back \$10 to 15hd cheaper in comparison to the previous sale. Heavy export lambs remained firm, selling from 680 to 730c/kg carcass weight. The large yarding of mutton sold from \$69 to 140.

Roadwork on Oxley Highway

Walcha motorists are advised of changed traffic conditions from this week on the Oxley Highway to carry out essential maintenance about 17 kilometres east of Bendemeer.

Work to repair and renew the road surface, started on Monday 13 March, and will be carried out from 7am to 5pm on weekdays. The work is expected to be complete in June 2023, weather permitting.

Traffic control, single lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h will be in place during work hours, which may affect travel times.

Motorists are advised to allow extra travel time, drive to the conditions, and follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

Transport for NSW thanks motorists for their patience during this time.

For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW App, visit livetraffic.com or call 132 701.



Election voting

The State election is only 10 days away on Saturday 25 March. Due to the NSW Electoral Commission redistribution process, Walcha voters will move to the State electorate of Northern Tablelands with ten candidates standing for election in the Legislative Assembly for a four year term. Voters will also be asked to vote for the Legislative Council for an eight year term.



Voting on Election Day

There will only be two Polling booths open in this area on Election Day from 8am to 6pm.

- Walcha Central School
- Woolbrook Public School

Voting at Woolbrook will be for both Northern Tablelands and Tamworth electorates. If you are a Walcha Council ratepayer you will be voting in the Northern Tablelands electorate as they have the same boundary line. If you reside in Tamworth Council you will remain in the Tamworth State electorate.

Pre-Poll Voting

If you will be away on 25 March you can cast your vote from this Saturday 18 March until 24 March at the Early Voting Centre in Armidale or Tamworth. These centres open from 8:30am until late every day except Sunday.

- Armidale Town Hall, 127 Rusden Street Armidale
- Tamworth Election Managers Office, 513-515 Peel Street Tamworth

Postal Voting

Applications are open online or by sending in an Application form which is available on the NSW Electoral Commission website. Walcha Post Office only have a limited number of forms left. You need to submit these forms as early as possible as they need to be received by the Electoral Commission by next Monday 20 March.



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letters to the editor



P E U Y Q A W W G B T Y

I received two phone calls over the weekend - completely independent of each other - that left me a tad sad. They were to do with our burgeoning wind farm situation, from two people who know a bit about the subject, and had gone to visit the two different wind energy stands at the local show. They were impressed that Walcha's renewable energy thrust was well represented at the Show, getting info out there for locals, and wanted to see if the proponents had raised their standard of information exposition since the last Show, and the Vestas EIS shenanigans of the last few months. Alas, to say they came away less than impressed has to be the understatement of the year

The visitor to the Walcha Energy Stand was given the impression that everything was wonderful. **Noise?** We've got that one under control. **Blades?** No sweat, they'll last for ever. **Decommissioning?** Ha! We'll handle that easy as. So for them it was a case of no issues, no negatives, nothing whatsoever to worry about, mate. Go and have a beer.

All that's ok, of course, the visitor told me, except for the lingering sense of deja vu it left. Pretty-well the same as last year, just a different project. "A totally clean bill", the visitor was left feeling. "A complete white wash. Nothing had changed. "Honestly, they'd tell you anything, those fellas. Dunno why I bothered, really

For the visitor to the Winterbourne Wind stand, however, the experience was somewhat more disturbing. "I was perplexed and extremely worried, absolutely shocked by the vagueness of the responses, and the lack of knowledge of the people who were in charge of the Stand."

Questions were asked about matters as varied as: construction traffic; routes to be taken by trucks; Bisphenol A; medical emergency protocols; aerial super spreading; the Community Benefit Fund and Annual Contribution; wildlife and Biodiversity issues, and quite a few more. But despite the number and variety of questions, a large percentage of the replies were the same:

Please Email Us Your Questions And We Will Get Back To You"

"The funny thing, though, is that when I asked for their email address, they couldn't tell me."

So why do I feel saddened by these two phone calls? Do you really have to ask?

John Heffernan

We need your Books?

Our annual Quota Book Fair is on again in April!

If you have books to donate, please drop them off to:

Youth Club Hall 27th March - 3rd April or
Sue Reardon 61n Thee Street or
Chris Hamel 62n South Street

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 **Stop** and
consider

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State election

elections.nsw.gov.au



Ewe competition this Friday

Walcha's Annual Merino Flock Ewe competition will be held this Friday, with producers from 11 properties being judged by Mick Corkhill and Scott Thrift. This year there will also be an Associate Judge, Bateson Pittman from Walcha helping with the decision making.

Organiser, Angus Laurie is encouraging anyone who is interested in attending the day. "If you would like to car pool, please meet at the Commercial Hotel at 7am," Angus said.

"The tour will take us to some of the district's best commercial Merino flocks," Angus commented.

The itinerary will be:

Depart Commercial	7:15am
Deloraine.....	7:30-8:00am
Waterloo.....	8:30am-9:00am
Tiara	9:30am-10:00am
Malford	10:30am-11:00am
Bywell.....	11:30am-12:00pm
Europambela	12:15pm-1:15pm
Ingleholme	1:45pm-2:15pm
Blaxland	2:30pm-3:00pm
Maryland	3:05pm-3:35pm
Birrahlee.....	4:00pm-4:30pm
Ruby Hills.....	5:00pm

A light lunch will be provided. RSVP to Angus Laurie on 0418 587 643.

Hiking with big hearts to help women's hearts

Shelley Relf will be stepping out from behind the counter at New Birds next Friday sporting lycra instead of her usual workwear, all in the name of helping raise funds for Women's Heart Health as a part of Coastrek Sydney.

Lacing up her joggers with daughter, Sarah Rose, they will be hiking 20km from Long Reef SLSC along the Northern Beaches to raise both awareness and funds for the Heart Foundation. "Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in women, with over 6000 people losing their lives every year, which equates to an astounding 18 women per day," Shelley said.

To help raise funds, Shelley has a raffle running at New Birds valued at \$300, with tickets being \$5 each or three for \$10. "Come on in and have a chat, whilst giving me some inspiration, motivation and support," Shelley commented.

Shelley and Sarah will set off at 5.00pm and are aiming to finish the walk around 9.00 – 10.00pm on Friday 24 March.

Evidence shows women are less likely to speak to their GP about heart disease or have a heart health check than men. "Funding from Coastrek will support programs that educate, promote and deliver improved heart health care for Australian women and encourage more regular heart health checks to help identify and manage risk factors," Shelley said.



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Saturday 1st April 2023
10 am at Walcha Mill
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Tractors: Case JX95 5091 Hrs FEL/Blade/Bucket/Stick Rake/3PL/Hay Forks, FIAT 7/90 Hrs unknown 3PL. **Vehicles:** Toyota 1995 Hilux 214,000Klm Diesel Good order reg to 19/5/23, Toyota 1999 dual cab Hilux 145,000klm Petrol good order reg to 6/2/24, Toyota Paddock use only, Nissan Paddock use only, Acco 510A Fire Truck-V8 82,000klm Unreg 2000L water tank high pressure pump power steering + pump for spares, Roller-Pannell plant 16T vibrates to 30T good working order ideal farm use, Polaris 4WD quad bike, Bruin 2WD quad bike. **Mowers:** Vicon Hay Mower 2.6M, John Deere 72" cut 4WD good order, John Deere-set up as spray unit with front dome spray plus wand good order-spare mower deck, spare dome, Stiga 48" cut – new motor, spares, Stiga 48" cut good order with spares, Push mowers x 2 both go. **Trailers:** 7.5M x 1.66M Heavy Duty TB29 Trailer regd to 2/8/23, 3.7M x 2.4M Light Duty Trailer Regd to 18/6/23, 3-4T Farm tipper Trailer, Farm trailer 7.5M x 2M dual front wheels bogie rear wheels-ideal hay or pipe etc, Old hay farm trailer 4.9M x 2.4M old but serviceable, 2100 x 1300 Trailer farm use only, small boat trailer U27108 Regd till 5/11/23, 4 wheel farm trailer 2200 x 1600 with spray set up 400L tank. All equip serviced & maintained. **Hay & Silage:** Unreserved all sold in truck lots 400 x 2023 Feb -Clover & fescue pasture hay -Airstrip, 300 x 2022 Feb Clover & fescue pasture silage, 400 x 2021 Feb Clover & fescue pasture silage, Mulch hay. **Livestock:** Optiweigh machine 2Yr old, TPW Woolpress, Sheep yard panels – 1M high various lengths, 2 x Cattle Feeders 2.6M x 5M long on wheels, 2 x Cattle feeders on skids, 1 x Round Cattle feeder, Stock crate on Heavy Duty trailer (farm use only), Cattle Yard Panels. **Farm Equipment:** 3PL 3M Stick rake, 3PL 2.7M Harrows, Chisel plough 2.5M, 3PL Fertiliser Spreader, 1T Fertiliser spreader on hydraulic trailer, 3PL 9M boom spray. **Water Tanks/Troughs:** 1 x 1000L tank on stand, 1 x 500L tank, 1 x 500L steel tank, Sundry tanks. **Steel:** 7 x 450 x 13M x 9MM wall pipe ideal culverts, mixed bundles of steel off cuts all sizes. **2nd hand Roofing Iron:** 27 x 4490M, 25 x 4480M, 14 x 4900M, 10 x 11020M, 3 x 3100M, Sundry Lengths. **Motors Equipment:** Electric compressor, 13HP Honda generator, Generator (camping use), 2 x water pumps, 2 x rotary hoes. **Sundries:** Free standing shed – 8.4M x 2.5M (chooks/chemicals etc), 3 x pig hutches, 1 x 2 man post hole digger, 77 x 1.8M ironbark split posts, 1 x heavy duty timber work bench, 300 x 2nd hand star posts, qty 2nd hand star posts, Thermalux Stove, 5T assorted Timber, numerous other items

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St Patrick's Excursion

"Thalgarrah, Thalgarrah, Thalgarrah!"

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

When all were still sleeping or getting ready recently, Year 1/2 were chanting Thalgarrah on the bus. Leaving school at 7:30am, we arrived at 8:45 ready for the day. To say the children were excited was an understatement. They met the teachers, Matt and Kerry, and immediately asked what was going to happen for the day.



Firstly, we all went inside the classroom and met the bird Indie, the children were amazed that she could talk and didn't fly. They were allowed to pat her. Then they were introduced to the baby birds that they had reared which were not as appealing on the eye.

The garden and simplicity of 'play equipment' was so refreshing at Thalgarrah, the children enjoyed playing in native trees and fallen logs. There was no need for any equipment. The children happily ran around and created make believe games.

The students then went with Matt and Kerry exploring the 'forest' as our children called it, finding all different living things and engaging their prior knowledge of habitats and sounds.

The large carpet python was a highlight for almost all! The children were allowed to touch the snake if they liked and this was a new experience for some. Feeding the bearded dragon was also thrilling as the students had previously held the meal worms that were now being thrown into the pit.

The final animal that was really different and interesting was the spiny leaf insect. Some students had the insect crawling and clinging all over their faces and hands.

Mrs Healey was relieved that we explored predominantly reptiles and not rodents, however poor Mrs Rizzi is not a snake fan, so thank you for being so calm and brave, if a mouse or rat was brought out I am not sure Mrs Healey would have kept her cool.

Leaving just after lunch, the teachers were certain children would fall asleep due to our busy day! However, nearly all of the students were still excited by what they had experienced. Everyone had a wonderful day and thoroughly enjoyed exploring new surroundings and taking the classroom outside. Thank you to our Year 1-2 parents for assisting the school in giving the children this great experience. Watching the student's enthusiasm was priceless!



Left: Brayden enjoying the wide open spaces.



Right: Evie pondering what to do next with one of the creatures taking a liking to her hat.

Where are they now?

From Jane Morrison, Walcha Historical Society

It is great to see the progress being made with the Lions Park. It is hard not to notice the scaffolding and the new play area being installed.

But is there something missing? Keen observers will note the old steam engine and the tractor that have been there for many years are gone.

Don't worry they have not been discarded – they have found a new home. The Walcha Historical Society's Museum Complex has found a spot for them and they will be mounted on their new concrete pads over the coming weeks.



Moving up to the next level

Megan Scrivener had no idea the path that lay ahead in 2013 when she offered to pencil at a Show Jumping event. Encouraged to consider judging, in 2014 Megan went to a JNSW Clinic in Quirindi and sat the first of many exams she would undertake.

Acquiring her Probationary Certificate she was required to judge assisted for six months to attain her National Level 1. Since 2015, Megan has attended numerous clinics across the state and judged classes at Ag Shows, Pony Club events and Interschools, as well Show Jumping competitions at the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre, the Sydney International Equestrian Centre and the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

In the seven years to 2021 Megan has moved through the rankings and attended her last National Level 3 Clinic in Canberra in 2021. During this time she has been mentored by Tamworth Judge Cheryl Backhouse and one of Australia's highest ranking judges, Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) Level 3 Judge Michael Archer from Canberra.

Encouraged by Equestrian NSW, Megan along with several other judges across the country, commenced their journey with the FEI Campus in late 2022. This involved four online components and final exam, an English Proficiency test and a final interview in February with Course Directors Frances Hesketh-Jones Trulzi (ENG) and Stephan Ellenbruch (GER).

"The online interview was daunting, I was extremely nervous for days in advance", Megan said. "Frances and Stephan interviewed me late in the evening via Zoom from an event they were at in Dubai, while I was at AELEC".

On 1 March, Megan received notification from the FEI that she had fulfilled all requirements to become an International Judge, and would be listed as an FEI Level 1 Judge – Jumping.

Right: Megan pictured alongside International Judge Mr Ho at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.



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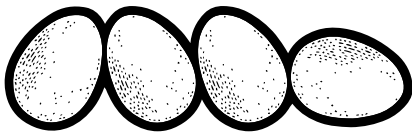
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Market brimming with Autumn produce this Saturday

This coming Saturday at McHattan Park in Walcha, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, the Walcha Farmers' Market will be on. The weather is cooling a little, the trees are starting to colour up, and the market is adapting accordingly.

As we head into Autumn, there will be seasonal produce for you

including the Guyra Potato Man with his bags of excellent spuds, and Sienna's Seedlings with vegetable seedlings to get your winter vegetable garden going.

Carinya North Nursery and Kentucky Tree Nursery can advise you on your autumn plantings to get trees, shrubs and perennials in before winter is upon us.

Enjoy butter chicken and pickles from Sheetal's Kitchen. Beelike will be back with their excellent honey and bee products. Combine Beca Bakes' bread with Nan's Homestyle Condiments for a delicious sandwich or snack. 216 Collection will have rocky road, slices and biscuits. The Bush Patisserie will have gluten-free and dairy-free macarons, biscuits and tarts.

Deano's Smoked Trout, Shoreline Oysters and Sunhill Dairy Goats will help you create delicious meals with seafood and cheeses.

The Float will be on site for coffee, tea and other hot drinks. Rotary Barbecue will have bacon and egg rolls, sausage sandwiches etc for a morning refuel or lunch.

Bring your excess produce to the Walcha Farmer's Market Community Stall and they will sell it for you: eggs, vegetables, fruit, herbs, preserves etc. Providing a list of your produce with quantities and prices will greatly assist the stall volunteers.

Rounding out the market will be Walcha Historical Society and Walcha Fire and Rescue. You can book in for a home safety visit with Fire and Rescue for them to come to check your smoke alarms before the winter season.

Meet your friends for coffee and a snack, and enjoy the markets in the beautiful surrounds of McHattan Park in Walcha, while the kids play on the park play equipment. 8:30am to 12:30pm, Saturday 18th March.



Enjoy gluten-free, dairy-free tarts and macarons from The Bush Patisserie

Can you help the abandoned animals of Ukraine?

From Kerry Carey

As many fled their homes and country in Ukraine, some animals such as dogs and cats were able to be taken along with their families across into other countries. However many were abandoned and have died of starvation.

What is not widely known are the courageous people who have stayed behind because they would not abandon the hundreds of animals in their care. Ukraine has many overflowing shelters. These brave volunteers have gone into the remains of bombed cities and gathered as many stray and abandoned animals as they could find to rescue and feed them. Some shelters and zoos have also been bombed.

A number of animal rescue organisations have been on the ground doing what they can. Despite the danger and difficulties some food and supplies do make it through. Many shelters are privately run and also rely on donations to feed their dogs, cats, horses and other animals. They have posted their heartbreaking stories on social media. One such shelter is in Kyiv. They were bombed but managed to open all the cages to release hundreds of dogs and cats. They are trying to rebuild the shelter, as well as feed them. If you would like to help you can check out their post on Instagram 'animal_shelter_rescue_kyiv' or let me know and I can forward any donation.

President's Report Walcha Show 2023

From Daniel Kermode

Wow what a Walcha Show. The committee and volunteers put on a great spectacle for the public. With much needed district rain imminent we had perfect weather with almost 5000 people combined through the gate on Friday and Saturday.

A stand out this year was the full to capacity trade stands. Talking with Lisa Heagney (TWM) she said they liked it when there is other brands of machinery in the trades. It was great to have Can-Am and Super Moto back in the trade display. There certainly was a lot to look at. There was some serious sponsorship given to the Walcha Show Society from these trade stands. Both new and repeat sponsorship, which the committee thanks them for, helping us to operate so well. A special mention to Healthwise, who not only gave a large donation, but spent the day at the show on Friday doing health checks. Thank you to Tess Johnston and helpers.

Entry numbers in the cattle section were as big as I can remember and was very impressive.

Entries in motor bike, cattle dog and yard dog were great with plenty of stiff competition.

We had a total of 67 entries in the Merino sheep competition, given this represents a third of the total number of Merino sheep entries across NSW going to the Royal Easter Show, it's a credit to Jock McLaren and his team. Also Walcha and Tenterfield are the only two shows in the north to still have a Merino sheep competition, so long may ours continue.

Both the Speed Shear and Sports Shear drew big entries. Some even flew in from Wagga to shear in the speed shear. Congratulations to both Tete Petuha and Karina Partridge for organising these events so well.

The woodchop was again a source of great entertainment for spectators. I would like to thank Gary Dunn for his work in setting up and running this event.

Some sections of the Pavilion were down whilst others were up, but overall the pavilion was very impressive. The Photography section has grown incredibly in the last few years.

The Horticultural Pavilion was impressive as always, not sure where those talented ladies get their ideas to create the floral art works, which

seem to get better each year. Angus Street our special guest had a great time in there, as well as the men's cooking stand on his family's walkabout with us. Angus and his wife Elly both commented on how Walcha Show surpassed their childhood memories of their local shows.

We were privileged to have Angus Street CEO of AuctionsPlus to open the show. Angus and his family very much enjoyed the show and meeting people. It was great to have Angus here with the amount of livestock from Walcha sold through Auctions Plus which is some 11,500 cattle and 40,000 sheep out of the district in 2022. Walcha district lists the most stock for the northern tablelands via Auctions Plus.

Thank you also to Barnaby Joyce who flew in from Sydney to present Hazel Cameron with her honorary life membership. Hazel has given countless hours to the Jams, Jellies and Preserves not only as Chief Steward but a prize winning competitor over many years.

Thanks also to Adam Marshall for his attendance and support for the Walcha district.

It is great to see the Show also moving with the times, with EFTPOS access across many different sections. I would like to thank Mark Guyot for making this happen and also maintaining the systems throughout the Show.

It is privilege to be part of such a strong committee and volunteers to put on such a spectacle for the Walcha Community and visitors.



2023 WALCHA SHOW RESULTS

Cooking

A great year with a total of 284 entries only 12 less than last year. Thank you to all who entered the cooking section again. The Pavilion looked fantastic and it's a credit to all Stewards and Stewardess's who volunteered their time to make it look that way.

I would personally like to thank the Cooking Section Stewardess's for volunteering their time and for their hard work again this year. It's such a busy time on Thursday for entries then on Saturday for packing up everything in half an hour, it's so hectic. Remember for next year, 5.30pm is collection time and please do not help yourselves to your cooking or anything of the cakes before it has been marked off, otherwise it's assumed stolen. Parents please accompany your children when picking up their cakes, it can be confusing for them.

Open Section Champion Congratulations to Audi Dunn, such a good cook to watch in the future. **Open Feature Cake – Butter Cake** 1st Audi Dunn, 2nd Carnie Kermode. **Over 70's Champion** Coll King. Coll has been entering her cakes for many years. Well done! **Over 70's section Feature Banana Loaf** 1st Coll King, 2nd Marj Partridge. **Men's Champion** Stuart Wellings. **Men's Feature Monte Carlo Biscuit** 1st Chris Bruce, 2nd Daniel Kermode (bit of a competition happening here!), Equal

Highly Commended Stuart Wellings and Henry King. We had 17 entries in this section and it was not easy choosing a winner. **Most Successful Exhibitor** Stuart Wellings. Prize \$30 IGA voucher donated by Kim McKinnon. **Junior Champion** Isobel Mulligan with her lovely Patty cakes. **Junior Section Encouragement Award** Adelaide Laurie with her very neat Hedgehog slice. Prize donated by Vicki McIvor Chief Stewardess. **High School Feature Kit Kat Slice** 1st Amelia Parish 2nd Sienna Wellings. **Primary School Feature 'Dog Jumping' Theme** 1st Georgie Blake, 2nd Claire Williams. We had 22 entries in this section and the Judge had a hard time choosing the winner. Well done to you all. **6 – 8 Years Sultana Scones** 1st Leo Notley, 2nd Savannah Baumer. **Pikelets** 1st McKenzie Wark, 2nd Phoebe Grills. Highly Commended Bella Norton. **Under 5 Years Decorated Arrowroot Biscuits** 1st Evie Williams, 2nd Davina Baumer. There were 47 entries in this section and the Judge thought all the biscuits were beautifully decorated. All children received a Highly Commended card, well done.

Needlework

Thank you Walcha for your wonderful support of the Needlework section at the Show. I am always amazed by the quality of the work that

we receive, and this year was no exception. So many of the exhibits take years to complete, and I have to congratulate Lorraine Walshe for her Champion Needlework centre piece. This was an article in Hardanger, in the Counted thread work section, and was extremely well done.

Annette Healey won the Champion Quilt award and Claudia Kirton was our Junior Champion with a machine made garment.

Next year our feature section will be CROSS STITCH on aida or linen. The aida and linen articles will be judged separately, so really we have two feature sections. So you have twelve months to start, or complete a piece of work.

I always welcome any feedback, or comments on the Needlework section. There are always ways to improve. Please remember that all works, must be completed. This includes framing of cross stitch pieces. We would encourage any small pieces of needlework to be mounted on cardboard (preferably black) so pieces can be better displayed. Articles must have been completed within the past few years and once they have been exhibited they cannot be re-entered.

Congratulations to all exhibitors. I particularly love receiving entries from our juniors and I encourage everyone to help them in their endeavours.



Above: Alfie Spring who won first prize in the 5 Years and Under Building Blocks. Below: Arizona Bayley with her highly commended Dog Jumping Cake.



Above: Evie and Claire Williams with their flower entries.



Above: Connor Sweeney with his amazing winning Lego entry. Left: Georgie Blake's First Prize Dog Jumping Cake.



Flowers

Champion Arrangement: Open Julie Ireland, Restricted Rosie Aitken. **Champion Rose:** Gwen Higgins. **Champion Dahlia:** Ros Little. **Champion Miscellaneous:** Barb Dunn. **Innovation Award:** Rosie Aitken.

Show Wool

Grand Champion Fleece Glenburnie merino stud. **Champion Fleece Under 3500** Moona Vale. **Champion Cross-Bred Fleece** Tallara. **Champion Rams Fleece** Europambela. **Champion Commercial Value Fleece** KA and HE Blake. **Champion Housed Fleece** Airlie Merino Stud. **Champion Hogget Fleece** KA and HE Blake (judged on commercial value). **Pet Fleece** Lisa Blake.

Thanks to all the exhibitors for the great display of wool.

Junior Judging Results

Meat Sheep Junior Judging: 1st Hunter Scrivener, 2nd Lacey Hall, 3rd Matt Andrews. **Merino Sheep Junior Judging** 1st Amelia Fiechtner, 2nd Tom Lockyer, 3rd Brook Newberry. **Beef Junior Judging** 1st Jackson Emery, 2nd Isabella Mooney, 3rd Anna McClelland.

If you would like more content on this section, probably the best contacts would be Jock Fletcher or Warwick Fletcher – or let me know if you want me to follow them up on this.

More results will be published as they come in.



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The SQNNSW Innovation Hub receives funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



- 👉 To Dallas Hyatt at St Patrick's School for his extra work in caring for my son.
- 👉 To James Tickle for running such a great Ag bike competition at the Walcha Show, and to his indispensable helper Sally Munday.
- 👉 Congratulations to Council for their two great Council workers who stopped off to help my neighbour.
- 👉 To the Walcha Show Committee and volunteers for putting on such a great spectacle.
- 👉 To all those who turned up and supported the Walcha Show.
- 👉 Thank you to all the exhibitors, suppliers, committee members and the volunteers who made the Walcha 2023 Show a fabulous event. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all those attended. Countless hours of planning and work go on behind the scenes to make it what it is.
- 👉 It would be great if tradesmen would just say no to a job they can't do. Instead they don't answer calls and won't get back to you if you leave a message. It isn't any wonder that people go out of town for the services they need.
- 👉 To the person who put a mailbox through the window of a home above the Showground.
- 👉 Seen in Walcha, a mailbox remover and window breaker!

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.

Walcha Show 2023

~ Percheron Mare ~

Exhibited by Genevieve Freer

Ridden by Georgina Pillar



***Congratulations to the organising committee,
Judges and Stewards
on a great Show.***



Early last week I had my second knee replacement in 53 weeks at Armidale and for the second time in succession was treated by all staff members as if I was the only patient present. From the time I walked into the Day Surgery Office to commence procedures until leaving the Private Hospital a bit under four days later my stay was made just that much more pleasant thanks to the courteous manner I was treated which included our own nurses Barbara Goodwin and Nicola Hoy.

...

Sad to hear one of natures gentle people Helen Sweeney left this world last weekend. One of my favourite memories of Helen was when she and Ruth Cotterill used to score together at cricket quite a few moons ago. Their respective teams Bowling Club and Round Swamp got off scoring duties far too easy when the girls were doing their job which the publicity officer and recording secretary greatly appreciated because of the neatness of their books. Condolences to all her family members and many friends. A service for Helen will be held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Walcha on Wednesday, 15th March 2023 commencing at 12 noon.



May Helen Patricia Sweeney Rest in Peace.



...

Congratulations to Walcha/Uralla Third Grade Cricket Team who has qualified for their Armidale and District Grand Final to be played next Saturday week. Walcha/Uralla set Hillgrove a total of 177 for a loss of two wickets and then restricted their opposition to 136 when the rain came in the 37th over meaning the visitor's progress to the premiership decider as they were 1/150 after their 37th over.

...

Evergreen 3rd Grade batsman Nick Endacott went close to back to back centuries when he made 86 runs against Hillgrove in the Armidale and District Major semi final last Saturday. Seven days earlier Nick knocked up an unbeaten 103 against Guyra for him to average 189 in his last two visits to the batting crease.

...

Congratulations to the Walcha Central Secondary Swim Team who all qualified for the NSW titles where they will represent North West in Sydney a bit later in the year. Individually Jasmine Lynch and Cameron Mooney both made it through in their 100 metre Freestyle events while two of the three relay teams also got the job done. Former Walcha Swimmer Sarah Morris, now at Moree, also qualified in her 100 metre Breaststroke.

...

The Girls 17-19 years 200 metre Freestyle Relay team Bella and Charlotte Mooney, Jasmine and Ella Lynch finished second in their event at the North West trials in Armidale last week before Bella and Jasmine backed up to combine with Shaun McKenna and Hunter O'Connell in the Mixed 200 metre Freestyle Relay where they finished runners up.

...

Well done to all Walcha Central Primary swim teams members who performed well at the North West trials in Armidale last week where most swimmers produced P.B's on the day. Individually Blaine Cooney, Anthea Taylor and her sister Penelope all qualified for their 50 metre freestyle events whereas Nathan Ross went through in his 50 metre Backstroke.

...

What a performance by the Primary 11 to 13 years 200 metre relay team Nathan Ross, Dustin and Simon Wellings and Blaine Cooney who took a sensational 9 seconds off their qualifying time to finish third in their event and make the North West squad for the NSW Titles. Good on ya boys.

...

Best of luck to 2023 TAS Swimming Champions Samuel Swain and Cody Wellings when they head to Alstonville next Monday to compete in the North Coast Independent Schools Championships. Sammy finished 16 years champion at the recent TAS carnival while Cody won the 13 years division where both qualified for five individual events and their relay at Alstonville. Ted Kermode also qualified for the 16 years Backstroke over 50 metres. Go Gettun Guys.

...

Show President Daniel Kermode and his better half Carie had Chris Bruce around for dinner last week where it was decided the boys would bake something for the Men's Division at the Show. There was much sledging with both attempting to confuse their opponent by switching ingredients on the bench throughout the preparation but something must have gone right as Chris won the Monte Carlo section and Daniel was runner up.

...

A funny thing happened when the 'Dynamic Duo' decided to combine forces to make pikelets together before they halved the batch before entering. Once again Chris was declared the winner while Daniel was unplaced this time around. One would think the winners pikelets would have tasted the same as the bloke that didn't win a prize. Maybe not?



Cricket

Walcha/Uralla v Easts Second Grade

Walcha/Uralla

E BLOMFIELD c J Simpson b E Relf	0
J GRILLS run out.....	39
S RAFFERTY LBW E Relf	0
D BOYD LBW B Swilks	1
A WHACKETT c J Simpson b E Relf	3
B HOY b M Foster	2
B MOORE b M Foster	1
S LITTLE LBW E Relf	7
B MANSFIELD c N Miller b J Miller	9
H SINGH run out	1
M HARPER not out	6
Total 79. Extras 10. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
E Relf 5-4-2-16-3, B Swilks 4-0-15-2, M Foster 4-1-10-2, C Foster 4-0-19-0, C Montgomery 1-0-8-0, J Miller 2-0-8-1.	

Easts

M HARRIS c B Moore b S Little.....	3
J SIMPSON c S Rafferty b J Grills	10
H EICHORN b J Grills	16
C FOSTER c D Boyd b S Rafferty.....	12
J MILLER not out.....	6
C MORAN c J Grills b A Whackett	20
E RELF not out	4
Total 81. Extras 10. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
S Little 3-0-22-1, M Harper 5-0-16-0, J Grills 5-0-10-2, A Singh 5-3-5-0, S Rafferty 4-0-16-1, A Whackett 1-4-0-9-1.	

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove Third Grade

Walcha/Uralla

B JEX retired	40
N ENDACOTT b L Eastwood	86
N SWAN not out	30
P MOONEY st P Townsend b L Eastwood	4
Total 177. Extras 17. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
S Maxwell 8-1-32-0, S Brotheson 6-1-23-0, C Vanderveer 5-0-19-0, A Partridge 4-0-16-0, T Butler 7-1-27-0, A Dullaway 4-1-10-0, C Jordan 4-0-33-0, L Eastwood 2-0-17-2.	

Hillgrove

A COWAN b P Mooney	22
P TOWNSEND c B Jex b C Mooney	2
L EASTWOOD c M Brazier b P Mooney	11
A STEWART b N Swan.....	44
A DULLAWAY b P Mooney.....	7
C VANDERVEER c D Morley b N Swan	10
Total 117. Extras 21. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
J McFarlane 8-1-32-0, C Mooney 4-1-8-1, M Brazier 8-2-26-0, P Mooney 8-2-26-3, N Swan 6-0-24-2, M Tasik 3-0-18-0.	

Walcha/Uralla won one of their Armidale District Cricket Major Semi-finals and lost one when they played in Armidale last Saturday.

In Second Grade the visitors could only muster a modest 79 runs after they lost opener Ed Blomfield and number three batter Shannon Rafferty both for ducks in consecutive deliveries third over of the innings.

Opener Jay Grills steadied the ship but when he was run out for 39 runs with just 49 runs on the board and five wickets down the visitors were behind the eight ball.

Grills was the only Walcha/Uralla batter to reach double figures while Brian Mansfield was next best with 9 runs.

The visitors batted half their allocated 45 overs before the minor premiers passed their assignment in the 24th over. All rounder Grills completed a solid performance when he snared two wickets at a cost of 10 runs off his five overs whereas Sinclair Little, Aaron Whackett and Rafferty all claimed a victim.

Although the Third Grade fixture was abandoned with three

overs remaining due to rain, Walcha/Uralla were declared the winners on a superior run rate.

Sent into bat at Harris Park, the visitors compiled a score of 177 off their 40 overs at a loss of just two wickets.

Veteran openers Nick Endacott and Bob Jex put on a first wicket century stand before the latter retired on 40 runs at the 30 over mark.

Endacott continued on his merry way only to be dismissed for 86 in the final over of his teams innings and received valuable support from Nathan Swan who contributed an unconquered 30 runs.

Tennis

Round 5 of the Summer Comp was played out on Tuesday 7 March under clear skies.

Ebdon: H Thomson, A Barillaro (F), K Smith and M Luchich defeated Kokkinaakas: E Blomfield, C Bruce, M Bird and M Wall 28 to 25 in a great close battle.

Popyrin: D Sweeney, J Jones, J Fletcher and D Bird defeated Gavrilova: D Clark, M Ireland, G Wall and A Tozer 35 to 14.

Tomljanovic: D A Locke, P O'Brien, B Konneron and R Mathews defeated Saunders: M Lockyer, D Wall, A Pendlebury and T Bird 34 to 24.

The next Club Meeting has been moved from 13 March to the Monday 20 March at 6.30pm all members are welcome to attend. See you all at the net soon.

Bowls

Dads Army: A game of triples and a game of pairs were played on Thursday afternoon in good weather. Geoff Salt combined with Mick Bullen, who played twice, won the triples when they defeated John McCormack, Neil Dark and Mark Hogan 17 - 9 after leading 15 - 0 after eight ends. Noel Goodwin and Peter Hayes won the game of pairs when they defeated Brian Goodwin and John Watts 22 - 13. Noel and Peter won the chooks and the raffles were won by Tracey Crisp and Geoff Salt.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday a game of triples was played with Lee McCoy, Marg Tickle and Esther Hunt coming in second to Wendy Moore, Veronica Jamieson, Carmel Ryan/Janice Rizzi, the latter sharing the lead position.

Reminder to have names in by the 23 March if you wish to play in the championships. There will be no meeting this month. Our next meeting will be 20 April.

At the 19th

No play last Sunday due to the rain but after the Saturday golfers did get their weekly 9-hole round in where Margaret Higgins was declared the winner after she racked up 20 Stableford points. Runner up was Mark Hogan on 19 points which included the NTP on three.

This Sunday is the opening round of the 2023 Club Championships for a trophy donated by captain Willy Brennan followed by Round two and three the next two Sundays.

A reminder to all club members your Annual General Meeting is scheduled for this Sunday 19th March commencing at 9:00am.

Ladies Golf

Last Wednesday we played a par event for Sheila Faulkner's trophy. The winner with a great score of + 5 was Cheryl Mc Donald. Sweepstakes were won by Jill Burnell +3, Donna Martin, Polly Locke and Penny King all on +2. Simone Sweeney was nearest the pin on Hole 3 and no-one claimed it on 16. Susie Crawford was the best of the beginners.

Today we are playing a Graham Betts Stableford qualifier for Lorraine Walshe's trophy.

Gun Club

Walcha Gun Club is at the top of the NSW Northern Zone

Kevin Bourke won Overall High Gun at the Northern Zone Shoot held recently at Guyra, with a score of 296/305.

The March monthly shoot welcomed visitors from Tamworth and Guyra to make for a very successful competition. The weather was kind with the rain holding off until after all events were completed (it was Show weekend so it must rain sometime).

The winners of the 50 Target Glen Collin Cup on handicap for March were Kevin Bourke 50+0 and Mark Allman 50+0. Shoot results are:

Event 1: 50 Target Double Barrel

AA Grade – Kevin Bourke 50/50, Mark Allman 50/50

A Grade – Terry Rumbel 49/50

B Grade – James Abell 46/50

C Grade – Neil Haynes 41/50

Event 2: 25 Target Single Barrel plus 25 Target Pointscore

AA Grade – Mark Ullmam 97/100

A Grade – Bart Crosby 96/100

B Grade – Peter Holmes 89/1100

C Grade – Neil Haynes 86/100

Event 3: 50 Target Double Barrel Continental

AA Grade – Kevin Bourke 47/50

A Grade – Stewart Bowden 48/50, Terry Rumbel 48/50

B Grade – James Abell 48/50

C Grade – Hans Model 37/50

This month's High Gun was Kevin Bourke 193/200.

As always anyone interested in trying clay target shooting (minimum age 12 years) is always welcome at Walcha Gun Club. Our next shoot is Easter Saturday starting 9.00am, come and join us for an enjoyable and relaxing time.



Raffle Results

Historical Society Street Stall – 10th March. Tracey Crisp – Fuel, Rose McNeill – Fish, Vic Galvin – Meat, Tyler Foster-Wall – Natio Products and Jan Cross – Wine. Thank you to the Walcha community for your support.

church notices



ANGLICAN Sunday 19th March, 7.30am Holy Communion, 10am Family service and Kids Club. All welcome. Ph 6777 2543 or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN Walcha Sunday 9.30am. Woolbrook 2.00pm. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC Sunday 10:00am Mass.

Positions Vacant



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Elders Walcha is currently looking for a Sales Support Officer to join the growing team on a fixed term full-time basis.

Our Sales Support Officers are the first person our clients see when they interact with Elders. Your expert customer service skills will operate as the backbone of the branch and support the sales teams in building relationships with clients. With the backing of the Elders network, you will be provided and supported to learn and grow your career. As this role is a maternity leave contract role, the initial contract will be for 9 months.

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As a key member of the branch, you will enjoy a varied day including:

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- Providing support in all areas of the sales process as well as running the office.
- Creating promotional and marketing materials for the branch to actively promote the Elders brand.
- Working with the Elders team to allow clients to explore new innovative opportunities.
- Maximising promotional opportunities, including helping at field days and community events.
- Assisting with expense management to ensure the branch is operating effectively.

About you:

To succeed at Elders, you:

- Are comfortable and thrive in a collaborative and results-focussed working environment
- Are smart, resourceful, forward thinking and embrace technology
- Are passionate about effecting real change for both your clients and your community.
- Have a keen eye for detail and a background business administration
- Understand agriculture seasons.
- Have an ability to provide a high level of customer service and cultivate relationships with current and future clients.

If this sounds like you, please contact
Thomas Henry, Branch Manager Elders
Walcha

0409 659 877 or 0267 742 600

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Applications close 17/3/23

Tourism Officer Part Time

Walcha Council is currently recruiting for a Tourism Officer to join the team. The key focus of this position is to provide support and assistance to visitors to our region. They will assist the Coordinator with the planning and delivery of all functions of the tourism area. This position is permanent part-time (15hours/week) and is a Grade 3 in Council's salary structure. Days of work to be negotiated with the successful applicant.

For further information and to apply, visit Council's website www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/council/positions-vacant.aspx
Applications close 9.00am Monday 27 March 2023.

Phil Hood Interim General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, WALCHA NSW



In Memoriam

Johnno Williams

18/03/1993

30 years have come and gone
and memories of you still linger on
You were a true friend with a heart of gold
and for you in my heart
a special place you still hold.

Gene

Funeral Notice

SWEENEY: Helen Patricia

10th March 2023

Dearly loved wife of Owen (dec). Loving mother & mother-in-law of Keryn & Ray, Stephen & Debra, James & Sonya, Grant, Mark & Toni, Sally-Ann & Michael and loved grandmother & great-grandmother of their families.

Aged 83 years

Funeral Service to be held at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Walcha on Wednesday, 15th March 2023 commencing at 12 noon.

Family & friends are encouraged to wear Helen's favourite colour yellow.

Piddington's AFDA 6772 2288

Public Notices

Seeking Public Input into the Naming of Rose Garden



The Walcha Rose Garden is situated on the corner of Derby Street and Thunderbolts Way and is a popular recent addition to our town. Further work is being undertaken this year using grant funding to add stone walls, an arch and fencing to finish the garden. Council is seeking public input over a two week period, to the naming of the Rose Garden and will shortlist these suggestions and return to the public for determination.

Suggestions close on Friday 24 March 2023.

Phillip Hood, Interim General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, WALCHA NSW 2354
E: council@walcha.nsw.gov.au

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WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Mon – Wed 4.00pm – Close

Thursday 16 12.00pm – Close

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

Friday 17 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro (Twilight bowls finish 31st March)

- Corn Beef and Cabbage
- Guinness Pies
- Irish Whiskey Grilled Salmon
- 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 18 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

4-6pm HAPPY HOUR

Sunday 19 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

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