



# More than a MARKET



**WALCHA FARMERS' MARKET** is a little market with a big heart. Held the third Saturday of the month (except during winter months) in Walcha's beautiful McHattan Park, the markets enjoy a great loyal following, providing people with access to producers, makers and creators.

Products range from goat's milk cheeses, face creams and soaps to hand made alpaca products, smoked trout, olive oil, olive oil products, plants and everything in between.

In a time when consumers are becoming increasingly interested in finding out where their food comes from, farmers' markets provide an important avenue for talking directly to the producers and makers of what we put in our mouths or later on our skin.

The social aspect is also what makes the Walcha Farmers' Market an important monthly event that locals and visitors look forward to. Now, more than ever, with the severe and ongoing drought it is important to be able to get together informally for a chat. The informal nature of catching up at the farmers market, for a quick coffee and a delicious pastry or bacon & egg roll means not too much time away from farms or businesses, and a chance to connect with others. Invariably the quick coffee ends up being a few well-deserved hours off and a chance to unwind.

The Walcha Farmers' Market is run by a small dedicated voluntary committee who try and include some kids' activities and live music at each market. Think egg & spoon races, tug of war, Easter egg hunts and kids craft. Any budding musicians out there are encouraged to get in touch for the opportunity to provide entertainment at one of our markets. We also occasionally invite a local organisation to provide a workshop or demonstration. A great example of this is the Walcha Poultry Club chook washing demonstration. Observers were amazed at the lengths the Poultry Club goes to in order to preen, wash and blow-dry poultry in preparation for the Walcha Show.



The Walcha Farmers' Market guidelines accept producers, makers, creators, plants, health and wellbeing stalls. We want to ensure that the markets support small businesses and individuals who are doing their own thing. If you have something to sell that is homegrown, handmade, locally produced, hand baked or related to health and wellbeing, and you are not re-selling or on-selling, then we would love to hear from you!

Originally purely a food market, the Walcha Farmers' Market began 6 years ago with a vision from two local girls. Paula Jenkins, who has a marketing background and is now a successful full-time artist (with an upcoming exhibition opening at Walcha Gallery of Art on 15 November) and Olivia Nivison, a naturopath and partner at Yalgoo genetics, with a passion for local produce. Their dedication and hard work enabled the markets to get up and running and now the current committee continue to operate the markets, opening up the guidelines to include makers, creators as well as health and wellbeing stalls.

The September market is always a popular market. After a winter hiatus, people are keen to get out again and enjoy what our stallholders have to offer, along with the wonderful park facilities and warmer weather. The October market coincides with the fabulous Walcha Mountain Festival, where there is the Road Ride Challenge finishing at the Markets as well as the Walcha Billy Cart Derby. These homemade billycarts are a thrill to watch as they throttle down the hill next to the farmers' market. The November market this year will be held on a massive weekend for Walcha. The inaugural Freak Show Festival of Motorcycles, 15-17 November, will bring thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts to the town over three days. We encourage anyone wishing to have a stall at this farmers market to please get in touch.

If you would like a great day out, or enjoy a drive in the country come and check out Walcha Farmers' Market, held the third Saturday of the month from 8.30am -12.30pm.



While in Walcha why not take in Walcha's Open-Air Gallery of sculptures and artworks, a permanent public outdoor exhibition of over 50 works. Take a walk along the paved levee bank; check out the boutique shopping, art gallery, antiques, craft shops, cafes and pubs. Drive out to the stunning and easily accessible Apsley Gorge, go for some great walks and just enjoy beautiful Walcha. There's plenty to see and do. ■

[www.walchafarmersmarket.org.au](http://www.walchafarmersmarket.org.au)