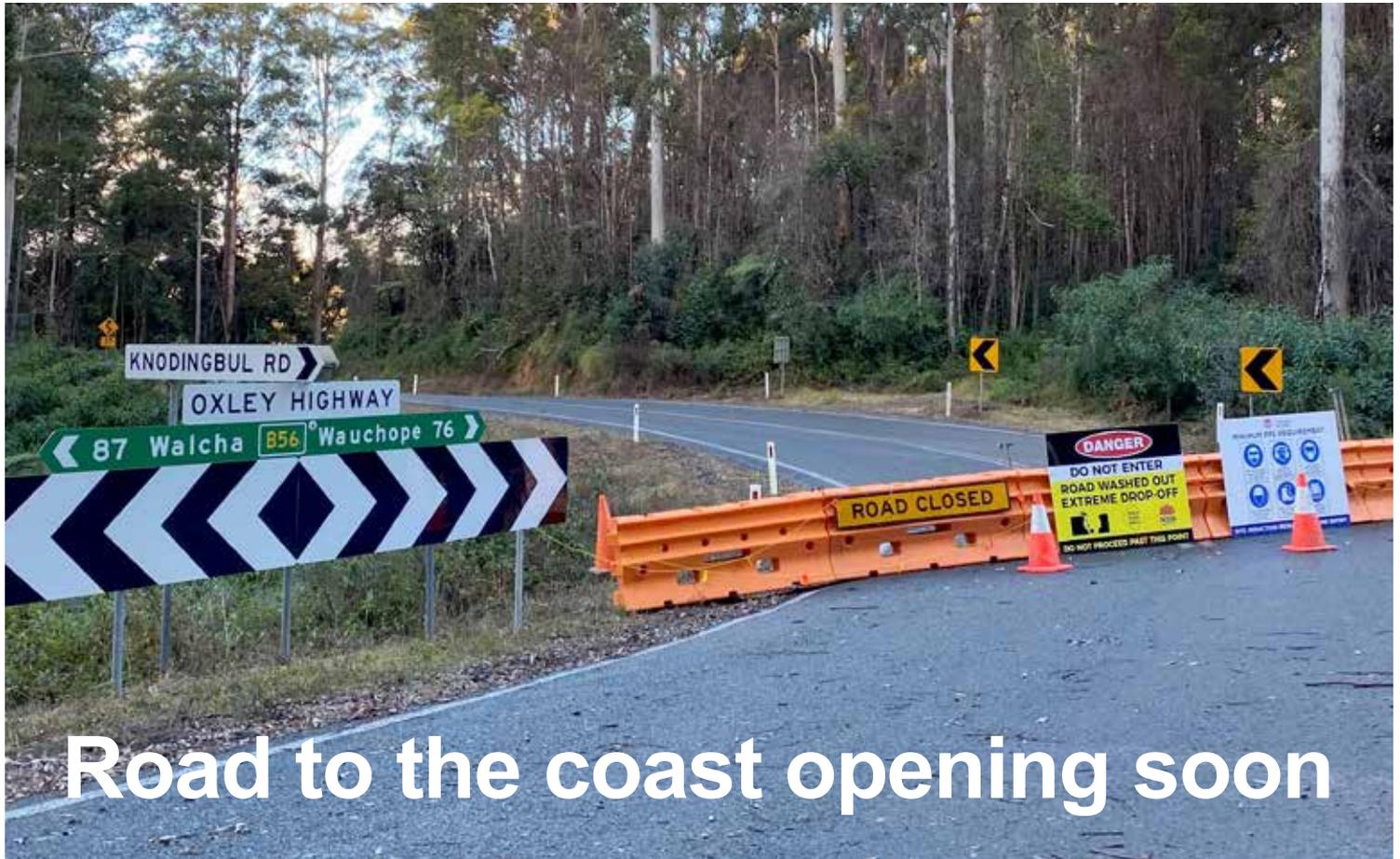


THE APSLEY Advocate

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07 July 2021



Road to the coast opening soon

Access to Port Macquarie via the Oxley Highway is on-track to open to a single lane later this month. The road has been closed since Friday 19 March following over one metre of rainfall in the area which created around 70 landslips, ten of which are major.

In an update provided by Transport for NSW last week, they said the main areas of damage are in the mountainous stretch between Long View and Ralfes Creek. "At least five of the slips have caused major damage below the highway, and these will be the most challenging to repair," they commented.

"We are working to re-open the section from Mount Seaview Road to Gingers Creek to single lane in July," Transport for NSW said.

The work includes stabilising the ground under the road at the two largest slip sites by 'soil nailing'. This involves pinning the soil and vegetation onto rock with long steel nails, steel mesh and a concrete facing.

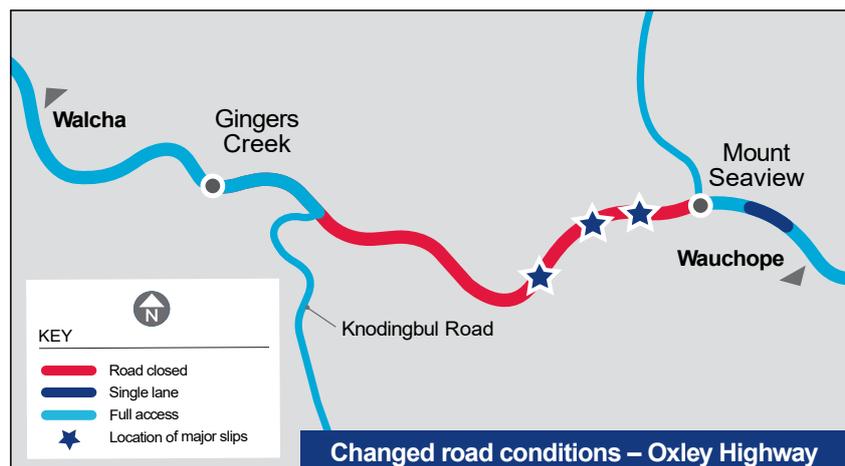
Soil nailing will allow the road to open to a single lane shortly, however in several sections where the part of the road formation has been lost, restoration of the road to the original

width will require further investigation and design. "This full restoration work to re-open the road to pre-flood conditions will take about two years to complete," Transport for NSW said.

During the closure locals have been accessing Wingham and Taree via Wherrol Flat, and Port Macquarie via Elands and Comboyne by using the Knodingbul Road. Reports are that this road, located 87km east of Walcha on the highway, is currently in excellent condition. While you can also access the Knodingbul Road via a shortcut through Stockyard Creek, this section of dirt road has seen several travellers bogged, so motorists are advised to err on the side of caution and travel down the highway a few more kilometres to the Knodingbul turn.

Investigations along with engineering trials are being carried out to determine the best way to stabilise the sections that have slipped to the best course of action to allow the road to open to two way traffic.

This is expected to be complete by May 2023 with updates provided by Transport for NSW to the Walcha community as the project progresses.





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around the traps



By Bruce Rutherford

At this point the end of winter looks a long way off! Cold temperatures are much more the norm right now and stripping some of the condition from livestock grazing on native pastures. The next five or six weeks are going to be much of the same and with any luck that time will go just as fast as the year has gone so far.

Rain events have been very regular through June and the country does not dry out at this time of year. I think it is as wet as I have seen it since we arrived in New England in the mid 80's. I was recently talking to one senior local grazing identity who told me he couldn't remember it being this wet since he was at school. When asked, he would not elaborate when that was, but suffice to say it was a good while ago! It is actually a challenge getting around some of the lighter country without causing some serious damage to the topsoil. Creeks are running where they have not done for many years and the bigger streams have a lot of water in them. It all looks too good for spring, but every day we get closer.

Over the last couple of weeks we have not seen a lot of change in livestock markets, but trends are still positive for cattle and steady for sheep and lambs. Cattle numbers through saleyards are running about even with the numbers being yarded over the last few years at around 50,000 head per week. When you take a look at the numbers of cattle being slaughtered though, it is a different story, with numbers through plants lower than the previous two years by a significant amount. Compared to 2019, current slaughter numbers are only about seventy five percent of the number being processed then. It is little wonder in this COVID time that our domestic brands are driving cattle prices in that instance.

Physical cattle markets continue to be dominated by feeders and restockers although despite not all export operators playing the game, we are seeing some life coming back into export cattle. Best heavy cows were quoted as selling to 365 c/kg and averaging 350 c/kg in Wagga this week while heavy steers sold to 442 c/kg to process. Tamworth yarded just over 1000 cattle on Monday for a market quoted firm to dealer.

I would have to say our market analyst Simon Quilty may be feeling like he has got it wrong at this point in the year, although there is a long way to go. For those who attended his meeting in Walcha earlier in the year, his predictions that the EYCI had all but peaked at around 880 c/kg and a soft landing towards year's end with values to come off by about seventeen percent, are looking shaky. The EYCI is currently sitting at 944.5 c/kg, which is amazing, and feedlots continue to push values far beyond expectations. If the market is to come off by the end of the year, it is showing little sign of it at the moment.

Sheep and lamb prices are an interesting read when you have a look at the numbers as well. Slaughter numbers for lambs are higher than they have been for some years as winter bites and numbers continue to flow. Sheep numbers being processed are sitting somewhere in the middle of the last two years. Numbers through saleyards have not increased like the slaughter numbers, but saleyard indicators are higher than those compared to the same time last year. However, the interesting feature of the stats is that all the OTH price indicators are lower than the same time last year. That is confusing in my view, but maybe it is right. I also noticed that NSW saleyard indicators are higher than VIC indicators, but that may come down to a couple of markets that carry the most weight in the numbers. In any event, it is an interesting time.

You will note that the boys at Boulton's have their third On-Line farm machinery and plant auction coming up at the end of the month. These sales have been such a great outlet for machinery that is parked in the shed and no longer in use, but I have noted in other sales buyers are becoming more selective. They are no longer buying the junk. If you do have something you are interested in listing, there is still time. Just give Miles, Simon or Mat a call and they will sort it out for you.

Bull sales are just around the corner and I can't believe we are there already. So it is time to start thinking about, and looking for sires for this year. Once again there are a number of local studs (some new to the sale experience) selling bulls over the next couple of months. Keep an eye on the Advocate for sale dates and times, or just ask your agent, but the local studs need and survive on your competition. All indications are so far, there are plenty of people looking to buy bulls, with southern sales very strong. But the local studs need local buyers.

Katie in green and gold at Tokyo

Allan and Jenny Laurie will be glued to the television when their daughter-in-law Katie Laurie jumps for Australia at the Tokyo Olympics later this month.

Katie will be a member of the second largest team to leave Australia's shores, with 472 athletes competing in Tokyo.

Katie will ride Casebrooke Lomond (nicknamed Sparky), which she owns with husband Jackson and Sheena Ross, and will be assisted by groom Ashlyn Cuku. Katie has ridden Casebrooke Lomond throughout his entire 10 year career, taking on the ride when the horse was just three.

Katie's show jumping team mates include Sydney born and European-based Edwina Tops-Alexander, Jamie Kermond who is based in Ebenezer NSW, and reserve Rowan Willis who has been making his mark on the international show jumping scene.

Katie's Whispering Oaks Equestrian business was based in Armidale while in Australia, before relocating to Canada 18 months ago with Jackson and their two young children Grace and Royce. Since their move Katie has been on the podium at major equestrian events across Canada and America, and with numerous wins and consistent podium finishes caught the eye of Australian selectors.

Katie represented New Zealand in show jumping at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Her father Jeff McVean will be thrilled she is representing Australia in Tokyo, as he competed for Australia at the 1984 Summer Olympics and the 1988 Summer Olympics before moving to New Zealand in 1990.



Top: Katie pictured with her father Jeff McVean and husband Jackson Laurie. Above: Katie competing on Casebrooke Lomond at AELEC during her time in Australia

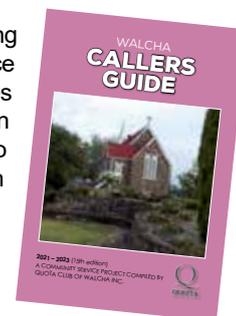
New Callers Guide on sale

The Quota Club of Walcha is proud to announce that the new Walcha and district telephone directory, Quota's Walcha Callers Guide is now available for purchase from the following outlets: Thunderbolts Café, Walcha Post Office, Marta's Kitchen, Walcha Newsagency and the Telecottage.

This Thursday July 8 it will also be available from Quotarians at the Street Stall in Fitzroy Street. It is \$8.00 per copy, cash only.

The Club would like to thank all the businesses who took out advertisements or had a bold listing. Without your support we would not be able to produce this very handy, easy to read telephone directory for our district. The Walcha Telecottage has also done a very professional job designing the advertisements and producing the guide.

As well as providing a community service it also provides funds to use in the community to support our women and children and families in need. Lyn Smith Quota President



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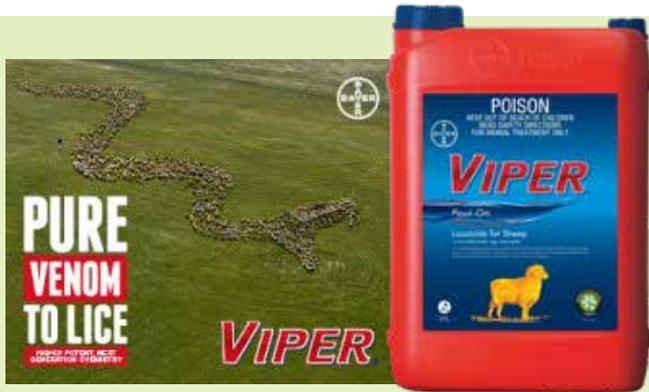
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Poultry Show here this weekend

By Lance Partridge

Walcha Poultry Club President, Lachlan Brown is confident that with a strict COVID Plan in place the Club can stage a successful annual Show this weekend.

Entries are to capacity with over 600 birds already entered. With the success of the Australian Pit Game Show held at Walcha two weeks ago, and the Tamworth Annual Show last weekend, it shows how keen the poultry showmen are, under these trying conditions.

The Walcha Club did not hold their Annual Show last year because of COVID restrictions and again we will be vigilant with the conditions under which we can hold this year's Show.

Pictured is Carlos Gonzalez preparing for this year's show. Carlos is one of three active patrons of the Walcha Poultry Club and was also successful with entries in our Australian Pit Game Show held two weeks ago.



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Walcha Wood expands

Angus Burnell and Jim Gehrke are now able to cut dimensional timber and much more at Walcha Wood following the purchase of a Lucas Mill, a hardwood band saw and a Wood Wizz levelling table.

"If you have some timber put aside for a project we can help prepare the timber for you, or cut that bit extra you need for a job," Angus said.

The 10 inch Lucas Mill cuts dimensional timber, and when combined with the Wood Wizz levelling table, Angus and Jim can cut and prepare timber of all shapes and sizes for projects large and small.

The have been operating the business now for over five years. They still also offer on-property wood splitting using their portable splitter.

Enquiries can be directed to Angus on 0427 787 332 or Jim Gehrke on 0419 105 644.



The 10 inch Lucas Mill



Hardwood Band Saw



Jim Gehrke putting the Wood Wizz levelling table to the test

thumbs



- 👉 To Quota Club of Walcha for producing such a wonderful Callers Guide once again and with the beautiful front cover of our Old Stone Church.
- 👉 To Simon Blake for being an exceptionally generous firewood supplier.
- 👉 To Cassie and her team running the school holiday program. Fantastic activities which the kids have been loving.
- 👉 To the new footpaths around town. Making for some great walks.
- 👉 To the bigblackbuilding and its wonderful range of traders.

Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must include your name and contact details.

They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.

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New look for Lions Park and Skate Park

Walcha Council received a funding windfall last week when it was announced we will receive \$410,554 to upgrade Walcha Lions Park and \$866,962 to renew the Skate Park, including a new metal picket fence around Peter Fenwicke oval.

This money is a part of the Commonwealth and NSW funding for Local Economic Recovery projects and was announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, along with Member for Tamworth Kevin Anderson.

Walcha Councillor, Rachael Wellings said she is really excited about both projects and explained that the Lions Park will feature farm-themed equipment. "We will also install new seating and pathways to make sure everyone can watch and play together, but the most important feature will be fencing around the perimeter which has been needed for a long time with the park being situated on the highway," she said.



AN EXCITING PROJECT FOR WALCHA
New farm-themed equipment will be installed at Lions Park following the announcement of funding last week

Walcha Skate Park will also get a 'new look' thanks to the \$866,962 in funding. The park will be extended to include more equipment, as well as being re-surfaced. "We will replace the existing skate ramps with skate elements which will allow children of all abilities to use the facilities," Rachael said. The park will be extended to include a half basketball court, undercover seating and CCTV cameras. "I have been working on this project with the Walcha Youth Advisory Committee for four years and the cameras were a feature they asked for," she said. There will be added pathways and landscaping to make the skate park more user friendly and attractive.

"Council and the community of Walcha are delighted to receive this grant money to revitalise two important open spaces within our town. The work the Lions Club have carried out on their park will be complemented with this upgrade and the skate park and its surrounds will make it a far safer and usable area. Both will provide an area for families and our youth to utilise our outdoor areas. Out of adversity comes some good outcomes. We appreciate our local members, Barnaby and Kevin for their advocacy and tireless work in our funding endeavours," Mayor Eric Noakes said.



Bowls

Congratulations to Allan Goodwin who is this years B Grade singles champion after defeating Tony Asmus 31-11.

Fred and Kyle played at South Tamworth on the weekend in the Zone President reserve pairs they defeated Wee Waa in the first game 27-15 and went down in the semi final against Lightning Ridge 22-13.

Draw for this weekend: Saturday A Grade Singles Semi Finals 1:00pm start: K Goodwin v F Cameron, marker A Goodwin. S Goodwin v A McGuffog, marker T Asmus. Sunday 11:30am start: Mixed Pairs S Andrews & K Goodwin v E Hunt & B Goodwin. Our state Pennant finals have now been rescheduled due to COVID. We will now play on 10, 11 and 12 September.

Wednesday Golf

Wednesday 23/6, saw a par event played for Vicki Szpitalak's trophy. The winner on the day was Pip Monie with -1, closely followed by Jill Burnell -2, Cheryl McDonald -2, Simone Sweeney -2, Sal Rutherford -3, Vicki Heffernan -3, Margaret Davidson -4, plus Sally McCormack.

There were no nearest the pins on the day.

Great to see golf go ahead last Wednesday 30/6, playing the Town v Country competition for Cheryl McDonald and Donna Martin's trophy. The winners were Town 4 to Country 2. Pauline Carter was the daily winner with 38 stableford points closely followed by Margaret Davidson with 37.

Sweepstakes went to Cheryl McDonald 33, Vicki Spzitalak 31 on a countback, Jenny

Lisle 31 again on a countback and Penny King 31, also on a countback. Nearest the pin was on hole 3, but no-one reached the sand. Second shot on 18 was won by Sue Partridge, and Penny King claimed the second shot on 1.

Today's game is the NSW 2 ball Keno qualifier for Penny King and Polly Locke's trophy and next week 14 July, is a Graham Betts Stableford playing for Ruth Fletcher's trophy.

At the 19th

Former club champion Tim Stackman, his left handed 11 year old son Issac and uncle Michael Stackman teamed up to win the annual 3 person ambrose event after they registered a 58⁵⁸ which entitled them to trophies donated by Simeon Cross and David Dunn. Runners-up were junior club champion Nixon Bird, his father Dion and Mel Clark on 60 nett, while Neil Dark, Don Brooks and Steph Sweeney ran third on 61¹⁶.

The remaining sweepstakes prizes went to Miles Archdale, Ross King and Bruce Rutherford 62¹⁶ Craig Morgan, Lee Fletcher and John Farrar 62²³ Angus, Pip and Ross Monie 62²³ Bill Duncan, Deon Lawrence and Jack O'Hara 62¹⁶.

Sharpest shooter at the third pin was Bob Denniss whereas no player was clever enough to reach the beach on the 18th.

A field of 45 players teed off last Sunday while 10 competed in the weekly 9 hole competition last Saturday where Brian Wall accumulated 16 stableford points to win the men's division from Allan Laurie on 14 pts.

Ladies winner was Vicki Heffernan after she racked up 12 pts to sneak home in front of Sue Partridge on 11. N.T.P. on 3 went to club secretary Jenny Lisle.

This Sunday is a stroke medal round for a prize supplied by Doug McDonald the same day the Gunnedah Open is scheduled.



RUGBY REPORT WALCHA V SCONE

By Eric the Spider

The Walcha Rams were set to take on the Scone Brumbies in what was described as being a must win game to get their season back on track and to keep the "Gravy Train" rolling. The game started with Walcha claiming possession from the kick off and immediately testing the Scone defence rumbling the ball up field putting together a number of phases. The backs then decided that there had been enough "rumbling" and the ball was passed out to Patty "The Ugly Keen" who fended a would be defender and took off out-pacing the fullback and scoring an early try for the Rams. An excellent start for the Rams. An error from the restart gave Scone an opportunity to attack the Walcha line. The Walcha Rams continually repelled the Scone attack with some big hits from Jack "Tacey" Ticehurst that led to a trademark turnover from Toby "from Congi". The Walcha Rams were able to exit their own end and start applying pressure back onto the Scone defence. A slick set move that contained a no look "tip on" and a bounce pass saw Charlie "The Muscle Man" Keen streaking away up the touch line to score Walcha's second try. Walcha would go into the halftime break leading 17-0.

The second half began with Walcha reclaiming the ball from the kickoff and putting Scone under pressure again. Walcha's scrum dominance thanks to Henry "loved up Les" Leslie and Tom

"Sausage Specialist" Hoy gave the backs a great platform to attack. Dom "Skate Rat" Bower took full advantage with a trademark "show and go" slicing through the defence and scoring a try for Walcha. The Rams began to take control of the game as the Scone players' fitness was exposed. Big runs from Sandy "Ol Bull" Cameron and Lachie "Holzie" Holz provided good go forward for Walcha. The bash brothers Edgar "mates call me Bragsy" Brag and Sam "The Congi Cowboy" Agar had big games tackling everything in sight and getting through a huge amount of work across the paddock. Angus "Ockenhausen" Mactavish provided a lot of energy from behind the forward pack and some good defence. Wally "The Slippery Somerton Sheep Breeder" Davidson had a great game in the backs distributing well and providing good support for the forwards. Hamish "Cowbell" Bell had his best game in the red and white making a number of streaking runs along the touch line and making great decisions in defence, earning himself the "players player" award. Walcha ended up being too strong for the travelling Scone team winning the game 44-12.

This week Walcha takes on the ladder leaders Narrabri away in what is shaping up to be an important clash for the Rams.

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DRAFT INVESTMENT POLICY



The Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2021 approved the Draft Investment Policy. This Policy will be on public exhibition at the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street Walcha until 5:00pm on Friday, 30 July 2021 and on Council's website: <http://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/news.aspx>. During this time written submissions on the Draft Policy will be received by Council.

Barry Omundson, General Manager.
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Meetings

Walcha Ex Services Club – Special General Meeting 18 July at 11am to decide and vote on the tender process.

Walcha Bushmen's Campdraft & Rodeo Association AGM will be held 7pm Wednesday 21st July at WVS board room. RSVP is required to ensure maximum numbers are not exceeded. RSVP to Gemma Clarke 0407 203 198 or wbcra@outlook.com. All positions will be declared vacant. All welcome to attend. **Please note change of date.**

Raffle Results

Walcha Golf Club Wood raffle was won by Irving Greig and Herb Higgins. Many thanks to everyone for their support.

Nowendoc Memorial Hall Raffle. Wood won by A White and L Lockyer. Food basket won by J Lockyer

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DEADLINE MONDAY 4.30PM.

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WALCHA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB

JULY

Thursday 8

9.30am-10am – No ladies bowls

1.00pm – Social Bowls

Friday 9

2.00pm – BINGO

6.00pm – Bistro

Saucy Pork Chops

Grilled Salmon with warm Pumpkin Salad

Double Beef and Bacon Burger

All meals Eat in or Take-away
Regular menu plus delicious desserts

7.00pm – FREE BINGO

8.00pm – Meat and Veg Raffles followed by Members Draw

Saturday 10

6.00pm – Bistro open

Sunday 11

12pm – Bistro open

1.00pm – Meat & Veg Raffles

Bowling Club
membership now due

Friday 30th

Christmas
in July

MEMBERS
DRAW
\$500

All members and visitors must adhere to current Covid restrictions.

BASED ON 2020/2021 MEMBERSHIP CARD

NSW permit No. LTPS/11/08895 (conditions apply)
NSW permit No. LTPS/11/11968 (conditions apply)

Monday to Wednesday 4.00pm to close

Thursday 12 midday to close

Friday 2.00pm to close

Saturday and Sunday 11am to close

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