

THE APSLEY Advocate

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21 June 2023

Remembering the best dressed Doctor in town

— A tribute to Dr Ronald Mackinnon —

For over 30 years Dr Ronald Mackinnon served the Walcha community, whether it be day, night, weekday or weekend.

It was with sadness we learned of his passing on Sunday 11 June. 'Ronnie' as he was affectionately known by his family and friends, strictly requested that he wasn't to have a funeral, so his family farewelled him over the weekend at a very small Celebration of Life. Rev. Roger Chilton described Ronnie as a very, very dedicated doctor, and a consummate professional who knew his General Practice very well.

Dr Mackinnon's son David described his father as "quite a character". Many locals would remember seeing Dr Mac chugging up the old hospital hill in his Volkswagen Beetle dressed impeccably – with tie, coat and polished shoes. It was always such a relief to both the nurses and patients to see him walk through those sliding glass doors.

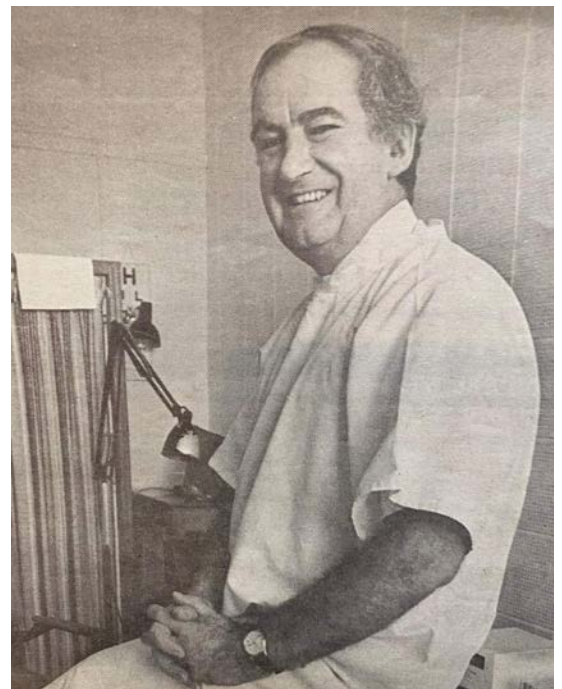
Dr Mackinnon's son David said he loved serving people and being in a profession he loved. "He wants to be remembered as the guy who was always on the patients' side" David said.

Following are memories and words from his daughter Rachael and dear friend Kerry.

Exerpts from Rachael's eulogy

He made his departure very easy for us, and we knew how much he was looking forward to meeting Jesus and being reunited with our mother Ruthie.


He was very adamant that he didn't want a funeral, opposed to 'Gilding the Lilly', with eulogies brimming the quirky humorous details of the recently departed soul. Instead he said "I Ron Mackinnon, have elected not to have a funeral, during which attempts are made to use humour and call out the idiosyncrasies of the person, but rather give a tribute to all the people who have enriched my life". He dictated and I scribed.



He did consent to David and I hosting a Celebration of Life, providing we drank the good wine he'd left in his pantry.

He wanted to thank Roger Chilton for all his teachings and his ministering to the patients during his time in Walcha. He also thanks Kerry Goulston and family for his incredible 70+ years of friendship. I have looked upon both Dad and Kerry and consider with great fondness how the two always reminded me of *The Muppet* characters Statler and Waldorf, especially when they were both attending an event in their tuxedo's. Cantankerous opinions, a shared penchant for heckling, both finding themselves


Continued page 6 >



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

It's been a week of thumping frosts around the district and the New England tablelands with places such as Dubbo on the western plains even getting as low as -4°C. At Wollun -11°C was recorded by someone over the weekend and the effect of these continual huge frosts are really being felt by graziers as we see the first of this season calves hitting the ground. Rain is predicted for the end of the week with a forecasted total of 10mm, but we also have a chance of follow up rain the following week. The black cockatoos have returned with eleven of them roosting in the gum trees at home yesterday, maybe the old wives' tale is a better prediction.

The southern part of the East Coast is set for another drenching with good falls of rain predicted for southern NSW, Victoria and South Australia once again. Speaking with a southern agent he mentioned it has become quite wet again in Victoria and there are parts of South Australia which are having as good a season they've seen. Still agistment is extremely hard to find, nearly impossible and the hay trucks are heading further south to retrieve hay. The hay itself is reasonably priced per ton, but the freight is starting to really hurt. I have found some square bale silage in the Hunter if anyone is looking for it.

New legislation regarding the Aboriginal Heritage Act is set to come in as of the 1 of July in Western Australia. Mining giant Rio Tinto destroyed the culturally significant Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara three years ago and this new legislation will hopefully stop this from ever happening again. The interesting part is that farmers are also bound by the new legislation and are extremely confused. There has been a request to delay the new legislation by six months after land holders would like some clarity about how they can get on with doing business while protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage. The consultation between the Government and the people affected by the new legislation has been extremely poor with a 'suck it up and see' approach. Penalties for causing serious harm to cultural heritage include jail time and fines of up to \$10 million.

The Murray Darling Basin Authority has warned there will be less water available to irrigators and the environment due to CSIRO modelling for the basin predicted at 20 to 30 per cent decrease in future river flows due to climate change. Government water buybacks will be a financial benefit in the short term but will have significant long term effect to many industries. Cotton growers, citrus orchards, dairy farmers and other horticultural growers that grow large volumes of food and fibre from these water allocations will see significant reductions in production. Not only will you see price increases and shortages of products, but you will see less jobs and less people in these rural towns. The Government need to look after the environment and the flows within the Murray Darling river system, but it also need to look after the hand that feeds everyone and find better solutions.

The long weekend held back a few cattle numbers with Tamworth yarding 2,160 on Monday and Gunnedah 1,990 on Tuesday. Looks like a convoy of trucks leaving the Walcha district on Sunday to the Tamworth sale yards with producers continuing to offload. Restocking steers and heifers sold to dearer trends and so did feeder steers, topping at 344c/kg for 456kg too for Angus steers, up 20c/kg. Heifers to feed sold to a cheaper trend topping at 326c/kg for 394kg. Export kill cattle sold to cheaper trends, as much as 15c/kg less for the best cows topping at 215c/kg. Tamworth yarded 5,200 sheep and 4,900 lambs with the market being quoted as being cheaper throughout both markets. Heavy lambs in excess of 65kg sold to \$194 while trade weight lambs sold anywhere from \$100 – 130/hd. Heavy XB ewes sold to a top of \$122, while extra heavy XB wethers topped at \$180 and the best of the merino ewes puffed out at \$105.

A shining light in the cattle market was the Speriby North unweaned commercial Angus heifers that sold last Friday on AuctionPlus, approx 330kg for in excess of \$2,000 for over 300 head. There is definitely some confidence somewhere in the beef market.

Wacha Poultry Show a great weekend



Walcha Central School students with their prize winning chickens and ducks.

Back: Veja-lee, Simon, Kobie, Zane, Bentley and Riley. Front: Piper, Dustin, Eli and Toby

Walcha Poultry Club held their annual show at the end of May with exhibitors travelling to Walcha and many locals also keen to exhibit. President Ben Partridge commented "With over 500 birds on exhibition the show was a huge success."

Judge Reece Hancock said "The standard of the Junior Section was encouraging with over seventy entries from keen youngsters, making for a very promising future for shows in the area".

Jodi Provost, an Ag Teacher at Walcha Central, has been doing a great job promoting the showing of poultry with Walcha Central School students excelling on the day.

Billy Sharpe	Champion Junior Bird of Show
Sienna Welling.....	Res Champion Bird of Show
Partridge Kids.....	Champion Junior hard feather large
Archie Sharpe.....	Champion Junior soft feather large
Rylee Coman.....	Champion Junior Bantam OEG ARC
Ivy & Frankie Partridge.....	Champion Bantam pit game
Hunter Andrews.....	Champion Junior AOV hard feather Bantam
Willow Kneipp.....	Champion Junior Pekin ARC
Sophee Kneipp.....	Champion Junior Rhode Island AC
Penelope Taylor.....	1st Large soft feather cock
Noah Kneipp.....	1st large soft feather cockerel
Brodie Scott.....	1st modern game cock
Logan Scott.....	1st modern game hen
Brown Brothers.....	2nd modern game pullet
Anthea Taylor.....	1st modern game cockerel
Marcus Blake.....	2nd AOV hard feather bantam hen
Riley McKinnon.....	1st Peking ARC cock
Braydon Blake.....	1st AOV soft feather Bantam cock
Rose Andrews	Encouragement award



Sienna Wellings with Jess Litchfield Secretary of Walcha Poultry Club



Cameron and Archie Little. Archie is a very keen exhibitor



Club President Ben Partridge with Ben Comen and Judge Adam Pelusi



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Enquiries to Peta Carter: 0407 350 781

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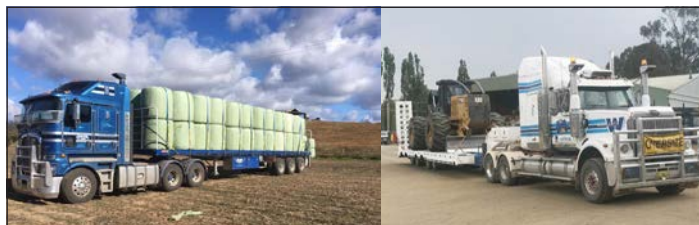
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letters to the editor



With reference to the letter "Suggested Reading", published in the 17 May edition of the Apsley Advocate, the people of Walcha, indeed of the wider region, have good reason to be asking the developers of wind projects AND the NSW Planning department for answers.

We are told that our area has "excellent wind resources", we are going to be a "hub of green energy" and all the progress that goes with that. We are also a region with relatively few voters so if things turn sour the political "green saviours" will have a larger gain of votes in urban areas to compensate. I cynically feel that the information sessions offered to the public in Walcha isn't so much about information: it is more about how to coerce a community to go ahead with their plans. Our region was volunteered as Renewable Energy Zone by government planners who were trying to facilitate the growth of an industry and all the extra powerlines that went with it.

So what is the problem with the wind turbines? Apart from the shadow flicker that will taunt people in their homes in the early morning and evenings, the wider issue is noise. How bad might that noise be? I recently stumbled upon a doctoral thesis by Karl Bolin of Stockholm, Sweden, which was written many years ago when wind farms were much smaller in both size and numbers to the current proposals around the Walcha region.


Bolin examined the presence of audible low frequency noise. His concerns included that "the increase of wind turbines may thus be particularly problematic in quiet areas with low ambient sound levels" – something very relevant to our region in general. Bolin also looked at options to mask wind turbine noise with pleasant natural sounds, like wind passing through conifers or deciduous trees, and sea waves. He was surprised to find that masking wind turbine noise was rather difficult. Tree breaks were only partially effective at the best. Wind turbine noise is unfortunately rather more intrusive and annoying than almost any other industrial source of noise.

The other issue Bolin touched on was that wind noise guidelines generally appear inappropriate - they should be based on existing background noise rather than arbitrary limits. The NSW guidelines on wind farm noise suggest 35dBA as the lower limit of noise. The problem with this limit is that it is way beyond the background noise of the average rural area and perhaps the township of Walcha itself on a quiet frosty night. Even the EIS of the proposed Winterbourne wind farm suggested background noise was as low as 18dBA. The data gather by Bolin also suggested that under certain weather conditions, the attenuation of the audible noise emissions from wind turbines was so poor that even at 10km away there was a possibility that the noise could at times be as loud as that 1-2 kms away from the wind farm.


This is not a comfort for those living in Walcha, indeed anywhere in the region. If wind farms go up, we will discover something beyond what Bolin did. He examined the impact of 19 wind turbines of 2 MW capacity. Instead, we risk living with the reality of hundreds, possibly thousands of wind turbines and of three times greater capacity. Wind turbines will smother our rural lands, cover our hills, dominate the landscape, drive people off their farming lands, and have significant impacts on the welfare of wildlife and farm animals. This doctoral thesis was not about the mysterious and controversial aspects of infrasound – it is about highly audible low frequency noise that is invasive, gets through most barriers and can't be easily masked. It wasn't a thesis about attacking the wind industry, rather the research needed to find solutions that would help it proliferate.

The choice for Walcha is quite clear: the risks associated with wind farms around Walcha include noise, particularly nocturnal noise, in Walcha itself. Can the developers and the NSW Government guarantee that this won't be an issue? Can they put in concrete plan for noise abatement should it become an issue? Can they formulate a plan that prevents the increased risk of fatal car accidents associated with sleep deprived, angry, depressed, locals who may have not had a decent sleep for many days – thanks to the "quiet" thumping and roaring sounds that wind turbines are known to generate?

George Papadopoulos, Kellys Plains NSW.




Walcha Council




Winter school holiday program


Bookings essential - Call Walcha Library 67742550




NAIDOC Storytime
Storytelling, craft & games! Fun for all ages
A chance for everyone to celebrate NAIDOC
Monday 3rd July 10am - 12 noon @ Walcha Library



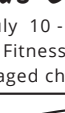
Macrame Workshop
Craft with knots...
make a hat hanger or keyring!
Tues 4th July 10am - 11.30am
Ages 12+ @Walcha Library




Little MasterChefs
Make & taste kid friendly receipes
Wed 5th July 12 noon - 2pm
@ Walcha Motel Restaurant
Ages 8-14yrs




Kids Dance Workshop
Thursday 6th July 10 - 11am
@ Walcha Gym Fitness Room
All school aged children




Active Kids Class
Saturday 8th July 10 - 11am
@ Walcha Gym Fitness Room
All school aged children



Secret Agent Mission
CNRL 'Cool guys' workshop
Monday 10th July 10.30 - 11.30am
@ Walcha Library Ages 9+



Lego Games
Building challenges & games! Thurs 13th July
2.30pm & 3.30pm
@ Walcha Library
Ages 5+



Personal Picture Products
Decorate your own picture plate or water bottle!
Thursday 13th July @ Walcha Library
10am & 11.30am (or DIY at home) \$10 - \$24 per product

letters to the editor



Order of Australia Medal

May I through, the Apsley Advocate express my appreciation and thanks for all the letters, cards and other forms of communication I have received expressing congratulation on my Order of Australia Medal award including the article in last weeks Advocate.

I am extremely humbled that so many people thought me worthy of the award. Through all the organisations I have been involved with there are hundreds of other people who also voluntarily worked for the community and none seek any reward. I have met and worked with many wonderful people both locally and further afield who I would never have met otherwise. So thank you very much.

Don Murchie

Petition to save regional Seniors Travel Card

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall has officially launched a petition to fight to save the NSW Regional Seniors Travel Card from being axed in the State Government's upcoming September Budget.

"Despite being asked multiple times since the election, the new government has refused to rule out giving the Regional Seniors Travel Card the chop at the end of this calendar year," Mr Marshall said.

"With many of our local seniors already feeling the cost-of-living pinch, axing this travel card would represent a major blow at a time when our seniors need this assistance the most."

Across NSW, more than 1 million seniors currently access the Regional Seniors Travel Card. Paper copies of the petition are available at Mr Marshall's Armidale Electorate Office for signing and distribution.

Congratulations Tom!

A big congratulations to Thomas Henry who celebrates his 30 years of employment with Elders today!

Tom began his career with Elders in 1993 as Mudgee District Wool Manager and after six months in the role decided to move back to Elders in Walcha to be closer to his family. Since then, Tom has been Walcha District Wool manager and extended his role to Branch Manager in 2021.

Tom's career at Elders and love for wool has allowed him to travel all over the country and the world, and his dedication to the Walcha and greater community is admirable! From his work at local and state shows as well as time spent supporting local sporting teams and community events, Tom is a true representation of someone who loves his community.

The team at Elders Walcha would like to congratulate Tom on such an amazing achievement!



EnergyCo

New England Renewable Energy Zone



NSW Department of Planning and Environment / Jaime Plaza Van Roon

Stay up to date

The New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is an investment by the NSW Government in providing a clean, reliable and affordable energy future for our region.

We are planning the REZ to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits, to our local communities. To get your input, a series of community information sessions will be held across the region in June 2023, including:

- **Tuesday 20 June,** Armidale Town Hall, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Tuesday 27 June,** Dungowan Hall, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Wednesday 21 June,** Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Wednesday 28 June,** Murrurundi CWA, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Thursday 22 June,** Walcha Bowling Club, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Thursday 29 June,** Scone Motor Inn, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm

Log on to our website for further details.

To stay connected and be the first to hear about opportunities to have your say, scan the QR code below:



Get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us on **1800 061 114** or by emailing nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au.

To learn more about the New England REZ, visit our website at energyco.nsw.gov.au/ne-rez.

LP1012

Continued from the front page >

vastly entertaining and inevitably bursting into mutual laughter at their own witticisms.

He talked at length about the Walcha Hospital staff who looked not only after him, but their exemplary care of Ruthie who was taken from him too soon. He was close to and admired his long-standing partner Dr Graeme Dodd. To Barbara Burnett, Matron Noble, Marie Marshall and all his 'angels', thanks to all who he held so dearly in his heart, and to Lesley Officer who he described as a lovely colleague and who kept him out of trouble every time. He wanted to thank all the citizens of Walcha, who he said honoured him by allowing him to be involved in their lives during times of tribulation.

The Remember Walcha Facebook posts have been a beautiful account of how he was regarded by the community, and David and I wish to thank you all for your messages and words of kindness.

He wanted to thank the Taylor family for Jeff and June's kindness and care before, during and after Ruth's illness, and to Dawn Stier, Wendy Galvin, and to Ilse Hughes who he regarded not only as a mother figure but also his receptionist. He loved his visits with Ilse and Peter from Canada.

Ron was Darrell Parson's number one Volkswagen customer – there's no doubt that Ronnie so looked forward to his chats on the way home on motor mechanical mysteries. We know Darrell how much you must have quivered at 5:30pm, Walcha dark and cold, when you heard that Beetle pull into your driveway – you were in for the long haul.

I know how much he loved David and I and how he told everyone who'd listen that we were his gifts of God. He made an enormous impact on my morals and attitudes in my nursing practice, singing the mantra of "Being on the side of the patient". He exemplified excellence, questioning, challenging the information, using the evidence, and heckling the health financial bean counters who obstructed the care of patients – a wonderful legacy which I will carry on.

Coming out of the anesthetic after his head and neck surgery, Ronnie looked up at me very groggily and said with the most extremely disappointed face "Oh I thought I'd be seeing Ruth, not you".

My friend Narelle sent me a message that said " She envisaged my father seated next to Ruthie overlooking a beautiful vista, telling Ron what a sterling job he had done raising their two children" and when Ron updated Ruth with stories of their children David and Rachael, Ron would add in stories about the two grand-daughters to which Ruthie screamed with delight, "Oh Ronnie"she says clapping her hands, "do tell me more".

Words from Ron's dear friend, Kerry Goulston

I met Ron Mackinnon at the end of 1953, 69 years ago, when we were conscripted into National Service in the Australian Army at Singleton and Maitland. We were in different platoons, but we would have worked at the same time shovelling mud out of flooded homes.

In the years that followed I used to catch the train at Wollstonecraft Station, looking out for Ron so that we could travel to Sydney University together. He always wore a tie and his shoes were stunningly polished.

There were over 600 students in Med 1, but only 400 made it through to the next year. We were both in the same small student group of eight at Sydney hospital for three years and had inspiring teachers.

I became an intern at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, while Ron went to the Royal Newcastle Hospital where he spent four years.

I got to know Ron well and I remember a number of visits to see him at the Royal Newcastle Hospital – or rather in his small flat which of course he shared with Ruth. He then went to Walcha – almost by chance – but perhaps it was pre-determined. Over the 40 years that followed I visited Walcha a number of times. I met David and Rachael as kids and watched them turn into very impressive, honourable people.

Ron was a legendary rural General Practitioner, upset when bureaucracy told him he could no longer deliver babies or give an anaesthetic. He served with devotion the people of Walcha and surrounding districts seven days a week, day and night for so many years.

He was beloved by all. He never hesitated to engage in politics. One of his many lovely stories was when when he took on Doug Anthony,

leader of the Country, now National Party, at a local political meeting and trounced him.

Then Ruthie got sick with acute Multiple Sclerosis. It was all very sudden. Ron was in Sydney for a medical meeting but when she told him on the phone of her symptoms, he immediately went home. By the time he arrived it was obvious that she was very unwell indeed. Ron got her to Newcastle hospital, but within a few days she was paralysed and could not speak. After some terrible weeks, Ruth was transferred to Walcha Hospital. She did not recover and for the next 17 years he visited her twice daily in the little local hospital in Walcha where she got wonderful care. I visited them a number of times, I remember them so well. Ruthie could not move or speak, but she got extraordinary and loving care in that little hospital.

Ron succeeded so well, despite some bumps along the way, in bringing up Rachael and David single handed.

My last visit to Walcha was when Ruth died. I remember being so impressed by an extraordinary crowd in the local Church. Each one of the towns-people at the end of the service came up and gave Ron a tearful hug. The love and appreciation brought unusual tears to my eyes.

In retirement Ron eventually came back to Sydney and in the years that followed the best thing for Ron was attending the Opera House and watching operas and other musical shows. He loved music and had an extraordinary knowledge of classical music.

In Sydney, he went every Sunday to the Anglican Cathedral and in recent years listened to the service online. I would often visit Ron – usually for lunch – and walk up the road to his favourite coffee shop. I was always amazed at the number of people passing by the coffee shop who would stop and chat with Ron. He made so many new friends. He sold his beloved piano eventually, but would listen to the opera and Sydney concerts every afternoon on the radio. I learnt never to ring him during this time!

In later years, Ron taught medical students at Royal North Shore Hospital, teaching them so well. He also delighted in writing numerous Letters to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald – usually not published!

Ron had integrity and was trusted by so many. He had devotion to his faith and to his two children, David and Rachael. Ron had an amazing memory but unfortunately resisted my pleas to dictate his memories regarding rural general practice. It would have made a Best-Seller.

He was blessed with his deep spirituality and Anglican belief. Ron spent his life helping others. His two wonderful children, Rachael and David, who gave him much joy and they loved him deeply, as he did them.

Ron was the best doctor I ever came across and I do not say that lightly, I have known so many. Ron and I came from completely different backgrounds, we were different in so many ways, but we had a trusting and close friendship for 69 years. I will always treasure those memories.



Local juniors take part in Rugby State Champs

Over the June long weekend several Walcha youngsters headed to the 2023 NSW State Championships, playing in Central North and New England representative teams.

Koby Brennan and Toby Ireland, selected in the 14s for Central North, played a total of six games across three action packed days in Dubbo.

The team's effort resulted in a draw with Far North Coast, a win against Randwick and losses against Central Coast, Central West, Mid North Coast and Sydney UNI.

Jack Bullen, Will Hall and Charlie Crawford, who were selected in

the 15s New England Team, played six games over three days at Concord. Unfortunately the New England team came home with losses in all games against Illawarra, Hunter, Mid North Coast, Far North Coast, Southern districts and West Harbour.

Over the weekend at Concord, Toby Crawford attended as Team Assistant, while Bella Crawford was Assistant Referee. The New England 15s were coached by Ian Crawford and Nick Hall was Team Manager.

Both teams played extremely well against some tough competition.



Toby Ireland and Koby Brennan representing 14s Central North.



Toby Crawford, Jack Bullen, Bella Crawford, Will Hall and Charlie Crawford.

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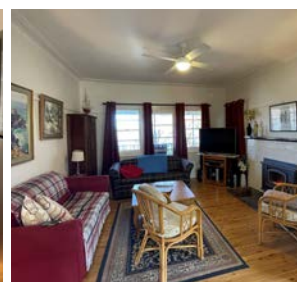


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Totally Tricked with Transmission

While a shock to many **it is no surprise to Walcha Energy**. Walcha Energy have been lobbying the government for years to bring powerlines to the Walcha district. **Make no mistake** - these powerlines are following the Walcha Energy projects based on advice from Walcha Energy. And this is just stage one. We understand there are likely to be more powerlines coming through the Walcha LGA in later stages of development.

Why is the Walcha district *becoming the powerline capital of the state?*

Because Walcha Energy have told EnergyCo that ...
*"It would be realistic to provide for the development of 10,000MW of renewable energy and pumped hydro generation in this area alone."*¹

This is the equivalent of over 14 Winterbourne Wind Projects around Walcha.

It is because Walcha Energy are touting the ...
*"Walcha Energy Project" as a "a mini-REZ within the recently declared New England REZ."*²

The map (top right) defines Walcha Energy's ... *"ultimate development concept"*, from a submission made to AEMO in 2022.²

Note ... this is a recommendation from Walcha Energy, not EnergyCo.

If EnergyCo follow recommendations by Walcha Energy, we are likely to see **2 double 500kV lines** and a **double 330kV line** traversing our LGA. This is what 330kV and 500kV towers look like, up to 80m high (right).

Source links / QRcodes to source files ...

1 https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2021/iasr/submissions/walcha-energy.pdf?la=en



2 <https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/major-publications/isp/2022/submissions/walcha-energy-draft-2022-isp.pdf?la=en>



3 https://aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2019/planning-and-forecasting/submissions/wep-submission-to-aemo-2019-planning-and-forecasting-consultation---20-march-2019.pdf?la=en&hash=4035E79BF9C225C745CD4C459913FBDE

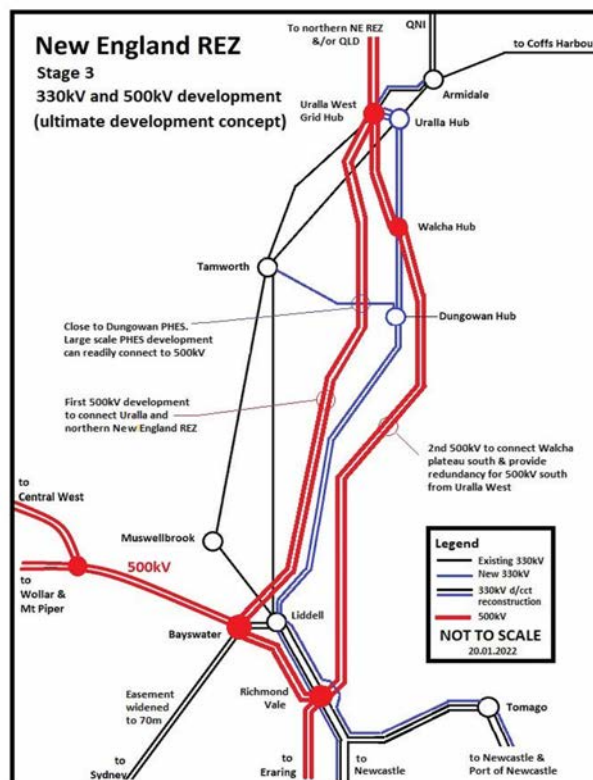


Figure 3 Third phase of New England REZ transmission – 2nd 500kV
 Target: Easement acquired by July 2027

Walcha Energy

13

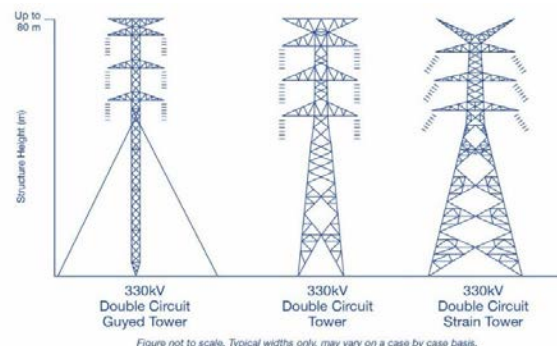


Figure 5-3 Proposed concept design for the transmission line towers on the 330kV line

A8 | Environmental Impact Statement

TransGrid



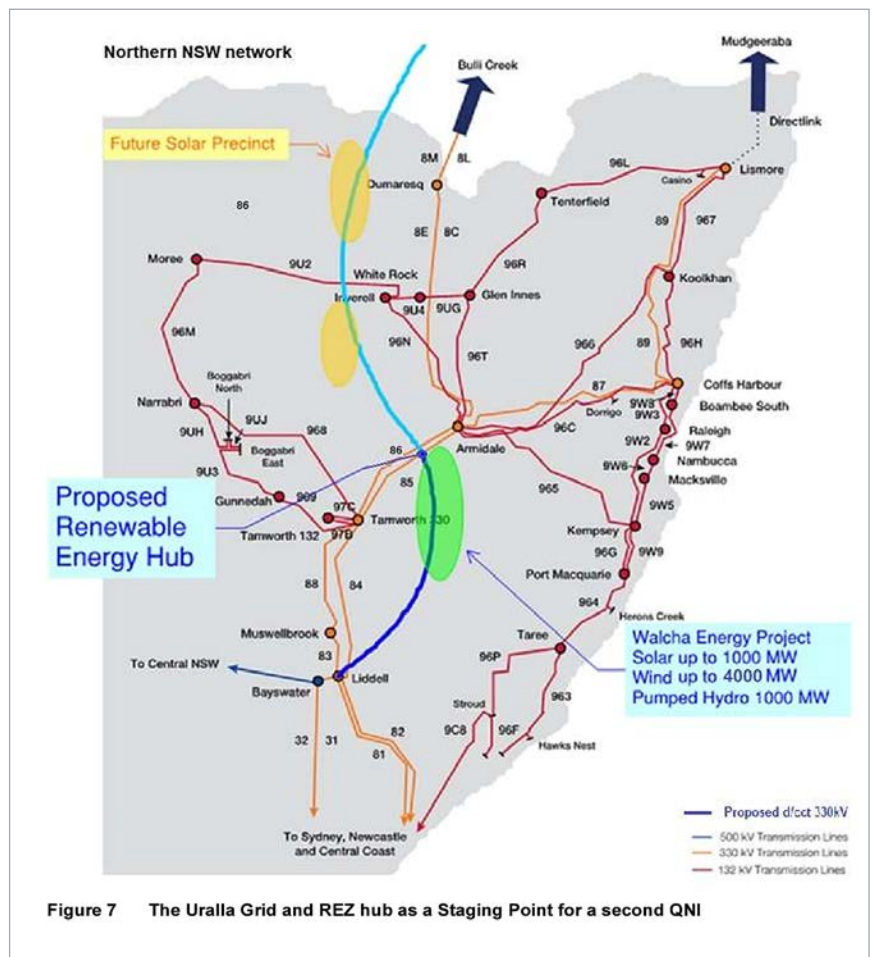
CONTINUED OVER >

We have real concerns that Walcha Energy are facilitating the construction of the main Queensland NSW Interconnector Line through the Walcha Plateau. Rather than following the existing path from Queensland via Armidale and Tamworth down to the Hunter, the double 330kV Line would go via Inverell, through the Uralla Hub and down through the Walcha LGA.³

Did Walcha Energy consult with the Walcha community about this?

Walcha Energy have suggested changing the route “due to its sensitive terrain and impacts on threatened species, forested land, small rural communities, and rural residential areas near Armidale.”³ What about the impact on Walcha??

This is a plan submitted in 2019, and another example of Walcha Energy lobbying for powerlines to be brought through the Walcha LGA. The map of this plan, submitted by Walcha Energy, is shown right.



Is this *what we want* for Walcha?

The only reason these lines are coming to Walcha is because Walcha Energy have been promoting overly ambitious unrealistic levels of renewable development in our LGA and lobbying the government to divert powerlines through the Walcha LGA. Walcha Energy claim that these decisions have been made by EnergyCo and are out of our hands. This is not true. These powerlines are following the projects being proposed by Walcha Energy.

Is there a choice?

Because transmission lines are critical infrastructure, landholders can not refuse to host the lines. However, if landholders refuse to host renewable projects, there will be no need for the lines to follow these projects. No projects – no powerlines. If you do not want to host powerlines, do not agree to host wind turbines or solar projects. If there are no new projects in Walcha, the new transmission infrastructure will follow the existing lines well west of Walcha. Surely this is the *sensible option for Walcha* - and for taxpayers.

Why have Walcha Energy *not spoken* to the Walcha Community before lobbying for this transmission plan?

Why has Walcha Energy claimed that *they are simply placing projects* where Energy Co are likely to run transmission lines? when this is simply not the case.

Why are Walcha Energy devising such *major disruptions to the Walcha landscape*, affecting everyone, behind closed doors?

What can we do?

Importantly, attend the EnergyCo meeting Thursday 11-2 or 3-6pm Walcha Bowling Club, to demonstrate that Walcha does not want this invasive infrastructure built here. Also talk to your neighbours, have the necessary conversations. Without community input into the conversation, the red carpet will be rolled out for the developer. Secrecy erodes community, and it is not our style.

Prefer to view this online? www.voiceforwalcha.com/totallytricked/





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Tired of headaches holding you back? Consult a Chiropractor.

With more than 7 million Australians suffering from debilitating tension headaches, and more than 4.9 million suffering chronic migraine, the economic impact to Australia exceeds \$35.7 billion annually.

However, the real cost to headache sufferers is immeasurable. The burden headaches have on their quality of life robs sufferers of essential relaxation, social activities and precious time with family and friends.

During national Spinal Health Week, the Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) aimed to tackle spine related headaches head on by increasing awareness of the painful condition and limit the impact headaches have on the quality of life for over 46% of Australians.

Some headaches are just a mild inconvenience, others can be severe, chronic and have a debilitating effect on the daily life of sufferers.

Dr Samantha Goor of Walcha Chiropractic Centre and a member of the ACA said, "Studies have shown some of the most common causes of headaches are stress and spinal health conditions.

"They may relate to a result of a wide range of activities including sports and exercise; poor posture (at work and home); physical activities (dancing, cycling, shopping, driving, gym, etc.) eye strain (including excessive screen time); dehydration; caffeine dependence and withdrawal; smoking and bright or noisy environments.

"The connection between spinal health conditions (especially of the neck) and headaches is well recognised in research," said Dr Goor.

"It's vital that headache sufferers have their spine examined and if appropriate, seek early, effective drug-free chiropractic care.

Along with some simple lifestyle changes, this can go a long way to relieve pain, reduce the incidence of headache and migraine and help people take back control of their life," she said.

Studies have shown that university trained chiropractors provide reliable, low risk, effective treatment for the three most common types of headaches - tension and cervicogenic (neck related) headaches and migraines with notable improvement in cervicogenic headaches following chiropractic treatment.

Consulting an ACA accredited chiropractor is a positive step to providing drug-free solutions to the more common types of headaches and migraines. Often there are lifestyle factors that may contribute to headaches that occur at home or at work. These might include diet or sedentary behaviours that a chiropractor can identify during an assessment, enabling sufferers to modify these behaviours to manage headaches or avoid them altogether.

"When it comes to managing headaches, best practice should be to look beyond simple relief and see if there is an underlying cause which can be effectively addressed.

Walcha Chiropractic Centre
Dr Samantha Goor, phone 6777 1340

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- 👉 To Rosalie at the Telecottage and the ladies at the Post Office for all of your help. Greatly appreciated
- 👉 Huge thanks to Adam from thebigblackbuilding for being open to tourists on long weekends. Your efforts are greatly appreciated."
- 👉 Between sculptures and natural beauty there are many wonders to see around Walcha. Alan Churchill's sculpture/train should join the ranks of 'must see'. Simply it is a masterpiece of creativity and engineering. Go see!
- 👉 To Anna and James at Walcha General Practice Clinic, for providing vital access to mental health services for our community. They go above and beyond for their clients and are such an asset for Walcha.
- 👉 To the kind lady who helped me at the Op Shop, much appreciated.
- 👉 To Tash and Josh who thoughtfully checked on the welfare of a 77 year old visitor whom they had noticed had stopped walking for some time in front of their home. Walcha certainly is a caring community!
- 👉 To Rachael and David Mackinnon for sharing such lovely memories of Dr Ron Mackinnon and his wife Ruth. A wonderful man, gentleman and great Doctor to so many.
- 👉 To the chef at the Commercial Hotel for the lovely meals presented each week.

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.

St Patrick's Primary Students take on Polding Cross Country Trials

Well done to Annie, Angus, Jessica and Josie who represented the Armidale Diocese at the Polding Cross Country Trials held at Sydney International Equestrian Centre on Tuesday 13 June.

Against the best cross country runners from five other dioceses that cover the northern half of NSW, all four of the students performed very well. In the Under 9's Girls Event, Josie placed 32nd, Jessica came 12th overall in the Under 10's, Angus was placed 32nd in the Under 11's Boys Event, while Annie came 8th in the Under 12's Girl's Race and is now a reserve on the Polding Cross Country Team. All of the students who represented our diocese at the Polding Cross Country Trials should be very proud of what they had achieved and again congratulations to you all.



Angus, Annabelle, Jessica and Josie

DROUGHT FOCUS GROUPS

Have thoughts on how you and your community can be better supported to plan and prepare for drought and other water-related events?

We'd love to hear them!

WSP Sydney is working with Walcha Council to understand how to improve drought-related supports and services. See details below for how to register for one of our focus group discussions

Walcha Focus Groups

When: Thursday 29th June 12pm-1:30pm or 3pm-4:30pm, and Friday 30th June 10am-11:30am

Where: Council Chambers, Walcha Council, 2W Hamilton Street, Walcha

What to expect: Food, drinks and open conversation (registration essential for catering!)

Contact: Karina Roberts on 0468732487 to register for a spot

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Sad to hear long time Walcha General Practitioner Dr Ron Mackinnon left this world on 11 June 2023 in Sydney where he lived, at the age of 88 years. Doctor Mac was the beloved husband of Ruth (deceased), his son David, daughter Rachael, brother to Ian, Colin and Marian and their families. May Ronald Marius Mackinnon Rest in Peace.

...

Personally I was fortunate enough to have Dr Mac as my GP for quite a few years along with plenty of other residents in our district. Come to think of it during my nearly 67 years on the planet I have only been under the watchful eye of four G.P's for any period of time Docotrs Graeme Dodd, Ron Mackinnon, Bob Stone and Adrian Allen along with a breif stint with Ray Latt.

...

Congratulations to Walcha Rams front rower Henry Lisle on his selection in the NSW Country Cockatoos training squad announced last week, which included five central North players. Good on ya big fella.

...

Congratulations are also in order for the six Walcha Central School athletes who qualified for the NSW Cross Country Championships in Sydney following outstanding performances at the North West titles at Coolah last week. In the 17 Years Charlotte Mooney won her event, Kirra-lee Murphy finished second while Thomas Bullen positioned third. In 16 Years Ivy Pritchard won and Shaun McKenna ran fifth, while in the 15 Years Rain Pritchard came fourth. Best of luck at the State guys.

...

Well done to the other athletes that ran well at the North West Championships: 14 Years Sarah Slater and Lexie Klein, 13 Years Cameron Mooney, Jake Wellings, Levi Olsen and Charlotte Gibson, 12 Years Connor Imberger. Primary: Veja Lee Peuha and Sophie Mulligan, while Arley Olsen represented Woolbrook Primary at Coolah.

...

Congratulations to local Junior Cricketers Sinclair Little, Will Hall, Toby Ireland, Leo Blomfield, Henry Blomfield, Koby Brennen and his younger brother Bentley, all who have been selected in various Northern

Inland Cricket Council squads for the upcoming 2023/24 season following recent trials at Tamworth. Go Gettun Guys.

...

Bad luck to the Walcha Central School Primary Boys Touch Football team who were defeated 6 – 3 by a very skillful Glen Innes side last Monday. All three Walcha tries were scored by Nathan Ross in a standout performance and while there were some good individual efforts in both attack and defence by the Walcha boys the homeside, who were fresh off 15 – 0 and 13 – 0 victories in their previous outings, produced a better team performance and deserved their win.

...

Heard a bit of a whisper former Walcha resident Mark 'Turbo' Peters was out fishing with some mates on the Hasting River the other day when a somewhat blank look appeared on the big fella's face. By all accounts it happened just after his unattended fishing rod became engaged with a fish or a snag which dragged it overboard into the watery depths below, never to be seen again. Well up to this stage anyway.

...

Word has it Jillaroos speedster Jordy Hoy and her partner Tigeroos utility player Harley Cox arrived to Tamworth Airport recently ready to board a flight to Sydney. Problem was the tickets had been booked out of Armidale and as the 'Dynamic Duo' weren't going to make it to Armidale in time they had to make alternate arrangements which did work in their favour.

...

'Pakington Street' the Walcha Wonderdog has been re-homed to the Dubbo kennels of greyhound trainers Paul and Keanne Wasson after having spent the early days of his career at Ipswich trained by Peter O'Riley. Pakington Street has won over \$6,000 from his nine starts and is co-owned by Leonie Wall, Mark and Luke Notley, GJ Natty, Peter and Cameron Norbury, Wayne Brennan, Bradden Jackson, Ricky Brown, AJ Cross, Paul and Leanne Wasson, Peter Berry and Mark Bullock.

advocate sport



At the 19th

Last Sunday a Stroke Medal Round was played for a trophy donated by D.A.Locke where Doug McDonald not only was declared the overall winner but also collected the B Grade mug after carding a 68 nett.

His wife Cheryl won the A Grade division after surviving a countback with David Sweeney when both players carded 72 nett, while the C Grade mug went to the club life member Margret Davidson on 71 nett.

Sweepstakes to Jack McLaren, Rose Baumer, David Sweeney and Drew Bird all on 72 nett. While the remaining ball went to club secretary Jenny Lisle 73 nett on countback from club resident Allan Green. Longest Drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhanded Larry' Asmus were caressed by Miles Archdale (A) Jock McLaren (B) and Allan Green (C). Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Col Berry (3) Peter Berry (9) and Doug McDonald (18) whereas the putting competition was taken out by Jenny Lisle with 23 points and the converted 'Pink Shirt' for most putts was eagerly received by club Captain Willy Brennan after he recorded 33 jabs.

Best Scratch score on the day was registered by David Sweeney after he had 81 off the beater.

Last Saturday Mark Hogan accumulated 21 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition from runner up Pete Whellan on 16 points.

Next Sunday 9 stableford round is on offer where Gavin White is in charge of supplying the prize whereas the Manilla Open is also scheduled.

Wednesdays Golf

Last Wednesday saw us play a stroke, putting, monthly mug and Country Vets event for the IGA trophy.

It was a chilly start but good to see a number braving the elements!

Our winner was Simone Sweeney with a 71 nett, sweepstakes went to Margaret Davidson 73 nett and Sue Partridge with a 74 nett. Putting was also won by Simone with 27 putts. Cark Street won both the NTP's on Holes 3 and 16.

Our Division 1 winner was Simone Sweeney, Division 2 was Sue Partridge and Division 3 went to Katie Smith. Today we are playing a 4BBB draw for partners, playing for a trophy donated by Debbie Richards and Pauline Carter.

Darts

Hi all, we're trying something different this year – no teams, just darts nights at each venue, names drawn out of a hat and format decided on the night depending on numbers. Starting on 29 June at the Apsley Hotel, names in by 7.00pm, \$5.00 entry. Spread the word, invite your friends,

you don't need to commit for a whole season, everyone is welcome!!

Ladies Bowls

On a chilly Thursday morning the Final of the Ladies Three Bowl Pairs was played. The game resulted in a win to Lyn Burnell and Esther Hunt who defeated Carmel Ryan and Debbie Richards 18 – 12. Congratulations Lyn and Esther. That concludes our Championships for the year, with only the Ivy Makeham Singles Trophy to be played for which will be played when the weather warms up.

In a social game of Three Bowls Pairs, Marg Tickle and Janice Rizzi had a convincing win over Wendy Moore and Jan Cross.

Players are reminded that nomination forms are on the board for our Club positions for the 2023 – 2024 year. The AGM will be held on Thursday 17 August.

Bowls

Dads Army: There was only one game of triples played last Thursday afternoon where John McCormack, John Watts and Geoff Salt defeated Barry Hoad, Peter Hayes and Warwick Hogan 11 – 10.

As there was only six players no chooks were given to the winners or a raffle held.

Rugby League

The Walcha/Uralla Rugby League Club halted a four round losing streak when both the Tigeroos and Jillaroos defeated Armidale in their Group 19 matches at Rugby League Park in Armidale last Saturday.

Both teams last won here at Peter Fenwicke Oval when they played the Moree Bommerangs in Round 4 of their respective competitions.

In the main game hooker Cooper Boyd opened the scoring with a try in the seventh minute which was converted by fullback Shuaib Rhodes-Swain, giving visitors a 6-0 lead. Ten minutes later the Rams responded with an unconverted try before backrower Jock Abraham touched down to give the Tigeroos a 10 - 4 advantage.

Once again Armidale hit back with an unconverted try before Rhodes-Swain increased the lead to 14 - 8 five minutes before half time with a try of his own.

One minute remained on the clock before oranges were taken when front rower Michael Morran added his name to the try scorers list. Rhodes-Swain raised the flags with his conversion attempt the Tigeroos enjoyed a 20 - 8 lead at the break.

Midway through the second stanza the hosts had crossed for two converted tries to tie the game up at 20 all, before winger Harley Carlton scored in the corner after good lead-up work by Rhodes-Swain, who converted the try giving the visitors 26 - 20 lead.

With nine minutes remaining in the match Armidale again tied up the scores at 26 all with a converted try before centre Zac Walters finalised the scoring with a try six minutes out from the final hooter.

Club Best and Fairest Points: 3 Harley Carlton (and Players' Player), 2 Shuaib Rhodes-Swain (and 3 Group Points), 1 Cooper Boyd, 1 Group Point to Kerin Stiff.

Jillaroos

The Jillaroos bounced back from their four game losing streak in a big way when they blitzed Armidale 56 - 0 after leading 24 - 0 at half time.

Player of the match Taneika Landsborough touched down for the first of her four times after seven minutes and when Joscisca Matapakia converted the visitors took an early 6 - 0 lead.

Midway through the opening session Bella Swift scored a try which Caitlin Harris converted before Landsborough scored two more tries before half time, both converted by Hannah Byrne.

Just two minutes had elapsed in the second half when Finlai Bird scored a try and then three minutes later Shae Partridge ran 70 metres to score a try which was converted by Harris.

Halfway through the half Rachael Green crossed under the posts after good interaction with Landsborough from 70 metres out.

Further tries to Matapakia, Landsborough and Partridge, along with goals to Matapakia and Byrne finalised the scoring.

Club Best and Fairest: 3 Taneika Landsborough, 2 Caitlin Harris, 1 Finlai Bird and Bella Swift. Group Best and Fairest 3 Taneika Landsborough, 1 Shae Partridge. Players' Player Maddie Lance.

This Saturday the Tigeroos and Jillaroos host Guyra at Woodville Oval, Uralla.

Photo credits Leanne Presnell

Below left: Walcha/Uralla Jillaroos and Walcha/Uralla Tigeroos teams. Right from top: Chloe Cox, Taneika Landsborough with Rachael Green, and Harley Cox on the attack for the Tigeroos.

Gun Club

The Walcha Gun Club held it's monthly shoot, The Walcha Challenge, on Saturday 10 June with just three squads. Shooters came from Port Macquarie, Armidale, Glen Innes and Tamworth to compete against local shooters.

Event 1. 25 Pair Double Rise

AA.....	Kevin Bourke 44/50
A.....	Bill Fletcher 44/50
B.....	James Abell 44/50
C.....	Hans Model 38/50

Event 2. 50 Target Double Barrel - off 18 metres

AA.....	Kevin Bourke 48/50
A.....	James Poole 47/50
B.....	James Abell 42/50
C.....	Hans Model 32/50

Event 3. 50 Target Pointscore - off 18 metres

AA.....	Kevin Bourke 149/150
A.....	Dean Rumbel 135/150
B.....	James Abell 138/150
C.....	Jeff Pritchard 104/150

Overall Highgun was won by Kevin Bourke 241/250

Grade High Gun

AA.....	Neale Smith
A.....	Dean Rumbel
B.....	James Abell
C.....	Jeff Pritchard

Congratulations to Jeff Pritchard, one of our new shooters, scoring a grade win. Our next shoot is on Saturday 8 July.





Death Notice

Dr Ronald Marius Mackinnon

Of Elizabeth Bay, formerly of Walcha NSW.
Died 11/06/2023 Aged 88 years

Beloved husband of Ruth (deceased) whom he loved – truly and deeply – they will finally meet again. Cherished and loved father to David and Rachael and father-in-law to Matthew, Poppy Ron to Bronte and Lillian. Beloved brother and brother-in-law to Ian, Belinda, Marion, John, Colin and Susan. He cherished his Walcha community providing over 40 years of General Practitioner service. In our hearts you will always stay loved and be remembered every day.

CRAWFORD: Alex

21st March 2023, Age 93

Late of Brisbane

Alex's family owned Moona Plains Station
1840 - Late 1960s.

CRAWFORD: June

7th June 2023, Age 85

Late of Brisbane

Sister at Walcha Hospital in 1970's. Loved parents to Janet, in-laws to Geoff, David, in-laws to Sandra and adored Grandparents to Alexander, Anika, Tameka and Shayla.
In Gods Care

Position Vacant

WALCHA COUNCIL

Preschool Educator
Term Position



Our highly regarded and acclaimed Community Preschool is looking for a Preschool Educator for the period 17 July 2023 to 12 April 2024. This is a relief position offering a minimum of 25 hours per week.

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Council is an EEO employer and is a smoke free workplace. For more information, and to apply, visit Council's website – Positions Vacant Section. <https://bit.ly/3A30YDc>

Applications close Monday 3 July 2023.

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Phillip Hood, Interim General Manager Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

Public Notices

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WALCHA COUNCIL

Draft Concealed Water Leak
Policy on Public Exhibition



Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 31 May 2023 approved the Draft Concealed Water Leak Policy. This Policy will be on public exhibition on Council's website: <http://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/news.aspx> until Friday 7 July 2023. During this time written submissions on the Draft Policy will be received by Council.

Phillip Hood, Interim General Manager,
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW



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2pm. Mclvor Driveway, 51n Middle Street.

Thank You

To everyone who attended Maree's recent funeral at Walcha Central School Hall. Thank you for your cards, well wishes and flowers and your attendance. Please accept this as a personal thank you from Tony, Rob, Jock, Ashleigh and Sally. We were overwhelmed with your kindness and your support.

Karen, Nicole and their families would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, food and comforting words that we recieved on the sudden & unexpected death of our Mum, Mum in Law, Nanna and Great Nanna Nise, Denise. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

Thank you from Carmel and Therese for the ambos, calls, cards and flowers with the recent sudden death of our dear sister Denise. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

Raffle Results

St Patrick's Street Stall: 1st Prize – Load of Firewood donated by the Curtis Families won by Anna Blomfield, 2nd Prize – \$100 Mountain Motors Fuel Voucher donated by Hoy Family won by Anne Hyatt, 3rd Prize – \$50 Fruit Shop Voucher donated by Healey Family won by Linda Ballard, 4th Prize – \$40 Cross Bros Butcher Voucher donated by Davey Family won by Trina Fletcher.

Meetings

Walcha Support Group Inc. Wednesday
28 June 1.00pm WCCC Rooms Middle St.
All Welcome.

church



ANGLICAN 7.30am Holy Communion,
10.00am Family Service & Kids Club,
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.



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WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Mon – Wed 4.00pm – Close

Thursday 22 12.00pm – Close

Ladies bowls 9.30am for 10.00am start
 Social bowls 1.00pm

Friday 23 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

- Beer battered fish.
- Potato beef and red wine.
- French chicken pot pies.
- Normal menu available, takeaway and delicious dessert.

6.00pm Tickets available for raffles –
 meat and veg trays

6.00pm Free Bingo

7.00pm Raffles drawn & Members Draw

Saturday 24 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

2-4pm TOSS THE BOSS

Sunday 25 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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YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR
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21 July

Christmas in July
 Look forward to great activities
 and menu

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 see staff regarding bowls
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