

MEDIA RELEASE



A SUMMER OF FREE ENTRY AND \$1.1MILLION UPGRADE TO WALCHA MEMORIAL BATHS

30 October 2020

This summer season will be special for our Walcha Memorial Baths. This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our wonderful pool complex, and are pleased to announce free pool entry for the entire summer.

Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes said, *“Council is pleased to announce that entry to the pool this summer will be free for everyone to enjoy. Free entry is for everyone, and will mean that Walcha Baths will continue to be a fun, enjoyable and happy space for families and friends to meet and enjoy this summer without having to worry about finances. Join us this season as we celebrate its history and remember those who had the foresight to construct it.”*

It is for Walcha community members, families and neighbours and visitors to enjoy our facility and the mental, physical and social, benefits a day at the pool can bring. The decision to provide free pool entry was made possible through the support from the State Government Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Phase 2.

The good news keeps coming for Walcha Baths. In addition to the free pool entry Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson announced \$1.1 million in funding for refurbishments at Walcha Swimming Pool comprising a new solar heating system, treatment tanks, changerooms and toilets. This work is made possible thanks to the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, co-funded by the NSW and Australian Governments.

Mr Anderson said the project will bring current pool facilities up to date to encourage its ongoing use by the local community and help make Walcha a great place to live.

“The population in our region is on the rise and this fantastic refurbishment of Walcha Swimming Pool will help to provide people in Walcha with an improved facility that can be enjoyed by many more people for generations,” Mr Anderson said.

Mayor Noakes said, *“I know Walcha residents will especially welcome the new heating system that keeps the pool warm so the community can enjoy swimming throughout the full pool season, from November to March.”*

“This upgrade will not only give the pool a new lease of life, it will deliver positive health and wellbeing benefits for local residents and help to increase the region’s appeal as a family tourist destination,” Mayor Noakes said.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund has been designed to deliver infrastructure and initiatives that will boost economic and social recovery, increase community preparedness for future natural disasters and help to get residents back on their feet.

“Our regional communities have been doing it tough to say the least, which is why we are backing projects that will put people back in work, retain existing jobs and stimulate local economies with a focus on improving essential community infrastructure and industry development,” Mr Barilaro said.

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“The funds delivered for these important projects will put people in work sooner and deliver a variety of shovel-ready projects and programs that will make a genuine difference to the lives of people living in regional communities.”

This summer pool season for Walcha will be extra special, so keep an eye out for other retro events, confectionary and memorabilia making a comeback throughout this 50th birthday season. And stay tuned to local and social media to learn how we can all be covid-safe this summer!

The Walcha Memorial Baths season opens this Saturday, 31 October 2020, and runs until Sunday, 04 April 2021.

For interviews phone Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504.

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