Shirley Bevan captured these two oldies basking in the sun, growing old gracefully. Thank you to Australia Post Merriwa for donating the prize for this months competition. Details for the last competition in 2014 are on page 31.
Merriwa Show Interschool Challenge rewarded 200 Upper Hunter school students with a free interactive programme of Farm Safety Day sessions and Art and Photography workshops at Merriwa Showground on November 13.

Run by a team of wonderful volunteers from the Merriwa Show committee, the event was supported by NSW WorkCover, Tocal College – NSW Department of Primary Industries, Hunter Local Land Services, the Australian Government, Upper Hunter Shire and Rabobank, with great displays of the latest stock handling equipment from Welderup and M and M Stockyards, and Merriwa Tyre Service’s new Can-Am Side-by-side vehicle.

Merriwa Central School students were joined by Agriculture, Primary Industry, Photography and Art students from Coolah, Scone, Aberdeen and Muswellbrook, and keen primary artists from St Joseph’s, Merriwa.

Experienced Tocal College presenters ran the hands-on workshops in livestock behaviour, yard safety, quad bike operation and farm machinery and Scone-based Hunter Local Land Services vet, Lyndell Stone reminded us all to be aware of personal health risks when working with livestock with a thought-provoking photo presentation.

Merriwa Show president, Rob Tindall said the event was firmly focused on practical community-based education providing a great opportunity for learning best practice livestock handling with cattle in the showground yards and how to take responsibility for on-farm personal risk management and safe behaviour with quads, tractors and farm machinery.

In addition, local art and photography students enjoyed intensive workshops in water colour, print-making, aboriginal art and photography from a great team of award-winning presenters including Murrurundi artist, Jean Davies, Aboriginal artist, Les Elvin, Cessnock, Muswellbrook photographer, Roger Skinner and Merriwa-based print maker, Edmund Hogan.

Merriwa Show Interschool Challenge Coordinator, Maria Cameron said the youth-focused event was a great success highlighting the importance of our Merriwa Show committee as a driver of innovation in the local community.

“Local support was overwhelming with Kylie Austin Catering feeding over 300 people with barbeque help from Merriwa Men’s Shed and volunteers, Rob and Helen Tindall, Tyler Austin, Ed and Carina Shannon, Paul McLoughlin, Helen Tindall, Ken McAllister, Georgie Fairfull, Megan Richards, Leslie Nixon, Allen Reed, David Cameron and David Houlanah, working hard for two days,” she said.

“We plan to follow up the event in the new year with an exhibition of the student’s work at Plough in to Cassilis Café/Gallery.”

Maria Cameron
Principal’s Report
GONSKI FUNDING FLOWS TO STUDENTS

The Gonski review highlighted the need to change how schools across Australia were funded. It stated the fairest way to fund schools was based on the needs of students, simple really.

Merriwa Central School will be allocated an additional $148,000 next year as part of a needs-based funding increase for NSW public schools.

The school, along with several others across the Upper Hunter, will benefit from the statewide $97 million Gonski funding announced on Thursday by Education Minister Adrian Piccoli.

The funding will be part of $664 million to be delivered to schools in 2015 through the needs-based Resource Allocation Model (RAM), which allocates funding according to the background of students at each school.

Previous funding models were based on the number of students at each school, and under the RAM program the money would be spent on resource allocation management, determined by principals, because it would enable each school to give their students the best opportunities possible.

The additional funding will allow us to provide individualised learning in smaller classes, and provide a greater range of opportunities for students in Merriwa’s rural setting. This year we were able to subsidise a number of day excursions for students, so that everyone had the opportunity to participate.

The funding is to improve education outcomes based on five criteria, including students from low socio-economic backgrounds, students with low-level disability, students who are developing English language proficiency, students from Aboriginal backgrounds and students from remote and isolated school communities.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Coming Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2</td>
<td>Kindergarten Transition – post transition interviews for parents</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Girls cricket Super 8s final – Dubbo Cricket Ground, 7.00am-5.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3</td>
<td>P and C meeting – Merriwa RSL Club, 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Friday 5</td>
<td>Primary assembly – All classes will present their Christmas items, 9.15am</td>
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<td>Thursday 11</td>
<td>Disco - Year 6 to 12</td>
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<td>Monday 15</td>
<td>Secondary formal assembly – Great Hall, 8.55am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>K-2 Presentation Day – times to be confirmed</td>
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<td>3-12 Presentation Night – 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>Last day for students for 2014 Reward activities and Out of Uniform day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 18</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
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<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
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Congratulations to our Students of the Week for last week. It’s very pleasing to see students working so hard right to the end of the year. Well done:

Kindergarten: Amy Zhu
Year 1/2: Andy Olive
Year 2/3: Oceana Rawlings
Year 4/5: Mekayla Birtles
Year 5/6: Tanja Sormaz

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Students of the Week
WORKERS OF THE WEEK
At our last assembly Mrs Jones presented our Workers of the Week and we saw some wonderful examples of learning happening in our classrooms, including mathematics, writing and creative artworks. Well done to the following students:

Kindergarten: Miriam Harrison and Amy Zhu
Year 1/2: Annabelle Orton and Harry Cook
Year 2/3: Jack Goodear, Samantha Bristow and Alyssa Carrall
Year 4/5: Joanne Hamson and Izabella Neale
Year 5/6: Elly Blackadder and Jackson Keane

SPECIAL AWARDS
Last week we were very pleased to continue awarding special awards to the following students:

Bronze Awards – Jack Mobberley and Archie Pyne
Silver Awards – Zara Sampson and Mekayla Birtles

CHOIR ASSEMBLY
Last week the Primary Choir performed at our assembly. The Primary Choir have been working hard on some Christmas songs to prepare for the annual Merriwa Carols in the Park. They were keen to try something different and have been rehearsing the song ‘Feliz Navidad’ by the Puerto Rican singer-songwriter José Feliciano, written in 1970. It is a fun song and they enjoyed performing it for the audience. The choir is looking forward to using the skills they have developed this year at the carols! Thank you very much to Miss Laurie for assisting the choir in Mrs West’s absence on Friday.

SWIM SCHEME
Last week primary students began lessons in Swim Scheme. Students who are unable to swim 25 metres unaided have been participating in lessons that develop basic swim skills and swim survival techniques. This will continue till the end of Week 8. A very big thank you to Mrs Moore for all your work organising the program for this year.
Favourite Subject: Agriculture and English
Extra-Curricular activities: ROAR and Literacy withdrawal activities
Best Personal Achievements: Getting better at ROAR and Maths. Passed the tractor test in Agriculture - Mandatory Technology

Year Advisor’s Comment: Adam is a bright and bubbly young student who gets along with all of his peers and teachers at Merriwa Central School. He has continued to illustrate his enthusiasm for specialised subjects such as Design and Technology this semester. It is pleasing to report that Adam has been involved with numerous extra-curricular activities due to his participation in the ROAR program. I am proud of Adam’s achievements and emerging identity this year and would like to congratulate him on receiving Student of the Week.

Brianna Roberts
Year Advisor

The ROAR boys have been demonstrating their amazing peer leadership skills in a new reading program between the primary and secondary campus. Each week some of the ROAR boys visit the Year 1/2 class to listen to students read out loud. This gives the 1/2 students the opportunity to build their reading skills and confidence in reading by learning with a peer. It also makes students very excited about reading which is very important when building literacy skills. We are very lucky to have such enthusiastic ROAR boys dedicated to helping us learn. Thank you ROAR.

Daniel Mead reading to Luke Cronin

The Literacy Committee has been analysing the data on our students’ results in this year’s NAPLAN testing. We have identified some areas where we can improve students’ skills and knowledge and the committee is considering some exciting initiatives to target these areas next year.

By the time this edition of the Ringer is published our students involved in the Newcastle Herald School Newspaper Competition will have returned from Tuesday’s rewards ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston accompanied the students to Hunter Stadium for these awards which have become the source of family rivalry since the team’s success in the last two years under Mrs Johnston’s guidance. The students should be very proud of themselves as even being invited to these awards demonstrates the judges’ appreciation of the quality of their entry.

Meanwhile, learning continues in the classroom. The Year 9 English class are learning a particularly exciting unit of work and have been busily creating trailers for films they personally designed in small groups. We would like to congratulate Year 9 on their hard work and wish them the best of luck throughout the final process of their productions. Year 12 English Studies are working hard on their presentations on their unit ‘We are Australian’ and the Advanced students are writing essays on the poetry of Tennyson and Jessica Anderson’s ‘Tirra
Thank you to all the wonderful businesses in Merriwa who hosted our students last week. From all reports Year 10 students had a great week and enjoyed the range of activities that you all provided.

Casual and Part Time Retail and Service Jobs
- Online applications and expressions of interest.

2014 W.B. Yeats Poetry Prize - Closes March 31. 50 line maximum length $500.00 for first place, $100.00 for second place. http://www.wbyeatspoetryprize.com/

Summer School with Metroscreen in January. Like to make a Documentary or a Drama this January? Make it with Metro Screen in-class, under the watchful eye of the professional tutors. Apply today. Start your 2015 in production. email:learn@metroscreen.org.au http://metroscreen.org.au/summer-school/


Last Wednesday we continued to work through covering the mountain of new reading books for our children to enjoy. A huge thankyou to Connie Cook and Krichelle Khan for taking time out of their day to cover books with Kellie Porter and I. It was greatly appreciated. We managed to get through a lot of books and had quite a few laughs also.

We will be holding our last book covering day tomorrow and would love to have as many volunteers as possible to try and get through the last of our books. You are welcome to bring young children as there will be toys provided in the Library to entertain them while we cover. Everyone is welcome so please come along, even if you can’t stay for the whole time, every little bit helps.

Date: Friday, November 28
Time: 9.00am-11.00am
Where: Primary Library

Hope to see you there

Kara Allison
Instructional leader

Merriwa Central School has recently elected our new student representatives for the 2014-2015 year. The following students were elected:
- **Year 8** – Stephanie McLennan, Victoria McNaught, Alicia Clydsdale
- **Year 9** – Jarron Healy, Max Lundie
- **Year 10** – Kyle Mudge, James Hagley, Breanna Goodear
- **Year 11** – Janaya Austin, Leah Wright-Riley, Craig Walker
- **Year 12** – Courtney Gibbons, Elizabeth Hagley

On our planning day, a tightly contested election was held and seen Elizabeth Hagley win the voting to become this year’s SRC President and School Captain, taking reins from Paige Haydon. Both Elizabeth and Courtney were extremely suitable for the position, making it a hard decision who to vote for on the day.

Our planning day allowed us to map out the years plan. Upcoming events this term include:
- December 11 - End of Year Disco
- December 17 - Rewards Activities and Out of Uniform Day

We have many more events planned out for the next year including a SRC camp with the new Year 7 students that will be elected early next year. I will be keeping you informed of upcoming events in Merriwa Central School throughout 2015 as the new Publicity Officer so look out for these articles.

Craig Walker
SRC Publicity Officer
**ROAR**

**Zach Adams**

**Year 7**

**ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards**

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Why I want to be in ROAR: It’s a good opportunity to play sport

Favourite subject: PE

Favourite sport: League

Favourite team: Broncos

Favourite player: Darren Lockyer

Best personal sporting achievement: First time I scored a try in football

Who inspires you and why: My Mum because she never gives up

Advice to young players: Keep trying, don’t stop, never give up

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PREVIOUS WEEK ITEMS

**Year 12 2014 Students please note:** HSC students need their Student Number and PIN to access their: Assessment ranks from November 5-19, HSC results online or by SMS December 17 (pre-register for SMS now). Students should activate their Students Online account to create their PIN or find out how to change their PIN if forgotten. http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/

**Year 11 2014 students:** Your grades for your Preliminary HSC subjects are available in My Details from Wednesday November 12. http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/

**Entry Standards for Future Teachers from 2016**

Entrants for accredited undergraduate teaching degree will need: a minimum of three Band 5 HSC results, including one in English or to complete bridging units equivalent to a minimum of three Band 5 HSC results, including English, as approved by BOSTES before entry or to enter via an alternative pathway as advised by their university and approved by BOSTES. http://nswteachers.nsw.edu.au/about-us/news/raising-university-entry-standards-for-future-teachers/

**Australian Defence Force** Information Sessions

Newcastle Women in Defence December 2, 6.00pm, 528 Hunter Street, Newcastle. https://www.facebook.com/DefenceJobsAustralia/events

If you require any further information about careers please contact me at school.

Jane Hegarty

Careers Advisor
Welcome back Mrs Tanya Ninness. We hope you are as happy to be back as we are to have you here again. We hope you settle back into school life readily.

We bade farewell to Mrs Hagley last week but are very happy to see her smiling face popping back in to the classrooms regularly.

Mr Bruce Riley has advised us of his intention to retire as groundsperson at the end of the 2014 school year. Bruce has been a very diligent and hardworking groundsperson for the past eight years and has ensured our grounds have been kept in beautiful order. We will miss his contribution to the smooth running of the school but wish him all the best in his retirement.

STATE ACTION PLAN (SAP) IN 2015

We are very pleased to have received word last week, that St Joseph’s will continue to part of the SAP initiative. This means that there will be a funding allocation for a leading teacher of 2 days per week for the year. The focus of the Lead Teacher will remain on the Infants years (K,1,2) in Numeracy as well as Literacy. This allocation will enable three teachers to work collaboratively to design quality learning experiences in English and Maths in the Infants classroom.

Congratulations to our Stage 3 class of 14 who sat the NSW Permanent Mathematics Test again this year. We are thrilled to receive two distinctions, five merits and seven participation awards.

Congratulations to Darcy Moore, Eliza Peebles, Ty Riley, Lauren Redgate and Nickolas Roberts and for receiving Merit awards.

Congratulations to Stage 3 students and to their teacher - Mr Mark Morris.

Our new Library will be installed on December 2. We are very excited about this and look forward to moving all classes to their new rooms over the following few weeks. We would love helpers for this task. The main security gate (near the canteen) to the school is now inaccessible until the building work is complete. Children will need to use the gate between the Year 3/4 and 5/6 classrooms. All parents, volunteers and visitors are still to enter via the front office and must sign in before proceeding.

Artists and Sculptors wanted. I have some great ideas for sculpture projects to enhance our new library. I am a creative dreamer but need some help with the hands on skills. If you would like to let your creative juices flow please see me as soon as possible – there is fun to be had!

Positions vacant at school:

We have a position for a
- Groundsman - 3 hours per week
- Teacher for 4 x ½ days each week.

Please see the advertisements on the CSO website and posted in the school office and MacKillop Room. Applications close this Friday.

The St Joseph’s Anti Bullying Policy requires us to survey the students each year to ensure students understand bullying and to measure how knowledgeable the students are in ways to deal with perceived bullying. The Stage 2 and 3 students have created the online survey and have completed this. Stage 1 and Early Stage 1 are yet to complete it. The information gathered has enabled me to follow up with individual students and discuss their experiences at school and work with them on strategies for settling playground disputes and standing up and saying “No” to bullies.
Some of the important learning for the students on bullying is identifying what bullying actually is and what it is not.

Bullying is repeated and systematic attacks on others. A student is being bullied or victimised when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students.

The National Safe Schools Framework (2011) defines bullying as repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons.

Bullying is not a playground tiff, an angry disagreement between students, a friendship breakup. These things happen regularly and we try to help the students learn the social skills necessary to work through these incidents.

Chook keepers have a new family to add to their ranks. Welcome aboard to the Bates family. We thank you for your kind offer to look after the chooks on the weekends of December. Thanks to the Hunt family for their efforts in November. This responsibility is a very important one especially in the very hot, dry weather which we have been experiencing.

Bus zones and safe use of the parking spaces around the school. Please remember our Number 1 priority in the afternoon is the safety of all our children. Slow down, look carefully, buckle up front and back. Supervise your children crossing the road and ensure you teach them about pedestrian safety.

School swimming lessons have started and wow what a great start! Parent helpers have been magnificent in their willingness to assist the teachers in conducting the St Joseph’s School learn to swim lessons. Thank you to the following mums and dads who have helped so far - Jodie Magner, Jeremy Nicholls, Kylie Telfer, Katie Thompson, Lucy Johnson, Peter Holland, Karin Brazier, Mel Parker, Natalie Hourn, Scott Beaven, Heidi Grady, Emma Henderson and Fiona Morgan.

Parenting expert Michael Grose has written a very useful article on developing your child’s self esteem. I have included a copy here.

In an effort for kids to feel good about themselves have we made life too easy for them?

Kids don’t get self-esteem from hearing a mountain of feel-good statements of ‘Well done!’ or getting certificates for mediocre performances.

One of the tricks that successful parents use is to gradually teach kids the skills of self-esteem building.

Here are 5 skills for self-esteem building:

1. Self-praise

The best strategy for kids of all ages and both genders is the development of self-praise. You can cue your kids into self-praise by saying, ‘Well, what do you think about that?’ Challenge negative responses (‘It’s crap!’) and help kids be realistic appraisers of what they do

2. Realistic self-talk

Many kids will default to putting themselves down when they don’t do well. Help children understand their own self-talk. Get them to listen to that little voice in their heads that says they can or can’t do things and help them work out alternative messages that they can use if they are self-defeating. Teach kids that they can change the self-talk from a negative to a positive response

3. Encouraging others

When children and teenagers encourage others to do well they are internalising encouragement. They also begin to associate encouragement they give to others with themselves. So if a child praises a sibling for overcoming a learning challenge, such as improving his spelling at school, he is learning first hand about the impact that encouragement will have. He’ll also experience that feeling himself

4. Regulating feelings

If a child feels disappointed in himself he doesn’t have to stay that way. It’s important for kids to realise having feelings is ok, for them to be validated and not be overwhelmed by them. Kids learn to manage their feelings by observing modelling from parents/carers. We can teach kids to regulate their stress levels; express their feelings constructively, not impulsively or hurtfully

5. Choosing friends

Peers give young people a sense of belonging and an increased sense of self-confidence. Talk with your child about friendships so that you offer support when there are difficulties and provide some ideas when needed. Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness and to understand that they can make smart friendship choices, broaden their friendship group, and walk away from challenging situations.

Find out more information on the Parenting Ideas Club www.parentingideas.com.au
THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY OF ST JOSEPH’S MERRIWA

In June this year I was visiting Merriwa and took my children to the St Joseph’s Campdraft. While I was there, I was lucky enough to win one of the raffle prizes - an accommodation voucher for Ashmore Palms Holiday Village on the Gold Coast.

The kids and I travelled up to the Gold Coast in September and had a wonderful time catching up with family and visiting the Theme Parks. We had stayed at Ashmore Palms on a family holiday several years before and winning the accommodation prize was just the incentive I needed to take my kids away again for a much needed family holiday.

Thank you St Joseph’s Merriwa.

Donna Anderson

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AWARD WINNERS FOR WEEK 7

Kindergarten - Peter Hagley – for his cooperation working with others

Bethany Wightman – for diligent work in Religion

Year 1 and 2 - Bobby Keegan - fantastic effort in participating in swimming

Toby Jamieson – working well to solve problems during group work

Year 3 and 4 - Piper Cropper - for her great understanding of how the Earth rotates around the sun

Ha Giang Nguyen - for settling nicely into the 3/4 classroom

Year 5 and 6 - Lauren Redgate – for yet another fantastic Mathematics assessment result

Nicole Martin – showing great initiative to work independently on Persuasive presentation

Principal’s Awards - Emily Ninness - for doing her best to ensure all students feel welcome and special at St Joseph’s School

Lauren Redgate - for doing her best to ensure all students feel welcome and special at St Joseph’s School.

Concentration as budding artists learn from the expert Aboriginal Artist, Les Elvin. The workshop was part of the Merriwa Show Interschool Challenge

St Joseph’s students at the recent Upper Hunter Conservatorium concert

Mrs Helen Whale
Principal

Merriwa Ringer
SWIMMING

Our intensive learn to swim program will begin next week. Due to the pool being double booked, we have had to change some of our days. We will be swimming on the following dates:

All dates are in December - Tuesday 2, Thursday 4, Friday 5, Monday 8, Wednesday 10, Thursday 11, Friday 12, Monday 15, Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17.

Students are reminded that they MUST wear a “rashies” and sun screen while participating in swimming lessons. When students are not in the water, they will need to wear a school hat. We will leave school each day at 9.00am and return approximately 12.00pm. Students will need to take their fruit break, recess and drink with them each day.

Last day of school for students is Wednesday December 17.

PRINCIPAL MEETINGS

I will be away on Thursday/Friday this week to attend the Primary Principal’s Association meeting and the Invermein Principal’s meeting. I will be reporting back to these groups about where we are up to with our school planning. At Invermein we will be looking at possibly combining funds to secure programs across the small schools. On Thursday Mrs Parker will teach the class and on Friday I will be replaced by Ms Bullock.

Christina Darlington
Principal

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION 2014 - WEEK 8

We have thoroughly enjoyed having Tyson Marsh, Austin Adams, John Ward, Bede Meuleman, Archie Johnson, Jobee McCandless and Liviana Craig with us at school over the last eight weeks. Each of the children has grown in confidence since starting Kindergarten Orientation. Today was our last day together for this year. However, we are looking forward to having the children at school every day next year.

We would like to thank Mrs Elliott for guiding the children through all their activities each week.

Also we would like to say a huge thank you to the buddies; Abby Cooper, Angus Higgins, Jacob Marsh, Hunter Marsh, Jake Pike, Kristy Walker and Bella Wallace for their continual help over the last eight weeks.

PEER SUPPORT

Our last peer support session for 2014 was held today, as we all came together to focus on the skill of “Following Instructions”.

Once again our group leaders took their children through four different activities encouraging them to use the social skills they have learnt throughout
Maddie has earned the title of ‘Student of the Week’ for her wonderful behaviour last week while Mr Sean was visiting the school. She worked well on all the new activities that Sean introduced throughout the week and displayed a positive attitude towards learning. Maddie didn’t just give up on things because she was frustrated and couldn’t do them at first and by the end of the week she could even play a song on the Ukulele without support. Maddie should also be congratulated on her conduct during the video conference with Darcy Road on Friday; she spoke well and was a positive role model for the school. Congratulations on your efforts Maddie. Keep up the wonderful work!

LET’S GET TO KNOW THE STUDENT OF THE WEEK A LITTLE BETTER...

What is your favourite sport or hobby? Riding horses

Do you have a favourite song or singer? Taylor Swift - Teardrops on my guitar

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why? To be invisible so I can hide from people

If you were stuck on a deserted island and could only take 3 things what would you take? Water, a phone and a bag.

Kaelyn was away last week so here’s her answers...

What is your favourite sport or hobby? Tennis

Do you have a favourite song or singer? Katy Perry

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why? Make people come back to life.

If you were stuck on a deserted island and could only take three things what would you take? Swimming suit, floaties and a boat.
THIS WEEK WE HAVE HAD A WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENT – ABBEY – FROM MERRIWA HIGH SCHOOL HELPING OUT IN CLASSROOMS, THE LIBRARY AND OFFICE. SHE HAS BEEN A GREAT HELP WITH END OF YEAR JOBS THAT HAVE SAVED STAFF MANY HOLIDAY HOURS. TODAY SHE COMMENTED THAT “TEACHING ISN’T GLAMOUROS, IS IT?”

NO, TEACHING ISN’T GLAMOUROS BUT IT IS FULLFILLING, ENRICHING, REWARDING, AMUSING, ENLIGHTENING, HEARTBREAKING, UPLIFTING, AMAZING, FABULOUS, CHALLENGING, HEARTWARMING, FUN, BUSY AND MANY OTHER THINGS TO MANY TEACHERS.

TEACHERS GET TO CARE FOR, NURTURE AND DEVELOP YOUNG PEOPLE ACADEMICALLY, PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

WE SHARE THEIR HOPES, DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS AS WELL AS THEIR FEARS, HURTS AND INSECURITIES.

WE WORK TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE THE BEST OUTCOMES FOR EVERY CHILD; AND EVERY CHILD HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

IN TERM 2 THIS YEAR ELIZABETH FROM ENACTUS UNE CAME TO CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HELP FAMILIES/ COMMUNITY MEMBERS COMPLETE PAPERWORK TO APPLY FOR FREE BIRTH CERTIFICATES. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE UNFORTUNATELY NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE CERTIFICATES THAT YOU ORDERED COULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT MICHELLE GOULD AT BIRTHS/ DEATHS AND MARRIAGES BY EMAILING michelle_gould@agd.nsw.gov.au OR 9035 6411. MICHELLE WILL NEED TO KNOW THAT ELIZABETH WAS WORKING FOR THE MINIMBAH PROJECT. ONCE MICHELLE HAS ADVISED YOU OF THE OUTCOME COULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT ELIZABETH FROM ENACTUS UNE 0428 945 670 TO ADVISE HER OF THE OUTCOME.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

OUR TWO 2015 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS, BANJO AND BEN HAVE BEEN ENJOYING COMING TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY MORNINGS THIS TERM.

CASSILIS RODEO

THE CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL P AND C IS ONCE AGAIN DOING THE RODEO GATE ROSTER IN 2015. ON SATURDAY JANUARY 31 WE WILL MAN THE GATES AND AS THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR WE NEED EVERYONE TO HELP OUT FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS. ALL MONEY EARNED GOES DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENTS AND THIS YEAR IT WILL GO TOWARDS UPGRAADING THE PLAY EQUIPMENT.

PLEASE, AS MANY HELPERS AS POSSIBLE ON THE DAY WILL BE GREAT. ALL PARENT NAMES WILL GO DIRECTLY ONTO THE ROSTER AND OTHER WILLING VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Remember!
Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 9.00am Monday. No late articles will be accepted.

FROM MRS GRINHAM’S DESK

SCHOOL UNIFORMS 2015

If you require school uniforms for 2015, please contact the school by December 1 so payment can be arranged and uniforms can be ordered and available before the start of Term 1.

DIARY

December
1- 4 - Swimming Scheme - Merriwa
4 - Christmas play Catholic church 9.30am
5 - Library visit 2.00-3.00pm
8 - 11 Swimming Scheme – Merriwa
11 - Year 6 Farewell - venue Royal Hotel Cassilis
15 - Performance and Presentation Night
16 - Rewards day and Santa visit
17 - Students last day
18 -19 - Staff Development Days

January 2015
27 – Staff return to school SDD
28 – Students return to school
31 – Cassilis Rodeo – parents manning gates!

February
6 – Swimming Carnival with Sandy Hollow – Merriwa

Jeanette Grinham
Relieving Principal

Merriwa Ringer
CHRISTMAS IS COMING

I don’t know about you, but this term this just flown by. We are now preparing for our end of year events and we begin this week with some Christmas crafting sessions for families. Each term we are finding a way to welcome families into the service and to include families in our programme. Last term was our spring gardening morning which resulted in some lovely fresh vegetables that have been used for cooking and other learning experiences about how things grow. On Wednesday November 26 and Thursday 27 we welcomed Pre-School users to the service for a morning of creating Christmas craft from 9.00am -10.30am. A morning tea of fruit cake and iced tea will be available for the grown ups in the Merriwa Activity Centre room. Please refrain from offering these foods to the children at the centre as this may have an impact on those children that are managing allergies.

It has been wonderful for the children to engage in Christmas craft for their families and witness the development of the value of creating and giving to others. The children also suggested that we create a life size figure of Santa Claus as a surprise for him, he now sits at the entry to the Pre-School and has a lot a character to say the least. We hope that Santa loves the tribute to him. On the weekend we created a beautiful Frozen Christmas display for the children to engage with, this morning the group were delighted by their surprise.

As we discuss giving, the Merriwa Pre-School would like to give something back to you at this time of year and we hope that these occasions are among some of the highlights of your Christmas calendar.

Our Christmas Parties are as follows: Please note that these dates are also the last day of Pre-School for the year 2014:

We cordially invite the community of the Merriwa Pre-School to our Children’s Christmas Parties:

Thursday December 11 - 10.00am
Tuesday December 16 - 10.00am
Wednesday December 17 - 6.00pm

The evening of the December 17 will be an event for children who attend Pre-School on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The children will be fully provided for on the night and the grown ups are welcome to join in a BBQ supper, meat and rolls with a tossed salad will be provided and we ask that grown ups bring their own drinks (please no alcohol) and a festive plate to share.

If there are parents of children who do not attend the older day party, who are willing to help out on the evening that would be greatly appreciated and also if you are the family of an older child that could assist in the parties for the younger groups that would be most welcome. This allows the families to sit and enjoy the experience with their children rather than helping in the kitchen.

Leah Folpp
Pre-School Coordinator
Merriwa Pre-School Kindergarten Assoc.
Dear Merriwa,

As I can no longer look after myself due to Motor Neurone Disease, I will be leaving Merriwa soon to live with family in Newcastle.

To all the people I have been privileged to know in Merriwa over the years, thank you so much for sharing part of your lives with me.

It has been such a pleasure to work side by side with you, in the Merriwa Healthy Environment Group, the Show, the Development Association, the Progress Association, Trinity Markets, Driver Reviver, the library, the Historical Society, the CWA, Holy Trinity Anglican Church and in Ecumenical Scripture teaching.

Writing Merriwa stories for the Hunter Valley News over 13 years was a joy for me and I hope the readers found them interesting. The photos were also great fun and occasionally a picture said a thousand words! How we “Kept our Classroom” and how we “Kept the Fitzroy Hotel” are two good examples of Merriwa beating the odds by everyone getting together and standing up for what we believed in.

I also enjoyed speaking on ABC Radio Upper Hunter about happenings in Merriwa. I found Mike Pritchard and the ABC journalists very professional and even-handed in their coverage. The ABC is the true voice of Australia, the true voice of everyone no matter how little power they have.

I wish Merriwa every thing good and I know that, with the wonderful community spirit in the town and district, it will survive and prosper. Just look at how well the Merriwa Non-Emergency Medical Transport Service is going – what a huge credit to the town, the service is open to everyone, it’s staffed entirely by volunteers and has very little funding support. That’s Merriwa for you.

Part of an old Celtic prayer goes: “I let go: window and door, house and home, memory and fear. I let go, knowing that I will always carry part of my past (part of you) with me, woven into the story of my life.”

Merriwa is unforgettable – “a breath of fresh air, where you’re welcome to stay a day, a week or the rest of your life” (from the Merriwa Shire Council tourist brochure). I’m really going to miss it.

Enid Holt

**Birth Certificates**

In June of this year, Minimbah Project conducted a ‘Free Birth Certificate’ registration day in both Merriwa and Cassilis townships. It has been brought to their attention that some people have yet to receive their Birth Certificates.

If you find that you are one of these people, please contact Michell Gould via email on Michelle_Gould@agd.nsw.gov.au. If there is an unsatisfactory reply or lack thereof also contact me on bcerteu@gmail.com.

Rosalie Drew
Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa River RFS
CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER
Ham/Wine and Cheese raffle with lucky
door prizes and 40 plus draws on the night.

Where: Merriwa RSL
When: December 18
Tickets on sale at 6.30pm for 7.45pm draw
Cost: $1.00 per ticket
Prizes include: 47 inch TV, Kindle and a 7 inch
tablet which will be drawn on completion of the
night.

Bring along your family and your friends. Everyone
welcome.
Table reservations contact Marlene Rogers 0431
614 034.

Merriwa Senior Citizens Assoc.
We will be having our Christmas luncheon on
Sunday November 30 in the Merriwa RSL Club’s
Auditorium from 12 noon with lunch set down for
12.30pm and costing $15.00 for members ($20.00
for non members).

Raffle will be a hamper (tickets $1.00 each) and
lots of Lucky Door prizes.

Please bring a small gift for exchange.

Come and enjoy our festive luncheon and let me
have numbers please.

We have also been invited to Muswellbrook
Senior’s Christmas luncheon to be held on
Thursday November 27 at Muswellbrook Worker’s
Club, commencing at 10.30am and costing
$20.00.

If you would like to go, please contact me for the
RSVP.

Sue’s Christmas Lunch
FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Don’t have Christmas alone.. come and have it
with us!

Four meats and salad with all the trimmings at the
Anglican Hall, December 25 from 12.30pm. All are
welcome and all helpers get a free lunch.

Scott Beavan

Merriwa CWA
EDUCATIONAL GRANTS
The CWA has available two educational grants
available.

Jean Latham Educational Grant Valued at $300.00
Tenable by a student entering Year 12 and
residing in the bounds of the Hunter River Group.

Hunter River Educational Grant Valued at $500.00
Tenable by a student entering Tertiary Education
and residing in the bounds of the Hunter River
Group.

Application forms are available from the school
or phone Robyn on 6548 3274.

It is not a complicated process and we encourage
you to apply.

Robyn McAlister

Junior cooking and craft day Saturday December
6 at the rooms 159 Bettington Street. Start is at
10.00am and finishing at 2.30pm.

Cost for the day is free. Lunch will be provided.
Non membered juniors are to be accompanied
by a parent or guardian.

CWA Christmas meeting and lunch. at 39 Marquet
Street. Meeting at 10.00am followed by lunch.
Partners and former members welcome.

Phone Jean on 6548 2456 for catering.

Jean Price

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch
CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: December 14
Time: 12.00 noon

We will be holding our Christmas Party in the
Jackson Room directly after our monthly meeting.
We would like to see members and wives for this
occasion. Thanking you.

Bob Baimh

The Merriwa Community News is available to charity
groups or non-funded, not for profit organisations and
anyone wishing to advise of a special event (birthday/
anniversary/etc). If you would like to make use of this free
service, please contact us prior to 12.00pm Mondays.
St Anne’s Parish is conducting a Christmas hamper raffle, with all proceeds raised going directly to our Parish.

Tickets are $2.00 each or three for $5.00 and will be drawn December 20 at 12.00 midday.

For those unable to attend the draw, the winner will be advertised on the Parish noticeboard.

CCI has kindly donated this hamper valued at over $150.00.

Mark and Jane Smith
Sue Shearman, Kay Burgess and Margaret Witney
for St Anne’s Parish team

Happy Birthday

We would like to take the opportunity to wish our beautiful son Isaac a “Happy First Birthday!”

You have shown us strength and joy beyond our wildest dreams and will always be our little hero.

We would also like to extend our warmest thanks to the entire Merriwa community for your endless love and support over the past year.

Adam and Amanda Johnston

Merriwa VIEW Club

Our November Dinner, November 27 will be held at Cassilis at the Plough Inn. The meal will be $25.00 and if you travel by bus an extra $10.00. The bus will leave the Council Chambers in Vennacher Street at 6.30pm. Extras will be taken by car. Please bring a Xmas gift to exchange and BYO.

Donations to our Learning Locally Bags for our 2015 Kinder Classes would be welcome. This will be our last Dinner meeting for the year and we will resume in February 2015. Please ring Elaine 6548 8560 if you have extras.

Elaine Sparrow

NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED ROAD CLOSURES

Merriwa Rotary and Kaleidoscope (Hunter Kids Health Network) are planning a Fun Run/Walk for Sunday March 29, 2015. Our Fun Run/Walk will start at the Merriwa No 1 Oval and finish at the Merriwa Showground. The procedure to do this is to give notification of the closure of the roads needed for the safety of the competitors and give two weeks for any objections.

The roads in question will be Brisbane Street (at Oval gates; corner of Blaxland and Marquet Streets; Scone Road; corner of Vennacher and Marquet Street; corner of Bow and Blaxland Streets; and northern end of Dutton Street (near waste disposal outlet). These six road closures will commence at 8.00am and be open by 9.15am. Any objections must be received no later than 4.00pm Friday December 5, 2014.

Mark Smith
WHAT IS THIS EVENT?

In April this year Kaleidoscope had a fundraising event at the Merriwa Showground. The weekend saw caravans and campers arrive from different locations in the Hunter to enjoy festivities such as an auction of some great articles and memorabilia, bush poets, wine tasting, Rock and Roll and Country Bands and singers, markets, song writing and performance workshops and lots of great food. The Merriwa Rotary Club catered for breakfast and a spit roast dinner with all proceeds being given to Kaleidoscope – Hunter Kids Health Network. This fundraising organisation raises money for Hunter kids and their families in time of need which flows on to our own community. The total money raised in April was in excess of $9,000.00. So next year it is on again and Merriwa Rotary have once again put up our hands to help for the weekend. We are organising a Fun Run/Walk which will leave the Merriwa No1 Sports Oval, meander up past St. Joseph’s, down to Blaxland Street onto the bike/walking track, under the Merriwa Bridge and a loop around the Merriwa Showground arena finishing at the Roach Pavilion.

This will be a fantastic event as there is something for everybody, simply to have some fun with your friends, the opportunity for the family to have fun together and there is a chance to prove yourself or just have fun as an individual while raising money for a great cause.

However before we start advertising we have to follow a procedure and get permission from the suitable authorities. One of these is Notification of Road Closure. Any objections must be received no later than 4.00pm Friday December 5, 2014. Watch this space in the weeks to come after all permission has been granted and we’ll tell you more about this event – Kaleidoscope – Hunter Kids Health Fun Run/Walk, Sunday March 29, 2015. For further information about the Fun Run/Walk or the Closure of Roads please contact Elaine on 6548 8560.

Elaine Sparrow

Find us on

Facebook!

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!

MAGAZINE CLUB

We are currently running a Magazine Club in store. If you buy 11 magazines, we will give you a twelfth magazine for free. This offer lasts until December 31. Come in and get your card today.

Charlie Bear

We would like to welcome some very special guests to our business. Charlie Bears have arrived. They are highly collectible and are a great way to introduce a family heirloom to the family - to be enjoyed for many generations to come. Each bear is individually hand-crafted, making him (or her) completely unique. The artistry and craftsmanship in each bear is amazing, the highest quality materials are used and the different techniques used are extensive, giving each bear their own unique personality. Each bear has his own story, and they are all limited as older bears do retire, making them all the more special.

Allow me to introduce you -

Aloysius - a gorgeously fuzzy light brown bear, with a wonderful scarf
Bronwyn - a soft grey mohair bear, with beautiful brown patches
Cayden - a dapper dark chocolate bear with wonderful patches of soft grey
Guy - a soft, shy-looking bear with a lovely big bow
Henry - a gruff golden brown bear with a soft red scarf
Lennon - a highly limited spotty bear with a big silver key
Lionheart - a gorgeous honey blonde bear who will melt your heart
Merlot - a deliciously dark red- brown furry bear with a great big bow
Parker - a petite, mottled bear, with jingly bells
Wotsit - a wonderfully furry bear with a big blue bow.

They love cuddles and smiles and giggles. They are waiting (rather impatiently, I might add) for you to come and meet them all.
PHONECARDS; all cards are now available including Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone  
Cash or Eftpos only

Neville and Leanne Hook

Merriwa Tyre Service

THIS WEEKS TOPIC - TYRES AND TYRE PRESSURES

Did you know that tyre pressure plays a big role in tyre wear, the ability to absorb shocks (such as pot holes) and the overall steering and braking of the vehicle?

Over inflation reduces the ability of the tyre to absorb road shocks resulting in a much harsher ride. Over inflation will also cause excessive wear to the centre of the tyre.

Under inflation is a frequent cause of tyre damage. Under inflation will cause irregular tread wear and will eventually weaken the case causing blowouts.

For the correct pressures for your vehicle check the tyre placard which is mostly located on the driver’s door pillar or in your owner’s manual.

Tyre tread depth by law should be no less than 1.5mm in depth right across the tread area, so when checking your tyres tread always make sure you check right across to the inner edge of the tyre. This depth is required to maintain the optimum safety levels for you and your passengers.

BALANCING YOUR WHEELS

Safety is the main reason for balancing the tyres on your vehicle. Balance will ensure a smooth; vibration free ride as well as improving tyre life. When your tyres are out of balance you may find that your steering wheel is vibrating. As the tyre and wheel assembly is vibrating, the contact pressure of the tyre on the road varies which can cause irregular wear and will in turn result in having to replace your tyres prematurely.

The wheels should be balanced when new tyres are fitted and any time the tyre is removed from the rim. Wheel balance and rotation should be carried out regularly (about every 10,000km) to get the best wear from your tyres.

WHEEL ALIGNMENT

Correct wheel aligning of your vehicle will ensure that it drives straight down the road. Correct wheel alignment will also ensure that the tyres on your vehicle wear evenly and don’t have to be replaced prematurely due to irregular wear.

Wheel alignment should occur upon fitting new tyres to your vehicle and at about every 10,000km to get maximum mileage from your tyres.

With Christmas soon approaching and people getting ready for their Christmas holiday trips, now would be a perfect time to check the health of your tyres.

So for your tyre inquires call in and see us at Merriwa Tyre and Service Centre.

Your local tyre and mechanical repair specialist.

Debbie, Glenn and Brad Hunt

Merriwa Pharmacy

HELP FOR THE HEART

Nearly everyone will be affected by cardiovascular disease at some point in their lives. Whether you or someone close to you develops cardiovascular disease, knowing what you can do to get help for the heart is important.

Cardiovascular disease includes all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels. The main cause of cardiovascular disease in Australia is atherosclerosis, an abnormal build-up of fat and other substances which form plaque inside the arteries. Atherosclerosis may be present but without symptoms for years however, the ultimate consequences can be debilitating and even life-threatening, such as heart attack and stroke.

The main types of cardiovascular disease in Australia are:

- Coronary heart disease
- Stroke
- Heart failure and cardiomyopathy
- Acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Congenital heart disease

Other heart conditions include cardiac arrhythmias such as atrial and ventricular fibrillation.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and based on data from the 2007–08 National Health Survey, an estimated 17% of the Australian population (3.4 million people) had cardiovascular disease. The prevalence is spread similarly across males and females. While only 10% of those aged 35–44 years have cardiovascular disease, this jumped to 70% of those aged 85 years or over.

Blood pressure is the pressure of blood against blood vessel walls. We all need to maintain normal blood pressure to stay alive, but blood pressure higher than normal can be dangerous. Most people with high blood pressure have no symptoms and feel well. The only way to find out if your blood pressure is higher than normal is to
High blood pressure (or hypertension) is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. It is the cause of more death and disease than any other risk factor. Blood pressure can be elevated by lifestyle factors, such as too much salt and fat in the diet, being overweight/obese, drinking too much alcohol, and stress. By lowering blood pressure, absolute cardiovascular risk is reduced. Medicines can help to control, but cannot cure, high blood pressure.

Risk factors for heart disease include smoking, diabetes, obesity, family history and age. By following a healthy lifestyle and taking medicines as prescribed, you can reduce your absolute risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Your local pharmacy is your health destination. There are many products and services available in pharmacies which can help with cardiovascular disease and its prevention. These include:

- Cardiovascular disease services such as blood pressure monitoring and atrial fibrillation monitoring
- Pharmacists can conduct screening and risk assessment services and assess your absolute cardiovascular risk. Depending upon the pharmacist’s findings you may be referred to your doctor for further risk assessment and diagnosis
- Diabetes management services
- Products and services to help you quit smoking.
- Weight loss services and products
- Blood pressure monitors for home use
- Reviews of your current medicine regimen
- Personalised services to help you better manage taking your medicine
- Health information and advice on diet/lifestyle.

Visit your local pharmacy to find out how they can help you prevent, monitor and control cardiovascular disease.

Merriwa Pharmacy has a range of helpful Fact Cards including Exercise and the Heart, Fat and Cholesterol, and High Blood Pressure.

Christmas stock is still arriving. Layby now.

We have only a few 2015 calendars remaining. Please ask for one.

Robert Smith
Merriwa Surgery

Merriwa is a very nice place to live and a wonderful community to deal and work with. On behalf of the Salama Family, thank you very much for your ongoing support to Dr Salama while practicing at the surgery, when he was unwell and after he passed away. It was very hard and difficult to keep the surgery going after Dr Salama passed away. I couldn’t have done it without the help of Dr Plaskitt and the other locum doctors. We truly thank them. Special thanks to Rural Doctor Network and Medicare Local Hunter for their support and help. I would also like to thank Robert Smith as he has been a crucial part of my support system.

Dr Emad Jasem takes over the practice on the December 1 and will practice full time in the surgery, even during the weekend. Also he will be working as an on call doctor at the Merriwa Multipurpose Centre. Dr Emad Jasem, I am sure you and your family will be very happy to live and work in such a nice town like Merriwa. The Salama Family wish to welcome Dr Jasem.

The Salama Family
Basem, Sandra and Elen Salama

Dr Noman Jawaad Medical Practice

We are currently open five days a week.

**MERRIWA**

Dr Jawaad works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Dr Cho works Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm.

**DENMAN**

Dr Jawaad works Tuesday 8.30am to 6.00pm and Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Dr Cho works Monday 8.00am to 5.00pm

For all appointments for Merriwa and Denman please phone 6532 5013.

Dr Noman Jawaad

Looking for last minute Christmas ideas or can’t quite find that tool you have been looking for?

Come in and check out the new Christmas Kinchrome specials catalogue now.

Also available are the 2015 Calendars, get in quick before they all go...

Come in and see Wayne or Leo today!

Merriwa Petroleum and Ag Supplies

19 Vennacher Street, Merriwa

Phone 6548 2071
FOR SALE

Round Bales of Hay

450 round bales of good quality barley straw hay, 300 oaten straw hay, no weather damage.

$38.00 gst inc per bale

Phone Mark 0418 479 910

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CASUAL EDUCATOR AND CASUAL CLEANING STAFF

The Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre are seeking motivated applicants to join our team of casuals. Experience in the advertised positions would be highly regarded.

The hours of work are variable and a ‘Working with Children’s Check’ will apply.

A willingness to obtain a Certificate III in Children’s Services for the Casual Educators is essential.

These positions are well suited to reliable and caring individuals with a good knowledge of WH&S.

Please contact staff at the Pre-School or Activity Centre for a description of the roles.

Applications in writing to Merriwa Pre-School.

Two referees and a recent resume is required.

Closing date will be the Thursday December 4

Applications to:

Merriwa Pre-School

P.O. Box 96

Merriwa NSW 2329

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CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVES

All existing permitted grazing arrangements in the Merriwa/Cassilis areas on Travelling Stock Reserves will cease on 31 December 2014.

New grazing permits may be granted on these reserves following an expression of interest (EOI) process.

Please contact any Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) office for a full list of reserves.

Persons interested in applying for grazing permits on any of the nominated reserves for a four year period – being 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 – must lodge an online EOI via the eTender website: https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/ using reference number DITRIS EOI 14/284.

All relevant information is available from all Hunter LLS offices and online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter

Completed forms must be lodged online by 2pm on Thursday, 4 December 2014. The highest or any EOI may not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, contact Jamie Maddocks on 0429 924 365.

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GARAGE SALE

Heaps of items and all of it must go!

No early looking, opens at 9.00am - 1.00pm

2 Macartney Street

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November

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Have unwanted items? Looking for something in particular or an event the public needs to know about? Why not place an advert with the Merriwa Ringer?

Interested?

Contact us on 6548 2119

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NSW GOVERNMENT

Local Land Services

Hunter

Calling for Expressions of Interest on Travelling Stock Reserves

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Completed forms must be lodged online by 2pm on Thursday, 4 December 2014. The highest or any EOI may not necessarily be accepted.

For further information, contact Jamie Maddocks on 0429 924 365.
Alexander Downs is proudly 100% Hunter Valley owned and operated. From our paddock to your plate - Quality Guaranteed Beef and Pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday.

**SPECIAL**

We are now taking orders for our Christmas Hams and Rolled Pork.

Our Duroc Pork is born and raised here in Merriwa, with a marbling gene our pork is always flavourful and tender.

Get in now to avoid disappointment!

Please place orders by 5pm Mondays for Friday delivery. For Order Forms Phone: 6548 5170 or 6548 5008. Fax: 65485181.
alexanderdownsgroup@bigpond.com

www.alexanderdowns.com.au
Do you need transport to Muswellbrook for Work, TAFE, Appointments and Social activities? TransCare have a bus service operating Monday to Friday leaving Merriwa at 6.10am and arrives in Muswellbrook at 7.10am. It leaves Muswellbrook at 4.50pm and has you in Merriwa by 6.00pm. The cost is $8.00 each way.

There is also a service leaving Merriwa at 8.35am which departs Muswellbrook at 1.45pm.

Bookings are essential, contact TransCare 6545 3113, 8.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

MERRIWA - MUSWELLBROOK TIMETABLE

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POSITIVE AUDIT OF COUNCIL’S FINANCES

Upper Hunter Shire Council is in a positive financial position as shown in the external Audit Report presented to a Council meeting today (21 November).

In 2013/14 Council had Cash Inflows of $46.6m and Cash outflows of $42.6m, which is an increase in cash of $4.2m. This is mainly attributable to loans being drawn down that have not been fully expended, so there was no negative impact on Council’s cash position.

With Council’s Special Rate Variation granted progressively for the period 2013/14 to 2015/16, which has made available low cost funding under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme, Council is seeing the benefits of improved infrastructure.

This is reflected in Council’s Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio which has increased from 80% to 121% during the last 12 months. This compares very favorably to a state average of 81% for 2013. It means that Council is spending more on renewing its infrastructure at a rate greater than the rate of depreciation.

This increased level of work will continue in 2014/15 and 2015/16 with three bridges being replaced and various rural and urban road upgrades.

Further Council’s unrestricted current ratio of 4.02:1 or $4.02 of assets for every $1 of liabilities indicates that Council’s financial position is strong and comparable to the State average of 4.0 for 2013 or the State Treasury Corp benchmark of greater than 1.5.

Council’s principal external auditor Mr. Paul Cornall from Forysths Chartered Accountants presented the audit report on the 2013/14 Financial Statements in front of councilors, staff and members of the public.

Mr Cornall said UHSC was in a good position based on the report. He also thanked Council’s Director Corporate and Community Services Steve Pryor and Finance Manager for getting the accounts done on time and efficiently.

Michael Johnsen
MAYOR

2015 ROSTO OLIVES
MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES
STREET STALL FUNDRAISER

The Festival Committee needs your help in raising money for the 2015 Festival. A fundraising stall will be held outside Merriwa IGA on Friday 28 November from 8.30am to 1.00pm. All donations are greatly appreciated, with all funds raised being donated to the 2015 Festival.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 9th December 2014, 10.00am

Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 9th December 2014, 1.00pm

Finance Committee
Friday 12th December 2014, 1.00pm

Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday 15th December 2014, 5.00pm

All meetings are held at Council’s Administration Centre, Scone, unless otherwise stated.

COUNCIL OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Council’s offices in Scone, Merriwa and Murrurundi will be closed from 12 noon Wednesday 24 December 2014 and reopen on Monday 5 January 2015.

Murrurundi, Scone and Merriwa Accredited Visitor Information Centres will close only on Thursday 25 December 2014.
33 King George Avenue Merriwa  $250,000.00

Situated almost opposite the sporting fields and with open paddocks at the rear this well maintained home will impress. There are three big bedrooms all with built in robes. A large open plan lounge and dining area featuring reverse cycle air and sliding doors leading to the rear entertainment deck. The kitchen has an electric stove and dishwasher. The bathroom is brand new and very stylish. Outside is a single garage and attached carport plus two garden sheds. The yard is fully fenced and flat ideal for the kid's or even a pony.

1273 Flags Road Merriwa  $450,000.00

Situated on 104 acres is this very well established property ideal for someone wanting to be out of town but an easy drive to work. The home has been freshly renovated and comprises of four big bedrooms, the main with an ensuite and walk in robe. A large lounge featuring a combustion fire and an open plan family, dining, kitchen area. The kitchen is in excellent condition and has a dishwasher and walk-in pantry. At the rear of the home is a covered entertainment area overlooking the pool and taking in the fantastic views all around. Water is supplied via a bore, 66,000 litres of fresh water storage and two dams. The property is well fenced into two paddocks both with water. There is a triple garage and numerous smaller sheds. If the kid’s want a horse and motorbike and you want to run a few head of cattle, this is the place!
Your local team is:

Field Officer - Warwick Nairne
6548 2175/0428 721 864

Biosecurity Officers -
Stefanie McCowen
6542 4429/0432 856 773
Craig Crooks
6545 1311/0429 342 995

District Vet - Ross Kemp
6572 2944/0428 688 693

OPENING HOURS:
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or (02) 6376 1044
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Local Land Services Hunter
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Field Officer - Warwick Nairne
6548 2175/0428 721 864
Biosecurity Officers - Stefanie McCowen
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Merriwa District Education Foundation
President: Ivan Gant
6376 1044
Secretary: Jane Hegarty
6376 1052
Treasurer: Lesley Nixon
6548 2225
Supporting rural youth

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**Interested in sponsoring?**

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Thank you!

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Merriwa

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Also consulting in Denman

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---

**Merriwa Central School P & C Association**

Meet 2nd Monday of the month at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms, 159 Bettington Street

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Enquiries to:

President: Barbara Campbell

Phone: 6548 5131

Email: barbaraj911@gmail.com

Secretary: Robyn McAlister

Phone: 6548 3274

Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

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**Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc**

Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club

7.00pm for 7.30pm

4 x 4m Marquee for Hire

6548 2025

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**CWA**

Meets 2nd Monday of the month

at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms, 159 Bettington Street

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Enquiries to:

President: Barbara Campbell

Phone: 6548 5131

Email: barbara@911@gmail.com

Secretary: Robyn McAlister

Phone: 6548 3274

Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

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MAC is open for 5 – 12 year olds

Open Monday – Friday 3pm – 6pm

& 9am – 5pm School Holiday time.

Ph: 02 65 482 082

Email: merriwamac@bigpond.com

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President:

Senior Vice:

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Secretary:

Treasurer:

Meets the first Wednesday of each Month at 7pm, Merriwa RSL Club

Interested in sponsoring?

Please contact Merriwa Central School on 6548 2119 for more information.

Thank you!
MERRIWA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
President: Robert Smith 6548 2213
Secretary: Emily Hall
Treasurer: Krichelle Khan
Vice President: Hannah Walmsley
Day - Night Competitions
Junior Competitions Court Hire

Merriwa Central School
Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119
merriwa-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au

Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis
WEEKEND MASSES
St Annes’ Merriwa
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am
St Joseph’s Cassilis
2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am
Parish Priest - 6548 2086
St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
President - Mark Kirkland
Snr Vice President - Seth Morgan
Jnr Vice President - Justine Witney

Merriwa Anglican Parish Services
Holy Trinity Cassilis
Merriwa Cassilis
9.00am Sundays 11.00am every 2nd and 4th Sunday
10.00am Fridays 2nd & 4th
Short Bible Study
Contact: 0429 996 769
Morning Prayer
Revd Glen Hughes - Rev’d Pat Kirkby - Local Priest

Merriwa Ringer 6548 2035
P&F President - Demot Shannon
Ph 6548 2996

Cassilis Bowling Club
PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm

Merriwa Sports Club Ltd 6548 2028
Golf, Bowls, Squash, Pett Putt, Skittles, Pool, ATM and Club Keno
Opening Times:
*Monday & Tuesday - 4pm *Wednesday - Sunday - 12pm
Thursday Night 7:00pm Bingo
Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy ‘Two Hours and Free raffles’
Saturday - 7.45pm Monster raffles and members’ badge draw
Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members’ badge draw.

The Sporties Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228
Dine in or Take Away. Banquets and Function catering available.
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Cassilis NSW 2329 Fax: 63761005
cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.cassilis.p.school.nsw.edu.au
Photography Competition

Entries close:  **DECEMBER 15**  
**AT 12 NOON**

Topic for the month is:  **CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE**

The winning photo will receive a prize to the value of $50.00 from the monthly sponsor and this month it is sponsored by:  **ZANNEART PHOTOGRAPHY AND STAY-N-PLAY PHOTOGRAPHY**

**PUBLISHED IN THE RINGER ON:**  **DECEMBER 18**

The competition is open to amateur photographers of all ages.

Christmas Photo Challenge - six topics and two prizes:

1. Excited
2. Decorated
3. Just what I wanted!
4. Our tradition
5. Stuffed
6. Bah, Humbug!

This competition is one for the fun at heart with an additional $25.00 to the best selected collection (all fields must be covered to play for the additional prize money).

When sending in your photo, please label it with the title 1-6.

Email your photos to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au.
CLUBS

Merriwa Sports Club

The Sports Club provides a wide range of benefits for members and guests.

**Mondays** - Happy Two Hour - 4.00pm to 6.00pm - Social Darts 7.00pm - Draw for partners

**Tuesdays** - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**Thursdays** - 6.00pm Bingo

**Fridays** - Happy Two Hour - 5.00pm to 7.00pm and free raffles and Cricket Club “Chook Wheel”

**Saturdays** - Monster Raffle drawn from 7.45pm, winners jackpot, dinner draw and Saturday badge draw

**Sundays** - Members badge draw plus three raffles choice of $25.00 meat or fuel vouchers

Last Sunday each month - Smorgasbord all you can eat Chinese entree, mains and desserts.

**BINGO PLAYERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATES:**

December 4 now December 3 and December 18 now December 17

DON’T FORGET CHINESE SMORGASBORD SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30

Chinese/Australian restaurant open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 2.00pm. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5.30pm to 9.00pm. Closed Mondays, reopen 5.00pm Tuesday.

For bookings and take away - telephone 6548 3228.

**WEEKEND RESULTS**

**Saturday Raffle November 22**

Saturday Members Draw no 386 was not won - next week $170.00

Winners Jackpot not won - next week $180.00

Free Tickets: Nancy Coulton
Dinner: Horrie Tudor
Bowls Raffle: Trent Cooper

**Sunday Raffle November 23**

Sunday Members draw - No 187. Next week $350.00

**COMING EVENTS**

Christmas Party - Saturday December 6

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Cost: $25.00 per head

Bookings now open, names and money to be paid by Monday December 1. Christmas raffle of hams, beer, champagne, wine and Christmas goodies drawn on the night and entertainment provided.

Raffle tickets $1.00 each, available at the Club. We look forward to seeing you there to help us celebrate the festive season.

Christmas Raffles - Sunday December 7 (in lieu of Saturday 6 December), Saturday 13 and Saturday 20 December.

Come along and enjoy our Christmas raffles with a variety of prizes, meat, vouchers, hams and Christmas goodies.

**RESponsible Service Alcohol and responsible Conduct Gaming Courses**

The above two (2) courses will be held at the Merriwa Sports Club on Thursday December 4.

Time: 8.00am to 9.00pm approx.

Total Cost: $240.00 for both courses.

Please telephone the club on 02 6548 2028 or call at the Club to reserve a place. Names and monies are payable to Merriwa Sports Club by Monday December 1.

**Golf News**

The Nine Hole Chicken Run will commence on Sunday November 30. Please meet at the BBQ at 7.45am for an 8.00am tee off. Non golfers and new members are welcome to attend. Come along and participate in an enjoyable morning.

**Ladies Bowls News**

Coolah held their Friendship Day on November 18 with nine bowlers in attendance. A lovely lunch and great company was had by all. Although it was a very hot day, everyone enjoyed the day with 36 players on the green.

Max won the prize for resting on the jack and Joy won the raffle. The next Friendship Day will be at the end of January 2015. More information at a later date. No Mufti Bowls as the green is out for maintenance.

Loretta Cooper
Sporting

Merriwa Little Athletics

We had a double whammy of training on both Monday and Wednesday this week which was a nice lead up for our athletes travelling to Cessnock to compete in the Hunter Zone Championships. The high jump mats got a good work out with some great jumps from the older lads but it was Jackson Keane who got the ‘gold star’ for showing great aptitude in javelin, well done Jackson.

Special thanks to our sensational parents Steve Hourn for the BBQ, Karen Brazier for coaching javelin (nice to see you’ve still got it Karen!), Belinda Keane on high jump, John Cronin with throws and dynamic duo Sally and Elizabeth Hagley helping our tiny tot tamers!

On Wednesday 15 Merriwa athletes travelled to Denman for a great night of training with the Denman club and one of Australia’s premier runners, Scott Westcott. Scott covered four events in just over an hour and a half including shot put, discus, high jump and long jump showing athletes some new drills and skills for throwing longer and jumping higher than before. Meanwhile parents interested in coaching (including one of our mums, Olivia Gear) took part in an introduction to coaching course with Hunter zone coordinator, John Watson.

It was especially good to see our youngsters take up the challenge across various events including the ever effervescent Jye Bates and his ‘partner in crime’ Chad Booth who both listened intently in between giggles and wriggles. Zac and Paige Gear also put in a top effort considering this was their first interclub event with 75 athletes on the field and lots of fun distractions! Senior athletes Ben Keane, Clancy and Darcy Moore and Axul Hourn benefited greatly from the extra training night just before the Zone carnival, receiving some top tips from Scott perfecting the ‘frosby flop’.

Our athletes represented the club brilliantly, so much so, we have all been invited back to Denman to join in with their end of year Christmas party on Wednesday 10 December – so watch this space! More details to follow... A huge thank you to Denman club for inviting our athletes to attend the coaching clinic free of charge and for being such gracious and helpful hosts.

If you’ve been thinking about giving Little A’s a go, it’s not too late! First two sessions are free, come and see if you like it on Monday nights from 5.30pm at No. 2 Oval.

Matt Morgan

Cassilis Bowling Club

Friday night Snack Bar
Affordable family meals.

Friday night raffles
Meat trays, Vegetable trays, Schooner Draw, Joker Draw, Members Draw and Vegetable trays.

PREVIOUS WEEK’S RESULTS

Friday November 21

Members Draw: $50.00 - Tegan Cornish – unclaimed - $55.00 next week.

Joker Draw: $517.00 – Margaret Bibby was unsuccessful – $567.00 next week.

Congratulations to Paula and Jann.

Hilary Parker
The sign up sheets for the mixed comp are out and about and are filling up fast. If you are interested in playing and haven’t put your name down, then come to the desk on Wednesday nights to get it in. Time is running out with only two more nights to register. No late names will be taken.

REFEREES

This week’s Ringer writeup has a disappointing ring to it. Last week was only Round 6 in our competition and although many of the games were played in great sportsmanship some games weren’t. This was not whole teams but individual players that created problems for the referees.

This is not acceptable and is a sign of bad sportsmanship. Anyone found to be back answering the ref, swearing at the ref or a player, or generally behaving unacceptably on the field towards the ref or other players will be given an appropriate “punishment” for want of a better word. This will be up to the ref to decide how this is dealt with and can be as small as a penalty blown, ground taken - 10 metres or time sent from the field (time sent means an apology to the ref, committee and a meeting with the committee before taking the field again).

The committee supports our refs and without these refs the competition can not be played. If players continue with this behaviour and do not take notice of warnings given a committee member may also be asked to intervene.

Remember that you have signed a code of conduct prior to taking the field and must abide by these rules. Be respectful, treat them how you would like to be treated yourself. They are only human and are doing a way better job than the rest of us who watch from the sideline.

Tina Taylor

Merriwa Tennis Club

With a little digging on the national archives website we were able to turn up an article written in Mudgee Guardian on July 14, 1910 that refers to the formation of the Merriwa Tennis Club. (attached). Well done A N Dicker and crew! Did they have any idea that there would still be a club over a century later?

MERRIWA TENNIS CLUB

A meeting of ladies and gentlemen was held at the Merriwa School of Arts on Monday night, 4th instant, with the object of forming a tennis club. Mr.A.X. Dicker was voted to their chair. It was unanimously decided that a club be formed, and that it be called Merriwa Tennis Club. All gentlemen present were appointed a committee, and Messrs. F.J. Mason and E.R. Williams, secretary and treasurer respectively.

HOT SHOTS junior tennis received a big boost with Merriwa Central School and St Josephs both signing up to the program. The club expects to receive its gear before Christmas and the Schools will probably see their new equipment arrive very early in Term 1. What a great program! Well done to the schools for embracing this opportunity - who knows - perhaps we may see a future champion.

The Club is aiming to be able to run a Hot Shots coaching program possibly as soon as January.

Well done to Des Vero and his team for resurrecting all but two lights on the tennis courts. Thanks to Alan Fletcher from UHSC for his technical input and assistance in facilitating this operation.

Robert Smith, aka Borris Becker

After more information, why not contact me on 0458 574 015 or email tashholden@bigpond.com

Tash Taaffe

Merriwa Tennis Club

MIXED COMPETITION SIGN UP

The sign up sheets for the mixed comp are out and about and are filling up fast. If you are interested in playing and haven’t put your name down, then come to the desk on Wednesday nights to get it in. Time is running out with only two more nights to register. No late names will be taken.

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Tina Taylor

Merriwa Ringer
**Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club**

Calling for COACHES for our Junior League Teams in 2015. We are hopeful of fielding an Under 6’s; 7’s; 8’s; 9’s; 12’s and 15/16’s next year. We need people to put up their hands to coach these young boys and girls. If you don’t have a current Coaches Certificate we can have you put through the training session. If you are a dad or mum out there who could coach your child’s team please put your hand up and help the club. Training can fit in with your time schedule. Currently we train (during the season) Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 4.30pm but this can be changed to suit any coach. If you can help please talk to Andrew Jamieson, John or Elaine Sparrow or Phil Neale. Don’t leave it to someone else. Put your hand up and help your child’s footy club. Contact Elaine on 6548 8560.

**Narrabeen CAMP – Easter 2015**

Our Junior Rugby League Club is currently seeking sponsorship to send five of our members to the NSW Rugby League Academy in Narrabeen during the Easter School Holidays in 2015. This camp provides specialist coaching catering for all skill levels of players 12 to 16 years. Each year placements are fiercely sought after and first in get the positions. The Camp costs $495.00 per player.

Dylan Cox has been selected from our Under 15’s team to be jointly sponsored by NRL and CRL. The Merriwa League ‘Old Boys’ are sponsoring Bailey McNaught. (Thank you). We have four other members who would benefit from this experience and we would love to see them all attend the 2015 Camp. These players are Kyle McLennan, Mathew Haydon, Thomas Neale and Kasey Cassar. Our club will be sponsoring one of these and we are asking for further sponsorship/or part-sponsorship from our community to enable us to send all four players to participate in this invaluable experience. All these boys display tremendous ability and we are confident that they will benefit in individual skills and sportsmanship.

If you could possibly help our boys by sponsoring part or fully one of the above players we would be very appreciative. Your sponsorship would be recognised through our weekly RINGER articles. If you need further information please contact Secretary Elaine Sparrow (6548 8560) or Phil Neale, our League coordinator on 0417 236 612.

Elaine Sparrow

---

**Merriwa Rugby League Football Club**

**POSITIONS VACANT**

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club has the following positions vacant for the 2015 football season. All applications to be posted to MRLFC – Secretary - PO Box 147 Merriwa NSW 2329 or email to mwarslclub@bigpond.com by Sunday November 30.

- Reserve Grade Coach
- Reserve Grade Manager
- League Tag Coach
- League Tag Manager
- First Aid Officers (more than one position)
- LeagueSafe (more than one position)

If you are interested in any of the positions you can be qualified or unqualified to apply, as long as you are willing to undertake a course to become qualified.

Until next time.

Gaynor Blackadder

---

**Countdown to Christmas**

Remember!

Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 9.00am Monday. No late articles will be accepted.

Elaine Sparrow
What’s happening?
Send your calendar information in before 12 noon
Mondays to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Messy Church, last one for 2014 - Parish Hall - 3.30pm</td>
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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 6</td>
<td>Merriwa Sports Club Christmas Party - 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 14</td>
<td>Carols in the Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>Last day of term for students at MCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18</td>
<td>Last Merriwa Ringer for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 20</td>
<td>Merriwa Markets - RSL Club footpath, Bow Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 31</td>
<td>New Years Eve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1</td>
<td>New Years Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29</td>
<td>First Merriwa Ringer for 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like your event included in the community calendar or wish to claim a date, please call Tina at the Ringer so that your event is not missed!