Karen Campbell sent through a great shot for this month’s photography competition, “Dry and Dusty”, sponsored by “Stay-n-Play Produce”.

The next competition will be sponsored by Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces and with the ‘Fleeces’ just around the corner, “Australian Wool” is the topic. This competition closes June 2 at 12.00noon and is sponsored by Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces. This could be a way for you to sort your photos for the coming festival display!
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

invites the Merriwa Community to their major fundraiser for 2014 - the ‘Mum’s the Word’

Mother’s Day Lunch – Next Friday May 9

Please join us at the Merriwa School of Arts Supper Room from 12.00pm – 3.00pm

Bring friends, children and that special Mum for a delicious meal for just $25.00

≈ OUR MENU ≈

ENTRÉE - Pumpkin Soup or Chicken and Corn Soup
MAIN - Beef Stroganoff, Lamb Curry or Sweet and Sour Pork
DESSERT – Cheesecake, Sticky Date or Chocolate Pudding

Tea and Coffee

Can’t make Lunch - please consider a home or business delivery or a Takeaway Pack to spoil someone special for dinner and LOOK OUT for our RAFFLE tickets!

TAKEAWAY ORDER AND LUNCH HOME DELIVERY FORM

Name:..............................................................................................................Contact phone:......................................................
Delivery Address:....................................................................................................Best time.............pm

Drop ORDER Forms at Merriwa Central School Primary/Secondary Office or Max’s Country Cuts

Please deliver ___ Hot Luncheon Packs at $25.00 each

ENTREE – Your choice ☐ Pumpkin Soup OR ☐ Chicken and Corn Soup
MAIN - Your choice, served with rice, of:
☐ Beef Stroganoff OR ☐ Lamb Curry OR ☐ Sweet and Sour Pork
DESSERT - Your choice:
☐ Cheesecake OR ☐ Sticky Date OR ☐ Chocolate Pudding

TAKEAWAY CHILLED MEAL PACKS ORDER:

Please deliver ___ FAMILY Packs: One Main + 4 x Desserts at $40.00 each
Please deliver ___ SINGLE Packs: One Main + Rice at $15.00 each

☐ Beef Stroganoff OR ☐ Lamb Curry OR ☐ Sweet and Sour Pork
☐ Cheesecake OR ☐ Sticky Date OR ☐ Chocolate Pudding

Contact – Maria Cameron on 6548 7272 or 0427 487 274

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Merriwa Business Houses
**Principals Report**

Welcome back to a new school term. I trust everyone had a relaxing Easter Break and enjoyed the glorious weather over the school holidays. Thank you all staff and students who took time out during the break to represent our school at the community ANZAC Day commemorations. It is with much anticipation knowing that this time next year Breanna Goodear, will be representing our school and community at ANZAC Cove commemorating the 100 Anniversary of the Landing.

**NEW STAFF**

We welcome new staff to our Primary campus this term. Miss Isabel Crutch has taken up a temporary appointment and will be teaching Year 5/6 this term. The vacant assistant principal position left by Mr Kite appointment to Scone Public School will be advertised in the coming weeks. Miss Brooke Beith will replace Mrs Osmond who is on leave in the library. A new position announced last term called an Instructional Leader will focus on supporting students K-2 in literacy and numeracy. I am pleased to announce Kara Allison from Denman Public School has been appointed and will take up the position in Week 4 this term. I am sure students and parents will make our new staff welcome.

**STAR STRUCK FUNDRAISING**

Our Star Struck students in both Primary and Secondary have been busy fundraising for the big event. Travel and accommodation expenses in the lead up to the performance are quite considerable, and the girls have set themselves an admirable target for their fundraising. Thank you to the parents and grandparents for your assistance in this process. A special thank you to Diane Byfield who has made a lovely quilt which she has donated to the girls to be raffled.

**P AND C MEETING**

It was great to see lots of new faces at our recent P and C meetings. The new committee has some great ideas and is keen to support students at our school. The first major function they have initiated is the Mother’s Day luncheon next Friday. Come along and join our P and C meeting next Wednesday at 7.00pm at the RSL Club, and perhaps lend a hand at the luncheon on Friday.

**YEAR 11 EXAMINATIONS**

Year 11 Half Yearly Exams will commence in Week 5 (May 26). All students should have a study timetable in place which goes beyond their usual homework. It is important students have a quiet space and desk to organise homework and study. The kitchen table or in front of the TV doesn’t provide the conditions for effective study. Study skills need to be developed over time so that students can identify the ones which work for them.

**COMMUNICATION A TWO-WAY PROCESS**

If you are concerned about your child’s progress, or are unclear about school uniform or procedures please do not hesitate to contact the school. Classroom teachers, year adviser’s, the school counsellor, and executive staff have different areas of responsibility. Our office staff can direct your concerns to the appropriate person who can assist. Staff are more than happy to arrange an appointment to discuss parent concerns. It is much easier to resolve a matter early in the piece rather than several months down the track.

Darren Noonan  
Principal

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**CHANGE OF DATE**

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

will be held this

**Friday 2 May**

**Coming Events**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2</td>
<td>• Whole School Athletics Carnival - Merriwa Sports Oval 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>• Merriwa Central School P and C meeting, Merriwa RSL Club, 7.00-8.30pm</td>
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</table>
| Friday 9  | • Regional Cross Country - Broadmeadow Racecourse  
|           | • P and C’s Mothers Day Luncheon                   |

**Find us on Facebook!**

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
Primary News
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Our last week of term would not be complete without our fantastic students of the week.

Congratulations to the last book award recipients for last term:

**Kindergarten class:** Shawn Smith

**1/2 class:** Mitchel Cox

**2/3 class:** Jack Goodear

**4/5 class:** Makala Birtles

**5/6 class:** Harrison Amidy

**REWARDS DAY**

Rewards Day was held on the last day of term with the eligible primary students participating in the Trivia Competition and the eligible infants students participating in a rotation of Easter-themed activities including an egg hunt, egg and spoon races, egg painting and even biscuit decorating! The students all had a wonderful time and some amazing senior students did a wonderful job by running some of the activities. We look forward to seeing many eligible students at Rewards Day at the end of Term 2.
ANZAC MARCH

On Friday 25 March the school participated in the town march for the ANZAC Day service. It was a lovely day and a very moving service. Thank you to the families and students who attended and remembered our fallen Merriwa heroes. Thank you to the P and C for the donation of the wreaths that were placed at the town memorial.

NEWSPAPER WRITING COMPETITION

Last term students from Years 3-5 participated in the Merriwa Newsagency ‘Create Your Own Story’ Writing Competition. We were very proud to hear that two students from Merriwa Central School were recipients of awards in the competition. Well done to Nikita Constable on your Runner Up award and to Jack Ponsford on being Winner of the competition for 2014. Great work!

Mr Kite Farewell

Last term, we farewelled Assistant Principal, Mr Glen Kite. It was a sad day as we said goodbye to a great teacher who had been at Merriwa for some time. We would like to wish him all the best in his new position at Scone. Thank you Mr Kite for all your efforts at Merriwa Central School!

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

Secondary News

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The year has been off to a busy start with continued work on the Ag plot fences, our Mother’s Day flowers propagation project and the building of a new chicken run.

The 7/8 Technology Mandatory rotation completed portfolios and models on goat enclosures and have been active in the gardens, making the most of unseasonal weather we had earlier in the term.

The 9/10 Agriculture class have studied pig production and Viticulture and focussed their research on the pests and diseases of vineyards. We have also had some experimental gardeners trying their hands at vertical gardening, and hope to continue looking at alternative methods of growing plants this term.

Year 11 Agriculture students have been focussing their efforts on a farm case study and we would like to thank Mr Lenny Coluccio for hosting us at Stone Hill vineyard. This term they will be concentrating their efforts on animal production.

Year 12 Agriculture students completed their Product Study on beef last term and now that their examinations are over, have commenced work on their Elective of Climate Change.

The Primary Industries students have constructed a new chicken run and prepared the ground for sowing. Many thanks to Mr David Wightman for once again sowing our paddock with oats for winter feed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wayne Meyer and Merriwa Petroleum and Ag for their continued support and donations of materials for the Ag plot.

Please come and visit our stall on Saturday May 10, outside the IGA, where we will be selling our blooming gifts for Mother’s Day.
 why I want to be in ROAR? I want to be active and have fun  
What is my favourite subject: Sport  
What is my favourite sport? Rugby League  
What is my favourite team? Knights  
Favourite Player: Uate  
Best personal sporting achievement: I enjoyed making it to zone for swimming, athletics and cross country  
Who inspires you and why: My Great Pop, because he survived World War II, and he was a great sportsman.  
Advice to young players: Try your hardest, work as a team and have fun!
In the 15 Years Boys event, Caleb Withers ran steadily to cover the 4 kilometre course and finished just outside the top 10. In the car on the way home, he admitted that he was pretty pleased to reach his aim of competing at Zone this year. He is now planning his training schedule ready for next year. Another solid performance was Elaina Sormaz’s performance in the 14 Years Girls’ event. Elaina has been pounding the pavements around Merriwa for months and she was quietly confidently as she started her race. She said the day before that “I am interested in finding out how I will perform against the runners from Scone, Singleton and Muswellbrook.” She ran strongly around the 4 kilometre course and won her event and automatically qualifies to compete at the Regional Trials.

Our sole competitor in the 14 Years Boys event was Kyle McLennan. He relied on his months of training and was able to jog around the course. He finished in sixth position, which again qualifies him to run at the Hunter Schools Regionals. On the way home in the car, Kyle related how proud he was of his performance saying “My training really paid off and I had a bit of fun running today!”

In the 13 Years Boys race, Ben Keane had a great run finishing second overall. He was pretty quiet about his achievement after the race. I am sure he is chasing equally good results at the Regional Carnival. Oliver Towell also competed in this race. He thought his tenth position finish was alright. He is keen to “work a bit harder so I can come back next year.”

Lastly (but by no means least) Jasmine-Rose Hammond was in the final race of the day. In one of the biggest fields of the day, the girls performed consistently around the 3 kilometre course. Jasmine was really pleased with her start and then was able to maintain her pace well. She reported a little later “It was a pretty good experience!”. She is also inspired to train a little harder next year in order to represent the school in 2015.

The students would like to thank Mr Hunt, Mrs Sormaz, Mrs Megan Towell, Mrs Kate Blackadder and Miss King for offering their time and efforts in safely transporting the team to and from Singleton.

Finally, the school offers its best wishes to Taylah, Brooke, Manda, Elaina, Kyle and Ben in their preparation for their performances at the Regional Carnival. The Hunter Schools Sport Cross Country is being held in Newcastle on May 9. We will be able to pass on their results in a future edition of the Merriwa Ringer.

Breanna Goodear will represent our community at Gallipoli in 2015

-- Alison King
Sports Coordinator

Favourite Subject: Wood and Music
Extra-Curricular activities: Hanging out with my friends and camping with my family
Best Personal Achievements: Represented my school at State level as part of the Cassilis Primary School relay team. The Amazing Race winning team member at the recent Awards Day
Year Advisor’s Comment: Stephanie is a well liked, cheerful and friendly member of Year 7. She is enjoying being part of Merriwa Central School and likes most of her practical subjects. Keep up the good work Stephanie.
Stephanie was a member of the winning Oxley House team on the recent Rewards Day contrary to Mr Grant’s claims on the day.

Andrew Duncan
Year Advisor

Student of the Week
Stephanie McLennan
Year 7
What an exciting Term 1 we have had. We enjoyed preparing for Easter and creating a beautiful Lenten Tree. We added flowers to its growth during Lent. Each week we wrote something we would like to do for others to be more like Jesus on the back of a flower and added it to our tree.

We also spent some time looking at spaces in our environment and began to discuss the possibility of having a picture theatre in Merriwa. We discussed where would be a good place and what would be some of the things needed to begin to design this space. This term we will be investigating materials and how they can change when you beat, bend, cook, dry, wet, sift, squash, twist and mix. It will be lots of fun!

Sport allowed us to show off our skills in Cross Country running, it was wonderful to see how much we all improved and the great effort we put in at the carnival. We should be all very proud of our efforts. We look forward to developing other skills in preparation for the Athletics carnival later this term.

In HSIE last term we learnt about all the different workers in our community and how important each worker is. We chose our favourite worker—police, doctor, builder, chef, and teacher—and gave a speech to our class.

In visual arts we spent the term building a city scape. First of all we marbled our paper, drew a city, put a red hand print on the paper to represent five little firefighters, and made some workers in the community puppets. We also made some Easter cards and rocking hens.

We are becoming fantastic writers and enjoy writing exciting sentences at the start of each day. During the term we wrote letters to home. This was a lot of fun, we typed them on the computer, then addressed our envelopes before we walked down to the Post Office, put a stamp on them and mailed them home. It was very exciting to see our parent’s faces when they received the letters at home. It was a special surprise for everyone. We also wrote letters to people at home wishing them a Happy Easter. We have really enjoyed all our writing and are looking forward to this term’s writing.

During Maths we are enjoying many different Maths activities, especially the games we play. We use many different materials to help us complete Maths problems and we like working out the problems and doing group work. It is amazing how many mathematical concepts we have in everyday life. It is important to talk to children about maths. If you are in the back shed building, explain to your children how you work out how much you need of different materials; if you are in the kitchen discuss what measurements you are using in your cooking and get your children to help; and when you are out shopping see how many mathematical questions you can ask or set problems for your children to solve. You will be helping them with their mathematical skills and the children will love it.

On the last Friday of our holidays we joined the Merriwa and Cassilis community in commemorating ANZAC day. A special mention to Gaby Nichols who was able to represent us at the Cassilis ceremony. The students who attended this occasion marched with pride and are to be congratulated on their behaviour and respect they showed during the entire march.
and ceremony. It is always a privilege to have ex-students join us on these occasions. Afterwards it was wonderful to catch up with school friends and share in a barbeque provided by the RSL of Merriwa.

Congratulations to the following major award winners last term:

- **The Spirit of St Joseph Award** for Term One was awarded to Piper Cropper.

Piper is a very caring and friendly young girl who always greets everyone with a big smile. She is a regular participant at many of our school and community events such as ANZAC Day march, Festival of the Fleeces and street Christmas carols. Piper is always willing to help out with jobs around the school and in the classroom.

Thank you to the Neville, Leanne and Stephanie Hook and the Merriwa Newsagency for their generous sponsorship of this award.

**ACTIONS NOT WORDS**

- **The Principal’s Award** this week goes to Gaby Nicholls for representing our school and flying our banner solo at Cassilis ANZAC Memorial march.

_Mrs Anne Marie Peebles and Mrs Tanya Ninness_

On behalf of the staff and students of St Joseph’s school, I would like to thank Mr Lannen for all his hard work and dedication as a teacher and community member in Merriwa and wish him all the very best for his future.

We welcome Miss Paige Farrow to the St Joseph’s and Merriwa community. Miss Farrow will be teaching Year 3/4 for the rest of the 2014 school year.

_Mrs Helen Whale_

“**WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE RINGER**”

WHAT THE COMMUNITY THINK ABOUT THE RINGER!

“The ability to communicate easily with the whole community and to know what is happening around us.”

_Jane Smith_
Welcome back! I trust everyone has had a chance to recharge their batteries. We have a short, but very busy term ahead of us.

ATHLETICS

Our athletics program will begin on Thursday this week. Unfortunately, Tanya Penfold is unable to coach the students this year, so Mrs Parker and Ms Higgins will take on the training. Now that staff are running the program, there will be no cost to the students. All students who have already paid their money will get a full refund.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

All of Year 6 will be attending a Leadership Conference in Tamworth next Tuesday. They will learn about skills needed to successfully fulfil their various leadership roles within the school and as representatives on the SRC. Permission notes and information regarding the day was sent home last term.

NAPLAN

A reminder that all students in Years 3 and 5 will be sitting for NAPLAN assessments in reading, writing, grammar and punctuation and numeracy in Week 3 of this term.

SRC EASTER HAT PARADE

What a wonderful way to end the term. It was great to see so many parents and community members supporting our end of term assembly and parade. All students put their thinking hats on and created the most amazing array of Easter Hats. There were hats decorated with chickens, eggs, pom poms, streamers, bling and crepe paper. It was a very difficult decision for the judges to choose the best hat in each school year. Thank you to the Kinder buddies who judged the Year 6 hats and thank you to the school captains and vice-captain, who judged all the others. Congratulations to all our winners. All winners received a certificate and a book.

Pre-School – Highly Commended – Thomas McLean and Shykiah Walters.
Kinder – Harry Thompson
Year 1 – Steven Allen
Year 2 – Cambell Hinze
Year 3 – Ayden Marsh

YEAR 4 – William Stair
YEAR 5 – Jacob Marsh
YEAR 6 – Codi Marsh

SRC RAFFLE

Thank you to all families who supported the SRC’s Easter raffle by donating Easter Eggs and/or buying tickets. A grand total of $423.00 was raised for the Starlight Foundation. A fantastic effort for a small school.

Congratulations to the following winners:
Abby Dewson, Olivia McLean (2), Katie Pike (4), Ayden Marsh, Dan Adams (2), Mrs Darlington (4), Sam Thompson, Hudson Wallace, Steven Allen, Stair Boys, Mrs Parker (2), Rhyme Anderson (2), Jacob Marsh, Hayley Taylor, Andrew Harris (2), Borradaile Family, Marshall Hinze, Darcy Wallace, Abby Cooper, Rowdy Walters, Thomas McLean, Carole Lane (2), Jackson Stair, Dimity Lane, Bella Wallace, Kristy Walker, Glen Walker and Marion Bailey.

STATE SWIMMING

Congratulations to Amy Thompson, Sam Thompson, Andrew Harris and Jackson Stair, who represented the school in individual and the relay at the state swimming carnival.

Andrew competed in the 8 Year Boys 50m free style, where he placed second. In the finals, he placed seventh overall. This earned him a spot on the Hunter Region relay team in the Boys All Age Relay.

Amy, Sam, Andrew and Jackson competed as a relay team in the PS relay event. They placed eleventh in heats, missing out on a spot in the finals by a mere 0.08th of a second. A phenomenal effort!

We are all very proud of their efforts!

ZONE CROSS COUNTRY

Angus Higgins will travel to Newcastle next week to represent the school in the regional cross country. We wish him the very best.

BUSH POET

On Friday Carol Heuchan will perform some bush
poetry at school. This performance is sponsored by the Denman Lion's Club and is free of charge to the students.

Christina Darlington
Principal

FROM THE P AND C

On the first Saturday of the school holidays the P and C provided afternoon tea at the Sandy Hollow Charity Ride to raise money for the Westpac Helicopter service. For doing this we will receive a donation. Thank you to Michelle Walker, Michelle Stennett, Nicola Field, Lyric Anderson, Anita Hinze and Tammy Roberts-Webster for providing yummy cakes and slices for the event. A huge thank you to John Gelder, Nicola Field, Jeannie Harris, Amelia Harris and Chelsea Borradaile who served the afternoon tea to all the visitors. It was a great afternoon.

Our next fundraising event will be this Saturday 3 May at the Upper Hunter Wine and Food Affair. A note went home with the students earlier this week asking for volunteers to lend a hand.

Jeannie Harris

ANZAC Day at Cassilis

ANZAC Day 2014 turned out to be really special. For the first time in many years the people of Cassilis had a march starting from the Police Station and ending at the War Memorial Park Gates of course. The march was led by James Stewart playing the bagpipes, who actually gave up a date with with Royal Family in Canberra to be with us in Cassilis (we would have understood if you had decided to go to Canberra Jim). He was followed by Kathy Sumpter leading her horse Solly, the riderless horse with the boots set backwards in the stirrups as a mark of respect, usually for The Light Horse. They were closely followed by Capt. Jim Barling of the Army Cadet Unit and three cadets from Mudgee, and our guest speaker Warrant Officer Class 2 (apologies Andrew if I have this wrong) Andrew Warner. Then came the school children from Cassilis Public School, St Josephs in Merriwa and some representatives from a school in Coolah, (my apologies kids as I’m not sure which school you were from) with members of the Cassilis community bringing up the rear. Around 30 marchers in all.

Apart from a little wind which played havoc with the paper the speeches were written on, the weather was excellent considering the conditions that some marchers in other parts of NSW had to march in. Again there was it was a good assembly with around 70-80 people all up.

Master of Ceremonies, David Morrow, did a great job as always keeping the service on track. As there was no priest available for our service this year, yours truly officiated with the prayers for the fallen, the blessing of the wreaths and the benediction.

The Cassilis Public School children led the congregation in the Ode of Remembrance and School Captain Sarah Nairne and Vice-Captain Brady Nairne raised the flag during the Rouse.

As mentioned before our guest speaker was Andrew Warner. His speech was the story of the Anzacs in Gallipoli on that fateful day in 1915.

Hilary Parker
Merriwa Rotary

Merriwa Rotary Club will bring the MERV van to Merriwa for this year’s Festival of the Fleeces.

WHAT IS MERV?

MERV stands for Men’s Educational Rural Van, originally an initiative of the Mudgee Rotary Club and now based in Dubbo.

It gives men who live in rural parts of Australia the opportunity to have a general health check at no cost. Traditionally many men are reluctant to have nagging health problems checked, because “it will go away soon”.

MERV is staffed by health professionals who give an assessment of a patient’s health and provide sound advice.

Hundreds of men have attended MERV since the project began four years ago. The numbers have been increasing each year.

The common problems dealt with were high blood pressure, diabetes, bowel cancer, mental health, sexual health, obesity, prostate, poor diet and lung disease. Occasionally participants are advised to go directly to hospital as a result of preliminary tests.

Feedback from the health workers who have staffed these vans has been very positive and very supportive. Comments include “good, successful day”, “well worth the effort, hope it continues”.

Men are encouraged to attend this Merriwa Rotary free clinic for their benefit and for the sake of their families.

Please take this opportunity! Make a note in your diary or on your calendar now.

Mark Smith

Anglican News

Regular Church Services - page 28

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Women’s Guild meeting - first Thursday monthly
May to November: 2.00pm

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

Men’s breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday monthly April to November: 8.00am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mothers Day Cake Raffle: Tickets are available from Merriwa Pharmacy, Di’s Clothing Patch and Guild members.

Cake Raffle Drawn: 10 May

Anglican Womens Gathering: 15 May - 10.00am at Muswellbrook, contact Joan Morgan on 02 6548 2036

Men’s Breakfast: 17 May - 8.00am at the Parish Hall.

May our Holy Week have the sounds of Jesus’ rising in you and your family and friends, a symphony of hope, faith and love to your ears - the sounds of singing in the rain. Bishop Gregory Thompson

And so we have journeyed through Holy Week, Easter time has been celebrated...So the cross is before us now with the wordless challenge to love beyond death. Take some time to think about events in your own life that have given you an experience of Jesus’ command to pick up your cross and follow him. Remember that we have the communion of saints to encourage us on our way!

We have honored Anzac Day, “Lest We Forget”...the Merriwa Races have been run...The children are back at school so into second term we head....

Contact: 0429 996 769

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa District Progress Association
TRAFFIC SAFETY IN MERRIWA’S MAIN STREET

The ever increasing flow of vehicles along the Golden Highway through Merriwa, increases the risk of accidents in the main street.

The Merriwa District Progress Association is devoting its May meeting to the discussion of all aspects of traffic safety along the town’s main street, with a view to adopting a concerted policy to approach the Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, and other relevant parties to address issues of Traffic Safety within the town.

The Association invites all residents with concerns about traffic through the town to attend this important meeting.

In addition we ask that anyone with specific topics relating to Traffic Safety in the town submit them prior to the meeting so they can be included in the agenda.

Items for discussion can be e-mailed to The Secretary at beron.ardenwood@gmail.com posted to PO Box 128 Merriwa 2329 or handed to Jan Cronin at Merriwa Pharmacy.

Among the topics under consideration are the extending the 50 kilometres per hour speed zones at either end of town, issues with the visibility of pedestrians using the crossing outside the Royal Hotel across Bettington Street and inadequate signage directing caravans to the available off street parking.

The May meeting of the Progress Association will be on Wednesday 28 May at Merriwa RSL commencing at 6.00pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Beron Arden-Wood

Hunter Local Lands Services
PASTURE AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) is inviting primary producers to come along to this free one day workshop, presented by the Agricultural Information and Monitoring Service (AIMS).

The workshop will help landholders increase the productivity of their grazing enterprises by improving their pasture and grazing management, soil fertility, water use and animal feeding strategies.

Topics that will be covered in the workshop include: Pasture Dynamics, Measuring Pasture Growth Rates, Calculating Water Use Efficiency and Utilisation, Feed Budgeting, Economics of Increasing Pasture Growth and Water Use Efficiency, Soil Pit Profile Analysis. For more information on AIMS, go to www.aimsag.com.au.

Time: 8.30 am – 4.30 pm
Date: Thursday 8 May 2014
Venue: Bunnan Hall

Places are limited so register now: online at hunterlls.wufoo.eu/forms/aims-workshop-bunnan, by phone LLS Officer Sarah Giblin on 6542 4437, or via email sarah.giblin@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Funding for this workshop has been provided through Glencore’s Wybong Catchment Health Improvement Program.

Phoebe Trongchittham

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

The next meeting for our Hospital Auxiliary will be held on Friday 16 May, 2014 at 2.00pm. The meeting will be held in the Nurses Home Conference Room, entrance off McRae Street.

We welcome all community members to attend our meeting and perhaps join our auxiliary (only $5.00 per year). Our main aim is to raise money to buy equipment for our MPS and the more members we have the easier the job will be. Our MPS is vital to our community. We never know when we might be in need of the health care that they provide so come join us on Friday 16 May, 2014 at 2.00pm.

Elaine Sparrow

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.
MCS in touch with our community!
3 DAYS OF FAMILY FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT!

Over 100 Market Stalls
Circus West Street Performers
State sanctioned Sheep Yard Dog Trials
Bush Poet’s Breakfast
Croc Stars Reptile Show
Sparkles the Clown
My Pet Dinosaur
The Hanging of the Quilts
CWA Morning Tea
Pleasant View Fibres Wool Spinning
City of Maitland Pipes and Drums
Upper Hunter Motoring Vintage Vehicles
Tullymore Clydesdale and Shire Horses
Cosy Iron Blacksmith
Anglican Church Morning Tea
ROAR Petting Zoo
FREE Train Rides
Merry-go-round
Blade Shearing Demonstrations
Opening Night Celebrations
Holy Trinity Open day
The ROSTO Olives Running of the Sheep
Working Sheep dog display
KaBoom Fireworks
Children’s lolly scramble
FREE Circus lessons
Children’s Hobbie Sheep Races
Team Penning Championships
CJO Photography exhibition
Australian Wool Display
Merriwa VRA and
Emergency Services Life Saving Demonstration
Dog High Jump
BIG DOG
Gregory North
Modern Day Shearing
Pembroke Merriwa Jumbucks
Festival Street Parade
Award and Trophy presentation

Food Stalls and Market Variety Stalls
Something for every one...

Thank you for your sponsorship to date,

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ROSTO Olives

NAMING RIGHTS AND MAJOR SPONSOR
ROSTO Olives

MAJOR SPONSOR
Upper Hunter Shire Council

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Alexiam of Merriwa Preserves and Cookery
Merriwa CWA

BRONZE EVENT SPONSORS
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Merriwa Sports Club
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Merriwa Pharmacy
Anthea Wright Veterinary Services
Falcon Grove Olives
Coal and Allied
The Welcoming Centre
Merriwa Auto Electrical
CJO Photography
Cassilis Public School

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Hunter Sports Group
Merriwa Volunteer Rescue Association
Merriwa Springtime Show
La Scaletta Pizzeria
Merriwa Newsagency
Merriwa Campdraft
Upper Hunter Team Penning
Merriwa Rotary
Merriwa Men’s Bowls

If you are interested in sponsoring a Festival

If you are interested in sponsoring a Festival

event please contact;
P:
Liam Garment 6521 7046

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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 Rd, Forest Reserve

Rd and Merriwa Rd.

Ausgrid has been a major supporter of

Merriwa’s annual Festival of the Fleeces since

2012. The event provides as a great opportunity

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

Liam Garment

NSW Farmers Association
NSW Farmers Association Supporting Merriwa

NSW Farmers Association supports farmers in our region by taking on regional issues and sticking by us through good times and bad regardless of which party is in government. Some of the issues our association is working on include:

MINING AND CSG

NSW Farmers holds regular free landholder mining and coal seam gas workshops around NSW. To find out more visit its website www.nswfarmers.org.au or call its Landholder Mining and Coal Seam Gas Hotline on 1300 794 000, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

NATIVE VEGETATION

A native vegetation survey has been launched to gather farmers’ view on the NSW Government’s draft native vegetation codes. If you are interested in participating, go to the front page of its website www.nswfarmers.org.au or contact Pat Ryan, President on 0428 485 090 or Aileen Hogan, Secretary on 0455 455 760.

OUR NEW, SIMPLE FEE STRUCTURE

The association has introduced a new flat fee of $399.00 plus GST which will give you access to the benefits of membership including information, advice and discounts to help your business. For more information contact Stu Murdoch, Regional Service Manager, Northern Region on 0427 437 103.

Aileen Hogan

Local Lands Services

Notice is hereby given that helicopter placement of 1080 wild dog bait will be carried out on Vacant and Reserved Crown Lands in the Parishes of Cumbo, Coggan, Fitzgerald, Barrigan, Burrumbelong, Marundurey and Growee.

Aerial bait placement will also be carried out on the State Forests known as Nullo, Coricudgy and Kandos in the Rylstone area.

Aerial bait placement will also be carried out on the freehold properties known as Eastwood, Phalaris Stud, Hamana, Tayar, Tayar Creek, The Nile, Emu Creek Goat Farm, Watervale, Burrumbelong, Murrumbo, Crowie, Coomeala, Hillside, Kei Glo, Burrawong, Hillview and The Rivers in the localities of Bylong, Merriwa, Rylstone and Glen Alice.

Aerial bait placement will also take place on the freehold properties of Tarkzine, Meaduligulah, Bulla Gully and Millers Creek Station in the district of Kars Springs.

Aerial bait placement will also be carried out on land occupied/managed by Ulan Coal Mines Ltd., Moolarben Coal Mines and Wilpinjong Coal in the locality of Ulan and Wollar.

Bait placement will be carried out between 9 May 2014 - 11 May 2014.

Enquiries to Snr Bio Security Officer Mal Leeson at the Mudgee office of the Central Tablelands Local Land Services on 0428 721 860 or 6372 1866.

Mal Leeson
Page 16

Mercira Ringer

News

Community Notice Board

Thank You Merriwa
DEAR RESIDENTS OF MERRIWA AND SURROUNDS

My name is Georgie Facchetti, I’m a third year Medical Student studying at the University of New England in Armidale. I have been fortunate enough to meet a good number in the last two weeks but for those who do not know, I have been on placement with Dr Jawaad at both Merriwa and Denman Multi Purpose Service Centres. This was my first ever official Medical placement and I wanted to sincerely thank the entire community for being so accepting of having me here. You truly have a beautiful town and I will remember how helpful, patient, and kind you were to me.

The privilege that you have given me in letting me sit in on your consultations with Dr Jawaad certainly is a privilege. Dr Jawaad is a fantastic teacher but he would not be able to teach me without the willing patients who have sat so patiently through many a lecture, or quiz, or an extra listen to the chest, or letting me administer my first flu injection. I wanted to say that you have made my first Medical Placement very memorable. I am a country girl but until last week I was not considering becoming a rural GP. But after seeing the way in which one doctor (with a strong team) can contribute so much to a community has strongly encouraged me to become a GP in a small community like Merriwa in the future.

I hope I haven’t put you off Medical Students, and I also hope you know that every consultation, examination, or skill you allow us to do or see is highly valued and appreciated by me and by every student. I hope that you continue to support us into the future as Dr Jawaad continues to generously support students like myself as we struggle through.

I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to all the Staff at both the clinics: All the hospital staff, Carol, Merredith, Kerrie, Moya, and of course to Dr Noman Jawaad. Dr Jawaad is a fabulous GP and has given me many more opportunities than I expected, he has been incredibly patient, and I have gained an immense amount of knowledge and confidence in myself from the last two weeks. I would highly recommend a visit.

I will miss you.

Georgie Facchetti

Rotary Exchange

ROTARY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENT EXCHANGE

2015 PROGRAM EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN

This program is designed for 14-16 year old students (In Year 8, 9 or 10 in 2015) to experience a true ‘exchange’ with a family in New Zealand. Local Students are matched with a New Zealand student and the New Zealand student will attend school in Australia during Term 2, 2015. Both students then return to New Zealand and attend school there for Term 3, 2015.

The students’ family hosts the NZ student and includes them in their normal family life.

This is an exciting way to experience another culture with the support of Rotary.

More information and expression of interest forms can be found at www.ranzse.org.

Expressions of interest close 30 June 2014.

Alison Tiananga
District 9670– Australia and New Zealand Exchange

Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft and Springtime Show

RSA COURSE

Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft and Merriwa Springtime Show are holding a fully Accredited RSA Course at the Merriwa RSL Club.

Date: 27 May 2014
Time: 9.00am – 4.00pm
Price: $135.00
Names must be in by May 16.

For bookings and enquiries please phone Megan Richards on 0427 437 743 or Toni Jones on 0498 378 500.

Anyone is welcome!

Megan Richards and Toni Jones

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.

Merriwa Ringer
Anglican Women’s Guild

Please note that the Mother’s Day Morning Tea advertised for Saturday 10 May 2014 has been cancelled.

Anglican Women’s Guild will be having a Mother’s Day cake raffle, made and iced by Merriwa’s very own Fiona Wightman! Tickets are available at Di’s Clothing Patch, Merriwa Pharmacy and any members of the Anglican Guild… Drawn Saturday 10 May!

Good Luck to every Mother in Merriwa and surrounds!

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa CWA

DATING FOR THE DIARY

CRAFT DAYS

Date: Wednesday 21 May
Date: Wednesday 18 June
Time: 1.00pm to 3.30pm

If you are working on a special project bring it along or just come along and enjoy the afternoon.

Thank you to all the ladies who worked at the races and made the day a success.

FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECEs

As usual the rooms will be opened early for that early morning coffee and light refreshments, lunch will also be available. Come along and support your CWA.

NEXT MEETING

Date: 12 May
Time: 10.00am

New members are always welcome!

Robyn McAlister

St Anne’s Parish

St Anne’s Parish will be having its quarterly “Bring and Share” light supper with tea and coffee after 6.00pm Mass on Saturday May 3 2014.

Please come and join us.

For more information please contact Mark Smith or Sue Shearman.

Mark Smith

Merriwa CWA

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

2014 marks the centenary of continuous service to the international, national and local community for the Australian Red Cross and Merriwa Red Cross.

Without the generous support of the Merriwa community this celebration would not have been achievable and to thank you we would like to invite you to an ecumenical service and afternoon tea to be held in the CWA Rooms on 2 May 2014 at 2.00pm.

Please come along and share with us this celebration of service for without your support, it would not have been possible. This is our thank you to you as a community.

RSVP for catering purposes: 30 April 2014 on 6548 2320.

Philomena Constable
Liaison Officer

Merriwa Senior Citizens

We will be having a Game’s Day at the Sports Club on Tuesday May 13 from 10.00am with Muswellbrook visitors.

Usual format - $6.00 lunch raffles and lucky door prizes, members please bring a salad.

This is always a lovely day so please come along and enjoy, non-members are also welcome to come.

Movie day on May 8 in the Squatters room at 1.00pm.

Mary O’Neill

Festival of Fleeces Bowls Gala Day

Time: 9.00am for a 9.30am start
Requirements: Teams of 4
Cost: Adults $10.00 and Children under 12 $5.00

Other events happening will include 100 Club, Chocolate Wheel, BBQ, Raffles and prizes.

Greg Wattson
Organiser
We all hope that you had a wonderful Easter holiday. There was so much on over the two weeks that everyone must have enjoyed it. With Easter, ANZAC Day and Merriwa Cup, the weather being fine and sunny for the most part and two weeks off school, the holiday period was very nearly perfect!

We have a lot of people to congratulate, so here they all are:

**SPIRIT OF ST JOSEPH**

The winner of this award for Term 1 was Piper Cropper. Piper is always showing the Spirit of the school, during school and outside it. Piper represents her school at many community events and is always looking out for her classmates at school.

**STORY WRITING COMPETITION**

There were many wonderful entries for our story writing competition. The children were asked to make up their own story about their favourite story character. The judges looked at the creativity and imagination that was found within these stories, and found picking a winner rather difficult! There were so many that could have won! We displayed many of them over the holiday period and many people - local and traveller- who stopped to read them. We were impressed by the efforts of all of the students who entered. The winners are:

- **Cassilis:** Brady Nairne and Sophie Anderson
- **Central School:** Jack Ponsford and Nikita Constable
- **St Joseph’s:** Chloe Towell and Darcy Moore

**SECOND CHANCE DRAW**

Our Friday afternoon second chance draw winners over the break were: Barry, Margaret and Paul. Congratulations to those who have won. Don’t forget to enter by putting your name on any non-winning locally bought ticket and put it in the box. It is drawn each week on Friday afternoon.

**EASTER BUNNY**

The winner of the big blue Easter Bunny that was displayed in the window was Heidi Grady.

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**ECZEMA AWARENESS**

Eczema (atopic dermatitis) is a recurring, non-infectious, inflammatory skin condition affecting one in three Australasians at some stage in their lives. The condition is most common in people with a family history of an atopic disorder, including asthma or hay fever.

Atopic eczema is the most common form of the disease among Australasians and with this, the skin becomes red, dry, itchy and scaly. In severe cases, the skin may weep, bleed and crust over, causing the sufferer great discomfort. Sometimes the skin may become infected. The condition can also flare and subside for no apparent reason.

Although eczema affects all ages, it usually appears in early childhood (in babies between two-to-six months of age) and disappears when the sufferer is about six years of age. In fact, more than half of all eczema sufferers show signs within their first 12 months of life and 20 per cent of people develop eczema before the age of five.

Most children grow out of the condition, but a small percentage may experience severe eczema into adulthood. The condition can not only affect the individual sufferer, but also their family and friends. Adult onset eczema is often difficult to treat and may be caused by other factors such as medications.

The causes of eczema are broken down into internal and external factors.

The internal factors can include a family history of eczema, asthma or hay fever (the strongest predictor) - if both parents have eczema, there is an 80 per cent chance that their children will too; particular food and alcohol (dairy and wheat products, citrus fruits, eggs, nuts, seafood, chemical food additives, preservatives and colourings); and stress.

The external factors are usually broken down into irritants - tobacco smoke, chemicals, weather (hot and humid or cold and dry conditions) and air conditioning or overheating; and allergens -
house dust mites, moulds, grasses, plant pollens, foods, pets and clothing, soaps, shampoos and washing powders, cosmetics and toiletries.

We have probably seen the symptoms of eczema and how distressing they can be especially in young children. These symptoms include moderate-to-severely itching skin (this symptom separates eczema from other skin rashes), recurring rash - dry, red, patchy or cracked skin. In infants and toddlers, the rash usually appears on the face, elbows or knees. In older children and adults, the rash appears less often on the face, and more commonly on the hands, neck, inner elbows, backs of the knees and ankles.

In addition or separately there may be rough, “leathery,” thick skin or lesions which may be infected by bacteria or viruses.

**ROTARY BOWEL SCAN**

Also remember that Rotary Bowel Scan kits are now available at Merriwa Pharmacy.

Testing is recommended for anyone over 40 years of age.

Robert Smith

**Mortgage Matters**

**LAUREN AND JODY MURPHY (MORTGAGE CHOICE HUNTER VALLEY)**

**Top tips for borrowers looking to enter the property market**

Buying property is one of the biggest financial commitments most Australians will make. It doesn’t matter whether it’s your first, second or seventeenth purchase, you will always have some serious questions, and at times, doubts.

In an effort to make entering the property market a little less overwhelming, Mortgage Choice Hunter Valley offers the following tips.

Identify your property needs: Write down a list of features that your ideal property must have including the number of bedrooms and bathrooms you require. Once you know exactly what you are looking for, you can narrow down the list of homes you wish to inspect.

Research the market: Take the time to thoroughly research what you can get for your money in different localities by consulting with real estate agents, property advisors, reputable property websites and by attending open houses. The more time you spend doing this, the better idea you will have of the true value of a property in your chosen area.

Consider the financials: Make sure you know where you’re at financially. Create a carefully detailed budget so you truly understand your cashflow situation, can see where savings can be made (so you have more for your deposit) and get to know what repayments you can really afford. Ideally, the difference between your net income and outgoing expenses should be more than your expected mortgage repayments.

Know your limit: Loan pre-approval lets you head into the property purchase process knowing the maximum amount you have to spend on the property. This is best done through a mortgage broker, who can check your borrowing capacity across a wide number of lenders.

Explore all of your options: Do not settle for the first loan you see. Compare loans from big, small and lesser known lenders to find a financial solution that is suited your individual needs and circumstances. Did you know that different lenders can offer varied loan amounts to the same borrower? The same goes for interest rate, features, fees, accessibility and approval turnaround times. Be sure to compare your options.

For more information on entering the property market and finding the right home loan for your needs, contact Lauren (0408 480 562) or Jody Murphy (0432 653 575) and the team at Mortgage Choice Hunter Valley on 02 4987 1035. They will come out to see you.

Like us on Facebook - Mortgage Choice Raymond Terrace.

Follow us on Twitter @MCRaymondTce.

Lauren and Jody Murphy
Woolbrook Rural Industries

Last term, with Anzac Day approaching, I wrote about those who criticize, or at least disapprove, of the actions of Australian Service Men in both World Wars. They say those wars were none of our business, we should not have become involved, and will at times even claim that those who died in those wars did so for nothing. Now, with Anzac Day 2014 just past and the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Great War approaching, I want to say something further. Those I speak of tend to do so in general terms, but often they also target the Gallipoli landings, saying much the same but specifically applying it to that particular event. It was a disaster they say (true), even if successful it would have had no effect on the war (untrue), that the poor little Turks had every right to defend their country against the invaders, i.e. us (true, however, conversely, we had every right to invade them, particularly since they had declared war on us, not we on them; that is, unfortunately for the Turks, they had bet the farm on the wrong horse). Those I refer to say what they do perhaps out of simple dislike, (even hatred?) of Britain and/or an abysmal lack of knowledge of the events at the time. So let us look at the simple and true facts as they relate to the Gallipoli landings, first going back a long way to do so.

Maps show the Crimea (heard of it lately?) protruding into the Black Sea. Around 1770, while constructing a great Empire by force of arms (and she is now doing it again), Russia had acquired Crimea and eventually an area which stretched from Europe to the Pacific Ocean. This included a dozen or so countries to her south as far as Afghanistan, which she also tried to subdue and colonise. However, the Afghans have always been too tough a nut for anyone to crack, including Russia (from the North) and Britain (from the South). Think the North West Frontier, the Great Game, the Khyber Pass, the retreat from Kabul and all that. Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire (read Turkey) fought and won the Crimean War (1853-1856) to at least temporarily stop further Russian expansion southwards. Here think the Battles of Sevastopol and Balaclava, Balaclava Helmets, Florence Nightingale, the Charge of the Light Brigade (as opposed to the Heavy Brigade) under Lord Cardigan and all that. This is the poet Lord Alfred Tennyson waxing patriotically lyrical, which was probably OK for him because he was not there taking part in a stupid disaster with a fifty per cent casualty rate led by an old fool who was, incidentally, also a Lord: “Half a league, half a league, half a league onward/Into the Valley of death/Rode the six hundred/Guns to the left of them guns to the right of them/Volleyed and thundered/Theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die/The noble six hundred”. I apologise to Lord Alfred if I do not recall his poem with complete accuracy, and my only defense is that more than seventy years have passed since I last read it. A French General, who observed the entire disaster from a high vantage point, is said to have remarked: “It is magnificent, but it is not war!”

Russia, which had striven for centuries to obtain a warm water port, finally achieved it with Crimea on the Black Sea and she stationed much of her naval fleet there, as opposed to her Baltic fleet which could be locked in by ice at times. However, the only way for her to get that fleet out into the Mediterranean was through the Dardanelles. This strait has so-called Asia Minor or Turkey in Europe on the north side and Turkey in Asia on the south, and obviously it only needed a few guns along the way to effectively imprison the Russian Black Sea fleet in the Black Sea. The Ottoman Empire had once been huge, including much of south east Europe (present day Greece (remember Lord Byron?), the Balkans, Romania, Bulgaria, and countries around the Black Sea), and its armies had once laid siege to Vienna before suffering a disastrous defeat. They also owned the entire Arabian peninsula as far as the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea, Egypt and the northern part of Africa as far as the Atlantic. However, by 1914 the Ottoman Empire was decaying (much like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the so-called “Sick Man of Europe”), and all that remained, apart from Turkey itself, was the “Arabian Peninsula”. The Ottoman had always been, and still were, a cruel and ruthless people, e.g. about 1914 they slaughtered an estimated 1.25 million Armenians (an act now acknowledged by Turkey), the first act of genocide in that century.

About 1912 Turkey ordered three warships from Britain, either battle cruisers or heavy cruisers, I forget which, but formidable gear. As war approached it became less and less certain which side Turkey would choose, and obviously the British were not keen on having ships they had built used against them. Therefore they declined to deliver them and this has been cited as the reason Turkey went Germany’s way. That may have been a factor, but the truth, I believe, is that Turkey, like Italy in WW2 after the fall of France, thought Germany would win and she could grow fat scavenging on the British Colonial carcass.

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


Max Wurcker
Merriwa Ringer
### Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bushmans Camdraft</td>
<td>0404 286 741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassilis Bowling Club</td>
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<td>Cassilis Public School</td>
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<td>CJ &amp; JM Vero</td>
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<td>Craig McPherson Haulage</td>
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<td>Cross Country Merriwa</td>
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<td>Curtis, Irving &amp; Gant</td>
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<td>Custom Made Kitchens</td>
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<td>Merriwa Engineering</td>
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<td>Merriwa Junior League &amp; Netball</td>
<td>0437 482 375</td>
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<td>Merriwa Little Athletics</td>
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<td>Merriwa Magpies Rugby League Football Club</td>
<td>0411 800 255</td>
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<td>Merriwa Newsagents</td>
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<td>Merriwa Painting and Decorating</td>
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<td>Trinity Markets</td>
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<td>Upper Hunter Shire Council - Merriwa</td>
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<td>Woolbrook Rural Industries</td>
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</tbody>
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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

### R I N G E R 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**

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**WANT TO BE IN THIS?** Call Tina Taylor at the Merriwa Ringer on 6548 2119
Alexander Downs is proudly 100% Hunter Valley owned and operated.
From our paddock to your plate - Quality Guaranteed
Beef and Pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday

SPECIAL
Fillet Steak 1.5kg Packs $22.50/kg
Come and grab an Alexander Downs steak or sausage at
the Denman Food and Wine Affair this weekend
Delivery Friday 9.05.14

Please place orders by 5pm Mondays for Friday delivery. For Order Forms
Phone: 6548 5170 or 6548 5008. Fax: 6548 5181.
alexanderdownsgroup@bigpond.com

www.alexanderdowns.com.au

upper hunter
wine & food
affair

Saturday 3rd May, 11am - 4pm
Ogilvie Street Denman

Ogilvie Street Denman is transformed for the day with over
40 gourmet food and of course award winning wines stalls
from across the Upper Hunter. The unique village setting is
ideal to host the carnival atmosphere, jazz bands, street
performers and loads of free kids entertainment

Tasting Glass + 5 Tokens = $15
No Pets, Glass or Eskies allowed.

Get your business
seen supporting the
Merriwa Ringer

For more information visit
www.upperhunterwineandfoodaffair.com.au

wanted to buy

SMALL DINING TABLE
Approx 1 metre round/square
Peter Lawler
After 7.00pm on 6548 2332

Advertise here!
Get your business
seen supporting the Merriwa Ringer

Interested?
Contact Merriwa
Central School on
6548 2119
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, 28 May 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 NOTICES

ANIMALS & FIREWORKS

Animal owners are reminded that on Saturday 7 June at the Festival of the Fleeces a Fire Works display will be held at the Showground at 6.30pm. Please ensure that your animals are safely locked away to prevent them from escaping and becoming lost.

STREET CLOSURES

Council would like to remind all residents that due to the Festival of the Fleeces there will be street closures and detours around the main street from 6am Saturday, 7 June until 5.00pm

CLAIMING THE DATE

The Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Street Stall will be held on Friday 9 May, with lots of homemade goodies, a 100 Club with tickets to the Festival Raffle being sold.

The Committee hopes that the community finds time to call at the stall and support the hard working volunteers.

Donations of goods would be gratefully received.

If you would like to become involved and man the stall for a couple of hours on the day please make contact.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

Imagining life without volunteers is something we would never want to consider. In 2014 the campaign invites us to do just that.

How would Merriwa as a community function without the amazing work carried out by so many volunteers.

Imagine no Volunteer Rescue Association? No Festival of the Fleeces? No Australia Day celebrations? No ANZAC day celebrations? No sporting coaches? No School fundraising events? No Pony Club, Team Penning or Campdraft? No Merriwa Springtime Show? The list is endless...

Volunteers are involved in everything that we do as a successful community. How would people in our community progress without care workers and mentors? How would we recover from large scale disasters without aid workers? How would we live without educators and environment conservation? How would we heal without health and disability services?

Many of us will be impacted by these challenges at some point in our lives and it would be very difficult to deal with them without the care and contribution of volunteers.

During National Volunteer Week 2014, we say thank you to every volunteer across the country, and especially to all the wonderful volunteers of Merriwa and the Upper Hunter Shire community, for being there for us when we need them most.

Life without volunteers is something that we would never want to consider!

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046
MOVIES UNDER THE MERRIWA STARS A HUGE SUCCESS

Upper Hunter Youth Services and Merriwa Youth Centre held a free outdoor cinema on Friday 11 April, 2014. Merriwa locals attended as well as Youth Workers from Murrurundi and Scone who arrived with a bus full of enthusiastic youth.

The audience came with their blankets and chairs and filled their stomachs with homemade pumpkin soup, hot chips and hot chocolate from the canteen.

The rain sent a few people home in the first movie Wreck It Ralph (PG), but thankfully the weather cleared and the stars were out for second movie Jack the Giant Slayer (M).

The general consensus was that the event was a huge success with over 150 people attending. Staff have all been asked when this event will be happening again, and the answer is hopefully October.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 13th May 2014, 10.00am

Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 13th May 2014, 1.00pm

Community Services Committee
Tuesday 13th May 2014, 4.30pm

Finance Committee
Friday 23rd May 2014, 1.00pm

Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday 26th May 2014, 5.00pm

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

SCONE CUP HALF DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Council’s operations and offices will close at 12 noon on Friday, 16 May 2014 for the running of the Scone Cup, a gazetted half day local public holiday.

Thank you to Natalie & Steven Haurn, Tara Telfer, Julie Russell, Theresa Nutt, Kylie Austin, Elaine & John Sparrow, Kellie Porter, Belinda Keane, Merriwa Junior Rugby League, Merriwa Junior Netball, and Merriwa IGA for your assistance with this event.

P: Justine Witney 6521 7000
153 Bettington Street Merriwa

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

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.

Advertise here!

Get your business seen supporting the Merriwa Ringer

MERRIWA
KENNELS AND CATTERY
Kennel owners
Jackie and Celeste Roper
1344 Cullingral Road
Merriwa
NSW 2329
02 6548 2151

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

Grow the best

Merriwa Branch & District Council
“...a strong and united voice for our members on issues that affect their business, farms and families.”

President:
Patrick Ryan 0428 885 090
Secretary/Treasurer:
Aileen Hogan 0455 455 760
www.nswfarmers.org.au

View at www.jtsrealty.com.au

Roger Moore 0427 153446
Megan Moore 0400 653446
www.rmpropertyandlivestock.com

NSW Local Land Services Hunter
Field Officer - Warwick Naime
6548 2175/0428 721 864
Biosecurity Officers -
Stefanie McCowen
6542 4429/0432 856 773
Craig Crooks
6545 1311/0429 342 995
District Vet - Ross Kemp
6572 2944/0428 688 693

Get your business seen supporting the Merriwa Ringer
**Gummun Place**
A place for ageing community members to enjoy life and receive the care that they need.

A rural relaxing lifestyle provided with care.

16 Room Low-Care Aged Facility

PHONE: 6521 7011

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**Russell’s Earthmoving**
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6 Gooch Street MERRIWA 2329
Phone 6548 2246
russellsearthmoving@jrem.com.au
Fax 6548 2629

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

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**Merriwa Ringer**

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

(02) 6548 3005
0419 252 257 Robert
robert.marchese@bigpond.com

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**MERRIWA PAINTING & DECORATING**

**FREE WEBSITE CONSULTATION**

No website? Existing website not performing to its full potential? You could be losing money.

Contact Comprint Solutions
Phone 6541 2225

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**Merriwa Pharmacy**

**OPENING HOURS:**
Monday 9am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 9am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 9am - 5.30pm
Thursday 9am - 5.30pm
Friday 9am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9am - 12 noon

**Ph:** 6548 2213

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**Russell’s Earthmoving**
0417 506 769
6 Gooch Street MERRIWA 2329
Phone 6548 2246
russellsearthmoving@jrem.com.au
Fax 6548 2629

EXCAVATION - EARTHWORKS - HAULAGE

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**Woolbrook Rural Industries**
Max Wurcker 6548 2150

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

Visit our very comprehensive website:
www.woolbrookrural.com.au

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**Gummun Place Hostel**
14-16 Marquet Street
Merriwa

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

A rural relaxing lifestyle provided with care.

16 Room Low-Care Aged Facility

PHONE: 6521 7011
MERRIWA TOURIST WELCOMING CENTRE & MENS’ SHED
Arts, Crafts, farm produce!
Clean toilets!
CENTRE:
Open every day
09.30am – 2.30pm
MENS’ SHED:
Every Thursday
10.00 onwards
President: J. Alker
Secretary: E. Shipway
Tel: 6548 3201

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Lic No 26785
NEIL HUNT 6548 2025

Merriwa Ringer
Page 27
Merriwa Ringer

St Joseph’s Primary School
Merriwa

A rich learning environment in a friendly Christian atmosphere
All enquiries welcome.
Principal - Helen Whale
Ph: 6548 2035
P&F President - Dermot Shannon

Merriwa Central School

Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119

SANDY HOLLOW
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone 02 6547 4521
Fax 02 6547 4450
Email: sandyhollo-p.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Cassilis Public School

6376 1009

Merriwa Pre-School & Activity Centre

Pre-School is for 2 – 5 year olds.
Open Monday – Friday 9am – 3pm
Ph: 02 65 482 083
Email: merriwapreschool@tpg.com.au
MAC is open for 5 – 12 year olds.
Open Monday – Friday 9am – 6pm
& 9am – 5pm School Holiday time.
Ph: 02 65 482 082
Email: merriwamac@tpg.com.au

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.

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
merriwacampdraft@gmail.com

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

President – Mott Morgan
Snr Vice President – Mark Kirkland
Jnr Vice President – Lee Cronin

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 Hour and Free raffles
Saturday - 4.45pm 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. Berquets and function catering available.
Lunch Specials
Lunch: Wednesday to Sunday.
Dinner: Tuesday to Sunday

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

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

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 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
For the information of members and their guests

Cassilis Bowling Club

PH: 6376 1002
Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Ringer

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.

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.

Saturday 19 July 2014, The Beach Boyz Tribute Show.

Matt Morgan
Secretary/Manager

Merriwa Sports Club
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- Social Darts - 7.00pm

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

Casual Bowls and Golf also available.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday raffle was held Sunday 27 April 2014
Saturday Members Draw no 73 next week $150.00
Winners Jackpot next week $400.00.

Free Tickets: Des Snelgrove
Dinner: Eva Towler

THE SPORTIES
Chinese/Australian Restaurant - Smorgasbord last Sunday in the month.
All you can eat entree, main and dessert.

Shan and Jinna also have lunch time specials 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 27 April
6.00pm

John Rindfleish

LADIES BOWLS NEWS

On April 29 our Pennant team travelled to Scone for a match against Scone No1, a win in this game could have placed us on top of our section, following our success at home against Aberdeen and Scone however this was not to be Scone were too good for us on the day. Merle and Beatrice with Di and Beryl (MDI) were lucky enough to win an 8 Pin.

Merriwa/Murrurundi Pennant team combined well with better results than last year. Thankyou to our players Philomena, Loretta, Joy, Merle and

Merriwa Ringer
Beatrice and from Murrurundi Di, Robyn, Shirley, Beryl and Bev.

We have invited Cassilis and Coolah for a friendship day on Wednesday May 21 – put the date in your diary.

Wednesday Mufti each week 10.00am.

Beatrice Voysey

MEN’S BOWLS NEWS UNCLASSIFIED

Last week we played Muswellbrook RSL and came away with another great win five to one, considering that this club would have more bar staff then we have active bowlers, it just shows what a great bunch of bowlers we have and by the way we have won the Pennant, terrific effort.

Teams to play Denman at home on Saturday are:

- Team 1 - Phil, Jim, Des and Jason.
- Team 2 - Ken, Greg, Allan and Gary
- Team 3 - Kev, Huey, Scott and Max.

Don’t forget we play at 10.00am. Also if you are doing nothing bowls on Sunday morning to support Festival of the Fleeces.

Phil Rush (Rabs)

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

Thursday 17 April

Members Draw: $125 – Mouse - unclaimed - $130 next week.
Joker Draw: $891 – Rod Cunningham - unsuccessful - $972 next week.

Friday 25 April

Joker Draw: $972 – Donna Rawlinson - unsuccessful - $1019 next week.

End on Month Draw: April - Donna Rawlinson

Bookings: Cassilis Bowling Club 6376 1002.

MEMBERS SPECIAL FOR MAY/JUNE

$4 Schooners and $3 Middies

Hilary Parker

On the last Monday of term one Merriwa Little A’s athletic season came to a close and to celebrate we kicked off with a ‘commando’ style obstacle course and novelty races before the big rope came out for the much anticipated rematch in the ‘girls vs boys’ tug of war. (boys won...we’ll need some more training next year girls or a few more ring ins!) A family barbecue, AGM and trophy presentation topped off a magnificent season with plenty more athletics action to look forward to next new season which starts in term four.

All athletes were winners and received achievement certificates and a club cap for their efforts, while a few extra bright ‘stars’ that stood out this season were rewarded as follows:

**Senior Sportsperson of the Year**
Ben Keane

**Junior Sportsperson of the Year**
Jorji Taaffe

**Junior Encouragement Award**
Gaby Nichols

**Senior Encouragement Award**
Clancy Moore

**Tiny Tot Encouragement Awards**
Ben Patterson and Ellie Holland

**Junior Encouragement Awards**
Darcy Moore and Darcy Taaffe

**Sportsmanship Award**
John Magner

**Most Improved Athlete**
Tia Magner

This year’s perpetual shield for Club Sportsperson of the Year went to our outgoing treasurer, Jayne Cronin. Thank you Jayne for all the hours you have put into the club over the years, your efforts did
not go unnoticed. A small token of thanks was also given to our junior coaches John Cronin and Elizabeth Hagley who both did an outstanding job of supporting the club coaches all season. We look forward to welcoming you back at training next year in between assignments.

Very sincere thanks to our marvellous local sponsors – Merriwa Cross Country, Community Mutual – Merriwa branch, Merriwa Pharmacy, Merriwa River Rally Association and Merriwa Petroleum and Gas. From bags of ice to boxes of band-aids, caps or catering gigs, your support is very much appreciated on behalf of all the parents and athletes, we thank you.

Tash Taaffe
President

The Merriwa Tennis Club Autumn night competition is in full swing with mixed teams of four serving it up every Monday night. The competition has been assisted by the purchase of new nets for all four courts purchased from money donated by Moolarben Coal. The nets were erected by Loretta and Brian Cooper.

Club president Loretta has been involved in the Merriwa Tennis Club for 42 years as a player, administrator of both senior and junior competitions and as a coach. During this time she has been ably assisted by her husband Brian. Brian and Loretta recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary – of course their score sheet still reads LOVE ALL.

The tennis club is planning further upgrades to its facilities including replacing the court lighting and repairing or replacing the court surface which is showing significant wear and some cracking. Unfortunately the club has been unable to source spare parts for the existing lighting system due to its age and with a number of bulbs already blown the issue is becoming critical. The club has been unsuccessful in its most recent claims for government assistance for this project but will continue to work with the Upper Hunter Shire Council and Tennis Australia to explore opportunities to bring the project to fruition.

Tennis has a unique place in rural Australian sporting culture that has not diminished in importance even with the frantic increase in the modern pace of living. The sport offers a unique forum to improve health, fitness and social interaction for a broad cross section of ages and abilities across the population. The very nature of the sport embraces social participation at its core, which is equally as important as the physical health benefits from exercise.

The Merriwa Tennis Club has a motivated committee that will continue to provide opportunities to increase participation. If you would like to get involved talk to Robert at Merriwa Pharmacy or Loretta 6548 2679.

Healthy Tennis Club = Healthy Community.

Robert Smith
Merriwa Ringer
AUTUMN COMPETITION REPORT

There are 6 teams in the competition, leading the competition is team 4 (D Walmsley, H Walmsley, C Saunders, K Murray) with team 2 (J Maben, A Maben, M Cherry, S Piper) and team 3 (K Hudson, J Armstrong, A Austin, P Carrall) not far behind in points. Players if you are unable to play please get a substitute from the list provided with the draw.

Ladies Social Tennis – is played on Tuesdays starting time 9.30am. Everyone is welcome. Merriwa Tennis Club is a child friendly club.

Loretta Cooper

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

MERRIWA OLD BOYS

On March 25 a meeting was held to form an official old boy’s club, the meeting was well attended and yes a committee has been formed.

President – Denny Gleeson
Secretary – Mark Kirkland
Treasurer – Matt Morgan

The general committee at this stage comprises of Trent Cooper and Pat Williams, but there is plenty of room for others to join. The next meeting is set to be held on May 13 starting at 7.00pm at the RSL Club.

What will the old boy’s do?

Merriwa old boys are a subcommittee of the Merriwa senior rugby league, with all money raised through membership fees, raffles, sponsorship etc to go back to the community each year, mainly junior sport but will not be limited to just that.

Membership for the first year $50.00 this will include you receiving an old boy’s T/shirt, every year following $10.00.

The Merriwa old boys will again be playing Denman on the June long weekend followed by ladies league tag and the reserves also playing Denman.

This long weekend will see the 50th anniversary of the victorious 1964 first grade team coached by Trevor Menzies, and the Reserve grade will pay tribute to this team by wearing the same jerseys as the 1964 team, the jerseys will have the 64 team on them and will be auctioned off at the RSL club after the game.

If you have any questions or would like more information please call Mark Kirkland on 0428 929 102 or Matt Morgan on 0417 791 628. Round 3 seen Merriwa take on Scone at Merriwa on Saturday 12 April, unfortunately both teams went down. League Tag Scone 42 – 0, and Reserves Scone 46 – 12.

Last Sunday the Magpies travelled to Muswellbrook to take on the Rams and after a first round defeat 40 – 4, the girls showed great improvement. At half time the scores were locked up at 16 all. The girls actually looked like holding a 16 – 12 lead at the break but due to a dubious 50/50 decision (and as we all know 50/50 decisions or any other decisions don’t go our way) Muswellbrook were able to level up.

In the second half the girls put up a strong effort but running into a strong wind was found to be a little hard leaving Muswellbrook as run away winners 32 – 16. The Muswellbrook team are currently leading the competition undefeated so this effort by the girls really shows the improvement they are displaying each week.

In the Reserves the Magpies were out to avenge the first round narrow loss of 18 – 16. They started the game well, taking a 4 – 0 lead and went to the break down only 6 – 4. They started the second half well and should have taken the lead but with a definite try disallowed, it was all downhill from there with disgraceful, disgusting, appalling, abysmal, and any other words you may be able to think of, refereeing and touch judge decisions, This helped Muswellbrook take the game 28 – 10.

This Saturday the Magpies take on Aberdeen in both grades at Merriwa starting with the League Tag at 2.00pm.

The Merriwa Magpies would like to thank their 2014 sponsors:

- Merriwa RSL Club
- Craig Macpherson Haulage
- Alexander Downs
- Merriwa Pharmacy
- Sick’o
- Merriwa Petroleum and Ag
- Merriwa Painting and Decorating
- Rosto Olives
- Merriwa Engineering
- La Scaletta Pizzeria
- IGA Merriwa

- J and A Maben
- JTS Realty
- Ian and Trish Medd
- Colin and Gaye Bates
- Pembroke Beef
- Morgan’s Maintenance
- Rockwell Livestock and Property
- Frampton Farms
- Bitz ‘N’ Pizzas
- Bill McNaught

Matt Morgan
Merriwa Junior Rugby League
Football
and Netball Club
JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Our last game of league was way back on Saturday 12 April. We have since had Easter, school holidays and Anzac Day. Much is happening in Junior Rugby League with the most exciting being for the Under 8’s team who will be travelling to Newcastle on Mother’s Day, 11 May, 2014, and playing a curtain raiser game for the Knights game against the Panthers. The Under 8’s are very excited and all players have agreed to play. Please talk to coach Belinda Keane (or if I have had my baby by that date talk to my father, John Sparrow (stand-in coach)) about travel arrangements and where to meet and what time. Good luck to all our under 8’s. I’m sure you will have a great time playing footy at Hunter Stadium and meeting some of our NRL players.

Saturday 3 May will see the mini and mod teams playing at Scone. See coaches about times or visit our facebook page. Our under 15’s team will play at St John Oval against Central Charlestown - talk to Phil about times and transport.

During Youth Week some volunteers from our Club manned the canteen for the Outdoor Cinema held on the Number 2 Oval. What a great night and it was very well attended by the community. Shame about the little drizzle of rain but hopefully we can have more of these nights. Thanks to Justine and Felicity for their organisation of the night and giving us the opportunity to raise some money for our club. The canteen was a great success with plenty of volunteers to assist. Thanks to those who helped on the night.

Our next General Meeting will be held next Monday 5 May, 2014 at 6.00pm at the Sports Club. All are very welcome to attend. The next home game for our mini/mods will be Saturday 24 May, 2014 and we will need all hands on deck to help with ground preparation, first aid officers, groundsmen, time keepers, linesmen and canteen volunteers. If you can assist with any of these please see Andrew Jamieson at training and place your name on the list. We will be doing up a canteen roster with each team having a time slot to do an hour of volunteering in the canteen. This is the fairest way of making sure we have enough volunteers to fill in the day. Please see your team coach as to your team’s time slot and make the effort to help our canteen coordinator as the canteen is very busy on home days and we need your support. The canteen is the only way we raise money to pay player fees to NRL, insurances and presentation day.

All players should have received a 2014 draw. If you haven’t got one see your coach or Elaine Sparrow at training. Remember our facebook page and also the Hunter Valley Junior Rugby League / Group 21 Web page. These two avenues show times of all games and any changes because of weather conditions.

If you need any information please ring Secretary Elaine Sparrow – 6548 8560 or email sparrow@harboursat.com.au

Enjoy your footy.

Belinda Sparrow

Merriwa Touch Football

With the completion of the season, presentation night complete, there has been a few awards not yet collected. The majority of this includes the hats that the junior players were to receive. As of next week, these hats will be left at Max’s Country Cuts for collection.

A meeting will be held in the coming weeks to wrap up the 2014-2015 season following with an AGM held later in the term. Please watch this space for the dates and times.

Tina Taylor
The first week of the school holidays was a chance to saddle up again for members of the Merriwa Pony Club with the much loved ‘mini-camp’ and for those that attended, it did not disappoint.

Some spectacular troop drills were performed each morning to ‘warm up’ followed by a host of informative training sessions from our guest instructors. There was sporting, show jumping and show riding as well as campdraft training, polocrosse, dressage, mounted games and tent pegging – and absolutely no time to get bored.

After three and a half days of solid riding, the horses and kids were all glad for some unmounted ‘theory’ with members successfully completing their respective proficiency certificates.

This year the club invited two smaller Pony Clubs from our zone to attend our mini-camp. The Bennett, Hollis and Nairne families took up the invitation from Scone and Cassilis which worked really well providing some ‘new faces’ for our kids to get to know and some ‘fresh help’ in the arena and camp kitchen.

The club canteen managed to ‘feed the masses’ with the help of parents that provided cakes, biscuits and fruit for morning and afternoon tea each day. An extra special thanks to the Magner family for cooking up a delicious camp oven dinner for us all on Wednesday night and providing eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Thanks also to Bryce Hocking for providing quality instruction by day, as well as some ‘quality’ entertainment by night! Who knew the humble coke bottle could be so versatile?!

There were lots of thrills, a couple of spills, but mostly very happy ponies, parents and Pony Club kids thanks to the sensational efforts of the hard working committee who pulled it all together – we thank you!

Tash Taaffe
Publicity Officer
MAY

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 4</td>
<td>Festival of the Fleeces Bowls Gala Day - Merriwa Sports Club - 9.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>Senior Citizens Movie Day - Merriwa RSL Club - 1.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9</td>
<td>Merriwa Central School - Mother’s Day Luncheon - School of Arts - 12.00noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 11</td>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>Senior Citizens Game’s Day - Merriwa Sports Club - 10.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 17</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 8.00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27</td>
<td>Merriwa Springtime Show and Merriwa Campdraft - RSA Course - 9.00am to 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JUNE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2</td>
<td>“Australian Wool” photo competition closes - 12.00noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6</td>
<td>Festival of the Fleeces - Opening night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7</td>
<td>Open Church “Holy Trinity” Festival of the Fleeces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 21</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 8.00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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