Merriwa Ladies Golf tee off in Uralla

Merriwa Ladies, Meredith Llewelyn, De Patterson, Deidre Peebles, Mary Rogers, Libby Moore and Susan Weis travelled to Uralla for the New England District Golf Association (NEDGA) Ladies Open Championships

(Story on pg 31)
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

With such a vast topic, and the way our weather had been up until the start of March, there should be years worth of photos for people to put forward for this months competition. Ideas could include:  
- dirty children  
- wilting flowers  
- dried up dams or creeks  
- farming  
- service men and women after a hard day  

With such a vast topic, the ideas are endless, so take a moment and sort through your photos and email them to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

PUBLISHED FIRST WEEK BACK OF TERM 2
**PRIMARY NEWS**

**YEAR 2/3 REPORT**

Year 2/3 has begun this school year with positive and enthusiastic attitudes. Each student has worked hard to help our class create routines and structures to ensure all of our learning needs are being met. In English, we have been focusing on our sentence and paragraph structure. The students are being encouraged to edit their work independently to ensure they have included as many of the 5 W’s (who, what, when, where and why) as they can. We have also been reading the Roald Dahl book ‘Georges Marvellous Medicine’ which we all found extremely entertaining. Year 2/3 are now writing their own stories entitled ‘When Grandma Comes to Visit’.

The class has thoroughly enjoyed our Science and HSIE units this term, as we have taken a look at the different groups and activities the students are involved in. As well as experimenting with different materials and watching how they can change.

In Music the students have developed a range of different beats using body percussion. As a class we have created an exciting performance for our assembly item this week.

Year 2/3 make each day memorable and continue to work hard. They should be very proud of their achievements just as I am.

Alyssa Moore  
Class Teacher

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**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Last week our students of the week continued to work hard during all the rainy days we had. These students didn’t let the wet weather dampen their spirits and continued to work their hardest in the classroom. Well done to the following book award winners:

**Kindergarten Class:** Isaac Constable (absent)  
**Year 1/2:** Brooklyn Blackadder  
**Year 2/3:** Duncan Harrison  
**Year 4/5:** Jasmine Smith  
**Year 5/6:** Zoe Zammit

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**PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Last Tuesday and Thursday afternoon the Primary teachers held interviews with parents to discuss the development of their children so far this term. This was a great opportunity to see some of your child’s work and privately go over any points of discussion with your child’s teacher. If you were unable to meet during interview times last week please contact the office to arrange another time to meet with your child’s teacher outside of class hours on (02) 6548 2101.

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**REWARDS DAY**

Next week is the last week of the term and we will be finalising the term with the Primary Rewards Day on Friday 11 April. Students who have met the criteria for achieving Rewards Day will be invited to attend a fun activity with either the Infants or Primary age group.

The Infants (Years K-2) group will be participating in some Easter themed activities set up in rotations and will involve some games, crafts and even

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**COMING EVENTS**

**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| Friday 4 | Primary Assembly - 9.15am  
|         | Year 12 exams                                                        |
| Tuesday 8 |Snake Tails visit - Great Hall                                        |
| Wednesday 9 | Year 11 Sydney Unicrawl, 6.00am-9.30pm   |
| Friday 11 |Rewards Day  
|         | Last day of Term 1                                                   |
| Monday 28 |Staff return for Term 2, School Development Day                      |
| Tuesday 29 |Students return for Term 2                                            |

**MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7</td>
<td>Merriwa Central School P and C meeting, Merriwa RSL Club, 7.00-8.30pm</td>
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Merriwa Ringer
some Easter decorating! The Primary (Years 3-6) group will be participating in a Trivia Competition. The previous trivia activity was a huge success and we’re sure this one will be better than the last! Students will be ineligible for rewards day if they have received the following:

- Red card/incident report
- Two orange cards in one week
- Two timeouts in one week
- Suspension or suspension warning

If you have any questions about rewards day please see your child’s teacher before the day.

**STAR STRUCK PARENT MEETING**

Next Tuesday there will be a Star Struck Parent Information evening held on the Primary Campus in the Primary Library starting at 6.00pm. All parents of Star Struck performers are invited to attend to receive information about rehearsals and the event, and take the opportunity to ask any questions they might have about Star Struck.

**SNAKE TAILS IS COMING!**

Bob from Snake Tails will be coming to visit the school next Tuesday and students from K-6 will get to participate in an amazing reptile show. Snake Tails is a multi-award winning, interactive learning experience, proudly featuring only Australian reptiles. We look forward to the show next week to be held in the Great Hall. Students are to bring a gold coin donation for the show.

**Rebecca West**
Assistant Principal

**Secondary News**

**VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING (VET) FACULTY NEWS**

Welcome to the lat news for Term 1 from the VET Faculty. The term has flown and teachers and students have been very busy with a range of activities.

The Physical Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) area have held a successful cross country event on the 21 March from which a number of students were selected to attend the zone cross country competition held at Singleton this Wednesday. We have included a number of photographs from the event this week. We are now busy getting organised for the Athletics carnival which will be held early in Term 2.

In the Food Technology and Hospitality area, students have recently prepared a luncheon for the principals from a number of schools that now make up the Wollemi Learning Area. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to show off their cooking skills as they catered for the morning tea and lunch. Students helped design the menu, cooked everything from raw ingredients and set up the Trade Trading Centre for a sit down lunch under the leadership of Mr Creamer. Principals were impressed with their abilities and our new trade centre and it was a wonderful opportunity to show off our student’s skills and the facility. Some photographs have been included of the students preparing.

In the Metal and Timber area, students have been very busy finishing off practical projects, a first aid box in Year 7/8 Mandatory Technology and some Easter decorating! The Primary (Years 3-6) group will be participating in a Trivia Competition. The previous trivia activity was a huge success and we’re sure this one will be better than the last! Students will be ineligible for rewards day if they have received the following:

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**Rebecca West**
Assistant Principal
an injury over such a simple task.

In the careers area we have a couple of important events coming up during these last two weeks. On April 1 Year 10 participated in their mock interviews with industry representatives from the community. This was an excellent opportunity to prepare for an interview and become aware of the type of questions you may be asked and how you can prepare effectively for such an event. Students have been busy preparing a letter of application and their resumes for this day. On April 9 Year 11 students who are interested in attending University have the opportunity to do a day trip with Muswellbrook High School students to visit three of the Sydney Universities. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit these campuses and have a look at facilities and ask questions as they will be provided with a guide on each campus. We also have dates for further careers events that will occur in Term 2. The Try a Skill event at Muswellbrook Show Ground will be on May 30 for Year 9 students and there is a Country Education Foundation sponsored trip to Macquarie University and the University Technology Sydney from May 13 till May 15 for five Merriwa Central School Students to apply to attend.

The Vet Faculty staff would like to wish everyone a wonderful break at the end of Term 1 and to thank parents and the community for their support during this term.

Jane Hegarty, Alison King, Andrew Duncan and Aaron Creamer
VET Faculty

“SNAKE TAILS” IS COMING TO MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

On April 8, Mr Bob Withey will bring his mobile reptile display to the Great Hall for all Primary and Secondary students to enjoy. For the cost of a gold coin donation, students will be able to see and interact with a range of reptiles and begin to appreciate their beauty and behaviours.

Snake Tails aims to deliver an insight into our Australian reptiles through a safe, interactive and fun performance that will create a greater understanding of the role of our reptiles in the environment today.

‘Snake Tails” is a customised presentation for Early Stage 1 through 3 and complements the curriculum for National Environment and Living World. It is also customised for High School students, and brings the Classification of Living Things for Years 7 and Senior Biology students to life, as well as for Year 8 and/or 9 with Ecology. Students get the opportunity to interact with harmless pythons, lizards and turtles as well as view our four deadly Australian snakes.

Favourite Subject: Wood/Metal
Extra-Curricular activities: Horse Sports
Personal Best Achievement: Being part of ROAR
Career Aspirations: To be a farmer
Year Advisor’s Comment: Brodie is a friendly and hard working young man who always tries his best. Well done Brodie!

Rebecca Hopkins
Year Advisor

Student of the Week
Brodie Grady
Year 9

Merriwa Ringer
**Why I want to be in ROAR?** It’s fun and you get to learn lots

**What is my favourite subject?** Metal/Wood

**What is my favourite sport?** Football

**What is my favourite team?** West Tigers

**Who is my favourite player?** All of them

**Best personal sporting achievement:** Not sure

**Who inspires you and why:** Dad because he helps me when I need it

**Advice to young players:** Try hard and don’t give up.

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**CAREER NEWS**

**UNSW Indigenous Winter School** - 6 July – 12 July

Applications close 11 April - Indigenous students in years 10, 11 and 12 - experience university life.

Contact: Nura Gill, (02) 9385 3805 or winterschool@unsw.edu.au http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au/winterschool.html

**Careers in the Sign and Graphic Design Industry**

Available apprenticeships and information about the Industry. Contact: peterh@visa.org.au or (02) 9868 1577 http://www.signcareers.com.au/

**Metro Screen Scholarships**

Applications Close 9 April - Post Production Scholarship: Includes a work placement internship. Assistant Director Scholarship: For runners, PA’s or Third AD’s http://metroscreen.nsw.edu.au/scholarships

**Central West On Screen:** Only Indigenous young people aged between 17 and 25 years old. Attend Dubbo workshops early April. http://metroscreen.org.au/funding/indigenous-support/central-west-on-screen/

**Bachelor of Information Technology Cooperative Scholarship Program Applications** open: 28 April

$15, 500 per study year, and two six month full-time industry placements.


**Professional Cadetships Australia** - Applications for the Business Cadetships Program run by Professional Cadetships Australia open on Monday 10 March. Year 12 students apply online at www.businesscadetships.com.au Under the Program, UBS will continue to offer cadetship opportunities across the firm. Information on the Program is provided on our website. Applications for the Engineering and Technology Cadetships (ETCAD) Program will open on 28 April. The 2014 Program provides Year 12 students with the opportunity to launch their career in ICT and business through a Technology Cadetship at Westpac. Information on the ETCAD Program may be found at www.etcad.com.au Applications open on 28 April.

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

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

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For further information contact
Gwen Meyer – Secondary 6548 2119, Rebecca West – Primary 6548 2101.

Gwen Meyer
Head Teacher - Maths / Science

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**ROAR Profile**

Brodie Grady
Year 9

ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards

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Merriwa Ringer
From the Principal

We have had a great week at St Joseph’s buoyed by the rain. The lawns are green, the garden is blossoming and spirits are high. We thank God for the blessings we receive daily. In our prayers we continue to remember Sr Brigid and pray that she is restored to good health soon.

The Parish – School Sacramental Team is well into its course of assisting parents to prepare their children for the sacraments. We are very pleased to be working with children from St Joseph’s school, Merriwa Central and Cassilis Public school.

Last week Mrs Ninness and I attended a “Services Forum” in Muswellbrook. This forum provided us with the opportunity to learn about service providers in the Hunter Region and more specifically those who are able to service students and families within our local area. We heard presentations from counsellors, allied health professionals, advocacy groups, and other well-being providers. We were provided with the opportunity to network with the various agencies. This opportunity was invaluable and we hope we are now better able to refer parents on to appropriate agencies to assist with the myriad of needs that present in our schools, daily. Tanya and I were also able to network with teachers from St Joseph’s Aberdeen, Merriwa Central and Merriwa Pre-School. This too was invaluable, we are so fortunate to live in a community that is able to work together to support the needs of all our children and their families.

I urge families to be proactive in their role as primary educators of your children. I urge you to continue to take your role seriously and to do all you can to support the school in their efforts to help you educate your child. What does this support look like when your child is at school?

• Parents help their child when they make every effort to ensure they are at school every day, unless they are sick.

• Parents help their children have a good education when they ensure their kids have a balanced lifestyle and do not keep kids out late so that they are too tired to work at school, the next day.

• Parents help their children have a good education when they encourage them to read at home every day. Even poor readers get better with every experience of reading they have.

• Parents help their child have a good education when they foster inquisitiveness. Encourage them to ask questions and encourage them to look for the answers. Your child is a 21st century learner. They know how to “Google it”. Help them to do this often or to look up a dictionary, or research in a library.

• Parents help their children’s education when they recognise the school as a partner in the process and work with us. We are on your side! I love it when parents come in to my office to discuss a problem with me. I love it when we can sit and listen to the problems and work out the solutions together. There will always be problems and there will also always be solutions. We just need to ensure that we are always looking for them together for the sake of our children.

Work with us, be involved in as many aspects of your child’s school life as you can be. This partnership with the school models for your child the value you place on their education. Education is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your child.

A number of children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 travelled to Scone last week to participate once again in the Kia-Ora music camp. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time there and have come home excited about the musical experience. The concert on Friday night, although smaller in scale to previous years, was certainly no less a showcase of the student learning and talent. Well done to the Upper Hunter Shire and the Kia-Ora committee who organise this wonderful opportunity. Thank you also to Derm Shannon and Carol McLaughlin and St Joseph’s Aberdeen for your efforts to enable our students to take part.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST WEEK’S AWARD WINNERS:

Kindergarten - William Collins – for fantastic creativity drawing a castle with 2D shapes

Ben Patterson – for fantastic effort in letter formation!

Year 1/2 - Toby Jamieson - For great efforts in all his book work

Clayton Porter - For a fantastic effort in Zumba

Riley Telfer - For great efforts in his writing

Year 3/4 - Amy Redgate – for her fabulous effort when working with Area in Maths.
Madelaine Thrift – for always showing great enthusiasm in all aspects of her learning

Nicholas Morgan – for his settled approach in SPELLING ACTIVITIES

Year 5/6 - Lauren Redgate – an awesome result in Multiplication test

Darcy Moore – a fantastic result in Multiplication test

Playground Champion - Thomas Hunt – for helping someone when they were injured on the playground

Principal’s Awards - Riley Telfer - Writing awesome sentences

Helen Whale
Principal

WHAT THE COMMUNITY THINK ABOUT THE RINGER!

“What I like about the Ringer”

“Reading about school activities and the Community groups. Enjoying the grouping of schools, medical and Community information.”

Jean Price

CORRECTION - CASSILIS CROSS COUNTRY

Five Years Girls - Second Regan Turner

Last week we incorrectly stated that Isabelle Pike placed second in the five year girls at the Cassilis Cross Country. Congratulations Regan!

ROAR ROADSHOW

Last week Matthew, Isaac, Joseph, Jarren and Mr Johnson came to visit Sandy Hollow School. The children divided into four groups where the boys demonstrated leadership skills and techniques needed to participate in rugby activities. Activities included ball handling, scoring, passing and catching. After learning the skills all children were involved in a game. During the morning the children discussed the meaning of ROAR. That is Respect, Ownership, Awareness and Rewards. They also discussed the importance of positive thoughts. We would like to thank the boys and look forward to your return next term.

PERSONALISED LEARNING PLANS

It is a requirement of the Department of Education that all Aboriginal students have a personalised learning plan. This plan should be a set of goals for the students to work towards. It also gives staff a means to specifically target the needs of each student. Over the last two weeks, staff have been conducting three way interviews with parents/carers and the students requiring a plan. These should be finished this week. If you haven’t been contacted by your child’s teacher, please ring the school and make an appointment that is convenient to all concerned.

4/5/6 NEWS

In English, we have finished our unit of work on Frog and Crow. All students will publish their own allegorical story this week based on the studied
text. We will spend the next few weeks looking at other forms of persuasive tests.

In Maths, the students have spent the last few weeks brushing up on their problem solving skills. They have been working on a number of strategies including drawing a picture or diagram, acting out a problem, finding a pattern or rule, checking for relevant information and finding smaller parts of a larger problem. All students have had many opportunities to specifically apply these strategies. All levels will move onto another investigation.

Year 4 are investigating multiplication and division facts to 100; Year 5 are investigating how much water is wasted down the drain with Mrs Davy and writing and interpreting weather reports with Mrs Darlington. Year 6 are designing animal enclosures for a zoo.

In PDHPE we have finished our unit on personal relationships and will now move onto following up work from our Healthy Harold visit.

In HSIE the students have been learning about the advantages and disadvantages of logging trees. They have discussed alternatives to using timber and looked at how these alternatives effect the environment. For the next few weeks students will produce a case study on a National Park of their choosing.

Christina Darlington
Class Teacher

WEEKLY AWARDS

Abby Cooper - star student
Angus Higgins - displaying great skills in problem solving
Isabella Wallace - great participation in class discussions
Reece McCandless - excellent work in mathematics
Bill Chambers - a great effort at Cassilis Cross Country
Declan Adams - a great effort at Cassilis Cross Country.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Year K/1/2 - Hayley Taylor, Rowdy Walters and Mikayla Borradaile
Year 3/4/5/6 - Drew McCandless, Jacob Marsh and Hunter Marsh.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Sam Thompson - consistent worker.
are due back by Thursday 10th April. Money raised will go towards a charity as decided by the students.

**NAPLAN**

All students in Years 3 and 5 will sit the NAPLAN tests next term. On Tuesday May 13 they will complete assessments for language conventions and writing, on Wednesday May 14 reading and on Thursday May 15 numeracy. Friday will be set aside for catch up.

Christina Darlington
Principal

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE K/1 ROOM**

All the children have continually worked extremely well throughout term one.

Kindergarten enjoy coming to the Launching Station in their groups to participate in L3 reading and writing sessions.

Our focus during writing lessons for Year 1 has been on sentence structure: examining the grammatical features, punctuation and how we can make our sentences more interesting for our audiences.

During Maths lessons Kinder have been examining numbers 1-10, counting backwards using a number line and even looked at some addition. Year 1 have been working through an investigation entitled "All About Birthdays". Birthdays provide the context as students conduct surveys, collect data and explore calendars, compiling a class calendar to keep track of up and coming birthdays.

Our HSIE unit “This is Me” has provided the children with the opportunity to discuss the characteristics that we all share and identify their own. The children have successfully graphed these results. Now we have moved on to study the family. Identifying members, their responsibilities and the things we enjoy doing together as a family.

“How we grow and change” is the Personal Development unit we have been engaged in this term. Focussing on our internal and external body parts, examining why these are so important and their functions. The children thoroughly enjoyed putting all the bones together to form a full skeleton of their own.

Pauline Bullock
Class Teacher

**WEEKLY AWARDS**

Tylana Cox - trying hard in mathematics  
Codi Marsh - consistent effort in Literacy  
Abby Cooper - consistent effort in all areas  
Amy Thompson - working well in all areas  
Andrew Harris - 25 reads/spelling award  
Cambell Hinze - 25 reads  
Steven Allen - for being helpful in pack-up time.  
Harry Thompson - for a huge effort in writing.

**WORKERS OF THE WEEK**

Years K/1/2 - Matthew Allen, Lucas Stair and Reagan Turner  

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Marshall Hinze - for being a thoughtful class member.

**FROM THE P&C**

We are asking for helpers for Saturday April 12, 2014 to serve afternoon tea at the Sandy Hollow Charity Ride. If you are not able to be there we would appreciate it if you could provide a plate of food for the occasion. Cakes, slices, biscuits, sandwiches etc can be dropped off at the Sandy Hollow Hall on the day. We will receive a substantial donation for doing this. A note will go home with this newsletter to indicate everyone’s interest or you can phone Jeannie Harris on 6547 0520.

**CALLING ALL DADS** – This is your opportunity to help us with another fundraiser. On Saturday May 3, 2014 at the Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair we have been asked to provide people to pick up the wood that the woodchoppers leave behind in their competition rounds. We also get to keep the wood so we will be looking for helpers to work throughout the day and asking anyone with trailers to bring them along. Many hands make light work so hopefully we won’t be left with a few people working all day on their own! If any of the older children in the school wish to help out with the permission of their parents that would be great! A note of interest will be sent home at a later date.

Jeannie Harris
SMALL SCHOOL...BIG DIFFERENCE
It is our choices, Harry,
that show what we truly are,
far more than our abilities. J.K. Rowling

STUDENT OF THE WEEK - GEORGIA BOWLER

Congratulations, Georgia!

Georgia has settled in well to Cassilis School and has demonstrated her ability to follow each of the Cassilis School rules of ‘do your best’, ‘be respectful’ and ‘be safe’. During PE activities last week Georgia demonstrated great enthusiasm to revise the skill of the skip and to practice our new skill of the hop. She practiced neat bookwork and worked hard at all classroom activities. Georgia was respectful to all students and staff and worked quietly and consistently to achieve pleasing results. Georgia is a pleasure to have in the classroom and is well deserving of the Student of the Week award. Keep up the fantastic work, Georgia!

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

What is your favourite food? Banana

What job would you like when you are older? Be an artist who paints pictures of all sorts of things

Apart from your family, who is one of your role models? My mum

If you were given $100, what would you buy? A miniature pony so I can begin to learn how to ride

What is one thing that people may not know about you? I really like to draw

What has been your greatest achievement? Learning to ride my pink and purple bike

I was very proud of the three girls. They had three longs days of travelling, learning and rehearsing. Their behaviour and effort was a credit to themselves. I hope that they enjoyed a well-earned rest over the weekend. Thank you to Mrs T Nairne and Mrs Singh who assisted with transport.

Kia-Ora Music Camp was held on the 26, 27 and 28 March. Maddie, Summer and I went to Scone and we had a great time. We learnt Irish dance, Hip Hop/Jazz and choir. I really enjoyed all three of the activities. The concert was held Friday afternoon and 6.00pm and finished at 10.00pm. It was a long night but it was good. There were over one hundred students participating in the night.

By Sarah Nairne
Maddie’s and Summer’s recounts will feature in next week’s newsletter.

Maddie sang beautifully in the choir.

**A RETURN TRIP TO THE GULGONG EISTEDDFOD**

Cassilis has been entered into the Gulgong Eisteddfod which commences on the 21 May. We have entered groups of students and also some individual students into different categories. Over the next two weeks, we will be organising material for each student to practice during the holidays. Students will continue to learn and refine public speaking skills to help with their verses.

Angus is displaying his Easter rabbit that he drew last week.

**HEALTHY EATING AT MERRIWA PRE-SCHOOL**

Here we are almost at the end of Term 1, and vacation care looming. For a bit of a rehash for those who don’t know about us, we are a vacation and after school care service for children aged between 5 and 12, as long as your child is at primary school. The cost of an afternoon is $14.00 for three hours care with afternoon tea thrown in, vacation care costs $32.00 for a 9.00am to 5.00pm day also with afternoon tea. This cost can be drastically reduced with your CCB (Child Care Benefit) for example you can receive over 50% reduction for one child and further reduction if you have two or three children enrolled on the same day. All it takes to receive these benefits is a call to Centre Link, and a call to us on 6548 2082 to enrol your child. There is no enrolment fee, just a form to fill in. You do not need to be a working parent to use this service, all are welcome to join in the fun.

**MERRIWA ACTIVITY CENTRE VACATION CARE APRIL 2014**

**WEEK 1**

- Monday 14 April - River Walk - Bring your scooter and helmet
- Tuesday 15 April - Craft - Mosaic Tiles - Historic Town Walk
- Wednesday 16 April - Excursion to Lue Pottery, Picnic at Mudgee Park and visit to Hands on the Rock
- Thursday 17 April - Chocolate making - Easter egg hunt
- Friday 18 April - Good Friday

**WEEK 2**

- Monday 21 April - Easter Monday
- Tuesday 22 April - Tennis at the town courts and lunch at the park
- Wednesday 23 April - Camp out day at Merriwa Activity Centre, sausage sizzle, knot tying, make a damper, orienteering
- Thursday 24 April - Cooking Shepards Pie and ANZAC biscuits
- Friday 25 April - ANZAC Day
Once again Merriwa Activity Centre will only operate with bookings of three or more children, please try to have your child booked in prior to required date. As usual children will need to bring morning tea and lunch each day other than days when we are cooking lunch. Please ensure children are wearing clothing which cover shoulders, and shoes other than thongs, this is in line with our sun safe and dress code policies.

For further information and bookings please call 6548 2082 or after hours 6548 2216.

Open hours – 9.00am – 5.00pm

Jill Carrall
Merriwa Activity Coordinator

Upper Hunter Weeds Authority

The Upper Hunter Weeds Authority would like to provide the following information regarding the change in weed declaration of African Boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) from a Class 4 to a Class 3 weed in the Upper Hunter. This change was included in latest gazetted list of declared plants for NSW (Order 30) and applies to all Councils in the Hunter and Central Coast Region.

Plants which have been placed in Class 3 category are considered to pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of a region to which the order applies, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area. These plants must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

For more information on weeds in the Hunter visit http://huntercentralcoastweeds.com.au

This website has been designed to keep residents of the Hunter and Central Coast regions of NSW informed of problem weeds in the region and how to deal with them. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Noxious Plants Inspector
Upper Hunter Weeds Authority
Mob 0429 683 494
ivan.pillay@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Ivan Pillay
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 - begins Holy Week - 9.00am “Holy Trinity”

Maundy Thursday: 17 April - Foot washing Service 6pm followed by Seder meal parish hall 7pm. Everyone Welcome

Good Friday: 18 April - 10.00am Service Holy Trinity

Easter Sunday: 20 April - Holy Trinity Merriwa - 9.00am Father Bill’s last service with us.

St Columba Cassilis - 11.00am with Rev’d Pat.

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

25 Give Blood

26 Stop complaining for a whole day ie. Weather; boss; coffee….instead smile and pray.

27 Call your Mother

28 Volunteer

29 Leave a post-it with a positive message

30 Use your weekends to babysit for free.

31 Give up warm water in your shower.

32 Give up your bed-sleep on the couch, floor, or in a tent.

Let me share some information on Mothering Sunday which was celebrated last Sunday…it is an old tradition of the church when we give thanks for Mother church and our mothers. It derives from the time when apprentices working in the woolen mills of England were given time off to go home to family so they could worship together on this Sunday. Their landlady would bake for them a small simnel cake to take home and on their way through the fields they would pick a small bunch of flowers both of which were given to their mothers. This Sunday is also called refreshment Sunday when the rigours of the Lenten fasting were put aside for the day...We enjoyed our cake last Sunday. Thank You to Joan Morgan for her generosity!

Contact: 0429 996 769

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa’s ANZAC Day Commemorations

All citizens are being asked to help share on this solemn occasion to help preserve the Spirit of the ANZAC and to remember the great sacrifice that so many made, in order that we may live in peace.

If anyone wishes to participate in the laying of the wreath or seeks any further information please contact the RSL Sub-Branch Secretary, Mary O’Neill, on 6548 2383.

PROGRAM FOR DAWN SERVICE

• 5.40am - Assemble at the Cenotaph
• 6.30am - End of Dawn Service
• 7.00am - Breakfast at Merriwa RSL

PROGRAM FOR MAIN SERVICE

• 10.15am - All citizens/groups wishing to participate in the march are to assemble outside the RSL Club
• 10.30am - March commences
• 10.40am - General Assembly at the Cenotaph
• 10.45am - Service commences
• 12 noon - Sausage sizzle for the young people taking part in the ceremony
• 1.00pm - Commemoration Luncheon for all citizens wishing to attend (tickets available for the RSL Club)

They gave their lives
for public gift they receive a praise
Which never ages and a tomb most glorious
Not so much the tomb
In which they lie,

But in which their fame survives
To be remembered forever when Occasion comes for word or deed.

Mary O’Neill

Merriwa Ringer
Ausgrid operates one of the largest electricity networks in Australia, distributing electricity to more than 1.6 million customers across the Hunter, Central Coast and parts of Sydney.

Committed to community safety, Ausgrid works to ensure the distribution of electricity to its customers in a way that is safe and reliable.

Ausgrid is investing in its electricity network in the Upper Hunter with projects designed to improve the reliability of the power supply for residents and businesses in the towns of Merriwa, Sandy Hollow, Denman, Baerami, Scone, Muswellbrook, Rouchel and Singleton. A number of projects are either planned or currently underway, including the replacement of 11,000 volt powerlines at Sunnyside Road, Forest Reserve Road and Merriwa Road.

Ausgrid has been a major supporter of Merriwa’s annual Festival of the Fleeces since 2012. The event provides as a great opportunity to inform local community members about planned upgrades to the local network.

Sometimes crews need to temporarily interrupt the power supply to do this work safely. Ausgrid will have a stall at this year’s Festival with staff on site to provide information about planned power outages and answer any questions residents may have about the network upgrade projects.

Thank you for your sponsorship to date,

MAJOR AND NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR
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Ausgrid
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Merriwa Sports Club
CJO Photography

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
If you are interested in sponsoring a Festival event please contact:
Liam Garment 6521 7046

Kaleidoscope for Kids

Where: Merriwa Showground
When: Friday 4 April through Sunday 6 April.

The Rotary Club of Merriwa are assisting in the weekend events to raise money for Kaleidoscope Kids in John Hunter Hospital. The John Hunter Hospital Newcastle Kaleidoscope for Kids is holding a fundraiser and the entire community of Merriwa is invited! Caravan and Motor Homes from over the State will converge to Merriwa for this wonderful weekend event, and residents of Merriwa can also attend for a small gate entry fee. Rotary invite the community of Merriwa to show their support and come along and help us raise these funds for this great cause. Some of our Merriwa kids find themselves in John Hunter Hospital and Kaleidoscope are there to help make their stay that bit more comfortable for the patient and the parents.

The events start on Friday evening with the ‘Plucken Pickers Country Music Band’ strutting their stuff. Food stalls will be available, Come and hear some great music. Saturday morning starts with a Bush Poets Pancake Breakfast at 8.00am (gold coin donation). During the morning there will be Song Writers and Performers Workshops, Market Stalls, Raffles, Wine Tasting, Food, drinks and coffee.

2.00pm we will see a demonstration by the Merriwa Pony Club. All members will show campers and our community what they do at Pony Club and display their great horsemanship to all there. At 4pm we have more live entertainment with ‘Snez and Stewart’. Come on down at 6.30pm and enjoy a Spit Roast Dinner, cost of $25.00 prepared and served by the Rotary Club members. This will be followed by an AUCTION. Paul (event coordinator) has been given an astounding amount of products to auction on the night much donated by Newcastle businesses. Following this we will be entertained by a Joe Cocker impersonation by Alan (Cocker) Roberts. A bar will be open for all.

Sunday morning at 8.00am will see another Bush Poets Breakfast with Merriwa Rotary cooking bacon and egg rolls for $3.50. During Sunday the food stalls will continue to operate as well as wine tasting, market stalls etc. At 4.00pm there will be more live entertainment.

This will be a great weekend packed with live entertainment and plenty to see and do. Help raise funds for this very worthy cause. Our kids are precious and funds are much needed to keep Kaleidoscope helping kids in need.

See you over the weekend.

Kaleidoscope Coordinators and Merriwa Rotary
Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Rotary
RYPEN 2014

Are you between 14 and 17 years old and interested gaining an introduction to important life skills through a three day live in program in an environment that promotes participation, caring, openness and fun? Merriwa Rotary Club is pleased to announce that nominations are now being taken for the RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) camp to be held April 25, 26 and 27 2014. Our club will sponsor two positions from students living in the Merriwa district between the ages of 14 and 17. For more information follow this link https://www.facebook.com/RYPEN9670/info.

Contact Mark Whale for an application form on 6548 2389. Applications must be submitted to Merriwa Rotary Club by April 12, so act now. It is an opportunity too good to miss!

Our club has been sponsoring students to RYPEN for more than 23 years and has received many enthusiastic reports of the experiences of the participants.

Mark Smith
Community Notice Board

Baerami Bush Dance

When: Sat 5 April
Where: Baerami Hall, Bylong Valley Way via Sandy Hollow, Upper Hunter.
Cost: $15.00 adult (prebooked at www.trybooking.com/EFNA) or $20.00 at door. Children are free.

Join our family bush dance with traditional music played acoustically by Hunter musicians. Dances will be explained. Dancing starts 7.30pm. BYO dinner and supper to share. Camping at the hall is available if needed. Guided bushwalk on Sunday morning.

Contact Martin and Jan Ph 6571 1208 info@calli.com.au www.calli.com.au or find Baerami Bush Dance on Facebook

Jan Fallding

St David’s Uniting Church

Orders have closed for this drive, but if you have forgotten to order, then pop round after 11.00am on delivery day, as we do order “Extra’s”.

Delivery Date: Wednesday 9 April 2014
From: St. David’s Uniting Church
Cnr Vennacher and Mackenzie Streets

Time: From 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

If anyone is unable to collect their orders during this time, please contact me on 6548 5131 (home) or 0428 485 131 (mobile).

Barbara Campbell

Merriwa Bookies

Have you ever wondered if a book club is for you? Why not come along to the library on Thursday 3 April at 7.00pm and check one out. We guarantee, you’ll be surprised at how much fun it can be. Hope to see you.

Jayne Cronin

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.

Care Package Cadets

With over 400 of our Soldiers are still at war, we would love to remind them that we at home, are here for them. With ANZAC Day fast approaching, we would love to get the supplies for at least 200 care packages to be sent out.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Check out the shopping guide listed below. Any of these items can be used in our packages.

Travel size - shampoo, conditioner, roll-on deodorant, body cream, wet wipes, lip balms, shower caps, soaps etc.

Treats like - Tim Tams, individual treat size chips, tiny teddies, shapes, chocolates, lollies, lollipops, chewing gum etc.

Large packs that can be divided down - two minute noodles, tuna, salmon, baked beans, cups a soups, sultanas, packaged two fruits and custards.

Cash - to help with purchasing the boxes to send all items.

Need more information? Contact Care Package organiser - Carole Johnston 6543 7134.

Carole Johnston
We have a great range of new stock that is in store right now. There are some amazing products that we now have access to, and we have taken full advantage of this! Over the weeks we will be able to describe these products in more depth, but for today here are some brief overviews of some of our new ranges.

**LOOM BANDS**

This is a craze that has reached our shelves and we have several different types. They are easy to make (all the kids know how), and come in brights, neons, glittery and so many more colours. You can never have too many, and they are great gift ideas as they are fun and affordable.

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY BOOKS**

These are great as they are especially geared to help young students improve. There are ones designed for the pre-schoolers who are about to start ‘big school.’ There are books for handwriting, english, the alphabet, counting, maths and more. It is never too early for your children to start learning these skills.

**STATIONERY**

Besides the beautiful Hallmark stationery sets that we have, we have just received a fantastic eco-friendly notebook and stationery range as well as stylish range which lives up to its motto - ‘add finesse to your life.’

**CRAFT**

Our craft corner has been expanded to include some wonderful products that will help with making Easter Hats fun and colourful - there are pom poms, matchsticks, paddle pop sticks, pipe cleaners and more. Get your craft hat on and glue out and start making exciting, funky, cool Easter Hats today.

**MAGAZINES**

The latest Women’s Weekly is out now and is a special Royal Tour Souvenir Edition besides having everything you need to know about the up-coming Royan Tour, there are wonderful and insightful interviews with Magda Szubanski, Daniel Morcombe’s mother, and Glen McGrath’s wife. There is a look at the current strain between Russia and America - a look at Obama and Putin, and whether and compromise can be made, as well as the most delicious-looking Hot Cross Buns I have seen in a long time!

**FREEBIES**

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.

**HALLMARK MOMENT**

“For My Wonderful Mum at Easter...
Wishing you love and happiness -
because at Easter and always,
you mean so very much.”

This is the perfect card for mum at Easter, especially if you will not get to see her on the day!

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

EFTPOS available.

**Merriwa Pharmacy**

**RAISING AWARENESS OF EPILEPSY**

This week we are celebrating Purple Day, an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide.

Around the world people are invited to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness. Epilepsy affects more than 65 million people worldwide (more than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson’s disease combined).

However, many people in the general public know little about this disease and much of what they do know is incorrect. Purple Day has a long-term aim of helping us to improve the lives of those with epilepsy by promoting epilepsy awareness and making sure that everyone has the facts.

Purple Day was founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada, with the help of the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia (EANS). Cassidy chose the colour purple after the international colour for epilepsy, lavender. The lavender flower is also often associated with solitude, which is representative of the feelings of
Isolation many people affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders often feel. Cassidy’s goal is for people with epilepsy everywhere to know they are not alone.

Before starting Purple Day, Cassidy said: “I was afraid to tell people about my epilepsy because I thought they would make fun of me. After the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia did a presentation in my class, I started to talk with the other kids about my seizures. That is when I decided to become a spokesperson for kids with epilepsy. I called it Purple Day after the international colour for epilepsy lavender.”

Many people do not understand exactly what epilepsy is. To say a person has epilepsy simply means that a person has shown a tendency to have recurring seizures. Therefore, when a person has a single seizure this does not necessarily mean that they have epilepsy.

It is estimated that approximately 50% of people who have one seizure go on to have more seizures. For people at risk of recurring seizures, approximately 70% can expect a seizure.

Epilepsy is a disorder of brain function that takes the form of recurring convulsive or non-convulsive seizures. Epilepsy is not just one condition; rather it is a diverse family of disorders comprising many seizure types.

10% of the population are at risk of experiencing a seizure during their lifetime, while 3-4% will go on to be diagnosed with epilepsy.

There are seizures that are not epileptic such as those that result from diabetes, kinked blood vessels and a range of other health conditions.

According to Epilepsy Australia, it is a common condition in our community and can develop at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic group. Research suggests that 3-4% of the Australian population will develop epilepsy at some stage in their lives.

Epilepsy was once considered a disorder of the young as it was believed that most people experienced their first seizure before the age of 20. However, the over 55 years’ age group is now being recognised as being the most vulnerable. This rapidly growing demographic group is subject to the kinds of cerebrovascular, respiratory and cardiac events that can lead to epileptic seizures.

Current research has identified that in many cases of epilepsy in very young children, genetics play an important role. But genetics can be a factor in developing epilepsy at any age. It appears that certain people are simply more prone to having seizures than others. This is, at times, described as having a ‘low-seizure threshold’.

A history of seizures in the family makes it more likely for them to develop epilepsy.

Your pharmacy, your health destination, is where you can discuss this condition with your pharmacist. In addition, Merriwa Pharmacy has an Epilepsy fact card to help.

**PHARMACY STUDENT**

Jess Cubis (left) final year pharmacy student at university of Newcastle and Georgie Facchetti (right) third year medical student from university of New England will be undergoing placements in Merriwa for the next two weeks. Please make them feel welcome.

Robert Smith

**Australia Post Merriwa**

**MORE THAN JUST A POST OFFICE POSTAGE INCREASE**

On 31 March 2014, Australia Post increased 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 five stamps at 60cents each. The maximum an account holder can get is 50 stamps per year. You must hold a current concession card. MyPost customers are also eligible for reduced prices on other services including Mail Redirection. Please see staff for an application form.
Less than 30 years after gaining independence the Americans fought Britain again (1812-1815). There were many reasons for this, including that at the end of the War of Independence the Colonists, now a nation in their own right, had believed that as part of the Peace Treaty they were entitled to not only the established American colonies but also a generous slice of Canada.

A study of the map of North America suggests that at least some of what they felt they should be given included that part of Canada which still protrudes down into the USA around the Great Lakes, with one Canadian land tongue going well south between Lake Huron and Lakes Erie and Ontario. However, Britain may have considered that the states of Vermont, New Hampshire and most of Maine already protruded so far into Canada that it all balanced out.

Anyway, the French again helped the ex-colonists in this second war but they did not get any of Canada and in fact the Peace Treaty left everything largely unchanged.

This was not all the conflicts which the new USA would have to endure because on many occasions they fought wars of various kinds, some small, some large, right up till they entered WW1 in 1917. I could fill every issue of the Ringer for a year describing these, but will instead only look briefly at some of them, much of which took place in the US south and south east. For instance, in the state of Florida there was conflict over a long period, including Indian wars, slave rebellions, and with Spain which claimed Florida, till eventually it became an American state.

Also, that section of the USA which is now Texas and was owned by Mexico rebelled, the Texan rebels won, and for a time Texas was an independent nation till in 1845 it eventually chose to become the 28th American state.

The Mexican Siege of the Alamo (1836) in the War of Texas Independence is well known, and the Mexicans slaughtered all those inside (including Colonel Bowie, the inventor of the Bowie knife, and the Frontier Man Davy Crockett) when they finally broke the siege. Also well known is one of the great throw away lines of history when the defenders of the Alamo, knowing they could not hold out much longer, sent their last signal: “We who are about to die salute you”. The Americans were less than happy about all this Mexican activity on their southern border (“Remember the Alamo” became a rallying cry), the Mexican-American war (1846-1848) ensued, and the result, if the map is again studied to the US south rather than north...
east and south east, was that the Mexicans lost a big slice of Mexico, including Texas, to the USA and it has stayed that way ever since with some on-going tensions.

There was also the Spanish-American War (1898-1899) which was said to have been triggered by the battleship USS Maine blowing up in Havana Harbor, Cuba. The Americans claimed that Spain was responsible (“Remember the Maine” was another rallying cry), war ensued, the Americans won easily and stripped Spain of most of her remaining colonies including the Philippines, Cuba and the island of Guam, though Guam is all she now retains and is today a big American base in the western Pacific. The Spanish-American War was notable for the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba where Teddy Roosevelt, destined one day to be president of the USA, led his Rough Riders in a charge up San Juan Hill.

Another facet on Roosevelt’s life is that once when out hunting he spared the life of a little bear saying the poor creature deserved to live, and as a result that favorite of children, the “Teddy Bear”, was named after him and the name persists to this day.

America acquired additional land by fighting for it but also by purchase. The first was the “Louisiana Purchase” in 1803, so called because the present day state of Louisiana was included, even though it was, comparatively speaking, only a minor part of an enormous acquisition. The main part of the purchase, roughly speaking, comprised all the land west of the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean and from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. With one act, and at a cost of about $11 million dollars, the USA roughly doubled its total area. $11 million dollars was a lot of money in those days and what the Americans bought was virtually unexplored so they might have been buying a pig-in-a-poke but it was in fact the greatest bargain of all time, a treasure house of land beyond price.

The French received the purchase money which has always puzzled me because both France and Spain had claimed that land and they were sometimes allies (e.g. the Battle of Trafalgar 1805). You might wonder why France sold it, but there were several reasons; because she was strapped for cash since she was fighting the Napoleonic Wars; because it was the other side of the world and she considered it of little value to her; and anyway the British navy prevented her gaining access to it. There will be more next term about this purchase and its consequences, also the American Civil War, though at this stage I mention that the USA further expanded its boundaries in 1867 by also buying Alaska from Russia, another bargain as it turned out.

Conventional and electrical fencing, pumps, spraying equipment, poly and PVC pipes, generators, tanks, silos etc.


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
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PLEASE NOTE: Back on Wed. 15 Jan. 2014
Times Fortnightly 8.00am - 11.00am

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Merriwa Ringer
MAJOR TOURIST EVENT
MERRIWA SHOWGROUND
THIS WEEKEND

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR KALEIDOSCOPE KIDS

The Merriwa Tourism and Promotion Committee is proud to support this weekend’s activities at the Merriwa Showground. An event, that supports not only the children in our community but the entire Upper Hunter Shire as Kaleidoscope Kids is a Fundraiser for John Hunter Children’s Hospital.

Attractions over the weekend will include Bush Poets breakfasts on both the Saturday and Sunday morning along with a Spit Roast Dinner on the Saturday evening all catered by Merriwa Rotary. With markets stalls, musicians and activities for the entire family, the weekend is well worth a look.

With visitors travelling from all over the state and country for this event, it is a great opportunity to showcase Merriwa and all of the wonderful attractions of the Upper Hunter Shire to the wider community.

Come along and join in for a fun weekend as well as raising some much needed funds for a great cause.

Ph: Liam Garment 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

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, 23 April 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

FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING THANK YOU

What wonderful weather we have had, and as if made to order last Saturday was a fine day for the Horse sale at the Merriwa showground. The Festival of the Fleeces committee operated the canteen for the function. I would personally like to thank the committee who worked tirelessly all day and the wonderful friends who gave their time to help.

A special thank you to Shirley Bevan, Kay Beard and Dale Wesley, all non committee. To the members Shirley Hunt, Deirdre Peebles, Sue Cronin, Barbara Campbell and Jenny Johnson. Thank you for making this the successful day it was. Big thank you to committee member Greg Watson and his volunteer worker Jeffrey Cronin for barbecuing all day, and also the many people who cooked and donated cakes. Not sure who you all were but to Rosalie Drew and Kerry Gill thank you.

Due to the much needed rain some of our helpers were flooded in but I know they were thinking of us.

Thank you to everyone who supported the canteen and to Roger Moore for inviting us along to be part of their successful day.

Jan Cronin
Small Events and Catering Coordinator
Festival of the Fleeces Committee
MEDIA RELEASE
27 MARCH 2014

PROMOTING YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Those who work with families, children and young people in the Upper Hunter got together this week to share information about available services.

Community Services Staff of Upper Hunter Shire Council joined with over 120 participants at the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter School and Services Forum last Tuesday (25th March) to network with schools and other community service providers in the region.

Public and private school staff and Child Protection organisations provided detailed information about welfare systems within their services. An Expo was also held on the day with a wide range of services providing information to participants.

“The forum was an opportunity to share what local and regional services are available to support local families, youth and children particularly where child protection issues are involved,” Upper Hunter Shire Council Manager of Community Services, Kerri Cone, said.

“Upper Hunter Shire Council provides services including childcare, Youth Centres and Libraries, which enhance the quality of family life in our Shire.

“Council needs to work with schools, state government and the non Government sector to ensure that families and young people are given the best range of options, referrals and assistance when experiencing times of stress or crisis.

“Identified issues varied across the region but included mental health problems, lack of resilience, substance abuse, low parenting skills, anger management, cyber bullying, lack of transport and isolation,” Mrs Cone said.

Upper Hunter Library Co-ordinator, Elizabeth Walter, and Council Youth Workers, Kaylene Holman and Felicity Orton, also attended.

“There was general agreement that learning about local resources, and building strong networks was of significant benefit for all organisations that attended,” Mrs Cone said.

“The Forum, instigated by Family InSight Inc was a great success.”

Michael Johnsen
MAYOR

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Scone on Monday, 21 April 2014 commencing at 5pm. Public participation is scheduled at the beginning of the meeting. Requests to address Council must:-

- be received in writing by noon on the day of the meeting
- address a current agenda item

All members of the community are welcome to attend.

P: Robyn Cox 6540 1126

MERRIWA COUNTRY MARKETS

The Merriwa Visitor Information Centre is hoping to co-ordinate a new Merriwa Home Made and Home Grown Market to be held monthly on the grounds of the Visitor Information Centre. This is scheduled to commence in July, any interested stall holders are asked to contact the Centre on the number below. This will enable local producers without a shop front to have a platform to sell their products on a monthly basis.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046
153 Bettington Street Merriwa  Reduced $185,000

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

15 Vennacher Street Merriwa  $167,000

Situated in walking distance to the Main Street this fully renovated home is ideal for someone wishing to down size to an easy to care for, convenient home. The two Bedrooms are big, both with built in’s and the main with a new ensuite and r/c air. The lounge is a good size and also features r/c air. The kitchen has plenty of space and a huge walk in pantry. At the rear of the home is a beautiful covered court yard with a second bathroom. There is a double garage which also houses the laundry. The yard is fully fenced and ideal for a small dog. This home is perfectly suited to a couple or single person.

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Clean toilets!

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

Dr Ramses Salama
Merriwa Surgery (Monday to Friday)
Opposite the Merriwa Post Office
Immunizations available
4 year old check up
Ph 6548 2305
Fax 6548 2480

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

Dress For Less
Trinity Markets
Accessories, Books, Nick-Nacks
Clothing for all the family
DONATIONS WELCOME
Tues-Fri
9:00am - 12:30pm
Sat
9:00am - 12:00pm
118 Bettinigton St, Merriwa
6548 2323

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

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

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

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We will get you to your appointments on time with special care.
Office hours 9.30 to 3.30 weekdays
Bottle Museum building or leave a message on answering service for a call back.
Tel/Fax 6548 653

St Davids Uniting Church
Vennacher Street
Merriwa
Service Times
1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 11.00am
3rd Sunday at 6.00pm
Contact
Pastor Ross Neville - 6545 1396
Pastor Richard Moors - 6543 1168
Peter Campbell - 6548 5126

MERRIWA ANGLICAN PARISH
Services
Holy Trinity
St Columba
Merriwa
7.30am Mon
Wed & Fri Morning prayer
5pm Wed
Evening prayer
9am Sun
10am Fri Short Bible study
Cassilis
1st
2nd
3rd
4th
Sunday

www.merriwashow.com.au
Meet the second Monday of the month at 10.00am in the CWA rooms, Bettinigton Street
Visitors and new members are always welcome.

2014 Merriwa Springtime Show
19, 20, 21 September
Meet 4th Thursday of each month
Visitors always welcome

Enquiries to:
President: Julie Smith - 0429197397
Secretary - Elaine Sparrow - 6548560

Supporting The Smith family

Advertise here!
Get your business seen supporting the Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa Central School
Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL
Primary School: 6376 1009
Secondary School: 6376 1009

Merriwa Pre-school
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

MERRIWA RACING CLUB
President: David Alker
0427 42093
Vice Presidents: Peter Bishop & Paul Frampton
26 April 2014

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.

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL
Primary School: 6376 1009
Secondary School: 6376 1009

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Merriwa Pre-school: 6548 2083

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL
Primary School: 6376 1009
Secondary School: 6376 1009

Merriwa RSL Club
Restaurant Snack Bar
Take Away
Lunch Specials Monday-Friday
Lunch & Dinner 7 days
Parties & Weddings a specialty
 ATM, SKY CHANNEL CLUB TAB, CLUB KENO
DARTS, SNOOKER, POOL
Friday - Raffles and 3 Members Badge Draws
Sunday - Raffle Members Badge Draw between 11.30am & 1.30pm.
Jackpots $50 per week.
Club: 6548 2157
Restaurant: 6548 2295

Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft Est. 1947
President: Roger Moore 0427 153 446
Secretary: Megan Richards 0427 437 743
20,21,22 June 2014
Treasurer: Jodie Mobberley 0404 286 741
erriwacampdraft@gmail.com

Merriwa Rugby League & Netball Club Inc.
President: Matthew Attenborough
Vice President: Andrew Jamieson
Secretary: Treasurer: Kelly Walker
Netball Co-ordinator: Heidi Under
League Co-ordinator: Paul Madd

Merriwa PONY Club
RALLY DAY 2ND SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH
President: Clare Martin 6548 2201
Secretary: Christine Riley 0427 412 128
Treasurer: Yvonne McNaught 6548 2842

Merriwa Little Athletics
2013/14 season training from 5.30 to 7.00pm
Merriwa No. 2 Oval (throughout Terms 4 & 1)
Enquiries to: Tash Taaffe
6548 5002 or email: tashholden@bigpond.com

Merriwa Sports Club Ltd 6548 2028
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 Sporties 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

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For the information of members and their guests
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<td>Woolbrook Rural Industries</td>
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**Merriwa Doctor Contacts**

- Dr N Jawaad: 6532 5013
- Merriwa Surgery: 6548 2305
- Merriwa Hospital: 6532 5000

**Emergency Contacts**

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

** WANT TO BE IN THIS? ** Call Tina Taylor at the Merriwa Ringer on 6548 2119

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**RING 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
Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $550.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm. The number was 722. This week it jackpots to $600.00. The 7.00pm draw for $480.00 was not won. The number was 136. This week it jackpots to $500.00. The 9.00pm draw for $320.00 was not won and the number was 650. This week it jackpots to $340.00. LTPS/13/04473

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $650.00 was not won last week. The number was 625 and this week it jackpots to $700.00. 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 up dated every two weeks with new songs.

Thursday nights from 7.00pm - Social Darts.

Thursday 10 April 2014, Senior’s movie day in the Squatter’s Corner 1.00pm.

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 - 7.00pm for 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.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday 22 March 2014
Saturday Members Draw no 319 next week $120.00
Winners Jackpot next week $340.00.
Free Tickets: Sylvia Wickens
Dinner: Trish Sandruly
Bowls Raffle: John Dening
Monthly Prize: Jill Whitby

Sunday 23 March 2014
Sunday Members draw no 366 next week $400.00.
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

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

Smorgasbord
Sunday 30 March
6.00pm

John Rindfleish
**LADIES BOWLS NEWS**

Lovely rain last week.

We were all set to play championship games but they had to be postponed.

Invitation for Cassilis is on the board.

Mixed triples social day (Mufti dress), Thursday April 10, box draw. Morning tea 9.30am Cost is $10.00 includes lunch. Names to Loretta by April 9.

*Beatrice Voysey*

**MEN’S BOWLS NEWS**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Welcome to this week’s Bowls report, firstly we had a bye which we didn’t need at this time of the season as the team are playing well as a unit, yet to lose a game, Saturday, April 5, we play Aberdeen at home this club are just behind us. A win will give some breathing space and consolidate our lead.

**The teams are:**

1. Phil, Jim, Garry and Max
2. Greg, Ken, Allan and Des

Could all bowlers be at the club by 12MD please as we have matters that need to be discussed. Good to hear that Mick is recovering well from his recent illness, we all wish him well.

*Phil Rush (Rabs)*

**LADIE'S GOLF**

**Continued from page 31**

Day 2 was a much more fruitful day for our ladies. Of note was Libby Moore, who has not played golf for some five months after taking up official Grandmother duties to twin boys. Libby had a “slow” start on the first day while she reacquainted herself with her golf clubs and on the second day she took out first place for “Best Nett Score in Division 3” with a score of 74. Susan Weis won “Best Gross score in Division 2” with 97 while De Patterson found herself in another three way countdown, this time for first place in Division 1 Nett with a score of 74, again only to be denied a prize! She did, however, receive a ball in the ball comp together with Susan in Division 2 and Libby, Merrie Llewelyn, Dinie Bishop, Gay Stanton and Mary Rodgers in Division 3.

Mary Rodgers played very consistent golf over the two days to come home with the trophy for “Best Nett score over 36 holes in Division 3” with 157. De Patterson was again in a three way countdown for “Best Nett score over 36 holes in Division 1” with 147 and, guess what? She missed out again. She did, however, win the “Best Player over 36 holes from a Sandgreen Club”.

Not bad results for a small club of very enthusiastic and dedicated golfers. Well done girls.

*De Patterson*

**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:** $115 – Elaine Sparrow - unclaimed - $120 next week.

**Joker Draw:** $813 – Paula Palmer - unsuccessful - $851 next week.

**End on Month Draw:** March - Natalie Haydon

**Bookings:** Cassilis Bowling Club 6376 1002.

*Hilary Parker*

**Remember!**

Get your articles and advertisements into the *Merriwa Ringer* BEFORE 12 noon MONDAYS.
Here we go! Junior Rugby League is about to start. This weekend will see all teams playing Round 1 of the competition. Teams through 6 to 11’s will play at Singleton.

- Under 6’s  - 9.00am
- 7’s  - 9.50am
- 8’s  - 10.40pm
- 11’s - 2.00pm.

The Under 15’s play at Learmonth Park against South Newcastle at 10.00am.

All players speak to your coach about times to assemble at the ground prior to your game. As a rule it is usually half an hour prior to kick off time. If you have transport problems again speak to your coach for car pooling. There is always someone with a spare seat who can take your child.

All players should have filled in their registration forms either on-line or with or secretary Elaine and paid their $60.00 registration fee. If this has not been done please talk to Elaine before Saturday. Under 15’s will have a name check on the day. If your registration details have not been cleared by head office you will not be permitted to play by the officials present on the day. They will have a list of registered players to tick off. Don’t let your team down. Make sure you are registered.

See you all at training.

Elaine Sparrow
Secretary

Merriwa Little A’s
How fast our season has gone! This Monday April 7 is our FINAL training for the season, our AGM and trophy presentation night. To fit everything in we will be starting training on Monday night at 5.00pm with the AGM to follow at 6.00pm, end of year trophy presentation and then a family barbeque.

Bring along a plate of something to share like fruit, sweet, salad, dip/crackers etc. The club will provide water, poppers, steak and sausage sandwiches. If the weather doesn’t look good, we will send you a text on your mobile with an alternative venue (or call Tash directly on 0458 574 015).

Last week our Little Athletes did a stiring job in the javelin, hurdles and 200 metre sprints. Some great times and throws were recorded in each of the events with standout performances by tiny tots Inara West and William Luke. Always there with a beaming smile, William flew over the hurdles in fine form with Inara showing plenty of natural flare for her self declared ‘favourite event of the year’ – great work you two!

Darcy Moore got the ‘gold star’ for javelin this week, throwing some huge throws in fine style, nice one Darcy. Big thanks also to our brilliant parent helpers – Brion and Sarah Booth, Richard Magner, Roger Moore and Belinda Keane – always great to have you at the end of the finish line or measuring tape.

Tash Taaffe

Soccer Open Day
THINKING OF SIGNING UP FOR SOCCER THIS SEASON?

Scone Junior Soccer are holding an open day on Saturday April 5, starting at 9.30am, at the town soccer fields. Come and try small-sided games, learn the rules of small-sided games if you have children participating this year, or just pick up your free gear if you have already registered.

There’ll also be socks and shorts available for sale for anyone who needs them – including players in the intertown competition. There are limited places left in the 14’s intertown team if anyone is interested in playing in this competition.

For more information on registering players contact Lesley Hayward on 0413 958 478.

Nicky Western
Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

Last Saturday seen the start of the footy season for the Magpies, with both league tag and reserves taking on Muswellbrook at Merriwa’s No 1 oval.

The League Tag girls started off with their first ever game against quite a strong Muswellbrook team. Muswellbrook started very strong and posted three early tries to go to 16 – nil lead, Merriwa than started to get into the game and after a break made by Taylah Blackadder, who found Montana Kisi in support to score their first try and go to the halftime break down 16 – 4.

The second half again seen Muswellbrook start with a couple of quick tries, Merriwa than settled in the middle of the second half only to see Muswellbrook finish with a few late tries to run out winners 40 – 4.

As my first view of League Tag, I thoroughly enjoyed the game and congratulate the girls on a great first up effort. You played the game in good spirit and never gave up, and will now have a better understanding of the game and the aspects needed to work on.

La Scaletta Players Player - Jessyca Morgan

Sicko’s Woman of the Match - Brooke Williams-Fawcett.

The second game of the day seen Merriwa take to the field for their first time this season, and with many faces missing from last year and 6 new faces, played a really strong game. Muswellbrook started the scoring with an early try that was converted to lead 6 – nil, the magpies hit back with a try to Jon Nutt and conversion by C-Bird to go to the break 6 all.

In a spiteful second half Muswellbrook scored first to lead 12-6, the Magpies worked hard and hit back with a try to Ben Morgan and conversion from C-Bird to level 12 all. Soon after the magpies went to lead with a try to Blake Ellis 16 – 12, and with 10 mins to go where looking comfortable. Muswellbrook then hit back with a converted try to take a18 – 16 lead with 5 mins remaining. With only 30 seconds remaining Merriwa received a penalty 45m out, kicked for touch, then the ball swung left, and then back to the right C-Bird put a kick into the corner for Nick who crossed the line for what looked a certain match winning try only to controversy disallowed, leaving the score 18 – 16 in Muswellbrook’s favour. Congratulations to the team on their first game of the season, and welcome to the new players; Darryl Mulholland, Jey Rawlinson (first time gamers), Phil Cousins first game for 20 years, (said he was 30 last time he played), Bradley Ellis (first game out of under 18’s but still eligible to play them), Brendan Moore and Chris Chesworth. The team will only improve from here and with a few inclusions from ex players sitting on the sideline (I now who you are) will have a successful season.

Blitz ‘N’ Pizzas Players Player - Brendan Moore

Sicko’s Man of the Match - Brendan Moore.

Next Sunday Merriwa play Scone at Scone with League tag to kick off at 12.50pm, hope you can make it to the game to support your magpies.

The Merriwa Magpies would like to thank their 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
- Rockwell Livestock and Property
- Frampton Farms
- Bitz ‘N’ Pizzas

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. This is the Grand Final that was to be played last week but due to Finals and Grand Finals being washed out, games are now on tomorrow night.

- B devision will be at 6.00pm - Men’s and Women’s
- A Grade Ladies at 6.45pm
- A Grade Mens at 7.30pm
- Presentation and music from 8.30pm.

If by chance the weather has opened up on Wednesday just gone, Finals will be played in place of the Grand Final and Grand Final will be played Wednesday 9 April with presentation directly after.

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

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

Matt Morgan

Tina Taylor
Merriwa Ladies Golf

On Tuesday March 25, eight Merriwa Ladies travelled to Uralla for the New England District Golf Association (NEDGA) Ladies Open Championships, which hosted 80 players from all over the New England as well as Grafton, Tamworth and, of course Merriwa. Although the weather was not really conducive to golf, with the third and final day being abandoned, we had a fabulous time and did our town proud by returning with some of the pickings on offer.

After the first day, during which we familiarised ourselves with a course we have never seen, De Patterson managed a nett 73, which saw her in a three way countback for second place in Division 1, only to be denied. She did, however receive a ball in the ball comp, along with Mary Rodgers who had a nett 75 in Division 3.

Continues page 27

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

GM Llewelyn and Co
Real Estate, Stock & Station Agents
**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</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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<td>Friday 18</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 19</td>
<td>Easter Saturday</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>Friday 25</td>
<td>ANZAC Day - Dawn Service - 5.40am - Main Service - Assembly 10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 26</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - 8.00am - Merriwa Race Day - Merriwa Sports Club - “Loose Change” - 8.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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