

# THE APSLEY Advocate

CIRCULATION 1920 – P 02 6777 1111 F 02 6777 1112 wtc@walchatelecottage.com.au walchatelecottage.com.au

28 February 2024

## Bridge closure next week

The Blue Hogan bridge over the Apsley River in town will be closed next week for essential maintenance work.

The work will be carried out by Transport for NSW from Monday 4 March until Friday 8 March and will involve joint repair, cleaning flood debris, scour protection work and general maintenance activities.

The work will be carried out between 6:30am and 5pm and is expected to take one week to complete, weather permitting.

### Traffic impact

It is advisable to avoid the bridge if possible and use alternate routes via Middle Street bridge.

Traffic across the bridge will be reduced to single lane, alternating traffic flow arrangements between 9am and 3pm for the safety of workers and motorists. Parking directly adjacent to the bridge will be reduced during work hours.

Transport for NSW expressed their thanks for our patience during the week while they carry out this essential work.

## Tennis players from across NSW headed our way

Walcha District Tennis Association will be hosting its 23rd annual Senior Tennis Tournament this weekend from 1 – 3 March. Many players are repeat entrants from over the years who enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with friends and play competitive tennis in Walcha.

"We will welcome 61 visiting players this year travelling from Newcastle, Sydney, Dubbo, Scone, Nelson Bay, Mid-North Coast, as well as surrounding towns of the New England and Northern Tablelands," Tennis Club member Roxana Mathews said.

Games will be played in a round robin format with a mix of singles and doubles in more than 30 events over the course of the weekend.

Walcha District Tennis Association is very grateful to the many local



business houses which have generously provided sponsorship ensuring that this event can go ahead.

Play commences on Friday afternoon and concludes on Sunday afternoon. The Club encourages locals to come along over the weekend and watch some great tennis competition.



## 8 - 9 March

### Pavilion entries ready?

Due Thursday 7 March,  
Photography Monday 4 March  
*Check show schedule for all deadlines*

### What's on?

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

Official Opening, Competitive  
Jousting exhibition, Dog Jump,  
Speed Shear and Fireworks!

#### FRIDAY + SATURDAY

Berkley Supertank Fishing Show  
and Skin Check Truck

### Grand Parade SATURDAY

### Attractions

Side Show Alley, Sports Shear,  
Dog Trials, AgBike Comp,  
Fashion Parade, Acoustic Band  
'Strings N Things'



Aviary Bird Comp  
and Display  
Merino Flock Ewe  
Comp presentation  
and display

### Something to eat!

Popular Lions Club BBQ,  
Sonia's lovely lunches, Bar +  
a wide variety of food vendors.

### Gate Entry per day

Adults ..... \$15  
Pensioner ..... \$10  
Children 6 - 17 ..... \$5  
Family ..... \$30  
2 adults + 2 Children U17

### WHY NOT BE A MEMBER?

Full \$40 or Single \$20

### Full program in NEXT WEEK'S ADVOCATE

Horse and Demolition Derby  
entries at [www.showday.online](http://www.showday.online)  
[walchashowsociety@gmail.com](mailto:walchashowsociety@gmail.com)  
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## around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

The weather pattern doesn't seem to be changing and I would sound like a broken record, but the rain was once again patchy over the weekend. Some people were lucky enough to yield almost 4 inches for the entire week, with the highest of totals hitting 40mm in a storm on Saturday. All reports Yarrowitch is having a wonderful start to the year with paddocks now too wet to sow. It really doesn't take a lot of moisture to make bare country too wet to get on, but frustrating when you're counting on planting feed for winter. Paddocks are short but the livestock have handled the variable season quite well with a lot of producers beginning to early wean calves and reduce numbers for the long winter ahead.

We've spoken constantly about the current cost of living crisis and amid the price gauging claims by our big supermarket retailers, Woolworths have just released a \$944 million half year profit. Woolworths are claiming the profit is driven by an increase in sales with their online sales growing rapidly, up 27 per cent year on year. It will be interesting to see what the ACCC Inquiry uncovers, but no matter what supermarket retailer, butcher shop or fresh fruit grocer you shop at, you never see a large variance in price, and they all have their specials, especially seasonal produce. If you can shop locally, your money stays within the local community to an extent, you're supporting local jobs and businesses who support our local community.

Western districts of Victoria are under fire threat with a bush fire burning out of control near Ballarat. We haven't seen any bushfires since October last year, when it seemed all of Queensland was on fire before the weather changed for the better. A last bite of summer will make things difficult for the Victorians with temperatures expected to reach high thirties in the coming days with strong winds. Six homes and 20,000 hectares have already been burnt with the conditions set to be the worst bushfire conditions since 2020. We are also expecting the temperature to rise here towards the weekend nudging close to the mid-thirties on Saturday.

Farmers in Brussels, Belgium have clashed with police spraying them with liquid manure, and throwing eggs and flares at them due to the red tape and competition from cheap imports from other countries. The Belgian farmers need to meet the high standards of the European Union to produce and supply their produce. 900 tractors drove into Brussels in protest, which is the second time they have done this. The policies the farmers need to abide by are ridiculous, coupled with the rising cost of production, poor farm gate prices and rising tax costs are slowing killing the farming ways throughout the EU. It will be an interesting space to watch in the coming 12 months and the farmers protest is far from over – I hope it yields results and it's great to see farmers sticking together and fighting for their way of life.

Numbers in the saleyards seem to be slowly dropping as we move closer to Autumn. The general Autumn sell-off may have already begun six weeks earlier this year with numbers swelling throughout the saleyard system during February. Tamworth yarded 1,540 cattle on Monday with the reduced numbers all selling to dearer trends. Light restocker weaners made up the lost ground from the previous week, with steers selling to 400c/kg while heifers sold to 345c/kg. Yearling cattle to feed sold to 358c/kg for steers, while heifers improved by 10c/kg and topped at 325c/kg. Heavy export steers to process topped at 305c/kg while cows rebounded by 16c/kg and topped at 275c/kg.

Further south, Wagga experienced similar trends and prices in their Monday cattle market which yarded only 4,220 head of cattle. 3,735 sheep and lambs were yarded in Tamworth on Monday, half the yarding of the previous week. Well finished trade and export lambs sold to dearer trends with the trade weight topping at \$162 and the extra heavy lambs making to \$250 per head. A smaller yarding of mutton meet strong competition with well finished mutton topping at \$75.



# Quota celebrates a successful year

Quota Club members were joined by representatives of the Lions and Quota Clubs, as well as Mayor Eric Noakes and wife Sheree last Wednesday night to celebrate a successful year and to induct their Board for 2024.

Outgoing President, Christine Hamel thanked the Club members for their support and encouragement during her time as President.

The Club held a very successful Book Fair, Quota Markets and their big project during 2023 was the Spring Gathering. "It was a huge undertaking and we had very positive feedback from all who attended," Chris said.

This year the Club is looking forward to publishing a new phone book, with Lyn Smith leading this project. "The phone book raises a large portion of our funds and we must all support Lyn."

Julie Yates was extremely honoured to receive the Margaret Williams Award in recognition of her contribution to Quota during 2023.



Above: The incoming 2024 Board: Wendy Galvin and Sonya Sweeney (Directors); Janice Rizzi (President); Christine Hamel (V.Pres); Mona Spry (Director); Pam Makeham (Treasurer); Julie Yates (Secretary). Right: Wendy Galvin and Dawn Stier.



Left: Christine Hamel presents the Margaret Williams Award to Julie Yates. Middle: Barry and Mona Spry. Right: Sue Reardon, Lyn Smith and Mary Hoare enjoy the Changeover Dinner



## Stock and Property Watch

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### Investment opportunity/ first home



***This three bedroom weatherboard and iron home is situated a short stroll to the local school***

- Two bathrooms
- Main bedroom with a walk-in-robe
- The home is kept comfortable in the cooler months with a wood heater and the warmer months with ceiling fans
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- The large yard is fully fenced with additional side access
- Single garage with extra storage sheds

**\$480,000 MAKE AN OFFER**

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Building entitlement – Outstanding home sites  
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at Walcha Vet Supplies**

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Bruce Rutherford 0428 660328

# CLEARING SALE

## "ELLANDONAN"

1007 Bark Hut Road Walcha 2354  
(Property Sold)

A/c The Estate of the Late G Schaefer  
Sunday 17th March  
Commencing at 11.00am

Items for sale include but are not limited to: Massey Fergusson 5465 Dyna 4 tractor 4WA 2817 hrs, Challenge 3821 series FEL with bucket & pallet forks; Nissan MK240 diesel truck with 20' tray 147632km Reg AL 90 ME; Enclosed horse float 20'; 2nd enclosed horse float; Nissan Patrol Ute 11/09 built Diesel Alloy tray many extras Reg DB 56 HC; 1985 Hilux ute unreg 2ltr runs; Old Holden Rodeo ute unreg; Dual axle Woods trailer Reg Y23892; 2.4 mtr 4in1 bucket with Euro hitch; combination blade / stick rake Euro hitch; Vicon 2 tonne 3PL fert spreader dual hyd spinners (good cond); Croplands 08/14 mod 3PL 12' boom & spray reel (V little use); 600 ltr Rapid spray tank with Honda motor on a ute frame; Steel A frame engine lifting gantry with hyd powered endless chain; John Shearer 9' scarifier (old); John Shearer 5GP one way plough 14 disc (X2); Connor Shea 18 disc one way plough; harrows; MF 3PL ripper; MF post hole digger; Page 10' slasher (needs work); Towing root rake approx. 4m wide; Michell 14' grain bin (old); Messmate Crump training super spreader (old); Insulated truck tray used as container side and rear doors; Cool room (10 amp); Band saw; Silvan 100 ltr ute back spot sprayer; Toolex combination welder / generator (Honda GX390 motor); Jacky feeder bin; Old fire fighting trailer with near new Honda pump; Ute tray with steel floor (x2); 3 X fuel tanks on stands; Lyco Power Tech wool press (10amp); wool table; portable wool pack holders; several good qty steel work benches; Qty of workshop tools; Pallet racking; WSM 200 welder; Smootharc 181 Mig welder; Magmate 220 plasma cutter; General TUV laser level; McNaught hydraulic steel post driver; Gallagher wire spinner; ringlock strainer; dolly's; Qty of Husqvarna & Stihl chainsaws; 2 x gal sheep feeders; 3 x shelter frames; 2 x old sheep handlers; sheep weighing crate; 5 x 1 tonne bags of Riddleys sheep & cattle pellets; As new Gallagher MBS 2800i Multi powered fence energiser kit; qty gal cattle yard panels & gates; 2 x new 12' gates; 3 lengths of large steel pipe (approx. 50cm); several road grids; sling of cattle rail; qty of steel strainer posts; approx. 5 slings of 2nd grade gal RHS; sling of 12 lengths 8 mtr RHS 89x89x6; 5 lengths 6mtr 150 mls pipe; Qty used gal iron; lge qty sawn timber rails; qty Gal Maxi posts; sling of gal J10 steel posts; Qty steel gal posts; qty used steel posts; 9 rolls 6' wire netting; 11 rolls 2.85mm HT long life wire; 3 rolls 2.5mm tyeasy; Qty insulated wall panels; lge qty of GE out door Roadway light fittings LED P4P5; several stock saddles include McKellar & Kilmore made, significant qty of horse gear (rugs, bridles etc).

Other vendors: 2 x belt cotton seed cattle feeders; C-Dax 100 ltr spray tank (tank only); Rudweigh cattle scales;

Directions: Take Winterbourne Road from Walcha for approx. 16km, turn right onto Bark Hut Road and follow 10km to the end of the road. Catering: Light refreshments will be available on site.

Terms & Conditions: No EFTPOS available. Cash or approved cheque on the day of sale. Numbers system will apply and ID required.

Outside vendors invited

Selling agents

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## Skin Cancer Foundation Truck coming to Walcha!

Australia has the highest incidence of melanoma worldwide, with one person diagnosed every 30 minutes, and not getting your skin checked is a big part of the problem.

Cancer survivor, patient advocate, fundraiser, motivational speaker, Founder and CEO of the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation, Jay Allen, is dedicated to spreading awareness about both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers and providing education around the importance of being proactive about skin health. Jay has walked nearly 5,000km, raising an outstanding \$1.5 million for continued research into more successful treatments. In 2021 Jay was presented with the Medal for the Order of Australia and Founded the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation.

A 15-year dream became a reality in June 2023, with the launch of Australia's first ever mobile National Skin Check Truck, which has already had over 5000 individuals pass through the doors. Proudly supported by Mole Map, the Skin Check Truck provides free Skin and full body Checks to communities around Australia who may otherwise have limited access to this necessary service. Through their efforts, the passionate team onboard this amazing truck have already detected 25 life threatening melanomas. 'We want to save as many lives as possible' Jay said, and in the short time the Truck has been on the road they are doing just that.

'We want to have a Skin Check Truck in every State and Territory around Australia' Jay commented, and the wheels are already in motion to get the next truck on the road. February 14 saw the team, along with partners Mole Map, trek to Parliament House to meet with Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler, to discuss the recent submission for funding towards another truck.

The Walcha Show Society is excited to have the Australian Skin Cancer Truck not only coming to the 2024 Show, 8-9 March, but also to have it going for a spin in its first ever Grand Parade. It is a fantastic opportunity to spread awareness about skin health and to remember those who have sadly lost their battle to melanoma, particularly the 88 faces residing on each side of the truck.

All you need to do to book yourself in for a check is turn up with a phone in hand, scan a QR code, add a few details and wait in line until it's your turn to enter the truck. 'We have people lined up waiting to see us before we even get to each location' Jay said when talking about the Truck, so be ready to head on down to the Walcha Showground to get yourself in line for your free skin check!

To see more of the amazing work this team is doing, visit <https://www.australianskincancerfoundation.org/> or follow them on Facebook @Australian Skin Cancer Foundation

## For Private Sale



- 100 rising 1 yr old merino ewes November shorn
- 57 rising 2 yr. old merino ewes October shorn
- 67 rising 3-4 yr. merino ewes July shorn
- 112 1 yr old wether November shorn
- 100 2 yr. old wether October shorn

Contact Nutrien Boulton's  
Miles Archdale 0428 660 326



# St Patrick's Primary 2024 Swimming Carnival

St Patrick's Primary School held their swimming carnival on Friday, 16th February, under perfect conditions.

The day was filled with continuous cheering as all the students enthusiastically took part in various events, ranging from fun-filled novelty races to intense championship races. The competition for the overall championship points remained tight throughout the day, but ultimately, the Oxley House emerged victorious, defeating the Apsley House by a margin of five points.

Angus and Josie deserve special congratulations for their victory in the "Dash For Cash Races," while Jessica's remarkable achievement of breaking the 11-year-old Girls 50m Backstroke Record with an impressive time of 50.88 is truly commendable. It is important to mention that the previous record was held by Tempe Macarthur Onslow, who achieved a time of 53.97 in 2018. Well done, Jessica!

Congratulations to the 14 students who have been selected to represent St Patrick's at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday, March 1st in Gunnedah. We extend our best wishes to all of you!



Top: Age Champions and Runners Up.  
Below: The Oxley Sports Captain, Albert celebrating his house's victory. He is pictured with the Apsley Sports Captain, Henry.



<b>Swimming Champions and Runner Ups.</b>	
<b>Juvenile Boy Runner Up .....</b>	Reid Withers
<b>Juvenile Boy Champion .....</b>	Campbell Laurie
<b>Juvenile Girl Runner Up .....</b>	Ella Waters
<b>Juvenile Girl Champion .....</b>	Edwina Lisle
<b>Junior Boy Runner Up .....</b>	Will Lisle
<b>Junior Boy Champion .....</b>	Benji Provost
<b>Junior Girl Runner Up .....</b>	Airlee Tate
<b>Junior Girl Champion .....</b>	Josie Wauch
<b>11yr Boy Runner Up .....</b>	Digby Clark
<b>11yr Boy Champion .....</b>	Tom Lisle
<b>11yr Girl Runner Up .....</b>	Grace Fletcher
<b>11yr Girl Champions .....</b>	Jessica Patterson-Kane and Grace Smith
<b>Senior Boy Runner Up .....</b>	Henry Blomfield
<b>Senior Boy Champion .....</b>	Angus Fletcher
<b>Senior Girl Runner Up .....</b>	Emily Zorgdrager
<b>Senior Girl Champion .....</b>	Lilah Tate

## LEVEL 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS

**CURRENTLY WE ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT WATER FROM THE MACDONALD RIVER AND PUMP TO TOWN, WITH THE UPGRADE OF THE RIVER PUMPING STATION CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

Council appreciates your co-operation during this time of higher water scarcity. The photo below is of the River Pumping Station works in progress.



Walcha Council would like to remind Walcha residents that Level 2 water restrictions are in place and have been in effect since 25 October 2023.

### **Tips to help reduce unnecessary Water Consumption:**

- Always wash with a full load, or set water level on the washing machine; this can save 10 Litres per wash.
- Avoid washing your car.
- Reduce your shower time to 4 minutes; this can save up to 36 litres per shower.
- Think before you pull the plug! Could you use the greywater safely to water your garden?

Phil Hood, General Manager  
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

# Mayoral Column



## RIVERVIEW

First cab off the rank this week is the progress of negotiations between Council and Presbyterian Aged Care to take over operations of the Riverview Aged Care Facility.

We now have a Council Resolution to proceed and have made initial contact with Presbyterian Aged Care (Sydney) to agree on the proposal that will subsequently form the contract for business transfer. Council are engaging the services of a specialist legal firm with experience in this area in order to guide us through the contractual part of the process. This will come at a cost, but it's important that Council 'get it right' and manage our risk appropriately. This is also not a fast path but we need to be sure that all possibilities are covered and Council is not left exposed to financial or operational risk through poor planning. Having said this, Council are committed to progressing this pathway as quickly as practicable to give confidence to staff, residents and community.

## ORIGIN ENERGY

The news last week that Origin Energy has purchased Walcha Energy, the proponent that is developing the Ruby Hills Wind Project and Salisbury Solar at Uralla, shows the commercial interest in developing these projects. Probably one of the larger entities involved in the energy sector, Origin's arms reach into coal fired power (Eraring Power Station), coal seam gas, wind and solar generation. In a meeting Council General Manager, Phil Hood, and myself had with them last week they committed to being consultative with the community as they take the Ruby Hills Project along the path. Still in the scoping stage there is a long way to go.

The Winterbourne Wind Project owned by Vestas still sits with the Department of Planning as submissions are answered which will be followed by a determination by the Department and onto the Independent Planning Commission for public meetings.

While this project follows the State Significant pathway Walcha Council in conjunction with Uralla Shire has been in negotiations with Vestas refining the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). These are legal documents and must be negotiated between developers and in this case each Council. The intended outcome of a complicated and firmly negotiated process is to deliver benefits to a community impacted by a development and developer. The draft VPA will be tabled at Council very soon, prior to public exhibition for public comment before being signed and implemented.

There is a lot of information in relation to the how's, why's and requirements of VPA's on the Department of Planning's website. Anyone who wishes to be informed can find answers there. The funds secured through the Winterbourne Wind VPA would be considered a Community Benefit Fund (CBF), and will be allocated after consultation with the community through a process covered in the VPA.

## CAPITAL WORKS

At our last meeting Council awarded the contracts for the rehabilitation of Walsh Street and Middle Street (from Bridge to Fitzroy Street) and work should begin soon.

The Tender for the Derby Street rehabilitation both north and south is advertised and will progress to construction soon after the Women's World Sand Green Golf tournament in April.

If all goes well the Tender for the Darjeeling Road Pathway should be posted by the end of the week. With a total value of around \$9 million these projects will bring massive benefits to our community. Although there will be some disruption during the delivery phase, especially along Derby Street, the outcome will be well worth it.

The long needed pipeline to connect John Oxley Oval amenities (and Beaver Place) to the town sewer continues to snake its way to a connection point and will eliminate an issue that has plagued the facilities at that oval for years.

## WALCHA ANTIQUE MACHINERY & TRUCK SHOW

Anyone who was fortunate enough to see the street procession or attend this event at the Showground must have been amazed at the outcome of 12 months of organisation that culminated in a great weekend. The vast array of trucks and machinery etc that built communities like Walcha, and continues to drive them, was fascinating. That so much of this has survived and is still functional allowed many generations an insight into the past and enabled those who used some of this an opportunity to reminisce.

Businesses I spoke to were elated with the increase in trade this event brought and are eager to see it return next year. To the organising committee, who I am constantly told was led capably and competently by Megan Tisdell, thank you for not only bringing a great event to Walcha but giving our residents an opportunity to relive the past for a while.

## WALCHA SHOW

On the subject of the Showground our local Show is only 10 days away and will once again be the spectacle we have become accustomed to. The recent rain (although patchy) should see the grounds in excellent condition and the committee has lined up 2 days of fun filled and educational entertainment. The addition of the skin cancer bus with the opportunity for residents to have that check-up we keep putting off is a great community outcome.

Sheree and I were privileged to attend the announcing of the Zone 4 NSW Young Woman in Tamworth recently at which Emily Scrivener represented Walcha with grace and style and we believe was unlucky not to proceed to Sydney. You did your community proud Emily and I'm sure the experience will be invaluable.

This Show also follows what is a busy time for Walcha events. The Races, blessed with fine weather was its usual spectacle of fashion and fun. The work that goes into any of these events by small dedicated committees is unbelievable and should be applauded by us. It's great to see the town abuzz with people that these events bring into our community.

Following on from a successful Motorcycle Rally in November last year and combined with campdrafting and a rodeo there has been plenty of entertainment this year.

Join the St Patricks Primary School Walcha  
P&F for a delightful

## High Country Long Lunch

Saturday 6 April, 11am onwards  
Walcha Showground

Enjoy a carefree afternoon and discover the  
delights of local gins, wine and craft beers.

Indulge in a delectable three course  
meal by Pronto.

Win some amazing prizes in our  
raffle and auction.

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Limited space, so book  
your tickets today!





# Walcha Central Swimming Carnival

## PRIMARY GIRLS

### Junior

RUNNER UP .....Penelope Taylor

CHAMPION .....Eliza Nivison

### 11yrs

RUNNER UP .....Sophie Mulligan

CHAMPION .....Anthea Taylor

### Senior

RUNNER UP .....Olivia Barnes

CHAMPION .....Francesca Nivison

## PRIMARY BOYS

### Junior

RUNNER UP .....Axel Blomfield

CHAMPION .....Toby Wellings

### 11yrs

RUNNER UP .....Eli Wellings

CHAMPION .....Ben Lockyer

## Senior

RUNNER UP .....Flynn O'Connell

CHAMPION .....Dustin Wellings

## SECONDARY GIRLS

### 13 years

RUNNER UP .....Mia Goodwin

CHAMPION .....Jessica Wellings

### 14 years

RUNNER UP .....Charlotte Gibson

CHAMPION .....Matisse Pascoe

### 15 years

CHAMPION .....Olivia McKenna

### 16 years

RUNNER UP .....Frankie-Lee Naylor

CHAMPION .....Thea Dunn

### 17+ years

RUNNER UP .....Isabella Mooney

CHAMPION .....Jasmine Lynch

## SECONDARY BOYS

### 12 years

CHAMPION .....Charlie McKern

### 13 years

RUNNER UP .....Nathan Ross

CHAMPION .....Lachie Provost

### 14 years

RUNNER UP .....Jacob Wellings

CHAMPION .....Cameron Mooney

### 15 years

RUNNER UP .....Logan Stace

CHAMPION .....Campbell Smith

### 17+ years

RUNNER UP .....Dylan Furneaux

CHAMPION .....Hunter O'Connell



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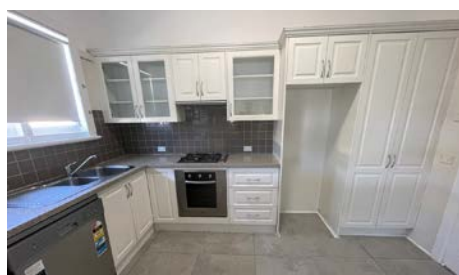
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## Fitting tribute to Bev's passion for our community

The Beverly Betts Rose Garden was officially opened recently by Member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall and Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes.

It was a very special day for Bev's family to remember her love of gardens as well as our community. "Bev was very passionate about Walcha and its community," Mayor Eric Noakes commented at the opening.

Adam Marshall was impressed with the way Council and the Parks & Gardens staff have converted an empty space into a magnificent spot for visitors to stop, and a great way for community members to remember Bev. "What a wonderful way to recognise and remember a champion of the Walcha community," he said.

The stonemasonry was completed by Hans Model and this has completed the garden beautifully.

The Betts family are pictured above at the opening with Eric Noakes and Adam Marshall.

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## Register now for vaccinations

Walcha Community Health is encouraging families with children in Year 7 and 10 to scan the code above to register their children for upcoming immunisations.

"We would like to increase the rate of immunisation in our community," Community Health nurses commented.

There are also many children who are home schooled and they are strongly encouraged to also register for their vaccinations.

Vaccinations can be given by local GP's as well as Community Health nurses.

So please scan the code above, register your details and you will be placed on the list for the upcoming program.

Is your child in year 7 or year 10?



Provide your consent for routine school vaccinations online



Scan the QR code to give your consent now



To provide online consent visit:  
<https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>



# Join the Flock Ewe Comp this Friday

## From Angus Laurie

The 4th Annual Walcha Merino Flock Ewe Competition is slated to commence this Friday 1 March. This year the Competition will become part of the Walcha Show, this event consists of a tour of seven of the premier commercial Merino flocks in the district.

Starting at 7:30 am, participants will gather at the Commercial Hotel for a day with like-minded people. From seasoned breeders to emerging champions, each stop on the tour offers a unique glimpse into the world of Merino sheep breeding. We will be adhering to strict biosecurity measures throughout the day to ensure the health and safety of both ovine and human participants.

Judging the competition with keen eyes and expert insights are industry stalwart Scott Thrift from AWN Livestock and up-and-coming sheep classer Mitch Rubie from Rubie Livestock Advancement. Their expertise and discernment promise to elevate the competitors and their flocks thoroughly and provide ever valuable feedback.

A light lunch will be provided, catered by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Support group.

The stakes are high as the top four flocks selected during the tour will have the honour of showcasing a sample of ewes at the Walcha Show on Friday 8 March which is a new and exciting innovation for the competition. This grand display will offer show attendees the opportunity to marvel at the quality and diversity of Merino genetics present in the district.

The competition will culminate with a presentation held on Friday afternoon at the Show, with a new perpetual trophy being unveiled and on display all day.

So mark your calendars, gather your fellow wool aficionados, and join us for an unforgettable day celebrating the excellence of commercial



Merino sheep breeding in the Walcha district.

Thanks to Sponsors Elders, Transwest Fuels, Proway, Pitt Sons, NSW Stud Merino Breeders, Nutrien Boulton's, Schute Bell, Walcha Vet Supplies, Rabobank, AWN, NEFT, Commercial Hotel, Fletcher International, Ramage Engineering and Adcock Partners.

For further details contact: Angus Laurie 0418 587 643 or Hamish McLaren – 0429 772 778.

## Photography Club Calendars run off the shelf



The Walcha Photography Club produced calendars again for 2024 and as usual they were very popular, and they were all sold before Christmas. The Old Motor Club also had calendars this year which they asked our members to contribute photos to and to help them put the calendar together. They also sold very well.

The proceeds from Photography Club and the Motor Club calendars were distributed to four organisations in Walcha who were very grateful. They were The Westpac Rescue Helicopter, The Mens Shed, The Support Group and Walcha Hospital Auxiliary.

## PRELIMINARY NOTICE



## 2nd Annual New England Twilight Weaner/Feeder/Breeder Cattle Sale

Thursday 28 March 6pm AuctionsPlus

*Entries invited and highly recommended*



### CONTACTS

Miles Archdale .....	0428 660 326
Simone Newton .....	0467 660 320
Bruce Rutherford .....	0428 660 328
Mathew Larkings .....	0427 002 427
Dan Coulthurst .....	0419 879 793





**I had the pleasure of attending the PSSA** Armidale Zone Swimming Championships at Monkton Aquatic Centre last Thursday where 20 or so of our local competitors registered a total of 27 P.B's during the carnival. Well done to Anthea Taylor, Veja-Lee Petuha, Eliza Nivison, Tyler Ross, Flynn O'Connell along with the Wellings boys Dustin, Eli and Toby on qualifying individually for the North West trials on Monday 11 March.

...

**The Senior Boys relay team** consisting of Flynn O'Connell, Tyler Ross, Kobie Brown and Dustin Wellings won their event by nearly half the pool after they sliced over 10 seconds off their qualifying time. The Senior Girls relay team Sophie Mulligan, Frankie Nivison, Veja-Lee Petuha and Anthea Taylor bettered their time by over 12 seconds to finish runner up in their race.

...

**One thing missing from the Zone Carnival** was the 'Bloke with the Microphone' cheering all the Walcha Swimmers on. Well the bloke was there, it was just the microphone wasn't, due to it not working despite me having installed new batteries the day before.

...

**After the carnival** a vehicle drove off with its boot wide open and despite frantic calls from the back of the pool grandstand by fellow

Walcha spectators viewing the incident, it was a little while until Lizzie Blomfield realised what was going on and closed the boot from inside the car before she exited the car park.

...

**Last week my eldest daughter Rachael** was contacted by the school about her son Eli not feeling that flash after his recent appendix surgery. Rach soon made an appointment at the Doctors Surgery and not long later she arrived there only to realise she had forgotten one important thing – Eli.

...

**Veteran Walcha/Uralla cricket** left arm trundler Peter Mooney hit a purple patch while bowling late in the innings of City/UNE last Saturday at Armidale. In the space of 10 deliveries Peter snared five wickets at a cost of five runs including a hat trick before finishing up with 5/27 off his eight overs as City/UNE lost 6/12 during that time, not a bad afternoons work.

...

**Congratulations to local cricketers** Cameron Mooney and Koby Brennan who were members of the Armidale and District U/15's Bushrangers team that defeated Gunnedah in their junior representative final in Armidale last Sunday. Chasing 172 runs Cameron made a few runs opening the batting while Koby hit an unbeaten 13 runs including sealing the deal

by smashing a boundary when the homeside required just 3 runs for victory. Koby also took three catches, one a 'pearler' to dismiss the opposition dangerman who was causing a few headaches before he was caught out.

...

**Word has it, one of the Marchant Bros** Jason, has taken to talking to his coffee making machine according to his better half Megan. Apparently Jase had put the wrong sized cup in the delivery area and as it was filling up 'Meggsy' reckons the big fella was talking very sternly to the machine about not over flowing. You will later have to see Jason for details of the outcome.

...

**Footy tipsters should be aware** their Rugby League tipping competitions commence this Sunday with two games played in Las Vegas before the rest of the opening round is completed the following weekend. No doubt quite a few tipsters will select just two games this weekend and then will be required to pick the rest of the round by Thursday 7 March.

...

**It's certainly not too late to enter** especially at the Bowling Club, Newie or Apsley Hotels where no doubt Kyle Goodwin, Liam Brennan and Stephen 'Normie' Goodwin will be back to defend their respective 2023 titles. The Apsley has doubled the amount of entrants from previous seasons making publican Ganesh Sedhain very happy with the response and he said there is plenty of room for more nominations. Best of luck to all punters.



## Speed Shearing

The 2024 Walcha Speed Shear is set to take centre stage at 7pm Friday 8 March. This is part of the NSW Speed Shear Sport Circuit where competitors accumulate points at each event. The top two shearers from NSW will represent their State at Wagga Wagga, battling it out for one of three spots to represent Australia, as part of Team Wagga Wagga, on fully funded trips to Wales and New Zealand. Walcha Show will be hosting an Intermediate, Senior and Open section with a first prize of \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$10,000 respectively. Half the pool money from this years Calcutta will go to the winner and the other half will go to establishing a Barefoot Boxing Gym in Walcha. Please have your nominations to Tete by 6 March. Follow on Facebook @ Walcha Show Speed Shear New South Wales or @ Wagga Wagga Speed Shear Sport New South Wales Australia. For information contact Tete Petuha, Chief Steward Speed Shearing, 0455 811 547.

## Wool

It's been a while since shearing for some, but it is time to dust off those woolpacks and get your fleeces ready for the show! Wool can be delivered to the Showground on Monday 4 or Tuesday 5 March by 5pm. There are classes for all types of wool (see section 7 in the schedule

for the details) and remember we have local sections for those with under 3500 Merino sheep. The pet section is kids who are U16 years (usually one our our biggest classes!). If all sheep cookies can bring in one or two fleeces it will make for a great display! See you at the show. For more information contact Paul Pittman, Chief Steward Wool, 0429 260 600.

## Sports Shearing

This year the Show Sports Shear will be held on Saturday at 10:00am. Events are: Novice free entry AWI, Intermediate \$30, Seniors \$40 and Open \$50. Entries taken by 9:30am the morning of the event. This is a circuit event with shearers and wool handlers competing to qualify for the State Titles at Dubbo in May. Walcha is the last of the Northern Shows with the next show Yass 16 March, Bathurst in April and Wellington in May. Jump on Walcha Show Sports Shear or Sports Shear New South Wales pages on Facebook to check it out. For more information contact Karina Partridge, Chief Steward Sports Shear on 0456 189 275.

## Ag Bike

There have been some changes to times for this years Ag Bike Competition. 8 and Under practice starts 9am with races at 9.30am. 12 yrs and over 8 practice starts 10.30am, races at 11.00am, 16yrs and over 12 practice at 11.30am and races start 11.40am. Seniors, practice at 12.15pm and races start 12.30pm. Entry is \$5 for one run at bends and barrels,

with a maximum of three runs per entrant. For more information contact Sally Munday, Chief Steward Ag Bike on 0428 773 958.

## Sheep and Cattle Dog Trials

From 2:30pm Saturday the Cattle Dog Trials will be underway with the final to take place under lights. Yard Dog Trials kick-off with the Open Section 7:30am Saturday morning and the final will be after lunch. Local and Encouragement events will be first thing Sunday morning and both Maiden and Novice will run over both days. For information contact Tony Overton, Chief Steward Sheep and Cattle Dog Trials, 0409 503 423.

## Judging

If you are 12 – 22 years of age, sign up for FREE on Friday 8 March to take part in the Junior Judging competition. Merino and Meat Sheep registrations at 9am for a 9:30am start, followed by Cattle at 1pm. The top 10 competitors will go on to give an oral presentation. For information contact Jock Fletcher, Chief Steward Junior Judging on 0427 771 335.

## Meat Sheep

Entries due to the Show Office by 1 March and judging of the Meat Sheep Section will be 9:30am Saturday 9 March. There is a fee of \$4 per entry, and a National Sheep Health Statement and Vendor Declaration must accompany all exhibits. For information contact Michael Makeham, Chief Steward Meat Sheep on 0428 101 515.





## Tennis

**Round 3** of the Summer Comp was played out on Tues 20th Feb.

Popyrin: H Thomson, C Ireland, A Barillaro and S Ireland drew with Gadecki: T Whillock, D Clark, K Smith and A Fox 26 all in a terrific close match.

Birrell: DA Locke, R Bagnall, G Wall and S Blake, defeated Purcell: E Blomfield, P O'Brien, D Wall and P Tape 27 to 21 in a tough battle.

Rodionova: H Locke (floater), M Lockyer, A Blomfield and T Gibson spanked DeMinaur: D Sweeney, C Bruce, E Habermann and M Luchich 31 to 20 but many points could have gone either way.

This years Walcha Seniors Comp will be played out on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March. We are looking for helpers on those days and any goodies we can sell in the canteen would be gratefully received. The next club meeting will be held on Mon the 18th March at 6.30pm all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## Wednesday Golf

Last Wednesday we played stableford for Betty Borthwick's trophy.

It was a small field of players as quite a few headed to Guyra for the 4BBB Open.

After some rain here on the course, the day proved to be a hard day at the office.

Our winner on a countback was Penny King with 30 points, from Ruth Fletcher, also on 30.

Final sweepstakes went to Pip Monie on 27. Robyn Salt was NTP on 3 and no-one claimed NTP on 16.

Polly Locke and Sal McCormack were the successful pair who travelled to Guyra and were the runners up on a countback from the winners with 43 points.

Alison Cameron also claimed a NTP up there.

Sarah Carter was a new beginner for the day, and we hope we get more turning up today.

Today we are playing stroke, along with putting and the monthly mug for a trophy donated by Lorraine Rennie.

## Flippers

The seventh swimming meet of the season was held by the Walcha Swimming Club last week where 28 P.B's were registered to take the overall total to 396.

No less than 21 members gained full points - Eliza Nivison notched up her second maximum in succession.

Archie King, Chanse and Chaise Gibson, Savannah Baumer, Florence Davey, Grace, Harry and Angus Fletcher, Lianna Whellan, Penny Wauch, Nina and Axel Blomfield, Connor Sweeney, Frankie Nivison, Tyler Ross, Bella Mooney, Jazz Hayton, Emily Zorgrager, Jack Lisle and Kobie Brown also picked up maximum points.

Last week may have been the first time that there were no 'Movers and Shakers' in all five groups Tadpoles, Frogs, Turtles, Crocodiles and Sharks.

Swimmer of the week goes to Kix Brown after he stepped up from Frogs, who swam 25 metre events, to Turtles, over 50 metres, where he swam a 4 x 50 metre Individual Medley plus a 50 metre freestyle as well. Way to go Kix.

Congratulations to all Flippers who competed at the PSSA Zone Championships at Armidale last week where local swimmers registered 27 P.B's during the day with Christina Fontanella, Frankie Nivison and Toby Wellings leading the way racking up three P.B's each.

## Bowls

**Dads Army:** Two games of triples were played on Thursday afternoon with mixed results.

In the first, John McCormack and Matt Andrews who played twice had a big win over John Watts, Peter Hayes and a visitor Tim McGuffog. The second saw Warwick Hogan, Eric O'Keefe and John McLean 11 defeat Geoff Salt, Brian Goodwin and Simon Porter 10.

The chooks were won by Warwick, Eric and John Mc and the raffles were won by Peter Hayes and Tim McGuffog.

**TWILIGHT:** Friday, saw perfect weather for the Twilight comp. Team 7 had a tight loss to Team 1. The game was very frustrating for the losers as on several ends were holding two and three shots only to see them disappear on the last shot.

Team 13 were all smiles after defeating Team 10, winners of the last comp.

On Sunday one of the team was still smiling as the win was discussed.

## Ladies Bowls

On a nice warm day last Thursday eleven ladies enjoyed bowls playing a game of pairs and triples. In the pairs Carmel Ryan and Lyn Burnell won 18-17 over Lee McCoy and Phyllis Hoy /Pam Makeham played eight ends each.

The triples was won by Marg Tickle, Esther Hunt and Janice Rizzi 17-11 from Ellie Pullman, Rosie Aitken and June Hayes.

Players don't forget to put your name down for the club championship the sheets are on the board nominations close on the 3rd March with games to commence on the 15th March.

Also coming up is the Ex-Services President Day on the 9th March, and The McNaught Gardens bowls fundraiser being held in Uralla on the 12th March.

## Cricket

### Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 2nd Grade

Hillgrove	
M LAURIE c&b D Boyd.....	1
H EASTWOOD c B Hoy b D Boyd .....	27
J MARSHALL c B Hoy b E Blomfield .....	2
B MARSHALL c E Blomfield b C Boyd .....	27
L EASTWOOD n.o .....	14
D WATERS n.o.....	0
Total 81. Extras 9. Bowling (overs/maidens/wkts/runs)	
E Blomfield 7-1-1-25, D Boyd 6.5-0-2-22, C Boyd 5-1-1-21, N Swan 4-0-0-11.	

### Walcha/Uralla v City/UNE 3rd Grade

City/UNE	
K HANDES c&b P Mooney.....	40
L MACDONALD c M Tasik b D Morley.....	22
J BROWNE b D Morley.....	6
R BLACKWELL c&b P Mooney.....	12
M CONROY b P Mooney.....	3
C REX b P Mooney.....	4
L LAYCOCK c C Mooney b P Mooney.....	0
H LEITCH b C Mooney .....	4
A WORTHINGTON n.o .....	5
I PALOMBINI n.o .....	6
Total 118. Extras 16. Bowling (overs/maidens/wkts/runs)	
C Mooney 8-0-1-24, B Ussher 8-1-0-12, M Tasik 6-1-0-21, D Morley 8-0-2-23, H Ussher 2-0-0-11, P Mooney 8-0-5-27.	

Both games were abandoned due to rain.

Wet weather played havoc with Round 12 of the Armidale and District competitions where 2nd Grade was washed out at Peter Fenwicke Oval here at home and 3rd Grade at Newling Oval in Armidale.

Walcha/Uralla had just bowled their allotted 40 overs to City/UNE in 3rd Grade when the rain came after the homeside had set the visitors an assignment of 118 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

Chief destroyer was veteran left arm bowler Peter Mooney who snared five wickets at a cost of 27 runs from his eight

overs which included a hat trick.

He received valuable support from Dave Morley who sent down eight overs to capture 2/23 and opener Cameron Mooney who took 1/24 off his eight overs.

Fielding first here in Walcha against Hillgrove the homeside were into their 23rd over when rain interrupted play.

Opener Daniel Boyd claimed 2/23 off his 6.5 overs while fellow opener Ed Blomfield 1/25 and Cooper Boyd 1/21 also picked up a wicket each.

Well done to Cameron Mooney who was a member of the Armidale and District u/15's Bushrangers Representative team, along with another local junior Koby Brennan, on defeating Gunnedah in final last Sunday.

## At the Nineteenth

The 2024 Mens Championships commenced last Sunday where Miles Archdale and Michael Stackman sit on top of the leaderboard after the opening round having both posted scores of nine over par 79.

Next best were club captain Willy Brennan and David Sweeney just a shot away on 80.

In B Grade 'Molleydooker' Jamie Bowden leads on 86 from Don Brooks 88 while in C Grade club president Allan Green registered 94 to hold a four stroke advantage over Darren Bird with reigning champion Drew Bird a shot away on 99.

Overall winner of the captains trophy played in conjunction was Miles Archdale with a 69 nett whereas sweepstakes went to Willy Brennan and David Sweeney both 71 Michael Stackman 72, Allan Green, Jamie Dowden and Julie Hoad all 73.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Sue Partridge (3), Will Nicholls (9), Will Brennan (16) and Michael Stackman (18).

Last Saturday John McLaren mustered up 17 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition from Pauline Carter on 14 points.

No one was clever enough to reach the beach on 3.

This Sunday is the second round of the championships where secretary Jenny Lisle is the trophy donor and then the following Sunday a prize supplied by 'Head Honcho' Allan Green will be on offer when the final round of the championships is scheduled.

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## Funeral notice

### HENRY: Helen

Died peacefully Sunday 18th February 2024  
Aged 84 years

Dearly loved wife of Ian (dec).  
Devoted mother and mother-in-law of  
Debbie & Jim and Graham.  
Loved Gran of Carla & Chris, Tyson &  
Kiralee and Jake.  
Great Gran to Margaret and Georgia.  
Relatives and friends of the late Helen  
Henry are warmly invited to attend her  
funeral.

The cremation service is set to commence  
on Wednesday 28th February 2024, at  
1.00pm at the Alston Memorial Chapel,  
35 Workshop Lane, Tamworth  
**Burke & Douglas Funerals 02 6765 3999**

## Position Vacant

### Walcha Council Positions Vacant

We have a number of exciting  
leadership positions available  
and are seeking suitable  
applicants to join our team in 2024. 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.

**Team Leader – Urban Construction**  
This position forms part of the Infrastructure  
and Development directorate, Urban Works  
teams and contributes to providing well  
maintained Council facilities, assets and  
improvement programmes, creating a safe  
and efficient environment within the Walcha  
Local Government area

**Water & Waste Water Coordinator**  
Working within the Directorate of  
Infrastructure & Development, overseeing  
activities, services and project delivery  
with a focus on managing stakeholder  
relationships, to ensure the provision of high  
quality, safe and sustainable public facilities  
consistent with Council's strategic planning  
documents.

Above applications close 29 March 2024.  
Please visit Council's Positions Vacant page  
for more details and to apply. <https://bit.ly/3A30YDc>

Phil Hood, General Manager  
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW



## Public Notice

**DR GENEVIEVE FREER**

Phone 6777 2068 0429 668 583

## Birthday Wishes

Happy Heavenly Birthday

**Jackie Byrne**

1-3-67

If roses grow in heaven Lord  
Please pick a bunch for me  
Place them in my Mum's arms  
And tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that we love her  
And when she turns to smile  
Place a kiss upon her cheek  
And hold her for a while.  
*Love you a thousand skies*



## Meetings

**Walcha Golf Club** AGM, Sunday 10 March  
9:30am at Golf Club.

**Walcha Garden Members** to assist this  
Friday, 1st March, 9am, with setting up the  
Flower Pavilion. Next meeting Friday, 5th  
April.

**Walcha Rugby Union Club**  
Extra ordinary meeting Notice

Thursday 29th Feb 6.30pm

sharp at The Bowling Club

We invite all life members,

members, players and

committee of The Walcha

Rugby Union Club to join us to

discuss and vote on joining the

New England competition this season and

possibly moving forward.

We encourage those who wish to partake in  
this discussion/decision to please attend.



## For Sale

**Laver pullets**, all breeds, 20 wks. Delivered  
Friday 22.3.24. Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

**DJ's seasonal firewood** - simple stuff, buy  
it, burn it, keep warm. Bulk only 6m³ or 12m³  
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Contact

Mat Larkings

0427 002 427

**thumbs**



Thank you to Walcha Community Care  
for the wonderful outings you organise  
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To Walcha council for promptly  
removing a dead wallaby outside my  
front gate. Thank you. It's appreciated

To those who walk their dogs and allow  
them to leave droppings on peoples  
lawns. Please take a bag with you and  
clean up the mess.

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### ANGLICAN

Holy Communion 7:30am

Holy Communion and Family Service  
10:00am

Niangala Service 2:30pm

Phone 6777 2543 or email:  
walchaanglican@gmail.com

### PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha, every Sunday 9.30am

Combined church Youth Group in the  
Hall, every Saturday 5pm - 7pm.  
All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

### CATHOLIC

Sunday Mass 10.00am

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**Thursday 29** 12pm – Close  
Ladies bowls from 9am

**Friday 1** 2pm – Close

**2.00pm BINGO**  
**6.00pm Bistro**

- Curried Prawns and Rice
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**6.00pm Free Bingo**  
**6.00pm Tickets for raffles**  
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**Saturday 2** 11am – Close  
**6.00pm Bistro**

**Sunday 3** 11am – Close

**12.00pm Bistro**  
**12.00pm**  
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### COMING SOON

Sunday 17 March  
St Patrick's Day luncheon

Do you live in Walcha Shire?  
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