

THE APSLEY Advocate

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9 August 2023

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Harriet wins 'Students as Authors'

At only 7 years of age, Harriet Laurie is looking forward to being a published author following her recent win in the 'Students as Authors' competition which is run by the Catholic Schools Office in the Armidale Diocese.

Harriet is only in Year 2 at St Patrick's School in Walcha and won the K-2 division of this competition with her story titled 'Always be Courageous'.

The event is open to all students in the Armidale Diocese with winners from the four categories having the opportunity to work with author/illustrator Trish Donald to develop their story into an illustrated eBook.

Harriet's story features superhero Hacksta who was so courageous in saving his country by lassoing the sun and bringing sunshine back to his people. Hacksta then succumbed to a bully on his way to buy groceries, but was saved by a little girl in a pink tutu, with the final line being: 'Even heroes get scared sometimes but everyone in the whole entire world can be courageous if they try, even little girls in sparkly tutus.'

The Armidale Diocese have created an exciting way for aspiring student authors to explore their creativity with the criteria being to write your own story about courage and/or faith.

St Patrick's School Principal, Dallas Hyatt explained that Harriet will now have the opportunity to work with author/illustrator Trish Donald



Harriet celebrates her win as the Best Author in the Armidale Diocese in her age group

over some Zoom sessions to discuss the illustrations she would like created for her book, to develop her story into an eBook.

Harriet's eBook will then be published to the SORA digital library, which means it will reach an audience of over 250,000 students in Catholic schools across Australia.

"Harriet should be very proud of herself for this accomplishment and students and staff of St Patrick's cannot wait to read her eBook when it is released on the SORA digital platform," Dallas said.

The competition aims to give students the experience of working within the publishing industry, developing their story for an authentic audience of their peers. It is part of the Diocese's ongoing focus on literacy and writing.

Harriet's story is a fantastic read, and we will aim to bring it to you in a future edition of *The Advocate* if possible.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

I said it last week but how good has the weather been! It's hard to believe we are in the last month of winter when the days are warm enough to be spring. It will be an interesting spring/summer period ahead for temperatures, especially as currently the Northern hemisphere sweats through extreme summer temperatures while our winter feels like it has been warmer than normal. I didn't hear of any rain recorded around the district over the last week but the general consensus is that we all would like some rain. Sadly, word is that parts of the Upper Hunter are all but bugged with little or no rain seen so far this year.

The more I drive around the district the more I can see winter taking its toll which is normal for the district at this time of year. The weather has been kind and I think the livestock have improved over the last month with these warm dry days. It's a stark contrast to this time last year when you couldn't go far without getting bogged and your hay in the shed was growing mould. I'm not sure what frost number we are up to but I'd say it would be well over 50 for the year and if we could jag some rain the grass would start to grow with these current day time temperatures.

The Chinese have finally decided to lift tariffs they imposed on the grain industry - an 80 per cent tariff had been in place since May 2020 on Australian barley imports. Feed barley has surged \$30 per ton following the news which is great for growers but another cost to feedlots and those companies who produce pellets for livestock. The Chinese brought the tariffs in around the same time they suspended trade from numerous beef abattoirs due to Australia's call for an inquiry into the origins of COVID 19. Clearly China needs us as much as Australia needs them as we play an important role in supplying the somewhat 1.4 billion Chinese people with food. The tariffs and processor bans hurt a lot of Australian farmers, but it also made us more resilient to find alternative markets for our produce. Let's hope China lifts the ban on our beef abattoirs as I think it could help us shift a lot of chilled beef that is currently clogging up our export system. I'm guessing the bans will lift once the United States finally comes out of drought. The USA started importing beef and they aren't pumping a heap of cheap beef onto the world market.

I only spoke a few weeks ago about the Western Australian government bringing in the new heritage laws which now have already been scrapped. The landholders thought the Act was too confusing, too time consuming and too expensive to meet the Act's requirements, which would inevitability open the door for landholders to break these new laws. I'm just dumbfounded that the WA government could have pushed these new legislative laws through without landholder consultations, or the correct information surrounding these Heritage laws. I think this is a national issue as the current YES NO vote is currently being scrutinised as information regarding the Yes vote is very vague and mis informative. We all like to make decisions based on information, which is currently very hard to commit to either vote when the government can't answer to anyone what changes that will or won't come about due to a change in our constitution. It seems no matter how you look at Australia, its more divided than ever.

Sheep and lamb markets are still getting a lot of pressure from numbers as like the beef market the prices for both our sheep and lamb has halved over the last 6 months. I have always mentioned the whole supply and demand ratio which is currently oversupplied but there are some good new stories which have come from too many sheep numbers. Parts of western QLD are having the best run of season for a decade and with exclusion fencing parts of western QLD are seeing sheep numbers boom. The prices aren't what they used to be, but those large areas would be happy to see some income return to businesses after they experienced a decade long drought which only broke in 2020.



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Hugo delivers powerful speech on Rural Healthcare

Last Tuesday, Hugo Li delivered a five minute prepared speech to Walcha Rotarians. His topic was about Rural Health and the lack of access to healthcare, which we can all agree is of great concern to many rural communities.

John Williams and Barry Spry praised Hugo, who is currently in Year 10 at The Armidale School (TAS), for both his delivery and context of his speech.

Hugo's second presentation, an impromptu two minute speech, was delivered to local Rotarians last night. From there he will progress onto the Cluster Level in Inverell on 13 August. If successful Hugo will advance and represent Walcha at the Rotary District Public Speaking Competition.

Following his prepared speech Rotary President Ron Denham presented Hugo with a certificate for showing interest in Club activities and a pen as a token of their appreciation.



Hugo Li pictured with Rotarians John Williams, Andrew Corlette, President Ron Denham and Barry Spry.



Walcha service will commemorate 50 Years

Vietnam Veterans' Day was originally known as Long Tan Day, chosen to commemorate the men of D Company, 6RAR who fought in the battle of Long Tan on August 18 1966.

Now 57 years later we pause on 18 August to reflect on the bravery, teamwork and endurance that Australians displayed throughout the war. It's a day when we recognise all who served in Vietnam.

On Sunday 20 August 2023 we are inviting the community to join the Walcha RSL Sub-Branch as we commemorate 50 years since the withdrawal of Australian servicemen and women in Vietnam. The service will commence at 11.00am at Walcha's ANZAC Memorial Park.



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Rotary learn about Walcha Support Group



Sue Reardon of Walcha Support Group and Rotary President Ron Denham.

Last Tuesday Sue Reardon of Walcha Support Group gave a presentation to Rotary outlining what the Walcha Support Group do for our community. At the end of the night President Ron Denham thanked Sue and the Support Group for the important part they play in our community. On behalf of Rotary Ron presented Sue with a cheque for \$500 to assist the Support Group.

What is Walcha Support Group?

Walcha Support Group (WSG) was established in 1989 and was originally for cancer patients, but widened to include any life threatening or debilitating illness over time.

Members include patients, carers, recovered patients and generally well people, with over a dozen usually attending meetings.

We send out many cards to those who are not well (if we know of them). Some, unfortunately slip through the cracks. If we don't know, we can't act. We do not need to know details of people's illness, just that they may benefit from a card. We do not push into people's privacy.

We have an extensive range of nursing equipment (e.g shower chairs, walkers, aids) which we lend out to Walcha people free of charge. Originally for palliative care so that people could remain at home for as long as possible, it now is also borrowed for short term – knee and hip replacements, accidents etc.



We have a fund which gives a cash donation from the Walcha community to those who must travel away from Walcha for treatment. It is a one-off payment, and people must fit the criteria set by the major donors.

We have a library of inspiring books, CDs, articles for the public to borrow free of charge.

Like every other volunteer organisation, we are all getting older, and we would like some younger members.

We have no answers – just a sharing of experiences. We cannot take away what people have to face, but we can walk beside them and support them.

Our community supports us well, and we are extremely grateful that the financial support we get which enables us to support many people in various ways at sometimes a very low point in their lives.



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For Our Elders

Walcha Resilience stories



Another story from Walcha Council's Disaster Risk Reduction Co-ordinator Kruthika Nagananda who is compiling stories from locals as to how they survived recent disasters to help people learn from each other, and for the community to realise they are not alone as everyone has different ways of coping.

By Katrina Blomfield

I grew up in Walcha. My family lived on the property "Arran" from 1952-1962. At the time, my parents had very little and I did my school lessons at the kitchen table until I was 9. I didn't like school lessons and always wanted to be outside helping my father on the farm. Despite the hardship, I learnt to survive and thrive and I have wonderful memories of my childhood. I also remember things that impacted on me such as the drought in 1957 which was followed by a fierce bushfire in the Crown Land forest (now Oxley Wild Rivers National Park) in the same year which burnt out part of our property.

In 1977 I married Rob and I have now lived on the land in Walcha for 56 years of my life. During that time, we have experienced several bad droughts and we have come out the other side including the horrendous 2019 drought which was preceded by 6 years of below average rainfall and at the end of 2019 we experienced the shocking bushfires which threatened us for nearly 3 months.

These experiences made me start thinking about resilience and what it is and how you become resilient.

Recently I read the, The National Farmer Wellbeing Report [1] commissioned by Norco – Australia's oldest and largest 100% farmer owned dairy co-operative – in partnership with the National Farmers' Federation. The report found that, in recent years, nearly half of Australian farmers (45%) have felt depressed, with almost two thirds (64%) experiencing anxiety. For one in seven (14%), it's a frequent experience.

Even more devastating, close to half of Australian farmers (45%) have had thoughts of self-harm or suicide, while close to a third (30%) have attempted self-harm or suicide. Potentially contributing to the issue, the Report found that more than three quarters (76%) of Australian farmers believe that the role they play is undervalued by the Australian public. They also believe that rural and remote communities are forgotten about and left behind when it comes to public policies and services, with one in ten (11%) calling for more support and funding from the Government. Michael Hampson adds that "it's devastating that such a high proportion of farmers don't feel that what they do is valued." These issues need to be addressed. Farmers make up a very small proportion of the population and because Australia is so highly urbanised agricultural issues often go unaddressed. Maybe a higher profile in the media could help.

Anxiety is created by the fear of the unknown and it is understandable that farmers often suffer from anxiety. Seasons now seem to be more unpredictable than ever, commodity prices are volatile and there is conflict in the world which is de-stabilising. These are all things that are beyond our control and the thing about droughts is that you do not know when it is going to end!! What then can we do that helps to develop resilience? My life experience has taught me that it helps if you can focus on the things that we CAN control. What have we learnt from past droughts that can help us cope with the next one? Rob & I have found things over the years that have helped us stay resilient. The things I mention are purely from a farming perspective but I am aware that during events such as droughts, local businesses can also feel the pain through reduced incomes.

During the last drought, I felt quite down and frightened about how severe the drought and the bushfires were; and seeing my grandchildren being anxious and frightened about the ferociousness of the fire right on our property boundaries. I had to reassure them that they were perfectly safe. After the fires were put out by some wonderful rain which was the beginning of three amazing seasons, I put together a pictorial book of the drought and the fires as a therapy for myself and to put it all to

bed. On reflection, I felt we were so much better off than so many others such as people who have been traumatised by events such as droughts, floods and bushfires when they have lost their homes or their livelihoods or lost people they love to illness or accidents. We cannot change the past so it is important that we do not allow ourselves to dwell too much on our negative experiences as we cannot change them but we CAN focus on the future with a positive outlook as we all have the ability to shape what happens to us in the future.

After the drought in the early 1980's we realised that we needed to have a better water supply as having a good reliable water supply is critical to managing droughts. Over the years we have constructed a large dam and installed water troughs in paddocks with a tank and pump so we can reticulate stock water into various paddocks where water is needed. We also looked at the benefits of rotational grazing for sustainable pasture management and the health of our livestock. Rotational grazing has helped alleviate the problem of running out of feed early in a drought.

During droughts, we have reduced our livestock numbers and tried to preserve pastures where possible. We have practiced early weaning and sometimes lot-feeding of calves and lambs in order to get breeding stock up to joining weights. If you sell your dry stock it can create cash flow to help feed your retained breeding stock. We try and grow fodder crops for the winter & spring. We studied our rainfall over a 75-year period and discovered that, even in droughts, there is a high chance of getting enough rain at a particular time of the year to take the chance of planting a fodder crop. In 1977 we had no silos and no hay shed but we now have a good hay shed and 4 silos. After every drought we installed another silo!! Rob & I have become much more aware of the things that affect the weather and we monitor not just the El Nino & La Nina patterns but the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) which all affect Australia's weather patterns.

Farm Management Deposits have been a very useful tool, I believe that this tool should also be made available to small businesses in regional towns that are totally dependant on the agricultural sector. We also found interest rate subsidies in the past were very helpful. Watching my parents struggle financially when I was growing up turned me into a saver. I think I have developed good savings habits during my life as I learnt very early on that a farmer's income is very unpredictable and variable. People can withstand disasters to a greater degree if their finances are strong. Everyone is in different financial circumstances and at different stages of their lives and debt cycle when disasters hit but it is emotionally easier to bare if you have some form of savings.

I have used my knowledge to research resources that might be made available. During tough times many people need help in order to contact resources and assistance to help navigate red tape, to get help with finances, help with your mental well-being or help with food and accommodation as happened in the bushfires and floods. A good starting point is probably your local rural financial counsellor but farmers need to have a list of all the available resources with contact numbers. (maybe on your fridge) There are many retired farmers and business owners who live in Walcha who may be interested in helping people who are struggling with a particular disaster just by being available to listen and perhaps give some comfort.

Having a strong and loving family is so important in helping me cope with adversity. Even though I have an inner personal strength, it is my relationships with my family and friends that helps me be resilient. I feel very lucky to have a special family where we share our goals and communicate and support each other and Rob has always supported me in whatever I have wanted to do. My life's journey has helped me develop resilience during tough times and this has helped me focus on the things I have some control over in order to deal with all the vagaries of farming. It is important to plan for the next drought or bushfire as they will definitely happen-we just don't know when. I have tried to pass on this resilience message on to our boys who have taken on the responsibility of running their own farming businesses as we step back and act more now as mentors for the next generation.

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Celebrating 100 days



Ms Wilson and Kindergarten students celebrating 100 days at St Patrick's

Well done to St Patrick's Kindergarten students, as well as Ms Wilson, who got into theme dressing up like they were 100 years old to celebrate their official 100th day at school on Monday 31 July.

It will be interesting to see how they will celebrate their 200th day at big school. From Mr Hyatt's calculations it will be the third week of the 2024 academic year.

Congratulations to Charlotte, Mackenzie, Campbell, Edwina, Levi O, Harper P, Jack and Reid for your big milestone.

Walcha District Historical Society

~ President's Report 2022 – 2023 ~

Presented by Kate Hoy

It is with great pleasure that I present this report for 2022 – 2023.

Over the year we have hosted a number of Bus Tours, School Visits, Men's group from Guyra, Walcha Council Community Care Group. We received lovely comments, how clean and tidy inside and out, plus lovely gardens. The History Group from the Central School held a display of their projects in the Wool Hall for parents to see.

The shipping container in the grounds is for the Bob Beer Collection. Part is in the container, with more to come. Money was donated for necessary shelving or whatever needed. The Kayak, trailer and bike are in the hanger.

The wagons from Jean Cross are here. The ploughs were moved to a new slab in front of the Settlers with a new sign. Two machines from Lions Park are in the grounds waiting for cement slabs and to be place in position.

Following a wind storm, the Elm Tree had to be removed. We were very lucky that half missed the Museum Building.

We have a stall at the Farmers Markets. This proved very beneficial. We sold books and other items from the Museum, had enquiries about houses from new owners and picked up a member and other prospective members. We start back in September.

Vicki and her helpers keep the gardens looking tidy. We get lovely comments from visitors and from community members who go past.

Thanks to Bob Burnell the lawns are always looking spot on, we hope the new mower will make it easier. Thank you for using your own mower over the years. Sandra, Sally, Mary, Shelley and Denis have started sorting things at the History Centre putting information into Past Perfect.

Vic has been keeping up with enquiries for Family History, not an easy job and we thank him for the hours he has put in. Bob Walsh has written a number of books, he also helps people who enquire about old buildings.

Thanks to the possum who partied a few times in the Museum and left his mess and damage behind, we now have to replace the calico ceilings, new calico is ready for relining when our helpers are available.

We have been very fortunate this year to have received some large donations from community members, which has helped with expenses that were not accounted for. We are very grateful for these.

We also received a grant to do a path and ramp into the ladies toilet block, this will be done in September, as it has to be finished by October or we lose the grant. The builder has been made aware of this.

Unfortunately this year we lost some long-time member of the society, Pauline Levingston, Brian Carter and Jane Lisle (life member) – may they rest in peace.

In closing I extend my grateful thanks to each and every one for their help when asked. A special thanks to Jane and Kerry for the wonderful work they do keeping the business side of things going. The hardest thing they have to do is keep me on track.

Thank You, Kate Hoy

2023 Westpac Support Group Executive Committee elected

The local Walcha Westpac helicopter Volunteer Support Group recently held their AGM and are pleased to announce their 2023 Executive Committee. Congratulations to the following: President Olive Chandler, Vice President Jane Moore, Treasurer Robyn Watts, Secretary Carmel Ryan, Money Tin Coordinator Philip Chandler, Catering Coordinator Jane McLaren and Publicity Officers Samantha Lockyer and Chris Wyatt.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service would like to thank the volunteers, supporters and the Walcha Community for their ongoing support.

If you are interested in volunteering or hosting a fundraiser on behalf of the Service, please contact the Tamworth Base on 6764 9400 or email enquiries@rescuehelicopter.com.au

Rugby League teams finish second and third at Central Schools' Gala

On Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 July, Walcha Central Schools U/16's and U/14's Rugby League teams travelled to Inverell for the annual Central Schools Gala days.

The results were fantastic and not only displayed the talent that students have, but their commitment and never say die attitude when representing WCS.

Walcha Central U14s

The Under 14's were extremely competitive. Walcha Central fielded a team with a number of students who had never played competitive rugby league before, combined with several experienced players. The team had a great day out, scoring many tries and supporting this with some starch defence. At the end of the day the Walcha Central School's U/14's league team finished third behind Guyra Central and Bingara Central Schools. This was a phenomenal effort considering the lack of experience and lack of fresh reserves. Well done boys.

Walcha Central U16s

The U/16's also lacked numbers, playing their games without a reserve at all. To top it off, the majority of the squad were playing above their age group making for a tough day out for the team. Despite this, their efforts and results were outstanding and saw them make it all the way through to the final. Facing Guyra Central School, the boys put in a phenomenal effort, considering no player had a rest during the day. Unfortunately the final ended with the scoreboard not in their favour, but finishing second overall is something this team can be very proud of.

Thank you to all players who represented Walcha Central School with such distinction.



Walcha Central School students who participated in the Central Schools' Gala rugby for league.

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Mobile Service Centre Walcha Bound



The Australian Government's Mobile Service Centre is on its way back to Walcha.

Travelling extensively throughout rural and regional Australia this mobile service provides friendly face-to-face service, information and support for Services Australia.

The service will be in Walcha for one day only on Friday 25 August, 9.00am to 4.00pm opposite McHattan Park in Fitzroy Street.

You can visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Staff can provide you with information and support, and can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services. Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Assistance on the day will be available for:

- new claims for most Centrelink payments
- updating your information in our records
- confirming documents and supporting information, such as certifying copies of birth certificates
- access to Self Service Terminals
- using online accounts and Express Plus mobile apps
- registering for a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) online account
- lodging DVA forms and supporting documents
- connecting with DVA and support services such as Open Arms.

They can also give you information about:

- how financial matters may impact your payments
- payment and service options to suit your needs
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- Medicare transactions
- Medicare registrations
- social work support and referrals.

So, mark the date on your calendar. You can always search online to find out what documentation you'll be required to provide, if any, for claims you would like to make on the day.

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au



garden clippings



Most gardeners will be looking forward to a profusion of colour with bulbs and blossom appearing over the next few weeks. Daffodils, jonquils, hellebores, and violets are some that herald the beginning of the spring season. Miniature daffodil 'Pipit' is currently flower in a pot on the north-eastern aspect of our house. They are only 5cm tall but have the 'wow' factor in spades. Mass plantings of spring bulbs also have a huge impact. Try planting them near your home's entrance or front door. The bulbs I layered in big pots last autumn are now starting to grow. The unusually warm weather we have been experiencing lately has certainly helped with their growth spurt.

At our last garden club meeting it was brought to the attention of our members that we all need to be reminded that gardening, whilst it is an enjoyable pastime, does have a hazardous side. One aspect that needs to be brought to your attention is how to apply mulch in the garden. Mulch can come in various forms. Stones, wood chips, pine needles, pea straw, autumn leaves, lucerne hay and sugar cane mulch to name a few. It's sugar cane and hay mulch that is causing the most concern. Please read the side of the sugar cane mulch bag for handling instructions. It should be wet down in the bag before spreading. Serious lung conditions have been detected in our community which has had a significant impact on people's health. We should all be wearing, gloves, a mask and eye protection when dealing with these products. Once you have finished the job of spreading this type of mulch, have a shower and wash all your, clothes otherwise dust particles could be ingested or inhaled. This also applies to using potting mix. When using a new bag of potting mix, it is a good idea after opening the bag to leave it to air for at least an hour before using.

The Walcha Garden Club will be celebrating 75 years within the Walcha community on Friday 1 September. Celebrations will be held at the Walcha Bowling Club commencing with morning tea at 9.30am. A delicious lunch will be served on the day. There will be a plant stall, raffle, and lucky door prizes available. Our guest speaker is Peta Trahar from Bilpin. Peta is horticulturist, a co-founder of the Rare Plant Collector's Plant Fair at Richmond, author, gardening contributor to the Garden Clubs of Australia 'Our Garden' magazine and has her own rare plant nursery. Cost is \$35 per person. Bookings can be made at Paperdolls House Walcha or posting your payment to The Treasurer, PO Box 10. EFT details are available upon request. Please contact Margaret Cawley on 0408 876 769. The Club's annual subscription of \$15 is also due.

Lament: "A Garden is not a place. It's a journey" – Monty Don



Above left: Miniature daffodil 'Pipit'. Right: When using sugarcane mulch ensure you read the bag for handling instruction. Below: Peta Trahar from Bilpin will be guest speaker at our 75th Anniversary luncheon on 1 September.



what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Sad to hear my up the street neighbor Margy Willingham left this world last weekend. She will be farewelled today Wed 9th Aug at the Walcha General Cemetery from 10.00am. Condolences to Margy's daughters Barb Goodwin and Donna Meredith along with all other family members and all her friends. May Margaret Jean Willingham Rest in Peace. 🌹🌹

What a performance by the Walcha Central Primary School Rugby team when they played in a Gala Day at Inverell last week. The format was a four team, Round Robin, 12 a side competition with 15 minute halves over three games. Walcha played with just 12 players – Tyshaun Connors, Brax Kemp, Cooper Broadbent, Nathan Ross, Ethan Olrich, Jack Lisle, Flynn O'Connell, Leo Blomfield, Kobie Brown, Bently Turner-Vallance, and Dustin and Eli Wellings, while Tamworth, Inverell and Moree had plenty of reserves on their respective benches.



Things didn't quite go to plan for Walcha in their opening game against Tamworth when one of the opposition boys, who was twice the size of a couple of our blokes, ran nearly the full length of the field to score under the posts in the first couple of minutes. When a slightly smaller Tamworth player repeated the dose practically from the kick-off, fellow grandfather Brian Wellings turned to me and mentioned *"It might be a long day,"* to which I just nodded. Anyway what would we know?

Walcha were belted by Tamworth in the first half before bouncing back to win the second half and then went on to defeat Inverell and Moree,

much to the delight of their Coach Bonnie Brown and Assistant Hunter O'Connell, along with the handful of supporters who made the trip to Inverell. Good on ya boys I'm glad I was there to witness it.

Best of luck to local policeman Jed Witting and car salesman Cameron Norbury when they take part in a 'Mystery Box Rally', a 3,000 kilometre off road adventure commencing in Bundaberg on Saturday. By all accounts the teams participating don't find out which direction they are heading until they are told at the beginning of each day. Proceeds from the Rally are going to the Cancer Council.

Yesterday morning Jed and Cameron headed North as part of their own Pre-Rally with their first destination Nindigully, 35 kilometres north of Thallon QLD, then Roma and Taroom, before arriving in Bundaberg on Thursday. Well at least that's the plan and hopefully it will go that way.

Best of luck to the Walcha/Urala Jillaroos when they play Guyra in their Group 19 Reserve Grade L.L.T major semi final this Sunday at Guyra commencing 9.30am. The Jillaroos were originally drawn to play Inverell who have withdrawn from the competition for reasons of their own. Despite being down a few key players Jillaroos coach Josh Lordanic reckons his team will give it a real shot of advancing to the Grand Final. Go Gettun girls.

Good luck to the Walcha Rams when they do battle with the Inverell Highlanders here at Peter Fenwicke Oval this Saturday. If the Rams are to have any chance of qualifying for the Central North Semi Final series beating Inverell is a must as their final competition match against current competition leaders Pirates in Tamworth a week later. Go the Red and Whites.

Footy Tipping Big Wigs of the week: Thunderbolts Way Cafe - Lisa 'Go the sharks' Swanton and Paul Nash, Newie - Peter Hayes all picked the card, B.C David 'L.J' Hooker, Kev Creighton, Normie Goodwin, Barry Kliendienst, Jagger Jamieson, Kylie Goodwin and Barb Jamieson. Vet Supplies - Jason Scott, Kyle Goodwin and Pete King. Apsley - Ian Cameron and Normie Goodwin all players 14 pts.

Leaders with 4 rounds remaining: T.W.C - Emily Smolders and Paul Nash 223, Shauna Hawkins 211 and Jackie Nash 203. Newie - Liam Brennan 244, Dal Evans 236 and Charlotte Lyon 232. B.C - Kyle Goodwin 244, L.J Hooker 236 and Carly Goodwin 234. Vet Supplies - Kyle Goodwin 234, Dion Bird 226 and Pete King 224. Apsley - Normie Goodwin 235, Scotty Swain 225, Ian Cameron 223, Lachlan Moran and Mike O'Reilly 221.

sport



At the Nineteenth

Club handicapper Don Brooks accumulated 43 stableford points to win a trophy donated by Bill Fletcher when 17 players teed up last Sunday.

Runner-up was Lee Fletcher after he racked up 41 points, whereas the remaining sweepstake prizes went to Vicki Heffernan 40, Peter Berry 38, and Andrew Robertson and Doug McDonald both on 36 after they counted out Kyle Goodwin, also on 36 points. Sharpest shooters at the pins were Vicki Heffernan (3) and Alex Gill (16).

Last Saturday Vicki Heffernan took out the Weekly 9 Hole Competition after she compiled 22 stableford points to finish comfortably ahead of Rob Royle on 18 points. No player was clever enough to reach the beach with their tee shot for the third hole N.T.P.

Six players headed west to compete in the Boggabri Open, where Wayne Brennan and Peter Norbury produced the best Walcha score carding 44 stableford points, Michael Stackman and 'Molleydooker' Jamie Bowden scored 38 points, while Neil Dark and Col Berry knocked up 34 points. A couple of Boggabri players won the event with 49 points

after one of the players won an individual event the day before with 42 points.

This Sunday is a Stroke Medal Round where Mitch Crawford is in charge of supplying the prize.

Bowls

Dads Army: Ten players enjoyed a great afternoon of bowls on Thursday. A game of Pairs and one of Triples were played with mixed results. Noel Goodwin and John McLean defeated John McCormack and Mark Hogan in the game of pairs 16 – 10 in a close game.

In the triples, John Watts, Brian Goodwin and Eric O'Keefe could only manage to win three ends in their 15 – 4 loss to Peter Hayes, Alan Goodwin and Warwick Hogan.

Peter, Alan and Warwick won the chooks and the raffle winners were John Watts and Tony Asmus.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday ten ladies attended bowls in which a game of Triples and Pairs were played. Results were: Triples Janice Rizzi, Carmel Ryan and Joy McDean defeated Lyn Burnell, Esther Hunt and June Hayes 20 – 10. Pairs Wendy Moore and Marg Morris defeated Phyllis Hoy and Rosie 23 – 12.

This week the District Events begin and Walcha will be

represented by two teams in the Triples, which will be played at Ex-Services in Armidale on Thursday and Friday. The club wishes them the best of luck.

Social Bowls will still be on for the remaining players. Don't forget our AGM is on the 17th August.

Wednesday Golf

On Wednesday we played the first round of the Two Ball Stroke Aggregate Championships for a trophy donated by Drummond Golf. Winners for the first round were Sally McCormack and Alison Cameron with a combined nett score of 141 points. Sweepstakes were then won by Barb Mulligan and Jill Burnell with 145 points, and Penny King and Maddie Lance with 148. Great to see Maddie playing her first competition 18 holes and being in the winner's circle. Congratulations NTP on 3 was Donna Martin and Ruth Fletcher was the closest on 16. Today is our second round of the Two Ball Stroke Aggregate Championships and the trophy is being donated by the Walcha Newsagency.

Tennis

The Spring Eskimo Comp: 29 August – 19 September 23 Doubles ladder format, names to Trev 0459 799 119, Hyde 0427 780 391 or post on Club Facebook page. Nominations by 27 August 23.



In Memory

In loving memory of

Beryl Jean Riley (nee Wall)

24th January 1932 - 20th July 2023

Mother to Vicki Kelly, Robert Riley(dec),
twins Paul & Brian Riley.

Loved sister to Alick & John Wall (both dec)
and Shirley Martin.

In God's loving care

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of

Saylem Macquarie Slater

Love you, Miss you

20/02/2002 to 12/08/2018

Meetings

Little Athletics Committee formation meeting, Wednesday 16 August, 6:30pm at the Apsley Arms Hotel. Elyce Laurie 0448 165 284, Jess Williams 0418 827 088.

Public Notices

Walcha Council Scheduled Tree work



Walcha Council will be undertaking Scheduled Tree Work from 7/8/23 to 18/8/2023 in the following areas below:

- Meridian St – Crown lift, sucker removal
- South St – Crown lift, sucker removal, minor trim on some trees.
- Hamilton St – Crown lift, minor trim on some trees, tree pollarding on dead limb removal.
- Middle St – Sucker removal on all trees, minor crown raising and thinning.
- John Oxley Oval – several medium trees, minor crown raising.

For enquiries, please call Council on 6774 2500.

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

Walcha Aerodrome Works



"Due to the progress of works within this project, the runway will be shut from 10pm on 9 August 2023 to 10pm on 7 September 2023.

During this period, no airborne activities are to be conducted – heavy plant machinery will be working on the runway.

The runway will not be operational due to the significant amount of gravel being placed and compacted on there."

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

Walcha Council New Community Grants and Donations Policy & Procedure



As part of Council's commitment to review expenditure Council updated its Community Grants & Donations Policy to ensure we provide a framework whereby requests for financial assistance are assessed and accounted for in an open and transparent manner. Applications for donations will be called once per year, with organisations encouraged to apply during the application timeframe. Should your community organisation, school, hall or group require a donation or grant from Council please apply now with applications forms available on our website or from Council. Applications close on Friday 11 August 2023.

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



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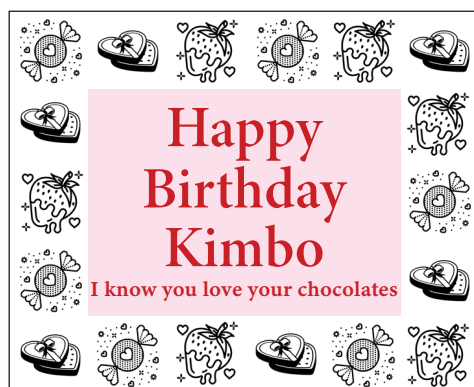
Please save the park!



Tennis Spring Eskimo Comp 29 Aug – 19 Sept. Doubles ladder format. Names to Trev 0459 799 119, Hyde 0427 780 391 or post on Club Facebook page. Noms by 27 August.

Woolbrook Church Service – 2pm this Sunday. Details Graham Barnes 6777 2539.

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
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Phone Brett for an appointment

0414 349 625

WALCHA GARDEN CLUB

75th Anniversary Luncheon

Friday 1st September
Walcha Bowling Club 9:30am
Guest Speaker – Peta Trahar

Tickets: \$35 pp

- PO Box 10 Walcha
- Paperdolls
- AGM

RSVP: 23 August

Marg Cawley margcawley@gmail.com
0428 876 769

For Sale

DJ'S Firewood – Best wood in the district. Bulk only – minimum 6m³, maximum 10m³. Deliver Walcha Saturday OR pick-up from Niangala Saturday 1.00 – 4.00pm. Phone 0427 335 631 or 6769 2395.

Raffle Results

CWA Street Stall 1st Jean Holden and 2nd Megan Marchant. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

thumbs



- To Di and Cheryl for the catering they did for our families Wake at the Bowling Club.
- Barnaby Joyce's book *Weatherboard and Iron* – well worth a read. Gives you a great insight into politics and parliament.
- To local business owner and mechanic Pat Stace for solving an issue that a Ford dealership couldn't workout.

Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must be accompanied by your name and contact details. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.



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church notices



ANGLICAN

Holy Communion 7.30am

Holy Communion & Family Service

10.00am

Nowendoc Service 2.00pm

All welcome. Phone 6777 2543 or email:

walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha Sunday 9.30am. Woolbrook 2pm

All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC Sunday 10:00am Mass.

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WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Mon – Wed 4.00pm – Close

Thursday 10 12.00pm – Close

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

Friday 11 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

- Herb lemon chicken.
- Homemade lamb and red wine pie.
- Seafood marinara.
- 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 12 11.00am – Close

6:00pm Bistro

2-4pm TOSS THE BOSS

Sunday 13 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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Friday 18 August

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