

# THE APSLEY Advocate

CIRCULATION 1810 – P 02 6777 1111 F 02 6777 1112 wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au walchatelecottage.com.au

20 December 2023



## Christmas hours

Wednesday 20th 6:30 - 5pm  
Thursday 21st 6:30 - 5pm  
Friday 22nd 6:30 - 5pm  
Saturday 23rd 6:30 - 12pm  
Christmas Eve - closed  
Christmas Day - closed  
Boxing Day - closed  
Wednesday 27th 6:30 - 3pm

**Keep updated by following us on Instagram @ thefruitshop\_walcha**

Thank you to everyone for their support this year! We wouldn't be here without you

Have a wonderful Christmas

Ph 67772977  
Email hello@  
thefruitshop.com.au

## thebigblackbuilding

### The BBB Holiday Schedule

Thu 21st 10 till 4	-XMAS shopping
Fri 22nd 10 till 6	-late night shopping!
Sat 23rd 10 till 4	-XMAS shopping
Sun 24th 10 till 4	-Last minute panic buy!
Mon 25th (closed)	XMAS eat too much, food coma.....
Tue 26th 10 till 4	-coffee at the BBB
Wed 27th 10 till 4	-coffee at the BBB
Thu 28th 10 till 4	-coffee at the BBB
Fri 29th 10 till 4	-coffee at the BBB
Sat 30th 10 till 4	-coffee at the BBB
Sat 31st 10 till 4	NYE -prep hangover
Mon 1st 10 till 4	-swear off drinking!! -coffee at the BBB
Tue 2nd 10 till 4	-break NY resolutions -coffee at the BBB
Wed 3rd (closed)	-commence 2024 existential crisis...

0411 713 566



## We want Riverview!

Almost 200 people gathered at the Bowling Club on Monday night to learn more about the opportunity Walcha Council has in becoming the operator of Apsley Riverview Aged Care.

In July last year, the current operator, Presbyterian Aged Care, said they would close the facility if a suitable provider is not found. Since that time Walcha Council has been working hard to investigate if this is a possibility for our Council and community. "Thank you for turning up. The amount of people here tonight speaks volumes of the importance of Riverview to our community," Council General Manager, Phil Hood said.

This proposal would see Council's staff increase by 40% with the structure envisaged to be a Section 355 Committee of Council where a Management Committee would report to Council.

**So why aren't any Aged Care providers interested in running our facility?** Council's Director of Corporate and Community, Christian Martin explained to the meeting that a business wanting to make money will struggle, whereas a community will aim to break even to keep the vital service in town. "On preliminary numbers we can break-even or make a small profit," General Manager, Phil Hood said.

The local Presbyterian congregation owns the land and buildings at Apsley Riverview, so Council will be

responsible for depreciation and maintenance which has been factored into preliminary budgets.

The future threat of Council Amalgamation as a risk was discussed and Apsley Riverview Manager, Julie Blake said that this would still provide the opportunity for a larger Council to run it.

The resounding feeling at the meeting was that it is imperative people can age in their own community. "We have a wonderful opportunity here to resume community management, running it with love not profit," Barry Spry commented.

"We can do this as a community," Holly Fletcher said.

**So what next?** The Community Consultation runs through until 22 January. Council have a survey available on their website or at the office, asking 'Should Walcha Council become the operator of Riverview Aged Care facility?' *Comments and Questions.* We all need to fill this in as Council needs to ensure there is community support for this proposal. Council will collate these surveys and hold an extraordinary meeting on 31 January.

If positive, they will move to the next phase of negotiations. "It is not guaranteed to go ahead even at this stage as the nuts and bolts of the deal need to be discussed," Phil Hood said. Council envisage this process could take until 30 June 2024.

Wishing all of our valued customers

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Closed: Christmas, Boxing Day and New Years Day**

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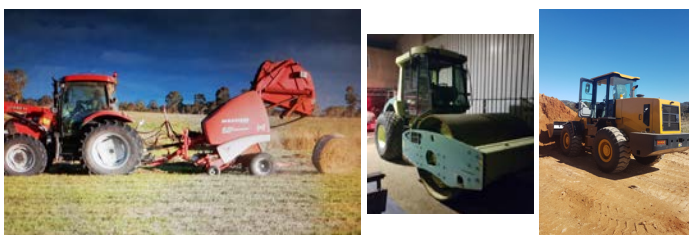
**22 TON EXCAVATOR - 13 TON LOADER**

**15 TON VIBRATING ROLLER**

**Tipper**

**PASTURE SPRAYING**

**D3 DOZER - 45ft DROP DECK TRAILER**



Peter 0427 013 133 or 6777 6534  
Irwin 0408 311 321

## around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The district has really gone off in the past week with the heat taking its toll not only on the pastures but our surface water. The hot days have really put our dams under some stress and some dams that didn't fail through the drought have now dried up.

Tuesday is set to be the last hot day for a while and looking at the forecast back to normal temperatures for the next month. The rain this week leading into Christmas has really been talked up with the prediction of anywhere from 50 – 100mm over the next week and couldn't we use it. I hope this moisture eventuates for everyone as it would be the perfect Christmas present.

A community meeting was held on Monday night regarding the management of Riverview with the meeting well attended by the local community. Riverview offer a vital service to our aged care and come the 1st July 2024 if we don't find a suitable provider to manage the facility it will close its doors. Riverview employs nearly 40 people with the majority being local and our residents would in turn have to find a new aged care facility in another town. It's been twelve months that Riverview has been looking for a new facility provider and thus far have not been successful. If we don't want our local council to run the facility then it will close. We really don't have much of a choice if we are intending on keeping this great local aged care service open.

The first cyclone of the season, cyclone Jasper, has drenched Far North Queensland in a deluge of rain and flooded large areas from Cairns north. All major roads heading north have been cut off to urgent supplies as people wait for essential items like food, water and fuel. Four months of rain has fallen in 24 hours as the tropical low continues to move through. Hopefully the water will recede quickly, and things can back to normal before Christmas. The far north is not the place I would like to be while it is flooding with crocodiles lurking everywhere.

Good news for our beef and sheep markets with China restoring the licence for three facilities to export back into China after being suspended three years ago. All three plants are in the south and interestingly they are both sheep and beef plants. Six plants including one in northern NSW and the other five being in southern Queensland still have their licence suspended but I would image it is only a matter of time before they reinstate more plants. It seems to me that the cheap protein from other countries is drying up, like the USA. China as we know are hungry for protein with a massive middle class of people. The outlook for both the sheep and beef market seem to be looking up for 2024 after a tough 2023.

The first fat cattle and sheep sale in Tamworth will be held on the 8 January while AuctionsPlus will hold its first usual Friday cattle sales on 5 January. It's weaner sale time in the south with in-excess of 40,000 weaner cattle set to hit the market in early January and no doubt they would be sweating on everyone getting some rain.

As we close out the year and head into the Christmas New Year break, I think it is vital you all take a well-earned break from what has been a relentless year. We have all had our challenges with the rising cost of living, continual rise of interest rates, a drier than normal year and the fall of the beef and sheep markets that our district rely so heavily on. Throughout all the negatives we still live in a wonderful country and there are plenty of positives to take away from 2023. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year.





# Scotsman taking on the Sunshine State

No you haven't had too much Christmas cheer ... there has been a postie bike cruising around town lately sporting a Scottish flag proudly blowing in the breeze. Aboard is Norman McKnight, a proud Scotsman from the village of Fintry in the Stirling Shire who is taking off on his next Aussie adventure today. Norman plans to pilot the postie bike the length of Queensland at an average speed of 40 – 50kmh. "I take all of the back roads and on my way I'm stopping off in Brisbane to learn how to e-foil," he said.

He is in Australia for three months and has been staying at Cheyenne while preparing his bike and route for the trip. "Burgh and Sue have been a great help, especially with finding accommodation, and mapping out a route," he said.

Norman hopes to make it to Cooktown, with this being his 26th trip to Australia. Over this time he has seen more of this country than most of us. "Last year I rode the bike the length of Western Australia and this trip through Queensland will almost complete my lap of Australia," he said.



*Norman stocks his postie bike up with supplies in Walcha before heading north for his Queensland adventure.*



## Rugby Club kicking goals for the hospital

Walcha Hospital Auxiliary is able to purchase a new treatment bed for Community Health, as well as a child's car seat for the Community Health Car and items to make life easier for the residents of the Elizabeth Crosse Wing thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000 from Walcha Rugby Club.

They held an extremely successful Ladies Day during the season where commemorative jerseys were auctioned with the sizeable profit being donated to the Hospital Auxiliary.

Rugby Club Treasurer, Janelle Archdale presented the cheque to the Hospital Auxiliary last week. She explained that 2024 is shaping up to be a big year for the Club with a facelift of the Clubhouse taking place. "We will be upgrading the bathroom facilities, painting and re-carpeting to make it a nicer venue for members."

Janelle is pictured above with Hospital Auxiliary members Vicki McIvor, Marie Ballard and Margaret Cross.

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### Family home on large block



- Situated on a large flat block of 4148sqm
- Three bedroom brick and tile home with double garage
- Lounge with wood heating, family room with reverse cycle
- Three light filled bedrooms with good sized built-ins
- New three way bathroom with freestanding bath and easy care shower, double basin vanity and separate toilet
- North Easterly facing kitchen with wall oven, dishwasher and walk-in pantry
- The dining area flows through to the covered entertaining area, which is set up to host the next family gathering
- All of this is set amongst established gardens and mature trees on a large block with the potential to subdivide

Enquiries Peta Carter: 0407 350 781

**\$750,000**

**WISHING OUR VALUED CLIENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Christmas Trading Hours:**

**Closing at 1.00pm**

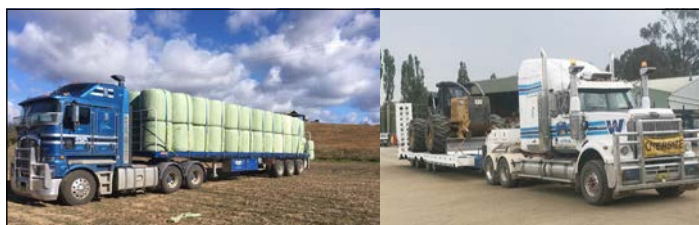
**Friday 22 December 2023**

**Reopening Tuesday**

**2 January 2024**



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## letters to the editor



### New drop-off site

There is a new drop-off point for all the recycling that people have been collecting. It's the Walcha Visitor Information Centre.

They have kindly agreed to house a mini wheelie bin for you to drop off your ring pulls, tea bag tags, milk bottle lids (no soft drink lids or UHT milk lids please) and bread bag tags (please, please, please, no cardboard ones). Cardboard ones usually have a recycling symbol on them.

It would be a great help to me if you could have them in separate bags please.

The Walcha Visitor Information Centre is open seven days a week from 9.00am – 4.00pm.

**Suz e Harrison**



## Walcha MPC Committee

### Chairman's Report

This past year has been a disappointing one in respect of the continued sparse use of the Multi Purpose Centre by the Walcha public. The trend in community to retreat from out of home activities has been developing for a number of years, was exacerbated by the COVID years and has shown little sign of improvement this past year. Consequently there has been little extra hire of the hall for the events that were once common place.

We are fortunate that we share a wonderful facility with Walcha Central School and therefore the committee's ongoing costs are low and our financial position remains sound. This enables us to offer the Walcha community extraordinarily low hiring costs for any event after school hours. However, so long as usage remains low there is little financial scope and little incentive to further undertake improvements to what is already an excellent hall, lobby and commercial kitchen and the easy availability of the necessary furniture for various events.

This year has seen a number of changes in our committee's personnel. The very sad loss of Cr Greg Schaefer has required Walcha Council to nominate another delegate and it is with pleasure we welcomed Cr Anne-Marie Pointing. Our two excellent P&C reps, operating as Secretary and Treasurer, Karen Barnes and Jen Kealey, have retired from the committee and we were happy to welcome Kelly Makeham and Arianne Taylor in their place. I have expressed my appreciation of the retiree's service to them personally and would like to also thank the P&C for their loyal support of our group for many years.

I value the continuing service of Principals Amanda Cooper and teachers representative Tony Bozza and look forward hopefully to a year when there is a resurgence of community activity involving the MPC.

**Barry Spry**

**telecottage**  
WALCHA

The Telecottage team wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and would like to thank you for your patronage this year. We look forward to a wonderful 2024.

Anthea, Rosalie, Kylie, Megan, Emily and Joscisca.





# Walcha's wall unveiled

It was celebration time at Walcha Council Community Care (WCCC) last Wednesday when their mural was officially unveiled. The brainchild of staff member, Sue Jackson, the mural has taken shape over the past year and features all things which makes Walcha such a special place to live. "The focus of the mural is the 'Caring Hand' which represents WCCC," Sue explained.



Mayor, Eric Noakes put the finishing touches to the mural as he unveiled it, with members of the community and Councillors in attendance. Sue runs an art group from the WCCC Rooms twice a month, which caters for all abilities. The group learn about different aspects of art including colour and perspective. "The aim of the class is to inspire the participants and give them a different way of looking at the world," Sue said.

Now they have a beautiful bright, mural to inspire their work when classes re-commence in 2024.



## 50 years with CWA

In 1973, Ollie Wall joined the Niangala CWA. She has thoroughly enjoyed all of the experiences and met many people through this organisation. At almost 93, Ollie was recently presented with a badge marking 50 years of membership to the CWA at the CWA Council meeting in Walcha. During this time she has been the Secretary as well as a Councillor for Niangala CWA, as well as being highly involved in all aspects of the branch.

CWA Councillors also had the pleasure of presenting Margaret Stuart with a 20 year badge at the same meeting. Originally a member of the Yarrowitch/Tia CWA, Margaret transferred to the Niangala branch when Tia closed. Margaret has also contributed significantly to the CWA as Treasurer, Council member and delegate at different periods.

*Pictured above: Margaret Higgins, Margaret Stuart, Doreen Squires, Georgina Bowden and Ollie Wall.*



# PLC

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joy and peace of Christmas



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**FESTIVAL OF FUN WITH GI**

**THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER**

**REGISTER ON THE QR CODE**

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

5:30PM - GI'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

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## Day Care Party

Walcha Family Day Care educators Natasha Foster, Kate Saunders, Donna Lynch, Chloe Carter and Megan Tisdell joined together for a Christmas celebration over the weekend at the Lions Park.

Children enjoyed a play in the park along with face paint and a sausage sizzle. "We would like to thank our families for their ongoing support throughout the year," Natasha said.



## Fundraising for 'Paddles'

This Friday at around 7pm will see the New England Hotel Motel come alive with Hawaiian shirts in celebration of Paddles Chandler and his life. The Oxley Riders along with the New England Hotel Motel have organised a fundraiser to support Paddle's family in this hard time.

*Auctioning off this piece by Nicole Blake named 'Aerial Lower Apsley Falls'.*



### Below is a list of raffle prizes

3t Load of wood .....	Brian Smith
Slab of wood .....	Jim Gherke
Laundry Hamper .....	Martin and Lisa
Car Cleaning Kit .....	John Stuart
Soap set .....	PaperDolls House
Fan .....	Richardson's Hardware
Two Swans Diamond Art Framed .....	Jillian Orchinson
\$80 Voucher .....	Fruit Shop
\$50 .....	Cross Bros Butchery
Hair Treatment Kit .....	Steph Cross
\$50 .....	Emporium On Derby
\$50 .....	Savvy on Derby
Hair cut voucher .....	Baber Shop
30-minute remedial massage .....	Maddie Lance
Kids Chainsaw .....	Linmac Engineering
\$100 .....	Thunderbolts Way Café
Fishing Tour .....	Bullock's
2x Light up musical lanterns .....	Walcha Newsagency
Gift .....	Wood We Create

**WALCHA COUNCIL**

**Summer HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

**JANUARY 2024**

**FELT ART @ WALCHA LIBRARY**

Learn how to make felted products  
**10am - 11.30am Ages 10+**  
**Tuesday 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 Thurs 18th Jan**  
Call Walcha Library to book 67742550

**LEGO DAY OUT**

Lego Masters Andrew and Damian have a display and interactive workshop at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Bus departs Walcha Library 9am & returns 4pm.  
**Monday 22nd January 2024**  
Book online asap to secure your seat!

**CLAY EARRING WORKSHOP**

Make your own clay earrings. Open to all school aged children. Walcha Tennis Club  
**From 2-4pm Tuesday 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

Celebrate summer at the Walcha Memorial Pools  
**Wed 24th Jan 2024 FREE ENTRY!**  
Fun for all ages & no booking needed!  
Inflatable obstacle course 1-6pm  
Music, games & prizes 2-5pm  
Free sausage sizzle 5pm

**POOL PARTY**

WALCHA COUNCIL



# St Pat's Presentation Night



Addison, Mary, Lachie, Nate, Annabelle, Olivia, Tylar, Hamish (Year 6)



Hugh, Hannah & Benji (Year 3)



Digby, Jessica & Indie (Year 4)



Addison, Lachie & Mary (Year 6)



Angus, Henry & Grace (Year 5)



Lachlan, Audrey, Teddy and Harriet (Year 2)



Evie, Archer & Isabelle (Year 1)



Campbell & Edwina (Kinder)

More photos to come in our next edition.

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**\$420,000**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*and*  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*Wishing you & your families all a very Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year. Thank you for your valued support throughout the year. Lets hope 2024 delivers some great prices and improved conditions.*



*Best wishes from everyone at the Pitt Sons office  
Andrew, Sam, Ron, Troy, Stuart & Julie*





Would like to thank the residence 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

## Quota's Christmas Party with a difference

From Lyn Smith



Quota's first bus trip party was underway last Saturday with 40 people aboard the bus as we headed west to Gunnedah. We were going to see the water tower and silo art near Anzac Park and enjoy morning tea. The art is amazing to see with many photos being taken.

On leaving Gunnedah the party atmosphere was amped up with singing, and I have to say we had many great singers to lead Christmas carols and Australian Christmas songs. Aussie Jingle Bells was a favourite. A tiny joke book appeared and in Diane's inimitable style the many "Dad" jokes made us chuckle especially when applied to various party people.

Christmas lunch was at the modern, efficient and quite beautiful Centrillion Chinese Restaurant on Goonoo Goonoo Road where bonbons appeared, welcome drinks ordered, and the friendly staff catered to our food needs. The food was delicious and 2 hours later we were back on the coach to Quirindi's water tower art.

We sang some more and told more jokes and relaxed on the way. Again, the art was something to see, and we discovered that a light show is incorporated so a visit at night would be spectacular.

## The Walcha Royal Cafe & Accommodation

Toni and the staff would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued patronage.  
**Closed 3pm 24 December and  
Opened 7am 28 December.  
Closed 1st January 2024**

Quota members were thrilled when so many people accepted our invitation to our unusual Christmas party. Thank you for coming. Many commented that it was a very happy and enjoyable day. Thank you to Mary for coming up with the idea and Quota members who supported it.

We wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas. We will be back in 2024 to produce the next Callers Guide so watch the Advocate for notices.

## 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



## Wood We Create

Do you still have some last minute  
Christmas gifts to buy?

Wood We create has unique handmade  
gifts in the gallery by resident  
woodturner David

Open

Monday - Friday 10am till 3pm

Saturday 10am till 1pm

Or by appointment - Phone 0412 085 634

Re-opening after Christmas on 28/12



## 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.



## 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

# Christmas Cheer at the Men's Shed

Around 70 people enjoyed a very festive Christmas lunch at the Men's Shed last Wednesday. At the lunch Council General Manager, Phil Hood had the pleasure of presenting the Mens's Shed with the Local Legends Award which they won at the recent Tidy Towns Awards. The Men's Shed currently have around 60 members with around 25-30 men at the Shed during opening days of Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is such a great asset to our community and any men interested in joining are encouraged to drop in and have a chat.



## CROSS BROS BUTCHERY

### 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**

## Cafe Graze

Merry Christmas from the girls at Cafe  
Graze. Thank you for a great year.

### Xmas & New Year Trading Hours

Saturday 23: 7.30am - 3pm  
Sunday 24 to Tuesday 26: CLOSED  
Wednesday 27 to Friday 29: 7.30pm - 3pm  
Saturday 30 to Monday 1: CLOSED



## AMCAL+

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

### — TRADING HOURS —

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**



# Thank you to our Volunteers

From Lisa Kirton, Tourism Coordinator

Last Monday our Visitor Information Centre volunteers enjoyed a trip out to Tia Falls to view the new walking track, which is near completion. We appreciate Local Ranger for NPWS, Patrick Lupica, meeting us out there and providing us with expert knowledge and information on the area – and answering all of our questions. After a short walk to the two main viewing platforms to view Tia Falls and Tia Gorge View we headed back to the day use area for morning tea.

Next on our stop was a visit to new local accommodation providers, Plumtree Cottage and Redhill Cottage, who have both done amazing things renovating these homes for visitors. After a delicious lunch together at the Commercial Hotel, a small number of us visited Alan Churchill's incredible "It's Not a Train Set", which finished off a great day. We are so very fortunate to have 20 wonderful volunteers at the centre, a great group of people, who we very much appreciate.

If you have some spare time and would like to be a part of the Visitor Information Centre team of volunteers we'd love to hear from you. No previous experience is required – just a positive attitude, friendly manner and a desire to help people. Shifts are either half a day (9.00am – 12:30pm) or a full day (9.00am – 4.00pm) and you can decide how often you would like to volunteer; it may be once a month or on a casual basis when you have a spare day. To find out more, please contact us on 6774 2460 or E: [tourism@walcha.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@walcha.nsw.gov.au)



# Carols by Candlelight

— McHattan Park —



Pictured at top: Local Walcha singers performing at what was the town's biggest Carols in recent years. Students from Walcha Central (above) and St Patrick's School (below) performing carols. Bottom: McHattan Park looked a picture after dusk as candles were lit. Photos: James Levingston.



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# Walcha Central School Presentation Day



Above: Sports Award recipients, Charlotte (Yr 7 – 12) and Veja-lee (K – 6). Left Sporting scholarship, achievement and encouragement awards were presented to Ivy, Shaun, Flynn, Koby, Axel, Mark and Eliza.



Congratulations to Hannah who was named the winner of the Principal's Academic Excellence Award for 2023



Citizenship Awards for Years K – 6 were presented to Xaphyn (Yr 6), Mark (Yr 5), Cheyanne (Yr 4), Ollie (Yr 3), Roland-Roy (Yr 2), Ivy-Lee (Yr 1) and Bronte (K).



Citizenship Awards for Years 7 – 11 were presented to Charlotte (Yr 11), Ash-lee (Yr 10), Katie (Yr 9), Samantha (Yr 8) and Liam (Yr 7).



## Stock and Property Watch

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**at 11am Walcha Sports Club**

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# what's the goss

with AJ Cross



As this will be the final column before the jovial, bushy bearded, red suited chap arrives, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hopefully 2024 goes just the way you want it to.

On the subject of Christmas, a few Sundays ago the St Andrew's Christmas Picnic Luncheon was held in the grounds of the Church where Stephanie Hunt, wife of Minister Neil, was talked into dressing up in tinsel after several churchgoers indicated it was a local tradition for the Minister's wife to do so. Although Steph was a bit cynical at the time she went ahead and did it anyway.

You see Steph hates tinsel but must have let it slip because it was from there the devious plan was hatched. Steph reckons the telling factor after a number of people had requested she wear the tinsel outfit was when Jess Wellings begged her to do it with a quiver in her voice - which sealed the deal. See Steph for all the details.

Last week while grocery shopping at IGA I was served by Jayde Goodwin who just after that used the shop microphone to request Daniel Boyd relocate to the wine and spirits department of the building. Funny thing when I looked up into the liquor section there was Daniel standing at the counter. Daniel soon informed Jayde he was already there which drew the response along the lines of 'Yeah I know I was just checking' or words to that effect.

Former Walcha resident Marcia Jones left this world last Sunday at the age of 96 years. Marcia lived adjacent to the northern end of the Apsley River Park and was mother of one of my best schoolmates, Stephen Jones, who left us much too early. Condolences to Marcia's son Peter, all other family members and friends.

Ex-local Mark Low has been selected in the Australian Indoor Hockey over 50's team to compete in England next year. Mark was Vice Captain of the NSW side that contested the Australian Championships in Perth, this October just gone and is the son of the late Eric Low and Gai Brennan.

## Good field for Ann Berry Memorial

By A J Cross

A good field of 72 players teed off in the annual Ann Berry Memorial 3 person Ambrose last Saturday week where 12 time Club Champion Tim Stackman and his son Isaac teamed up with Dion Bird to street the field with a 54<sup>1/2</sup> nett.

Runners Up were Willy Brennan, Peter Norbury and Lachie Fletcher 59<sup>1/3</sup>, while the first sweepstakes prize went to David and Simone Sweeney who played 9 holes by themselves after team mate Felicity Hurt had to leave early. They scored 60<sup>1/2</sup> nett.

The remaining sweepstakes went to Michael Stachman, Dion and Drew Bird 61, Mal Ballard, Bill Fletcher and Brad Jackson 62<sup>5/6</sup>, Peter Berry, Dean Sharpe and Bob Denniss 62<sup>5/6</sup>.

Nearest to the Pins was won by Isaac Stackman (1), Peter Berry (3), Tim Stackman (9), Adam Dark (16) and John McCormack (18) whereas Mack Hayes produced the most accurate tee shot by a non golfer on the third hole.

Ladies Club Champion Simone Sweeney won three of the five women's NTP'S on offer (3, 16 and 18) Jenny Lisle won on 9 while no lady was clever enough to reach the beach on the opening hole.

Best second shot for men on 14 went to Lachie Fletcher (men 0-20), Todd Brazel (21-36) whereas Simone Sweeney cracked the best ladies drive (0-20).



Bradman's Bat was eagerly accepted by Col Berry, Aaron Murray and Karl Orchard.

Left: Tim, Isaac, Dion and Peter.

Don't forget the fundraising raffle for the family of the late Phillip 'Paddles' Chandler will be held at the New England Hotel this Friday from around 7:00pm. Tickets can currently be purchased for \$2 at either Thunderbolts Way Cafe of the Newie and those people who intend attending on Friday night are requested to wear a colourful shirt or piece of clothing as 'Paddles' loved wearing Hawaiian shirts no matter what time of the year it was.

Last week after purchasing some tickets at the raffle stand in front of the Newsagency and Moons Bakery I strolled towards my car only to spot Margaret Hughes sheepishly appearing from behind it. Quick as a flash Marg asked me if it was my vehicle before declaring she was just attempting to put some things in the boot of it before realising it wasn't her car. At least Marg's vehicle was the same colour as mine and was parked next to it.

A few weeks ago I visited the pool. The morning squad training was on where young Harry Fletcher was in the process of churning out 40 laps which equates to swimming two kilometres. All the practise must have paid off because Harry was elevated from Tadpoles to Frogs last week at Flippers. Good on ya Harry.

Local footy fans are in for a real treat tomorrow when former Australian and South Sydney Rabbitohs Rugby League Superstar Greg Inglis will be conducting a Goanna Academy skills and drills session at Peter Fenwicke Oval kicking off at 2.00pm running through to 5.00pm. GI is then scheduled to tell his story and touch on Mental Health at the Bowling Club from 5.30pm.

Walcha/Uralla Co-Cricketer of the year Daniel Boyd has been blitzing his opponents with the willow this season especially over the past month. In his last four digs Daniel has scored 112 n.o, 106 n.o, 31 and 104 n.o giving him an incredible average of 353 during that period. His season average isn't too bad either 430 runs at 71.66. Keep up the good work Daniel.

Last but far from least a big thank you to the girls at the Apsley Advocate who transfer my handwritten reports into print each week. I really appreciate it.

Once again Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



## Junior Basketball

This term 32 kids played in the junior basketball competition. All players showed a huge improvement with their teamwork, defense, dribbling and shooting. A big thank you to Amanda Scott and Kimberley Lisle for running the competition and to Bonnie Brown for giving the kids some handy tips each week. Also thank you to Apsley Motors for providing each player with their own basketball.



Back: Toby, Max, Axel, Shaun, Marcus, Pheobe, Brock and Ollie.

Front: Kix, Charlie, Brayden, Luca, Christina and Blake.



Back: Ethan, Leo, Kobie, Mark, Tom and Ben.

Front: Amen, Jack, Deon, Max and Tyler.



## Tennis

The 2023 Spring Tennis Grand Final was played out on Tues 12th Dec in lovely summery conditions.

DeMinaur: DA Locke, Dave Clark, Graeme Wall and Safina Ireland defeated Popyrin: Ed Blomfield, Matt Ireland, Braedon Kommeran and Troy Tape 29 to 24 in a close match. Many points could have gone either way but De Minaur found a way to come out on top. Well done to both teams for making the Grand Final.



Keep posted for news on the 2024 Summer Night Comp starting on Feb 6th, exciting events for Juniors and our Seniors Tournament which will be on again in March over three days. The next Club meeting will be held on the 13th Feb all members are welcome to attend.

On behalf of Club President Hyde Thomson and the Board Merry Christmas to all members young and old, valued Sponsors, Mums, Dads and friends of the Tennis Club. See you all at the net next year.

## Bowls

**Dads Army:** Several players joined the ladies on Thursday for their Christmas Party and bowls.

**TWILIGHT:** The last games of the comp were played on Friday with a lot of close games. The winners were Steve Goodwin, Matt Hamel and Matt Andrews with 8 wins and 2 draws taking the 'chocolates' home from Brian Goodwin, Esther Hunt and Margaret Tickle with 8 wins and 2 losses. The next comp will commence 12th January. All players wishing to play can write their name on sheet on the notice board or phone Noel Goodwin.

## At the 19th

The annual Bywell Cup was played last Sunday for trophies donated by Tim and Janie Fenwicke, where Col Berry and Julie Hoad racked up a score of 42 stableford points but then had to survive a countback with David and Simone Sweeney before collecting the prizes.

Best score on the day was carded by Angus Warden and his son Hamish after they accumulated 45 points but were ineligible for the main trophy as the Bywell Cup is played under a mixed format.

Sweepstakes went to the Wardens, the Sweeneys, Barry Hoad and Don Brooks 41, Willy Brennan and Miles Archdale 41, Ross King and Bruce Rutherford 40.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Don Brooks (3) and Lee Fletcher (16).

Last Saturday Pauline Carter won the weekly 9 hole competition after she compiled 18 points to finish a couple of points clear of runner up Crichton Barr.

NTP on 3 went to John McCormack.

Christmas Eve is a stroke medal round this Sunday for a trophy donated by Ross King, followed by a stableford

event the following Sunday where a club trophy is on offer and then on Sunday January 7th former Club President Barry Hoad is in charge of supplying the prize. Merry Christmas to all club members and supporters.

## Cricket

### Walcha/Uralla v East Gold 3rd Grade

Walcha/Uralla	
D MORELY c L Northam b M Northam	6
M TASIK r.o A Paul	1
C STODDART r.o M Mather	18
P EDLINGTON c L Northam b M Mather	4
G YOULL c M Northam b S Northam	11
A KEENE b M Mather	0
H USSHER n.o	14
B JEX b A Paul	10
B USSHER b A Paul	0
A JOSHI b M Mathers	0
Total 76. Extras 11. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
M Northam 4-0-1-25, A Paul 3-3-0-3-8, M Mathers 4-1-4-17, T Craig 2-0-0-7, L Northam 2-0-1-17.	

### East Gold

T CRAIG c A Joshi b B Ussher	13
A PAUL c B Jex b B Ussher	18
M NORTHAM c C Morgan b H Ussher	16
K SIMPSON c A Keene b B Ussher	10
M MATHERS n.o	12
P J FERRIS c P Edlington c Stoddart	1
T HISLOP b A Keene	0
L NORTHAM ct B Jex b A Keene	1
G FIELDS n.o	3
Total 84. Extras 10. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
H Ussher 2-0-1-28, B Ussher 4-0-3-19, C Stoddart 4-1-1-10, A Keene 3-3-0-2-17, P Morley 2-0-0-4.	

### Walcha/Uralla v Ex Services 2nd Grade

Walcha/Uralla	
B HOY caught b S Malinga	22
N ENDACOTT caught b H Iroshan	0
D BOYD n.o	112
J GRILLS b S Malinga	0
N SWAN caught b S Malinga	1
S LITTLE n.o	22
Total 162. Extras 5. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
H Irosha 4-0-1-26, S Sandhu 4-0-0-25, N Nish 4-0-0-50, S Malinga 4-0-3-18, S Islam 4-0-0-36.	

### Ex Services

T VORIGT n.o	81
A WATTIKINS c B Mansfield b J Grills	2
H IROSIMAN c B Mansfield b D Boyd	5
S SANDHU c M Tasik b N Swan	20
N NISH r.o b N Endacott	1
S MALINGA n.o	50
Total 166. Extras 7. Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkts)	
J Grills 4-1-1-31, N Swan 4-0-1-49, D Boyd 4-0-1-25, J Wittig 3-0-0-11, B Mansfield 0-2-0-0-11.	

Walcha/Uralla were defeated in both their Armidale and District T20 matches at Rologas fields in Armidale last Saturday.

In 2nd Grade not even an unbeaten century from Daniel Boyd could save the day against Ex Services who chased down the 162 runs they needed to win with more than four overs up their sleeve.

Batting first after winning the toss opener Nick Endacott was caught first ball of the innings bringing Boyd to the crease where he belted seven 6's and five 4's on his way to 112 not out.

Opener Barry Hoy and Sinclair Little both contributed 22 runs each to the Walcha/Uralla total of 4/162.

Ex Services lost four wickets in their run chase with Nathan Swan, Jay Grills and Boyd all snaring a wicket

each.

After winning the 3rd Grade toss the visitors posted a modest total of 76 against East Gold thanks mainly to Craig Stoddart 18, Hugo Ussher 14, Grant Youll 11 and Bob Jex 10 who all made double figures.

The homeside passed their assignment seven wickets down in their 16th over where the wicket takers for Walcha/Uralla were Alanah Keene 2/17, Ben Ussher 3/19, Hugo Ussher 1/28 and Stoddart 1/10.

Cricket resumes Saturday January 13th where Walcha/Uralla host Easts at Peter Fenwicke Oval commencing with 3rd Grade at 12.45pm followed by 2nd Grade at 3.45pm.

## Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday the ladies invited the men to join us for a game of bowls and then our Christmas Party and Presentation of the Club Champions for the 2023 year.

There were twenty bowlers altogether which were put into teams, we had four triples teams and two fours team all playing 18 ends the winners and runners-up were drawn from the cards with the team of Rosie Aitkin, Geoff Salter and June Hayes being the winners. Runners-up were Lee McCoy, Wendy Moore and Brian Goodwin.

The 2023 champions are: Minor Singles – Sari Andrews, Pairs – Esther Hunt and Sari Andrews, 3 Bowl Pairs – Esther Hunt and Lyn Burnell, Major Singles – June Hayes. Raffle winners were Noel Goodwin, Brian Goodwin, Esther Hunt, Pat Laurie and John Watts.

There is social bowls this week before we break for Christmas and New Year with bowls resuming on Thursday 16th January 2024.

## Flippers

The Walcha Swimming Club held their final swim meet of 2023 last Tuesday where 57 personal best times were set taking the season total to 142.

Eleven swimmers gained full points Valerie Ham, Liana Whellan, Albert Green, Ben Lockyer, Grace Smith, Jess Patterson-Kane, Kobie Brown, Lachie Provost, Lilah Tate, Leo Blomfield and Simon Wellings.

Movers and shakers for week 3 were Digby Clark and Harry Fletcher both Tadpoles to Frogs.

Little wonder Valerie Ham is 'Swimmer of the week' after she improved in her three 25 metre events - Freestyle by a whopping 39 seconds, Backstroke - by over 14 seconds and Breast stroke by 37 seconds. Club President Yolanda Mooney reckons the girl from Niangala is a fast learner and fits into the Flippers Club so well. Way to go Valerie.

Swimming Club are fundraising by collecting empty drink cans for the Return and Earn program and can be left at Pool where yellow bins have been placed for collection. Cans can also be left in boxes, cartons or bags.

## Wednesday Golf

A couple of apologies I need to make. I missed out on the Captains Trophy in last weeks Golf write up. It was won by Lyn Laurie. My apologies also to Simone Sweeney who was the winner of the Eclectic trophy.

Merry Christmas to you all, Cark.



**CLOSES** 3pm Fri 22nd Dec  
**RE-OPENS** 9am Tues 2nd Jan  
**FIRST ADVOCATE** 10th Jan



**CLOSES** 12.30pm Fri 22 Dec  
**RE-OPENS** 9am Tues 2nd Jan





## Positions Vacant



**WHS Advisor**  
**Walcha Council**  
& **Uralla**  
**Shire Council**



Are you passionate about Work Health and Safety and looking for a great opportunity to provide your expertise to Walcha and Uralla Councils? If so, we have the role for you.

We are looking for an expert in WHS to advise both Councils and ensure that we develop and implement the necessary policies, procedures and systems to let our staff work in a safe environment every day. You will be working both in the field and in the office and will hold relevant qualifications or industry experience in Work Health and Safety, and ideally have experience in Local Government.

You will enjoy travel, and visiting constructions sites, depots and other Council facilities, and communicating effectively with our staff.

Supported by a friendly and progressive minded Executive team and dynamic General Manager, this is an opportunity that you don't want to miss.

This is a permanent full-time position (35 hours per week) with a (negotiable for the right candidate) starting wage of \$1951.60 (gross per week) based on the Local Government (State) Award 2023.

We also offer all the usual great benefits of working in Local Government; generous Long Service Leave, flexible working conditions, and generous sick leave allowance.

As the role involves travel, the position includes a commuter use Council vehicle, with the option of a leaseback arrangement, as well as mobile phone. If you are considering re-locating to Walcha (it's a fantastic community) there is also the possibility of Council provided housing.

Applications close Monday 29 January 2024. For more information please visit our website positions vacant at <https://bit.ly/3A30YDc>

Council will be closed between 22 December and 8 January. Enquiries during this period will be answered as soon as possible after we return.

*Small Council, Big Opportunities!*

Phil Hood, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

## Positions Vacant *cont*

### People & Performance Support Officer



Council is looking for a People and Performance Support Officer to join the team. This is a broad role, and traditional HR knowledge and skills are not necessarily required - demonstrated experience in areas like; HR, Training, Risk, Governance and Policy will serve you well.

A high level of computer skills, accuracy and attention to detail is desired, as well as the ability to complete tasks on time, despite interruptions and distractions. You will be able to work as part of a highly performing team, as well as perform tasks on your own, and will be a self-starter with a "can-do" attitude. You will be able to learn quickly and apply those learnings on a daily basis.

This position is a permanent full-time (35hours/week) position, however flexible working arrangements for the successful candidate will be considered, including compressed working hours, or part-time/job share arrangements.

The salary and conditions will be in accordance with the Local Government (State) Award 2023, Band 2 Level 2, starting at \$1,266.00 per week. Council is an EEO employer and offers a smoke free workplace. You will be working as a valued member within a friendly, supportive and encouraging environment, and your responsibilities and actions will reflect Walcha Council's core values of teamwork, respect, customer first focus and willingness to carry out assigned tasks. Please ensure that you submit your application via our website.

Application close Monday 15 January 2024.

For more information and to apply, please visit Council's Positions Vacant page <https://bit.ly/3A30YDc>

Council will be closed between 22 December and 8 January. Enquiries during this period will be answered as soon as possible after we return.

*Small Council, Big Opportunities!*

Phil Hood, General Manager

Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

### FABRICATION APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

We would like to offer a position for an apprentice to join our team.

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## Public Notice

**Barber shop** will be closed from 24th - 9th January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**First Advocate** for 2024 will be Wednesday 10 January.

**Walcha Rugby League.** We need you - seeking players for next season, Mens, Ladies League Tag and under 18's. Please contact [walcharugbyleague@gmail.com](mailto:walcharugbyleague@gmail.com), Barry Partridge on 0455 901 792 or Emma Hillier on 0427 016 911 to register your interest to play. We need numbers to keep our Club running so please contact us as soon as possible.

**Carols by Candlelight** this Friday, 22nd Dec, 7pm. Walcha Presbyterian Church, Hill St. Celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus. Supported by a community choir. Come and join us!

## Wanted to Rent

**House** in the Walcha district by a local couple, from January for about 12 months while their house is being built. Please phone 0409 780 006.

## Lost

**Lost an esky** near the Bowling Club. Should have Ed Blomfield's name on it. If found please call 0472 779 188.

## thumbs



- 👉 To Beth Higgins Flower and Plant Store on Thunderbolts Way. I received a lovely bunch of flowers from my husband after a late night call out down the mountain, he called in on his way home at 3am.
- 👉 To the BBB for being open over the holiday period.
- 👉 To Harley and Preston for letting me know I had a flat tyre and taking the time out of their day to change it.
- 👉 To The New Birds Boutique for their sparkling, festive windows and door display. Simply delightful.
- 👉 To the continuous loud, foul language coming out of the mouths of a cohort of students at the pool on Sunday. Totally unsuitable for a family-friendly environment.

**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.**



**Services**  
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## Walcha Telecottage closes

Friday 22 December

Reopens 9am Tuesday 2 January





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## church notices



### ANGLICAN

**24 December**

Christmas Eve Family Service 7pm

**25 December**

Christmas Day Family Service 9am

**31 December**

Combined Service in Presbyterian Church 9:30am.

Phone 6777 2543 or email:

walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

**24 December**

Christmas Eve 9.30am

**25 December**

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

**23 December**

Bendemeer 4pm

**24 December**

Uralla 8am.

Walcha 10am

Uralla Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

**25 December**

Walcha 8am



# Marchant

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02 6777 2024 marchantbros@bigpond.com  
www.marchantbros.com.au

# BOWLING

## & RECREATION CLUB

**Mon – Wed** 4.00pm – Close

**Thursday 21** 12.00pm – Close

Ladies bowls recommence January

**Friday 22** 2.00pm – Close

**2.00pm** Bingo

**6.00pm** Bistro

- SEAFOOD BOARD
- HOMEMADE RISSOLES
- CREAMY CHICKEN VOL-AU-VENT
- 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 23** 11.00am – Close

**6.00pm** Bistro

**Sunday 24** 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

**CLOSED** CHRISTMAS DAY

Kids  
Christmas  
party 24th  
December  
from 4pm

**\$5**  
SCHOONERS  
TUES & WED  
5-6PM

**MEMBERS  
DRAW  
\$400**

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR  
2023/2024 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

HAMS  
FRI & SUN  
RAFFLES

23 DEC  
POKER

Do you live in Walcha Shire? If so you MUST be a member to enter the Club  
Social Membership ..... \$15 – Full Membership \$105. PHONE 6777 2077

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