

THE APSLEY Advocate

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GPS President's A Squad. Ollie Greig (front) 2nd right, Darcy Macpherson (back) 3rd right

16 years Schoolboy Champions

Two Walcha boys competed in the NSW Schools Rugby Union Championships (16's) over the weekend and were successful in winning the Championships.

Ollie Greig who attends Shore School and Darcy Macpherson from Saint Ignatius' College (Riverview) were both selected to play in the GPS squad at the Championships. The Year 10 students had two training sessions last week before the Championships which were held at St Gregory's College in Campbelltown on Saturday and Sunday.

GPS selected two teams to compete against representative Schoolboy squads from all over NSW. Both Ollie and Darcy were selected in the President's A XV, Ollie at half back and Darcy at loose head prop.

The boys were undefeated at the Championships, winning 31 – 0 against Independent Sporting Association (ISA) Gold, with Ollie scoring a try. GPS then took on Association of Independent Co-Educational Schools (AICES) in the preliminary finals winning 36 – 7. From here they progressed through to the Shield Final on Sunday, where they

defeated ISA Black 49 – 19 to win the Martin Pitt Memorial Shield.

After spending many years playing together as Ram Lambs, the boys thoroughly enjoyed getting back on the paddock together, playing the game they love.



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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

It was nice to get more than the predicted rain last week with falls of 5 – 25mm falling across a large area. Areas of Walcha received as much as 25mm of rain which has been a nice follow up to the 10 – 15mm from the previous week. Areas down on the plains got another shower on their crops and just maybe that old wives tale about black cockatoos has some merit. If it is true, the 21 black cockatoos that roosted at home last night might just cement next week's prediction of 20 – 50mm of rain for the first week of July. If next week's rain prediction eventuates we might see some producer resilience come back into both the beef and sheep markets and producers might decide to hold back stock instead of taking the market.

The National Party seems to be once again unsure of their leader as news emerges around a possible leadership challenge by Barnaby Joyce. Barnaby has denied any leadership challenge but I think if he did he would have the votes to do so. It's Littleproud's alleged short fuse with colleagues and staff that has him under pressure and it will be a space to watch over the next month. Someone like Barnaby would be good to see back in the top job serving it up to those Greens and Teals in the Parliament.

NSW Farmers are calling for more resources to combat the exponential rise in feral pigs with millions of the destructive animals having a thriving breeding season due to consecutive years of high rainfall. These feral pigs attack native animals and livestock and cause massive damage to crops and infrastructure. A person on John Laws yesterday stated his lamb marking percentage was only 30% compared to 100% scanning rates in his ewes. LLS stated more than 63,000 pigs had been culled through aerial and on ground shooting and baiting over the past twelve months. The worst part about this is that the State Government additional pig control funding is set to end as of 30 June, just when these feral pig numbers are getting further out of control. We have feral pigs in our district but nothing like down on the plains and it was only a couple of weeks ago I saw them first hand in the middle of the day trotting through a local paddock. It's not only their destructiveness I'm worried about but the huge risk they pose to spreading disease which could cripple livestock industries.

The cattle herd is predicted to grow to its highest level since 2014 reaching over 28 million by the end of the year. A record retention of females and above average marking rates has delivered a larger number of calves hitting the ground. Positive growth is also expected over the next three years with the Australian beef herd expected to reach its highest level since the 1970s at around 29.6 million head. These numbers pose some serious questions around the ability of the beef sector to actually be able to process the excess numbers with the current labour issues. It looks like the beef numbers will head towards the same fate as the sheep numbers with the sheep flock expected to be the biggest in 15 years, growing to over 78 million head this year alone.

The rain that fell last week spurred the cattle market along with cattle selling from \$50-150 a head dearer week on week for restocking cattle. EU Angus cattle seemed to be in high demand with steers and heifers selling from 20-30c/kg better than comparable non EU cattle. Local EU PTIC Angus cows struggled to find interest at 1600 the week prior and sold to \$2040 on Friday's AuctionsPlus sale. Reports from last Friday's Tamworth store sale stated restocking weaner cattle were \$100-150/hd dearer compared to the previous store sale due to the rain.

Tamworth yarded 1295 cattle on Monday which saw cheaper trends for all light restocking and feeder cattle. 500kg feeder Angus steers topped at 340c/kg while feeder heifers topped at 292c/kg. The heavy export cattle sold to dearer trends with well finished cows selling to 10c/kg better, topping at 220c/kg for 726kg. There was no love in the Tamworth sheep and lamb market with Tamworth Livestock selling agents not even producing a report. 4000 lambs met very weak competition with lambs falling between \$30-40/hd on the previous weeks sale. Sheep to process also sold to reduced competition, topping at \$110 for heavy XB mutton with one of our two major mutton processors about to shut its doors for two weeks for its annual works maintenance.

Win \$1,000 in the Rotary Youth Public Speaking Competition

This fun competition is open to students in Years 9, 10 and 11

Follow in the footsteps of Angus Scrivener and Jessica Li who both represented Walcha in the finals in recent years, up against students from schools across northern NSW.



Walcha's Jessica Li speaking in the competition finals

Competitors will present a five minute talk on a subject of their choosing and do a two minute impromptu talk on a subject drawn out of a hat.

Walcha Rotary will conduct auditions on Tuesday 25 July at the Bowling Club. Advice and coaching available. Finals follow in September and October with the Grand Final in November with prize

money of \$1,000 and \$250 for runners up.

Find out more by visiting our website: walcharotary.org.au or contact Andrew Corlette on 0412 667 789 or a.i.corlette@gmail.com

Legacy Centenary Torch Relay headed our way

From Julie Hall, Walcha Sub Branch

Established in 1923, Legacy is one of the oldest and most trusted charities, providing support for the families of those who have given their lives servicing our nation.

This year Legacy is celebrating 100 years with the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay.

This relay is a six month campaign to pay homage and acknowledge veterans families, saluting their sacrifice. It will travel over 50,000 kms through 100 stops in hope to raise over 10 million dollars.

The torch began in Pozieres France prior to Anzac Day, moving on to London, England and is now in Australia.

For your chance to see this spectacular event, the torch will be travelling through Armidale on Sunday 2 July and Tamworth Tuesday 4 July. All donations for this worthy charity can be made at legacytorchrelay.com.au



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letters to the editor



Thank you

I wish to thank all those who have expressed their personal appreciation resulting from the granting to me of the National OAM Award.

It was personally humbling but also in a very real sense an acknowledgement of the Walcha community. Community is based on family; my family has supported, aided and guided my community activities. They made it possible.

My mother Essie Heazlett (OAM) was awarded her OAM in 1991 through providing unstinting care to others.

Walcha already has many others who commit themselves to provide loving service to others: giving without counting the cost; quietly toiling away, most likely without receiving a reward. The real reward is self satisfaction and what is to come in the next life.

Bill Heazlett

Tree destruction

A combination of inadequate supervision and failure of training on the part of our own Walcha Council has resulted in the tragic destruction of street trees in West Croudace Street.

A crew supposedly trimming trees for traffic purposes translated their instructions into the conversion of a beautiful treelined suburban avenue into a blighted line of 3 metre stumps – best described as a chain saw massacre. My personal intervention was ignored by both workers and apparently their supervisor and it was only the prompt representations of Mayor Eric Noakes and Councillor Scott Kermode that saved the balance of the street from the same fate. It is probable that the pruning is so severe that some of the trees will die - recovery for the others will take years.



These trees were planted some 40 years ago, selected by the Beautification Committee at the time and planted with foresight in a line offset from the electricity wires to avoid the wholesale central pruning of trees that are planted directly below.

This strategy was successful for many years, the trees trimmed away from the power lines but still well shaped and providing a magnificent street lining which brought joy to the local populace and any passers by. Nobody could have imagined that in one short day our own Council could have largely destroyed the nurture of so many years. Each day as I drive home past the sad stumps I either descend into further anger or try not to cry.

I have lodged an official complaint to Council and talked to a number of sympathetic Councillors in an attempt to have set in place a protocol to protect the town of which we are so proud. I invite citizens to take a drive in the next few days up to the old hospital corner and turn west along Croudace street. Judge for yourself whether there is any significant traffic risk posed to normal suburban traffic by the trees (I regularly pass vehicles along the street with absolutely no problems.) And have a look at the blight inflicted on us from Thee Street onwards. Then please, bring some pressure to bear on Council to ensure that this never, ever, happens again here or anywhere else in Walcha.

Barry Spry

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 recipes
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

We're on our way to longer days

The Winter solstice is commemorated worldwide. But what exactly is it?

The winter solstice is the shortest day (and longest night) of the year. But there's a lot more to it than that. The winter solstice marks the moment the Earth's South Pole reaches its furthest tilt away from the Sun.

The word "solstice" comes from the Latin sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still), because the Sun was believed to stand still for a moment before changing direction.

Here in the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs each year between 21 and 23 June.

Winter solstice traditions

In Australia, hundreds of Tasmanians brave the icy waters for the Nude Solstice Swim – a communal skinny dip in the River Derwent at Long Beach, Sandy Bay. And at Australia's research stations in Antarctica and on Macquarie Island, expeditioners take on an even colder swim – plunging into sub-zero temperature waters.

Walcha Central students becoming 'Trade Ready'

The Trade Readiness Program is a 2 – 3 day program in trade skills. Walcha Central School chose to focus on carpentry. Students were taken through the basics of carpentry such as the 3-4-5 rule and how to check if your spirit level was accurate.

The course also saw students learning about safe work practices, handling of tools, and completing a small project. We completed a seat with planter boxes that will be placed in the school for our students to use. The students involved in the course received a participation certificate for their portfolios. As the student's worked towards the

completion of the project it was delightful to see their teamwork skills developing. There was also the chance to problem solve and communicate their ideas to each other. These are all valuable employability skills.

The course was organised in conjunction with Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP). This allowed students to attend free of charge and gain a valuable insight into working in the carpentry industry, as they were instructed by an industry expert with 40 years' experience. We would like to thank Holger for his time and expertise in instructing our students.



Far left: Daniel cutting timber for project.

Left: Daniel, Chaden, Kayleigh.
Front: Hunter, Shaun, Ash-Lee and Matilda.

EnergyCo

New England Renewable Energy Zone



NSW Department of Planning and Environment / Jaime Plaza Van Rooy

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:

- **Wednesday 28 June**, Murrurundi CWA, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Thursday 29 June**, Scone Motor Inn, 11 am – 2 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm
- **Tuesday 4 July**, Stan Thiebs Centre Muswellbrook, 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.

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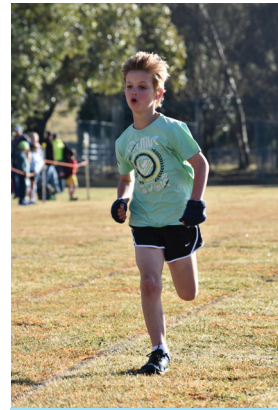
Walcha Central School Athletics Carnival

The Kindergarten to Year 12 Athletics Carnival was held last Thursday 22 June. All students braved the cold and showed great sportsmanship.

Presentations of age champions and age runner up and Relay events will be held on Walcha Central School oval, weather permitting, tomorrow Thursday at 2:10pm concluding 3:10pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch.



Bronte ready-set-go for the Kindy Cup



Above: Eli striding it out in the 100 metres Left: Noah and Jack challenging each other in the 100 metre sprint



Isabella leaping into the long jump



Campbell in the high jump



Chaden competing in the high jump



Sienna throws the discus

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AUCTION



Land Size - 1,030 ha | 2,546 ac

2 x

Tightly Held High Rainfall Country - Historic "Riamukka" held in the same family since 1852

"Riamukka" is steeped in history but the standout feature; *It's on the way to become a powerhouse in ability to carry and finish cattle with the improvements of pastures and unlimited access to water.*

Gently undulating grazing land regarded as some of the finest basalt country in the New England. Approx. 708Ha of established permanent pastures with approx. 88Ha ready to be sown down to new pastures.

Water frontage to Nowendoc River, 3 creeks, 18 dams + 45 inch rainfall average. The property is well suited to a breeding block or fattening block. As a cow & calf property the vendor estimates running 700 cows and calves comfortably.

A great deal of further information is available by the way of an Information Memorandum which can be emailed by request by contacting the selling agent.

AUCTION - 11am, 27th July 2023

Auction held at the Darling Street Community Centre, Tamworth

Address: "Riamukka" 5304 Brackendale Road,

NOWENDOC NSW

Video: <https://youtu.be/JbBYxvH3BHs>

Contact: Simon Burke 0427 634 341

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Stop the squeeze at Walcha MP pushing for new Fire Station

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall launched a campaign for a new and upgraded fire station at Walcha, following an onsite meeting with the local Fire and Rescue Station crew last week.

During the visit Mr Marshall heard the existing station was built in 1966 and there have been no upgrades or extensions since that time, with larger fire trucks and more personal safety gear putting the squeeze on what little space there is.

"Times have moved on since 1966 when the smaller fire truck, male-only firefighters and far less safety and protective gear didn't fill this little station to the brim," Mr Marshall said.

"Today, the 57-year-old station is simply not up to scratch for modern firefighting operations – it is far too small and does not have the mandatory safety areas, training space, changerooms or amenities.

"Put simply, the conditions are appalling for our local firefighters and far from conducive to attracting new men and women into the service – this needs to change."

Yesterday, Mr Marshall put down a question on State Parliament's notice paper asking the Minister for Emergency Services about the facilities at the station what plans the government had to upgrade the existing station or build a new one.

"Firefighters are forced to change into protective gear at the time of callout – which is inside the garage, open to and in view of passing public and where their equipment becomes engulfed by exhaust fumes," Mr Marshall said.

"There are no female changerooms and amenities and no decontamination and clean and dirty areas."

Mr Marshall said the Walcha Fire and Rescue team had recently



been qualified as rescue responders for the town and the outlying district, adding another important duty to their skills.

"In addition to this, six new firefighters who have almost completed their training will be joining Walcha Fire & Rescue team shortly – requiring more space for the new recruits," he said.

Mr Marshall said Fire & Rescue NSW's Fit for Purpose Program and the Enhanced 10-year program for privacy and inclusion recognises the need for essential upgrades to ensure stations are up to modern standards.

"The Walcha station should be immediately prioritised for funding under this program so a new and larger facility can be constructed on the existing site," Mr Marshall said.

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Resilient Pasture Landscapes Pasture Coaching Update

The season has changed, and the New England has experienced its first dry summer after three years of La Nina.

For farmer participants involved in the Drought Resilient Pasture Landscapes project, navigating this change has been supported by new skills and confidence to make early management decisions after the first round of pasture coaching.

Travelling extensively from Deepwater, near Glen Innes, to south of Walcha, pasture coaches Jaimi-lee Edwards and Professor Lewis Kahn from the University of New England have supported 74 farmers across 9 groups, through an on farm process of pasture coaching and using the online tool, Ag360.

"The first round of coaching was all about establishing relationships with the participants as well as trust and confidence in the process and understanding and using Ag360," said Jaimi-lee.

"As farmers grew more confident in estimating herbage mass in kilograms of dry matter per ha (kg/DM/ha), many participants realised they had been misestimating herbage mass on their properties," she said.

For Glen Innes participant Ian Firth, the uptake of the Ag360 software tool has increased his confidence in the decisions that he is making.

"The pasture coaching sessions have improved my ability to make more accurate assessments quickly. Together with the Ag360 forecast predictions, it supports the decision making process with data to back up my gut decisions as I visually assess my pastures," said Ian.

While farmers are increasing their technical skills to manage pastures, for many it is also a welcome opportunity to learn to recognise pasture plants, entertain broad discussions about livestock systems, and increase social connection by regularly seeing neighbours and friends at coaching sessions.

Participant Andy Burwell from the South Walcha group noted, "The peer-to-peer learning in the paddock has been excellent. I enjoy seeing what other farm enterprises are doing, discussing grazing

management and production processes as well as comparing the pastures".

"In the second round of coaching sessions we will be analysing the feed budget forecast specifics for each property," said Jaimi-lee. "An important role of Ag360 is to incorporate climate forecasts into feed budgets and we will also be evaluating the accuracy of the climate and pasture forecasts, and how this information helped with decision making for the coming 6 months."

The Drought Resilient Pasture Landscapes Project is being delivered by the University of New England in partnership with Southern New England Landcare Ltd and GLENRAC Inc. This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

It is a project of scale that aims to increase the uptake of drought resilient land management practices with a focus on pasture management.

Farmers will see on-farm results over the course of the 18 months of coaching in a number of key metrics aside from better pasture production, including improved groundcover, increased soil organic matter, improved water infiltration, reduced erosion and fewer weeds. For more information on the Drought Resilient Pasture Landscapes project or for news of upcoming field days and events, resources and links, please visit www.snelandcare.org.au.



OAM for service to Medicine

The Late Dr Edgar Freed called Walcha home for the last five years of his life.

He passed away in January 2021 however was recognised for his service to medicine as a psychiatrist in the King's Birthday Honours list this year.

Edgar's has a long list of accomplishments including awards and appointment.

Following is a list of these

Australian Medical Association (NSW), Section of Psychiatry

- Branch Councillor (Psychiatry), 1997 – 2003
- Spokesperson, Drugs and Alcohol, 1997 – 2003
- President, 1988 – 1990
- Secretary, 1986 – 1987

The Sydney Clinic

- Consultant Psychiatrist, 2012 – 2017
- Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, 1994 – 2016
- Chairman, Drug Committee, 1994 – 2017
- Chairman, Peer Review Committee, 1994 – 2016

St Vincent's Hospital

- Consultant Psychiatrist, 1995-2009.
- Member, Drug Committee, 1986.
- Senior Staff Specialist in Psychiatry, 1978-1995.
- Visiting Specialist, St Vincent's Private Hospital, 1978 – 1995.

Appointments - Other

- Conjoint Lecturer, School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, 1988 – 1999
- Honorary Visiting Psychiatrist, Salvation Army's Men Hostel, Surry Hills, 1988 – 1992.

Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Chapter of Addiction Medicine

- Founding Member and Life Fellow, 2006.

Professional Associations

- Fellow, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, 1984
- Fellow, Royal College of Psychiatrists United Kingdom, 2010
- Former Member, New York Academy of Sciences
- Former Member, Australian Professional Society for Alcohol and Drugs
- Former Member, American Society of Addiction Medicine
- Former Member, International Society of Bipolar Disorders
- Publications
- Editor, Australian Journal of Psychopharmacology, 1984 – 1996.

Awards and Recognition include:

- Meritorious Service Award, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, 2017
- The Margery Johnston Award for Service to the Mentally Ill and their Families, The Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill, 1995.



- ✎ I am very grateful for the assistance of Jess and Sue from Community Care who helped on Thursday. Much appreciated.
- ✎ To all who help out at the Rugby every weekend. A big thank you to all the Old Boys and the rest of the lads who played reserve grade on the weekend. Awesome effort.
- ✎ Thanks to Walcha Council employees Karen and Kimberly for picking up our dog who came to say hello while working on a busy road! A good reminder to have a contact number clearly visible on pet collars!
- ✎ Congratulations to Bill Heazlett for receiving the Order of Australia medal.

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 Rams Reserve Grade team who defeated Gunnedah on Saturday

Mini Tennis

Mini Tennis (blue stage) is the introduction into the ANZ Hotshot Program. It looks at the fundamental and perceptual motor skills for children.

For 3–5 year olds (parents are welcome to join in with their children). The program will run for 8 weeks during Term 3.

Dates: 24th July-15th September 2023

Duration: 30 minute lesson

Cost: \$10 per lesson

Where: Walcha District Tennis Club

Times available:

Monday: 1 pm-2 pm

Tuesday: 11 am-12 pm

Friday: 9:30 am-10:30 am

*Come and learn tennis through play and fun activities!
(All equipment is supplied)*



If you are interested please contact:

Emma Wauch

0429958881

or email

mstennis@gmail.com

Go the ENCO Show (Go away)

By John Heffernan



Last Thursday (June 22) I went to the Walcha Bowling Club for EnergyCo's two information sessions about the Grid infrastructure, transmission lines and energy hubs proposed for our Renewable Energy Zone.

It was as dry as

drought and pretty well filled the whole day, but I was really glad I went because those sessions drove home to me a few things that I reckon Walcha community sorely needs to take on board.

First off, the sessions were a whacking wake-up call to what massive nightmares could well be heading our way through a bevy of turbines, solar panels, grid giants, power lines and hub grubs, a veritable horde of mechanical monster that will smother Walcha in decades of horror (environmental, social, economic and more) obliterating any claim we might have once had to being an agricultural wonderland.

Secondly I soon realised that I wasn't the only person in that room who was concerned about these approaching nightmares. Far from it. Indeed, I soon became aware that most people attending the sessions were against the Grid expansion proposed by EnergyCo. I reckon a clear majority at both sessions saw what they considered an unacceptably grim situation in this proposed grid invasion of our community. And I am not fabricating one bit when I say that many people at both sessions asked me almost the same identical question: How on Earth do we stop this thing?

Our mighty little community has made a truly valiant efforts in fighting the tsunami of turbine attacks hurled at us over the years, along with misinformation and shameless double dealing behind our backs. But this Grid Thing is something else entirely - a government-based attack that many feel can't be stopped, and some even consider a kind of fait accompli.

Well let me tell you, Walcha, that is not the case. This does not have to be a done deal, not if we're prepared to stand up and make it patently clear to the government that we definitely do not want this monster in our midst. After badgering the team of young EnergyCo officials at those two meeting, the unmistakable message I left with was that not only must we object, but that we must make our objections clearly understood, and drive them home hard.

One sure way to do this is to make EnergyCo aware that the massive renewable energy claims of Walcha Energy (with Winterbourne Wind and Ruby Hills et al and their threatened 560 turbines) are barely more than the machinations of misinformation and myth. They certainly do not possess social licence nor indeed any rightful place in Walcha, and therefore cannot be claimed to justify any re-routing of transmission lines through our district.

**SO GET THE MESSAGE OUT THERE
OBJECT TO ENERGYCO's
TRANSMISSION MONSTER
OBJECT OR BE WRECKED**

We encourage everyone to complete the Energy Co survey. Click this link : <https://www.research.net/r/nerez-communityfeedback> or scan this with your phone/tablet



RUGBY REPORT WALCHA V GUNNEDAH

By Ronan the Redback

On Saturday the mighty Rams took on the undefeated Red Devils. It was always going to be a big ask. Undefeated Grand Finalists from last year travelling up the hill in red hot form. Desperate for the win to make or break our season the Rams stood up to the task.

The game started off in typical country footy fashion with both teams contesting back and forth with a few turnovers, scrappy line outs and the backs kicking it way too much. But it was only a matter of time before one team broke the defence line and that's what exactly happened.

Off a scrappy set piece Gunnedah were quick to get it out wide and put a little grubber kick in which led to a try. Gunnedah 5, Walcha 0. Quick to get back down inside Gunnedah's 40, the Rams were bashing it up and some big ball carries from Somerton grazier Wally Davidson and local town hero Harry King saw the Rams get on the front foot. Some nice clean ball at the ruck and after burners from Dom Bower saw the Rams setting up Patty Keen in the corner for a nicely executed try. Gunnedah 5, Rams 5. After a lot of back and forth footy and a brilliant whole team effort in defence, the Rams went into half time only trailing by 4. Gunnedah 19, Rams 15.

After a stern half time chat from mummy's boy coach Richie Hunt, the Rams came chasing their season upset. There were some big hits and big runs and not a single point scored until the last 20 minutes. This is where the real game began. A very unlikely dropped ball from long term serving Ram Sionee (maybe too much Cava before the game) saw Gunnedah run away with a try. Gunnedah 26, Rams 15. The Rams soon sent it back down the field, maintaining possession with some good work from the piggies and a slick run from a bloke that is meant to be retired, but not for much longer, saw Ed Cordingley nearly make the try line, but his hamstrings let him down. But that was okay because the ever reliable Wally Davidson was there to hit a short ball off the deck from young half back Toby Moore and crossed the line to give this home crowd an exciting finish. With Rams supporters barracking and the lads smelling victory the Rams regathered on the halfway line

where a few intense words (PG) were said about the final 13 minutes of play remaining from a few of the older heads. Gunnedah 26, Rams 22. With the Rams regathering it from the kick-off they went on the attack once again but this time with a bit of wind up them. Dom Bower looked up and sensed a few slow forwards out wide from the opposition and several slick passes by Rams forwards lead to Jason O'Keefe making a gallant run down the side line, in front of his new lovely girlfriend. Jason did a nice tip off to Sam Lomax, who to everyone's disbelief caught the ball, pipped the legs and gave a great off-load to Sionee who, for a change, didn't have to do much work besides ground the ball. With the converted try the boys were back in front. Rams 29, Gunnedah 26. The Rams soon worked their way back down into Gunnedah's 22 from the kick-off and were certain to score again, but were pinned with an unlucky 50/50 breakdown penalty. You could hear finger nails being chewed in the crowd, but don't worry ladies and gentlemen, there was only room for one team to choke and that certainly wasn't the Rams. With a few minutes to go the lads defended up well in the back line and forced a knock-on and the lads ground it down to Gunnedah's 22 again from set piece play. The Rams got an unlikely ruck penalty with two minutes to go and Dom Bower was strictly instructed to drag down the clock and kick the penalty goal or it would be the last game he'd ever play in the red and white! He did just that. Rams 32, Gunnedah 26.

A scrappy restart saw the Rams lose the ball and have to defend on the final play, but like they had done the whole game they defended up and stuck together with a never die attitude. The Rams managed to turn the ball over in the ruck and kick it out to hear the whistle blow – much to the players and supporters relief. Rams full time 32 defeated the undefeated, but now defeated, Gunnedah Red Devils 26. It was a huge team effort, with no individual performances.

As we go out to Narrabri this week we hope to continue this form into the remainder of the season, pushing for a Top 4 spot. Thanks to all the supporters who came out on Saturday, we couldn't have done it without you.

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Rugby League

The Walcha/Uralla Rugby League team were defeated 40-30 by Group 19 competition leaders Guyra at Woodville Oval Uralla last Saturday after trailing 22-18 at halftime.

Spectators had barely settled in when the visitors opened the scoring with a converted try only to see the hosts respond two minutes later when back rower Lachlen Barnden crossed for a try and fullback Shuaib Rhodes-Swain converted. Within the space of three minutes Guyra scored two tries, one of which was converted as they shot away to a 16-6 lead. Tigeroos bounced back with a try to front rower Drew Bird and a goal to Rhodes-Swain at the 24 minute mark.

Ten minutes before halftime the 'SuperSpuds' crossed for a converted try and then just as the timekeeper was reaching for the halftime hooter the homeside reduced the deficit to 22-18, when lock Brody Dexter scored a try which Rhodes-Swain converted.

Three converted tries to Guyra within the opening 13 minutes of the second session had the visitors enjoying a 40-18 advantage before the Tigeroos bounced back extra strongly. Midway through the stanza winger Tom Cooper crossed for a try and then forward Mike Moran touched down before Rhodes-Swain raised the flags with his conversion attempt. Seven minutes remained, with Kaleb Doran keeping the Tigeroos in the game scoring a try. The final score 40-32.

Coach Scotty Swain was disappointed with the loss but not with the effort put in by his players including robust front-rower Harley Cox who he thought had his best game for the Tigeroos. Best and Fairest Points - Club - 3 Harley Cox (and Players Player) 2 Jamie Robertson 1 Keirin Stiff who also picked up one group point.

Jillaroos

Walcha/Uralla Jillaroos Ladies League Tag team played out a 10 all draw with Guyra after scores were locked up 6 all at Woodville Oval last Saturday.

The visitors hit the front midway through the first half with a converted try before the Jillaroos responded just before oranges were taken when Jorjie Ledingham touched down and Hannah Byrne landed the conversion attempt.

Early in the second half Joscisca Matapakia finalised the Jillaroos scoring with a try before the Super Spudettes equalised with an unconverted try which was the final score 10 all.

Best and Fairest Points: Club 3 Jojo Matapakia (and 3 Group Points), 2 Caitlin Harris 1 Kirra-Lee Murphy. Group 1 Tanieka Landsborough. Players Player Alisha Dillon.

With four rounds remaining in the competition before the Semi Finals sees the respective points scores as follows. Ladies League Tag – Tingha 20, Warialda 14, Bingara, Glen Innes, Inverell and Guyra all 11, Narwan and Jillaroos 10, Moree 2, Armidale 0.

A Grade- Guyra 16, Narwan 14, Inverell 12, Moree and Bingara 11, Glen Innes and Tingha 10, Tigeroos and Armidale 6, Warialda 4.

Walcha/Uralla play Narwan next Sunday at Newling Oval in Armidale followed by Glen Innes away on Sunday 16 July, Bingara here at home Sunday 23 July and then host Armidale at Woodville Oval Saturday 29 July.



Former Walcha Roos front rower Graeme Watts recently got his ambitions mixed up with his capabilities while attempting to install an 85 inch TV on a wall bracket at his Upper Coomera residence on the Gold Coast. According to 'Battle Cat' he ignored instructions where it was suggested three people assist in carrying out the installation and ruptured his bicep that required surgery, which was successful.

...

Called into Cross Brothers Butchery to take up the 2 kilo of sausages for \$22 on offer last Friday and while there instead of ordering a kilo of mince I asked 'head honcho' Jonathon if he could get me \$10 worth instead. After carefully handling his task Jonnie placed the mince on the scales which registered \$9.98 worth but as he didn't have 2 cents for change it was rounded up.

...

Last week the Gremlins got into the column where Walcha Rams prop Henry Leslie was listed as Lisle and greyhound trainer Leanne Wasson received Keanne as her Christian name. Sorry about that guys - no excuses but it has to be remembered the girls at the Telecottage have to turn my handwritten reports into print which I greatly appreciate. The girls do a great job but it must be a challenge some weeks.

...

The Walcha Rams defeated Central North competition leaders the Gunnedah Devils 32-26 here at Peter Fenwicke Oval last Saturday. The current Central North ladder is as follows: Gunnedah 45, Pirates 43, Moree 42, Quirindi 34, Walcha 33, Narrabri 29, Scone 17 and Inverell 16. The Rams travel to Narrabri this Saturday and hopefully can continue the great form they displayed last weekend. Go the Red and Whites.

...

Not sure how many games a few of the Rams 'Old Boys' including Henry King, Will Fletcher, Dicko Young, Simon Newton and Sandy Cameron are going to play this season but they certainly helped the Walcha Reggies to a very good 36-31 win over Gunnedah last Saturday. Good on ya boys.

How things have changed since March 1980 when I commenced employment with the Walcha Council where one of my first tasks was help prepare and lay kerb and gutter at various locations around town. Back in those days we weren't afforded the luxury of a practice run like what happened in Pakington Street recently where the first replacement attempt was ripped up and then relaid a few days later. Did hear the concreters who laid the first K & G weren't invited back for a second go.

...

They might not have won the bowls at the Oxley Triples in Tamworth last weekend but Bowling Club President Adam Hall, former President Tony 'Larry' Asmus and his partner Debbie Richards cleaned up when they attended the Oxley Bowling Club raffles on Friday night. Larry won a \$300 fundraising raffle, before donating a portion back, Adam and his partner Jules collected multiple meat trays while Debbie won the '100' club draw. There was a stage where the quartet were 'threatened' with being thrown out of the club because they were taking all the prizes off the locals. All in good fun.

...

Despite a shaky start the other trio who represented Walcha at the Oxley Triples Stephen 'Pole' Bath, Kev Creighton and Andrew 'Frog' McGuffog played well enough to finish fourth in the competition. 'Pole' had to borrow some bowls after he couldn't get into the clubhouse to pick up his bowls because they had to leave Walcha well before the club was open. That was besides Stephen calling in at the B.C to pick up his bowls the previous evening only to forget them.

...

Calling all Spearthrowers – Our local Darts Club needs your support if you are interested. Player numbers are down to the point where a team competition is unable to be played but organisers are still keen to run darts on Thursdays under a different format where players are invited to turn up before being drawn out of a hat to play each other in doubles, triples etc depending on how many players attend. Cost is \$5 to commence at 7.00pm and this week the Apsley Arms Hotel is the location.



Wednesdays Golf

We played a 4BBB draw for partners event last Wednesday, playing for Pauline Carter and Debbie Richard's trophy. There were some good scores recorded and the winners were Cheryl McDonald and Robyn Salt with 46 points. Their playing partners one stroke behind with 45 points were Sue Partridge and Carl Street. The front nine winners with 24 points were Jenny Lisle and Margaret Higgins and the back nine winners were Sue Partridge and Carl Street with 22 points. Sweepstakes went to Alison Cameron and Lorraine Walshe clocking up 44 points, and Margaret Davidson and Pip Monie with 41 points. NTP on 3 was Cheryl McDonald and Robyn Salt took out the pin on 16.

Today we are playing Town versus Country for Julie Olrich and Julie Hoad's trophy.

Ladies Bowls

A game of three bowl triples was played in the freezing weather last Thursday with Esther Hunt, Jan Cross, Wendy Moore/Lyn Burnell sharing the position, winning against Marg Tickle, Janice Rizzi and Carmel Ryan 17-14.

The AGM is Thursday 17 August. Nomination forms for executive and match committee positions are on the board. Nomination box is behind the bar.

There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.30am for 10am.

At the 19th

Two dozen players teed off in a stableford round for a trophy donated by Gavin White last Sunday where Ladies Club Champion Simone Sweeney accumulated 40 points to win the event.

Sweepstakes went to Timmy Stackman and Gavin White both on 38, Doug McDonald and Margaret Davidson both on 37, Owen Presnell 36 'Molly Dooker' Issac Stackman 33 on countback from Julie Presnell.

Twelve time club Champion Timmy Stackman carded an Eagle on the sixth hole cleaning out the 'Eagles Nest' sponsored by Darks Plumbing and then was unlucky to repeat the feat on the eighth hole.

Sharpest shooters at pins were Pauline Carter (3) and Owen Presnell (9).

Out at the Manilla Open Michael Stackman and Don Brooks were the best Walcha performers racking up 42 points, President Allan Green and Captain Will Brennan scored 40 points while Simeon Cross teamed up with John Izzard for 34 points and also took out the N.T.P on the seventh hole.

By all accounts Captain Willy has the sweepstake prizes of 'Des' and Don but did mention something about possession being 9/10 of the law.

A Three Person Ambrose is on offer next Sunday for prizes supplied by Simeon Cross, Fred Henry and David Dunn.



In Memoriam

PARTRIDGE: Fay

17.8.39 – 28.6.22

Lovingly remembered by all the family.
Kevin, Debbie, Gregory, Therese, Donna,
Melissa, Darren and Grandchildren.

Death Notice

Carter; Brian Garden

23rd June 2023

of 'Cauabaune' Walcha

Aged 89 years

Dearly loved husband of Trish.
Loved father & father-in-law of George &
Sarah, Angus & Janet and Sarah & Don Riley.

Loved grandfather, great-grandfather,
brother, brother-in-law, uncle and
great uncle of his family.

Funeral to be held at Piddingtons
Funeral home, Uralla Road Armidale,
Friday 30th June 2023 commencing at 10am.

A celebration for Brian's life will also be
held at the Walcha Sports Club, Hamilton
Street, Walcha on Friday 30th June 2023
commencing at 1pm.

Piddington's AFDA

Thank You

Lloyd, Katy, Lynett, Fiona, Nicole, Melanie
and their families wish to thank everyone
for all the flowers and all those wonderful
cards, food and cake received on the
passing of wife, mother, grandmother, great-
grandmother, Pauline Levingston. Please
accept this as our personal thanks.

For Sale

DJ'S Firewood – Best wood in the district.
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Friday 21/7/23. Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Meetings

Friends of Riverview AGM. Wednesday 5
July, 4pm in Willow Wing. Everyone welcome.

Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday 7
July, Walcha Bowling Club commencing
at 9.30am. NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.
Enquiries: D Lisle 0429 799 083, M Cawley
0428 876 769. New members most welcome.

Expressions of Interest



Join the Walcha Aero Club and start a
career in flying or flying as a hobby!
Come along to the information evening
and talk about the process with Pilots
and instructors.

Where: The Apsley Hotel
When: Thursday 13 July at 6.00pm
Contact: Glen O'Brien on 0403 726 780

Public Notices

SAVE THE DATE: Woolbrook Christmas in
July is back. Saturday 29 July from 4.00pm.
More details to come.

Barber Shop closed Friday 30 June and
Saturday 1 July. Reopening Tuesday 4 July.

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
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WALCHA COUNCIL Change of Office Hours



Residents are to be advised that
the opening hours for the Walcha Council
Administration Building are changing –
including Service NSW functions – effective
Monday 3 July 2023.

Council & Service NSW Office Hours

In person 9am to 4:30pm weekdays

Office Hours

Phone or email 8:30am to 5pm weekdays

Council after Hours

Emergencies only 0427 774 544

Service NSW Phone Service:

7am to 7pm weekdays 13 77 88

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

church notices



ANGLICAN

9.30am Family Service, 2.00pm Niangala
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.

Position Vacant

WALCHA COUNCIL
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Term Position



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for the period 17 July 2023 to 12 April 2024.
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National Quality Standards.

You will be working as a valued member
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environment, and your actions will reflect
Walcha Council's core values of teamwork,
respect, customer first focus and willingness
to carry out assigned tasks to the best of your
ability.

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

Friday 30 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

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6.00pm Tickets available for raffles –
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6.00pm Free Bingo

7.00pm Raffles drawn & Members Draw

Saturday 1 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

2 – 4pm **TOSS THE BOSS**

Sunday 2 11.00am – Close

12.00pm Bistro open

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12.00pm Meat, fruit and veg raffles

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