Students excel at Willow Tree Horse Sports

Kade Attenborough attended Willow Tree Horsesports on Friday 21 March along with Mekayla and Ella Towell

(Story on pg 6)
Highlighting Your Community Member

NAME OF BUSINESS: Woolbrook Rural Industries and Cuillins Pastoral Co.

Qualification: Degrees in the University of Very Hard Knocks.

Location: Merriwa

How long has the business been in the area: Since 1945 or 1949, or about 65 or nearly 70 years in various forms and depending on how you look at it; anyway, quite a long time.

What types of services are offered to the community? We are contractors, also retailers of innumerable items for all the Rural Industries.

How many people do you employ? We employ casuals from time to time, otherwise it is a family company and we mostly keep our overheads very low by doing almost everything in-house.

What made you settle in Merriwa? My father bought a property in Western NSW in 1925 and I was born in Brewarrina in 1927. He moved to Woolbrook, Merriwa, in 1945, and at least two of the reasons he bought Woolbrook were that he was sick of driving up to 300km round trip to get to Walgett or Coonamble whereas Woolbrook is only about 4km out of Merriwa; also, having often been in trouble out west through lack of water, he was no doubt impressed by Wyndham Springs (which never dry up) running through much of Woolbrook. Later I brought my wife Elizabeth to Woolbrook and we reared four children. One of these (Jenny Lee) remains on the property with her husband Robert; the other three had enough brains to leave the bush and now all three live in Canberra. Elizabeth’s and my contribution to Australia is therefore four children, all of whom are good citizens, and seven grandchildren, who are likewise, and we both think that 11 out of 11 is not a bad score.

Favourite pastime: Reading, keeping track of world news, watching football since for a long time I have been far too old to do anything except watch it, and working.

Other things you do in your personal time that may assist the local community: Write articles in the Ringer, if that counts.

Something that the community may or may not know about you or your business: I hope and think not much as we have been promoting the business for many years in the Ringer and also by other means.

Tina Taylor
Principal’s Report

Education is a partnership between parents and teachers. It was great to see parents engaging with their child’s teacher to discuss their progress at our Presentation night this week. Secondary parents have commented on how useful the published assessment schedules for assignments and topic tests are for parents to keep track of work due for completion. It is critical that students develop the time management skills to complete work by the due date.

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERT

Primary students performed at the annual Senior Citizens concert last week with students from St Joseph’s Merriwa. It was great to see Merriwa students performing together for our senior citizens. Thank you to the Senior Citizens for their donation to our school, it is greatly appreciated. A further surprise at the concert was the presentation by Mary O’Neil of a book donated and written by Bryan Evans and Kimberley Moon “Alphabet Town”. It will make a great addition to the Primary library.

DRESS CODE

The Sunday papers were abuzz with details of what teacher’s should, and shouldn’t wear. It was interesting to note that tattoo’s and body piercings were not raised as an issue, an indication of how widespread these trends have become the “norm” amongst certain age groups in our society.

The Code of Conduct which covers all Department employees already covers professional dress, and has done for many years. The announcement by the Minister simply reinforced the existing professional standards of teacher’s. At Merriwa Central School we are very fortunate to have highly motivated, enthusiastic and professional teaching and support staff.

P AND C MEETING

The monthly P and C meeting will be held next Wednesday 7-8.30pm at the RSL Club. Our newly elected P and C committee have some great ideas and welcome new parents.

Darren Noonan
Principal

ROAR ROADSHOW

Our latest stop on the ROAR Roadshow initiative was Sandy Hollow Public School. ROAR Captain Isaac Austin, Joseph Whaley, Jarron Healey and Matthew Wright-Riley were excellent in their roles as leaders and we once again had a brilliant day expanding rugby skills in our region. We loved our time there and look forward to returning next term.

Adam Johnston
ROAR Coordinator

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Primary Zone Cross Country – Muswellbrook Public School, 8.00am-3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 31</td>
<td>Year 12 exams - continue until April 4</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2</td>
<td>Secondary Cross Country - Zone P and C meeting – Merriwa RSL Club - 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>Primary Assembly - 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9</td>
<td>Year 11 Sydney Unicrawl, 6.00am-9.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11</td>
<td>Rewards Day Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28</td>
<td>Staff return for Term 2, School Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29</td>
<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Primary News

Year 4/5 showcased their drama skills during Friday’s assembly. Their play; ‘The Rainbow People’ highlighted the meaning of tolerance and acceptance of other people’s differences. In particular, the play demonstrated that even though we are all different, we are all the same on the inside.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our latest Students of the Week for presenting their work with effort and pride. Our school P and C donates our book awards that are given out each week, we would like to thank them for their continued support for our students who try their best every week.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Last week we saw a variety of great work from students. At assembly, students presented some sentence writing, mathematics about 3D shapes, handwriting, identifying different sports and information about the Merriwa Community. Well done to the following students:

Kindergarten Class: Zara Sampson and Jack Cook
1/2 Class: Cody Daniel and Georgie Simmons
2/3 Class: Kaitlyn Smith and Aaron Hamson
4/5 Class: Madison Nauruschat and Jasmine Smith
5/6 Class: Elly Blackadder and Tomeka Woodbine

Congratulations to our book award winners from last week:

Kindergarten Class: Archie Pyne
1/2 Class: Toby Fairhall
2/3 Class: Nikita Constable (absent)
4/5 Class: Thomas Bates
5/6 Class: Jamie Constable (absent)

SENIOR CITIZENS ‘HOME DAY’

On Friday 21 March, students from Kindergarten to Year 6 performed at the RSL for Senior Citizens ‘Home Day’. It was a great opportunity for Merriwa Central School students to perform and be an audience to St Joseph’s Primary School who also performed items on the day. From drama plays, to singing and dancing, all students did an excellent job and should be commended on their behaviour. Thank you to the Merriwa Senior Citizens Association for their invitation and kind donation, we look forward to coming back next year.
Secondary News
CROSS COUNTRY

Last Friday afternoon, the Secondary Department organised its Annual Cross Country event. We tried out our new courses, which saw our competitors run about the No1 Sports Ground and Merriwa Golf Course. In delightfully warm and sunny conditions, our students competed in 3km, 4km, 6km and 8km runs dependent upon their age divisions. It was pleasing to see the majority of students participate to their greatest ability, being sunsafe and being safe with their water consumption throughout the event.

The first boy to complete his event was Cody Towell, a Year 9 student who represents Oxley House. Kyle McLennan (also from Oxley House) finished in second place overall. Cody reported he was extremely pleased with his performance and acknowledged his training regime prepared him well. Kyle has been training since January.

The first female student to finish was 14 year old Elaina Sormaz (Lawson House) who competed over the 4km course. The second female student home was Taylah Blackadder, from Blaxland House, who participated in the 16 year age division.

There were a number of fine performances from our students including Callum Telfer, Lachlan Walmsley, Hamish Cameron, James Hagley as well as Manda Sormaz, Alicia Medd, Hannah Riley, Alkira Tritton and Brooke Williams-Fawcett.

The Age Champions and Runners Up student results are located on the next page.

In the end, Blaxland House was the champion house. Their elite runners were too good for the other houses. The total house points was 169 points with their girls performing particularly well with 105 points. Wentworth’s younger runners performed well and contributed well to their second place with a total score of 151 points. With their boys contributing 87 points and the girls adding 64 points. Oxley House finished in third position with 149 points. With 94 points from their boys and 55 points from the girls. In fourth position was Lawson House with 77 points in total. Lawsons’ girls contributing 45 points to their total score.

We have offered a large number of students the opportunity to join our Zone Cross Country team. They will compete at Singleton in early April against Scone, Muswellbrook and Singleton High School students. We wish those students well and will report how they have performed a little bit later.

Primary News

MERRIWA MERIT AWARDS

On the Primary Campus, we are changing the format for the Primary Award System. Previously students needed eight of the white Merriwa Merits to achieve the levels of Bronze, Silver or Gold. This has now been changed to five Merriwa Merits. So now if students have received five of the white Merriwa Merit Awards they can hand them in to their class teacher to receive their Bronze Award. If you have any questions about this system please speak with your child’s teacher or the Assistant Principals.

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

STAR STRUCK FUNDRAISERS

Last week the Star Struck groups held two fundraisers. The cupcake stall was on Tuesday on both campuses and was very successful. We would like to thank all the parents, teachers and community members who baked cakes, cupcakes, cookies and slices for the fundraiser. We heard lots of positive comments and most people came back to purchase more than one item. Merriwa has some amazing bakers!

The Car Wash was on Saturday and was well attended by many Primary and Secondary students, as well as their families. Thank you to all the parents and community who stopped in to get their car washed by all our volunteers. Well done to the Star Struck girls for working hard on the day!

Lana Grant, Rebecca Hopkins, Talia Laurie and Rebecca West
Star Struck Coordinators
Finally, I need to give thanks to Jane Hegarty for her time and kindness in helping me in the lead up to the Cross Country. Also I would to thank the staff who manned checkpoints, completed recording, offered first aid and supported our students as they participated around the course.

Alison King
Sports Coordinator
WILLOW TREE HORSE SPORTS

Kade Attenborough started off the day with the Rider classes and he rode with great confidence which gained him third place out of eight boys in his age group. With beaming smile, he recieved his award. After the Ring events were over, the Sporting events began. Kade said that the Barrells were his favourite and he placed fourth in this event. Next the Bending Events took place and Kade placed third.

Mekayla Towell received first in her Keyhole event and third in her Hack class while Ella Towell received the eight years Achievement Award.

Overall they had a great day it was great to see them back in the saddle again. With all three students riding well representing the school, showing pride in every event they participated in.

A letter was recieved from Willow Tree to Merriwa Central School...

“Last Friday our P and C held their annual horse sports competition at the Willow Tree Recreation Grounds. We are writing to commend your students on their participation and sportsmanship throughout the event. Congratulations to Ella Towell who was awarded an Encouragement award in the eight year girl age group.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Division</th>
<th>Female Champion</th>
<th>Female Runner Up</th>
<th>Male Champion</th>
<th>Male Runner Up</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tamasyn McNaught (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Alana Smith (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Benjamin Nebauer (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Clancy Martin (Oxley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hannah Riley (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Stephane McLennan (Oxley)</td>
<td>Oliver Towell (Oxley)</td>
<td>Joseph Whaley (Lawson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Elaina Sormaz (Lawson)</td>
<td>Tylor Keogh (Lawson)</td>
<td>Kyle McLennan (Oxley)</td>
<td>Austin Constable (Blaxland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Alkira Tritton (Oxley)</td>
<td>Cara Hunt (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Cody Towell (Oxley)</td>
<td>Caleb Withers (Wentworth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Taylah Blackadder (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Brooke Williams-Fawcett (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Lachlan Walmsley (Blaxland)</td>
<td>John Cronin (Oxley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Elizabeth Hagley (Lawson)</td>
<td>Courtney Gibbons (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Matthew Orton (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Michael Smith-Wildey (Wentworth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Alicia Medd (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Cody Marshall-Parker (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Elijah Kiely (Lawson)</td>
<td>Cameron Tritton (Oxley)</td>
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</table>

Our troop leaders had nothing but positive comments regarding all the students behaviour. This certainly makes events like these easier to run and are a positive reflection on your school.

Once again we thank you for your support and look forward to your schools’ attendance at our event next year.”

Kristy McCarthy
Willow Tree Public School P and C Horse Sports Committee

Alison King, Rebecca West and Kellie Porter
Horse Sports Coordinators
Why I want to be in ROAR? To help me with fitness and skills
What is my favourite subject: PE
What is my favourite sport? Football
What is my favourite team? Manly
Who is my favourite player? Daly Cherry-Evans
Best personal sporting achievement: Getting in to the Semi Final in football
Who inspires you and why: My parents because they teach me how to achieve my dreams
Advice to young players: Don’t give up.
It has certainly been an amazing Term One of 2014 for Year 5/6. We have worked collaboratively and cooperatively across a range of subjects to complete some wonderful pieces of work.

Our main topics of interest this term have been Rainforests, the environment and sustainability. During HSIE and English we have made an awesome rainforest mural. We learnt that there are four layers in a rainforest. These are: forest floor, understory, the canopy and emergent growth.

The class was split up into four groups. Each group researched the flora and fauna that lives in one of the layers. We created the plants and animals in Creative Arts lessons, then made up information cards and placed them on the mural.

We have also been researching the Living World in Science and Technology. We have been learning about flora and fauna of different Australian habitats such as the Great Barrier Reef, Snowy Mountains, Australian Desert, Coastal Areas and the Aussie Bush. We have looked at what different plants and animals need to survive in these habitats. We have produced and presented Popplets using ICT.

Our balanced Mathematics block this year has certainly been a success. Each day we start the lesson with a Daily Workout to get our brains thinking mathematically, then move on to a NAPLAN question, we then learn a particular concept with assistance from interactive technology and concrete materials, we practice the learnt concept in groups or independently, then finally we reflect on our learning.

We have really enjoyed our PE lessons this term. We are learning about different types of fitness and what we can do to improve our fitness levels. There have been many circuits, obstacle courses, skipping activities and health hustles, we have been having lots of fun challenging ourselves to do that extra bit more than we think we can.

Earlier this term during PDH lessons we looked at our values and what influences our values and ethics. We have now moved on to our Cybersafety unit where we are learning about many issues we face each time we go online.

Sustainability has been the focus in English and Creative Arts. We are reading an excellent novel called ‘The Battle of the Galah Trees.’ It uses very different language to what we use in today’s society; we have been adding lots of different phrases to our vocabulary. The story is about one boy’s effort to save trees that have been living in an area for generations. To coincide with this story we have been learning and comparing different environmental pieces of music such as ‘Keepers of the Land’ and ‘Beds are Burning.’

In Religion we learned about the role Jesus plays in our lives as a role model and as a leader. Jesus had followers, he led by example and we continue to follow the values that he taught. As senior students in the school it is important that we lead by example, so that the students look up to us, respect us and follow in our footsteps.

We have had many visitors to assist us with our learning so far this year. We have welcomed Adam MacDougall and the NRL Anti-Bullying program, the ROAR boys from Merriwa High School who came and run a PE lesson focusing on rugby skills, Life Education Van, and most recently we had Anna Kerrigan from ASPIRE who came and ran a drama workshop. All of these were excellent and we learnt a great deal.
THE LEADERS REPORT BY ELIZA PEEBLES

A few weeks ago Clancy Moore, Eliza Peebles and Ty Riley became the new school leaders. The job has been fantastic and we are very grateful we were able to earn these badges by demonstrating leadership qualities throughout the first six weeks.

We received our leaders' badges on the Sunday 9 March at a special Commissioning Mass. Each Wednesday we meet and talk about the good and bad of what is happening throughout the school. We are given roles and the roles are to look out for everyone, serve the school as best we can and be great leaders. Our first job as leaders was to organise (with the help of Year 5) the Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday celebrations. We represented St Joseph's at World Day of Prayer on Friday 8 March, and the Catholic Schools Week celebrations in Newcastle on Tuesday 12 March. We look forward to representing the school throughout the year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AWARD WINNERS.

WEEK 8

Kindergarten - Peter Hagley – for displaying beautiful manners and working hard

Sam Grady – for recalling how things move in great detail

1/2 - Braeden Halse – for participating in class discussions

Emily Barwick - for trying hard to be ready to learn

Mikayla Telfer - for having a sensible and mature approach to her class work

3/4 - Patrick McLaren – for his great effort in Writing activities

Tia Magner – for her great work in Reading activities

5/6 - Eliza Peebles – completing every aspect of her homework each week to a high standard

Nicole Martin – for her infectious enthusiasm in the singing and drama workshops

Playground Champion - Amy Redgate – for always thinking of others on the playground

Principal’s Awards - Tanja and Tamara Sormaz for committing to do extra work before school each morning.

Mark Morris
5/6 Teacher
Cassilis Public School

SMALL SCHOOL…BIG DIFFERENCE

Cassilis Public School

A very friendly Cassilis welcome to Cameron, Tobias, Georgia and their parents Ammie and Graeme. We hope that you thoroughly enjoy being part of our great school.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Rachel Bibby deserves the Student of the Week award for her honesty, friendly and respectful attitude towards all students and staff and also her excellent determination with classroom activities that she showed last week. Rachel has created trust between her friends and also the staff by consistently telling the truth. This is an important social skill for everybody to learn. She speaks to her peers in an appropriate manner and always thinking of their feelings. Rachel doesn’t shout or name call. She listens to teachers’ instructions and enjoys eating a healthy range of foods. Rachel has shown impressive improvements in all areas of her learning, especially in writing. She understands what concepts she needs to put focused attention into and tries her very best to complete work. Rachel likes to be challenged and this is what leads to improvement in learning.

Congratulations Rachel on your award. You are a very deserving recipient and a great role model for students.

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

What is your favourite food? Cake and watermelon

What job would you like when you are older? To be a rock-star singer

Apart from your family, who is one of your role models? Priya because she is friendly

If you were given $100, what would you buy? Teddy bears for the Cancer Council so they can raise money to help people with cancer

What is one thing that people may not know about you? I am reading the Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye

What has been your greatest achievement? Becoming a very friendly girl.

ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Impressive Work Awards - Summer Singh, Sophie Anderson

Impressive Sports Awards - Corey McLennan, Allira-Jayde

Impressive Uniform Awards - James Bibby, Summer Turner

Reading Awards - Sophie Anderson and Harry Murdoch

Positive Behaviour for Learning Awards: Sophie Anderson (15 small awards) and Brady Nairne (30 large awards).
I came second. It was amazing. It was the first time I’d ever came a place in a cross country. Molly O’Hara came first. She did a great job except she comes first in everything and I don’t like it. I did have a great time and I was very proud of myself. It was a fantastic day!

Maddie Turner - Year 4
On the day of the cross country, which was Friday 14 March, we got in our lines and had to walk the hard and rocky hill. We started the race and I ran the whole way. I came third but I was coming second until a person took over me at the start. I enjoyed the day.

Jack Nairne - Year 3
On March 14 was the Cassilis Cross Country and I had to run 3km. When I walked the course I saw how long it was. Then it was time to run. I was psyched up and ready. When it was my turn to run, I was doing up my shoe lace and just stood up when Mrs Burgess said go. I started to jog off into the paddock and up Killer Hill. When I reached the top, my legs were sore. It was downhill from there until Heart Break Hill. I passed my mum, who was volunteering on the track, and started to run up the biggest hill in the world. I took a deep breath and started to run. When I got onto the flat, my legs were about to fall off! I sprinted to the end from there. I took my red stick, for second, to Mrs Hunt. I was very happy.

Thomas Nash - Year 6
IT WAS A FANTASTIC HARMONY DAY
The day to celebrate everyone belonging and the advantages of our great country being so diverse in culture, started with Priya and Summer speaking about their experience in India. As their dad is Indian, the girls travelled with their parents for six weeks last year. The students were fascinated by the girls’ stories. Thank you Summer and Priya for sharing your adventures with us. You both were interesting and animated speakers and did a fantastic job. Students were able to ask questions and were then asked to write for ten minutes about what they had heard.

Below is a sentence that Sophie wrote:
Priya said in India there are dolphins in the sea and she went swimming.

Students worked in pairs to create a slideshow and poster. The slideshows were shown at last week’s assembly and were great reflections of the effort students had put in. The poster competitions winners’ were Jack Nairne and Harry Murdoch. Congratulations boys on producing a poster which was colourful, neat and showed the important message of Harmony Day which is including everyone to be happy.

Thank you to Mrs Nash for the idea and organising the bowls night. Thank you to the community support, we raised $157.00 (including additional donations) for both the K-2 and 3-6 excursions.

THOMAS AND BRADY READY FOR ZONE CROSS-COUNTRY
Best of luck to Thomas and Brady who are competing this Friday at the zone cross country at Muswellbrook.

KIA-ORA MUSIC CAMP
For Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sarah, Summer and Maddie will be participating in this biannual camp. Have a great time and I am looking forward to seeing you in the concert Friday night.

MADAME TUSSARDS IS ANOTHER GREAT PLACE THAT WE ARE VISITING
While we are in Sydney, students will be given a guided tour through Madame Tussards museum. This museum is home to hundreds of very realistic wax figures of celebrities. I am really hoping to spot Mark Waugh (a childhood crush that I still have).

BOUNCE BACK PROGRAM STARTS THIS WEEK
Last week Miss Hodgson and I started working through the Bounce Back Wellbeing Program. This included reading some of the research behind the program. Please find attached the parent information that was part of what we read and discussed. We found it an excellent and very relevant piece of writing.

Bounce Back will begin this Wednesday afternoon as part of the school’s personal development program.

Katie Burgess
Principal
At Merriwa Pre-School we participate in healthy eating. We are often asked about sweet biscuits being provided for children. These may come in the form of tiny teddies, milk arrowroot and milk coffee. These are considered a sometimes foods and are not part of the five essential food groups. Children have small stomachs and it’s best not to fill them up with sometimes food which provide very few of the nutrients like vitamins, minerals and fibre.

As part of the National Quality Standard, we observe and discuss how centres provide and encourage parents to pack foods consistent with ‘Get up and Grow’ which is based around the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

We want to provide alternatives to families and assist in the education about the benefits of healthy food to the growth and development of children. If at times food is provided for children which is outside our policies, never mind, the market place and advertising ensures that the issue of healthy eating is complicated and changing constantly.

What may be within the guideline in one brand may be outside the recommendations in another. Healthy eating is not an exact science and we get it wrong too. The important thing we try to do is look for a healthier alternative for families.

Healthy food is often perceived as expensive and time consuming. The Real Cost of Healthy Food report card dispels the myth about the cost of healthy food and shows how easy it is to incorporate fruit and vegetables into your day.

Fruit and vegetable prices can fluctuate according to the seasons and other environmental factors, so try the following tips to get the best value for your money:

- Buy seasonal produce, as it is generally fresher and more affordable
- Buy in bulk and split the cost between households or batch cook and freeze
- Swap expensive produce for lower cost alternatives including dried, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables.

Preparing your own meals and snacks is also a great cost saver. For more information about smart shopping visit www.gofor2and5.com.au

Below are the price comparisons per kg:

Savoury crackers $9.97 v’s Carrot, red capsicum and celery sticks $3.33
Potato crisps $19.90 v’s Popping corn $3.00
Banana muffin $12.00 v’s Banana $4.72
Chocolate $17.90 v’s Dried sultanas $6.45
Chocolate chip cookies $10.49 v’s Fruit snack pack (in juice) $8.68
Meat pie $7.48 v’s Corn on the cob $3.38
Rolled up fruit bar $25.80 v’s Apple $4.29
Sausage roll $8.38 or Pastie $10.78 v’s Two slices of wholegrain bread with tomato, lettuce, cucumber and carrot $4.06 or Small can of baked beans on two slices of wholegrain toast $5.76
Dim sim $7.51 v’s Canned tomato soup (reduced salt) $4.99

* Costings calculated using average prices from a metropolitan and a regional supermarket.

Leah Folpp
Merriwa Pre-School

**WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE RINGER**

“What I like about the Ringer!”

“What the community think about the Ringer!”

“I like the grouping of the advertising, the reporting of school events and how the school reporting are kept separate from the articles.”

Barbara Campbell
Anglican News

Regular Church Services - page 24

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Women's Guild meeting - first Thursday monthly
April to November: 2.00pm

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

Men's breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday monthly
April to November: 7.30am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church: 28 March at 3.30pm

Palm Sunday: 13 April

Good Friday: 18 April

Easter Sunday: 20 April

Please call the parish phone 0429 996 769 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 CONTINUES

We are now half way... and so we continue with

16. Take five minutes of silence at noon
17. Give five items of clothing to Good will
18. Do someone else's chore
19. Call an old friend
20. Pray the paper (pray for people and situations in today’s news.)
21. Pay a few sincere compliments
22. Forgive someone
23. Introduce yourself to a neighbour
24. Invest in canvas shopping bags.

Lord, today is full of endless possibilities to love. Help me to see and accept your divine presence as it is reflected in my family, my friends, and wherever I encounter people.

Contact: 0429 996 769

Rosalie Drew

St David’s Uniting Church

ST. DAVID’S UNITING CHURCH COMMISSIONS

BARBARA CAMPBELL

Barbara Campbell has been teaching scripture, helping with Messy Church and visiting people around Merriwa for a long time. The congregation and ministry team of the Upper Hunter Uniting Church have formally recognised and commissioned her as a member of the Upper Hunter ministry team.

Barbara has been through all the formal accreditation and training requirements for the church, school, Nursing home and hospital and they formally welcomed her to the Upper Hunter Team. The Upper Hunter team now consists of Lyn Carter, Rev Robert Hanks, Pastor Richard Moors and Pastor Ross Neville.

It has been raining and is raining again this morning. Halleluia!

It is almost like living water. The rain bring such a lot of growth, plant shoots, water to drink to sustain life. Too bad it stops, or it doesn’t stop and we have floods, or there is such a long break between falls the reserves of water dry out and plants start to dry.

Do you know you can have living water, water that means you will never thirst again.

You can get this and it is free. Don’t believe me ? Then talk to the people who celebrate Easter.

Jesus said “He actually is the living water that people who come to him and drink will never thirst again.” What did he mean?

Have you ever felt alone, felt depressed, felt unloved, felt life was scary or meaningless. We all feel like that at some time in your life. I did. Now I know I am going, I know I am loved and cared for, I know I have a companion who is with me even when things go wrong in my world, I know I have someone who will guide me and show me what to do, I know what life is all about and where I am going to when my earthly body ceases to function.

If you are unsure about any of these things, come along to church or to Easter services and see and hear about the steps God has gone to help you cope, live life to the full and never become thirsty again.

Messy Church is on this Friday at 3.30 with craft a meal and a message to explain and show you some of the meaning of Easter.
Services next Sunday at St. David’s Uniting Church will be with Richard Moors.
Pastor Ross Neville 6545 1396.

**Pastor Ross Neville**

**Merriwa Surgery**  
**TO ALL OUR PATIENTS FROM MERRIWA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS**

Thank you for your loyalty and support during the difficult time of the illness and passing of Dr Salama. We would like to inform you all and confirm that the Surgery is open and will be open for the continuing care of our patients. Dr Diane Phillipot is working with us until Friday 29 March and Dr Adrian Plaskitt will then be returning on Monday 31 March on a continuing basis.

We would like to remind you that the flu vaccine is available. Free for those over 65 years and over, from six months of age with chronic disease, 15 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. For those not eligible, we will have the vaccine available to purchase.

For a booking or assistance, call the Surgery on 6548 2305.

_Elen Salama and Staff_

**Merriwa Rotary**

The District Conference of Rotary 9670 will be held in Newcastle at the end of this month. These gatherings are invariably stimulating to all who attend as those attending listen to a range of excellent and inspirational speakers and attendees learn of the many community projects being undertaken by District clubs. Merriwa will have a good representation at the conference.

Rotary Merriwa has farewelled April Eipper who is the latest student that the club has sponsored in the Short Term New Zealand Exchange Program. April will leave for New Zealand early next month.

Rotary will be assisting with the John Hunter based Kaleidoscope Children’s Health Program when they hold a fundraising weekend in Merriwa next month. It is a good cause and promises to be an enjoyable weekend... More details soon.

**THE RAFFLE**

How would like a week in a beautiful unit at Coffs Harbour? Tickets for this Rotary fundraiser are on sale at the Merriwa Newsagency and at Di’s Clothing Patch. $5.00 each or three for $10.00

Funds raised will go to Rotary’s good causes.

Mark Smith
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All entries must be Australian Bush Poetry. (i.e. Rhymed and Metered poetry about Australia (past or present), Australian History (past or present), Australians (past or present), and/or the Australian way of life (past or present).

Contestants must be aged 16 years or over to enter the senior section, or aged 15 years or under to enter the junior section.

The Open section is open to any person from within or outside of the Upper Hunter Shire.

The Upper Hunter School section is open to any student that is enrolled in any school within the Upper Hunter Shire.

The Final will be restricted to two finalists in each section.

If a finalist can not attend the finals then their position will be filled with the next runner-up in their category.

The judges have the right to immediately disqualify any entrant whom they deem to be using objectionable material. The stage must then be vacated. A zero score may then be given at the judge’s discretion.

Entries will be restricted to one entry per contestant per section.

Prizes and Certificates will be awarded to Finalists and Overall Winners only!

All performances will be restricted to a maximum of five minutes (including preamble – a preamble simply sets the scene but does not attract points, so keep it short). 1 Mark (per each Minute or part thereof) will be deducted for poems exceeding that time limit. Reading poems will incur a further 10 mark penalty.

The judge’s decisions will be absolutely final and without further discussion.

All matters relating to the conduct of the competition remain with the organisers and their representatives.

The organisers assume no responsibility for any claims concerning infringement of copyright.

All entries will be judged by volunteer judges from various educational, local government, and community organisations from the Upper Hunter Shire, along with special guest judges known for their interest in Bush Poetry.

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

Merriwa RSL

Lenore’s Quilting and Martins Transport

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

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

David Mahony Art Gallery and Cafe

Max’s Country Cuts

Tullymore Clydesdale and Shire Horse Stud

The Denman Hotel, Restaurant, Motel

RM Property and Livestock
If you are interested in sponsoring a Festival event please contact:
P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

Merriwa CWA
CWA COOKERY AND HANDICRAFT RESULTS

Congratulations to our ladies who were successful at the Hunter River Group Day at Tocal College on Monday 17 March where entries from 26 Branches were judged.

- Robyn McAlister was awarded first place for her Whole Orange Cake
- Susie Fitzpatrick was awarded first place for her Honey Sponge Sandwich
- Junior member, Piper Cropper was placed third for her Lemon Poppy Seed Muffins in the special section or young competitors.

Handicraft Section

- Narelle Davis was awarded first place with her beautiful crochet rug
- Jean Price also awarded first place in the dressmaking with her child’s outfit.

Cooking and Handicraft entries now go on to be judged at the State Conference in May.

Well done to all these ladies and we wish you good luck at Conference.

Kay Burgess
Cookery Officer

Photography Competition
Entries close: 11 APRIL
AT 12 NOON

Topic for the month is:
DRY AND DUSTY

The winning photo will receive a prize to the value of $50.00 from the monthly sponsor and this month it is sponsored by:

STAY-N-PLAY PRODUCE

Remember!
Get your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer BEFORE 12 noon MONDAYS.

Find us on Facebook!

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
Community Notice Board

Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

AGM AT MERRIWA RSL CLUB

When: 27 March 2014 at 6.30pm

Any person wishing to nominate themselves for a position must nominate by 6.00pm on meeting night.

To do this, you can contact Merriwa Pre-School to obtain a form and return it to the secretary or address it to the secretary and leave it in secretary’s pigeon hole at Merriwa Pre-School.

Gaynor Blackadder

Merriwa Bookies

Merriwa Bookies, an enthusiastic group of readers, meet at the town library on the first Thursday of each month at 7.00pm. Books are supplied to the group and there are no costs involved, just your time. The next meeting is on Thursday 3 April, we’d love to see you there.

Jayne Cronin

St David’s Uniting Church Merriwa

PIE DRIVE

Order Sheets will be collected on Friday this week, 28 March 2014.

Delivery Date: Wednesday 9 April 2014

We expect orders to be ready for collection by 10.30am from: St. David’s Uniting Church, corner Vennacher and Mackenzie streets.

If anyone would like to order and has been unable to locate an order sheet, please contact me on:

Home: 65 485 131 (evening is best time)

Mobile: 0428 485 131

Barbara Campbell

Merriwa Ringer
Easter is a special time, and we have decided that it deserves a special treat. If you purchase a Hallmark card between now and Easter, you go in the draw to win a very cute and cuddly Easter Bunny (as seen in the window). You can purchase ANY Hallmark card - birthday, anniversary, wedding, baby, thanks, Easter, or any other card in the range. We will draw the winner on Easter Saturday just before we close.

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). Cooking magazines and mini cookbooks are not included.

NEW CATALOGUE
The new OfficeSmart catalogue is now available, full of great discounts on all of your stationery needs. It is also time to start thinking about Financial Year Diaries. The stock is not available yet but we are taking orders for them now. If you do not want to miss out, put your order in and we will keep it aside for you.

NEW MAGAZINES
WORLD WAR 1 - DAY BY DAY
The second volume of this great magazine is still available and is filled with what was going on in all of the countries involved. There are amazing, heart wrenching and rarely seen photographs, as well as maps of regions and battle zones and so much more. This is the perfect time to brush up on your WW1 history, as ANZAC Day draws closer.

INSTYLE
The latest issue of this fabulous magazine includes a FREE Neutrogena Naturals Purifying Scrub. There is an in-depth interview with the star of Revenge, Emily VanCamp. If you are in need of a fashion fix - this is the magazine you need! There are 101 beauty buys from 20 experts, an insider’s guide to what to buy at high-street stores, five key pieces to update your wardrobe, 158 bags, and even ways to make your home as stylish as you are! It is a great read and available now.

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.

SPECIAL NOTE: for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Merriwa Website, there is a meeting being held at the RSL Thursday 20 March at 6.00pm.

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

Neville and Leanne Hook

Merriwa Pharmacy
FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT OUR GREY MATTER
The human brain is one of the least understood, but most studied, organs of our body. At just 2% of our body weight it punches way above its weight and consumes 20% of our oxygen intake. It used to be thought that the older we got, the slower our brain became and the slower we were. But now scientists believe the brains of older people only appear to slow down because they have so much information to compute, much like a full-up hard drive.

Learning more about the brain is the aim of Brain Awareness Week which is held every March. Brain Awareness Week unites the efforts of partner organisations worldwide in a celebration of the brain for people of all ages. Events include open days at neuroscience labs; exhibitions about the brain; lectures on brain-related topics; displays at libraries and community centres; classroom workshops; and more.

The idea is that the more we study the brain, the more we learn about it as the latest research into older people has shown. The most recent study published in the Journal of Topics in Cognitive Science and reported in Britain’s Telegraph newspaper, shows older people do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains.

This sort of research can help in identifying risk
factors for stroke sufferers and perhaps long-term helping to reduce the incidence of strokes. Stroke (also called a cerebrovascular accident) is the death of brain tissue resulting from lack of blood flow and insufficient oxygen to the brain. Another type of stroke (a cerebral haemorrhage) is caused by bleeding into brain tissue.

There can be a number of signs of a stroke and can be any one or combination of weakness or numbness, or paralysis – in the face, arm or leg; difficulty speaking or understanding; dizziness; sudden loss of vision; sudden and severe headache; difficulty swallowing. These signs may last only a few minutes but may last for several hours (called a transient ischaemic attack – TIA). They are often a warning of an impending stroke and must never be ignored.

Stroke is a medical emergency. If you experience the signs of stroke or see them in someone else, seek immediate medical attention. Prompt action can prevent further damage to the brain and help someone make a better recovery.

The risk of stroke is influenced by a number of factors: as we get older the risk is greater; men suffer stroke more often than women; and family history of stroke puts us more at risk. Studies like the one above about brain functions in older people help us learn more about the brain and all its aspects, including perhaps hints as to how strokes occur. Regardless of this knowledge, we do know there are some simple lifestyle changes we can make which will reduce the risk of stroke and reduce the risk of heart disease, as well.

Two major contributing factors to strokes are high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol levels. Luckily blood pressure and cholesterol levels can be managed through diet and exercise or by the use of medicines.

Of course, there are other factors which can greatly add to the likelihood of you having a stroke – smoking, being overweight, having uncontrolled diabetes or having an irregular pulse (known as atrial fibrillation or AF).

So Brain Awareness Week is a good opportunity for us to take a step back and think about our brain and looking after it, as well as thinking about issues such as stroke which can have such a devastating impact on this vital organ.

For more advice about treating and preventing stroke, check out the Stroke Foundation website at www.strokefoundation.com.au or pick up a fact card from Merriwa Pharmacy. Free blood pressure checks are also available.

Robert Smith

Australia Post Merriwa

MORE THAN JUST A POST OFFICE POSTAGE INCREASE

On 31 March 2014 Australia Post is increasing the prices on the following products:

- Domestic letters (including some business mail products) will increase to 70cents
- Selected domestic parcel products and services
- Selected packaging products
- Mail redirection service
- Mail Holding Service

Australia Post is also introducing a MyPost Concession Account for eligible concession card holders. Stamps can be purchased in booklets of 5 stamps at 60cents each. The maximum an account holder can get is 50 stamps per year. Please see staff for more information.

POST OFFICE BOXES

A reminder that the ‘Pay on Time’ deadline for renewal of boxes is 31 March 2014. Please let staff know if you are not going to renew your box as we have many on the waiting list eager for a box.

Our PO Box holders may notice we have changed the cards we use to notify you of a parcel awaiting collection. We have now colour coded them depending on the type of parcel that is awaiting collection. Please take the time to look through your mail before leaving and remember to return the card should you receive one.

GIFT VOUCHERS

We now have Google Play cards added to our Gift Voucher stand. They come in $20, $30 and $50 amounts. They work the same as Itunes but are for Android phones.

PRODUCTS

We have several new products in store for the kids. three disc Wiggles and Sesame Street DVD’s. Early Learning Wooden Puzzle – suitable for three years the kids need to twist and turn the colours and shapes to fit. We also have small wooden alphabet and numbers blocks in their own tray. Great for building but also for learning early concept skills involving addition, subtraction etc.

Merriwa Post Office Hours are Monday - Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm and Saturday 9.00am - 11.00am.

Kellie Walker and Kylie Austin

Robert Smith
Woolbrook Rural Industries

Another false sense of impregnability, this time on a gigantic scale, was that of the French Generals in 1939-1940 who felt secure against any German invasion due to their massively (both financially and militarily) fortified Maginot Line. However, when the crunch came the German panzers soon punched holes through it, and Germany also invaded Belgium and circumvented the Maginot line to its north. We have to question the sanity of those French Generals when considering that the Germans in 1939 did almost exactly the same thing as they had done in 1914, i.e. they invaded Belgium for the same reason and with much the same success and result.

As another consequence the German civilian population suffered comparatively little during WW1 because all the fighting and trench warfare was on French and Belgian soil which took a terrible toll on French and Belgian lives, not to mention towns and other infrastructure. However, in WW2 the German civilian population suffered grievously from air attack and invasion from both the east and west, which probably helped reduce any subsequent enthusiasm they might have had for a third round. Another difference in WW2 was that the Germans also invaded Holland, Denmark and Norway to give them plenty of harbor for their submarines, and also to ensure that second time around the British navy would have much more difficulty in blockading them and starving them into submission than they did in WW1.

I am afraid that at times I am sidetracked by things which seem interesting to me and which I hope are also interesting to our readers, so now back to Canada in 1759 with the French General Montcalm and his army besieged in Quebec by the British General Wolff and his army. Montcalm knew he was safe because he was unassailable on three sides and his fourth side backed onto the Plains of Abraham, after which there was a steep fall, almost cliffs, down the near precipitous Heights of Abraham to the St Lawrence River which was rocky, uncharted and well known to be too dangerous to use to transport troops in any worthwhile numbers.

However, unknown to Montcalm a junior British lieutenant with outstanding charting skills had spent months carefully charting the river from the sea to Quebec, and as a result Wolff was able to move sufficient troops up the river by boat as far as the Heights of Abraham which they climbed. They then attacked the French unexpectedly from their rear and took possession of Quebec. Both Wolf and Montcalm were killed in the battle, and from then on Canada belonged to Britain, though Quebec is still partly a French speaking city. Finally, who, you might ask, was the junior Lieutenant who made the victory possible? None other than a man who would eventually become perhaps the greatest navigator and charter of all time, the one and only Captain Cook!

In 1776 the American colonies rose in rebellion against their British masters in the War of American Independence (1776-1783). It was the old story with the British taxing the colonists very heavily without giving them proper representation, though at least one of the reasons for the heavy taxes was that the British were struggling to finance their campaigns against the French in the Napoleonic Wars which very nearly bankrupted Britain. Therefore, as you might imagine, the Colonists received military and naval help from the French and this was probably essential to their victory since, under Washington, it was a long hard close fought war with victory only achieved with great difficulty. One famous incident in the lead-up to this war was the Boston Tea Party when a group of Boston colonists boarded ships carrying tea (which was very heavily taxed) and tipped their cargo into the harbor. Even today the term Tea Party is applied to the extreme right wing of the American Republican Party which is very roughly the equivalent of our Coalition, though a good deal further to the right, particularly the Tea Party end of it.

Many of those fighting for Independence were what we might today call militia, or even irregulars. They were called “Minutemen” because it was their duty, if British troops or, I suppose, Indian raids or other emergencies threatened, to instantly drop whatever they were doing, no matter what, and be on their way with weapons, necessary equipment and food within a (perhaps slightly theoretical) one minute. Centuries later the Americans named one type of nuclear missile “The Minuteman” because, like most such weapons, they were always ready for instant use.

The original minutemen were mostly experienced hunters, woodsmen, farmers and similar who knew their country intimately, they were very experienced with firearms, and they were dedicated to gaining a free and independent America, so they were a very formidable enemy. (During the Boer Wars (c. 1898-1902), the British had much the same problem, for much the same reasons, with the so-called Boer “commandos”). In the Minutemen days, much like Australia in a similar period, many Americans went armed at all times and the remainder mostly kept weapons close by for obvious reasons. When the Founding Farmers drew up the American constitution one clause gave its citizens “The Right to Bear Arms”,

Merriwa Ringer
something very necessary in those days whether fighting Indians, the British or whoever. The clause is still there, it has resulted in many massacres, and it will be very difficult to eliminate no matter how disastrous it appears today.

Conventional and electrical fencing, pumps, spraying equipment, poly and PVC pipes, generators, tanks, silos etc. Visit our very comprehensive website: www.woolbrookrural.com.au or calling 6548 2150.

Max Wurcker

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

Community Adverts

Customer Services Officer

Merriwa

Administration & Clerical (Grade 2) Temporary, Part-Time, 19 hours per week (up to 23rd February 2015)
Total remuneration package valued to $59,340, includes salary ($49,488 – $53,653)

In consultation with the Coordinator Customer Services and Senior Customer Service Officer, the successful applicant will be responsible for providing quality customer relationship management and service delivery activities for all customers and stakeholders of the Local Land Services region by providing second level customer support and management activities.

For further information, including the essential selection criteria, position description and to apply on-line, applicants should go to http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au and search for Job Reference No: 00002MAG

Enquiries: Sarah Wallace Ph: (02) 6551 8994 ext 292
Closing Date: Sunday 6th April 2014

HSUSeS foR ReNT
WiTH eLDeRS

Gooch Street
Merriwa
3 Bedroom, 1 bath
Pets on application
$120 p/w

Roach Street
Merriwa
2 Bedrooms, 1 Bathroom, 1 Carport
Pets on application
$180 p/w

Phone: Elders on
0457 756 118

If you need assistance from
Ambulance - Police - Fire
including Hazardous Incidents
DIAL 000

Merriwa Phone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police (Administration only)</td>
<td>6548 2203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Mobile</td>
<td>0408 293 423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Assistance Line</td>
<td>131 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Brigade (Administration only)</td>
<td>6548 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>6532 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Fire Service (Administration &amp; Duty Officer)</td>
<td>1800 081 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES Emergency Number</td>
<td>132 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merriwa Rescue Squad</td>
<td>6548 2538</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* When reporting an incident to the Police, always request and record your Incident Reference Number
Community Adverts

Advertise here!
Get your For Sales seen in the Merriwa Ringer

FOR SALE
Holden Ute 5 speed manual
Genuine low mileage, V6 motor
Excellent condition
June 2014 - Registration AJH020
$5,000.00
Phone 6548 2683

GARAGE SALE
Saturday 5 April
2 Flags Road
Merriwa
8.00am start
A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING!
Phone: 6548 2948

HOOKED ON FRESH SEAFOOD
0413 724 232
SEAFOOD FOR EASTER
Outside the Royal Hotel
Delivery will be Tuesday 15 April - 2.30pm to 5.30pm
No orders taken after Friday 11 April
email: freshseafood@iprimus.com.au
Kent and family wish you all a Very Happy Easter and would like to thank all of you for your continued patronage.

Curls and Swirls
Under new management!
Pensioner cuts $18
Ladies cuts $20
Mens cuts $16
Perms $45
Open Monday - Friday
Saturday by appointment
6548 2499

HOUSE FOR RENT - MERRIWA
3 Bedroom, close to school
Fireplace, large fenced yard
Available 7 April
$240 p/w
Phone: 0447 221 243

AUCTION
SATURDAY 26th APRIL 2014 – 10 am
54 Mackenzie Street, Merriwa 2329
Family home
Neat and tidy home featuring 3 bedrooms, large lounge room and formal dining area with polished floor boards, large kitchen with plenty of cupboards. Bathroom with shower and bath, laundry with toilet, large back veranda overlooking the back yard, garden shed plus garage/workshop. Well worth an inspection.

Greg Llewelyn - 0417 227204 Roger Moore - 0427 153446
MEDIA RELEASES

21 MARCH 2014

GREAT MEMORIES OF SENIORS WEEK

A mystery bus tour, lunches, and technology workshops were some of the activities during Seniors Week in the Upper Hunter.

Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Michael Johnsen said Seniors Week was supported by Council to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

“Senior’s Week provides a good opportunity to celebrate, share and enjoy the company of others. It is achieved through partnerships with other organisations such as Integrated Living and TransCare.”

Over fifty people attended a Seniors Week luncheon at Scone Bowling Club on Thursday, 20 March with guest speakers Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Michael Johnsen and Upper Hunter Citizen of the Year, Beryl Bates with entertainment by community choir the Murratones. Deputy Mayor Wayne Bedggood and Councillors Ron Campbell and Maurice Collison also attended.

In Murrurundi a Seniors Week lunch was organised by the Murrurundi Historical Society with assistance from a NSW Government grant. Thirty four people attended and many took the opportunity to record their memories of the town to add to the Murrurundi Museum collection.

The annual Seniors Week “Mystery Tour” was held on Friday 14 March with participants from Murrurundi and Scone boarding the coach to an unknown destination. There was plenty of speculation about possible destinations: Wallabadah Rock? Timor Caves? Kayaking at Glenbawn Dam? The secret was out when the coach headed straight ahead at Muswellbrook and on its way to Denman. A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Denman Hotel. Following lunch, Pearl Moon provided information about activities to be offered by Integrated Living in Murrurundi and a short walk to see the Denman sights.

Twenty seniors took part in technology workshops at the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday. The workshops were so successful more are planned on a regular basis. For more information contact Merriwa Tourist and CTC Officer Liam Garment on 6521 7046.

21 MARCH 2014

GRANTS ENHANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS - MERRIWA PONY CLUB

Upper Hunter Shire Council has welcomed the grants awarded to Merriwa Pony Club, Timor Tennis Club and for stage one of an Aberdeen ramp and roll skate park.

Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Michael Johnsen said the $25,000 grant towards an Aberdeen skate park was a big boost for the project and for the young people behind it.

“Council helped DeenCity Youth Group apply for this grant and will continue to support the project to build an Aberdeen skate park,” Mayor Johnsen said.

“It’s a great example of what can be achieved with determination and seeking out support.

“Any community groups who feel they have a good cause, should make sure they are receiving Council’s regular grants bulletin about the potential funds out there.”

Council also assisted Timor Tennis Club with their grant application, which was also a hit resulting in $19,720 to resurface the community’s damaged tennis courts.

Merriwa Pony Club also received $22,645 for the Merriwa equestrian facility.
To find out about future grant opportunities for your community group or organisation contact Upper Hunter Shire Council Grants Officer Tess Hynes on 6540 1172 or email thynes@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

The three sports projects in the Upper Hunter Shire benefited from NSW Government Funding under the 2013/14 Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Grant Program announced by George Souris, Member for Upper Hunter this week.

Michael Johnsen
MAYOR

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

NEED A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?

A Justice of the Peace is available at Council’s Merriwa office and CTC & VIC Centre to witness the signing of documents such as affidavits and statutory declarations, and to certify copies of documents.

Please be aware:-
- you are required to produce your original documents when requesting certification of copies; and
- you MUST NOT sign any document prior to being in the presence of the Justice of the Peace

A Justice of the Peace is available Monday to Fridays between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm. It is advisable to check availability prior to attending. This is a FREE service.

P: Liam Garment JP 6521 7046

UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 8 April 2014, 10.00am

Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 8 April 2014, 1.00pm

Community Services Committee
Tuesday 8 April 2014, 4.30pm

Finance Committee
Thursday 24 April 2014, 1.00pm

Ordinary Council Meetings
Monday 28 April 2014, 5.00pm

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

THE INAUGURAL “RED SOCKS” BUSH POETRY AWARD
SPONSORED BY UPPER HUNTER FIRE PROTECTION

Hosted by 3 Time Australian Bush Poetry Champion Gregory North.

Over $500.00 in Cash & Prizes

Finals to be held at Merriwa RSL Club Auditorium, entry via Bow Street, Sunday 8 June 2014 commencing 9am.

There are FOUR sections:
- OPEN ORIGINAL SENIOR – Aged 16yrs and over
- OPEN ORIGINAL JUNIOR – Aged 15yrs and under
- UPPER HUNTER SHIRE SCHOOL SENIOR – Secondary Students.
- UPPER HUNTER SHIRE SCHOOL JUNIOR – Primary Students.

The winners of each section will be invited to perform their own original work at the 2014 ROSTO Olives Festival of the Fleeces, where Gregory North will select an overall winner in the Senior and Junior sections and their poems will be published in the Merriwa Ringer and Merriwa District Diary.

ENTRY FEE: $5.00 PER SECTION

To enter the Competition, fill in the Official Entry Form available from:

The Minute Secretary,
Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces
PO Box 111
Merriwa, NSW, 2329
ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday May 2, 2014

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046
**Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces**

June Long Weekend Annually

Friday 7.00pm Opening Night

All day Saturday Festival

Sunday Morning Bush Poet’s Breakfast from 9.00am

P: 6621 7046 E: lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

W: www.upperhuntertourism.com

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**153 Bettington Street Merriwa** $210,000

Excellent investment opportunity, this freehold commercial premises is offered with a secure long term tenant paying $235 a week. Currently on a 3 year lease the tenant is willing to sign a further 3 year extension with a negotiated rent rise. The building is in superb order throughout and has very minimal maintenance being made of brick.

---

**327 Tunbridge Road Merriwa** $380,000

This 119 acre property has a large three bedroom home with the main featuring an ensuite, walk in robe and RC Air. The lounge is big also with RC Air and has beautiful views over the yard and pool to the property beyond. The kitchen is in good condition with plenty of cupboard space. Verandahs at the front and rear of the home. A granny flat with a kitchenette, it has easy access to the third bathroom in the laundry. There is a fully enclosed BBQ area next to the pool. Double and single carport, lock up container and workshop. Water is supplied via a fully equipped bore and several fresh water tanks.

---

**Lot 120 Roach Street Merriwa** $67,000

This 1012sqm vacant parcel of land would be ideal for an investor looking to build. It has been surveyed and prepared ready to lodge a DA. The block is large enough for a tri-plex or would be suitable for a big home. All services are available and it is convenient to the schools, shops and hospital.

---

**Merriwa District Education Foundation**

President: Ivan Gant 6376 1044

Secretary: Jane Hegarty 6376 1052

Treasurer: Lesley Nixon 6548 2225

Supporting rural youth

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**Merriwa Ringer**

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**Cross Country Merriwa**

Caltex Service Station Open 7 Days

NRMA Country Service Centre on call 24/7

Towing, NRMA Road Service 131 111

Full Mechanical Workshop. Open 5 days

PH: 6548 2106

Email: crosscountrysmerriwa@bigpond.com

167 Bettington St, Merriwa

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**Merriwa Branch & District Council**

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Secretary/Treasurer: Aileen Hogan 0455 455 760

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2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am
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Visitors and new members are always welcome.
Enquiries to:
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6548 5131
Secretary: Susie Fitzpatrick
6548 2463
Email: susiefitz1935@gmail.com

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prayer
5pm Wed
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9am Sundays
10am Fridays
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Cassilis
11am
2nd and 4th Sunday

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Vennacher Street
Merriwa
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Pastor Ross Neville - 6545 1396
Pastor Richard Moors - 6543 1168
Peter Campbell - 6548 5126

2014 Merriwa Springtime Show
Meet 4th Thursday of each month
Visitors always welcome

Enquiries to:
President: Julie Smith - 0429197397
Secretary - Elaine Sparrow - 65483560
Supporting The Smith Family

View Merriwa show 2014
www.merriwashow.com.au
Rob Tindall - President
Toni Jones - Secretary
Tel: 0498 378 500

Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc
Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club
7.00pm for 7.30pm
4 x 4M Marquee for Hire
6548 2025

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1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm
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2014 Merriwa Springtime Show
Meet 4th Thursday of each month
Visitors always welcome

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Supporting The Smith Family

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

20 April 2014

26 April 2014

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

Cassilis Public School
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DARTS, SNOOKER, POOL
Friday - Raffles and 3 Members Badge Draws
Saturday - Raffle Members Badge Draw between 11.30am & 1.30pm - Jackpots $50 per week.
Club: 6548 2157
Restaurant: 6548 2295
For the information of members and their guests

MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB LTD 6548 2028
Golf, Bowls, Squash, Punt, Pull, Darts, Pool, 3PM and Club Keno
Opening Times: *Monday & Tuesday - 4pm *Wednesday - Sunday - 12pm
Thursday - Night 7:00pm Bingo
Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hours and Free raffles
Saturday - 7.45pm Monster raffles and members’ badge draw
Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members’ badge draw.
The Sports Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228
Dine in or Take Away, Banquets and Function catering available.
Lunch Specials
Lunch: Wednesday to Sunday, Dinner: Tuesday to Sunday
Merriwa RSL Club

The Members Lucky Badge for $500.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm. The number was 722. This week it jackpots to $550.00. The 7.00pm draw for $460.00 was not won. The number was 603. This week it jackpots to $480.00. The 9.00pm draw for $300.00 was not won and the number was 637. This week it jackpots to $320.00. LTPS/13/04473

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $600.00 was not won last week. The number was 255 and this week it jackpots to $650.00. 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.

Coming Events

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.

Saturday 19 July 2014. The Beach Boyz Tribute Show.

Matt Morgan
Secretary/Manager

Merriwa Sports Club

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

Mondays - Happy Hour - 4.00pm to 5.00pm
- Social Darts - 7.00pm
Tuesdays - Rotary meets - 7.30pm
Thursdays - 5.00pm Bingo and Super 39
Fridays - Happy Hour - 5.00pm to 7.00pm and free raffles - nine prizes
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.

WEEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday 22 March 2014
Saturday Members Draw no 72 won next week $110.00
Winners Jackpot not won drawn next week $320.00.

Free Tickets: Trish Sandruely
Dinner: Philomena Constable
Bowls Raffle: John Dening

Sunday 23 March 2014
Sunday Members draw no 160 not won next week $500.00.

TRANSPORT SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FRIDAY
Don’t take the risk and drive when for $3.00 per person you can be chauffeured home.

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

BINGO - NOTE CHANGE OF TIME
Every Thursday night commences 5.00pm. Tickets on sale at 4.30pm.

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.

$18.00 Adult $12.00 children under 12. Shan and Jinna also have lunch time specials for $8.00.

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.

Entertainment
Saturday 26 April
“Loose Change” Starts at 8.00pm

John Rindfleish

LADIES BOWLS NEWS

Last week several of our members went away celebrating Seniors Week. Will be back to Bowls this week. Our championships are still in progress with some very good games being played.

Our first game of Pennants is on Tuesday 8 April.

Beatrice Voysey
Merriwa Ringer
MEN’S BOWLS NEWS
UNCLASSIFIED

We had another great win on Saturday beating Denman five to one and Greg and his merry band achieved the maximum on one end scoring 8, I still don’t know how this happened, I am surmising the opposition went to the toilet. We have a bye this weekend, we will try to organise a practice on Sat arvo. On another note, to my best friend Mick Towler, get well soon mate, we are all missing you.

1. Teams for Saturday at Denman.Phil, Jim, Garry and Max.
2. Greg, Ken, Allan and Jeff. 3.Kevin,Robert, Scott and Terry.

Phil Rush (Rabs)

MEN’S GOLF

Eight keen golfers graced the green fairways of Merriwa Golf Club on Saturday for a Stableford Event. In perfect conditions for golf, scoring was quite good, even in the absence of the benchmark of Merriwa golf David Taylor.

We welcomed back to the club Michael Cooper who returned after a two year hiatus.

The day was totally dominated by Daniel Walmsley who was magnificent from go to whoa. He hit the ball long on the par fives and hit two greens on the par threes to claim two Nearest to the Pins on the fourth and eighteenth holes. He was not close enough on the eighteenth to claim the President’s Pin.

Daniel won the day with 37 points, from Desmond K. Vero who played consistently all day on 36 points. Winners in the Ball Comp were Michael Cooper, Paul Murray and Andy Medway. A great time was had by all.

Mark Morris

Cassilis Bowling Club

Friday night Snack Bar
Affordable family meals.

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

LAST WEEK’S RESULTS

Members Draw: $110 – Shane Rawlinson - unclaimed - $115 next week.


Bookings: Cassilis Bowling Club 6376 1002.

Tash Taaffe
President

Merriwa Cricket Club
Cricketers, family and supporters are invited to attend the 2013/14 Merriwa Cricket Presentation and barbeque.

When - Friday 4 April
Where - Merriwa RSL Club
Time - 6.30 for 7.00pm
Cost - $5.00 per person or $15.00 a family.

Kate Blackadder

Merriwa Little A’s

Big congratulations to Ben Keane who travelled to Sydney on Friday to represent Merriwa and the Hunter Zone in the NSW State Little Athletics Championships. Ben had a great run in the 3000m - right up until he tripped and fell after being over taken by another athlete with only 1.5 laps to go. We are still all extremely proud of your achievements this season Ben, fall or no fall, great athletes pick themselves up and try again which is what I have no doubt you will do next year.

Thank you must also go to mum Belinda Keane for being such a fabulous coach, taxi and physio all in one and taking Ben along to the State’s – a huge effort. Fingers crossed we have a couple more kids make it to the ‘big smoke’ for a run in an Olympic stadium next year to keep the Keane’s company.

Last week in training we got the stopwatches out to record times in the 100m and 70m with some very zippy performances from Ben Patterson, Clancy and Darcy Moore. Discus distances were also recorded with the Magner boys Patrick and John throwing some great throws of over 20 metres. Brilliant!

This weeks ‘gold star’ award goes to Peter Hagley for his fantastic improvement in discus. Peter it was such a delight to see your grin when you got the hang of it, your persistence paid off.

Next week is our second last training session and we’ll be taking the stop watches out again for some 200m and 400m and the 60m hurdles. ‘Thank you’ to junior coach Elizabeth Hagley for offering to record the athletes PB’s this year.

Tash Taaffe
President

Kate Blackadder

Sporting

Merriwa Little A’s

Merriwa Ringer

Hilary Parker
Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club

Thank you to all the wonderful players, coaches and parents who have supported our Merriwa teams.

TRAINING TIMES

Intermediate team, Mink Pink, will now train Thursdays from 4.30 – 5.30pm with Tina and Amanda.

NetSet Go teams, Magpies and Magic, will train Fridays from 4.30 – 5.30pm.

DRAW FOR SEASON

Reminder to bring lots of water and sunscreen to games; as we all know from last Saturday days are still very hot.

Merriwa teams are now all registered and games for Saturday 29 March are:

NetSetGo (7-9yrs) - MERRIWA MAGPIES
Games start at 10.00am sharp (arrive 20 mins before hand).

Coach: Kellie Porter
Team Manager: Bronwyn Redgate

Magpies: Josie Porter, Grace Inder, Olivia Gill, Audrey Gill, Scarlett Frampton, Amy Redgate, Emily Wright, Madelaine Thrift, Olivia Collins.

NetSetGo (10-11yrs) - MERRIWA MAGIC
Games start at 10.00am sharp (arrive 20 mins beforehand).

Coach: Kylie Hudson
Team Manager: Mary/Ben Frampton

Magic: Claudia Frampton, Jemma Grady, Sophie Inder, Caitilin Porter, Lauren Redgate, Ashleigh Orton, Molly Wong, Ruby Wong, Izabella Neale, Olivia McLean.

Intermediate Division (12-15yrs) – MERRIWA MINK PINK
Games start at 11.15am (arrive 20 mins beforehand).

Coach: Tina Taylor/ Amanda Attenborough
Team Manager: Yvonne McNaught

Mink Pink: Jasmine Hammond, Alana Smith, Tamasy McNaught, Teianna Taylor, Jazzmine Orton, Peita Cassar, Paige McConnell, Britney Attenborough.

Senior Division (>16yrs) - MERRIWA
Games start at 12.30pm every week. Please arrive 10 mins beforehand. Please let Heidi know if you can’t make a game.


NetSetGo Skills Program (replaces Fun Net)

This is a 10 week programme starting second term which introduces catching, throwing, pivoting and shooting.

Coach: Zara Gill, Amelia Frampton.

Scone netball updates are on Facebook. There is also a new website for Scone Netball. It is http://sconena.nsw.netball.com.au/

Please remember it is still a work in progress.

Any queries please contact me. If you know of anyone not listed above who wants to play netball please let me know.

Enjoy the season and have fun.

Heidi Inder

JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Netball has commenced with all teams having a great game last weekend. See Heidi’s report above. Junior League will commence on 5 April, next weekend. The draw is still being finalised but will be given out as soon as we get it, probably at training. All players should be registered by the commencement of the first round and registration payment ($60.00) finalised for insurance reasons. If you can’t pay by the first round please talk to Elaine Sparrow. If you are having problems with the online registration also give Elaine a ring. (6548 8560).

Teams are still being finalised. All ages could do with extra players so if you are considering playing league this season come on down to training, every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, at the oval and check it out. We still need team managers and coaches. Please help out if you can as the organisation of the teams and training the kids needs many hands. Those who have already volunteered need more helpers.

Our next General Meeting will be held on Monday 7 April at the Sports Club at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you can give any input at all or have any questions you want to ask please attend our meetings.

Elaine Sparrow
**Merriwa Bushmen’s Campdraft and Rodeo Assoc Inc.**

**WANT ACTION?**

Then this is what you will see if you come to the showground on 20, 21 and 22 June 2014. From the little kids to the experienced! (some very close to 70 or even could be).

It is a bonus to be getting this rain which will kick everything along now as well as the plans to ensure we have a successful draft 2014.

**SUCCESS STARTS WITH THE WONDERFUL SPONSORS**

So again **THANK YOU** so much to all the following wonderful sponsors that have confirmed their sponsorship to date:

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- Caroon P/L
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- Curls and Swirls (Brodie Jones)
- Dianne Mitchell
- Happy Guru
- Hawkesbury River Saddlery Co
- Hunter Mutual Merriwa
- Marsh Carney Saddlery Scone
- Merriwa RSL Club
- Merriwa Upholstery and Saddlery (D Houlahan)
- Mitavite
- Outback Publishing
- Pukara Estate
- Quarter Horse Association
- R and G Stanton (Merriwa)
- RM Property and Livestock
- Ross Chandler Contracting (Coonamble)
- Russell’s Earthmoving P/L
- Ruggit Rugs
- SF Higgs Investments (Merriwa)
- Steve Kemp Whip Maker (Scone)

Our committee run this huge three day program, so that we can also give back to the other local charities. So if are in town on our dates and looking for fast action then the showground is the place to be.

The canteen will be in full swing, along with the sportsman’s bar both nights (a local guitarist – Daniel Hogan) to entertain us Friday night with competitors gold coin donation sausage sandwich.

Saturday night and you don’t feel like cooking dinner and want a great family outing at a very reasonable rate then come along and have a hot meal whilst our **CHARITY AUCTION** is held to raise money and if you enjoy a little flutter then put some funds up on your rider to **WIN THE NOVICE DRAFT**. There will be a DJ there to ensure you have a great night and if you are feeling fit, you can dance the night away!

New faces (members) are more than welcome to come on board our committee as we all know that ‘many hands make light work’.

Canteen and Saturday night catering are also up for grabs should any local group be interested in making a few extra $’s for their committee.

Please contact Megan Richards above to discuss should you have any interest in catering for either position.

Sponsorship, hopefully I will have been back in contact with most of you by the time you read this but if I have not and you are interested in renewing your sponsorship or becoming a **NEW SPONSOR** then please contact Megan Richards 0427 437 743 or merriwacampdraft@gmail.com to receive a package.

Action packed weekend in Merriwa June 20, 21 and 22!

See you all there!

Megan Richards

**Merriwa Touch Football**

Don’t forget that the grand final will be held this Friday night with presentation and a free feed (for registered players only, $2.50 for non registered players) and music directly after at the Merriwa Sports Club.

B division will be at 6.00pm, A Grade Ladies at 6.45pm and A Grade Mens at 7.30pm. If by chance the weather has opened up and Wednesday night was washed out then this week will have been postponed and the games will be played next Wednesday and Friday night.

Merriwa Touch Football invites the community to come and watch the games.

A full write up will be in next weeks Ringer, weather permitting! Good luck to all teams!

Tina Taylor
This Saturday see’s the start of the footy season for the Magpies, with both League Tag and reserves taking on Muswellbrook starting at 2.00pm at Merriwa’s No1 oval.

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
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- Ian and Trish Medd
- Colin and Gaye Bates
- Pembroke Beef
- Morgan’s Maintenance
- Rockwell Livestock and Property
- Frampton Farms
- Bitz N Pizzas

Matt Morgan

Congratulations to brother and sister dynamo’s Cameron and Emily Ninness and Anastasia and Clancy Martin and Roy Lawler for taking out their respective age categories and to Hannah Riley for taking out reserve. The highest scoring team of four went to Anastasia, Clancy, Nicole Martin and Hannah Riley. Jorji Taaffe and Anastasia Martin received the trophy for best presented gear.

The Ray McRae highest scoring local boy and girl memorial trophy went to Anastasia and Clancy Martin, who also took out this year’s Presidents Cup for highest scoring boy and girl under 17 years.

Well done also to our fabulous led riders Bobby Keegan, Will Henderson and Tori Carter (and their swift footed mum’s!) for doing a wonderful job riding their ponies in the rider and sporting classes.

The next event on the club agenda is the April Mini Camp held in the first week of the school holidays. If you have not RSVP to secretary Christine Riley (email cl.riley@bigpond.com or call 0427 412 128), please do so NOW as we need to finalise numbers and organise instructors.

Tash Taaffe
Publicity Officer

Merriwa Pony Club - over 80 riders attended weekend event
Community

Merriwa Pony Club

Over the weekend Merriwa Pony Club hosted their annual Combined Training and President’s Cup event at the showground. With 34 riders registered in the dressage and showjumping on the Saturday and over 80 riders entered in the show and sporting events on the Sunday it was all systems go for members, parents and ponies from 8.00am till late both days.

Merriwa riders excelled in the dressage with Hannah Riley, Clancy Martin and April Lawler placing first, second and third in the 11 and u/13 1.1 class. Jorji Taaffe tying for first place in the u/9 Prep A with Amy Redgate (Denman) and Anastasia Martin taking home second place in the 13 and u/15 1.1 test while Nicole Martin came third in the 9 and u/11 prep D class and Rebecca Keegan came fifth, a great effort for her first dressage test.

There was plenty of competition in the D, E and F grade showjumping with some fabulous rounds from Rebecca Keegan, Nicole Martin, Keely, Bridie and Lanni Ryan but it was Merriwa all the way in the C grade combined training with Clancy Martin taking home the blue, Anastasia Martin (second) and Hannah Riley (third). Jorji Taaffe made a great come back after taking a fall in the Combined training winning E grade while younger sister Darcy ‘flew’ around the course to win F Grade.

The Presidents Cup show program was very well supported particularly in the rider classes, pairs and more than a few braved the bareback before loosening the ties and taking off the jumpers ready for the sporting events. Judge Jill Dawson from Armadale said the standard of riding on both days was of a high standard and that ‘all the horses were presented beautifully and the children were all so well behaved.’

Continues pg 30
### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28</td>
<td>Uniting Church Pie Drive sheet collection</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Messy Church - Parish Hall - 3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Merriwa Touch Football Grand Finals - Merriwa Sports Grounds - 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 29</td>
<td>Upper Hunter Select Horse Sale and Working Dog Trial/Sale - Merriwa Showground</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Merriwa Rugby League and Ladies League Tag home game - Merriwa Sports Grounds (weather permitting) - from 2.00pm</td>
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### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9</td>
<td>Uniting Church Pie Drive pickup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17</td>
<td>CWA Annual Street Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 19</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 7.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 20</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 26</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - 8.00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Merriwa Race Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Contact Tina Taylor on 6548 2119.**

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!