

# Walcha In Brief

## Information for new residents

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## THE WALCHA AREA

Walcha welcomes you!

The township of Walcha offers the new resident the opportunity to enjoy a friendly country lifestyle, whilst still having access to a range of services including medical, education and shopping. Other services are available in the closest regional towns of Armidale (62km) and Tamworth (92km).

Walcha enjoys four definite seasons throughout the year with mild summers, colourful autumns, brisk winters and vibrant springs.

Strategically situated half way between Sydney and Brisbane and a great inland alternative route to the Pacific Highway. Just 420km from Sydney via *Thunderbolt's Way* through Gloucester, and 523 km via Tamworth and the New England Highway, Walcha provides the ideal stopover spot with Brisbane only 530 km away.

Walcha is a two and a half hour drive from the coast either to Port Macquarie by the Oxley Highway or through Nowendoc to Forster. Via the Oxley Highway it is a comfortable 45 minute drive to join the New England Highway at Bendemeer.

The township of Walcha is 1,067 metres above sea level, with the highest point in the district being at "The Flags" (42 kilometres south of Walcha) which is 1,493 metres above sea level. The Shire covers an area of 640,028 hectares (2,475 square miles). The population of the Shire is 3,298 which includes approximately 1,700 in the Town of Walcha.

## Walcha Council Contact Details

**Street Address:** 2w Hamilton Street, Walcha  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 2  
 WALCHA NSW 2354

**Telephone:** 02 67742500  
**Fax:** 02 67771181  
**Email:** council@walcha.nsw.gov.au  
**Website:** www.walcha.nsw.gov.au

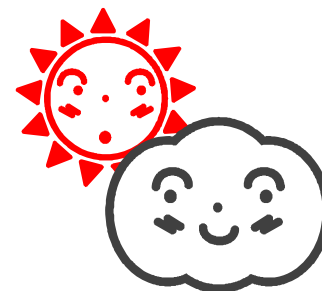
**Office Hours:** 8.30 am to 4.30 pm  
 Monday to Friday  
 (except public holidays)



## Rainfall and Temperature

### Average Temperatures

Summer daytime average	25.4 degrees
Summer nighttime average	12.5 degrees
Winter daytime average	11.7 degrees
Winter nighttime average	-2.9 degrees



The area is located in the sub-humid temperate zone. Summers are short and mild. Frosts occur throughout the year beginning in March and ending in December and it is not uncommon to have temperatures drop to minus 10 or 14 degrees Celsius during winter on the lower areas of Walcha. Snow also occurs an average of two (2) days per year. In January to April winds blow most frequently from the north-east while in May to December from the west to north-west.

### Rainfall

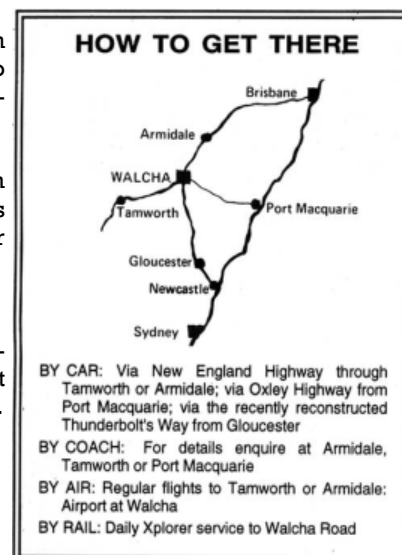
The average rainfall for Walcha is 809mm per annum and the intensity of rainfall is roughly between 1.5-2.0mm per hour. The areas on the eastern fall of the Shire receive up to 1,500mm (average) rainfall per annum.

## Transport

Situated at the junction of the Oxley Highway and Thunderbolts Way, Walcha is an ideal stopover between Sydney and Brisbane. Thunderbolts Way runs from Uralla to the Pacific Hwy near Raymond Terrace and the Oxley Highway leaves the New England Hwy at Bendemeer and joins the Pacific Hwy at Port Macquarie via Wauchope.

Walcha Road Train Station is 17 kms west of Walcha (bus service available from town) and is serviced daily by rail going south (Tamworth) in the morning and leaves at 9.52 am and arrives back northbound at 5.23 pm. Phone CountryLink on 132232 for further information.

Walcha's light aircraft landing strip is situated only minutes from the Walcha Township. Other Air Services including daily flights to and from Sydney, are provided at Armidale Airport (45 minutes drive) and Tamworth Airport (1 hour 10 minutes drive). (Please note: This map is not to scale)



## Electricity Services

Electricity Services are available through a network of overhead lines and underground cabling.

Country Energy is the commercial supplier of energy to the Shire. For further information, please contact Country Energy <http://countryenergy.com.au> or by phone on 132356.

## Population

Census	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Whole of Shire	3439	3549	3208	3115	3187
Male	1868	1860	1655	1584	1619
Female	1680	1689	1553	1531	1568

## Schools

Walcha Township is serviced by both a public school catering for both primary and secondary students plus a private school catering for infants and primary. Public schools are also located in the villages within the shire.

Walcha Central	154e North Street, Walcha 2354	02 67772777	Infants Primary Secondary
Kentucky Public School	Noalimba Street, Kentucky 2354	02 67787227	Infants Primary
Nowendoc Public School	Walcha Road, Nowendoc 2354	02 67770905	Infants Primary
Niangala Public School	Foster Street, Niangala 2354	02 67692254	Infants Primary
Woolbrook Public School	Church Street, Woolbrook 2354	02 67775893	Infants Primary
Yarrowitch Public School	Chandler's Road, Yarrowitch 2354	02 67777582	Infants Primary
St Patrick Catholic School	51n South Street, Walcha 2354	02 67772328	Infants Primary

There are several Secondary Day and Boarding Schools located in Armidale, which is only 63 km from Walcha, and Tamworth, 93 km from Walcha. There is a daily bus service to the schools in Armidale which leaves Walcha at about 7.30am and returns about 5.00pm. In Armidale the boarding schools include New England Girls School, Presbyterian Ladies College and The Armidale School which is a boys only boarding School. In Tamworth the boarding schools include Calrossy Girls School and Farrer Agricultural High School (boys only).

TAFE Campuses are located in both Tamworth and Armidale.

University of Armidale (UNE) offers a broad range of Tertiary educational courses and facilities.

## Hospital and Ambulance

### Hospital

Walcha District Hospital, Middle Street, Walcha 2354

Phone: **6777 4200**

### Community Nurse

Walcha Community Centre, Middle Street, Walcha 2354

Phone: **6777 4200**

### Ambulance

Walcha Ambulance Station, Fitzroy Street, Walcha 2354

Phone: **131233**      Emergencies: **000**

## Police

### EMERGENCIES      000

Walcha Police Station, 6w Apsley Street, Walcha 2354

Phone: **6777 2244**

Nowendoc

Phone: **6777 0944**

Walcha Road

Phone: **6777 5836**

## Fire Brigade

### EMERGENCIES      000

Walcha Fire Brigade, Hamilton Street, Walcha 2354

Armidale Rural Fire Service

Phone: **6777 2222**

**Phone: 6771 2400**

Bergen Fire Brigade—James Goodwin

**6777 1044 or 0428 771044**

Flags Fire Brigade—Neil Brazel

**6777 6441**

Ingelba Fire Brigade—Robert Harrison

**6777 6556**

Moona Winterbourne Fire Brigade  
—Greg Schaeffer

**6777 9186**

Nowendoc Fire Brigade—Neil Higgins

**6777 0970**

Oxley Fire Brigade—Graham Partridge

**6777 3987**

Woolbrook Walcha Road Fire Brigade—Tim  
Laurie

**6777 5813**

Yarrowitch Fire Brigade—Murray O'Keefe

**6777 7459**

## Garbage Collection and Recycling Services

Wheelie bins and recycling are collected once a week and should be placed out on **Wednesday nights for collection on Thursday mornings**. Bins should not be removed from the premises to which they were delivered.

Recycling Services including a Recycling Centre at the town landfill site, are provided by Walcha Council. Please phone the Council for a list of items that can be recycled. Residents are requested to compost all suitable household waste, including plant material and lawn clippings. Composting reduces the amount of landfill area required for disposal and therefore reduces costs to the community. Council has compost and recycling bins for sale at reasonable costs.

If you have enquiries or problems regarding your service, please phone Council on 67742515

## Library

The Council operates an extremely comprehensive Branch Library and carries over 3,000 books at any one time. The Library also provides free computer and Internet services. It is advisable to make a booking if you wish to use this service.

The Walcha Library is part of the Central Northern Library Network and has access to talking books and sound recordings, videos and large print books.

The Walcha Historical Society also has a room at the rear of the Library which is ideal for local historical research.

The opening hours of the Library are

Monday:	Closed	Friday:	10 am to 12 noon; 1.30 pm to 5 pm
Tuesday:	10 am to 12 noon	Saturday:	10 am to 12 noon
Wednesday:	Closed	Sunday:	Closed
Thursday:	10 am to 12 noon; 1.30 pm to 5 pm		

Library Contact Number is 6774 2550

## Local History Centre & Pioneer Cottage

The **Walcha Local History Centre** is situated in the Walcha Library, near the Post Office, in Derby Street and houses the Walcha and District Historical Societies paper records including family histories, local government papers, photographs, books and maps. This unique facility was built in 2001 with the assistance of the Walcha Council, a Centenary of Federation Grant and Local service Organisations.



The History Centre is open the same hours as indicated above for the Library.

The **Walcha Pioneer Cottage and Museum Complex** is operated by the Walcha and District Historical Society and comprises a variety of historical buildings on the original land grant of 1858 to Constable Buckland including his house (see 2 on the attached Ground Plan of Buildings) built in 1860s of slabs with a shingle roof. It's detached former kitchen building now holds a collection of early farming tools.

Situated at the top of the hill in Derby Street, the complex is open on Weekends from 10.30am to 4.30pm or at other times by appointment. Contact phone numbers are Bob or Pam Walsh 67772318 (0447 130316) or Vic or Sandra Galvin on 02 67772114.

## Rates Information

Ratepayers have the choice of paying their rates in four (4) equal instalments or in one lump sum. You should ensure that payments are received by Council by the due date to ensure that interest charges are not incurred.

### 1. Rate Instalments

Ratepayers may pay their Rates by four (4) interest free instalments (each being one quarter of the total current year levy). Where arrears of Rates are outstanding at 1<sup>st</sup> July, these should be paid with the first instalment.

Interest will however attach to any arrears outstanding on 1<sup>st</sup> July until the date they are paid.

Council will forward instalment reminders, for the second and subsequent instalments, to all Ratepayers who have not paid their Rates in full. The dates for payment of instalments appear on the bottom of your Rate Notice.

Each payment must be received by Council **ON OR BEFORE** the due dates which are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Instalment	-	31 <sup>st</sup> August
2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment	-	30 <sup>th</sup> November
3 <sup>rd</sup> Instalment	-	28 <sup>th</sup> February
4 <sup>th</sup> Instalment	-	31 <sup>st</sup> May

Please note that there is **no interest free period**, and if payments are not received by Council on or before the due dates, interest will accrue on a daily basis on the amounts outstanding.

### 2. Payment in Full

Ratepayers electing to pay Rates in full must do so prior to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Any first instalment, **not** received by Council by 31<sup>st</sup> August, will attract interest on a daily basis.

### INTEREST CHARGES

Interest charges on overdue Rates will be calculated daily at 10% per annum and will apply in any of the situations detailed below:

- \* Arrears outstanding.
- \* Late or non-payment of instalments by the due date.

### WATER CHARGES

Walcha has adopted a 'user pays' system of Water Rates. There is an Access Fee that is charged as part of the total Rates payable and pensioner rebate is applicable. However, no pensioner rebate is applicable on the User pays proportion of the system. Interest charges do apply to overdue Water Charges.

Water meters are read in March, June, September and December and Water Rates payments are then due in **April, July, October and January**. For more information regarding Water Rates, please phone the Council on 67742500.

## PAYMENT OF RATES AND OTHER CHARGES

Payment of Rates, Water Rates and other services can be made:

- **In person** by calling at the Council Chambers, Hamilton Street, Walcha, during normal Office hours, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Payment can be made by **Cash, cheque or EFTPOS (Debit Cards only)**. Council does not accept payment by credit card.
- **Post Billpay**—at Australia Post. Credit card payments can only be accepted by Post Bill-pay at Australia Post.
- **Direct Deposit**—You can pay directly into our bank account, either on the Internet or at the Bank in person. Put your assessment or account number in the detail box. Our account details are: BSB: 082-885 Account No.: 509987055
- **Post**— Please make all cheques payable to Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha, NSW, 2354.

If you are paying in person or by post, it would be of assistance to include the relevant notice or invoice with your payment to ensure that your payment is applied against the correct account.

Council is also offering a Mobile Cashier Service for those residents who live within a 10 km radius of the township, who may be housebound. Please call the Council office if you require this service.

### FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY

Any Ratepayer having difficulty meeting their Rate commitment should contact Council's Rates Clerk, Leonie Wall on 6774 2512, as early as possible, who will endeavour to make arrangements which will assist you wherever possible.

## REBATES FOR PENSIONERS

Ratepayers receiving certain pensions MAY be eligible for some Rate relief if:

- a) They are the registered owner/s of and reside solely on the rated property both at the date Rates are issued AND at the date of application.
- b) Applicant/s hold a Pensioner Benefits Card or letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs declaring eligibility.
- c) If a person becomes an eligible pensioner after the day on which the Rates were issued, the person is eligible to a reduction in Rates proportionate to the number of full quarters remaining after the day on which the person becomes an eligible pensioner.

Recipients of a War Widows pension may be eligible for a Rate reduction, subject to a State Government imposed means test.

Pensioners who received a rebate in previous years and whose circumstances have not changed, should receive an automatic reduction on their Rate Notice. Council will show on the Rate Notice the amount of rebate granted and a listing of instalments, should you wish to pay by the instalment method.

Enquiries and applications should be made with Council's Rates Clerk, Leonie Wall.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT BOTH THE PENSIONER BENEFITS CARD AND YOUR RATE NOTICE ARE PRESENTED WHEN MAKING APPLICATION FOR RATE REDUCTION.

## Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Council land rates and charges are generally not subject to GST. However, in the event of a charge being subject to GST, the charge and the GST component will be shown separately.

## Fire Control

### **BURNING OFF IN TOWN AND VILLAGE AREAS**

Control of burning in the shire is regulated by the Protection of the Environment (Control of Burning) Regulation 2000. Burning off is prohibited in town and village areas without special consent from The Local Fire Brigade. This includes backyard burning. The Walcha Fire Brigade can be contacted on 67772222.

### **BUSH FIRE CONTROL**

Rural Fire Brigades are established throughout the Shire. Council invites all residents to take an active role in their brigade for protection of lives and property. The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period is usually from 1 October to 31 March and a permit for lighting fires must be obtained during this period. Please phone the Armidale Rural Fire Service to obtain a permit on 67712400. To report all fires, phone 000.

## Immunisation Clinics

Free Immunisation Clinics are held on the Second Tuesday of each month from 9.30 AM to 10.30 AM at the Community Health Centre, Middle Street, Walcha. The dates are also advertised in the local papers the week prior to the Immunisation Clinic being held.

Parents/Children attending the clinic should ensure that they are at the Community Health Centre, Middle Street, Walcha as early as possible to avoid delays.

To assist the Staff at the Immunisation Clinic, please bring along the following:

- \* Baby Health 'Blue' Book
- \* Medicare Card
- \* Any other relevant information

## Cemeteries

Council manages both the general and Catholic Cemeteries in Walcha and cemeteries at Woolbrook and Nowendoc.

For further information and inquiries, contact the Engineering Department at the Walcha Council on **6774 2515**.

## Roads and Traffic Authority

Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) Agency is located in the Council Building, 2w Hamilton Street, Walcha.

The RTA office is open Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.15pm.

Some services carried out at the agency include:

- Licence and Registration Renewals
- Transfer of Registrations
- Original Registrations
- Knowledge, Hazard Perception and Driver Qualifications Tests before 3.30pm (no appointment necessary)
- Unregistered Vehicle Permits
- Driver Testing (Thursday every fortnight. Appointments are necessary.)
- Change of address on Licence and Registrations
- Conditional Registrations
- Plate issue and transfer

For all RTA inquiries please call 13 22 13.

## Dog Pound

The Walcha Council Dog Pound is located at the Walcha Council Depot, North Street, Walcha. Access to the Pound is restricted to business hours.

Impounding fees apply and must be paid at the Council Offices (2w Hamilton Street, Walcha) before dogs are released. The Pound does not have facilities for cats.

The Dog and Impounding Stock Officer can be contacted on during business hours on 6774 2515 after hours on 0427 742548.

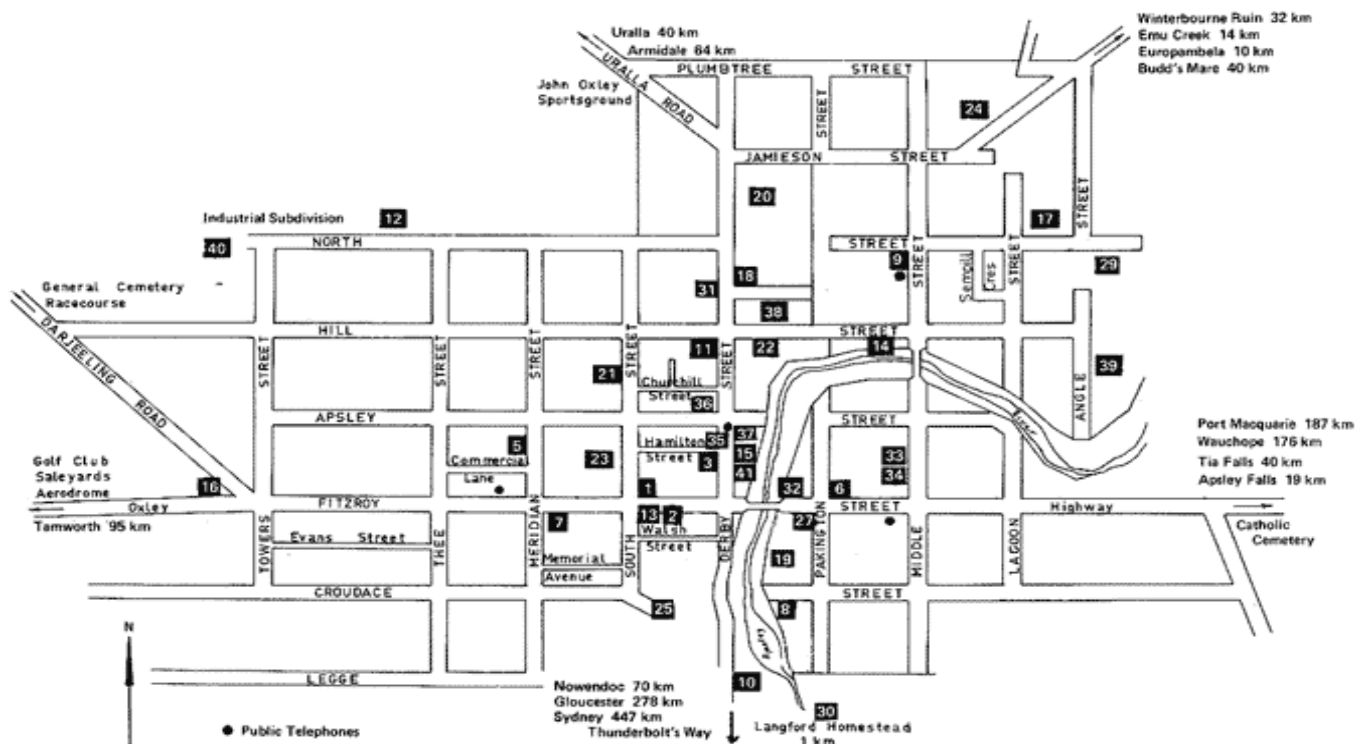
## New England Noxious Weeds Authority

Walcha Council is presently a constituent Council of The New England Tablelands Noxious Plants County Council, trading as New England Noxious Weeds Authority (NEWA). Other Council members are Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra and Uralla. The County Council covers an area of 18,235 square miles.

NEWA oversees the management, planning, and inspection of land on private properties, State owned land, and Council roads and reserves. The NEWA also provides weed control services and information to the general public.

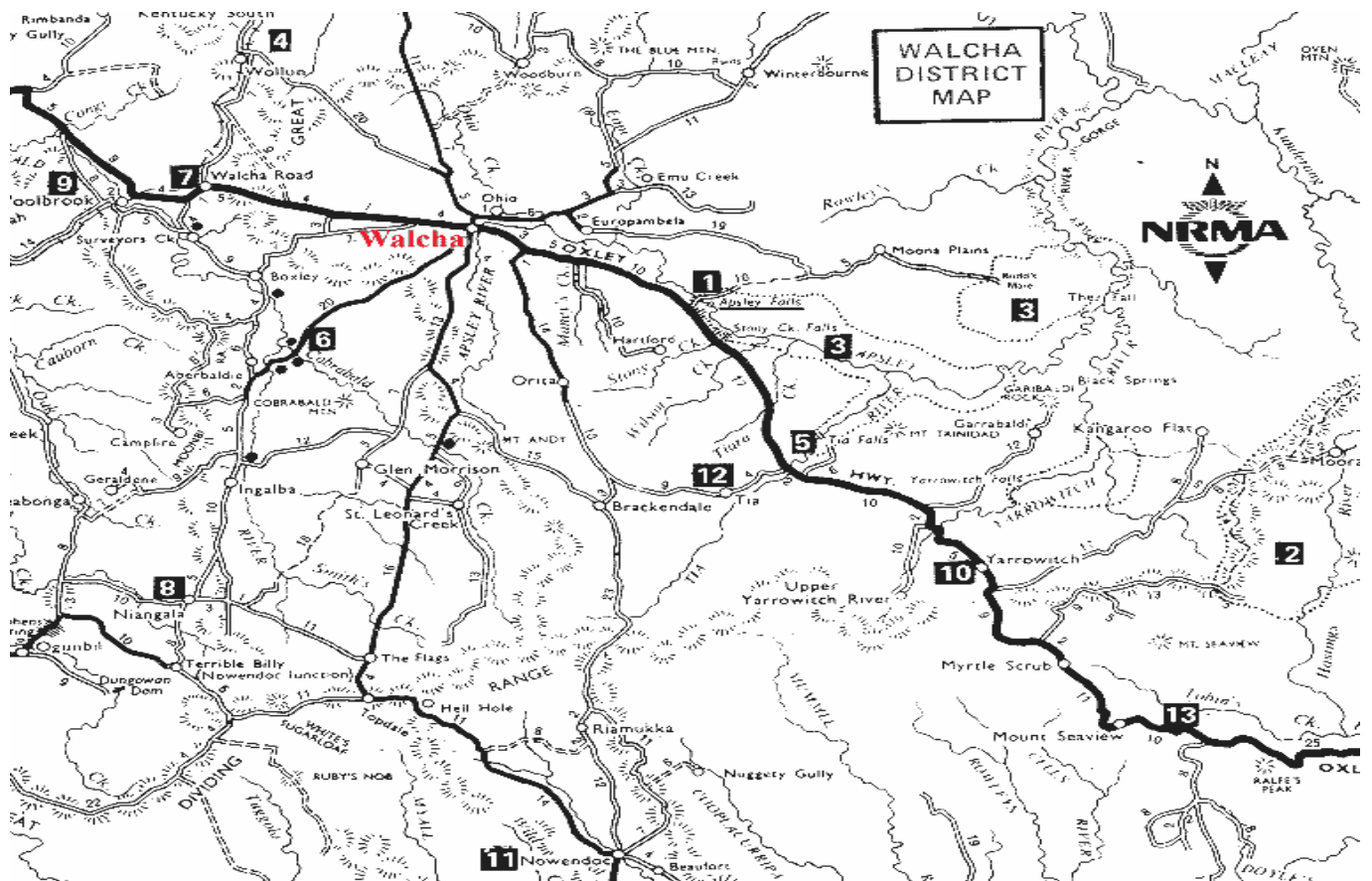
For more information, please phone Josh Biddle on 02 6770 3602 or mobile 0427 711729 or access the website on [www.niwac.org](http://www.niwac.org) and then click on Noxious Weeds.

## Town map of Walcha



- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 Craft Shop                  | 22 Presbyterian Church                  |
| 2 Walcha Motel                | 23 Anglican Church and old Stone Church |
| 3 Apsley Motel                | 24 Boral Timbers                        |
| 5 The Commerical Hotel        | 25 Walcha District Hospital             |
| 6 The New England Hotel/Motel | 27 Ambulance Station                    |
| 7 Memorial Club               | 29 Multi-Purpose Centre                 |
| 8 Bowling Club                | 30 Langford Homestead                   |
| 9 Caravan Park                | 31 Pioneer Cottage and Museum           |
| 10 John Oxley Cain            | 32 Fenwicke House                       |
| 11 Monument Park              | 33 Swimming Pool                        |
| 12 National Parks Office      | 34 Squash Courts                        |
| 13 McHattan Park              | 35 Council Chambers                     |
| 14 Sempill Park               | 36 Police Station                       |
| 15 Rotary Club Park           | 37 Post Office                          |
| 16 Lions Club Park            | 38 Forestry Office                      |
| 17 Apex Park                  | 39 District Tennis Courts               |
| 18 Quota Park                 | 40 Council Works Depot                  |
| 19 Walcha Oval (Toilets)      | 41 NRMA                                 |
| 20 Showground                 |   |
| 21 Catholic Church            |   |

## Walcha District Map



1. Apsley Falls
2. Werrikimbe National Park
3. Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
4. Fruit Growing Areas
5. Tia Falls
6. Fossicking Area
7. Walcha Road
8. Niangala
9. Woolbrook
10. Yarrowitch
11. Nowendoc
12. Tia
13. Gingers Creek



## Walcha Home and Community Care (HACC)

The Walcha Home and Community Care Service is auspiced by the Walcha Council and managed by the Walcha Home and Community Care Advisory Committee.

HACC provides services for people who are frail aged, or people with disabilities, and their carers, who need additional support to enable them to live comfortably in their own homes.

Some of the services provided by HACC include Day Programs, Voluntary driver transport, Buses to Armidale and Tamworth, Access bus around Walcha on Thursdays and Meals on Wheels (available 5 days a week).

Contact the co-ordinator at the Walcha HACC office on 6774 2471, Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

## Walcha Preschool

Located on the Uralla Road, Walcha Preschool is a community based education centre managed by an advisory committee comprising Council, Community and Parent Members. The preschool licence is held by Walcha Council and all administration functions are carried out by the Walcha Council.

Walcha Preschool aims to provide:

- a friendly, caring and educational environment for children, parents and caregivers. The Preschool accepts each child and family as they are, and values the individuality of all people who use the preschool. Walcha Preschool caters for special needs, including disabled parking.
- A safe, relaxed learning environment for Preschool aged children outside the home.
- Creative play that is child focused. By employing trained and experienced staff, programs are created for the individual child as well as the group, with no emphasis being placed on the finished product. It is the 'doing' that is important.

Walcha Preschool is in close contact with other early childhood services in the area such as Early Childhood Intervention. Walcha Early Intervention provides family centred individualised educational programs that are child centred and activity based. The programs can be carried out through home visits, playgroup, individual session in the Early Intervention Room, preschool integration or therapy sessions. Walcha received funding for the new Early Intervention Building at the Walcha Preschool site. For further information and enquiries, please phone the Preschool on 6777 2117.

## Swimming Pool

One of Council's services to the community is the provision and upkeep of the local Swimming Pool. The pool opens in the last weekend in November and closes in the last weekend in March each year.

The solar heated pool is generally well patronised and water temperatures vary from 32<sup>o</sup> on very warm days to just below 20<sup>o</sup> on cooler days.

Opening times and charges for the pool are advertised each year. Season tickets can be purchased at the Walcha Council at the opening of the pool season.



## Community Organisations

### COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Elswick"  
WALCHA 2354

### COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION – NIANGALA BRANCH

C/- "Lochiel"  
WALCHA 2354

### COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION – YARROWITCH BRANCH

C/- "Allambie"  
WALCHA 2354

### FRIENDS OF RIVERVIEW (PRESBYTERIAN AGED PERSONS HOSTEL)

C/- 212N Uralla Road  
WALCHA 2354

### LIONS CLUB OF WALCHA

PO Box 130  
WALCHA 2354

### NSW FARMER'S ASSOCIATION

C/- "Torsmond"  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### NSW FARMER'S ASSOCIATION NOWENDOC BRANCH

C/- "Boggy Tops"  
NOWENDOC 2354

### QUOTA CLUB OF WALCHA

PO Box 145  
WALCHA 2354

### RETURNED SERVICE LEAGUE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

C/- 51N Middle Street  
WALCHA 2354

### ROTARY CLUB OF WALCHA

PO Box 123  
WALCHA 2354

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

C/- 109N Lagoon Street  
WALCHA 2354

### TIMBER COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA

PO Box 154  
WALCHA 2354

### United Hospital Auxilary Incorporated Walcha Branch

PO Box 238  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA AUSTRALIA DAY COMMITTEE

C/- "Pandora"  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA BOY SCOUTS ASSOC

PO Box 40  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### WALCHA COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

C/- 51N Middle Street  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

C/- Mrs E Henry  
"The Tops"  
WOOLBROOK NSW 2354

### WALCHA DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111N Derby Street  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA GARDEN CLUB

"Rockvale" Cottage  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### WALCHA HOME & COMMUNITY CARE

PO Box 83  
Walcha NSW 2354

### WALCHA MUSICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 117  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA POULTRY CLUB

C/- Lance Partridge  
"Warren Park"  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE

C/- 116e Jamieson Street  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### WALCHA SHOW SOCIETY INC

PO Box 39  
WALCHA 2354

## Community Groups—continued

WALCHA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE (SES)  
C/- 100W Legge Street  
WALCHA 2354

WALCHA SUPPORT GROUP  
C/- Mrs R Elliott  
Hill Street  
WALCHA NSW 2354

WALCHA TIMBER EXPO COMMITTEE  
PO Box 93  
WALCHA NSW 2354

WALCHA RACES SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
PO Box 17  
Walcha NSW 2354

## Health Services

<http://www.neahs.nsw.gov.au/web/>

Walcha District Hospital (New England Area Health Service) is situated in Middle Street and is licensed for 30 beds. The town has the privilege of having an optometrist visiting once each fortnight from Port Macquarie as well as a visiting Chiropractor visiting from Tamworth twice a week. A visiting Dentist from Tamworth comes every Monday as well as the Dentist at the Community Health Centre. There are also other visiting Medical Staff at the Walcha Community Health Centre each week. New England Area Health Service also run a Community Centre which encompasses the following:

- a Playgroup for pre-school toddlers
- Senior Citizens Centre
- Clinics for Women's Health
- Dental Service
- Mental Health Counselling
- Podiatry
- Aboriginal Health
- Early Childhood Clinic (Baby Health)
- Early Intervention
- Community Nursing
- Physiotherapy
- Immunisation
- Palliative Care
- plus many more visiting specialists



Other services are provided by local and visiting specialists including chiropractic, remedial massage and physiotherapy.

Riverview Aged Persons Hostel run by the Presbyterian Church - has a capacity of approximately 24 as well as an additional 10 bed extension is proposed.

General Practitioners, Dr Adrian Allen and Dr Jason Xie, service the Walcha area.

## Open Air Gallery

### THE CONCEPT

At the suggestion of the Walcha Arts Council, Walcha Council has adopted the concept of developing Walcha as an *Open Air Gallery*. The decision was taken for a number of reasons, not least of all to develop Walcha's *distinctiveness*, to provide an additional dimension to the quality of life of our community and to provide a source of expression for our very talented local artists.

So far, a number of sculptures by both local and overseas artists have been established in and around our town. The concept however will provide for a variety of media including landscaping, street furniture and murals. Below are a few earlier pieces.

**Toll Gate** 1999 The northern entrance sign is by James Rogers, from tallowood and steel, and celebrates the shape and rhythm of the word.



**Tuning Fork** 1999 This western entrance sign is by Mudgee artist, Nigel White, made from tallowood. Assistance was given by NSW State Forests and Brian Smith's Timber Transport.



**Weather Signs** 1996 A work in wood and steel by local artist and farmer, Stephen King, this sculpture depicts the reliance of country man and woman on the weather. They watch the weather from the shelter of their home. Donated by the artist with support from Walcha Council.

**The Family** 1998 A work by New Guinea artist Tom Deko in steel and oil. It is a figure group representing Tom's love of family and village life. Donated by the artist.



**Sea Monster** 1998 This wood carving is by Vanuatu sculptor Emmanuel Watt, created during a visit to Walcha. The Sea Monster surfs the waves on his back and feasts on the ocean's bounty. Purchased by Walcha Council.

**Song Cycle** 2001 This work in steel by James Rogers celebrates the cyclic nature of provincial life. A melody is suggested in the shapes and lines, a melody that keeps coming back on itself. This pivotal sculpture was commissioned by the Walcha Arts Council



**Black Cockatoo** 1999 This is the southern entrance sign, created by local artist and farmer, Ross Laurie in tallowood.

**The Warrior** 1998 In steel and oil, this work is by Papuan sculpturer, Tom Deko, rendering traditional New Guinean imagery in modern materials. It was created by Tom during a visit to Walcha in 1998, and was purchased the Walcha Council.



**Strainer Post** 1999 This is the eastern entrance sign to Walcha, sculptured by Stephen King from grey box. It is a tribute both to timber itself and the industry that has played such a key role in Walcha's history.

**The Maquettes** 1998 Four Maquettes were created for the roundabout sculpture competition which was won by James Rogers with Song Cycle. The other three Maquettes – by Nigel White, Ross Laurie and Stephen King - may be seen at the Old School Gallery, Walcha Tele-cottage.

**Generation Stick** 1995 This sculpture in stringy bark is by local artist Stephen King, and is a carving about "life, responsibility and reliance on others". Donated by the artist.



**Study for Song Cycle** 1998 This was the maquette created by James Rogers for his sculpture in the Fitzroy/Derby streets roundabout (Song Cycle, # 6)

**Big Chair** 2001 In timber and tin, this work is by local artists Ross Laurie and Miffy Gullifer, and stands as an entrance sign to the local Pre-School.

## Other Local Attractions

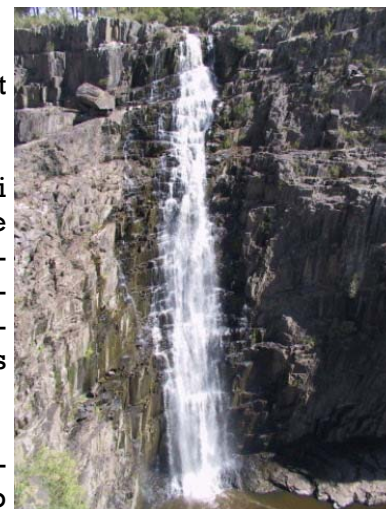
Walcha has a wide range of natural attractions including waterfalls and national parks. Below is information regarding the Apsley Falls, our closest and most accessible attraction.

### Apsley Falls

The Apsley Falls are the first falls in a succession of dramatic drops that are the start of the Oxley Wild Rivers Gorge system.

These falls and surrounding areas were the meeting place of the Thungutti mob of Aboriginals that frequented the tablelands in their extensive routes from the New England Tablelands to the coast in a seasonal migration. There are many sites that the local Amaroo Lands Council have dedicated as culturally relative points of interest and are now in the supervision of National Parks and Wildlife Service, who are helping as caretakers of these important sites.

The Apsley Falls in the Oxley Wild rivers National Parks feature the Apsley River that meanders its way through what is now productive sheep and cattle producing country. The Apsley River is a tranquil stream of deep water holes until its dramatic fall into the Apsley Gorge, a deep narrow canyon that grows in depth and breadth on its way through the Macleay River Valley towards its entry point into the Pacific Ocean at South West Rocks.



*Where:* From Walcha take the Oxley Highway east towards Port Macquarie. At 19km take the turn off to the left through the park entrance and continue on through the day use area until you come to the mainfalls viewing platforms.

*Activities:* Scenic views from 9 lookouts to view this magnificent gorge, photography, bird watching, picnicking, walking, camping and general relaxation.

*Features:* Apart from Aboriginal significance, the Apsley falls were sighted and the river named by John Oxley in 1818 who wrote in his journal that he was "lost in astonishment at the sight of this wonderful natural sublimity".

There are a number of short walks that can be taken from the car parks and these are highlighted in the information shelter erected in the Day use area along with toilet facilities. One of the walks takes you over the Apsley river (where if your lucky you may sight some Platypus) to the Oxley Walk (2 km return) which meanders around to four spectacular viewing platforms and lets you discover the lower falls and some awesome cliff faces. Look out for the wedge Tail Eagles that are commonly seen soaring on the thermals over the second waterfall.

*Facilities:* Interpretation displays, picnic tables, free gas barbeques, water, clean toilets, wheelchair access, lookout platforms, constructed walking tracks, and camping grounds with more amenities. Unfortunately, Dogs and other domestic pets are not allowed.

Further information on other local attractions, please call in to our Tourist Information Centre on the Corner of Fitzroy and South Streets or phone them on 02 6774 2460.

## Community Events

### January—Walcha Campdraft and Rodeo

Top riders from around Australia converge on Walcha for this annual event held on the second last weekend in January. The campdraft is held over 3 1/2 days commencing on Thursday afternoon. The thrills and spills of the rodeo then entertain all well into the night on Saturday.

### February—Walcha Races

The Walcha Jockey Club hold their annual Two Day Race Carnival on the 2nd Friday and Saturday in February each year. The Walcha Races are one of the richest Country Race Meetings held in New South Wales. Signified with a half day public holiday on the Friday, the Walcha Races are a great day out for all ages. Food, refreshments and TAB facilities are available on course. A fun Human Race is organised for Saturday and provides great entertainment for all ages.

### February or March—Walcha Show

The Walcha Show Society holds their annual show in March of each year. Fun filled and action packed events are scheduled in the ring and ringside with some of the attractions being Show Jumping, Cattle Judging, Grand Parade, woodchopping, arm wrestling, dog-jumping, Demolition Derby, Rodeo and sideshow rides and activities for the kids.

### September—Walcha Timber Expo (Bi-annual)

Walcha Timber Expo is held at the Walcha Showgrounds every second year in September. Fun for the whole family with activities for the kids, timber products, machinery and working displays, displays and stalls from Craft and Hobbies to Home and Leisure. The Expo is kicked off on Saturday with a Street Parade through the streets of Walcha leading to the Showground for the opening.

### October—Festival Season

Walcha Food, Wine & Craft Festival is held in conjunction with Westpac Rescue Helicopter Mountain Bike Teams Challenge. Watch the Mountain bike competitors cross the finish line, sample the many wine varieties, try the different culinary delights on offer, be entertained by smooth jazz tunes, take in a fashion parade by the Australian Wool Awards, browse through the large range of craft and trader stalls, watch the kids enjoy the jumping castle and merry go round all within the scenic surrounds of the tree lined Walcha Showground.

### Other Events

Walcha Campdraft Club hold an annual Campdraft on the Easter Long Weekend.

## Sport in Walcha

### **EX-SERVICES TENNIS CLUB**

212N Uralla Road  
WALCHA 2354

### **MACDONALD RIVER WORKING DOG CLUB**

“Europambela”  
WALCHA 2354

### **NIANGALA TENNIS CLUB**

“Eulabah”  
NIANGALA 2354

### **NOWENDOC TENNIS COMMITTEE**

C/- Nowendoc Policy Station  
NOWENDOC 2354

### **OXLEY DARTS CLUB**

104W Fitzroy Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA & DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**

PO Box 175  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA & DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOC**

PO Box 193  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA AERO CLUB**

PO Box 191  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOC**

PO Box 76  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB**

PO Box 245  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB**

163w Hill Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA BOWLING CLUB – FISHING CLUB**

161E North Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA BUSHMEN’S CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 195  
Walcha NSW 2354

### **WALCHA CAMPDRAFTERS CLUB**

PO Box 173  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA CUTTING CLUB**

“Ironstone Lodge”  
Brackendale Road  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOC**

184W Croudace Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA DISTRICT SOCCER CLUB**

PO Box 108  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### **WALCHA EX-SERVICES BOWLERS CLUB**

65W Hill Street  
Walcha NSW 2354

### **WALCHA FIELD TARGET & BOWHUNTERS CLUB**

110N Middle Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA GOLF CLUB LTD**

PO Box 163  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA GUN CLUB**

PO Box 84  
WALCHA NSW 2354

### **WALCHA INDOOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 207  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA JOCKEY CLUB**

106W Apsley Street  
WALCHA 2354

### **WALCHA JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION**

“Warren Park”  
Walcha NSW 2354

### **WALCHA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB**

PO Box 242  
WALCHA 2354

## Sport in Walcha continued:

### WALCHA PONY CLUB

12S Middle Street  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA RUGBY UNION CLUB

PO Box 143  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA SQUASH CLUB

PO Box 205  
WALCHA 2354

### WALCHA TROUT CLUB

PO Box 198  
WALCHA 2354

## Churches in Walcha

### St Andrews

Anglican Church  
5n South Street  
Walcha NSW 2354



### St Pauls

Presbyterian Church  
8e Hill Street  
WALCHA NSW 2354



### St Patrick's

Catholic Church  
51n South Street  
WALCHA NSW 2354



There are also churches at Nowendoc,  
Brackendale, Yarrowitch and Woolbrook.

### Kingdom Hall

Jehovah Witness  
North Street  
WALCHA NSW 2354

## Council Office Numbers

**Street Address:** 2w Hamilton Street, Walcha

**Postal Address:** PO Box 2  
WALCHA NSW 2354

**Telephone:** 02 67742500

**Engineering:** 02 67742515

**Fax:** 02 67771181

**Email:** council@walcha.nsw.gov.au

**Website:** www.walcha.nsw.gov.au

**Depot:** 02 67742540

### Tourist

**Information:** 02 67742460

**Website:** walchansw.com.au

**Library** 02 67742550

**Baths** 02 67742560

## Council After Hours and Emergency Contacts

**Water and Sewerage** 0428 774591

**Works Superintendent** 0427 774544

**Dog and Stock Impounding Officer**  
0427 742548

**Rural Fire Service** 6771 2400

**Country Energy—Emergencies** 132080

**SES Headquarters** 6777 2285

## Brief History of Walcha

Walcha was the first area to be discovered in the New England region. It was on the route taken by the explorer John Oxley and reached on 8th September, 1818. Walcha's first settler, Hamilton Collins Sempill, arrived in 1832 from Belltrees in the Hunter River district. Sempill based his headquarters near the campsite used by John Oxley and he named the area Walcha ("Wolka"). No one has conclusive evidence of the meaning of "Wolka" but three Aboriginal meanings are "Sun", "Deep Water" and "Water".

Further settlers moved into the district over the years 1834 to 1858 when David William Jamieson formed the nucleus of the Walcha township by erecting various industrial structures such a flour mill, store, smithy, etc.,

The Municipality of Walcha was proclaimed on 12th March, 1889; the adjacent Shire of Apsley was proclaimed on 7th March, 1906. On 1st June, 1955 the Shire of Walcha was constituted by the amalgamation of the Municipality of Walcha and the Shire of Apsley. From 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1993 the Walcha Shire Council became known as the "Walcha Council" due to the new Local Government Act being introduced.

## Useful Information

**Newspapers**—the Walcha News is available on Thursdays and the Apsley Advocate is distributed free to local households on Tuesdays.

**Walcha and District Callers Guide** — This is a community service project compiled by Quota International of Walcha. Updated every 2 years, the guide lists all the local phone numbers in the Walcha area and is available from the Post office and Landmark Boultons.

**Info for New Residents** - A copy of this brochure can be viewed and downloaded from our Website at <http://walcha.local-e.nsw.gov.au/about/1001/1010.html>

## Disclaimer

Information and materials presented in this document are current at the time of publication. Whilst every effort is made to keep this information up-to-date and accurate, Walcha Council is not responsible for the accuracy of the information contained in this guide.