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10 April 2024

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World Golf hits Walcha



Left: Walcha golfers Cheryl McDonald, Simone and David Sweeney teed off in the Pro-Am yesterday with Kelsey Bennett of Mollymook, winner of the WPGA Tour's Athena Tournament. Right: Former British Ladies Masters Champion and recent winner of the Women's NSW Open RQ at Dubbo Lydia Hall of Wales teed off yesterday with Col Berry, Dean Sharp and Perc Berry

By A.J. Cross

Walcha Golf Club is hosting the Inaugural Women's World Sandgreen Championships today and tomorrow, where the best female professional golfers and elite amateur players will tee off over the two days.

The tournament has attracted the best players not only from Australia but around the world and will be broadcast live on 7 Plus and SEN. There are 60 players of 10 nationalities, which Olivia Wilson from NSW Golf says is a 'good turnout for an inaugural event' with NSW Golf appreciating the efforts of the Walcha Golf Club in their preparation for the tournament.

A prize pool of \$140,000 is on offer to the professionals while amateurs will receive prizemoney for 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions.

Players require a handicap of 4.4 to enter which unfortunately makes any of our local players ineligible to compete.

Admission for spectators is free and the gates open at 7am each day where a BBQ and bar facilities will be in operation over the two days.

Walcha Golf Club President Allan Green is happy with the way preparations have been going leading up to this event and is hopeful of everything going to plan over the two days of competition.

A Pro-Am event was held yesterday where a number of local players got to rub shoulders with a professional when they played a four person ambrose competition.

Hopefully the weather gods smile over the two days of this World-first to be played on a course that is in great shape. Best of luck to all competitors.

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around the traps



By SIMON NEWTON

Isn't the year just flying by with the Easter long weekend already a week behind us and Anzac Day not far away, which we all know what that means in Walcha! You can feel a change in the evening air and this week the nights are forecast to get down to just 3 degrees. The deciduous trees look great around town as their leaves turn in colour before dropping. Finally, we jagged some decent rain around town with last week's totals anywhere from 100mm north of town, 75mm in town itself and 40mm south of town. Snow is currently falling at Perisher Valley which can only mean a cold snap is on its way, best get your firewood organised.

Last week's front came from the right direction for our district as parts of Queensland recorded big falls of up to 200mm before tracking south. Last Friday, the Northwest Slopes and Plains, Central West and Hunter regions all recorded falls from 50-100mm which fell on some already planted winter forage crops. The crops through these areas will bounce away as the soil temperatures are still quite good which will give graziers a much-needed boost of confidence in fattening some livestock. The forecast ahead for the winter period and into the back end of 2024 looks promising with the La Nina predicted to move back in over the east coast of Australia meaning above average rainfall totals.

More than 25,000 weaners hit the markets last week and prices improved on the back of the widespread rainfall. There are still multiple weaner sales to be held and the purchaser confidence continues to grow with the change in the season. Prior to Easter, the best of the weaner steers was lucky to make \$1200 and the heifers \$750, but just last week steers made well over \$1300 for the heaviest steers on offer while the best of the weaner heifers made to \$1100. In a fortnight the values have risen at least \$150 per head for most weaners which is a huge bonus for producers. Feedlot values still seem to be quite stagnated, but small spot price rises have been seen due to cattle being unable to get to the feedlots due to wet weather.

There has been a dramatic increase in manufacturing beef prices with the 90CL cow trimmings lifting 75c/kg in one day. Our Australian beef trim is flying now and is set to get higher as the beef shortage in the USA takes effect. A rising tide lifts all boats, and we can only expect primal cuts to follow with a lifting of the 90CL trim prices which underpin our entire beef market. I also think it will help our mutton and lamb markets as protein is the real winner and we are looking forward to some prosperous times for graziers, especially if we can get the weather to go with us. We may not have seen a huge lift in our local saleyards in Tamworth on Monday, but the cows were quoted 25c/kg dearer in Wagga on Monday, selling from 240-286c/kg.

The sheep and lamb job continues to slowly gain momentum with lambs to hook hovering around the 700c/kg for trade weights and heavy export lambs around 660-680c/kg. The mutton has improved with quotes of 340-380c/kg now available for mutton going forward.

Tamworth yarded 1365 head of cattle after the Easter break which saw mostly a firm to dearer market across all categories. Weaner cattle back to the paddock remained firm while yearling cattle to feed saw strong gains of 15-25c/kg with steers topping at 357c/kg and heifers to 337c/kg. Heavy cattle to slaughter saw strong gains with bullocks selling to \$2242 for 800kg, heavy heifers to slaughter made 320c/kg for 575kg while the cow market improved 15c/kg topping at 255c/kg. 5800 sheep and lambs were yarded on Monday in Tamworth and saw trade weights sell to \$150, while heavy export lambs made to \$224 per head. The mutton market improved anywhere from \$10-\$20 per head with mutton topping at \$115 per head to process.

If you're a horse racing enthusiast then you would know that Win' first ever filly foal made history on Monday, breaking the world record price as a led yearling for a whopping \$10 million.



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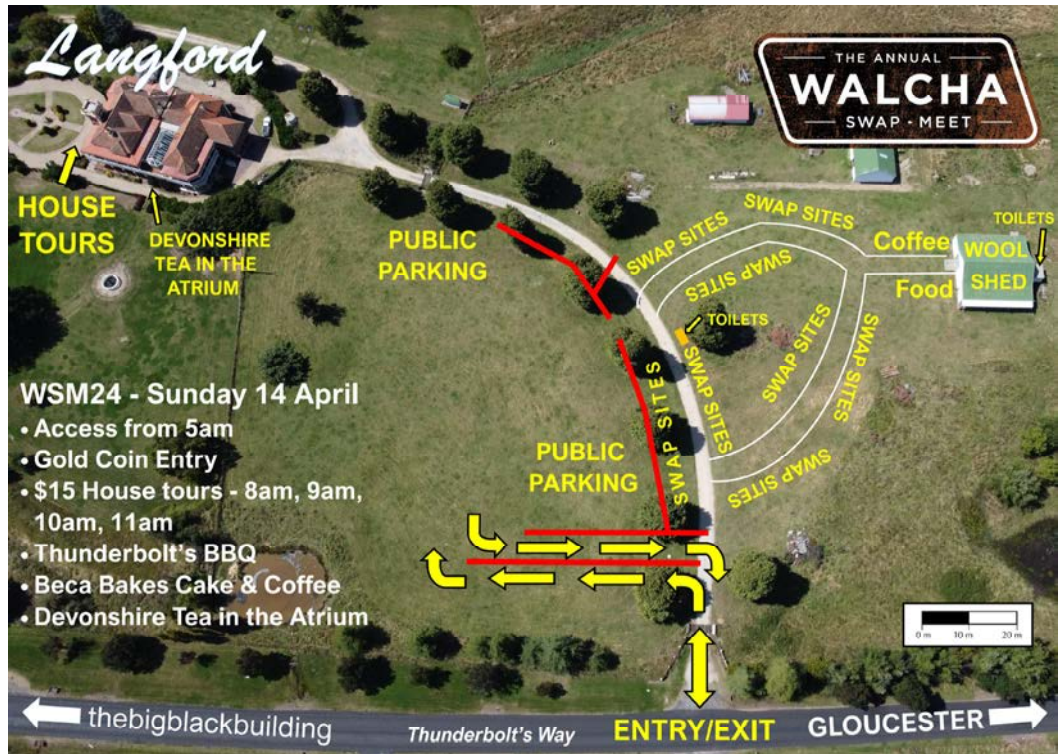
Walcha Swap Meet this Sunday at Langford (aka Walcha Yarner's Market)

This Sunday marks a momentous occasion for treasure hunters as we bid a fond farewell to Langford, the cherished venue of the Walcha Swap Meet. After years of growth and countless memories, this year's event promises to be more than just a gathering - it's an experience not to be missed, especially with Walcha Swap Meet set to merge with another major event in 2025.

Along with hourly tours of the house, we have a special treat for the final year at Langford, with a Devonshire Tea held in the Atrium. For those of you who can't get away from the Swap, there's the Thunderbolt's Way Cafe BBQ, and Coffee & Cakes by Beca Bakes.

Whether you're a seasoned swapper, a first-time visitor, or someone looking to enjoy a day out with a difference, Walcha Swap Meet offers something for everyone. From unique finds, endless yarns, live entertainment, and the warm hospitality that Walcha is known for, this event is a community gathering not to be missed.

If you're looking to claim a spot amongst the array of sellers, there's still time! For those interested in booking a site



WSM24 - Sunday 14 April

- Access from 5am
- Gold Coin Entry
- \$15 House tours - 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am
- Thunderbolt's BBQ
- Beca Bakes Cake & Coffee
- Devonshire Tea in the Atrium

we encourage you to act swiftly. Simply search for Walcha Swap Meet on Google and use the reservation form or call thebigblackbuilding on 0411 713 566 to secure your place.

Don't miss this final opportunity to experience Walcha Swap Meet at Langford. All are welcome and we'll see you there! **Walcha Swap Meet – 7am Sunday, 14 April at Langford**



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Future Drought Fund

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This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Polocrosse action in Walcha this weekend

Walcha Polocrosse Club will hold their annual carnival this weekend at Walcha Racecourse. Games will be played on Saturday and Sunday starting at 8am. Along with all the action there will be a canteen and bar in operation on both days and a two-course dinner on Saturday night. "For some exciting entertainment we are holding a club vs. club Tug-o-War on Saturday evening," Club member, Larissa Wall said.



The Walcha team has already had great success at the first carnival of the season in Inverell, winning the B grade competition with Marlee Wall winning best Number 1.

"Our club continues to grow with three new members joining us this year. The club is looking forward to another great year with ten more carnivals to attend," Larissa said.

"We would like to invite the community to come to the racecourse and watch. The Members car park will be designated as the Visitors car park.

letters to the editor



NSW Farmers Assoc. Walcha Branch needs a new Chairman

At the recent Annual General Meeting the position of both Chairman and Vice Chairman were not filled. I have been in the role of Chairman for over ten years but now other commitments and life generally is getting in the way of performing this role properly.

The position of Chairman is a very interesting and rewarding position. NSW Farmers is a well-known and long established advocate for all farming industries in NSW. As the Chairman of a local branch you are occasionally invited to take on other representative roles related to these industries and rural communities. It is not always necessary to accept these invitations and this is when a Vice-Chairman can further participate on behalf the Association.

You will receive information that is both informative and direct from the source, but as importantly, you have the opportunity to put forward ideas, suggestions and issues from your local area and related industries.

Aside from the advocacy, you will also thoroughly enjoy participation in the local branch, the interesting debates and the opportunity to pursue and resolve issues. The local Chairman is also in a position to meet an extraordinary array of people including local producers, other local advocates, industry representatives and government officials.

As a member of a state organisation, you are well supported by other branches and chairman, past executive officers, a dedicated Regional Services Manager, and a complete team of professionals in State Office.

It opens up many opportunities personally and professionally, as well as being extremely important to the advocacy and representation of our industry.

A Walcha branch meeting will be held on Monday 15th April where nominations for these positions will be called for. If any member is interested please contact either myself or Mark Bulley, or please come to the meeting.

Sonia O'Keefe



Walcha Council

AUTUMN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2024

Tuesday 16 April	Lego Club 11.30 - 12.30: 5-8 yrs 2.30 - 3.30: 9-12 yrs	Building fun at Walcha Library
Thursday 18th April	Storytime at the Park	Stories, games, craft & fun for all ages Lions Park 10-11am
Monday 22 April	 Sphero Chariots	CNRL 'Cool guys' present an awesome hands on workshop at Walcha Library. Ages 8+ 2-3pm
Saturday 27th April	Kids Paint A Bowl Pottery Workshops	Walcha Central MPC 9.30am or 11am \$16pp Book online now 

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Bookings are essential & places are limited!
Book online using QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/kqmvYK8RxBKMSLmak8> or Walcha Council Library 67742550 or library@walcha.nsw.gov.au






Walcha Show Society receives Community Futures Grant

Walcha Show President, Daniel Kermode and wife Carnie, travelled to the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show where they were honoured to accept the Certificate of Excellence and Community Futures Grant of \$25,000 on behalf of the Walcha Show Society. The certificate was presented to them by RAS Foundation Patron, Mr Dennis Wilson.

The RAS Foundation (RASf) announced nine recipients of the Grant, with a total of \$152,000 available to go towards supporting rural and regional community organisations to complete necessary projects.

Successful organisation included the Walcha Show Society, Collinguille Soldiers Memorial Hall, Lithgow Show Society, Visit White Cliffs NSW, Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW Ulladulla, Manilla Pony Club, Adelong Show Society, Lacomalac Soldiers Memorial Hall and Young Minds Thrive, Nambucca Heads.

The Show Society will be putting the funds towards building permanent seating under the BBQ shed at the Showground. Some seating will be constructed from recycled timber from around the Showground in addition to some purchased weatherproof seating.

The Show Society will also donate In-Kind support towards the completion of the project.

After applying for the Grant, short-listed applicants were required to attend interviews via zoom. Walcha Show Secretary Dale Webber and President Daniel Kermode undertook this task and managed to win over the selection panel.



Pictured: Carnie Kermode, Walcha Show President Daniel Kermode and RAS Foundation Patron Mr Dennis Wilson.



We've had our COVID-19 vaccination

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RSVP: 24 April 2024

Presiding officer and supervisors must not have a friend or close relative sitting the HSC at any school or be an employee of the school

Must be available: Tue 15 Oct – Fri 11 Nov 2024

Nominate by link above or email

walcha-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Enquiries to Adam Hall, Deputy Principal,
Walcha Central School 6777 2777

End of an Era

By Dan and Margaret Ward

On Easter Sunday, 24 March 2024, the final church service was held at St Martin's Church Wollun followed by morning tea.

Conducted by the Reverend Matthew Borg, the service was attended by members of the Wollun, Kentucky and Uralla communities. In October 2023, St Martin's celebrated its Centenary at which its 100 year old history was celebrated by a happy gathering with much reminiscing.

The service on 24 March this year was tinged with the sadness of the end of an era. This would have been especially felt by Leo and Judy Blanch and Alison Van Eyk who in latter years have maintained and prepared the church for the monthly service and also by Fay Smith who has been playing the organ regularly for over 40 years. Judy, Leo, Alison and Fay's commitment, like those of earlier generations, is greatly appreciated and has enabled St Martin's to be a place of fellowship and worship for the last 100 years.

Circus and so much more these school holidays

With school holidays kicking off this Friday, Walcha Council have put together yet another action packed program of activities for our youth.

In addition to the Library's Lego Club, Sphero Chariot Workshop and Storytime in the Park, this program has been boosted by NSW Youth Week falling in the first week of the holidays.



To kick off the holidays, Walcha Council's Youth Week Festival will be held on Wednesday 17 April from 11am to 3pm at Peter Fenwicke Oval. The festival will centre around a visiting circus workshop for young people, run by travelling entertainers Laughter House. Local community services will engage with young people through a 'Side Show Alley' with games and activities set up with prizes to be won for those who have a go!

Once the 'circus' has left town, local young people have the opportunity to join the Autumn Road Trip Program, where they can visit 'Wild Nets' and Billabong Zoo in Port Macquarie or Armidale SportUNE for indoor rock wall climbing or check out the new release 'Ghostbusters' movie at Belgrave Cinema. "We encourage young people to organise to come along with a group of friends, to enjoy these great opportunities," organiser, Cassie McKenna said. All road trips are designed for young people aged 12 – 18 years, and will be supervised by Walcha Council staff.

Walcha Council have received support from the NSW Government for both the Youth Week and Autumn Holiday Program. For more information about these activities, and links to book online, see flyers sent to schools, posts on Walcha Library Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as The Apsley Advocate.

Bookings: <https://forms.gle/kqmvYK8RxKMSLmak8>






Walcha Council YOUTH WEEK FESTIVAL 2024

Wed 17th April  **Peter Fenwicke**
11am - 3pm **Oval, Walcha**

Meet your friends at the oval, and experience the big top like you have never before!

CIRCUS DROP ZONE

Come and try the trapeze, uni cycles, hula hoops, spinning plates & refine your juggling skills!

Sessions run each hour, from 11am - 3pm
age groups range from under 13's to 18 yrs

This event is designed by Walcha Youth, for Walcha Youth! Including activities, prizes, snacks, music & selfie station!






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The festival fun is free of charge, thanks to the support of the NSW Government



ROLL UP ROLL UP...

Top three finish for St Patrick's students

Last Thursday, St Patrick's Primary School students, Henry, Bentley, Grace C, Grace S, Adelaide, Jessica, Indie and Claire participated at the Da Vinci Decathlon at The Armidale School.

Competing against some of the best minds from various public and private school institutions as well as competing in a competition like this for the first time, the students had to solve various problems like code breaking, mathematical challenges, poster designs, creating poems and a lot of other unique and interesting challenges. Our team should be very proud of themselves, as they came third overall in their division with notable achievements of placing first in the Maths section, as well as second in Cartography and third in Science.

Thank you to Mr Hyatt for transporting as well as supervising our team on the day as well as Mr Smith who also assisted with the transport. "We are extremely proud of the accomplishments displayed by our school representatives at this year's Northern NSW Da Vinci Decathlon," Principal, Dallas Hyatt said.



St Patrick's students that participated in the Da Vinci Decathlon at The Armidale School: pictured back row: Grace S, Grace C, Adelaide and Bentley. Front: Claire, Indie, Jessica and Henry.



Lions Club supports Men's Shed

Walcha Men's Shed were grateful recipients of a defibrillator thanks to a very generous donation from Walcha Lions Club recently.

The defibrillator is permanently located at the Men's Shed and President Danny Reardon commented on how important this is for the men. "We are an ageing group at the Men's Shed so it's reassuring to have the defibrillator located here," he said.

"What was particularly useful is that we were also instructed on how to use the defibrillator as a part of the donation," Danny said.

Danny is pictured above receiving the defibrillator from Lions John Wark, Peter Boyd and Denis Makeham.

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NEW 2024 QUOTA WALCHA CALLERS GUIDE

- The local phone book covers Walcha and the surrounding areas of Brackendale, Kentucky, Moona Plains, Niangala, Nowendoc, Walcha Road, Wollun, Woolbrook and Yarrowitch.
- Standard listings are FREE.



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Cost of \$50 for first line (name only) of listing to be bold.



LISTING DETAILS *Please print clearly and complete all details*

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First name

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garden clippings



Last weekend's rain was certainly most welcome in many parts of the Walcha district. April is a busy time in the garden. Bulb planting can commence anytime between mid-April to the end of May. Choosing bulbs that are early, mid, and late flowering will extend the spring season.

Fertilise camellias now with a recommended fertiliser to promote their growth and flowering as they become dormant during their flowering. Tall growing perennials can be pruned back at the end of the month and mulched over the winter. Low growing perennials are best left to be pruned in spring as this past season's foliage provides a cover to protect your plants against frost. Move frost tender plants to a location that provides improved protection over winter e.g. geraniums and citrus trees in pots.

April is a good time to apply mulch to your garden. Falling leaves can be raked and added to your compost or mown over and returned to the soil to improve lawn health. A good layer of mulch should be a minimum of 3cm – 5cm deep. Place labels where bulbs have flowered. Autumn is an ideal time to prepare new garden beds for spring and summer too. Why not try a different method when building a new garden bed. A mound bed or Hugo mound is another way of using up any decaying wood debris and compostable plant materials to create a raised bed. This technique helps improve water retention and improves the soil fertility. It also warms the soil so plants grown on or near the mound can benefit. Most gardeners would have built mounds for various plantings, but this method has long lasting benefits. Initially it can be built anything up to a metre or more in height but as time goes on it will break down to a more manageable height. This method can also be used in a bordered raised garden bed. This type of mound building is especially suited to our cold climate. More details can be found on the internet.

April sees the end of the most productive time in our fruit and vegetable gardens. Apple, pear, quince, stone fruit, and persimmon trees are nearly at the end of harvesting. Once this has occurred then it's time to clear away any rotted or mummified fruit from beneath the trees to avoid any fruit fly or fungal diseases in next season's crop. After leaf fall spray trees with lime sulphur and again prior to flower bud burst in early spring. Remember to spray the ground below the tree and out to the drip line or the edge of the tree's width. It's also seed saving time for next year's vegetable season. Choose the healthiest plants, identify them by tagging then and make sure the seeds are disease free. Leave picking your pumpkins until after the first frost, this hardens their skins and improves their flavour and keeping qualities. Leave their stems on to reduce the chance of moisture entering the pumpkin otherwise they will rot very quickly. Keep your pumpkins in a cool, well-ventilated dry area with reduced light. Beware of rat and mice attacking your pumpkins too.

Lament: There is nothing as comparable to it, as satisfactory or as thrilling as gathering vegetables one has grown – Alice B Tolkas.



Sydney Show success for Shalimar Park

At the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show Shalimar Park won the Grand Champion Ultrafine Ram, Grand Champion Ultrafine Ewe, Grand Champion Ultrafine Poll Ewe and the Grand Champion Superfine Ram.

They also won seven Champions, including the Junior Champion August Shorn Ram and the Junior Champion March shorn Ewe.

Pictured right: Anna Thomas and Jack Carlton with Shalimar Park's Ultrafine and Superfine Rams



Flippers finalise their season

By A.J Cross

Walcha Swimming Club held their annual presentations on the last Tuesday the pool was open to reward Flippers members who had performed well throughout the 2023/24 season.

- **The Jess Mathews Most Outstanding Achievement Award** Jasmine Lynch.
- **Clarice Flanagan Award** Emily Zorgdrager
- **Bruce Hunt Patrons Award** Cooper Broadbent
- **Encouragement Awards** Charlie Makeham (Girls) and Connor Sweeney (Boys)

Age Champions and Runners Up

8yrs Girls Champion	Penelope Taylor
8yrs Girls Runner-up	Christina Fontanella
8yrs Boys Champion	Will Lisle
8yrs Boys Runner-up	Harry Fletcher
10yrs Girls Champion	Jess Patterson-Kane
10yrs Girls Runner-up	Grace Smith
10yrs Boys Champion	Ben Lockyer
10yrs Boys Runner-up	Tom Lisle
12yrs Girls Champion	Jess Wellings
12yrs Girls Runner-up	Anthea Taylor
12yrs Boys Champion	Flynn O'Connell
12yrs Boys Runner-up	Angus Fletcher

14yrs Girls Champion	Charlotte Gibson
14yrs Boys Champion	Cameron Mooney
14yrs Boys Runners-up	Campbell Smith and Jake Wellings
16yrs Girls Champion	Bella Mooney
16yrs Boys Champion	Hunter O'Connell
16yrs Boys Runner-up	Jazz Hayton
Open Girls Champion	Jasmine Lynch
Open Girls Runner-up	Bella Hayton

Highest Point Score:

Overall	Ben Lockyer	49 pts
Tadpoles	Mila Tate	31 pts
Frogs	Lianna Whellan	44 pts
Crocodiles	Jess Patterson - Kane	44 pts
Dolphins	Bella Mooney	48 pts
Turtles	Shaun Zorgdrager	44 pts
Sharks	Cameron Mooney	37 pts

Handicap Competition Awards

Chanse Gibson, Eamon Barnes and Florence Davey.

Swimming Club mugs were presented to long time members of the club: Charlotte Mooney (12 seasons), Hannah Swain and Jasmine Lynch (both 8 seasons) and Bella Hayton (7 seasons). Life Members Angus Warden and A.J Cross helped present the Awards.



Mitch's World Championship Tree Final debut



While Mitch Scrivener may have been a little disappointed with his performance at Stihl Timbersports® in Cairns, he definitely made up for it at the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Mitch, who competed across the full twelve days in the woodchopping and sawing arena, made his debut on the world stage by qualifying for the coveted World Championship Tree Felling final on Friday 29 March.

To get there Mitch had to compete in one of two heats for a spot in the final. Once there he was up against 14 times World Champion and Hall of Fame axeman Mitchell Hewitt, current three times World Champion Daniel Gurr, and three return World Title finalists.

In front of a capacity crowd he was determined to put in a good performance and he cut one of the best trees of his life. He was extremely happy with how he climbed and cut, finishing seventh and receiving a World Title broad ribbon.

"It was an absolute privilege to compete against the very best" Mitch said.



Top: A capacity crowd on Good Friday for the World Championship Tree final. Above: On the podium, back row runner-up Josh Adamson (QLD), 2024 World Champion Daniel Gurr (TAS), third Mitchell Hewitt (CAN), fourth Bryan Wagner (QLD), fifth Riley Sheehan (TAS), sixth Blake Meyer (VIC), seventh Mitch Scrivener (NSW) and eighth Hayden Hewitt (QLD). Images courtesy of Head First Photos.

what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Former Walcha Roos President and player, Telecom employee and general knock-about bloke, Roy Goodwin, left this world last week. Roy Boy's daughter Haley has indicated a get-together is being planned for the first weekend in May here in Walcha which is yet to be confirmed – stay tuned. Condolences to all Roy's family and friends. May Roy Goodwin rest in peace.

...

Well wasn't that a road trip and a half when Gary Natty and myself headed to Warilla last weekend where we stayed with former Country Rugby League player Brian 'The Lovemiester' Love at his home facing Warilla Beach. Gary and Kev Creighton met 'Lovey' and a few other fellow supporters when they travelled to the Rugby League World Cup in England last year and the boys thought it was time for a reunion. Unfortunately KC couldn't attend so Gary invited me in his place and that's when the fun began.

...

It was great to meet 'Buddha' 'Robbo' and 'Tommy' who certainly knew how to enjoy themselves especially when there were a few cool beverages involved. During one of the sessions one of the participants was involved in an incident where he demolished an antique foam esky owned by 'Lovey' when he ended up in it. No Gary wasn't the culprit but for more details catch up with him.

...

A few weeks ago local veteran golfer Robert Barr, better known to most as Crichton, must have been thinking about something other than the job at hand when he locked his golf cart away in the cart shed here at our golf course only to suddenly realise his car keys and wallet were still in the cart. With no one else around at the time Crichton decided the only way home was going to be on foot and wasn't he extremely happy to see good samaritan Barry Hoad driving towards him before lending him his key to re-open the shed.

...

Around Easter time my oldest daughter Rachael Lee Wellings was watching the football with other family members and was astounded that a bloke on a motorbike rode onto the field before being chased by a

security person. 'Rach' was soon informed not to panic, that they were in the process of a bunker review at the time and what she was viewing was an advertisement for Menulog.

...

The Walcha pool was open on Good Friday for the first time in at least 40 years, if not since it opened in 1970. Not only that, it was also opened for Early Morning Swimming on Good Friday and then again on Easter Monday, something that has never happened before on public holidays. Good luck to the patrons who took up the offer for a late season morning swim and the attendants on duty certainly wouldn't have minded as they would have been entitled to penalty rates of double time and a half.

...

Big Wigs of the fortnight Apsley: Rd 4 Shane Britten and Billy Cameron 14. Rd 5 Adrian Marchant, Scotty Withers, Scotty Swain and Adam Tate 14. Newie: Rd 4 Petra Evans and Ben Little 14. Rd 5 Liam Brennan 14. B.C: Rd 4 Dazza Bird 14. Rd 5 Matty Hamel, D.G Clare, Kyle Goodwin, Marg M and Jules Hall 14. TWC: Rd 4 Cathy Brooks, Miles Lawrence, Tracey Crisp and Lisa Wratten 10. Rd 5 Martin Wratten and Miles Lawrence 12. Vet Supplies Rd 4 Peter King, Kyle Goodwin, Tahlia Bird, Dion Bird, Jason Scott and Adam Barillaro 8. Rd 5 Adam, Tahlia, Kyle and Jase 12.

...

The Group 19 Rugby League Draw for the 2024 season has been published where with a Bye and also the Tri-series Representative round in May, Walcha, after having a home game in the opening round, now have to wait until Round 7 on 25 May before they play their second home fixture against the Moree Boomerangs. Unless the draw is revised.

...

Congratulations to local Junior Rugby players Bentley Brennan and Kobie Brown on their selection in the Central North Under 12's White squad and also to Flynn O'Connell on being picked in the Central North Under 12's Red team. Good on ya Boys.

...

The weather forecast for the next few days looks good for the Women's World Golf Championships being conducted here at our Walcha course. Spectators are encouraged to watch the event free of charge where they can view professional golfers from around the world. Best of luck to all players.



Tennis

Round 8 the final ordinary round of the 24 Summer Comp was played out on Tues 26th Mar in warm conditions.

Gadecki: T Whillock, D Clark, K Smith and A Fox defeated Popyrin: H Thomson, C Ireland, A Barillaro and S Ireland 29 to 28 in a great close match.

Birrell: M Sweeney (floater), R Bagnall, J Burgess (floater) and S Blake defeated Purcell: E Blomfield, P O'Brien, D Wall and P Tape 29 to 23.

Rodionova: H Locke (floater), M Lockyer, A Blomfield and T Gibson defeated DeMinaur: D Sweeney, E Habermann, T Tape (floater) and M Luchich 32 to 18.

Well done to all teams. The 4 teams playing in the Semi-Final will be Rodionova 1 v Gadecki 4 and Birrell 2 v Purcell 3. Team Captains please make sure your team members are ready to go. Semi-Final Tues 9th April at 7.00pm sharp. See you all at the net soon.

Nominations are now open for an Eskimo Comp to be held from 30th April until 28 May with an extension if players are keen. Noms to Hyde 0427780391, Trev 0459799119 or post on the Club Facebook page. Noms close on Fri 19th April. There will be no Club Meeting this month the next meeting will be our AGM to be held on 13th May. See you all at the net soon.

Wednesday Golf

27th of March results: IGA were the trophy donors on Wednesday for a Graham Betts Stableford.

Captain Cheryl McDonald was our winner with 37 points, closely followed by Sue Partridge with 36 points, and sweepstakes went to Marg Parsons with 36, Donna Martin 36, Cark Street 35, Sal McCormack 33 and Julie Olrich 33.

No-one made it to the sand on Hole 3 and Sal McCormack had the best second shot on 18.

3rd April results: Graham Betts Stableford R.Sall's Trophy. Winner Alison Cameron 34. S/S Marg Parsons 33, Sally McCormack 31, Lorraine Walshe 30, Simone Sweeney 29 countback, Pauline Carter 29 countback. NTP 3 Katie Smith, 16 Donna Martin.

Bowls

29th March results: Dad's Army: We could only muster seven players for the Thursday afternoon comp.

Two games of pairs were played after Simon agreed to play twice.

In the first game Noel Goodwin and Geoff Salt defeated

Eric O'Keefe and John Watts 14 - 6. In the second game Brian Goodwin and Simon Porter had a big win over Peter Hayes and Simon by 24 - 4.

There were no chooks or raffle as we have to have eight players nominate before we play for chooks.

Ladies Bowls

28th March results: Beautiful weather conditions Esther Hunt defeated Lyn Burnell 26-13 in the only Major Singles game played and will now meet Pam Makeham in the semi's.

In a social game of triples Phyllis, Emily and Janice defeated Dennis, Marg Tickle and June 11-7.

Coming up is the Armidale City President's Day on the 16th April, sheet on board to put your name down.

4th April results: Last Thursday bowls was washed out due to the rain so the Match Committee decided to reschedule the games for this Thursday 11th April the draw is Sari Andrews v's Marg Tickle marker Lyn Burnell and Pam Makeham v's Esther Hunt marker June Hayes. Our monthly meeting is on 18th April commencing at 1pm.

At the Nineteenth

Last Sunday a stroke medal round was played for a trophy donated by Brian Lynch where David Sweeney ran out the winner with a 70 nett which entitled him to the A grade mug.

He also carded the best scratch score 8 over par 78 as well defeating Jamie Bowden 3 and 2 in Match play.

Former junior champion Nixon Bird won B Grade with 72 nett while Peter Norbury took out C Grade on countback from James Norton both on 76 nett. Long drives sponsored by Tony 'Backhand Larry' Asmus were caressed by Will Brennan (A), Owen Presnell (B) and James Norton (C) who also defeated John McLaren 3 and 2 in match play. Sharpest Shooters at the pins were Andrew Crawford (9) and Nixon Bird (16).

Sweepstakes went to Wayne Brennan 72 and Don Brooks who also won the putting competition with 22 putts while James Norton tailed the most with 35 jabs.

The Sunday before that Gus and Pip Monie teamed up with Lee and Ruth Fletcher to win the annual 'Kanga' Cup Memorial after they registered 55^{1/2} nett.

Sweepstakes were collected by Will Brennan, Neil Dark, Don Brooks and Barry Hoad 57^{2/3}, Drew Bird, Simone and David Sweeney 59^{5/6}, Will Nicholls, Jock, John and Charlie McLaren 60^{1/2}.

Most accurate tee shots at the pins were played by

Jillaroos

Walcha Jillaroos were defeated 22-6 by Inverell in their opening game of the 2024 Group 19 Ladies League Tag season at John Oxley Sportsground last Saturday.

Inverell skipped away to a 14 nil lead after 19 minutes which they held on to until half time having scored three tries and one conversion during that period of play.

Spectators would have barely had time to finish their hot dogs when the Jillaroos ran in a try to Jojo Matapakia converted by Maddie Lance reducing the deficit to 14-6.

That was all she wrote for the homeside whereas the visitors crossed for two more touch downs to finalise the scoring at 22-6.

Coach Kevin Creighton was very happy with his team's performance considering how many inexperienced players are in the squad.

Club Best and Fairest 3 Jojo Matapakia, 2 Jordan Steel and 1 Timika Towney.

Players Player - Caitlan Harris

Group Best and Fairest - Jordan Steel

Roos News

The Walcha Roos opened their 2024 Group 19 Rugby League campaign with a 22 all draw against Inverell at John Oxley Sportsground last Saturday.

They had opened up an early 8-0 lead after just 13 minutes through tries to Zac Walters and Keirin Stiff which was they way it stayed until the half time oranges were called for.

The homeside increased their advantage to 14-0 after Tom Cooper touched down and Preston Boyd raised the flags with his conversion attempt.

Inverell hit the front 16-14 when they scored three times two of which were converted midway through the second stanza.

Walcha bounced back by way of a try to Jack Doran to lead the visitors 18-16 before the Hawks responded with a touchdown of their own which was converted for them to lead 22-18.

With just two minutes remaining on the clock Walters scored his second try and as the conversion attempt was unsuccessful the scores remained at 22 all.

Players player - Zac Walters shared the award with Ashton Jones who picked up 2 Group points from the referee.

This weekend the Roos and Jillaroos head to Armidale to battle with Narwan.

Tourism Insights – Autumn 2024

By Tourism & Visitor Information Centre Coordinator Lisa Kirton

Autumn is such a wonderful time of year and a popular time for visitors to Walcha. Walcha Tourism has been busy promoting Walcha as a desirable destination to visit all year around.

It is wonderful to see visitor numbers increase again now that the Oxley Highway is open for daily travel. The road closures have a significant impact, in particular, on our tourism businesses so we are pleased that there are no plans in place to close the road again any time soon.

Local business co-owner of Wood We Create, Fiona Barden, has started a networking group for local business. The first meeting was held last month with a good turnout, and plenty of ideas and enthusiasm. Walcha Tourism are looking forward to liaising with Fiona on this great initiative

and assisting in any way we can.

Walcha Tourism staff maintain a business directory on the tourism website for local businesses www.walchansw.com.au/businesses-in-the-area If you are a local business and would like to be listed or if you have a listing and it needs updating, please get in touch with us.

Our Autumn Colours of Walcha Photography Competition is well underway. This being the first year of the competition, images from previous years will be accepted. There is \$500 worth of prizes for winning entries. Entries can be emailed to tourism@walcha.nsw.gov.au or uploaded via the link on the competition information page at www.walchansw.com.au/whats-on If you have any questions please contact us on phone 6774 2460.

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

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

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

Please remember to support our wonderful local businesses where you can. It has been sad to see a couple of local businesses close down recently. We are very fortunate to have such a great range of services and retail on offer here in Walcha so please support them.

If you are hosting visitors these holidays then please come in and see us at the Visitor Information Centre for some inspiration. We have a variety of handouts for Walcha dining options, retail, attractions, bushwalking, as well as maps and brochures. We also have Free-loan-a-Bikes available. We're here to help and are open every day except Christmas Day.

Bush Fire Danger Period ends

The Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) ended on 31 March in 36 Local Government Areas (LGAs) including Armidale, Uralla and Walcha.

Fire agencies and land managers in these areas where the BFDP has ended will now turn their attention towards conducting hazard reduction works, which includes planned burning across many areas of the state where and when possible.

Inspector Matthew McKean said, "all members of the public must still abide by the law when conducting burning activities."

"From Monday 1 April 2024, fire permits will no longer be required for the Armidale, Uralla and Walcha Local Government Areas and all

other areas outside the BFDP," Inspector McKean said.

"Even though a fire permit is no longer required, residents must still notify their neighbours and the local fire authority no less than 24 hours before burning. Before lighting up, people should also have sufficient equipment on hand to control and contain the fire to their property and call Triple Zero (000) immediately should the fire escape their capability."

You can notify the RFS of your intention to burn online at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/notify.

More information is also available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP

advocateclassifieds



Death Notice

GOODWIN: Roy

04 April 2024

Formerly of Walcha

Father of Hayley, Gina and grandfather of their families.

Brother of Geoff, Don, Gwen (Coleman) (all DEC).

Son of Rachael and Ernie Goodwin.

Sadly missed.

Public Notices

DR GENEVIEVE FREER

Phone 6777 2068 0429 668 583

Church Service Woolbrook Church, 2pm this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes 677 2539.

FLU CLINICS – Drive Through

Walcha Showground, Derby Street Entrance, Thursday 18 April and Thursday 2 May. Appointments essential. Ph 6777 4293.

Tennis Eskimo Comp 30 April to 28 May. Noms by 19 April. Hyde 0427 780 391, Trev 0459 799 119 or post on Club Facebook page.

40th Bendemeer Art Show: Entry forms close Monday 15th April. Online www.bendemeerartshow.org

The Barber Shop will be closing the first week of the school holidays. Closed from Friday 12 April to Tuesday 23 April. Thank you, any problems please call me on 0421 277 654.

Meetings

Nowendoc RFS AGM 20th April, 2pm at fireshed. All 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.

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Layer pullets, all breeds, 20 wks. Delivered Friday 3.5.24. Phone Jim 0428 194 105.

Firewood Top of the range dry wood in log form. Delivered to town. Ph John 0427 500 110.

White Suffolk Rams Top Farrer genetics. Maryland White Suffolks. Phone Angus 0427 787 332.

Position Vacant

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This is a permanent full-time position, responsible for the management and maintenance of Council financial systems. For more information, please see the Position Description when you apply. You will hold relevant qualifications and industry experience. Starting wage is negotiable for the right person depending on your qualifications and the expertise that you can bring.

We also offer all the usual great benefits of working in Local Government.

We are on a journey together to make Walcha Council the best possible and most desirable workplace it can be, and you will play a vital part in this journey.

For More Information

See the Position Description when you apply or contact Mike Lockie on 02 6774 2500

To Apply go to <https://bit.ly/3A30YDc>
Applications for this position close Monday 22 April 2024

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Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

Raffle Results

Friends of Riverview Street Stall Peter Sendall – Fuel Voucher, Herbert Higgins – Cross Bros Butchery Voucher, Denise Miller – Fruit & Veg Tray. Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the stall.

Thank you

Thank you to the Walcha Community for once again supporting our Street Stall for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Walcha Volunteer Support Group on the 22 March last. Thank you to Brian Smith for generously re-donating 1st prize back to the Service.

thumbs



👉 To Thunderbolts Cafe for a great choice of seafood on Good Friday.

👉 Thank you to Stephen and all the Walcha Council mowing crew for making Walcha Road cenotaph and district surroundings look even more beautiful. It makes such a difference.

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



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church notices



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Holy Communion 7:30am

Holy Communion and Family Service
10:00am

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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Friday 12 2pm – Close

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- Baked Orange Citrus Fish
- Normal menu available, takeaway & delicious desserts

6.00pm Free Bingo

6.00pm Tickets for raffles

MEAT & VEG TRAYS

8.00pm Raffles & Members Draw

Saturday 13 11am – Close

6.00pm Bistro

Sunday 14 11am – Close

12.00pm Bistro

12.00pm

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2-3pm Schooners are \$5.50 members only

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