Students audition for Star Struck
Kaleidoscope Kids is a fundraiser for John Hunter Children’s Hospital and the Hunter Community.

This fun filled weekend will include camping, entertainment and auctions.

Camping is available at the showground with powered sites, alternatively accommodation is available in town.

**Entertainment will include:**
- Rock’n’Roll and Country Bands
- Song Writing and performing workshops
- Bush Poets
- Markets
- Wine Tasting

Various fundraising events will be held including sporting memorabilia auctions.

A dinner and breakfast will be supplied by Merriwa Rotary Club.

Come along and join us for a fun weekend, with a variety of things to do as well as raising much needed funds for the Newcastle and Hunter Community.

For a more detailed itinerary or any further information, please contact Paul Garland paul.kkids@gmail.com or phone 0425 237 651

Mark Smith
Primary News

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

This week our Students of the Week were selected based on effort and improvement in class. Some attributes noted by teachers this week were working as a team, asking for help when needed, trying their best, fantastic book presentation and never giving up. We love to see students trying hard to improve in their personal best. Our Students of the Week were presented with books donated by the P and C to the following students:

Kindergarten Class: Matthew Grady
1/2 Class: Dylan Keane
2/3 Class: Thomas Amidy
4/5 Class: Paige Dewson
5/6 Class: James Bristow

CRUNCH AND SIP

We are proud to announce that the Primary Campus is officially a registered Crunch&Sip® school. Last year we received free water bottles for each student which is designed to be filled with water for use during the Crunch&Sip® break time. We would like to thank the Healthy Kids Association for sending them out to us.

Crunch&Sip® is a set time in Primary schools for students to ‘refuel’ on fruit and salad vegetables and ‘rehydrate’ with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increase concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive. We all know that many students are not eating enough fruit and vegetables.

If you would like more information you can visit http://www.crunchandsip.com.au/

PRIMARY STAR STRUCK

The Primary Star Struck girls have been working very hard to rehearse the audition choreography sent to us by the Star Struck coordinators. They were so motivated they organised some outfits to wear for their audition DVD and put their big smiles on. The girls gave a great performance for their audition DVD using confidence and style. We hope to hear back from the Star Struck coordinators with good news soon!

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

CLEVER LITTLE CHICKS AT WORK IN KINDERGARTEN

On the classroom window of the Kindergarten room you will read ‘Clever little chicks at work in Kindergarten.’ Over the past two weeks we have been studying a book called ‘Dan, the Flying Man’ written by Joy Cowley. The students have participated in a range of activities around this story. In the story Dan, flies over different things around his town, with the towns’ people trying to catch him. Kindergarten rewrote the story to show what Dan would fly over if he came to Merriwa.

COMING EVENTS

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<th>MARCH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7</td>
<td>Primary Assembly – 9.15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yrs 7 &amp; 9 Vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19</td>
<td>ROAR Roadshow to Sandy Hollow Public School - 9.15am to 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21</td>
<td>Secondary Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Assembly - 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>Secondary Formal Assembly - Great Hall - 8.55am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31</td>
<td>Year 12 exams - continue until April 4</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2</td>
<td>Secondary Cross Country - Zone</td>
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<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>Primary Assembly - 9.15am</td>
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Instead of the towns’ people trying to catch Dan, it is Kindergarten trying to catch him. Kindergarten had many great ideas for things Dan would fly over around Merriwa. Here is the story rewritten.

We had great fun last Friday acting-out the story outside. Kindergarten certainly are ‘clever little chicks’. I am so proud of how the Kindergarten students are embracing their learning.

Miss Michelle Willis
Kindergarten Teacher

Primary Leaders

Our captains and prefects have now been inducted and are ready to take on the challenge of leading and representing our students for 2014. Welcome to our new Captains Jamie Constable and Liana Byfield.

I would like to encourage kids to get along and join in with games and activities both in and out of class. I am really looking forward to running assemblies and also going to the SRC meetings.

Jamie Constable
Assistant Principal

I would like to be the best role model this year by being helpful and encouraging. I am excited about running assemblies and going to SRC meetings.

Liana Byfield
Assistant Principal

I am Dan, the flying man.

Catch me, catch me if you can.

Over a shop and over a school.

Over a park and over a pool.

Over farms, over sheep,

Over hills, over creeks.

I am Dan, the flying man.

Catch me, catch me if you can.

Kindergarten ran and ran.

Glen Kite
Assistant Principal

I would like to encourage kids to get along and join in with games and activities both in and out of class. I am really looking forward to running assemblies and also going to the SRC meetings.

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

Secondary News

As we approach the end of Term 1, students will need to be organised and on top of their work as the assignment due dates start rolling in.

Year 7 Science has just completed an introductory Science unit and will be very eager to put their new skills to good use in the years to come. They have all completed their ‘Bunsen burner’ licence with Mrs. Grant and love completing practical activities.

Year 8 Science has just completed an introductory Chemistry unit and will spend the remainder of this term learning about their own bodies. This is a very interesting topic that is relevant to each and every one of us. If they are lucky we will dissect a heart, all in the name of science of course!

The Year 9/10 Science class will be moving on from a challenging Chemistry unit to learn about Newton’s three laws of physics and motion. Their Half Yearly examinations are creeping up, whilst students are finishing assignments they should try

Favourite Subject:

Art and metalwork

Extra-Curricular activities:

Racing motorbikes

Future Aspirations:

Third overall in my first year of racing in Enduro Racing

Year Advisor’s Comment:

Maxwell is a friendly young student who is always cooperative and willing to have a go at all activities. Maxwell has been doing particularly well in English and Maths so far this year and should be proud of his efforts to participate in the swimming carnival recently. Maxwell’s keen interest in motorbikes is notable and he enjoys riding regularly. Congratulations on achieving Student of the Week Maxwell, keep up the good work!

Brianna Hall
Year Advisor

Maxwell Lundie
Year 8

Student of the Week

Merriwa Ringer
to be organised and implement a study program leading up to exams in order to achieve their best.

The University of Newcastle’s Science and Engineering Challenge is being held again in Muswellbrook between the 18 June and 20 June. Last year, Merriwa Central School finished in second position and students have been able to achieve and compete with much larger schools in the past. Each day the students participate in a range of exiting hands-on activities that are designed to demonstrate the practical elements of a career in the disciplines of Science and Engineering. The Challenge is a practical day of fun, teamwork and discovery. Students from Year 7 to 10 should let their Science teacher know if they are interested and watch this space!

As we finish the working week, here are some fun science facts to ponder over the weekend:

• Dogs have a remarkable sense of smell, they are capable of differentiating odours in concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can.

• Cutting onions releases a gas which causes a stinging sensation when it comes into contact with your eyes. Your body produces tears to dilute the irritant and remove it.

• The trickiest tongue twister in the English language is apparently “Pad kid poured curd pulled cod”. According to one MIT researcher, the “string of nonsense” is so difficult to say, not one of the test subjects in a speech study could repeat it – ten times quickly, that is.

• Red blood cells carry oxygen around the body. They are created inside the bone marrow of your bones.

• Most television commercials that advertise milk actually use a mixture of white paint and thinner.

Just some food for thought!

Ben Bartlett
Science Teacher

ROAR Report

Last week we visited St Joseph’s Merriwa as part of our new ROAR Roadshow program. We spent the morning working with students from Years 3-6 and developed their Rugby skills. It was an absolute pleasure and our young leaders did an excellent job running their stations. Thanks to John and Luke Cronin, Bailey McNaught and William Taylor for your brilliant efforts on the day. Next stop Cassilis!

Adam Johnston
ROAR Coordinator

When did you start in ROAR? 2012
What is one of your Sporting goals for 2014? Make it to the preliminary finals in League
What is one of your Academic goals for 2014? Passing my subjects
What is one of your personal goals for 2014? To get better at footy and improve my skills
How do you want to be remembered once you have left school? As an athlete.
Catholic Schools Week (CSW) will be celebrated by St Joseph’s School Merriwa and all Catholic schools in NSW and ACT from 9-15 March 2014.

The theme for CSW 2014 is ‘more than a great education’ which encourages schools to showcase for their local community the opportunities available to students, raise awareness, and celebrate the distinctiveness of Catholic schools.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those who have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community, by showcasing what happens in our classrooms every day.

Our school will be celebrating in the following ways:

• Commissioning of the Year 6 leaders and the staff of the school at Mass on Sunday 9 March at 8.30 am followed by shared morning tea in the MacKillop Room. This is an important Mass as the Year 6 leaders commit themselves to the challenge of leading the students in the school in 2014 and they are presented with their leaders’ badges. The staff members from the school pledge before the assembled congregation to do all in their power to provide quality education in our school.

• Visiting our open classrooms on Monday 10 March between 1.00pm -2.00pm to work with your children in the Literacy and/or Numeracy sessions. Bring a snack to share with your child for recess at 2.00pm and then join us for a special CSW Liturgy at 2.30pm in the MacKillop Room.

• Viewing the school display in the shopping centre and learn how our Catholic schools offer more than a great education.

• Parent’s afternoon tea/get together at Carolyn’s café 2.00pm. All parents, grandparents and carers welcome.

These are ideal opportunities to support the community of St Joseph’s Primary School, Merriwa and learn more about the great things that take place in Catholic schools every day.

Our school has a supportive community of teachers, parents, carers, P&P, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to focus on giving students the best education possible, encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of St Joseph’s Primary School, Merriwa and I look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you throughout the week from 9-15 March.

Australian Catholic Superannuation are proud supporters of Catholic Schools Week 2014.

Our Year 6 leaders will accompany Mrs Peebles to The Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton on Tuesday to join with school leaders from across the diocese to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week also marks the opening of the enrolment period for the 2015 school year. If you have a child ready to start school next year, or you know someone who does, please call the school to arrange for an Interview and enrolment package.

Catholic schools enrol about 20 per cent of Australian school students. There are 615 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing quality education in a faith-centred environment.

Catholic schools teach the same curriculum as government schools. Expectations of achievement and conduct are high. With a strong focus on the individual, a broad curriculum caters for a wide range of interests and abilities.

Catholic schools offer highly qualified and professional teachers who cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.

What a privilege it was again to host Andrew Chinn. The students, teachers, parents and friends who attended were captivated as he sang and danced spreading God’s message. I think the photos show the fun that was had on the day. If you wish to purchase any of his music simple visit the website listed below. Also I have included part of his blog about his trip to Merriwa. We look forward to Andrew’s next visit where we can all use the ‘pick me smile’ and the special butterfly bows he taught us.
FEBRUARY 25 - ST JOSEPH’S IN MERRIWA THEN ST JOSEPH’S IN DENMAN

I have seen some amazing things on my early morning drives. Saw this balloon on sunrise this morning on my way out to St Joseph’s at Merriwa, where I’ve been visiting for about ten years. Anne-Marie Peebles does such a good job there with RE, music and liturgy. And it’s great to see dancing principals - well done Helen!

We look forward to seeing the ROAR representatives again next term.

Clean Up Australia Day activities were postponed last Friday due to the wet weather. The Upper Hunter Shire council provided a BBQ which we will hold on our rescheduled day next week. Thank you to Phoebe and the Upper Hunter Council.

Blandford Horse sports was on Monday and we wish Emily Ninness, Ty Riley and Nicole Martin all the best as they compete for our school. More news of their efforts next week.

Congratulations to the following award winners last week:

**Kindergarten - Nate Brown** – for predicting events in stories so well!

**Claudia Patterson** – for her very settled approach to her school work.

**1/2 - Phoenix Denning** - For working well and remembering our school rules

**Bobby Keegan** - Great effort in writing activities

**3/4 - Will Henderson** – for working well in Reading groups.

**Damian Jamieson** – for his great work in Mathematics.

**5/6 - Tanja Sormaz** – for her remarkable results in Spelling tests

**Rhys Turner** – for volunteering to set up National Anthem each Monday

**Playground Champion - Toby Jamieson** – for being eager to participate in Daily PE activities

**Principal’s Award** - John Magner: For showing maturity and responsibility in his actions, especially in relation to the younger children in the school.

Mrs Helen Whale
Principal
Kaelyn has had a wonderful start to Kindergarten and has earned the title of Student of the Week for her efforts. She has a great love of learning; which is demonstrated in her ability to listen attentively to instructions and work at a task until she gets it right. Kaelyn is also respectful to all staff and students and remembers to use her manners when asking for things. She plays safely in the playground and is demonstrating increasing resilience when things don’t go her way. Kaelyn has an infectious smile and is well deserving of the title of Student of the Week. Congratulations Kaelyn and keep up the great work!

Let’s Get to Know the Student of the Week a little better…

What is your favourite food? Pears

What job would you like when you are older? A doctor because I like helping people

Apart from your family, who is one of your role models? Dr Rhianna

If you were given $100, what would you buy? A pet puppy that costs a lot of money

What is one thing that people may not know about you? A like to dance and sing

What has been your greatest achievement? Learning to write my name and a sentence.

**VISIBLE LEARNING FOCUS**

Last Thursday and Friday Miss Hodgson and I participated in professional training around the research results of John Hattie. We both found this training to be excellent as it spoke about the effect that different things have on students’ learning. The greater the effect, the more we need to do it. Feedback, teacher quality, students being responsible for own learning, high expectations are amongst the items that have the greatest feedback. More information will come in following newsletters. The next step for the staff is to interview groups of students to ask them questions about what they think a good learner is and the feedback that they receive from teachers.

**THE RABBIT HAS A NAME**

We have a name! Everyone would like to give a very warm welcome to Miss Hop Rosie Sunshine. As a result of a naming competition last week where students were given raffle tickets when the staff caught those following school rules, James, Summer and Sarah’s names were drawn out.

**I WANT TO BE DAY**

Cassilis raised $38.00 on Friday which will go the Kids Cancer Foundation. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed. The students wore the following outfits to reflect the jobs that they would like to have when they are older.

Maddie - Hop hop dancer
Summer Singh - Detective
Summer Turner - A rock star
Priya - Policeman
Thomas - A cowboy farmer
Brady - A farmer
Corey - An author
James - Firefighter
Rachel - A doctor
Isabelle - A fashion model
Sarah - A hairdresser
Jack N - A farmer
Jack S.C - A ninja
Angus - A cowboy
Which words and phrases does the author use to describe the character of Guts Garvey? He is a real mean kid who made Mathews life miserable by calling him names.

If you had the same remote control, what would you use it on? I would use the remote control to freeze my brother when he is doing annoying behaviours like pulling faces.

Sarah (Reading comprehension responses to questions from the story ‘Spaghetti Pig-Out’ by Paul Jennings)

What are your greatest achievements or most rewarding moment?

My greatest achievement is changing my behaviour towards teachers and students and always being a friendly person to everyone especially my class mates. I also have another achievement which is working my way towards Rewards Day because I haven’t been to rewards Day. I missed out last term because of my poor attitude and misbehaving and had to watch others having lots of fun.

Corey (Reading comprehension responses to question from the story on Douglas Mawson)

The green and blue bird is hunting for fish.
The alligator bit the rhino.

James (Sentence A Day writing focusing on simple sentence patterns)

SOME GREAT WORK SAMPLES FROM LEARNING LAST WEEK

The furry, black cat was so poor that you could see its hip bones. An evil red-eyed rabbit withheld vital information from the police.

Thomas (Sentence A Day writing focusing on simple sentence patterns)

The man smiled on the bench.
Banjo has a blue jumper.
He crept along the street.

Jack Sumpter-Cornish (Sentence A Day writing focusing on simple sentence patterns)

Remember!
Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 12 noon MONDAYS.
Last week Michael O’Brien Manager of Muswellbrook Woolworths delivered the products we ordered through last year’s Earn and Learn promotion. We received a variety of maths games and equipment, fine motor skills games, musical instruments and science equipment. The year 6 students were quite excited to receive and unpack the order. Mr O’Brien also supplied morning tea, compliments of Woolworths, in the form of a platter of wraps and a large sponge slab cake for the students to share. We would like to thank him for taking the time to visit our small school. We would also like to thank parents and community members who supported this initiative by collecting stickers and sending them in. Without your support, we would not have anywhere near the amount of products that we received.

PUPIL FREE DAY

I would like to thank all families who supported our Pupil Free Day last week. Even though it was not a regular school day for the students, staff were expected to attend a conference based on the research of John Hattie called Visible Learning. We learned about how to maximise student achievement, by focussing on the issues that make a difference. One of the key messages from the day was that teachers can and do make a difference, but by making learning visible to all students, we can achieve greater outcomes. Some of the areas that do make a difference included student expectations, quality feedback, having assessment criteria available and visible to students at all times, providing formative feedback (as the task is being completed, rather than waiting until the end) and high teacher expectations and mind set. Through his research, John Hattie was able to demonstrate that things like multi-age classes, gender, ability grouping and outer school curricular activities (such as music lessons or sport) make little to no difference to the way a child will succeed at school. The staff will spend the next few weeks completing follow up activities.

The following day, Mrs Parker and I attended an Evidence into Action Day based around this research. We spent the day closely looking at what data we collect, how we collect it and what do we do with it. We focussed on a number of areas including leaders as evaluators, what is a visible learner, understanding the impact we have on our students, giving effective feedback, the difference between experienced and expert teachers, calculating effect size to see if what do does have an effect and finally what visible schools look like. During the course of the day, we completed an action plan to be taken back to school and shared with staff.

Over the next four months, we will be collecting data in a number of areas including:

- Interviewing students to determine what a good learner looks like in our school
- Collecting data from standardised testing
- Classroom walkthroughs focussing on student engagement and learning intentions
- Teacher Surveys
- Feedback Observation.

Mrs Parker and I will take this data back to Evidence into Action Day 2 which will be held in June, where we will critically analyse what is happening in our school and put some plans into place to ensure that our students are able to understand how and why they learn. Our ultimate goal is visible learning and visible teaching - “when teachers see learning through the eyes of the students and students see themselves as their own teachers”.

PSSA RUGBY TRIALS

Last Tuesday, Jackson Stair and Dustynn Turner went to Muswellbrook to try out for the Hunter Rugby League team. Congratulations to Jackson Stair who was selected and will now train with the team leading up to the competition next term.

REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Andrew Harris, Sam Thompson, Amy Thompson and Jackson Stair, who will be representing the school at the Regional Swimming Carnival. Andrew has qualified for individual events, while the four students will swim in the P5 relay. We wish them the very best of luck for Thursday.

PURPLE DAY

On Friday we will be holding a fundraiser to support Muswellbrook’s Relay for Life. Students are asked to wear something purple and make a $2.00 donation. We will also hold an in school raffle for the students with tickets being 50c each. Anyone in the community wishing to make a private donation is quite welcome to do so. All money will be forwarded to the committee of Muswellbrook Relay for Life.
Welcome to a new year at Pre-School. We are most excited about the addition to our frontage, the new fencing for the after school service. It is obvious to all the new developments and improvements to the Pre-School and thanks to Bruce Carrall for the amazing job re-turfing our playground and tending to the tired yard during the Christmas break. Quality Area Three focuses on the physical environment and the delivery of this outcome is a credit to Bruce.

It is soon time again to address quality improvement for these two great services and this year we will implement a strategic plan for the development of the new playground. From my priority list for pre-visit by the assessor. We can tick off many of our goals from last year. Such as two orientation sessions for families, a transition to more natural cleaning products, healthy eating and physical activity initiatives including new policies and practices. Electronic programming, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment and a revised philosophy. We have identified staff’s strengths and weaknesses through appraisal, and have charted a plan for professional development. We have addressed children’s health and safety through our changes to bus travel and our upcoming Providing a child safe environment policy, we are all about to update our CPR training and are following risk management plans for the management of severe allergies within our student body.

This year we have begun by using a new format for documenting and assessing the individual needs and interests of children, already I feel we are beginning to meet our plan for Quality Area Five relationships with children. This will be further explored as we move to a twice daily programmed group experience for our older groups which is another significant advancement in programming and planning.

The committee have made progress toward our goals, the addition of a section in the minutes for Quality improvement and the purchase of the committee laptop in April, we have also agreed on the policy for management and governance which was a huge and comprehensive document. My hope is it can provide some clarity for new
and current committee as they contemplate their roles. Soon the committee will be preparing for its biggest challenge for Quality Area Seven; the effective and inviting orientation of new families to the committee, this will be documented and go some way to meeting this outcome for our service.

Our groups are settling well for the year and are enjoying the Pre-School experience. We are pleased and encouraged by the flying start that many of the children are achieving and we look forward to our year together in this beautiful environment.

Leah Folpp (Director) and Merriwa Pre-School Educators

Dr Noman Jawaad Medical Practice

Our hours currently are:

MERRIWA: 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
DENMAN: 8.00am to 6.00pm Tuesday and Friday.

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

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. She has many years of experience and is a great asset to our practice. Kerry is available for appointments on both these days.

We also have a Psychologist, Sharon Wells, from Scone visiting our surgery every second Monday. To see Sharon you do need a referral from Dr Jawaad.

We are currently conducting Health Assessments for patients 75 years and over on Wednesdays. If you would like to have this done please phone the surgery, 6532 5013, to book your appointment.

Our rooms are located within the Merriwa Multipurpose Centre. We are here to help in any way we can. Every effort will be made to give you your preferred appointment time and day. If you need more time with the Doctor please tell Carol (my receptionist) when making your appointment. Urgent medical problems are dealt with promptly.

Dr Noman Jawaad

Anglican News
Church Services

Regular Church Services - page 25
Happy new year to you all and do hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Australia day celebration.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Women’s Guild meeting - first Thursday monthly
March to November: 2.00pm

Messy Church - Last Friday monthly March to November: 3.30pm

Men’s breakfast - Third Saturday monthly March to November: 7.30am - this month it is 22 March

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Ash Wednesday: 5 March
World day of Prayer: 7 March - Holy Trinity at 7.00pm with the service written by the Egypt. All welcome. Supper to follow.
AGM: Holy Trinity 23 March at 10.30am
Messy Church: 28 March at 3.30pm
Palm Sunday: 13 April
Good Friday: 18 April
Easter Sunday: 20 April

Please call the parish phone for all matters that need to be attended to and Church Services times.

The season of lent is upon us.....

40 DAYS - 40 WAYS TO LOVE LIFE THIS LENT

1. Participate in an Ash Wednesday service
2. Eat and drink like the poor for 40 days. Then donate the money you save on groceries to a charity or project that serves the poor in concrete ways
3. Spend a weekend at a monastery
4. Commit to memorising a significant portion of scripture
5. Unplug - Tv, Facebook, Twitter, Netflix etc this is perhaps the single best way to carve out some extra time in your day for prayer and meditation.

More ways to Love Life next week...

Contact: 0429 996 769

Rosalie Drew
SHEEP YARD DOG TRIALS

SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL HOTEL MERRIWA

In 2014 the ROSTO Olives Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces will be holding their inaugural “Red Socks” Sheep Yard Dog Trials. As the event is sanctioned by the NSW Yard Dog Association, all points gained by the dogs and their handlers will go towards their state championships score.

Sponsored by The Royal Hotel, Merriwa, the Sheep Yard Dog Trials is a great opportunity for the entire family to come and enjoy, witnessing some of the best Sheep Yard Dogs in Australia as their handlers put them through this testing event.

The action starts 8.00am and goes through until around 4.30pm. There will be three different events commencing with the Maiden which is for the young dogs, followed by Novice which is the dogs that have won a Maiden, followed by the Open dogs who are more experienced and practiced.

With over $500.00 in cash and prizes to be won on the day including trophies for each division winner with the winner of the Open section claiming the inaugural ‘Red Socks’ Championship Trophy.

Megan Richards, Merriwa Yard Dog Team Captain said “even though the dogs are working dogs, the owners have a very special bond with them, as they put a lot of time and effort into training them which builds a very special relationship between them”.

Any Sheep Yard Dog owner wishing to enter into this event can contact Megan Richards on peterpearce5@bigpond.com or Liam Garment, Minute Secretary, Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Committee on 6521 7046 or lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au. Entries are limited.

Food and refreshments will be available at the Merriwa Showground where spectators can enjoy this event for FREE.

Please return this entry form to the Merriwa CTC/Visitor Information Centre by 25 May 2014 to be eligible to win the competition.

Thank you for your sponsorship to date:

MAJOR AND NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR
ROSTO Olives

MAJOR SPONSOR
Upper Hunter Shire Council

MINOR SPONSORS
Ausgrid
NBN Television

GOLD MAJOR EVENT SPONSORS
Lenore’s Quilting and Martins Transport
Merriwa RSL
The Campbell Family

SILVER EVENT SPONSORS
Curtis Gant Irving Solicitors
Hunter Mutual
Alexiam of Merriwa Preserves and Cookery
CWA Merriwa

BRONZE EVENT SPONSORS
Merriwa Pharmacy
Anthea Wright Veterinary Services
The Royal Hotel
Merriwa Tyre and Service Centre
Falcon Grove Oils
Upper Hunter Fire Protection
The Welcoming Centre
Coal and Allied
Merriwa Auto Electrical

COMMUNITY AND IN KIND SPONSORS
Hunter Sports Group
Max’s Country Cuts
Tullymore Clydesdale and Shire Horse Stud
The Denman Hotel, Restaurant, Motel
James Constable
James Bettington

Interested in sponsoring? Contact 6521 7046.

Liam Garment
Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 27 February, 2014. The new committee is:

President: Kay Taylor  
Vice President: Julie Smith  
Secretary: Elaine Sparrow  
Assistant Secretary: Jan Cronin  
Treasurer: Sue Cronin  
Assistant Treasurer: Debbie Hunt  
Delegate: Jenny Johnson  
Program Officers: Louise Hunt and Margaret Wright  
Publicity Officer: Elaine Sparrow.

Congratulations to the new committee and a special thanks was given to Debra Hunt who is having a spell from the committee after a continuous 20 years. Well done Debra and thanks.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 March 2014 and will be held at the Indian Spice and Grill – 7pm for 7.30pm, BYO drinks. The donation to our learning bags for the month of March will be pencils – lead or colour. If you can help, bring your donation to the dinner meeting. Attendance and/or apology to Elaine by Monday night 24 March, 2014.

Merriwa VIEW invite all ladies in our community to come along and join our club. Membership is $15.00 per year and we meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at different venues around Merriwa. Our meal each month costs $25.00. The VIEW money raised from our club is donated to The Smith Family who are a valued part of all VIEW Clubs. We are a friendly club with a very relaxed attitude. Our Dinner Meetings are a great way to come out and enjoy the friendship of women from our town, enjoy a meal that you haven’t had to cook, and have a relaxing night in great company. Think about joining VIEW, ask a friend to join with you. Give Elaine Sparrow a call for bookings or talk to any VIEW member.

Elaine Sparrow  
Secretary

Robert Burns wrote about “the best laid plans of mice and men”. John Steinbeck picked up some of those words a long time afterwards.

Last Saturday, the Rotary Club had its best laid plans go awry with the most welcome fall of 27mm of rain. The effect of the rain was to cause a late change of venue for the Rotary Progressive Dinner. The chosen first location had to be abandoned because of the hazard of a black soil road and a late decision was made to hold the entire evening at Kingslyn.

The evening ran seamlessly ... as it had been planned that way. In a delightful setting those attending enjoyed a wide range of excellent food, coming from many sources. Money raised will go to some of the worthy causes supported by our club. Our appreciation and thanks to Col and Gaye Bates.

And ....wasn’t the rain good!

Mark Smith  
Rotary Club of Merriwa

Gummun Place Hostel
Biggest Loser Challenge Recipes

BACON AND EGG BREAKFAST SANDWICH

Ingredients

- 1 strip extra-lean bacon, cut in half
- Olive oil spray
- 1 large egg white
- 1 light multigrain or whole wheat English muffin (8 grams fiber per muffin), toasted
- 1 (3/4 ounce) slice fat-free cheese

Place a small nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and add the bacon. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes per side, or until crisp. Remove from the pan and cover to keep warm.

Spray a 3-1/2" or 4" microwave-safe bowl with the olive oil spray and add the egg white. Microwave for 30 seconds. Continue microwaving in 15-second intervals until it is just set completely.

Assemble the sandwich by placing the bottom half of the warm English muffin, inside up, on a plate. Top with the cheese, the egg, then the bacon. Add the English muffin top and serve.

Makes 1 serving

Per Serving: 183 calories, 17g protein, 25g carbohydrates, 5g fat, 2g saturated, 22mg cholesterol, 8g fiber, 625mg sodium

Elaine Sparrow  
Secretary

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.  
MCS in touch with our community!

Tina Taylor  
Merriwa Ringer
Community Notice Board

World’s Greatest Shave
Karen Gumb-Bates (from Kingslyn) is participating in the World’s Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

The head shave will occur on 15 March at the Royal Hotel between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.

This event coincides with the 100 year anniversary celebration of the Royal Hotel Merriwa, so there will be many other events going on during the day.

If you would like to be there, everyone is welcome, and if you would like to make a donation, there are tins in many of the shops in town. Everyone has been affected in some way by cancer, whether they have survived it, or know someone who has had it. Every little thing we can do to help raise money gets us closer to a cure.

Karen Gumb-Bates
Merriwa CWA
BRANCH COOKING DAY
This is an open day if you would like to participate schedules are available from Kay Burgess 6548 3222.

When: 16 March
Kids are encouraged to participate.
There is a section for under 12 and under 18.
All cooking to be at the rooms by 9.15am.

HANDICRAFT
Handicraft days have been held on Wednesday afternoons.
Thanks for organising these days Aileen, you do a fantastic job.

Robyn McAlister
Publicity

World Day of Prayer
Topic: Streams in the desert
When: Friday 7 March
Time: 7.00pm
Where: Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Followed by light supper. Everyone welcome!

Lorna Parnell

Men’s Breakfast
Men of Merriwa - The next men’s breakfast will be on 22 March at the Parish Hall 7.30am, not the third Saturday as discussed at the last breakfast.

Why the change of date for March you ask?
The majority of men will be assisting the Gummun pld breakfast bbq along with Gummun Place Market Day.

So, with that change of date for March, we Look forward to seeing you all and don’t forget, bring a friend for a great morning of friendship and a hearty breakfast.

With Thanks,
Allen Reed

Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre Annual General Meeting
When: Thursday 27 March 2014
Time: 6.30pm for 7pm start
Where: At Merriwa RSL Club
All positions will be vacant.
For more information please contact Gaynor on 0447 221 243.

Gaynor Blackadder

St David’s Uniting Church
PIE DRIVE ORDER SHEETS ARE OUT
Please Note – there was an error in the date for ‘Orders to Close’. The following dates are correct:-

Delivery Date: Wednesday 9 April
Orders Close: Friday 28 March
If anyone would like to order and are unable to locate an order sheet, please contact me on

Home: 6548 5131(evening is best time)
Mobile: 0428 485 131

Barbara Campbell

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.
Gummun Place Hostel Market Day

Gummun Place Hostel will be hosting their annual Market Day on Saturday 15 March from 9.00am-2.00pm.

Come along to buy some scrumptious treats, enjoy the BBQ lunch and pick up some handmade craft produced by the Hostel residents.

Any donations of cakes, biscuits, slice, craft, plants etc would be greatly appreciated.

Phoebe Richards

Red Cross Calling

Merriwa Red Cross is asking you to help us change the lives of those less fortunate during March on Red Cross Calling Day.

Red Cross is celebrating 100 years of service this year to the local, national and international community.

Merriwa Red Cross also celebrates their centenary and it is due to the generosity of Merriwa citizens that this has been possible.

We will be selling tickets for a raffle on Friday 7 March 2014 in Bettington Street and will have some promotional give-a-ways for Red Cross centenary.

On Friday May 2 we will be holding a “Thank You to Merriwa” day at the CWA rooms to thank you for your kindness and generosity over many years. More details at a later date.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for Red Cross Calling.

Philomena Constable
Liaison Officer Merriwa Red Cross

LLS Elections
An Open Letter to Residents

I am a fellow landholder and livestock producer, who is dependant on the farm for my income. It is vital that producers who are paying large rates have proper representation on the new LLS board. The intention of the new LLS is to have a one stop shop to provide accurate information and advice on livestock, agronomy and Bio-security. There is an explosion in the population of wild dogs and wild pigs in all parts of the state that have never before experienced this problem. In order to deal with this with these problems that affect our primary production, adequate trained staff need to be employed to provide proper advice and assistance. If an outbreak of an exotic disease such as Foot and Mouth disease were to occur in these feral animals, with the result coming in close contact with our livestock, it would devastate our industry.

Producers are the ones who understand the needs of the ratepayers and how to combat these feral animals. Whatever our concerns regarding the composition of the new LLS boards, we need to ensure ratepayer producers have proper representation and that we vote. I believe this board can work and it must!

I am seeking your vote to represent you in the Hunter region

Ronald (Ron) Campbell
0428 485 153

Merriwa Senior Citizens
COMING UP

Thursday 13 March - Movie - 1.00pm

Tuesday 18 March - Trip to Singleton - 8.30

Wednesday 19 March - Trip to Raymond Terrace - 7.00am

Thursday 20 March - Lunch at Merriwa RSL Club - 12 noon - Hoi Squatters Room for 1.00pm

Friday 21 March - Home Day Merriwa RSL Club’s auditorium - 10.00am

Come and enjoy your Seniors Week!

Mary O’Neill

Don’t forget to get your Dry and Dusty photos in before April 11!
$50.00 prize sponsored by Stay-n-Play Produce

Page 16
There is a new weekly paper that is now available. It comes out every Saturday, and is called The Saturday Paper. It may not be a big new exciting name... but it is a good new read for those who are a bit jaded about the current offerings. It is a fresh look at issues and events of today. Sections include news, social comment, world news, business, culture (film, art, books etc), life (food, home, fashion, etc), and sport.

“A good story has either the first word or the last word. This newspaper will have both.” - Morry Schwartz, publisher

FREEBIES
It is the lead-up to Easter and we have decided to give away something that will lead to a delicious, chocolate-filled Easter. Every full-size cookbook sold during the month of March will receive a FREE mini AWW Chocolate Classics cookbook. This mini cookbook is a must-have for any chocoholic (or anyone who cooks for one!) there are biscuits, slices, cakes and desserts that will have your mouth watering in no time. I can personally vouch for the deliciousness of the Golden Syrup Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing (it is divine!) Any cookbook will get you one of these, including Slow Cooker, Birthday Cakes Vintage Edition, Classic Retro Recipes, Party Food, Recipes From Around the World, Babies and Toddlers, The Cook’s Garden, Symply Too Good to be True, Weight Watchers and so many more. Cooking magazines and mini cookbooks are not included.

DISCOUNT
All stuffed toys are on special! This offer is available until the end of the month. Every stuffed bear, dog, horse, cow, pig, frog and caterpillar is currently 15% off the original price. There are plenty of cute and affordable stuffed toys available, and are a great Easter alternative to copious amounts of chocolates for those health conscious parents, or for children with allergies or food intolerances.

EASTER STORY COMPETITION
Do not forget that all primary students in Merriwa, Cassilis and Sandy Hollow are eligible to enter our competition for Easter. Students must write their own original story based on their favourite book character. The stories will be judged and prizes awarded before school holidays begin. All students must include their name, class, school and the book their character is from. The winners will receive a box-set of 14 Mr Men and Little Miss books. We cannot wait to see what the students come up with and we will be displaying them in the shop over the Easter break.

HALLMARK
Our new range of Hallmark cards is now available. There are some beautiful cards as well as some highly amusing ones. We thank everyone for their patience on the day we had the change-over. Along with the cards, we have a beautiful range of baby gifts that are the perfect newborn or baby shower gift. There are beautiful growth charts with room for photos, keepsake boxes for the first tooth and the first lock of hair, as well as a gorgeous suitcase-style keepsake box for cards and small bits and pieces. There are separate designs for boys and girls, and are a beautiful and thoughtful gift for any baby.

Provider of Telstra and Optus phones, SIM cards, phone and internet credit.

Neville and Leanne Hook

Merriwa Pharmacy

OVARIAN CANCER

This week across Australia many pharmacies will be taking part in activities for Teal Ribbon Day, the culmination of a month of awareness-raising campaigns about ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is a disease where some of the cells in one or both ovaries start to grow abnormally and develop into cancer.

According to the Ovarian Cancer website (www.ovariancancer.net.au), we don’t know the causes of most ovarian cancer but research into the causes of this disease is continuing in Australia and overseas.

We do know, however, that there are some factors that may increase a woman’s risk of developing ovarian cancer and that there are some protective factors that may reduce a woman’s risk.

It is important to know that many women who develop ovarian cancer do not have any known risk factors — while many women who do have risk factors never develop ovarian cancer.

One risk factor is age with ovarian cancer most common in women over the age of 50 and in women who have stopped menstruating (those...
that have been through menopause). While the risk increases with age, ovarian cancer can affect women of all ages.

Genetics and family history also play a part for some women. If a woman has two or more relatives from the same side of her family affected by ovarian, or ovarian and breast cancer her risk of developing ovarian cancer may be increased. This tends to be a result of an inherited faulty gene (BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation) that increases a woman’s risk of developing ovarian and breast cancer.

Genetics and family history are responsible for at least 15% of ovarian cancers. All women diagnosed with ovarian cancer are recommended to attend a Familial Cancer Centre to consider genetic testing.

Women who have not had children, are unable to have children, have never used oral contraceptives or have had children over the age of 30, may be slightly more at risk. This is due to ovaries not having a “rest” from the break and repair of the surface of the ovary when women ovulate each month.

Other risk factors include endometriosis - a condition where the tissue lining the uterus (endometrium) is also found outside of the uterus, lifestyle factors: such as smoking tobacco, being overweight or eating a high fat diet, and hormonal factors: including early puberty (menstruating before 12) or late menopause (onset after 50).

Non conclusive risk factors that are also looked at include the fact that women who are using oestrogen only hormone replacement therapy may have a slightly increased risk of developing ovarian cancer.

Also, multiple exposures to fertility drugs and genital contact with talcum or asbestos, which are sometimes used in talcum powders, douches and condoms (this is highly controversial and not proven) may be a risk factor.

Treatment for ovarian cancer usually involves a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. Less often, treatment may include radiotherapy. The type of treatment women receive depends on the type and stage of their ovarian cancer and their general health.

Treatment is best managed by a gynaecological oncologist who is a specialist in treating cancers of the reproductive tract and has very specialised surgical skills.

Ovarian Cancer Australia strongly recommends that women are treated by a gynaecological oncologist. Ideally, they will be part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team — where each member of the team specialises in a different area of care and that care is coordinated between each member. For more information you can download the multidisciplinary care information sheet.

The Directory of Gynaecological Oncology Services provides a listing of treatment centres in each state and territory. The directory shows what types of services are available at each centre (such as specialist nurses, psychosocial care and the opportunity to participate in clinical trials) and includes contact details.

Your local pharmacist can also help with general health advice and your community pharmacy is your health destination. As well, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has produced a wide range of health fact cards available from Merriwa Pharmacy.

Robert Smith

Woolbrook Rural Industries

America can be a violent country, though no more than many others in our often violent world, and another reason for this, besides those mentioned last week, is that the USA has been involved in many more serious wars than Australia. In our case, unless we are to include such minor skirmishes as the Sudan and Boer Wars, where we sent contingents, Australia’s first experience of war was WW1, indeed Gallipoli is often referred to as “Australia’s baptism of fire”. Since then we have had WW2, Korea, Vietnam and some much smaller engagements including Iraq and Afghanistan. The USA has of course been involved in all of these, but also prior to that at least four major wars, i.e. the War of American
Denmark and the Baltic countries under such names as Angles, Saxons and Jutes, and they were a fierce, violent and merciless people who plundered and slaughtered wherever they went, and often settled permanently in the countries they plundered. In England they were astounded to find great monasteries loaded with loot and quite unprotected except by the monks' belief that God would protect them, and a standard prayer at the time was "From the fury of the Norseman, may the good Lord deliver us", though it appears He seldom did. Viking genes are still present in many of those who live today in the British Isles and elsewhere, and particularly in Scotland, islands to its north, and parts of Ireland.

Greenland may seem a strange name for a place which is mostly covered in ice, some of it a kilometre or more thick, though it was not always like that, including at the time of Eric the Red. However, due to climate change Greenland became colder and more hostile till eventually the Norse settlements were no longer viable. In passing, there is an interesting sidelight on Greenland. We are told that, with present day climate change, future average ocean levels will rise, and this seems both obvious and inevitable. However, it is calculated that the rise will not be the same everywhere, and Greenland is a place where it is likely to actually fall. Why? One reason is because of gravity, a force by which, as we know, everything attracts everything else, no matter how small or how large, and the gravitational pull of the enormous Greenland ice cap is so huge that it substantially raises the surrounding ocean level. When that ice cap has melted and gone its gravitational pull will go too, and so the level of the ocean around Greenland will fall. More about Eric the Red next week.

Nearly everything for farmers at rock bottom prices! Conventional and electrical fencing, pumps, spraying equipment, poly and PVC pipes, generators, tanks, silos etc.


Max Wurcker
We are fully licenced by ARC, the Australian Refrigeration Authority, to carry out work on automotive air conditioning systems. The A/C system in your vehicle is pressurised and contains a special oil, designed to lubricate seals, fittings, pipes and componentry. This is why you should run the system for at least 15 minutes every couple of weeks, even in winter!

Many people ask, “How much will it cost to regas my car A/C?” This is an impossible question to answer, for a couple of reasons. Firstly, we cannot just ‘regas’ a vehicle; if the A/C system has a leak we need to do our best to find out where it is and replace parts or do repairs. It is illegal to simply regas. Secondly, there might be other reasons why the A/C isn’t working.

This is a specialised area, where knowledge, expertise and honesty are vital. You are welcome to book your vehicle in for an inspection, by calling 6548 2114.

Ring us, or come in and we will do our best to assist you!

Michael and Sally Hagley
MEET WITH MAYOR MICHAEL JOHNSEN

Mayor Michael Johnsen will attend the Merriwa office of Upper Hunter Shire Council on the fourth Wednesday of each month. His next visit is scheduled for Wednesday, 26 March 2014. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with Mayor Johnsen on any issue please contact Robyn Cox at the Scone office on 6540 1126 or email rcox@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979
NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Council has received the following development applications which may be inspected during office hours until 4.30pm Thursday 6 March 2014.

DA No: 23/2014
Applicant: Projects TT
Location: Lot 1 DP 329958, Lot C DP 418098 & Lot 15 DP 667845 120-124 Bettington Street Merriwa
Proposal: Commercial Alterations/Additions

Comments or objections are invited from any affected person in regard to the proposals. All submissions must be submitted to the General Manager in writing within the inspection period above. Reasons for objection must be specified. Note: Complying developments & those complying with Council’s Development Control Plan for Public Notification & Advertising are not advertised nor are adjoining/affected landowners notified.

The community can check the current status of a development application on Council’s website: www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Note: The site is updated on a fortnightly basis.

MEDIA RELEASES

For information regarding important Council media releases, please refer to Council’s website: www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

SAVE THE DATE
YOUTH WEEK EVENT
11 APRIL 2014
CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 11 March 2014, 10.00am
Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 11 March 2014, 1.00pm
Community Services Committee
Tuesday 11 March 2014, 4.00pm
Finance Committee
Friday 21 March 2014, 1.00pm
Ordinary Council Meetings
Monday 24 March 2014, 5.00pm

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

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

If you have ever wanted to participate in promoting your community and the wonderful attractions of the Upper Hunter Shire, then we would like to hear from you. Volunteers are required to assist with the running of the 2014 ROSTO Olives Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces. In order for the festival to have another successful year, the Festival Committee would like to hear from anyone who may be able to assist on Saturday 7 June 2014. You may be asked to welcome some of the event attractions and show them to their location, or help put up promotional signs around the town, or perhaps assist in the erecting of the street barriers in preparation for the ROSTO Olives Running of the sheep. No matter how little or how much you are able to assist, your contribution to the Merriwa community would be greatly appreciated. If you think that you can assist, please contact:

P: Liam Garment  6521 7046
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<td>CJ &amp; JM Vero</td>
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<td>Craig McPherson Haulage</td>
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<td>Merriwa Junior League &amp; Netball</td>
<td>0437 482 375</td>
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<td>Merriwa Little Athletics</td>
<td>0427 799 222</td>
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<td>0411 800 255</td>
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<td>Tash Holden Communications</td>
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<td>Trinity Markets</td>
<td>0488 727 032</td>
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<td>Upper Hunter Shire Council - Merriwa Woolbrook Rural Industries</td>
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**Merriwa Doctor Contacts**

- Dr N Jawaad 6532 5013
- Dr R Salama 6548 2305
- Merriwa Hospital 6532 5000

**Emergency Contacts**

- Merriwa Police 6548 2203
- Merriwa Rescue Squad 6548 2538
- Merriwa Hospital 6532 5000

**Ringer Online**

Are you hip with laptops, tablets and computers? Why not check out the Ringer online at:


Remember!

Get your articles and advertisements into the **Merriwa Ringer** BEFORE 12 noon MONDAYS

**WANT TO BE IN THIS?** Call Tina Taylor at the Merriwa Ringer on 6548 2119
Merriwa District Education Foundation
President: Ivan Gant 6376 1044
Secretary: Jane Hegarty 6376 1052
Treasurer: Lesley Nixon 6548 2225
Supporting rural youth

Merriwa Branch & District Council
"...a strong and united voice for our members on issues that affect their business, farms and families."
President: Patrick Ryan 0428 485 090
Secretary/Treasurer: Aileen Hogan 0455 455 760
www.nswfarmers.org.au

Businesses

Merriwa Festival of the Fleece
June Long Weekend Annually

Friday 7.00pm Opening Night
All day Saturday Festival
Sunday Morning Bush Poet’s Breakfast from 9.00am
P: 6521 7046 E: lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
W: www.upperhuntertourism.com

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Fax: 6548 2033

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Arts, Crafts, farm produce!
Clean toilets!
CENTRE:
Open every day
09.30am – 2.30pm
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10.00 onwards
President: J. Alker
Secretary: E. Shipway
Tel: 6548 3201

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59 Brook Street
Muswellbrook NSW 2333
86 Bettington
Merrriwa NSW 2329

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433
Merriwa 02 6548 2205
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La Scaletta
Pizzeria
Traditional Wood-fired pizza
Friday 6pm – late
Saturday 6pm – late
Call us for your next function!
(02) 6548 3005
0419 252 257 Robert
robert.marchese@bigpond.com

Merrinwa Pressing & Decorating
No website? Existing website not performing to its full potential? You could be losing money.
Contact Comprint Solutions Phone 6541 2225

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Mobi: 0408 293 448

DR NOMAN JAWAAD
Medical Practice
Cnr Brisbane & MacKenzie Streets
Merriwa
Open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8am - 5pm
For appointments please phone
6532 5013

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Trinity Markets
Accessories, Books, Nick-Nacks
Clothing for all the family
DONATIONS WELCOME!
Tues – Fri
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Friendly service with 25 years experience
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Clean Air
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Graham Brown 6547 6048
Ted Finnie 6547 5171

Catholic Parish
Merriwa & Cassilis
WEEKEND MASSES
St Anne’s 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
Convent - 6548 2123
St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

Merriwa Ringer
Schools

Merriwa Central School
Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119

Cassilis Public School
6376 1009

Groups

Merriwa Preschool Kindergarten Association Incorporated
Our Centre is open Monday - Friday and caters for children 2-5 years. Providing Quality Early Childhood Education.
Enquiries Welcome
Ph: 6548 2083
Fax: 6548 2480

CWA
Meets the second Monday of the month at 10.00am in the CWA rooms, Bettington Street. Visitors and new members are always welcome.
Enquiries to:
President: Barbara Campbell
6548 5131
Secretary: Susie Fitzpatrick
6548 2463
Email: susiefitz1935@gmail.com

Advertise here!
Get your business seen supporting the Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Tina Taylor
Senior Vice President: Trent Cooper
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Brad Hunt
For more information contact
6548 2124 after hours.

Merriwa Tennis Club
Association Inc
President – Matt Morgan
Snr Vice President – Mark Kirkland
Jnr Vice President – Lee Cronin

Merriwa Rugby League
Football Club
President – Matt Morgan
Snr Vice President – Mark Kirkland
Jnr Vice President – Lee Cronin
Day - Night Junior Competitions Court Hire

MERRIWA FITNESS CENTRE
Mondays 5.30pm
Tuesdays 6.00am
Wednesdays 5.30pm
Personal Training at your own home or in the Gym also available
Other classes available
Annie Rodgers
0408 482 778

Merriwa Springtime Show
September 20th,21st & 22nd 2013
Proudly supported by
COAL
President: Rob Tindall 0427 761 159
Secretary: Toni Jones 0498 378 500
secretary@merriwashow.com.au
Treasurer: Allen Reed 0428 513 113
www.merriwashow.com.au

Cassilis PONY CLUB
RALLY DAY 2ND SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH
President: Clare Martin 6548 2201
Secretary: Christine Riley 6548 8584
Treasurer: Bronwyn Redgate

LITTLE ATHLETICS
2013/14 season training from 5.30 to 7.00pm
Merriwa No. 2 Oval (throughout Terms 4 & 1)

Merriwa Ringer
merriwaringer.com.au
Merriwa RSL Club

The Members Lucky Badge for $650.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm, the number was 785, this week it jackpots to $700.00. The 7.00pm draw for $400.00 was not won the number was 445, this week it jackpots to $420.00. The 9.00pm draw for $240.00 was not won the number was 557, this week it jackpots to $260.00. LTPS/13/04473.

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $1750.00 was won last week the number was 183, this week it commences at $500.00 and 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.

COMING EVENTS

The RSL Club footy tipping competition is now open for names; come in a leave your name at the bar, cost $20.00 for the chance at $1000.00 prize money. The first game to kick of the season is Thursday 6 March with the mighty Roosters taking on bunny Rabbits so there is still time to get your name in.

The club now has a new juke box in the games room with over 15,000 selections and is updated every two weeks with new songs.

Sunday 9 March 2014 - Bob Brinkley in the main lounge from 1.00pm.

19 July 2014 - The Beach Boyz Tribute Show.

Matt Morgan
Secretary/Manager
**Transport Service is Available Friday**

To access the transport service you must book through the Sports Club to check availability of the service.

**Don't Forget Bingo**

Every Thursday night commences 7.00pm. Win Sporties vouchers for meat and other business houses plus SUPER 39 $100 gift voucher.

**Don't Forget Social Darts**

Mondays 7.00pm draw for partners. All welcome.

**The Sporties**

Chinese/Australian Restaurant - Smorgasbord last Sunday in the month.

All you can eat entree, main and dessert.

Shan and Jinna also have lunch time specials.

Open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday 12 noon to 2.00pm. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5.30pm to 9.00pm. Closed Mondays. Reopens 5.00pm Tuesday. For bookings and take away - call 6548 3228.

**The Sporties Entertainment Line Up**

Smorgasbord
Sunday 30 March.

**John Rindfleish**

**Ladies Bowls News**

On Wednesday 26 February Loretta, Joy and Vivian went to Scone for District Association Day. They had a good day playing teams from Murrurundi and Denman.

Winner were drawn from the hat. No luck there but I heard a 100 Club prize came to Merriwa.

Mufti Bowls also started on Wednesday 26 February with great a roll up.

Don’t forget Mufti Bowls every Wednesday at 9.30am

Have you put your names down for Coolah friendship day on 11 March? If you want to go see Loretta ASAP.

**Beatrice Voysey**

**Men’s Bowls News**

As this is the start of our Pennants Season, it is a good time to have our First report. On Saturday we played Aberdeen RSL Club and were lucky enough to come away with a good win, our next game is on the 8 March at Scone Bowling Club, if you are unavailable for this game could you please contact Ken Bevan or myself ASAP.

Page 28
• The teams for the weekend are as follows:
  • Phil Rush, Jim Edens, Greg Watson
  • Scott Fillick, Allan Hancock, Kevin Barry
  • Gary Anshaw, Ken Bevan, Allan Hancock
  • Max Barwick, Jeff Cronin, Matt Cottom.
I would like to welcome our two new bowlers in Jim and Scott to our club, also we have the final of the pairs this weekend, the game will commence at 1 pm on Sunday.

Also we have made up the draw for all championships, the names are on the bowls board, as a lot of the bowlers are/were absent we have made up teams; if you are not happy with the make up of the side, please contact Ken please so we can make the necessary adjustments as you require, these games being the pairs and triples will be a play or forfeit so as they can all be completed so the players can compete in district playoffs. The singles and Fours are not as urgent but will still have to be completed by June.

One last comment, by now South’s will have beaten the Roosters, don’t cry.

Sporting News

Merriwa Little Athletics

Great news for u/13 athlete Ben Keane who found out this week he has officially qualified to represent the Hunter Zone in the NSW State Little Athletics Championships later this month in the 3000m. A wonderful achievement Ben, well done!

‘Gold Stars’ this week go to Tia and Patrick Magner for pushing up - and out - some huge distances in the shot put – a couple of future field starts no doubt! Great work also Georgia Maben in the Tiny Tots, for putting in 110% during the relays and obstacle courses. Great stuff Georgia!

A big thanks to Merriwa Central School’s General Assistant Peter Stone for taking time out from his busy schedule to mark the lines for us at No. 2 Oval. A big job, that is much appreciated, thank you Peter! The track is now back to looking great, and ready for plenty more races before the season ends.

Our AGM and presentation night will be held after training on our last official day of the season, April 7. More details to follow.

Run Rabbit Run

Merriwa Cricket Club

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for 2013/2014, without your continued and generous support cricket would not run in Merriwa.

• Merriwa RSL Club - Major Sponsor
• Frampton Freight
• Merriwa Pharmacy
• Max’s Country Cuts
• Jessyca Morgan
• Taylah Blackadder
• Merriwa Painting and Decorating
• Cross Country Merriwa.

Kate Blackadder

Merriwa Tennis Club

NIGHT COMPETITION

Nominations are now being taken for a night competition to commence on Monday, 10 March.

Enter as a team of four players (two ladies, two men) a pair (one lady, one man) or as a single player and be placed into a team.

Nominations close on 5 March and can be left at Merriwa Pharmacy or Loretta on 6548 2679. Children must be in secondary to play in the competition.

LADIES TENNIS

Ladies tennis every Tuesday starting mid March, if you are interested in playing, please contact Bev Telfer on 6548 7226 or Rose Medway on 6548 3207 for more information.

Merriwa Tennis Club claims the date - 16 July for their Annual General Meeting.

Tash Taaffe

Thank you to our sponsors for 2013/2014, without your continued and generous support cricket would not run in Merriwa.

• Merriwa RSL Club - Major Sponsor
• Frampton Freight
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• Taylah Blackadder
• Merriwa Painting and Decorating
• Cross Country Merriwa.

Kate Blackadder

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.

MCS in touch with our community!
Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

The Merriwa Magpies season jumps into full swing on Saturday 29 March, with the Magpies taking on the Muswellbrook Rams in both league tag and reserves starting at 2.00pm.

Full bar and canteen facilities will be in operation, and a reminder that no alcohol is to bought into the ground.

The Merriwa Magpies would like to thank their 2014 sponsors:
- Merriwa RSL Club
- Craig Macpherson Haulage
- Alexander Downs
- Merriwa Pharmacy
- Sick’o
- Merriwa Petroleum and Ag
- Merriwa Painting and Decorating
- Rosto Olives
- Merriwa Engineering
- La Scaletta Pizzeria
- IGA Merriwa
- J and A Maben
- JTS Realty
- Ian and Trish Medd
- Colin and Gaye Bates
- Pembroke Beef
- Morgan’s Maintenance
- Frampton Farms
- Bitz N Pizzas

Matthew Morgan

Merriwa Touch Football

ROUND 13 - WASHED OUT TO BE PLAYED 12 MARCH

6.00pm:
F1 Half Witz v Increde          Ref Elemon
F2 Yellow v Red                Ref ROAR

6.45pm:
F1 Smooth v Elemon             Ref Blood
F2 Blue v Green                Ref ROAR

7.30pm:
F1 Tyre v Beau                 Ref Sandy
F2 Bowling v ROAR              Ref Warriors

8.15pm:
F1 Warrior v Royal             Ref Tyre
F2 Blood v Pink Bitz           Ref Increde

Bye Toogie and RHC.

No other wash out games will be played.

Round 1 Semis - 19 March
First v Second (A)
Third v Third (B)

Round 2 Minors - 26 March
Loser A v Winner B (C)
Winner A - Bye and advances to Finals (D)

Round 3 - 2 April Finals
Winner A v Winner C

Time slots to be advised.

Tina Taylor

Merriwa Pony Club

This Sunday will be our second rally day for the season. Horses to be ready for gear check by 8.30am. New members welcome with uniforms and saddle blankets available for purchase. Please bring a plate of morning tea to share.

The Rally day will include dressage and jumping practice for the forthcoming Combined Training Day and Presidents Cup that Merriwa will be hosting this month on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 March.

Tash Taaffe
A National Youth Week Event

MERRIWA YOUTH CENTRE
Present

OUTDOOR CINEMA

Open to all ages!
Families and singles come and enjoy!

FRIDAY 11 APRIL
No. 2 OVAL MERRIWA

SESSION ONE - 6.30pm  **Wreck it Ralph**  (PG)
SESSION TWO - 8.30pm  **Jack the Giant Slayer**  (M)

STRICTLY ALCOHOL FREE EVENT
CANTEEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE      BYO RUGS/SEATING

FREE  COMMUNITY EVENT PRESENTED BY
UPPER HUNTER YOUTH SERVICES

Merriwa Ringer
### Community Calendar

#### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7</td>
<td>CWA Luncheon - International Womens Day - CWA rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 9</td>
<td>Pony Club Rally Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 15</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 7.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18</td>
<td>Seniors Week - Singleton Seniors Centre - 10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19</td>
<td>Seniors Week - Raymond Terrace Seniors Centre - 7.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21</td>
<td>Seniors Week - Merriwa RSL Club home day - 10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 22</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - 7.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 23</td>
<td>AGM Holy Trinity - 10.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Messy Church - Parish Hall - 3.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 29</td>
<td>Upper Hunter Select Horse Sale and Working Dog Trial/Sale - Merriwa Showground</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 19</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 7.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 20</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Send your calendar information in before 12 noon Mondays to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au**

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**Interested in placing an advert in the Ringer?**

Contact Tina Taylor on 6548 2119.

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**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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**MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Address: Bow Street, Merriwa, NSW, 2329
Tel: (02) 6548 2119
Fax: (02) 6548 2534
Email: merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au

**ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS**

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**MCS in touch with our community**

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