

THE APSLEY Advocate

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27 March 2024

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MEET**

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28TH MARCH**

Gold for Amber

Amber Macpherson was one of 200 youth across the State to be presented with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Gold Award last Thursday in Sydney.

The Award was founded by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in 1959 and was designed to provide progressive personal challenges, with the Gold Award taking her 18 months to complete.

Amber received the Award from Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, Governor of NSW and said she valued the many skills she learnt throughout the program by completing activities she wouldn't normally do. "You need to set yourself challenges which are out of your comfort zone, but it is great to know that you can push yourself and achieve your goals," she said.

One of these challenges was an Adventurous Journey, where Amber kayaked the Myall Lakes for one week, needing to pack enough food as well as cooking equipment and camping gear for the adventure. "You need to use many skills to plan the route, depending on the weather, as well as assessing the skills of the team you are leading to get everyone through the challenge," she said. "To make it even more difficult, we paddled through torrential rain and wind for the entire week!"

In presenting the Gold Awards, the Governor commented, "Never lose the desire to test yourself, to seek adventure and to rise to the next challenge. Of these qualities, leaders are made."

To complete the Gold Award you need to set yourself challenges in five different areas: Service, Physical Recreation, Skills, Adventurous Journey and Gold Residential Project.

Amber completed her Service in Walcha assisting at Walcha Council Community Care, as well as Walcha Preschool.

Physical Recreation included playing basketball and touch football, and she learnt graphic design as a Skill which she has since been able to use in her studies at University.



The final task Amber did to complete her Gold Award was the Residential Project where she stayed with a group of NDIS children and adults for their week-long camp to allow their carers to have some much needed respite. "We were based near Port Macquarie and each day we took them on outings and activities around the Mid North Coast. I have never worked with disabled children and adults, so it was quite a learning experience for me, however I learnt many valuable life skills during the week," Amber said.

Taking part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh isn't easy, it requires commitment of time each week, however it is an Award you can complete no matter where you live, as you design the challenges yourself. Amber encourages anyone who is interested to take on the challenge as it broadens your life experiences and teaches you so much about your strength and adaptability. "After all your time and effort you will have achieved something special of which you can be proud and which universities and employers rate highly," the organisers said at the presentation.

Amber will complete her Bachelor of Business at University next month and is commencing work at Marriott International completing a Graduate program in Management at The Rocks in Sydney.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

It's hard to believe we are on the verge of the Easter long weekend and hasn't the start of the year flown by. We had a taste of winter last Thursday with a chilly day that caught everyone off guard and it's only a taste of what's to come. The mornings are already cool, and the days are shortening, I really do think this daylight saving is a month too long. The spin off moisture from the ex-tropical cyclone Megan hasn't reached us at all after record breaking rains through the Northern Territory and western Queensland. The tropical moisture looks like it will track south through western NSW and into SA and Victoria.

The country east of Walcha looks to be having the best season out of everyone as the easterly moisture continues to support their season. Down off the hill and east to the coast looks amazing with knee high feed as soon as you drop down off the mountain. It seems either side of Walcha continues to get the season, like the storms from the west won't lift high enough to produce decent rain and the easterly rain stops at the Enfield hill. Crops around the district for winter have never been so important but haven't they been a hit and a miss for most people. Some crops look amazing and will fill the feed void for livestock throughout winter nicely while others look like they have mange. Poor germination, lack of moisture and the heat at the back end of February killed a lot of seed and have forced multiple producers to re-sow.

The rain in the north has helped the cattle market over the last week with Queensland buyers flocking south to secure weaners. Steers have seen most competition pushing values back up over \$4/kg for some breeds while the heifer prices still look pretty stagnant with the lighter end struggling to make \$600. Easter is always a tricky time for the livestock industry as it coincides with the Autumn selloff of weaners and the general sell down before winter of surplus livestock. Everyone wants to do something when we lose two days to public holidays around Easter, it happens every year.

If you are in the market for any cattle the local Nutrien Boulton's Twilight Sale is this Thursday at 6pm on AuctionsPlus. The team has lined up more than 3000 head of local cattle with some of the best quality cattle on the eastern seaboard.

Great to see the local footy clubs are back in action with the Walcha Roos reforming after a couple of years as a joint club with Uralla. The Roos kicked off their season in style on the weekend winning a trial match against the Gloucester Magpies. The Walcha Rams decided to enter the New England Rugby competition this year and they travelled to Crescent Head for a three-way trial against Kempsey and Wauchope and came away with the chocolates.

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Nutrien  **Boulton's**

St Patrick's Day celebrations

From Dallas Hyatt, Principal

Last Monday, there was an extraordinary display of various shades of green as the students and staff came together to honour the school's patron saint, St Patrick. It was a day filled with excitement and energy, as the students engaged in a multitude of activities. These included attending a special liturgy, indulging in a wide array of green-themed delicacies, constructing a coin trail in the shape of a shamrock, and embarking on a quest to find the elusive leprechaun. Additionally, the students actively participated in a range of physical activities. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Airlee, Mila, Campbell, Lilah and Ryan for successfully locating the missing leprechauns, as well as Airlee again who found that elusive golf ball. Finally, well done to Eve, Bella, Josie and Lilah for their outstanding achievements in the various colouring in competitions that were held.

The day proved to be highly successful, with a remarkable sum of over \$150 raised. This monetary contribution will be allocated towards the Project Compassion Appeal. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents who generously provided the green treats, which were undeniably a hit. Additionally, we commend our dedicated Mini Vinnies members for their diligent efforts behind the scenes, ensuring the day's triumph. Congratulations to all involved!

Accompanying photos: Eden, Bella, Josie and Lilah with their winning prizes for the colouring in competition.

Back Row: Ryan, Lilah and Airlee. Front Row: Mila and Campbell with their prizes for finding the missing leprechaun as well as the elusive golf ball.

All of the students getting ready to eat their green food for recess.



Stock and Property Watch

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EASTER QUIZ

1. Which one did Jesus say from the cross?
a) "I am innocent. This is wrong."
b) "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
c) "My God, please rescue me."

Answer: In a Bible, look for Matthew Chapter 27 Verse 46

2. Why did Jesus have to die?
a) Because he annoyed the powers of the time.
b) To merely show us how to live a life of service.
c) In God the Father's plan, it was the only way to pay the penalty for our sin.

Answer: 2 Corinthians 5:21

3. When Jesus rose from the dead...
a) Some people thought that he was a ghost or vision.
b) He was seen by over five hundred people.
c) He showed people his wounds to prove that he was risen.

Answer: Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:6; John 20:27

PLEASE JOIN US THIS
EASTER AS WE REFLECT ON
WHY JESUS' DEATH AND
RESURRECTION IS GOOD
NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

GOOD FRIDAY

9:30am Presbyterian Church

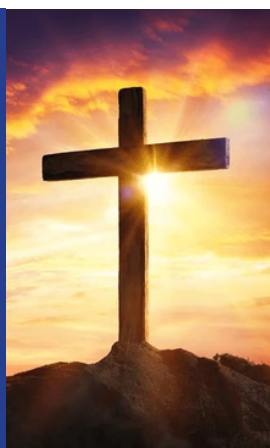
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10am Anglican Church

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Service 10am Anglican Church



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letters to the editor



A letter for your thoughts

Back in about August 2022, Voice for Walcha made a video which we showed at the Bowling Club later that year at a public meetings. A tad less than fifteen minutes, the video was titled WALCHA ON WIND, and comprised roughly twenty locals brave enough to come forward and express their thoughts on having a raft of wind turbines erected across the Walcha plateau. It was well received, primarily because the community were still feeling their way on this matter, and what the video did was put real faces to what was becoming a divisive issue for the town.

Walcha has unquestionably come a very long way since then. We're now a well informed community when it comes to renewable energy, especially wind power. The Energy Co public meeting held at Walcha Vets at the end of last year made that patently clear. We're not yokels to be talked down to by city bureaucrats, hoodwinked by developer cowboys, or fooled by vacuous so-called "Community Consultation Sessions" put on by some developers. This community expects and deserves respect on such matters.

That's why the recent takeover of Walcha Energy by Origin is such a critically important development in our ongoing wind factory fracas. More than ever it is now crucial that we think about and discuss as a community how we see our renewable energy future, what we expect from Origin for a start, and where we want all this to go. It's a conversation we all need to share. So if you have any input (comments or questions) please let us know. Send a direct message or email us@voiceforwalcha.com and we will ensure that your input is addressed.

But more than that, Voice for Walcha feels that it's time this community made a second video like the 2022 one - a collection of brief but focused snapshots by individuals (or small groups) on whatever way they feel about what's happening to Walcha at present, and what could or should lie ahead for us all. We'll help prepare, record and edit, making sure the end product is what you want. So if you're interested, please contact us.

Voice for Walcha

Great work Walcha Show Society

I want to congratulate the local show committee for organising the the Skin Check Van at Walcha Show. I think that it was the best thing that the local Show committee have had as an addition to their show, but not forgetting the local service clubs who made it possible. What a great thing to have and it was certainly needed in our district. Such a quick way to be able to get checked.

Being that I am now 80, it was great to find that I only had a couple of spots that needed checking and I have had them dealt with. I was able to visit my GP and have them checked.

Judy Ireland

Clean clothing donations, in bags ... please!!

While local organisations appreciate donations of clothes, they are urging locals to ensure any items that are popped in their clothing bins are clean, in wearable condition and in a bag.

Recently extremely dirty clothes have been put directly into the bin, not in bags, and in turn contaminated all other items that were generously donated ... everything had to be sent to land fill! This is not only extremely wasteful, but very disheartening for those in the community who volunteer their time to sort through these items.

Local organisations appreciate donations of clean and tidy clothes, linen, household items and furniture (by arrangement), and simply ask for you to use their services to help others and not to simply get rid of your rubbish!

Walcha Quota Callers Guide

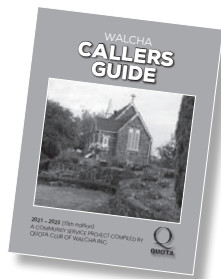
Business advertising

Business owners wanting to advertise in the new edition of the Walcha Callers Guide have until April 5 to get their forms (White form) into the Walcha Telecottage. Thank you for the great support already received. Additional forms available at the Walcha Telecottage.

Residential listings

Please wait for the green form to give us your details. This form will be in the Apsley Advocate on Wednesday April 10. If you have already given us your details, then please also fill in the green form, this guarantees that your information is placed in the guide. You will have until May 10th to put in your green form. The opportunity to have a bold listing for \$50 will be included on the green form. **All green residential forms are to be put in the specially marked wooden box at the Post Office. Quota representatives will collect the forms daily and enter the details.** All enquiries concerning the Callers Guide Residential Numbers (Green form) to be directed to Lyn Smith 0407 604 737.

You will then have an opportunity to view and alter your entry when the proof reading street stall is set up May 13th to 18th, 8.30 am to 5.00pm, outside Foodworks.



2024 WALCHA SHOW RESULTS

Preserves

Grand Champion Shiena Allerton. **Champions:** Preserve Peta Lisle, **Condiment** Destinee Lockyer, **Jam** Shiena Allerton, **Marmalade** Broni Koebel, **Jelly** Audi Dunn, **Men's Section** Andrew Corlette, **Junior Section** Alex Hobbs.

Highest Point Scores: Open Section Peta Lisle, Junior Section Alex Hobbs.

The **Diana Lisle Encouragement Award** this year went to our most improved junior exhibitor, Alex Hobbs. We look forward to seeing what he brings to the judging table next year.

\$1 million Boxley Bridge on the road to completion

We are edging closer to being timber bridge free, with the half-a-century old Boxley Bridge, over Pipeclay Gully, now replaced with a wider, stronger and modern concrete structure, Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall has announced today.

Mr Marshall and Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes drove out on Niangala Road recently to inspect work on the \$979,000 project, funded by the previous State Government under the Fixing Country Bridges program.

"Walcha is one step closer to becoming timber bridge free, which is terrific news," Mr Marshall said.

"The old Boxley Bridge served the region and the surrounding primary producers very well for more than 60 years, but the timber structure had reached the end of its useful life.

"Without replacement, Council would have been forced to impose strict load limits on the old bridge, as it continued to deteriorate – now that won't be necessary.

"The side track has been active since January and the timber pillars have been demolished to make way for the new concrete structure.

"The new bridge, which will be open to traffic in a couple of weeks, is a new 4.2-metre-wide and 20-metre-long concrete structure on the existing road alignment and at the same height."

Mr Marshall said the funding was designed to help councils across the region replace dwindling and ageing timber bridges with infrastructure that is more fit for modern-day vehicle usage.

"This funding injection has dramatically eased the financial burden on Walcha Council as they no longer have to continually maintain the old timber bridge.

"This is fantastic news for Walcha and I can't wait to see Boxley Bridge again once complete."



Harley Norton from Civil and Engineering Contractors Coffs Harbour, left, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes and Walcha Council project manager Paul Fritsch at the new Boxley Bridge, over Pipeclay Gully, funded with a \$979,000 grant under the Fixing Country Bridges program.



Easter Trading Hours

GOOD FRIDAY - CLOSED
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EASTER SUNDAY - CLOSED
EASTER MONDAY - CLOSED

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100 Angus Steers weaned, Grass Fed eligible. Hazeldean, Highrent and Glenmorgan Angus blood

Black Hill Pastoral
150 Angus & Angus X Steers

Temuco Partnership – EU
170 Angus Steers, Dulverton Blood
60 Angus Heifers, Dulverton Blood

Petali Pastoral – EU
150 Angus Steers

EL & SL Fogarty
160 Angus & Angus X Steers

AJ Scott
80 Angus mixed sex

Highrent Angus – EU
70 Angus Steers, Highrent blood

NR & CM Stackman – EU
50 Angus Heifers

ME & TA Worth – EU
50 Angus Heifers

J & M Davidson
40 Angus & Angus X mixed sex

M Cross
30 Angus Steers

Lockyer Livestock – EU
32 Angus Steers, Nairn Park Angus blood

GE & J Weber
30 Angus Steers
25 Angus Heifers



BREEDERS

Branga Plains Pastoral Co – EU
100 Black Baldy Cows rising 6 years, PTIC to Angus Bulls. Outstanding quality to commence calving mid June

D & K McRae
90 PTIC Angus Heifers
GCM Grazing – EU
50 Angus PTIC Heifers to Angus bulls

QN & TR Webb
60 PTIC Angus Heifers
Joined to Doorkey and Trentbridge Wagyu bulls

Orandumbie Enterprises – EU
35 PTIC Santa Hereford X Cows to short-horn bulls. 4 year old females joined 15/10/23 to 23/12/23
25 PTIC Angus X and Euro X Cows to Red Angus and Angus bulls. 4, 5 & 6 years old cows joined 15/10/23 to 23/12/23

Mt Arlington Grazing – EU
30 PTIC Angus Cows to Angus Bulls
Rising 3 yrs Joined 15/10/23 to 20/12/23
65 PTIC Angus Cows to Angus Bulls
4 & 5yrs Joined 15/10/23 to 20/12/23

J & S Zorgdrager – EU
50 2023 Autumn Drop Heifers unjoined top quality, Highrent Angus Blood

RM & PL Wright – EU
20 Angus cows & calves

Highrent Angus – EU
30 PTIC Angus Heifers, Highrent Blood

Mirramoona Pastoral Co
24 PTIC Angus Heifers
Highrent Angus bloodlines

Petali Pastoral – EU
24 PTIC Angus Heifers 1 1/2 yrs
20 PTIC Angus Cows 3 1/2 yrs

Petali Pastoral
20 PTIC Angus Cows 4 1/2yrs
34 PTIC Angus Cows 5 1/2yrs

CB & SL Rutherford – EU
34 PTIC Angus Cows, 2015–2017 drop PTIC to Kilburnie Angus

FEEDERS

Glen Collin Pastoral Co – EU
400 Angus Steers Bovilis Treated Weighed 460 – 520kg, top quality

GCM Grazing
150 Angus Feeder Steers
Weighed 460 – 520kg, top quality

RF & PM King
90 Feeder Angus & Euro X Heifers

QN & TR Webb
50 Angus Feeder Heifers

RM & PL Wright – EU
20 Angus Heifers

ME & TA Worth – EU
20 Angus Steers



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**6.00pm
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CONTACTS

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Mathew Larkings0427 002 427
Dan Coulthurst0419 879 793

The Flu season is upon us

By Dr Deng Abiem

The flu is already circulating in 2024 and flu surveillance data is indicating over 10,000 notifications of laboratory confirmed influenza this year. Flu cases are reported in Australia throughout the year but they peak from April to October.

Flu is a respiratory illness that occurs after infection with one of the flu viruses. It is spread by breathing in air from an infected person. It can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces.

Symptoms may include fever, body aches, runny nose and sore throat. Most cases are mild and people recover fully within 1 – 2 weeks, however, some cases can cause serious illness leading to hospitalisation or even death.

Extensive research has shown the flu vaccines are safe and effective. And the safety of the vaccine is monitored throughout the development process and during the use of the vaccines.

The side effects of the flu vaccination such as sore arm at injection site, fever, headache, fatigue and muscle/joint pain are generally mild and expected to resolve within three days after the immunisation.

Australia's first cell-based flu vaccine has been developed and made available for use during this flu season. Therefore, even people with egg allergy now have an alternative brand that they can use.

Immunisation against current strains of influenza viruses together with infection control measures such as hand hygiene are your best defences against flu infection.

Flu vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over.

Whilst the flu infection can affect anyone, the following groups are the most affected and are therefore eligible for free flu vaccine funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

1. All children aged 6 months to under 5 years.
2. All adults 65 years and over
3. People aged between 5 to 65 years but with increased risk of complications from flu infections: ATSI people, people with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women.

It takes two weeks from the time of your flu vaccination for you to develop immunity.

The protection from the flu vaccination will last around 3 – 4 months. It is therefore important to get vaccinated against the 2024 formulation of the flu vaccines around April/May 2024 so that you will have peak immunity by the time of expected peak of flu season around May to October 2024.

It is important to recap on another respiratory tract virus, the COVID-19 infection, which has become another flu-like seasonal virus. Multiple variants of SARS-COV2 viruses are still circulating in the community. Prevention and treatment have evolved and are keeping pace above the SARS-COV2 at the moment, so we

can keep calm but alert.

The Australian technical advisory group on immunisation (ATAGi) has recently released its latest advice on COVID-19 vaccinations as follows:

- All Australians aged above 75 years and all adults with an immunosuppressive condition should receive COVID-19 booster immunisation every six months. A common immunosuppressive condition is type 2 diabetes.
- Healthy adults aged 65-74 years should have COVID-19 booster immunisation every 12 months and healthy adults aged 18-64 years may consider COVID-19 booster annually too.
- COVID-19 booster vaccination for children aged 17 years and below is not recommended unless they have an immunosuppressive condition.

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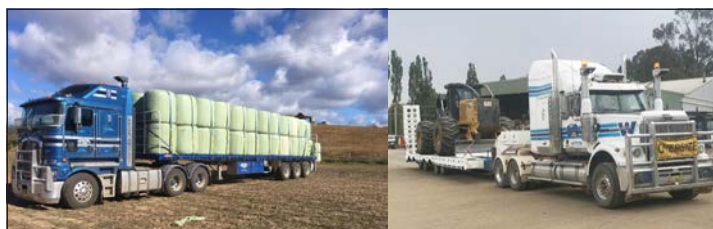
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“What does Easter mean to you, Linda?”

This week, new Anglican minister, Neil Hunt, caught up with Linda Cross to chat about “What does Easter mean to you?” **What’s your favourite childhood memory of Easter?**

It would have to be my mother, Ida Hoy, making marshmallow Easter eggs. Each half would set in a tea cup and then she’d tip them out and fiddle with the wobbly mixture until they were joined together. She’d cover the whole thing in chocolate. I used to look forward to just watching her. It was crazy and messy. We never bought Easter eggs; we didn’t need to.



Growing up, what did you think Easter was about? I didn’t really know. It was just a couple of days off school and the time to collect firewood.

Did something happen in your life to change the meaning of Easter for you? Definitely. As you grow older, you question things. “What is Easter about, and Christmas? What’s so special about these days? Why are we celebrating them?” I needed to know, so I looked further into it.

Where did that journey take you? It took me into a whole new perspective on Easter. I discovered it’s the ultimate love story. Easter is about Jesus, God who came to earth as a man, and Him wanting to be in relationship with us. To heal that broken relationship with Him. Easter is about Him wanting to give us new life, a direction and purpose for life. I mean, we have to question our life, don’t we? Where am I going? Where am I heading?

What’s your favourite thing about Easter now? It feels a bit strange, but I love the range of emotions at Easter. I love that we feel so sad on Good Friday and thankful for what Jesus has done. I come away thinking, “How could Jesus just die on a cross for us? How can someone love you so much? To die in our place for all our sins, for all the things we do in life that are...not good.” And then on Easter Sunday, we celebrate. It’s like, “Wow, Jesus has conquered death!” From one extreme to the other, and I get caught up in that. It’s a death to life story, not just for Jesus, but for us as well. For everyone who sees they need His forgiveness.

So, yeah, Easter has changed enormously for me. Jesus gave me the gift of forgiveness. I hope other people can accept that gift as well.

what’s the goss

with AJ Cross



Congratulations to the Water Buffaloes Touch Football team on winning their first Walcha A Grade premiership since they formed 14 seasons ago in 2011. They defeated A Bit Touched 3-1 in the 2023/24 Grand Final at John Oxley Sportground last Thursday in very wintry conditions. The ‘Buffalo Boys’ were A Grade Minor Premiers in 2015 but failed to qualify for the ‘Big Dance’ that season, but have won the B Grade title on four occasions 2013, 2017, 2018 and 2021. Way to go Buffaloes.

...

No A Grade team has gone back-to-back during the past 11 seasons since Mud Dogs achieved the feat in 2012/13. In the past eight seasons ABT’s have qualified for the A Grade Grand Final seven times winning in 2019 and 2023, while finishing runner-up five times.

...

How time flies when you are having a good time. Touch President Ben Ussher took on the job in 2014 and has just completed his tenth season. He gives plenty of credit to his wife Sonia along with all the other committee members who have helped him during his time as ‘Head Honcho’ of the Association. Good on ya guys.

...

Little wonder why Flynn O’Connell was named Player of the Junior Touch Grand Final last Thursday after his team Black defeated White 8-3. Juniors are only allowed to score three tries each per game which Flynn did but he also threw the final pass for the majority of the remainder of tries. Good on ya Flynn, you certainly deserved the award.

...

The rescheduled Uralla Golf Opens were played last weekend where Walcha Ladies Champion Simoney Sweeney teamed up with her husband

David to win the Mixed open 4BBB par event on Sunday with a score of +9 in the Nett Divison. The day before Owen Presnell and Jon Izzard were runners-up in the Nett section of the Mens Open 4BBB after they racked up 45 stableford points to finish 7 points behind the winners. Last Wednesday at Uralla Doug McDonald won the ‘Wednesday Whackers’ with 41 points on a countback.

...

Last Saturday a few of us helped Rodney ‘Doog’ Newman celebrate his 59th Birthday at Ingleba Hall where most of us stayed overnight. Well done to the people responsible for renovating the hall, it’s a credit to you all. The other thing apparent was the occasion certainly wasn’t under catered for ... there was enough food left over to feed a small army.

...

Well done to the Walcha Roos who plucked the tail feathers of the Gloucester Magpies at John Oxley Sportsground last Saturday. A couple of teenagers, Troy Hawkins and Preston Boyd, certainly enjoyed themselves. Big front rower Troy crossed for two tries, while goal kicker Preston landed five goals and touched down for a try. Troy was awarded 3 Best and Fairest points for his effort, whereas Preston collected 2 points along with Players’ Player. Overall certainly and encouraging start to the 2024 season for the Roos.

...

Still on Rugby League, congratulations to Pool Attendant Jasmine Lynch on her selection in the North West Secondary Girls team to play Greater Western trials at Coonabarabran early in May. Further selection would see Jas head to Wollongong for the NSW Championships later in the year.

...

Big Wig of the Week. B.C. Kristian Rizzi. Picked the Card; Thunderbolts Way Cafe Cindy Swanton; Newie Kate Marshall and Mark Notely; Apsley Fred Henry; Digger Lordanic (all scored 14 points); Walcha Vet Supplies Kyle Goodwin 12.

Plenty of Action at the Woolbrook Stampede

On Saturday 16 March the Village of Woolbrook came alive with the running of the annual Stampede at the Sportsground. With record entries and excellent weather the scene was set for a great day.

In the Walcha Veterinary Supplies Maiden Campdraft John Byrnes and Peter Grills had a run-off. John was successful in taking out the title with Cod. Christine Jones won the Blackjack Grazing Co cut out.



Open winner Carl Green

The next event was the Thunderbolt Equine Novice Campdraft which saw Ben McNaughton and Jigsaw take the win. Ben had to survive a 3-way run off with Jackson Noon Daviros Destiny and Ben's second horse Flora. Ben was also successful in winning the Blackjack Grazing Co cutout.

Brittany Morris and Miss Chic Oa Lena proved to be a successful combination in the Betts Transport Ladies Campdraft. Christine Jones won the Blackjack Grazing Co Cut out.

The Gerard Oversby (Westy's Farrier) Juvenile Campdraft was won by Sybella Miller riding Platinum True Class. Bella also won the Blackjack Grazing cut out. It was a very successful day for Bella.

The Cody Woodward Contracting Junior Campdraft was won by Joshua Bourke riding Xtreme. Joshua also won the Blackjack Grazing Cutout.

In the sporting events around 30 children and adults participated with competition being fast and furious.

Stockman's Chop U/17 title went to Bella Miller. It was then onto the Vic Robson Memorial Stockman's Chop where there were record entries. Yarrowitch Legend Ian Colwell came through for a stirring win showing the younger competitors how it has done.

The John Stanton Trophy which is awarded for Horsemanship, Encouragement and Sportsmanship was won by Bella Miller.

When it came to dog racing there were dogs arriving from all parts of the ground and this provided some great entertainment for the crowd. Kix & Kobie Brown took out the small dog section and then stepped up and won the large dog section as well.

The day concluded with the Final of the Walcha Road Open Campdraft which saw local competitor Carl Green take the win on Ruby. Carl didn't have it his own way as he survived a runoff with David Grills and Pardon. Norm Stagg was successful winning the Blackjack Grazing Cut out.

The committee would like to thank everyone who assisted on the day to make it a huge success: Cattle Donors Joyce Family, Gary and Rhonda Olrich, Brown Family, Amanda Scott and Peter Grills, as well as the generous sponsors.



WALCHA SHOW WRAP UP

By Daniel Kermode, Walcha Show President

The Walcha Show was very impressive again thanks to the efforts of the Committee, Chief Stewards, Stewards and Volunteers.

A stand out for me was a committee wish to get the Grand Parade back up to the standards of years gone by. This was very much achieved and very impressive aided by Guy Lord introducing everyone into the ring and then interviewing everyone whilst in the ring. The positive comment from everyone will see us hopefully doing that again. If so, Hutcheson and Pearce have offered to put a drone way up above the ring to show off that we really are the Royal of the North.

This year I witnessed the huge effort that goes on in the Show office. Thanks greatly to Secretary Dale Weber, Treasurer Bill Fletcher and to Sarah Nivison for helping Bill through mountains of transactions.

Thanks to Quota, Lions, Town and Country and Rotary we were able to bring Jay Allen's Skin Care Truck to the Walcha Show. Jay is very much chasing funding to further the numbers of these skin care trucks on the road so it was very advantageous for Jay to catch up with Barnaby Joyce and Adam Marshall at the official opening.

We elected to do the opening on Friday Night to make the grand parade more fluent, and for people with livestock to bring them out onto the ring without the time delay of the opening which they did in great numbers. Jason Strong an ex-Walcha boy and recent Managing Director of MLA was our Guest of Honour to open the Show. We were privileged to have Jason at the show both days helping out at the cattle judging and offering some of his knowledge to the junior judges.

The Fish Tank truck was well supported at each demonstration and there seemed to be plenty of kids in the Jousting ring on Saturday after the Jousting demo on Friday evening.

Bar takings were in line with other years. A huge thank you goes out to Miles Archdale for running the bar and to all his volunteer bar staff. Thanks also to Hutcheson and Pearce for sponsoring the Bar. On that note Tony Williams and family have sponsored the bar and show for a long time and with Tony no longer with us the Walcha Show Society commissioned a Tony Williams perpetual trophy for best Trade Stand. This year that was won by Double R Trucks and Ag.

Full credit to Grieg Stier for completely filling every trade space available. This was so impressive and a lot of work was done behind the scenes by Jock Fletcher and Grieg to gain sponsorship from these trade companies. Much comment has been made from trades and the public about the number of machinery dealers we had and how impressive it was.

Thanks to Mark Guyot for keeping the tech side of things moving very smoothly around the grounds. The Walcha Show Committee have been very

fortunate to have our The Land Sydney Royal Young Women Competitor (formerly Show Girl) Emily Scrivener as our Publicity Officer. Not only did Emily compete at the Zone final with such grace and poise, she has taken her job as Publicity Officer to the next level.

This year the Show, through Angus Laurie, hosted four pens of ewes in front of the sheep shed for people to view. This run of the sheep comprised the top mobs from the ewe comp held the week before the show. A lot of interest was shown in the ewes and Micheal Lisle won this competition. The sheep shed was a busy place with excellent fat lambs, Merino Sheep and on Saturday the meat sheep.

Whilst this was going on lambs came in and out successfully thanks to Walcha Carrying Co. and Betts Transport for the Speed Shear Friday Night and Sports Shear Saturday. Both events drew the usual strong crowds. Thanks to Tete Petuha and Karina Partridge for organising these events.

Still on sheep there were so many excellent dogs in the yard dog trialing Tony Overton had running. Same said for the cattle dog trialing in the rodeo ring Saturday afternoon/night that Angus Laurie organised.

All the ring events went smoothly thanks to Ring Master Andrew Crawford and helpers. The Rodeo ring, even though a little too dust suppressed, was a lot of fun for young ones on motor bikes in very wet sand. Thanks to James Tickle and Sally Munday for organising their total excitement.

The Pavilion was packed to the walls. This year the hotly contested men's feature cakes were named for fun, then auctioned by former Walcha Elders manager Paul Jameson on Saturday. This raised \$735, so hopefully onward and upward with this. Thanks also to Vicki McIvor for making a fruit cake and donating it to the auction.

There were just under 5000 people through the gate which was fantastic. That number of people make a serious amount of rubbish which was dealt with by Ross and Henry King, Glen O'Brien and Max Ireland.

Importantly this year at the official opening Don Murchie was awarded life membership of Zone 13 by Andrew Hancock Zone President. Stephen King was awarded Life Membership of the Walcha Show Society for his work with wool in the pavilion for 40 yrs by Barnaby Joyce; Andrew Robertson was awarded Life Membership for his work with vegetables in the pavilion for 40 yrs by Adam Marshall. Josh Lockyer was awarded the Next Gen award by Gypsee-Lee Marshall for his services to the Show as a under 35yr old. And of course Emily Scrivener was sashed as our The Land Sydney Royal Young Women competitor 2024 by Andrew Hancock.

I would like to thank the community for supporting the Walcha Show put on for competitors and viewing public. A big thank you to our sponsors and businesses with In-Kind support that makes the show happen and we look forward to doing it again in 2025.

Walcha senior indoor hockey finishes another season

Congratulations to all the teams and players for a wonderful season of senior indoor hockey.

This year we were again able to field 6 men's teams and 15 women's teams enabling us to continue to have a very competitive competition. It was lovely to see many of the teams debuting a new player and all teams provide a ref each week and simply enjoy a good run-around and weekly get-together. It was a lot of fun and a pleasure to watch.

Behind the scenes the committee worked like a well-oiled machine, particularly during the finals. Thank you for a terrific season. A special thank you to Marie Spink, who although was

unable to play this season, gathered and collated team and individual statistics each and every week.

The finals fortnight was hard fought and well contested, making it very entertaining for all the spectators. The Grand Finals were held last Wednesday, and again, the games kept the wonderful crowd of spectators on the edge of their seats! A particularly big thank you to all the finals ref's. Your proficiency and fairness is very much appreciated.

In Women's B Grade, Stick Magnets came away with the win over Rubber Ducks, 7 goals to 3. Women's A1 Grade was won by Pacifika

over Wattsanames, 11 goals to 1. Women's A Grade was fast & furious with Puck It coming away with the win over Splitz, 6 goals to 5. The Men's very entertaining game had the Pub Grubs win over the Ring Ins, 10 goals to 2. Congratulations to all.

Our season culminated with our Presentation night on Saturday with a beautiful meal at the Bowling Club. The following Individual Awards were presented:

Thank you also for the continued support of our wonderful patrons, Phyllis Hoy and Lance Partridge.

Can't wait to do it all again next season!



A Grade winners Puck Its



A Grade runners-up Splitz



Men's winners Pub Grubs



A1 Grade winners Pacifika



A1 Grade runners-up Wattsanames



Men's runners-up Ring Ins



B Grade winner Stick Magnets



B Grade runners-up Rubber Ducks

Most Improved Under 20 Female Player:
Tahlia Bird

Most Improved Under 20 Male Player:
Chayden Hawkins

Most Improved Senior Female Player: Amy Clark

Most Improved Senior Male Player: Jim Boyd

Best & Fairest Female Player: Beta Baumer

Best & Fairest Male Player: Glen Olrich



Individual Awards



Tennis

Round 7 of the Summer Comp was played out on Tuesday 19th in warm conditions.

Birrell: D A Locke, R Bagnall, G Wall and S Blake were too strong for Gadecki: T Whillock, B Hoy (floater), K Smith and A Fox taking the win 35 to 19.

Popyrin: H Thomson, C Ireland, A Barillaro and S Ireland were convincing defeating Rodionava: K Creighton, M Lockyer, J Burgess (floater) and T Gibson 30 to 26.

Purcell: E Blomfield, P O'Brien, D Wall and P Tape defeated DeMinaur: H Locke (floater), C Bruce, R Mathews and M Luchich 28 to 22.

An Eskimo Comp will run from 30th April until 28th May with extensions if the interest to continue is there. It will be doubles climb the ladder format which has been popular in the past. Names to Hyde 0427 780 391, Trev 0459 799 119 or post on our Facebook page. Noms close on Fri 19th April.

The next Club Meeting will be our AGM to be held on Mon 13th May. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you all at the net soon.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday was a day of stroke, putting, monthly mug and our first medal round for treasurer, Sue Partridge's trophy.

Great to see our new players return and to top it off one of the beginners, Anne Martin played the 18 holes and came in the winner with 73 nett. Well done Anne. Great work. The runner up was Pip Monie with a 74 nett, and sweepstakes went to Donna Martin with 75 nett, Pauline Carter 75 nett, Sue Partridge 76 nett, Sally McCormack 77 nett, and Julie Hoad 78 nett. NTP on 3 was Polly Locke, and on 16, Julie Hoad.

Julie Olrich took out both second shots on 9 and 18. Putting was won by Pauline Carter with 26 putts.

The monthly mugs were won by Donna Martin A Grade, Pip Monie B Grade and Anne Martin C Grade.

Today is a Stableford round playing for the IGA trophy.

Bowls

Dad's Army: The ten players who registered for Thursday's afternoon bowls were divided into a game of triples and a game of pairs.

In the triples the chook winners of Barry Kliendienst, Matt Andrews and Simon Porter defeated John McCormack, John Watts and Peter Hayes by 20-11. In the game of pairs Brian Goodwin and Eric O'Keefe were 16-13 winners over Noel Goodwin and Barry Hoad.

The raffle was won by Noel Goodwin.

Twilight: The last round of the twilight was played on Friday evening which saw some very close and interesting results.

Team seven had another close win but like twelve other teams didn't win enough games to take home the chocolates.

The winners were Greg Carter, Mick Bullen and Eric O'Keefe who defeated Matt Hamel, Matt Andrews and Steve Goodwin by one end after they both had the same number of wins.

At the presentation, President Adam thanked Noel for organising the comp and all the players their continued support.

Ladies Bowls

Last Thursday the final of the Minor Singles was played and in a close game that took over 3 hours and 30 ends to

decide the winner with Rosie Aitken prevailing 25-19 over Marg Tickle, congratulations Rosie on your win.

Walcha had three teams playing in the Bendemeer President's Day although the team of Carmel Ryan, Rosie Aitken, and Janice Rizzi won the consolation prize, Carmel Ryan a lucky door and Pam Makeham and Janice Rizzi won spiders.

The draw for this weeks Major Singles is Lyn Burnell v Esther Hunt with Pam Makeham marker. Last Friday Sari Andrews defeated Carmel Ryan in the other Major Singles game. The draw for the 4th April is Sari Andrews v Marg Tickle and the winner of Lyn and Esther's game play Pam Makeham. Social bowls is still on this week.

Roos News

The Walcha Roos kicked off their 2024 Rugby League season with a commanding 46-16 win over the Gloucester Magpies at John Oxley Sportsground last Saturday afternoon.

They didn't have things all their own way though when the visitors had opened up a handy 16-0 lead after 31 minutes before the homeside bounced back.

In the space of seven minutes before the half time oranges were taken the Roos ran in three tries to Cooper Boyd, Troy Hawkins and Preston Boyd who converted the lot to give their team an 18-16 advantage at the break.

Walcha ran in a further five tries in the second half when Beau Hargrave, Cooper Boyd, Troy Hawkins and Ryan Withers all added their names to the try scorers list.

Goal kickers Preston Boyd and Keiran Stiff both raised the flags on two occasions with conversion attempts to finalise the points score at 46-16.

One thing Roos co-coaches Michael Boyd and Jock Abraham would have been pleased with was their team held the opposition pointless during the second session.

At the time of going to print a Group 19 draw hadn't been finalised but the Roos and Jillaroos first competition should be early in April.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla v TAS 2nd Grade

TAS	
W HALL st B Hoy b P Mooney	10
A SWALES c N Endacott b M Harper	9
A BRENNAN c&b D Boyd	39
A STARR c M Harper b N Swan	4
S BROTHERTON lbw W Fletcher	5
M KETTLETT b M Harper	22
S LITTLE c Swan b W Fletcher	5
W GLOVER n.o	24
N FARRELL c J Weame b Harper	2
Totals 132. Extras 9. Bowlings (overs/maidens/wkts/runs)	
Harper 9-1-3-25, Fletcher 9-1-2-24, Mooney 9-3-1-13, D	
Boyd 8-0-1-33, Swan 9-0-1-29, Weame 1-0-0-8.	

Walcha/Uralla

B Hoy r.o A Brennan	1
J WEARNE c N Farrell b A Brennan	5
D BOYD c H Dobson b S Little	15
N ENDACOTT c A Swales b S Little	5
S RAFFERTY c A Brennan b S Little	3
B MOORE c N Farrell b A Formaggin	2
W FLETCHER b S Little	2
B MANSFIELD c A Starr b S Little	0
N SWAN c A Swales b A Formaggin	0
P MOONEY c A Brennan b S Little	3
M HARPER n.o	1
Totals 49. Extras 12. Bowlings (overs/maidens/wkts/runs)	
A Brennan 6-1-2-13, W Glover 5-0-0-12, A Formaggin	
5-2-2-5, S Little 4.1-0-6-14.	
Walcha/Uralla were defeated by TAS 1st XI in the Armidale	

and District 2nd Grade Cricket grand final at Rologas field Armidale last Saturday by 83 runs.

Batting after winning the toss TAS amassed a score of 132 runs off their allotted 45 overs for a loss of 8 wickets. Opener Matt Harper captured 3/25 off his nine overs, fellow opener Will Fletcher grabbed 2/24 from his nine overs whereas Peter Mooney 1/13 Nathan Swan 1/29 both off nine overs and Daniel Boyd 1/33 off eight overs, collected one victim each.

In reply Walcha/Uralla were never in the hunt and were dismissed in their 21st over when one of their former teammates Sinclair Little had Peter Mooney caught with the team total on a very modest 49 runs.

Little sent down 4.1 overs to snare 6/14 as Walcha/Uralla lost their last six wickets while adding just eight runs.

Only one Walcha/Uralla batsman Daniel Boyd bothered the scorers by reaching double figures with 15 runs while the next best was opener Josh Wearne and veteran Nick Endacott who both contributed five runs each.

Walcha/Uralla were looking at going back to back 2nd Grade premiers having defeated Easts in the grand final last season.

At the Nineteenth

Teenage 'Mollydooker' Isaac Stackman, son of 12 time Walcha Golf Club Champion Timmy Stackman, won the monthly stroke medal round last Sunday with an impressive 62 nett which entitled him to the C Grade mug. One shot off the pace was trophy donor and B Grade winner Drew Bird who registered a 63 nett during his first run in that division, while in A Grade Tim Stackman carded a 73 nett to win his section after he produced the best scratch score on the day a five over par 75 which included an eagle on the sixth hole.

Unfortunately for Tim the 'Eagles Nest' sponsored by Darks Plumbing only had one ball in it after having been raided the previous week by Jock McLaren.

As only a modest field of 17 players teed off last Sunday there were no sweepstakes prizes.

Sharpest shooters at the pins were Tim Stackman (3), Isaac Stackman (9), Darren Bird (16) and Barry Hoad (18). Whereas 'Long Drives' sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus were drilled by Willy Brennan (A Grade) Barry Hoad (B) and John McCormack (C).

The putting competition was taken out by Drew Bird who engaged his flat stick on 22 occasions while the coveted 'Most Putts' shirt went to junior member Chadin Hawkins after he counted out Don Brooks and Alex Gill all on 33 points.

Last Saturday Col Higgins accumulated 18 stableford points to win the weekly 9 hole competition but only after he counted out Dion Bird and his son Nixon also on 8 points.

This Sunday is the annual 'Kanga' Cup played under a four person Ambrose format in memory of late member Ray Boyd. All the action commences with an 11.30am shotgun start.

NO ADVOCATE Wednesday 3 April

Due to the Easter long weekend the next edition of the Advocate will be **10 April**

Water Buffaloes 1st A Grade Touch titles

By AJ Cross

It may have taken 14 seasons to do so, but Water Buffaloes won their first A Grade Premiership when they defeated A Bit Touched in their 2024 Touch Grand Final at John Oxley Sportsground last Thursday.

A Grade

Water Buffaloes 3 (Ian Crawford, Ollie Crawford and Thor Crombie 1 try each) def ABT's 1 (Matty Tisdell). **Awards:** Player of the Match Thor Crombie and Player of the season Preston Boyd.

B Grade

Coco Jumbos 5 (Sam Feltham 2, Riley Bloomfield, Tim Baumer and Steve Eveleigh) def Mud Dogs 1 (Ben Ussher). **Awards:** Player of the Match Tim Baumer and Player of the Season Lachlan Brown.

C Grade

Wolka Jets 5 (Kyle Warneminde-Green 2, Ben Gissel, Jason Naylor and Mark Ferguson) def Taipans 4 (Troy Tape 3 and Cole Tweedy). **Awards:** Player of the Match Ben Gissel and Player of the Season Charlotte Mooney.

D Grade

Apsley Ball Tearers 6 (Scott Kirby 2, Jack Thompson, Ben Partridge, Bryden Cook, Adam Tate) def Junior Roos 5 (Hugo Ussher, Simon Wellings, Nathan Ross and Byron Cross) in extra time. **Awards:** Player of the Match Scott Kirby, Player of the Season Hugo Ussher.

Junior

Black 8 (Flynn O'Connell 3, Eli Wellings 2, Shaun Zorjdrager 2 and Angus Fletcher) def White 3 (Kobie Brown 2 and Charlie Lisle). **Awards:** Player of the Match Flynn O'Connell and Players of the Season: Black – Xaphyn Petuha, White – Kobie Brown, Blue – Veja-Lee Petuha, Green – Nathan Ross, Yellow – Kix Brown and Red – Max Lisle.



Congratulations to the Water Buffaloes, A Grade Walcha Touch Football premiership winners for the 2023/24 season.

advocateclassifieds

Funeral Notice

BOYDELL: Margaret Osborne
23/03/2024
Passed peacefully at Riverview Walcha, formerly of North Street, "Riverglade" Walcha and "Caergwrle" Allynbrook. Dearly loved wife of Richard (dec'd). Loving mother & mother-in-law of Richard (dec'd), James & Elizabeth, Ranald, and Holly Maxwell. A cherished grandmother of Amber & Hunter, Forbes & Phoebe. Aged 97 years
Funeral Service to be held at Piddington's Crematorium Chapel, Uralla Road, Armidale
Tuesday, 2nd April 2024 commencing 2pm.
Piddingtons 6772 2288

Public Notices

Walcha Council
Walcha Memorial
Baths 2023/24
Season Closure
Residents are advised that the 2023/2024 swimming season will be finishing on Monday 1 April 2024. The swimming pool hours for the last day are 6:00am to 8:00am then 10:00am to 6:00pm.
Phil Hood, General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

DR GENEVIEVE FREER
Phone 6777 2068 0429 668 583

Public Notices (cont)

Quota Callers Guide RESIDENTIAL listing forms available in the Advocate 10 April.

Meeting

Walcha Junior Indoor Hockey AGM, Thursday 28 March, 5.15pm at Walcha Bowling Club.
.....
R.F.S AGM Ingelba Hall 20 April 10.00am at the hall. All welcome.
.....
Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday 5 April at Miles and Janelle Archdale's garden 'Ashburton' Scrubby Gully Road, Walcha. Cars will depart McHattan Park at 9.30am. Please BYO chair, cup and lunch. Enquiries: D Bazeley 0403 464 865, D Lisle 0429 799 083. New members most welcome.

For Sale

DJ'S SEASONED FIREWOOD – simple stuff, buy it, burn it, keep warm. Bulk only 6m³ or 12m³ loads. Call Dave 0427 335 631.
.....
Quality locally made silage. Contact Peter on 0427 013 133 or 6777 6534.

Raffle Results

W.R.H.S Walcha Volunteer Support Group, 1st B Smith, 2nd C Green and 3rd L Presnell.

thumbs

- 👍 To the Hospital Auxiliary committee for the great catering job at the 'Ellandonan' Clearing Sale.
- 👍 To a great group of people who made up the Walcha Pool Staff and The Walcha Council for assisting me to provide a valuable community service in conducting swimming lessons this season. Your willingness to help me with my equipment, providing assistance in trying to keeping my teaching area free of other swimmers and provide information on pool temperature, was very much appreciated.
- 👍 To Steve at Mountain Motors for helping me with my number plates. Very appreciative of the help. Thank you Steve.
- 👍 To Ron Vincent for his colorful flower pot in front of Pitt Son's, looks lovely.
- 👍 To the Movie *Just a Farmer*. Now showing in Armidale and Tamworth. A must see.

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.

NO ADVOCATE

Wednesday 3 April

Due to the Easter long weekend the next edition of the Advocate will be **10 April**



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church notices



ANGLICAN

Good Friday March 29: Family Service
10.00am

Easter Sunday March 31: Combined with
Presbyterian 10.00am Service.

Only one service each Sunday in April:

Family Service at 10.00am

Phone 6777 2543 or email:

walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Good Friday March 29: 9.30am

Easter Sunday: Combined with Anglican
10.00am Service at the Anglican Church.

Combined church Youth Group in the Hall,
every Saturday 5pm – 7pm.

All welcome. Phone 6777 2539.

CATHOLIC

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 3pm.

Easter Sunday Mass 10.00am.

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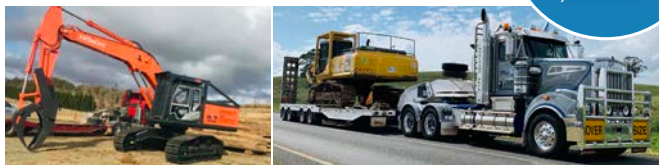
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WALCHA

BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

Thursday 28 12pm – Close

Ladies bowls from 9am
Social bowls from 12.30pm

MEAT & VEG TRAYS

8.00pm Raffles & Members Draw

Friday 29 2pm – Close

CLOSED
FOR GOOD FRIDAY
Raffles will be held on
Thursday 28 March

Saturday 30 11am – Close

6.00pm Bistro

Sunday 31 11am – Close

12.00pm Bistro

12.00pm

MEAT & VEG TRAYS

2-3pm Schooners are \$5.50
members only

Roast of day lunch (senior
card holder get 10% off with
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