Mens Bowls Pennants Presentation

Merriwa Markets this weekend
Sue's Christmas Lunch
Enjoying Carols in the Park
Pony Club Christmas Party
Scripture with Aunty Barbara

WHAT'S NEWS?

Hunter Mutual wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
MERRIWA MARKETS

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Saturday December 20, 9.00am – 1.00pm,

RSL Club - Bow St Footpath and Auditorium

Come down for a fun morning including a visit from

SANTA

Lolly bags and balloons for the kids

(make sure to bring your camera)

Over 25 stalls including FACE PAINTING, Christmas Crafts and lollies, Fudge, Cupcakes and Tarts, Cheeses, Coffee, BBQ, Preserves, Candles, Cards, Jewellery, Giftware, Plants, Homemade Soaps, Handmade Kids Clothes, Children’s Costumes, Pottery, Handmade Toys, Personalised Gifts, Dummy Chains and bibs, Beach Wear, Sewing, Knitting, Scentsy Products, Handmade Bags, Handmade Scubs and Salts Handcrafted Woodwork and LOTS MORE

RAFFLE
Stallholders Donation of Goodies
Tickets $2-00 each or 3 for $5-00
Drawn at 12-30pm
As the school year comes to an end staff and students are looking forward to the summer break. The last week of school has seen students recognised for their work throughout the year, at our presentation assemblies. Student achievement for academic excellence, citizenship, sporting performance and teamwork have been recognised. Our new primary leaders have been announced, and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Students who have demonstrated positive behaviour this term have participated in our rewards activities in both primary and secondary.

**STAFF CHANGES**

We are fortunate to have a committed teaching staff who are enthusiastic about teaching and providing a range of opportunities to the students they teach. I would like to recognise staff who will be leaving us this year - casual teacher Gemma Healy for her work this year across both primary and secondary. Mr Peter Rexstraw, our TSO who was employed under the Federal Governments laptops in schools program which has come to an end. Mr Rexstraw's expertise has been invaluable. Jane Hegarty, Head Teacher VET has announced her retirement, and her shoes will be very hard to fill. Jane has been recognised throughout the Hunter region for excellence in teaching and vocational education. Jane has been pivotal in providing career opportunities for students as part of our School Based Traineeship Program, and is well known to all in the community. Fortunately we will not lose Jane entirely, as she plans to transition to retirement and work part-time next year.

Megan Sinderberry will join us in the new year, filling the Assistant Principal position vacated by Mr Kite. A big thank you to Mrs Kate Jones who has relieved in the position for the past six months, sharing her knowledge and experience with staff and students. I know Mrs Jones has really enjoyed her time at Merriwa Central School.

**REMINDERS**

Reports - end of year reports have been issued to all students. Students who were absent on the final day will have reports sent out in the post.

**2015**

- Tuesday January 27 - Staff return
- Wednesday January 28 - Students Year1-12 return
- Thursday January 29 - Kindergarten students start
- Tuesday February 3 - School photographs
- Wednesday February 4 - Swimming carnival Year 3-12

Best wishes for the Christmas holidays, enjoy spending time with family and friends. Most of all stay safe around water and on the roads and I look forward to starting a new school year in 2015.

Darren Noonan
Principal
Primary News

YEAR 6 DINNER

Last Thursday December 11, all 14 Year 6 students and their teachers celebrated their graduation with a dinner and cake cutting ceremony, at the Merriwa RSL Club. Beautiful outfits and excellent manners were on display throughout the evening, which included an opportunity to join the Years 7-12 students at their end of year disco. Year 6 students and Mrs Jones wish to thank Merriwa RSL for providing a lovely meal, Mrs Constable for the delicious graduation cake, and Miss Isabel Crutch for her hard work in helping to make the evening so memorable.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

We enjoy celebrating all the improvement our students make and are pleased to continue recognising student achievements till the end of the year. Well done to our latest book award recipients:

- Year Kindergarten: Rhianna Shadlow
- Year 1/2: Kiesha Taylor
- Year 2/3: Kyah Johnston
- Year 4/5: Izabella Neale
- Year 5/6: Tiara-Anne Edens-Rosa

SCRIPITURE SHOW

Last Wednesday 10 December Primary students participated in the annual Christmas Scripture Presentation. Students from the Year 4/5 class opened and closed the presentation with a prayer. Then classes performed some items that they had been preparing in Scripture lessons this term. Mr Moors presented an interesting video and then Year 6 students were presented with their graduation bibles. We would like to thank all the Scripture teachers for your hard work this year. Our classes have had lots of fun in scripture and look forward to their lessons next year. We would like to give a special thank you to Aunty Barbara for doing such a wonderful job of coordinating the scripture programs and teachers this year.
QUICKSMART PARTY

Last Friday December 12 students from the Primary and Secondary Quicksmart program participated in the Quicksmart party to mark the end of the year. Students went to the Secondary campus to enjoy some pizza, drinks and iceblocks before being presented with their Quicksmart folder for the year. The students have worked very hard this year to improve in their numeracy skills and deserve congratulations. Thank you to Mr Creamer and his students for making the pizzas, they were very yummy! A very special thank you to Ms Bush and Mrs Gibbons for your amazing work delivering the Quicksmart program. The students absolutely love working with you and are always excited to go to the Quicksmart room for every lesson. You’ve helped students make fantastic improvement in mathematics and the program could not run without you both. Well done!

HOLIDAY BREAK

As we say farewell for the holidays I would like to say a very big thank you to all the primary staff for their wonderful work this year. We have had lots of fun activities and events this year and the students have had a fantastic year of learning. I would also like to thank the many parents who have helped out over the year. Many of you have volunteered in the canteen, made costumes for performances, donated craft items etc. the list goes on and on. We highly value every contribution you make and appreciate the time and effort you put in to support the school. The Primary campus would like to wish all our staff, students and families a very happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you next year!

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Last Sunday December 14 students from the primary and secondary choirs led the town in seven songs at the local ‘Carols in the Park’. Students had lots of rehearsals to prepare for the event and practised hard in their spare time. They did a wonderful job and received some lovely compliments from the community at the end of the carols. Well done to both choirs on a fantastic job! Thank you to Cr Ron Campbell for all your work organising the carols and for welcoming the choir to the event.

Remember!

Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer

BEFORE 9.00am Tuesday January 27, first issue for 2015.
Have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!
What a year 2014 was. Our students and teachers achieved some great success both inside the classroom and in wider competitions. Highlights would undoubtedly include Mrs Roberts’ debating team defeating Maitland High School and Mr Johnston’s Newcastle Morning Herald Competition team doing us proud once again. Leah Wright-Riley deserves individual accolades for her article on the scourge of feral dogs and local efforts to protect livestock which won the best news story award and her accompanying photograph was so good the paper ran it again in their own story in a later publication. The students’ team came in creditable fourth in the Hunter and they are all keen to enter next year.

The most important business of a school year, however, obviously is the learning that occurs in the classroom and I am happy to say the vast majority of students have ‘had a go’ this year. On a personal note, I would like to thank all teachers within the English/History faculty and students in our classes for their efforts this year.

All that is left is to wish you all a very happy and restful break over Christmas and New Year. I am sure you all agree we deserve a chance to recharge batteries and enjoy some ‘down time’ with family and friends. Stay safe and classy Merriwa!

Tony March
English/History Head Teacher

CRICKET REPORT – SUPER 8’S

Recently Merriwa Central School was represented by a group of eight girls who made the final round of the Central School’s Super 8 Tournament. Merriwa was represented by:

- Shai Blackadder
- Maddilyn Blackadder
- Taylah Blackadder
- Courtney Everleigh
- Georgia Cameron
- Emily Towell
- Tarnsisha Winsdor
- Madison Swan

The girls played well and represented the school and community proudly throughout the entire tournament. Unfortunately, a slow start on the day led to two early losses and the girls placed mid-range in the tournament. That said, given this was the first girls cricket tournament any of our players had participated in, the result is extremely pleasing and definitely provides a position we can build upon in coming years.

The girls also had the opportunity to meet former Australian World Cup stars Jimmy Maher and Andy Bichel, both on tour with the World Cup. The girls had the opportunity to hold the actual World Cup. All teams will be playing for starting this coming February/March.

Also I’d like to thank Bruce Blackadder for driving the girls to the tournament for the final.

Aaron Creamer

NEW CAREER EVENTS

School holiday courses: film making, animation, screen acting and screen writing at AFTRS Open

Learn new skills in Filmmaking, Screenwriting, Animation, Screen Acting and more at an AFTRS Open school holiday course at The Australian Film Television and Radio School in Sydney. Courses include Real Filmmaking, Digi Animation, Game AP Design, Screen Acting, TV Presenting and Writing a Short Film. December and January.

Details here: http://www.aftrs.edu.au/short-courses/school-holidays

2015 Summer Short Courses

Fancy starting your own fashion business or maybe just simply finding out what working in the ragtrade is all about? Fashion Masters is offering a series of summer holiday short courses for creatives and young entrepreneurs who need to know more about the fashion industry as a constantly evolving business! Choose from one day intensives such as “Drawing and Folio Layout” ($220.00) - “Intro to Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop for Fashion” ($250.00) - or “Career Pathways in Fashion” ($120.00) to three day workshops such as “Advanced Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop for Fashion” (Intermediate or Advanced) ($300.00 each).

For more information, contact rdegiovanni@
BiG Day In at University of Newcastle - April 30 2015 BiG Day In Newcastle IT Careers Conference for high school students from Years 9-12 - Thursday April 30, 2015 in the Great Hall at UON. Hear from Westpac, WiseTech Global, IBM, NIB, Greater Building Soc and more, talking about their career paths and the future of technology. $10.00ph for students, no charge for teachers. Enq: kerrie.bisaro@acsfoundation.com.au. http://thebigdayin.com.au

WEP Student Exchange - Applications Open For July 2015 Programs WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Department of NSW. Applications are now open for motivated students wishing to complement their secondary studies with an international study experience. To request program information, please visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

HSC results will be available online and by SMS the morning of Wednesday December 17, 2014. Visit one of the following websites and enter your Student Number and Students Online PIN. http://www.hscresults.nsw.edu.au/ or http://www.hsc-results.nsw.edu.au/

Careers Advisory Service December 18-23, 2014 - The Careers Advisory Service operates as a government initiative to meet the educational and career counselling needs of students, school leavers and their parents and carers in the period immediately following the release of the HSC results and up to Christmas.

- Phone-in service - this free state-wide service operates from a call centre in Senior Pathways – Secondary Education between December 18-19 and December 22-23, 2014. Telephone 1300 300 687.
- E-mail service - this free state-wide service operates from a centre in Senior Pathways – Secondary Education between December 18-19 and December 22-23, 2014.

UPDATE ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

Thank you for your constant patience with this issue and we are on our way to resolving it. Mr Will Winter is the Coordinator, Minimbah Project and he will liaise with Birth, Deaths and Marriages.

Please email him with all your details including the venues and dates at which they applied, and the full names and date of birth of the Birth Certificate Applicants (as written on the forms). Also their address (including any changes to these since application) phone or mobile number. Also your permission for Will Winter to ask about your Birth Certificate Application. Email: Will@willwinter.com.au.

SIGN UP DAYS/VENUES

- Merriwa Central School - May 28 2014
- Cassilis Primary School - June 4 2014

For any other queries contact Elizabeth email: bcerteu@gmail.com. Once again I apologise for any inconvenience and concerns this has caused. On behalf of the Minimbah Project Team.

Elizabeth
Enactus UNE Team Member

Favourite Subject: Art and Science
Extra-Curricular activities: Playing games with my little siblings, having fun and drawing whenever I get to
Best Personal Achievements: Getting good marks in all my classes and joining the 4Cs girl program. It’s very useful and I recommend girls from Years 7-10 join, it is worthwhile.
Year Advisor’s Comment: Alkira is a friendly and hardworking young lady who always tries her best. Alkira is a talented Artist and is always happy and bubbly to her peers. She definitely deserves this for her consistent effort in class. Well done, Alkira!

Rebecca Hopkins
Year Advisor

Student of the Week
Alkira Tritton
Year 9
By the time this edition of the Ringer is distributed, the students of St Josephs will already have commenced their school holidays and the staff will be on the final countdown to theirs. It has been a fantastic year for learning and I congratulate everyone for their efforts.

At our recent presentation evening all students were awarded a book in recognition for the particular area in which they have shone this year. Then there were other major whole school award winners as well. I want to acknowledge these winners here.

**2014 WHOLE SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS**

**Sportsperson of the Year** – Jorji Taaffe
**Science and Technology** – Patrick Magner
**Mathematics** – John Magner
**Improved achievement in Literacy** – Rhys Turner
**Environment** – Nicholas Morgan and Dylan Turner
**Academic Achievement** – Eliza Peebles
**Citizen of the Year** – Eliza Peebles
**“Actions not Words”** – Emily Ninness

**Spirit of St Joseph’s Award** for Term 4 has been awarded to Lauren Redgate.

Lauren represents St Joseph’s at every community event throughout the year. She cares about the cleanliness and presentation of the school and is often seen pitching in at working bees. Lauren welcomes new students into the school and guides them when needed. Her dedication to self-improvement, in both academic and life skills, is outstanding. Lauren treats everyone with the same respect and dignity with which she would like to be treated.

Thank you to the Merriwa Newsagency for sponsoring this award.

Thank you to all families who have so generously donated to the St Vincent de Paul hamper appeal. We have given these goodies to the St Anne’s St Vincent de Paul.

Christmas Mass will be celebrated at 8.30am on Christmas Day in St Anne’s Church. We welcome all children and their families to celebrate Christmas in this wonderful way with us. The students have been invited to take part in an enactment of the nativity during the Mass.

**BUILDING CLASSROOM COMMUNITIES**

Invitations have been sent home for our Classroom Community Day on 19 January 2015. This will be a day in which students can come in and take ownership of what their classroom will look like on the first day of 2015, get to know their new teachers, and interact in a less formal setting. This year’s classroom community day was a great success and we look forward to next year’s day being even better!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AWARDS WINNERS IN WEEK 10**

**Kindergarten** - Claudia Patterson – for working collaboratively with others
**Grace Booth** – for working collaboratively with others
**Aidan Hunt** – for working collaboratively with others
**Rhianna Smith** – for working collaboratively with others
**Year 1/2** - Sienna Baber - Improvement in her writing this term
**Roy Lawler** - being a helpful and caring class member to others
**Riley Melmeth** - working diligently to attain great results
**Emily Barwick** - for her helpful and caring nature
**Year 3/4** for producing fantastic information reports on the effects of the rotation of the Earth and being such a wonderful class to work with this year
**Year 5/6** – for a wonderful effort in using video, computer technology, audio and fabulous persuasion techniques in selling their environmentally friendly houses and other products made this year in Science

**Playground Champion** - Dylan Turner – assisting to pack up the sport shed in a sensible manner
Principal’s Awards - Clancy Moore - for his positive and helpful manner

Bethany Wightman - for being focussed and hardworking.

Once again....

On behalf of all St Joseph’s staff – Helen, Anne Marie, Tanya, Mark, Paige, Sam, Sally, Colleen, Cassandra, Melissa, Trudy and Bruce, I would like to thank the Merriwa community for the many ways you have supported education in Merriwa and in particular St Joseph’s Primary school in 2014. We are indeed blessed to have such a caring and generous community. We wish you all God’s richest blessings for a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and love filled year in 2015.

Helen Whale
Principal
As we light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath in eager anticipation of God’s greatest promise fulfilled, we name this candle Love. God’s love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world. It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate this Christmas day. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night. When you think of the babe in the manger, remember how special it is that he not only moved into our “neighborhood”, but that He did it so He could bless us with the intimate privileges of his residence within us...Lord, I’m amazed that You, the greatest One of all, would take up residence within us! Help us to treasure the gift of your presence as our ultimate joy. Bless all who pass through our neighborhood while travelling and may we continue to give thanks for the wonderful mercies of rain and that you will bless all other area’s with the same bounty.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones all the Blessings of Christmas, Peace, Joy, Hope and Love, and with the dawning of 2015 come all that is possible to carry us through a New Year.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December 24</strong></td>
<td>6.00pm - Christmas Eve Family/Children’s Service</td>
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<td>9.00am Holy Trinity, Merriwa.</td>
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**Merriwa Rotary**

A FINAL REMINDER

The Rotary Angus Peebles Educational Bursary is a long-running program of our club. It provides help to students going on to post secondary studies.

Students who are residents within the boundaries of the old Merriwa Shire, regardless of which school they attended, as well as students from outside the old shire boundaries who have attended Merriwa Central School are eligible to apply.

The closing date for applications is January 15 however earlier applications are most welcome.

More details on what this offer be used for, can be obtained from Club Secretary Helen Whale or from Neville Hook.

Many local students have benefited from these bursaries. Rotary encourages all who are interested to seek more information, if required, and to apply if interested.

Merriwa Rotarians wish our community a happy Christmas.

We especially say Happy Christmas to our visiting Rotary Exchange student Clara from Osnabrueck in Germany who will have her Christmas a long way from home.

Enjoy a hot summer Christmas, Clara!

Mark Smith

**Merriwa Surgery**

DR EMAD JASEM

Normal, long consultation, antenatal, immunisation, skin clinic, medical and license reports.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm

Saturdays by arrangement

During the Christmas break and New Year period, the surgery will be closed December 25 and 26 and also January 1, 2015.

Dr Emad Jasem wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

For bookings, please call the surgery on 6548 2305.

Dr Emad Jasem
Community Notice Board

Message from the Editor

The Merriwa Ringer (Issue 40) of last week published some age inappropriate Christmas content. The Ringer apologises unreservedly to any readers offended by the content. We will aim to ensure this does not occur in the future.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Community Wishing Tree

Caroline’s Cafe is holding its annual Wishing Tree and invites the community and businesses to take part.

Come on in, select a tag and purchase a gift to suit the tag before placing it back under the tree again for Christmas.

All gifts will be distributed between the three local churches Christmas Eve.

Join Caroline’s in the ‘Gift of Giving’ this Christmas.

Joanne Everett and the staff at Caroline’s Cafe

Memorial Service

JEAN HAZEL DOWD
OCTOBER 26 2014

DOWD, Jean Hazel, late of Brisbane, formerly of Merriwa, passed away peacefully in her sleep after a short illness on 26.10.2014, aged 93 years.

Wife of Clarie Dowd (dec’d), much loved mother of Chris and Toni, mother-in-law of Gina and grandmother of Kiri and Paul. Daughter of Evelyn Minnie Trenaman, loving Sister of Ray and Bruce Bond (both dec’d), Lyle and Robin Trenaman (both dec’d), and David Trenaman.

A memorial service will be held in Jean’s honour at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Bow Street, Merriwa at midday on February 13, 2015.

Toni Dowd

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.

Marlene Rogers

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

Remember!

Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 9.00am Tuesday January 27, first issue for 2015. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

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.
Community Notice Board

St Anne’s Parish

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

Merriwa CWA

CWA thank everyone who made the Children’s Cookery Day a success.

The participants encouraged each other, and were able to undertake more activities as a result.

Thank you to the organisers and mentors on the day – their preparation and planning enabled everything to go smoothly, and for extra activities to be added in.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday February 10, 2015 at 10.00am at the CWA Rooms, Bettington Street Merriwa.

CWA thanks the community for supporting their various events and activities during 2014 and wishes everyone all the best for the festive season and 2015.

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

St David’s Uniting Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas Day service will be at 10.00am and services will then be in recess until mid January.

The Upper Hunter Uniting Churches Muster will be held at Scone Uniting Church on January 4.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe holiday.

Karen Campbell

Merriwa Non Emergency Medical Transport

As we get to the end of another year it is worth looking at the service this organisation has provided in 2014.

First though as a reminder we have been functioning for 16 and a half years. Two of our original drivers are still driving clients to appointments.

We are available to all residents in the Merriwa district who require non emergency medical transport. This includes children in the care of a parent or guardian through to the older members of our community. We cover the area Cassilis to Denman.

This year there have been 527 trips covering a total of 166 335kms and our drivers volunteered 3469 hours. These numbers are all higher than last year showing the importance of the service to the community.

All the staff, drivers, office and management are 100% volunteers and we thank them for their dedication.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy festive season and all the best for 2015.

Bryan Baker

St David’s Uniting Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas Day service will be at 10.00am and services will then be in recess until mid January.

The Upper Hunter Uniting Churches Muster will be held at Scone Uniting Church on January 4.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe holiday.

Karen Campbell
Community Notice Board

Merriwa Anglican Church

PARISH SERVICE TIMES

December 24:
- 6.00pm Christmas Eve Family/Children’s Service - Holy Trinity
- 11.30pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist-Midnight Mass - Holy Trinity

December 25:
- 9.00am Christmas Day - St Columba’s, Cassilis.
- 9.00am - Holy Trinity, Merriwa.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa Christmas Carols

Approximately 250-260 adults and children turned out at Apex Park Merriwa to celebrate Carols in the Park last Sunday on a pleasant summers evening.

Representatives of the three Christian church’s read sections of the bible describing the foretelling (prophecy) and fulfilling of Jesus birth. Christmas carols were sung and performed by the Merriwa Central School Choir conducted by their music teacher Mrs Rebecca West along with the local choir and band. Many of the regular local band were away. Violinists, Sally Hagley, Ruby and Molly Wong and organist Ron Campbell entertained throughout the evening in their absence.

A highlight of the Carols was the singing and performing of FELIZ NAVIDAD by the school choir. A different version of Silent Night was also performed and was enjoyed by all.

The BBQ and sausage sizzle stall run by volunteers of St David’s Uniting Church raised approximately $800.00. The money raised will be donated to the Merriwa Pre-School. The Merriwa branch of the CWA also donated $100.00 towards the night.

The evening was rounded off with the arrival of the always welcome Santa and Mrs Claus who delighted the crowd and gave out his goodies and icy pole ice blocks to the children.

Our thanks to the Upper Hunter Shire Council for making available the alternate venue, the School of Arts hall in the event of inclement weather prevailing.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in making this event possible. Also a big thank you to Rebecca West and the young people for their presentations.

Cr Ron Campbell
Coordinator

UNE is hosting the
ConocoPhillips
Science Experience
13-15 January 2015
for all year 9 and 10 students
who are looking for a
hands-on science experience

Register at:
scienceexperience.com.au
Contact: Richard Willis
p: 02 6773 2615 or
e: rwillis@une.edu.au

Find us on
Facebook!
Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
Merriwa Tyre Service

THIS WEEKS TOPIC - TYRES AND TYRE HEALTH

Firstly we have some great specials on tyres this month so drop in and get a price or check them out on facebook.

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 000klm) 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 000klm 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.

Your Local Tyre and Mechanical Repair Specialist.

**ALSO NOW IN STOCK**

**Can-Am Commander Side by Side ATV’s**

With the following features:
- Safety
- Larger carrying capacity
- Seating for two
- Comfort
- Shade
- Powerful and fuel efficient
- Drop in and test drive.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our
customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

We will be closing 5.30pm on December 24 and
will reopen 8.30am January 5, 2015.

Debbie, Glenn and Brad Hunt

**Australia Post Merriwa**

**CHRISTMAS AND SATURDAY TRADING DATES**

**December**
- Saturday 20 – Open 9.00am-11.00am
- Monday 22 – 9.00am-5.00pm
- Tuesday 23 – 9.00am-5.00pm
- Wednesday 24 – 9.00am-3.00pm
- Thursday 25, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 – Closed
- Monday 29 – 10.00am – 2.00pm
- Tuesday 30 – 10.00am-2.00pm
- Wednesday 31 – 10.00am-2.00pm

**January**
- Thursday 1, Friday 2 and Saturday 3 – Closed
- Monday 5 – Trading as Normal 9.00am-5.00pm

We hope you have a Safe and Happy Christmas
and New Year.

Merriwa Post Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9.00am
- 5.00pm and every second Saturday 9.00am-
11.00am.

Kellie Walker and Kylie Austin

**Brodies Cutting Edge**

Brodie’s Cutting Edge is closed December 25,
2014 and reopening January 6, 2015.

Brodie has gift packs available for Christmas for
that hard to buy person.

Brodie Jones

**Dr Noman Jawaad Medical Practice**

**We are open five days a week**

**MERRIWA**

Dr Jawaad works Monday, Wednesday and
Thursday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

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

**DENMAN**

Dr Jawaad works Tuesday 8.00am to 6.00pm and
Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Dr Cho works Monday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

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

Please note: Dr Jawaad will be on leave from
Friday December 19 until Tuesday January 6, 2015.

Meredith Llewelyn, our practice nurse is in our
surgery every Thursday. Meredith is available for
pathology, immunisations and Antenatal checks.

Kerry Collins, our practice nurse is in Merriwa on
Wednesday and Denman on Tuesday. Kerry is
a registered nurse, a Diabetic Educator and a
Clinical Nurse Consultant in Diabetes. Kerry is
available for appointments on both these days.

We also have a Psychologist, Sharon Wells, from
Scone attending Merriwa every second week.
To see Sharon, you do need a referral from Dr
Jawaad or Dr Cho.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful
Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Dr Noman Jawaad
Merriwa Pharmacy

On behalf of all at Merriwa Pharmacy, we would like to wish all our patients and customers and their families and all in the Merriwa district community a safe and enjoyable festive season. We would like to thank you for the trust that you place in us. We always aim to do our best and strive to do better and we will always aim to improve health outcomes for our patients.

The community lost some truly wonderful people this year but their memory and legacy will live on as a new generation enters a world to begin their own journey – the benchmark has been set high and there is much to look forward to.

I would like to say a special thank you to the rural health team – Dr Cho Muang, Dr Noman Jawaad and their team, Dr Emad Jasem, Dr Adrian Plaskitt, Elen Salama and her team at Merriwa Surgery, Margaret Smith and her team at the MPS, Sue Duggan and her team at Gummun Place, the staff at integrated living, the volunteers for meals on wheels and the local churches. The sisters of St Joseph’s are well missed.

There are many other organisations and individuals that make contributions – the whole community deserves a pat on the back for their general level of respect and the care shown to fellow members of the community. I believe that this is our greatest asset and the main reason that Merriwa is such a good place to live.

Looking forward to 2015 – Cricket and Rugby world cups, Asian Cup soccer, Tour de France, Tennis Grand Slams, another Blues Origin win? Back to back Rabbitohs premierships? A magpies/magtags premiership?

Don’t just be a spectator though – grab a racquet or a bat and have a swing, kick a footy, jump on a bike, go for a walk or hit the gym – invest in your health and make a change for the better in 2015.

The Pharmacy will be closed on the public holidays during the festive period.

Merriwa Auto Electrical

2014 has been another busy year for us all. We are sincerely grateful to all of our clients, without your support we would not be able to continue to offer this service. If you walked through our door and bought a battery or you asked us to solve a puzzling electronic issue in your vehicle, whatever it was... we are thankful you chose to entrust us with this task.

In 2015, we can assure you that our high standards and honesty will be maintained. We offer the only qualified and fully licenced auto electrical service in the area.

Michael is a fully qualified auto electrician and is licenced to work on vehicle air conditioning. He has many years experience and will always give you an honest opinion! I have completed three years at Tafe, doing Automotive Electrical Technology, Cert 3. I still need to complete my fourth year, but doing this course has given me great insight into the automotive industry and the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective auto electrician. All I can say is, I have so much to learn! I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn what I have so far. Thanks to all those lovely people who have been so encouraging, including my family.

Michael and I would like to say a special thank you to our son Tom, who has been working with us as a trade assistant this year. You have been great to work with Tom and your easy-going nature, knowledge and skills will serve you well in the future.

Thank you to our community, friends and family for your support throughout the year and we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe holiday.

Closing: 5.30pm Wednesday December 24
Opening: 8.30am Monday January 12, 2015

Sally and Michael Hagley
Massive Pre-Christmas Sale

Up to 70% off Selected Giftware and cosmetics

Free Gift Wrapping!

Phone: 6548 2213
106 Bettington Street Merriwa
**BUS TO MUSWELLBROOK**

**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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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all from Jay, Tiffany and Sofia.

The staff at JTS Realty would like to advise their customers that we will be closed on all public holidays and January 2, 2015.

26 Marquet Street Merriwa  $160,000.00

Situated in easy walking distance to the Main Street, schools and hospital this home is ideally located. The home has two large bedrooms, a big combined lounge and dining area featuring a combustion fire and RC Air Con. A good size kitchen, bathroom and an enclosed verandah at the rear. At the front of the home is a wide verandah wrapping around the house which takes in the morning sun. The back yard is fenced and flat with a single garage and attached workshop. This home has many beautiful original features and is a perfect home to renovate.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS
If you need assistance from Ambulance - Police - Fire including Hazardous Incidents
DIAL 000
Merriwa Phone Numbers
Police (Administration Only)  6548 2437
Police Mobile  0408 293 423
Police Assistance Line  131 444
When reporting an incident to the Police, always request and record your Incident Reference Number
Fire Brigade (Administration only)  6548 2005
Hospital  6532 5000
Rural Fire Service (Administration and Duty Officer)  1800 081 166
SES Emergency Number  132 500
Merriwa Rescue Squad  6548 2538
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:
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
10.00am-4.00pm
OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT
Ph (02) 6376 1220
or (02) 6376 1044 ah
16 Buccleugh St
Cassilis NSW 2329
ploughintocassilis@gmail.com

2015 ROSTO OLIVES
MERRIVA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2015
A Family & Community focused event.
Phone: 6521 7046
email: lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

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mwanews@bigpond.com
www.merriwanewsagency.com.au

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Arts, Crafts, Farm produce!
Clean toilets!
CENTRE:
Open every day
9.30am - 2.30pm
MENS’ SHED:
Every Thursday
10.00 onwards
President: J Alker
Secretary: E Shipway
Tel: 6548 321

Merriswa Ringer
Gummun Place
A place for ageing community members to enjoy life and receive the care that they need.

A rural relaxing lifestyle provided with care.

16 Room Low-Care Aged Facility
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Hostel
14-16 Marquet Street
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Phone 6548 2246
russellsheetmoving@jrem.com.au
Fax 6548 2629

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Bh 6548 2004 Ah 6548 2125
Mob 0417 492 306
mnuttcontract@bigpond.com

MERRIWA PAINTING & DECORATING
DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL FREE QUOTES

Friendly service with 25 years experience Fully insured

KYM DANIEL
Phone: 0409 015 678

Merriwa District Education Foundation
President: Ivan Gant
6376 1044
Secretary: Jane Hegarty
6376 1052
Treasurer: Lesley Nixon
6548 2225

Supporting rural youth

La Scaletta
PIZZERIA
Traditional Wood-fired pizza
Friday 6pm – late
Saturday 6pm – late
Call us for your next function!

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0419 252 257 Robert
robert.marchese@bigpond.com

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SOLICITORS

Proud to have serviced the people of the Upper Hunter since 1890

Practise Areas include:

Property Law/Subdivisions
Conveyancing
Accident Claims
Wills and Estates
Powers of Attorney

Criminal Law
Litigation & Court appearances
Business Law & Leases
Family Law
General Legal Work

59 Brook Street
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

86 Bettington Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433
Merriwa 02 6548 2205

Merriwa District Progress Association Inc
SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION WHICH SUPPORTS YOUR COMMUNITY
Meets every 4th Wednesday at Merriwa RSL at 6:00 pm
Phone Kim on 6548 3060
Or Beron on 6548 2245

Proud to have serviced the people of the Upper Hunter since 1890
Practise Areas include:

Property Law/Subdivisions
Conveyancing
Accident Claims
Wills and Estates
Powers of Attorney

Criminal Law
Litigation & Court appearances
Business Law & Leases
Family Law
General Legal Work

59 Brook Street
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

86 Bettington Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433
Merriwa 02 6548 2205

Merriwa Ringer
**Di’s Clothing Patch**

Clothing and Footwear for all the family
- Mens and Ladies clothing
- Children and Babywear
- Shoes and joggers

Fashion Jewellery and Accessories
- Handbags and Luggage
- Bed Linen, Quilts and Towels
- Hi Vis Work Wear, Boots and Hats

Digitised Embroidery Service
- Names and Logos

For clothing, Caps, Towels
- School Items and Work Place Uniforms

Quality Clothing Friendly Service Affordable Prices

Phone: 6548 3023

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**MDHA Inc.**

NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICE

We will get you to your appointments on time with special care.

Office hours are:
- 9.30 to 2.30 weekdays
- Bottle Museum building or leave a message on the answering service for a call back.

Te/Fax 6548 2653

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**DR NOMAN JAWAAD AND DR CHO OO MAUNG**

Private Medical Practice
- Cnr Brisbane and Mackenzie Streets, Merriwa
- Merriwa

Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm
- Also consulting in Denman
- Tuesday and Friday 8.00am-6.00pm

For appointments please phone 6532 5013

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**AJ CONCRETING**

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**RM Property & Livestock**

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Megan Moore 0400 653446
www.rmpropertyandlivestock.com

- Licenced Real Estate Agents
- Stock & Station Agent
- Licenced Auctioneer
- Livestock Marketing & Sales
- Property Management
- Clearing Sales

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**Merriwa Central School P & C Association**

President: Jayne Cronin
Senior Vice: Christine Riley
Junior Vice: Yvonne McNaught
Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder
Treasurer: Anna Whaley

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

---

**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
- Secretary: Robyn McAlister
  Phone: 6548 3274

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**Merriwa Pre-School & Activity Centre**

Pre-School is for 2 – 5 year olds
- Open Monday – Friday 9am – 3pm
- Ph: 02 65 482 083
- Email: merriwapreschool@tpg.com.au

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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**Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc.**

ROTARY SERVICE Above & Beyond

Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club
- 7.00pm for 7.30pm
- 4 x 4m Marquee for Hire

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**Peter Lawler Pest Control**

For your protection and safety!
- ABN 66 092 858 985 LIC 150 02974 003

Commercial and Domestic Services
- $140.00 Domestic charge
- PAYMENT on the day of treatment
- Warranties Apply

Call PETER: Mob: 0428 482 332
- After Hours: 02 6548 2332
- Email: merriwape943@gmail.com
- 7 Bow Street MERRIWA NSW 2329

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**Di’s Clothing Patch**

**Offers Pensioner Discounts, Mens and Ladies Cuts, Perms, Colours, Foils, Hair Extensions, Spray Tans, Gift Certificates**

Phone: 6548 2499

**SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

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**Peter Lawler Pest Control**

For your protection and safety!
- ABN 66 092 858 985 LIC 150 02974 003

Commercial and Domestic Services
- $140.00 Domestic charge
- PAYMENT on the day of treatment
- Warranties Apply

Call PETER: Mob: 0428 482 332
- After Hours: 02 6548 2332
- Email: merriwape943@gmail.com
- 7 Bow Street MERRIWA NSW 2329

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**Merriwa Ringer**
Cassilis Bowling Club
PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm
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.

Casual Bowls and Golf also available. Donations in honesty box.

DON’T FORGET CHINESE SMORGASBORD SUNDAY DECEMBER 28

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.

Please note: The Restaurant will be closed from Monday December 22 and will reopen for dinner on Friday December 26.

For bookings and take away - telephone 6548 3228.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle December 13

Saturday members draw, no 354 not won – next week $200.00

Winners Jackpot – not won - next week $240

Free Tickets: Dahlia Denning
Dinner: Max Barwick
Bowls Raffle: Fiona Hedges

Sunday Raffle December 14

Sunday Members draw - No 388 not won. Next week $500.00

CLUB OPENING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Club will be closed Christmas Day.

Reopen Boxing Day at 3.30pm.

NEW YEARS EVE

Come along and enjoy a fun night on New Year’s Eve with James and his Karaoke machine.

Julie Smith

MENS BOWLS

Last Sunday we held our Christmas party at the club. We had a good roll up for the barbeque and various salads that went down well. So well done to everyone concerned. The prawns weren’t too bad either, although we did run out of tea however they did go to the IGA to get more.

We also had the presentation for the number 1 pennant winners by our District President, Mr Brian Cone. The Club triples winners also went on to win the District Champion of Champions triples this year and as far as I know it is the first for a Merriwa team. That’s all for 2014, so to everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Greg Watson

Remember!

Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 9.00am Tuesday January 27, first issue for 2015. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!
Friday night Snack Bar
Affordable family meals.

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

PREVIOUS TWO WEEK’S RESULTS

Drass results – December 5
Members Draw: $50.00- Jane Hegarty – unclaimed - $55.00 next week
Joker Draw: $620.00 – Tony Upton was unsuccessful – $664 .00 next week.

Drass results - December 12
Members Draw $55.00 – Kathy Sumpter – unclaimed - $60.00 next week
Joker Draw - $664.00 – Eric Hermitage was unsuccessful - $697.00

COMING EVENTS

Kids Xmas Party – Friday December 19
Xmas Eve at the Cassbowl – Xmas raffles including hams, free food, free Xmas cheer.
Xmas specials – Willow Glen Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc at $9.00 per bottle.
Crown Lager stubbies - $45 per carton
Tooheys Extra Dry - $45 per carton
New Years Eve at the Cassbowl – Music by the Sly Pigs – BBQ available from 7.00pm

Hilary Parker

Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $750.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm, the number was 76. This week it jackpots to $800.00. The 7.00pm draw for $300.00 was not won. The number was 751. This week it jackpots to $320.00. The 9.00pm draw for $200.00 was not won and the number was 807. This week it jackpots to $220.00. LTPS/13/04473

Friday December 19 the 8.30pm Members Lucky Badge draw will be drawn until won.

The Sunday Morning Badge draw for $750.00 was won last week. The number was 437 and this week it commences at $500.00. It will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/13/04473

The Friday 8.30pm badge draw and the Sunday badge draw both now commence at $500.00.

Starting the first raffle of December a ham was added to each raffle leading up to Christmas.

COMING EVENTS

INTRODUCING ‘T-BONE TUESDAY’
Every Tuesday you can now order a T-Bone, chips and salad for just $15.00

The Bistro hours for the evening are now back to 6.00pm - 8.30pm.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB

HAPPY HOUR IS BACK - Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 12 noon, $3.00 schooners and $2.00 middies, and starting this week $5.00 Corona’s.

This Saturday December 20 is Market Day starting at 9.00am with over 25 stalls and Santa from 10.00am till 1.00pm.

Christmas Raffle – Tickets are now on sale for the Clubs Christmas raffle $1.00 each.
First prize – Red Centra Metro 4 burner hooded BBQ
Second prize – Dutton mesh outdoor setting
Third prize – Lazercut lawnmower and catcher

Merriwa Rural RFS Christmas Raffle is on December 18 starting at 7.00pm, 20 hams or 20 wine and cheese hampers and lucky door prizes, tickets on sale on the night.

Now on tap James Squire - One Fifty Lashes Pale Ale, very yummy.

Matt Morgan
Sporting News

**Merriwa Little Athletics**

With lots of school and pre-school wind-ups after school this week, training has been moved from Monday to this Thursday December 18 evening from 5.30pm. As it will be our last training night of the term, please bring along a plate (fruit, salad, sweets) or packet (crackers, chips, dip) to share and enjoy a family BBQ and some water inspired games. Bring a towel kids! You may also need a change of clothes.

Sincere thanks to our supporters this term including Merriwa Cross Country, Merriwa IGA and Max’s Country Cuts and a very special thank to RM Property and Livestock for the opportunity to raise almost $500.00 from catering at the general horse sale over the weekend. We couldn’t have done it without the help of De Patterson, Kim Holland, Christine Riley, Jodie and Richard Magner – thanks so much.

Look forward to seeing you all again for training at the commencement of Term 1, in February.

Tash Taaffe

**Merriwa Pony Club**

The highly anticipated Merriwa Pony Club Christmas trail ride took place over the weekend with many kids venturing out on new horses or training young horses en route.

All 26 riders were saddled up ready to go by 7.30am on Saturday morning for a day of adventure riding the mountain ranges. There was plenty of breath taking scenery over the 25 kilometre ride which consisted of hilly tracks and rocky creek crossings on Ken Brown’s picturesque property ‘Gathabawn,’ Kars Springs. The going got tough in parts with big black clouds looming overhead but the rain never fell until the riders were all safely back at camp and could take cover in the shearing shed.

John Lannen, made a return trip to Merriwa for the ride but left with a slightly adjusted ‘gait’ on his way back to Maitland. Always a good sport ‘Lanno’ didn’t get phased when he locked his keys (and esky) in the car only to be rescued shortly after by the NRMA. Darryl Riley entertained the kids in the afternoon with plenty of crazy antics on his fabulous gelding ‘Doc’ while Kirsten Wright and Rob Patterson inadvertently entertained the adults with a hilarious ‘light bulb moment’ that shall go down in club campfire history.

After a soggy Saturday night, the kids retrieved their horses from the mud for another couple hours ride before lunch on Sunday and a welcome swim down the river.

A big thank you to Pauline Lawler and Chris Riley for organising the ride, to ‘pack rats’ Clare Martin and Darryl Riley for hauling the lunches and swimmers around on the backs of your trusty pack horses, to De Patterson for graciously volunteering to sleep in the shearing shed with the kids (and the possum) and to Rob Patterson for the BBQ and teeing up a visitor from the North Pole on Saturday night.

Sincere thanks to Mr Ken Brown for allowing Merriwa Pony Club to hold the trail ride camp on his property and to ‘trail boss’ Pat Gillis and wife Tania who did a superb job of choosing a trail route all riders could manage, cleaning out the shearing shed and making sure all horses had a yard and water for the night.

This year’s trail ride will be remembered by the parents, children and special guests for many years to come.

2015 footy season is quickly approaching. We recently advertised for coaches. We received two application for ladies League Tag they were David Vero and Justine Witney. David has been appointed coach with Justine assisting him.

We received one for Reserve Grade which was from Matt Morgan as coach with Seth Morgan assistant coach.

Congrats to our coaches.

Training will start on Tuesday January 6 at 6.30pm at Merriwa Swimming Pool. Cost to enter will be $4.00pp.

Gaynor Blackadder
The club has been allocated $5000.00 towards the replacement of court lighting in the latest round of the Community Partnerships grants. Whilst this is substantially less than the money that the club requires to undertake the project it is certainly a start. This grant was applied for under the previous tennis committee - thanks for the good work - the club will make good use of funds.

The Hot Shots Tennis Equipment should arrive this week. Register your interest in lessons by e-mailing the club at merriwatennis@gmail.com

The club held its Christmas party at the Sandy Hollow Hotel last Saturday night. Thanks to the James and the staff for the delicious food provided. I can certainly recommend the home grown paddock to plate scotch fillet. Unfortunately I don’t think the karaoke discovered any candidates for X-factor - better for all involved to stick to tennis.

Looking forward to another successful year in 2015.

Robert Smith
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!

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<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>Merriwa Family Pool Party - 6.00pm-8.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 20</td>
<td>Merriwa Markets - RSL Club footpath, Bow Street</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
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<td>Thursday 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 31</td>
<td>New Years Eve</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 1</td>
<td>New Years Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 29</td>
<td>First Merriwa Ringer for 2015</td>
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