

THE APSLEY Advocate

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13 December 2023

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**CROSS BROS.
BUTCHERY**

Come along tonight to see how to use new community defibrillators



Left: Lions John Wark, Peter Boyd (President) and Terry Olsen present a defibrillator to Sue Jackson at WCCC.
Right: Lions Phillip Hamel and John Wark present the defibrillator to Mark Hoy at IGA for community use



Walcha now has two new defibrillators thanks to the generosity of the Walcha Lions Club. They purchased and recently presented these to IGA and Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC). The HeartSine Defibrillator is a Semi-Automatic defibrillator (AED) that analyses the heart rhythm and delivers an electrical shock to victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest in order to restore the heart to normal rhythm. The Lions Club chose these defibrillators as they are user-friendly and provide easy to understand visual and voice prompts guide the rescuer through the entire resuscitation process. One defibrillator is located at IGA, just inside the front doors at the left, near their Community Noticeboard for use by the whole community. The other defibrillator was presented to the WCCC Rooms, with it being a mobile one, which allows them to take it on their outings.

To assist the community in knowing how to use the defibrillators, the Lions Club have a speaker at the Bowling Club tonight to demonstrate their use and talk people through the steps in using them to assist

those suffering a cardiac arrest. "It is a 30 minute demonstration, which will commence at 8pm," Lion John Wark said. He encourages as many people as possible to come along tonight, and apologises for the late notice, however this was the only date available for the trainer. "It is very handy to see how they work, and what to do in times of emergency," John said.

Treating Sudden Cardiac Arrest

If you ever see someone suddenly collapse, fall unconscious and stop breathing, they are experiencing SCA. To increase their chance of survival, they will need fast intervention in terms of CPR, rescue breathing and treatment from a defibrillator from anyone close by.

Of course, you should always call 000 first and follow any advice provided by emergency services.

The next thing you can do is call for an AED. This equipment is highly effective and able to perform a controlled shock to restore the electrical system of the heart and re-establish a healthy heart rhythm.

Survival rates decrease by 10% for every minute that a person goes untreated.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Summer has well and truly moved in with the heatwave delivering some hot days, with the tablelands climbing into the mid-thirties and the plains hitting early forties. If you were lucky enough it did brew up some storms with isolated falls of 25mm not far from town. The heat has got everyone looking towards the next fall of rain with forecasts bouncing around about reasonable rain later next week. Cyclone Jasper is due to make landfall in the early hours of Wednesday morning and will be sure to stir up some moisture for Queensland and potentially an early start to their wet season.

It was great to see the Reserve Bank leave interest rates on hold for the time being as we enter the Christmas spending spree period. I don't think it will help our inflation figures as Australians are set to fork out 30 billion this festive season, a 10% increase on last year.

Last week I touched on the Australian Government's commitment to an ambitious emission reduction reaching net zero by 2050. I decided to do some further homework into how the values might sit on the shelves for consumers and I can say if you're happy to pay a 25% premium for carbon neutral beef now, then you can purchase the product from Coles. Currently premium grass-fed scotch fillet steak is \$44/kg while the carbon neutral scotch fillet is \$56/kg. I did mention that these extra costs will be passed onto the consumer as someone, other than the large corporations, will not only be offsetting their emissions but also the costs to do so. I also wonder how this product will sit globally as we produce a product that is more costly than the premium grain and grass-fed products we already sell. Currently they tell us the economies are not tracking well, especially the larger populated countries who import large volumes of protein. We have enough trouble being on parity with other competitors as we try to sell into the same global markets, let alone an extra cost for producing carbon neutral proteins. Regardless we all need to keep up with this changing space as graziers will play an important role in being carbon neutral by 2050 and your farming practices may have to change.

It was great to hear that the new off river water storage is completed and Walcha water storage capacity has quadrupled. It's a big bonus for our small community, water security is everything and I hope it brings new business to town that helps grow our economy. Our population is forecast to drop over time, but new businesses and new industries, especially those that rely on water security could mean big things for Walcha in the future.

The final livestock sales are being completed around the state this week and with the extra heat has brought out more numbers than expected putting pressure on the beef market. Majority of the saleyards are out of action for the Christmas break until around the 8th of next year, a 3-4 week break which when the season is on the line can be too long to wait. Wagga yarded 7000 cattle and Tamworth 2798 on Monday while Inverell yarded 1970 and Gunnedah 2060 on Tuesday. Last Friday Tamworth yarded more than 6000 cattle in their final store sale while AuctionsPlus hit a 13-month high with 23,775 listed.

The extra numbers yarded around the state resulted in Tamworth on Monday selling to cheaper trends as numbers subdued the processors and the heat beat the restockers. Weaner and yearling cattle sold from 10-20c/kg cheaper, topping at 317c/kg for Angus steers weighing 325kg, while feeder weight steers made to 315c/kg. Heifers to feed sold to 266c/kg while domestic kill cattle topped at 278c/kg. Cows sold firm to slightly cheaper with the best of the cows topping at 222c/kg.

The shining light this week so far has been the improvement in the lamb market with kill lambs quoted dearer right up the eastern seaboard. Lambs in the saleyards yesterday made from 620c/kg to 670c/kg, with some new season trade weight suckers selling to 700c/kg. Tamworth yarded 6000 sheep and lambs with 3500 lambs meeting strong demand as heavy suckers topped at \$175, while the extra heavy lambs finally cracked the \$200 barrier and topped at \$230. A large run of new season 2nd X store lambs made to \$81. The best of the XB mutton topped at \$82, Merino ewes to \$88 with a decent skin while hoggets made to \$140.

Stories and craft at Christmas Farmers' Market



Storytime with Santa, gingerbread decorating, and a trivia competition will be highlights of this Saturday's Walcha Farmers' Market.

Children will be able to decorate their own gingerbread biscuit with Cassie McKenna from the library, while also enjoying a Christmas-themed storytime. A special guest in a red suit will be helping with storytime after 10.30am.

A trivia competition will lead families through the market answering stall-related questions, and the prize is a market hamper worth over \$150. Entry forms for the competition will be at the Community Stall, along with instructions and support.

A huge variety of stalls will be at the market, including fresh produce, baked goods, plants, seafood, cheese, flowers, condiments, books, and gifts. The Rotary breakfast barbeque will be stoked up, and the Historical Society and the Photography Club will be selling their calendars.

Community members are encouraged to bring their excess summer garden produce, eggs, and cooking to the community stall to sell for a small commission.

The market is held in McHattan Park from 8.30am until 12.30pm. Craft with Cassie McKenna starts at 9.00am. Entries in the trivia competition need to be in by 12.00pm.

Walcha students in leadership group at TAS



TAS Principal Dr Rachel Horton congratulates students Henry Kirton, Alexandra Nivison and Isabella Crawford on their leadership roles at TAS

Three students from the Walcha district will be setting the tone and spirit of The Armidale School into 2024, having been inducted to key leadership positions this term.

Henry Kirton of 'Billbrooke' Walcha, has been appointed Senior Prefect, while Alexandra Nivison of 'Marmindi' Walcha is one of eight prefects and the girls captain of Abbott House.

Henry and Alexandra were presented with his prefect's tie and badge at a special ceremony last month, where they took a pledge to serve her fellow students and signed the Prefects Register, just as their predecessors have done since 1940.

Meanwhile Isabella Crawford of 'Mount Arlington', Walcha, has been appointed Tyrell House girls captain, as well as co-captain of Athletics and Rowing.

At the ceremony, Principal Dr Rachel Horton said she had every confidence that the leaders would carry the baton of school spirit and tone into 2024 with passion, respect and humility.

"Above all, they have been called to join in our most important task – ensuring that every girl and boy in this school is able to feel supported and is confident that their best efforts will be applauded and never derided," she said.



Stock and Property Watch

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WISHING OUR VALUED CLIENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas Trading Hours:

Closing at 1.00pm

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2 January 2024



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letters to the editor



Update on WWF from DPE

Extension to community submissions to 29 March 2024

Where is Vestas? Has anyone heard or seen them lately? Surprise – surprise – Vestas' pushes responses to submissions back again to the plethora of objections to the Winterbourne Wind Project – with yet another extension granted to 29 MARCH 2024. They have now had 15 months and two extensions from the end of the public exhibition to try and manipulate a response to the community's many objections.

Rather than accept this Vestas excuse, as just another 'dog ate my homework', we need as a community to seriously contemplate and question whether these delays go to the Project's viability.

We acknowledge the Government is desperate to keep any projects on the table, as serious cracks are emerging as to the viability of the REZ rollout. However, an inability to close many of these projects raises serious questions as to the quality of the projects – environmentally and economically and/or the skill sets of the developer in making poor site acquisitions and development decisions. A situation exacerbated when the developer is Vestas who is really just the turbine salesman with minimal development experience. They have been in no man's land on profitability for the last three years.

So, the Elephant in the Room in contemplating Vestas's ongoing delays asks two pertinent questions;

- Firstly, is the Winterbourne Wind Farm (WWF) project from an environmental and socio-economic assessment perspective a compliance or a consent dud? That is, the environmental issues it raises are just insurmountable conflicts - project consent is just too hard or just not possible. There are too many fatal flaws its Environment Impact Statement (EIS).
- Secondly the Elephant inquires as to just how economically bankable is Winterbourne Wind Farm? Wind Turbine technology costs have escalated 38% since 2021. The average price of seven of the most significant critical minerals for the wind industry has increased by 93% since January 2020. WWF promotes for 50km of grid connection with transmission costs having escalated by up to 40%. From a revenue perspective who knows – no one has sighted the wind data – not at scoping – not at EIS – not even the DPE by their own admission at the recently held Community Consultation Q&A held at Walcha Vet Supplies. The Developer's claim that the site produces acceptable wind profile at night is untested from independent review sources. How do we know once constructed and commissioned whether the WWF project is an ongoing commercial value proposition or stranded assets? The dollar value of any offtake agreement is uncertain as the Federal Government keeps changing the ground rules. The latest consideration announced by Chris Bowen – the Capacity Investment Scheme – asks more questions than it answers.

So, from an investors perspective this project might just present as 'in the too hard basket' – add to the mix significant disregard to Indigenous Culture, dodgy non-compliant noise assessments, insurmountable road and traffic issues – no identified resources of water and gravel. Vestas advised two years ago that Winterbourne Wind Farm Project had new owners – it had been on sold to Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP). Has anyone ever seen or heard from CIP – ZERO?

Successive delays must also create some unease amongst Host Landowners. The DPE at its recent Q&A referenced that Host Landholders on issues of decommissioning stepped into developers' shoes. This maybe an accurate conclusion which could increase the Hosts' exposure, coupled with onerous obligations to bonds, insurances, and caveats etc.

Voice for Walcha

Oxley Highway to Port Macquarie changes

Walcha motorists are advised of changed traffic conditions from this Friday on the Oxley Highway at Mount Seaview.

The Oxley Highway will return to single lane alternating flow traffic arrangements from 3.00pm Friday 15 December.

All non-essential work will stop from Saturday 23 December 2023, with work restarting on Monday 8 January 2024.

Traffic control will remain in place during this time, with single lane, alternating traffic flow arrangements in place and a reduced speed limit.

The temporary closure of the Oxley Highway between Knoddingbul and Forbes River roads will resume from Tuesday 30 January 2024.

- each Tuesday to Thursday from 7am to 4:30pm
- each Friday from 7am to 3pm.

We expect the full road closures to be in place until about Easter 2024.

Special event exceptions will apply to the road closures on the following dates:

- Friday 9 February (Walcha Cup Race Meeting)
- Friday 16 February (Walcha Antique Machinery and Truck Show)
- Friday 23 February (Red Hot Summer, Port Macquarie)
- Thursday 7 and Friday 8 March (Walcha Show)

Motorists should plan their journeys and allow extra travel time.

Motorists can register for SMS notifications about closures on the Oxley Highway by visiting nswroads.work/oxleyrecovery.

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

Mums in Business

By Michelle Knott

Making lunches, finding school uniforms, cleaning the food off your shoulder and then finishing off the BAS while ordering Christmas hampers for the staff (and then remembering to get out of your PJ's before the school run). Does this sound familiar?

A mum's life in business is a constant juggle that we have a deep love for. We take it in our stride, but some days we wish that we had other mums who speak our language.

So one night on Messenger when the house was quiet for a nanosecond, Michelle (Brooklyn Quarry) and Bec (HEM Resin) pictured, started chatting online. And thus *EmpowHer New England* was started.

We are inviting others who feel the same, mums looking for others in business to share our knowledge, skills, triumphs and things we need help with. Share our wins, talk about ways to increase those juggling skills and still rock that mum bun.

We are inviting you to join us. Join our Instagram page *EmpowHERnewengland* for updates for our first gathering.

It's like a women's circle but not, it's like a business meeting but not. It's for mums on the run, kids in tow and working on their business.

A structured free flowing meet up once a month. It's about empowering HER. Come along and let's help each other rise up.



New England Renewable Energy Zone

Invitation for Registrations of Interest for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment New England Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Transmission Project

Locations: Muswellbrook Shire, Upper Hunter Shire, Liverpool Plains, Tamworth Regional, Walcha Shire, Singleton Shire, Uralla Shire and Armidale Regional Local Government Areas

The Energy Corporation of NSW (EnergyCo) is developing the New England Renewable Energy Zone Transmission Project (the Project) which involves the construction and operation of new high voltage electricity transmission infrastructure that is required to connect energy generation and storage projects within the New England REZ to the existing electricity network in the Upper Hunter region of NSW.

The Project is State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The preliminary study corridor for the Project is over 400 km long and an interactive map is available at: <https://caportal.com.au/energyco/rez>.

Registrations of interest are invited from Aboriginal individuals and organisations who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places in the area, and who wish to be involved in the consultation process as part of the planned cultural heritage assessment for the Project.

Community consultation with Aboriginal people will:

- 1) assist EnergyCo to assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area;
- 2) assist other Government regulators in the assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage reports prepared for this Project;
- 3) assist in the preparation of any Aboriginal Heritage

Impact Permit (AHIP) applications that may be required in future (eg if required for ancillary activities); and

- 4) support any future applications or approvals for the project sought under Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and/or National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Registrations of interest must be in writing (email preferred) and include:

- your name/organisation;
- current contact details (postal address, email, phone number/s) (email is our preferred method of consultation throughout the duration of the Project); and
- the area/s of the study corridor that you or your organisation has an interest in – noting that the study corridor is over 400 km long and traverses multiple Aboriginal traditional regions.

Registrations must be received before the closing date of 19.01.2024.

Please send your response via email to NEREZheritage@umwelt.com.au or via post to: Mr Ryan Desic, Umwelt Australia Pty Ltd, 75 York St, Teralba NSW 2284.

Those who register will have their details forwarded to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council, unless they specify they do not want their details released.

Further information regarding the New England REZ, please visit energyco.nsw.gov.au

FESTIVAL OF FUN WITH G1

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER

REGISTER ON THE QR CODE

2:00PM - 5:00PM - FOOTY SKILLS & BBQ @ PETER FENWICKE OVAL

5:30PM - G1'S STORY & MENTAL HEALTH SESSION FOR LOCALS HIGH SCHOOL & OLDER @ WALCHA BOWLING CLUB*

*U18S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT

Register online with the QR code
For More Information, contact Cassie McKenna: 6774 2550

This FREE event is proudly supported by NSW Government and Walcha Council

NRL Nine

Have a BBQ with Greg Inglis next Thursday

Walcha Council are kicking off the summer holidays with the help of Goanna Academy founder and ex Rabbitohs NRL legend Greg Inglis at an event open to our community next week.

Along with local sporting clubs and a band of volunteers, Greg will join in for an afternoon of skills, drills and footy fun on Thursday 21 December. Starting at 2.00pm, there will be activities for kids of all ages at the Peter Fenwicke Oval, finishing with a meet and greet BBQ and plenty of opportunities for selfies with the footy legend, who comes from Dunghutti country in Kempsey.

Greg founded the Goanna Academy after retiring from playing professional rugby league after 17 years at the top level to share his story and help end the stigma surrounding mental health. Greg has a passion for improving mental health outcomes for regional youth, especially within our indigenous communities and he can't wait to come and have a yarn with Walcha locals at the Walcha Bowling Club from 5.30pm.



This part of his visit is where he hopes to engage with the wider community, particularly teens and young adults.

For families with siblings or children not in high school or older, there will be some activities for the younger children while the talk is on so parents can focus on his message.

"Being a country boy myself, I always love the opportunity to get back to the region. I am looking forward to seeing everyone for what will be a great afternoon together," Greg said.

Book your seat at this inner sanctum event using the QR code (see advertisement above left) or email library.youth@walcha.nsw.gov.au.

The Bowling Club will have the bistro and bar open to purchase refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact Cassie McKenna at the Walcha Council Library, or call her on 6774 2550.

This event is proudly funded by the NSW Government.

WALCHA COUNCIL Summer HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2023-2024

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME & CRAFT

Walcha Farmers Markets
McHattan Park
Saturday 16th December 2023
Crafts 9am - 12 noon
Storytime with Santa from 10.30am

DANCE & FUN

Christmas themed activities with Bec Hoy at Walcha Gym Group Fitness Room
Wednesday 20th Dec 2023
10 - 11.30am: Preschool to Yr 1
12 noon - 1.30pm: Yr2 - Yr6
Call Walcha Library to book 67742550

FELT ART @ WALCHA LIBRARY

Learn how to make felted products
10am - 11.30am Ages 9+
Tues 16th Jan 2024
Call Walcha Library to book 67742550

THE SCIENCE OF MAGIC

The science behind some amazing magic tricks and take home your own 'Pepper's Ghost' illusion Ages 9+
10.30 - 11.30am
Thursday 18th Jan
Call Walcha Library to book 67742550

CLAY EARRING WORKSHOP

Make your own clay earrings.
Open to all school aged children.
Walcha Tennis Club
From 2-4pm Tues 23rd Jan
Cost: \$10 BOOK ONLINE NOW

BASKETBALL

Travis from Own the Rock Academy is returning to Walcha MPC for his basketball clinics this summer!
Tues 23rd Jan 2024
Call Walcha Library to book 67742550

POOL PARTY

Celebrate summer at the Walcha Memorial Pools
Wed 24th Jan 2024 **FREE ENTRY!**
Fun for all ages & no booking needed!
Inflatable obstacle course 1-5pm
Music, games & prizes 2-5pm
Free sausage sizzle 5pm

Walcha Support Group Bingo Night Fundraiser

It's long overdue thanks to COVID, but a bingo night is organised for 20 January to raise money for our Walcha Support Group. The night will begin at the Walcha Bowling Club, 6.00pm for a 6:30 start.

There are plenty of prizes to be won including lots suitable for men. A few are \$100 vouchers for local businesses, plenty are for \$50, and I'd like to thank those that donated towards this worthy cause.

There will also be a jackpot game to play with a fantastic prize.

Also, a raffle is being run and tickets will be available from January 1st at the club for \$1 each. Supper will be supplied for a gold coin donation.

So gather your family, friends, neighbours, anyone you think of that might enjoy a great night out and a few laughs. Even if you've never played bingo before, there will be a number of people who can help you. So come along to support the Walcha Support Group.

Suzie Harrison

Mastering the art of tennis



Above: Hamish, Nate, Katie, Josie and Grace.
Below: Lilah, Indie, Shaun, Digby and Levi.



By Emma Wauch

In Term 4 we had twenty seven children participating in Saturday morning tennis. Children aged 5-7 years enjoyed a 1-hour long session looking at the development of groundstrokes and gathering an understanding of tennis. This group made huge improvements over a 6-week period. With the older group we introduced something new, which was a match play system. They would split up into groups and play a Round Robin competition. Each game was the first to 12 points. It was amazing to watch these tennis superstars each week. The rallies became longer, the ball was being hit harder and they were starting to understand the tactical side to playing tennis.

The winners of the game ball each week were.

Week 1 – Lucy Rizzi, Katie Rizzi and Hamish Clark.

Week 2 – Josie Wauch, Lucy Rizzi,

Week 3 – Shaun Zorgdrager, Nate Powell.

Week 4 – Shaun Zorgdrager, Lilah Tate.

Week 5 – Digby Clark, Grace Fletcher.

Week 6 – Axel Blomfield, Levi Denny, Nate Powell.

I would like to say thank you to all the players and their families for putting the time in to learn and participate in this great sport. I would also like to thank Hyde and Pip who helped me on the court to coach and Trevor in the canteen who kept all the children fed and hydrated. I look forward to seeing everyone back on court in 2024.



Above: Zoie, Flo, Airlee, Axel and Lucy.
Below: Billy, Alfie, Fergus and Archer.



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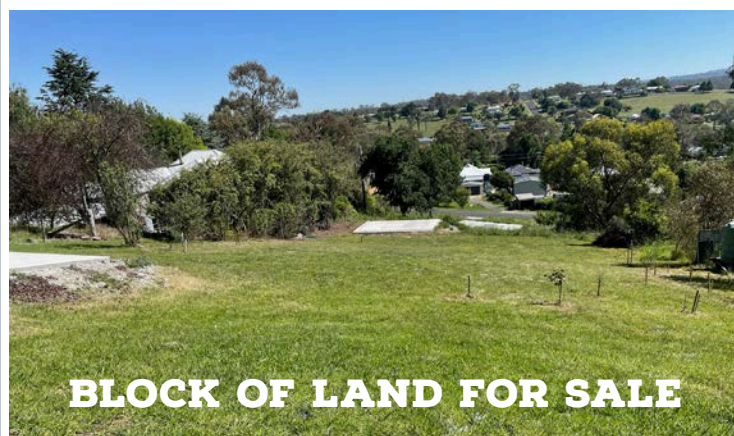
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Fully cleared block with a concrete driveway and a large concrete slab (6m x 4m) ready for a workshop or garage.

Residential blocks with great northerly views rarely come onto the market.

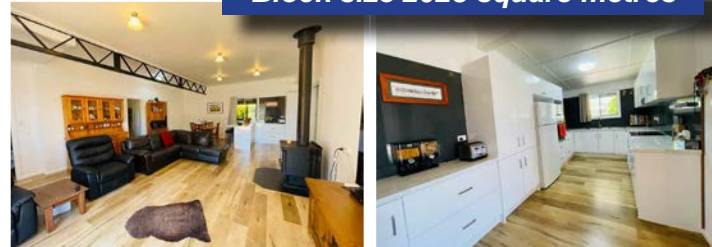
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New Price **\$129,000**

Spacious yard - well fenced



Block size 2023 square metres



- Four bedrooms plus office
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Would like to thank the residents of Walcha and district for all your support and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Closed Wed 20 Dec 2023 - 8 Jan 2024

THE OFFICES OF
**New England
Accounting**

Will close on
Thursday 21 December 2023
Re-open Monday 15 January 2024

WISHING EVERYBODY A
HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

WALCHA LAW

The Director and Staff Walcha Law wish you the compliments of the season and advise our office will close from 5pm 22nd December and will open at 8.30am Monday 8th January 2024



Closing 5pm Friday 22 Dec
Re-opening Monday 8 Jan
at 8:30am

WALCHA COUNCIL CHRISTMAS CLOSEDOWN 2023



Council's Office will be closed from 12:30pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 until 8.30am on Monday, 8 January 2024 for the Christmas New Year period.

Council's Work Depot will be staffed with a small crew available to carry out emergency work as required from 22 December 2023.

In cases of emergency after hours, please ring 0427 774 544.

Water & Sewer: in cases of emergencies after hours please ring 0427 774 544.

Service NSW will be closed from 12:15pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 until 8.30am on Monday 8 January 2024.

Garbage and Recycling Collection Services to Walcha, Walcha Road, Woolbrook and Summervale will be on Thursday, 28 December 2023. Collection run and times may differ to usual collection times. All bins to be placed on the kerb on Wednesday evening for collection on Thursday morning.

Waste Depot will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. It will be open on 27, 29, 30 & 31 December 2023 as normal.

Walcha War Memorial Baths will be closed Christmas Day.

Walcha Library will be closed from 12:30pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 until 8.30am on Monday 8 January 2024.

Walcha Community Care Office will be closed from 12:30pm Thursday 21 December 2023 until 8.30am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Walcha Visitor Information Centre will be closed Christmas Day.

Phillip Hood, General Manager
Walcha Council,
PO Box 2. Walcha NSW 2354

Carols by Candlelight next Friday



A great night of carol singing and a much-loved date on Walcha's Christmas calendar, Carols by Candlelight in the Presbyterian Church on Hill Street will take place on Friday 22 December at 7.00pm.

The community choir have been enjoying preparing several items, and the Church's high vaulted ceiling and acoustics reverberate sound and music beautifully. Those who have attended previously will agree it's a truly special evening not to be missed.

At this combined church event of the Presbyterian and Anglican churches, Rev. Neil Hunt, from Walcha's Anglican church, will reflect on celebrating the birth of Christ.

Join the Walcha community on Friday 22 December at 7pm for an evening of Christmas carol singing followed by a light supper.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Don't forget your Christmas cake



Lloyd Levingston delivering another load of Lions Christmas cakes

Because we have been selling the Lions Christmas Cakes at the Telecottage, we thought we needed to buy one to sample before promoting them. The result ... a full thumbs up from all of the staff! They are delicious.

Walcha Lions Club have cakes for sale at Telecottage, Post Office, Newsagency or direct from Lloyd Levingston on 0466 728 508. They are a bargain too at only \$16 for the 1kg cake.

The Lions Christmas Cake and Pudding program has been a major fund raising project of Lions Australia since 1965 and raised more than \$70 million. The proceeds from this project are donated back into the community on great causes including Blindness Prevention and Vision improvement projects, Medical Research, Children's Mobility Foundation, Eye Health Program, Hearing Dogs, Disaster Relief, Aged Care, Drug Awareness and Youth Programs.

You can rest assured that should you purchase a product from this program the proceeds generated will be put to good use in the community.

Stace's Fast Freight

Last delivery day to Walcha Sat 23 December
Recommence pick-ups
8 January for deliveries
to Walcha on 9 January

*Thank you for your
patronage in 2023*



Mountain Motors

Mountain Motors Workshop will close 22nd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January. NRMA Office will be open Wed, Thurs, Friday (27th, 28th, 29th) limited hours and reopen on 2nd January.

NRMA Road Service and Towing is as normal 24/7



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE BOWLING CLUB

MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2023 5:30-7:00PM

Message from the Mayor and Councillors

As many in our community will now likely be aware, Presbyterian Aged Care are in the process of divesting from all aged care services and have so far been unsuccessful in attracting a suitable operator to continue the operation of Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility. Walcha Council has been approached to consider either becoming the operator or assisting in finding a suitable operator to ensure continued operations of the facility. Presbyterian Aged Care have advised Walcha Council that if no suitable operator is found, the facility will close. Council is now looking at the option of becoming the operator. This brochure contains important information to inform the community about the key risks and opportunities of this option and are asking the community to consider the following question:

Should Walcha Council become the operator of Apsley Riverview Aged Care Facility?

RISKS – NEGATIVE

Staffing – Feedback provided across regional facilities is focused on the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff with high use of agency staff resulting in disproportionately high labour costs and operational challenges.

Governance – Council does not have experience running a residential aged care facility and has limited internal expertise in this area.

Financial & Operational Risk – Ongoing sustainability of the sector is under pressure and the environment is considered challenging. Financial and operational risks go hand in hand with available labour and its costs having a direct impact including 24-hour registered nurse requirements. Additional changes in regulation can also require large investments in facility maintenance and improvements.

Regulation – Changes in aged care regulations and funding with no control over changes and impact.

Financial - No capacity to expand the facility.

OPPORTUNITIES – POSITIVE

Reputation - Apsley Riverview is fully accredited and has a good reputation in the aged care community.

Infrastructure - Current premises are in good order with no major repairs or upgrades needed at this time.

Operations – Taking over existing business with established processes and procedures being a well-run facility fulfilling its governance obligations.

Direct Community Control – Apsley Riverview would become a community run facility through Walcha Council.

Local Administration – Direct functional support through Walcha Council administration functions including human resources, finance, facilities maintenance and billing.

Local Decision Making – Walcha Centric decision making to ensure alignment with community aspirations and goals.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE BOWLING CLUB

MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2023 5:30-7:00PM

FINANCIAL FORECAST

Operational Income:	\$3,044,626
<u>Non-Operating Income</u>	<u>\$6,454</u>
Total Personal Care	\$3,051,080
Personal Care – Staff Costs	\$1,359,816
Personal Care – Other Costs	\$170,950
Catering Costs	\$454,376
Cleaning Costs	\$77,351
<u>Laundry Costs</u>	<u>\$36,241</u>
Total Direct Costs	\$2,098,734
<u>Gross Surplus</u>	<u>\$952,346</u>
Property Maintenance	\$105,152
Utilities	\$120,832
Administration	\$440,060
<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>\$249,849</u>
Total Overhead Costs	\$915,893
<u>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	<u>\$23,545</u>

Council have completed a reforecast of what a typical operating year could look like in the current environment. A small surplus appears possible however there is significant risk and significant effort required.

There is limited scope to create additional revenue with costs needing careful management. The operation would require ongoing review of its sustainability given Council would have difficulty supporting consistent year on year losses out of general rate payer revenue.

It is anticipated that operation of the facility would be passed to Council with no net financial liabilities – i.e. enough operating cash to cover existing staff leave, resident deposits, etc. However, it may be the case that if unforeseen expenses were incurred at the outset, Council would need to offset any losses from ratepayer funds. This has not been included in our Long-Term Financial Plan, nor considered in our previously approved Special Rate Variation application.

Operating losses would need to be covered by rate payer funds.

Resident deposits are approximately \$2,500,000 with staff leave liabilities of approximately \$260,000

Projected Timeline

August 2023
Presbyterian Aged
Care approach
Council

COMPLETE

**September 2023 -
November 2023**
Council review
operations/financial
data

COMPLETE

November 2023
Resolution of
Council to
commence
community
consultation

COMPLETE

December 2023
Community
meeting to be held
18th December

NOT COMPLETE

January 2024
Follow-up
community
meeting if
required/establish
parameters of
acquisition if
community
supportive

NOT COMPLETE

February 2024
Council resolution
to proceed with
acquisition
negotiations or
withdraw

NOT COMPLETE

March - June 2024
Handover of Apsley
Riverview Aged
Care Facility

NOT COMPLETE

MOBILE FIX

Pat, Nicole and staff would like to wish their valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Closing
Friday 22
December &
Re-opening
Monday 8 January



paperdolls
HOUSE

Christmas Trading Hours

Saturday 23 December 9am to 4pm
Sunday 24 Dec Christmas Eve 9am to 1pm

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for all your support during my first year at Paperdolls House ox Katie.

CROSS BROS BUTCHERY

Taking **Christmas** ORDERS NOW

- ☒ Ham
- ☒ Turkey
- ☒ Rolled Pork
- ☒ Whole Chickens

Christmas Trading Hours

Thursday 21 Dec: 8am - 5.30pm
Friday 22 Dec: 8am - 6pm
Saturday 23 Dec: 7am - 12pm
CLOSED: 25 & 26 December
Wednesday 27 Dec: 8am - 5.30pm

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

6777 2239

crossbros@butcherywalcha.com

Derby Street Twilight Markets

Stalls lined the streets last Friday with home-made gifts, delicious baking, candles, honey, hair care packs, pottery and other beautiful products giving everyone the chance to do some Christmas shopping.

The children enjoyed face painting. Santa and his elf arrived in a Brian Smith Timber Transport Truck which wowed the children as Santa handed out lolly bags.

"A huge thank you to the shops which stayed open late and joined in the festive fun," organiser Bec Hoy said. The stall holders and shops enjoyed a successful night.



THE APSLEY
Advocate

Merry Christmas

The Telecottage will be closed from **3.00pm Friday 22 December.**

Reopening 9.00am Tuesday 2 January 2024 with the first Apsley Advocate to be published on Wednesday 10 January.



WALCHA CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE

Friday 22 December 10am - 1pm
Friday 29 December 10am - 1pm
Tuesday 2 January 10am - 5pm

MERRY HEALTHY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY NEW YEAR AND SAFE HOLIDAYS.
FROM SAM, IAN, ALINA & STAFF

AMCAL+
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

— TRADING HOURS —

Wednesday 13 December .. 9am - 5pm
Thursday 14 December 9am - 5pm
Friday 15 December 9am - 5pm
Saturday 16 December 9am - 5pm
Sunday 17 December CLOSED
Monday 18 December 9am - 5pm
Tuesday 19 December 9am - 5pm
Wednesday 20 December 9am - 5pm
Thursday 21 December 9am - 5pm
Friday 22 December 9am - 5pm
Saturday 23 December 9am - 12pm
Sunday 24 December CLOSED
Christmas Day CLOSED
Boxing Day CLOSED
Wednesday 27 December 9am - 5pm
Thursday 28 December 9am - 5pm
Friday 29 December 9am - 5pm
Saturday 30 December 9am - 12pm
Sunday 31 January CLOSED
Monday 1 January CLOSED

Walcha Central School Year 10 Formal

Twenty one students celebrated the completion of their year 10 studies. The students had a celebration dinner night with their year advisors, Mrs Jodie Provost and Ms Fiona Munzenrieder.



Back: Shaun, Robert, Michael, Hunter. Front: Mrs Jodie Provost, Matilda, Dakota, Isabell, Ash-Lee, Benedichte, Sotiana, Jordan, Amelia, Sophie, Isabella, Zara, Isabella, Thea, Lacee, Charlee, Sienna, Georgia, Ms Munzenrieder. Photo: Charlotte Mooney.

Tourism Insights 2023

By Tourism Coordinator Lisa Kirton

Walcha Tourism has been busy this year welcoming visitors to the region and promoting Walcha as a desirable destination to visit.

Walcha Tourism's role is to develop and coordinate the overall marketing and tourism activities, and associated product development for Walcha Council and coordinate the day-to-day operations of the Visitor Information Centre (open 364 days of the year).

The small tourism team who work at the Visitor Information Centre consists of, the Tourism Coordinator (3 days per week) and Tourism Officer (2 days per week) who staff the centre weekdays. Weekends at the centre are covered by our wonderful volunteers. Patrick Dogan has recently joined the team as a casual to cover staff leave time. Based in the Council office is the Executive Manager of Community & Tourism.

An average of 300 - 400 people visited the Walcha Visitor Information Centre per month this year and were assisted by our friendly staff and volunteers.

Tourism marketing campaigns for Walcha have been undertaken in the following publications this year (both digital and print): Australian Traveller magazine, Link Airways – Inflight magazine, Tamworth Country Music Festival magazine, Go55s magazine, Australian Geographic magazine, FOUND Regional magazine, National motorcycling publications.

Most campaigns were general Walcha tourism promotion, with some targeted to a particular demographic, such as cyclists, motorcyclists, caravanners.

Walcha Tourism now have 12 evergreen promotional videos promoting Walcha. These have been rolled out on social media and some on the Walcha Tourism website www.walchansw.com.au

They cover: Food & beverage, Art, Shopping, Motorcycling, Cycling, Prominent Local artists, Autumn, Winter, Pioneer Cottage, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls.

During Spring we engaged with Luke Lambley, a travel digital

content creator with 169K followers, who stayed in Walcha and captured content, collaborating with Walcha Tourism and sharing travel content on Walcha.

Our collaboration with New England High Country (NEHC) saw successful tourism marketing campaigns for the region delivered in the following publications (both digital and print): The Wanderer magazine, We Are Explorers, Australian Traveller, Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia, Australia/NZ Cyclist magazine.

We have also been busy updating and producing several tourism resources/ brochures including; a new Visitor Guide & Map for NEHC, Walcha Visitor Handouts on bushwalking, fishing, eating out and accommodation.

Our Walcha Tourism social media pages continue to grow with followers and engagement.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/visitwalcha/>

Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/walchansw>

We are currently collecting feedback on the Walcha Motorcycle Rally, an event that attracts visitation to Walcha from outside our LGA for a multiple night stay, so if you have any feedback to provide we'd love to hear from you.

Please remember to support our fantastic local businesses and shop local this Christmas. We are very fortunate to have such a great range of gifts on offer right here in Walcha.

If you are hosting visitors these holidays then come in and see us for some inspiration, maps and brochures. We're here to help and are open every day except Christmas Day.



Mayoral Column



DAM OPENING

With the "soft opening" of what has been referred to as Off-Creek Storage 1, but can now revert back to what it is, a dam, and probably the largest single infrastructure build for Walcha Council, is now filling with water. Over the years I have written a lot about the path to secure funding and construct this dam, and when filled should give town water security well into the foreseeable future. Adam Marshall's comment that this is the first dam completed in NSW since Split Rock Dam in the 80s is a credit to the combined lobbying and push by this community. It proves the process, while convoluted and technical at times, works. Some plumbing work to be completed and the project will be signed off on and fully operational.

DERBY STREET

The public display day for the draft concept design of Derby Street upgrade went well with plenty of people taking the opportunity to review and have input into the plans. With around \$6.5M to spend on this project we need the outcome to align with our community's vision. Obviously the road structure, drainage and surface treatments are questions that are beyond most of us, but the footpaths, parking, street-scaping, signage, etc. are all open for input. There is an opportunity to have your say until the end of the month and work will commence straight after the Women's World Sand Green Golf Championships held right here in Walcha in April 2024.

GOLF

On the subject of the golf tournament, what a coup it is for our local golf club and the flow on effects for the community that this event will be staged here. It's hard not to be impressed by the course as you head west of Walcha and obviously NSW Golf felt the same. It is a credit to the Board and members of the club. World wide recognition of our community and its facilities can only prove to be great advertisement for our town.

PADDLES

The recent passing of Phillip Chandler, more affectionately known as Paddles, takes another great community member from us. Paddles worked for LP Cross for a long time and then became an integral part of Council's workforce. Always with an infectious smile, a little cheek or banter his presence always lit up a room. I believe Paddles would have left this world without an enemy and Council's thoughts and best wishes go to Olive and her family at this challenging time.

DRAFT WIND GUIDELINES

The Department of Planning have released their draft guidelines in relation to renewable energy for comment. Of particular interest to our LGA are currently the Wind Guidelines, Transmission and Community Benefit Fund sections. Following a public meeting in Walcha a couple of weeks ago these are out on display for comment until the end of January 2024. While these are only guidelines they will nevertheless be used by the Department in the assessment stage of these projects in the ever expanding renewable energy future.

So in practical terms this is an opportunity to have your input into the renewable energy assessment process. How much that input will ultimately be able to shape (or halt) individual projects is yet to be seen, as the overall commitment to transition to renewables has been set politically and can really only be changed at that level. As I have said before, it is my view that this change is coming in some form and as a Council and community we need to make sure we get the best outcome for us. The draft Guidelines are easily found on the DPIE website.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

As this will be my last column for 2023 on behalf of Sheree and myself I wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Most people I speak to cannot believe where this year has disappeared to, an issue of getting older maybe but also how busy we all seem to be.

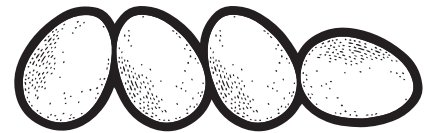
I know Council struggles under the current environment to deliver the large amount of projects that funding has been successfully applied for. Bridges, roads, streets and other infrastructure are funded but unable to be completed in our expected timeframe due to workforce constraints. In reality this is a good problem, at least these projects are funded, and will be delivered. Through diligent oversight our current record of delivering within budget is commendable.

Back to Christmas, I hope that everyone can celebrate Christmas in a way that brings them pleasure. With the end of the year falling around this time also it's a great time to reflect on family, our wins losses and challenges for the year.

MARKETS THIS SAT!!

Join us

FOR AN ARRAY OF
SEASONAL PRODUCE,
FRESH COFFEE,
SWEETS & PASTRIES,
BACON & EGG ROLLS,
PLANTS AND TREES
PLUS MUCH MORE!!!



GOT ANY EXTRA PRODUCE?*

BRING ALONG YOUR
HOME-MADE CONDIMENTS,
BAKING, FRESH PRODUCE,
PLANTS, EGGS AND SO ON TO
THE COMMUNITY STALL WE CAN
SELL THEM ON YOUR BEHALF

* SEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ONLINE



NEW STALLHOLDERS WELCOME
WALCHAFARMERSMARKET.ORG.AU

what's the goss



with AJ Cross

What a great performance by 'Winterbourne' resident and PLC school student Stephanie Blake on finishing 4th in her 15 years 400 metre heat at the National All Schools Athletic Championships in Perth last week. Steph stopped the clock at 60.25 seconds only to finish just .06 of a second outside making the final. Still 9th best in Australia is a sensational effort Steph.

Blaine Cooney from Walcha attended the 54th Annual North West School sports awards at the West Leagues Club in Tamworth last Friday where he was awarded Most Outstanding Primary Athlete in the North West. Blaine also received a North West Blue for Sports excellence and sportsmanship. Well done Blaine.

This time of the year I have been asked numerous times to play Santa Claus before going on to explain I retired from that particular job quite a few years ago following an incident at Woolbrook Hall after agreeing to play the role for Woolbrook School Principal Debbie Douglas.

As I commenced handing out the presents the first child in line gleefully accepted a gift and it was then I overheard the second kid turn to the third one in line and say 'That's not Santa Claus - That's Coog!' And that was my last gig as Santa Claus.

Walcha/Uralla Cricketer Daniel Boyd hit his second unbeaten ton in three weeks when he plundered 106 not out against Hillgrove at Harris Park last Saturday. Daniel belted 82 runs in boundaries including one ball into Rugby League Park next door. So far this season Daniel has scored 318 runs at a healthy average of 53 each time he visits the batting crease.

Walcha/Uralla allrounder Jay Grills would be a very relieved cricketer after he finally got off the mark last Saturday but only after he was dropped before he scored. So far this season the 2013/14 Walcha Cricketer of the Year had failed to score on the four occasions he has batted.

Four ducks in a row isn't something any batsman would be happy about and Jay became the 12th player to achieve the feat in local cricket since 1979. Spare a thought for Colts batter Paul Hicks who racked up 7 globes in succession back in 1985. I was unfortunate enough to achieve the feat in 2001 and as Grills mentioned he was nervous about where his next run was coming from.

Rugby Union cricketer Graeme Causley registered 5 consecutive ducks in 1981 while Andrew Kerr failed to score seven times playing for Walcha Road in 1993 but only three were back to back. Don't worry the great Australian batsman Greg Chappell made 7 ducks during the 1981/82 season against the West Indies and Pakistan.

Last Saturday the annual Ann Berry Memorial Golf Day was played in very warm conditions but by all accounts an enjoyable time was had by all. Perc Berry would like to thank sponsors for the event - Walcha Tyre Service (major sponsors), New England Hotel (runners up), Dean Sharpe (NTP's), Bill Fletcher (Long Drives), Bob and Desiree Denniss (snacks and sandwiches) and Cross Brothers Butchery (snags for the BBQ).

Last Thursday three dozen players competed in the annual Veterans Golf Christmas special where Miles Archdale survived a countback with Willy Brennan to win the event after both players racked up 37 stableford points. Next best was 'Mollydooker' Allan Laurie 36 and Mark Hogan 34.

In the ladies division Sue Partridge was victorious with 34 pts ahead of her sister Pauline Carter 32, Polly Locke 30 and Jenny Lisle 28. N.T.P's went to Doug McDonald and Jill Burnell (both on 3), Ross King 9 while no lady player could find the dance floor on 9. No man or woman could reach the beach on 16 and 18.

Didn't Anne and Tony Martin along with Mick Steep have a bit of a chuckle to themselves and out loud when a certain punter went to wager a few dollars on 'Loch Eagle' in Horse Race 7 at Rosehill last Saturday before changing his mind. When 'Loch Eagle' saluted returning \$20.80 a win and \$6.30 a place to suggest the writer of this column wasn't happy with himself would be a massive understatement.

\$25/tn
40mm
roadbase



Christmas Offer!!



*Its time to re-sheet that driveway or
cattle yard! Take advantage of our*

LOCALS CHRISTMAS OFFER!

On offer : 15th Nov - 15th Dec!

*** conditions apply**

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Bowls

Dads Army: Six players turned up on Thursday afternoon to play in the Dads Army comp.

The heat kept a lot of players away, however they organised a game of triples and after only 10 ends they called it quits.

The result saw Noel Goodwin, Eric O'Keefe and John Watts defeat Brian Goodwin, Geoff Salt and John McLean 11 - 10.

There were no chooks played for or raffle held.

Players are reminded that we are joining the women for their bowls and presentation day. Starting time is 9am for 9:30 start.

TWILIGHT: The last round of this comp will be played on Friday night followed by presentation to the winners.

The next comp will commence on 12th January 2024. Names to Noel or write it on notice board.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 3rd Grade

Hillgrove	
P TOWNSEND b D Morley.....	30
A Stewart lbw P Mooney.....	5
C VAN DER VEER b D Morley.....	7
A DULLAWAY b C Watts.....	1
C HUNTER c&b D Morley.....	0
C JORDAN b C Watts.....	12
S MAYWELL b C Morgan.....	7
B JORDAN c C Morgan b C Watts.....	0
H JONES c C Mooney b A Keene.....	3
R VAN DER VEER b C Mooney.....	1
Total 86. Extras 13. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
C Mooney 2.4-0-1-20, P Mooney 4-0-1-11, C Watts 3-0-3-2, D Morley 4-0-3-20, A Keene 4-0-1-25, C Morgan 1-0-1-8.	

Walcha/Uralla

N ENDACOTT b C Vanderveer.....	28
B MANSFIELD b A Dullaway.....	15
H WILLIAMS b A Partridge.....	7
C MOONEY lbw B Jordan.....	6
P MOONEY n.o.....	15
C MORGAN lbw C Vanderveer.....	3
P EDLINGTON b C Vanderveer.....	11
D Morley n.o.....	0
Total 89. Extras 4. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
S Maxwell 3-0-0-23, A Dullaway 3-1-1-14, C Vanderveer 4-0-3-23, A Partridge 4-1-1-20, C Jordan 1.2-0-0-8, B Jordan 1-0-1-1.	

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 2nd Grade

Walcha/Uralla	
E BLOMFIELD c&b Haider.....	9
B HALL c J Marshall b B Parsons.....	8
D BOYD n.o.....	106
S RAFFERTY c S Brotherson b A Taylor.....	12
J GRILLS b B Parson.....	34
Total 196. Extras 27. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
H Raza 4-0-1-23, B Parson 4-0-2-24, D Walters 2-0-0-26, M Laurie 3-0-0-57, A Taylor 4-0-1-34, B Rhana 3-0-0-28.	

Hillgrove

M LAURIE c M Harper b E Blomfield.....	96
B MARSHALL lbw W Fletcher.....	12
D MOFFITT c S Rafferty b W Fletcher.....	38
J MARSHALL n.o.....	5
I GALPATHAGE c E Blomfield b T Crombie.....	1
S BROTHERTON n.o.....	1
Total 169. Extras 11. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
W Fletcher 4-0-2-20, T Crombie 3-0-1-24, M Harper 2-0-0-11, J Grills 2-0-0-24, C Boyd 4-0-0-36, D Boyd 2-0-0-37, E Blomfield 3-0-1-16.	

Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club won both their games when they played Hillgrove in the Armidale and District T20 competition at Harris Park last Saturday.

In 2nd Grade visitors posted a total of 196 runs at a loss of four wickets after number three batter Daniel Boyd smacked on unbeaten 106 runs which included nine 6's and seven 4's a total of 82 in boundaries.

Number five batsman Jay Grills opened his account for the season following a string of four successive ducks when he scored 34 runs but only after surviving being dropped before he scored.

In reply Hillgrove managed 169 for a loss of four wickets off their 20 overs with Walcha/Uralla opener Will Fletcher capturing 2/20 off his four overs. Fellow opener Thor Crombie 1/24 and Ed Blomfield 1/16. Hillgrove opener Max Laurie scored 96 (thirteen 4's and four 6's).

Batting first in 3rd Grade Hillgrove could only manage 86 runs thanks mainly to a economical bowling spell by Chris Watts who snared three wickets for a miserly two runs off his three overs.

All six Walcha/Uralla trundlers took wickets Dave Morley 3/20 while opener Cameron and Peter Mooney claimed a victim each as did Alanah Keene and Charlie Morgan.

This Saturday Walcha/Uralla travel to Armidale where they are drawn to play at Rologas Fields - 3rd Grade against Easts Gold at 12.45pm followed by 2nd Grade against Ex Services from 3.45pm.

At the 19th

A field of 34 players teed off in a 4BBB Medley last Sunday for trophies donated by New England Accounting Tax Services where ladies duo champion Simone Sweeney and her husband David accumulated 43 stableford points to win the event.

Runners up on 42 points were Drew Bird and Josh Clarke just ahead of Craig and Prue Morgan, Miles Archdale and Michael Stackman, Lee Fletcher and Ross King, Barry Hoad and Debbie Richards all on 41 points.

The remaining sweepstakes prizes went to Bill Heazlett and Will Nicholls, Don Brooks and Jenny Lisle both on 40 points.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Will Nicholls (1), Jenny Lisle (3) and Michael Stackman (18).

Last Thursday club captain Willy Brennan defeated former club president Barry Hoad 5 and 4 to win the final of the Match Play competition.

This Sunday is 4BBB Medley for a prize supplied by 'Waterloo' Mayor Ross King.

On Saturday there will be a couple of half hams on offer for the weekly 9 hole competition with an 8.30am registration for 9am tee off.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday saw our final ladies competition day for 2023. We played a novelty game with a draw for partners and the winners of the 3,2,1 game were Vicki Heffernan, Polly Locke and Margaret Higgins. The winners with the coloured ball were Sally Rutherford, Alison Cameron and Sally McCormack.

After golf we enjoyed a scrumptious lunch, followed by the annual presentations.

Our champions for the year were Simone Sweeney-A Grade, Polly Locke-B Grade and also the winner of the Europambela Jug, and Pauline Carter-C Grade.

The 27 Hole Champions were Julie Olrich and Cheryl McDonald and the runners up were Alison Cameron and Sally McCormack.

The President's trophy was won by Jenny Lisle, the Secretary's trophy by Margaret Higgins and the

Treasurer's trophy by Cark Street.

Chip ins for the year were taken out by Pauline Carter and the Eclectic trophy was won by Cheryl McDonald.

Match play for 2023 was won by Simone Sweeney. Our best beginner was Maddie Lance and she also had the biggest reduction in handicap for the year.

A great year of golf was enjoyed by all our lady golfers, and we look forward to returning to competition in the first week of February, playing a 4BBB draw for partners event for Simone Sweeney and Cark Street's trophy.

Flippers

The Walcha Swimming Club held their second session this season where a number of eye catching performances were handed in.

In the first five weeks Christina Fontanella, Benji Provost and Lucas Eveleigh have all moved from Tadpoles to Frogs and now to Turtles.

Other Movers and Shakers are Charlie Makeham and Liana Whellan (Tadpoles to Frogs), Shaun Zorgrager, Toby Wellings and Tom Lisle (Frogs to Turtles), Flynn O'Connell and Tyler Ross (Turtles to Crocodiles), Cameron Mooney and Isabella Hayton (Dolphins to Sharks) the first swimmers to do so since former pool attendant Thomas Micallef.

Last week 11 swimmers gained full points Myla and Lucas Eveleigh, Kix and Kobie Brown, Micah Hayton, Chase Gibson, Airlee Tate, Florence Davey, Shaun Zorgrager, Christina Fontanella and Bella Mooney.

So far this season 85 Personal Best Times have been registered.

Swimmer of the week goes to Eliza Nivison who tackled her doubts about moving from 25 metres to 50 metres swimming all four strokes over the longer distance. Way to go Eliza.

Tennis

The 2023 Spring Semi-Final was played out on Tues 5th Dec in pleasant Summer conditions.

DeMinaur: DA Locke, E Wauch (floating for D Clark), G Wall and S Ireland defeated Edden: M Sweeney (floating for D Sweeney), C Ireland, S Blake and R Mathews 29 to 28 in a hard fought close one.

Popyrin: E Blomfield, M Ireland, B Kommeran and T Tape defeated Millman: B Hoy (floating for T Whillock), P O'Brien, A Barillaro and J Burgess 36 to 19.

Well done to all teams but DeMinaur and Popyrin will go through to the Grand Final which will be played on Tues 12th Dec at 7.00pm. Good luck to both teams. See you all at the net soon.

THE APSLEY Advocate Christmas Box Ads

Book your Christmas box to appear in the final Advocate for 2023:
Wednesday 20 of December.

\$50 for one week

(size 60mm w x 50mm h)

Call 6777 1111 or email wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au



Funeral Notice

LOCKYER; Heather

5th December 2023

At Riverview, formerly of "Roseville"
& Thee Street Walcha.

Dearly loved wife of Ken (dec'd). Loving
mother & mother-in-law of Laraine & Paul
De Gruyter and Peter & Linda Lockyer.
Loved grandmother and great-grandmother
of their families.

Aged 98 years

Funeral Service to be held at St Andrews
Anglican Church Walcha, Thursday 14th
December 2023 commencing at 11:30am,
followed by interment at the
Walcha Cemetery.

A special thanks to all of the staff at
Riverview Hostel.

Piddington's AFDA 6772 2288

Funeral Notice

GAEL MARGARET SCOTT

née O'Shannessy

Wife of John Raymond Scott (deceased)
formerly of Milton Park, Woolbrook.

Passed peacefully Sunday
19th November 2023.

Caroline, John, Paul and Simon and families
would like to invite you to a
celebration of Gael's life at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic
Church, Coonamble 12 midday
Friday 15th December 2023.

Following the church service, the
family invites you to celebration of life at
Coonamble Bowling Club.

There will be live streaming on the link below
[https://www.youtube.com/live/
xjxdIkZyPuc?si=3vJa0tZUSOaA8IGw](https://www.youtube.com/live/xjxdIkZyPuc?si=3vJa0tZUSOaA8IGw)

In Memoriam

RONALD CAMERON

1934 - 1981

Aged 47 Years

Wife Hazel and

Sons Graemne, Kenneth and Phillip

Garage Sale

Saturday 16 December 20w Hill Street.
Chest freezer, hedge trimmer, household +
craft items. Strictly 8:30am.

Garage Sale for the Bears Saturday 16
December 8.15am to 5.00pm. 118 Derby
Street, Kerry & Juans. Everything must go!

Positions Vacant

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We would like to offer a position for an
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Small Cattle Grid 2100mm². Damaged
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Thank You

Sandra, Kara and Grant Galvin would like to
express thanks to all who have called, sent
cards and made personal contact following
the passing of Vic. We are very grateful to be
part of such a wonderful community.

Wanted

LEASE OR AGISTMENT wanted for up
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Short or long term. Can help with fences and
can supply yards. For all enquiries phone
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Public Notices

Walcha Taxi offering day/night trips away for
your next out of town function. 11 passengers.
Bookings required. Phone 0436 131 008

THE APSLEY Advocate

Last Advocate for 2023
Wednesday 20 December

Editorial and ad bookings due
Monday 18 December

First Advocate for 2024
Wednesday 10 January

thumbs



- 👍 To Kim from IGA for her first aid assistance to a rider who had been stung by an insect.
- 👍 To Petrina and Walcha Memorial Baths lifeguards for doing a great job.
- 👍 To the great Christmas gifts on offer at our wonderful local shops and boutiques. Support Walcha businesses and shop local this festive season.
- 👍 To Judy and Julianne for assisting me in relocating my stall at the BBB.
- 👍 To Tanya and Willow for assisting me after I fell over.
- 👍 To the great range of stalls at the Walcha Twilight Christmas Markets last Friday.

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



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Holy Communion 7.30am
Family Service 10.00am
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PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha Sunday 9.30am
Christmas Eve 9.30am
Christmas Day 9.30am
Christmas lunch 11.30am onwards. Bring
a plate of food to share and RSVP prior.
All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC

Sunday 10:00am Mass.

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Thursday 14 12.00pm – Close

Ladies bowls 9.00am for 10.00am
Social bowls 1.00pm

Friday 15 2.00pm – Close

2.00pm Bingo

6.00pm Bistro

- Crispy chicken burgers
- Honey soy meatball stirfry
- Prawn Caesar salad
- Normal menu available, takeaway and delicious desserts.

6.00pm Free Bingo

6.00pm Tickets for raffles

MEAT & VEG TRAYS

7.00pm Raffles & Members Draw

Saturday 16 11.00am – Close

6.00pm Bistro

Sunday 17 11.00am – Close

12.00pm Bistro open. Children
U/10 kids meal free with an adult
order.

12.00pm Meat, fruit and veg
raffles. Drawn at 1pm

12-2pm \$5 schooners

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party 24th
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