Merriwa Central School wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Our next meeting will be held on Monday January 25, 2016 at 10.30am. Please note the change of date.

**MOVIE DAY**

Movie day for the children during school holidays will be held on Thursday January 14, 2016 from 11.00am in the Squatter’s Room of Merriwa RSL Club. Please come along. There will be a selection of films suitable for the children to enjoy our special movie day including Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Mary O’Neill

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**Merriwa Senior Citizens Movie Day**

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**It’s Christmas @ the Merriwa Markets**

Saturday December 19

9.00am till 1.00pm

On the Corner of Bettington and Bow Street near the RSL Club

NEW Stallholders welcome  Julie: 0428 496 630 or Tess: 0437 944 353

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Come along for a fun morning with us...

We have ......
Santa and his Elf with free Lolly Bags
Free Helium Balloons
Jumping Castle - Gold Coin Donation
Flicka - Me - Face Painting $3.00ea
Raffle $2.00ea - First, second and third prizes

PLUS LOTS of WONDERFUL STALLS


Do your last minute Christmas Shopping
As the school year draws to a close we have taken the opportunity to recognise student achievement at our presentation assemblies. At Merriwa Central School our aim is to ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their personal best. Congratulations to all students who were recognised for their success throughout the year.

Parents would have received student reports which were issued on Monday. Please take the time to review the teacher comments which will assist your child’s progress. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher if you would like to discuss any items in the report.

STAFF FAREWELL

There are a number of staff who will be leaving at the end of term, and I would like to thank them for their commitment to our students.

Mrs West - Assistant Principal who will be taking up a new appointment at Bonnyrigg Public School in Western Sydney. Mrs West will be replaced by Mrs Kate Jones who is known to many parents.

Miss Alison - Instructional Leader and Mr Duncan - TAS teacher are relocating to Eden on the beautiful South Coast. Miss Alison is taking up a permanent appointment as Assistant Principal at Eden Public School.

Mr March - Head Teacher English has retired following six months leave. Mr Stone - General Assistant who has also recently retired. I sure you would agree our ground have never looked better given the dedication Mr Stone gave to his work.

Other staff moving on to new adventures include Miss Crutch, Miss Eipper, Miss Willis and Mr Bartlett. We wish them well in their new endeavours, and hope they have fond memories of Merriwa Central School.

The new school year will start on Thursday January 28 for students in Year 1-12. Kindergarten students will start the following day Friday January 29.

School photographs will take place the following week on Tuesday February 2 for all students K-12. Information for parents about school photographs will be sent home in the first few days of school. Once again MSP Photography will be taking our school photographs. Family photographs will take place on the Primary Campus.

In Week 2 students from Year 3-12 will compete in the swimming carnival. Miss King is in the process of finalising the program for the carnival. Parent helpers are most welcome on the day.

Early in the term we aim to have an informal get together with parents and staff which has been a suggestion of the P and C.

I hope you all have a happy and relaxing holiday, and I look forward to your safe return in the new school year.

Darren Noonan
Principal

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I hope you all have a happy and relaxing holiday, and I look forward to your safe return in the new school year.

Darren Noonan
Principal
Primary News

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Well done to our final Students of the Week for 2015! Congratulations to the following students:

Kindergarten: Paige Carrall
Year K/1: Roxanne Baber
Year 2: Mitchel Cox
Year 3/4: Alister Fairfull
Year 4/5: Kyah Johnston (absent)
Year 5/6: Anthony Honnery (absent)

SCRIPTURE SHOW

Last week our students presented some items based on scripture lessons from this term. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed the lovely candy canes from the scripture teachers. Thank you to our wonderful scripture teachers for all their hard work and dedication to our students this year!

Year 6 Dinner and Disco

Last Thursday the Year 6 students attended their special dinner to celebrate the end of their time on the Primary campus. It was a lovely evening and we would like to thank Mrs Moore for all her organisation for the dinner. Congratulations to all the Year 6 students on a wonderful achievement.

FAREWELL MERRIWA

As many parents and community members now know I will not be returning to Merriwa Central School in the New Year. My family and I are relocating back to Sydney which is one of the hardest decisions we have ever had to make. My time at MCS has been one of the most educational and amazing experiences of my professional and personal life. I would like to thank all the staff, parents, students and community for all the wonderful memories I have made here. There are some things I have learned that are unique to Merriwa kids:

- They all love being barefoot - I’ve never before come across so many kids keen to kick off their shoes and run around on the grass, bindies and all
- They always want to help – any job that needs to be done will have multiple volunteers ready to go
- They love to be outdoors – camping, pigging, fishing, you name it, they love it regardless of the weather conditions
- They have no fear around animals – while I’m avoiding the mob of roos these kids are running straight for them with a massive grin on their face
- They all have big hearts – when someone is hurt or in need they always offer to help. Always.

During my time here one of my roles as Assistant Principal has been to collate the Primary report for the Ringer every week. It is a wonderful way...
to communicate with parents and the town and I have had some very fun times going through articles and photos of all the wonderful things we do here at school. Below are some absolute favourites I couldn’t resist re-sharing with you all. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and stay safe. My family and I will remember Merriwa fondly and miss everyone dearly.

The Year 5/6 assembly item where Mackenzie got to be the baby - still makes me giggle

Participating in the Festival of the Fleeces – I remember my shock when I first saw the sheep wearing red socks (I thought Mr Noonan was pulling my leg when he first told me about it)

The first time Primary participated in Star Stuck

Grandparents Day – this remains one of my favourite photos taken at school. So sweet

Blowing bubbles at lunch time – you can never have enough bubbles

My first ever Horse Sports Day – little kids on massive animals will never cease to amaze me (this is my absolute favourite photo I’ve ever taken at MCS)

Farewell MCS. You’ve got a permanent special place in my heart.

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal
Favourite Subject: Visual Art and Mathematics
Extra-Curricular Activities: Upper Hunter Youth Council and part of the MCS choir
Best personal achievement: Achieving top marks and coming first in my assessment tasks and classes

Year Advisors Comment: Liana is a friendly and engaging member of the Year 7 cohort. She has demonstrated that she is a responsible and mature student by being an active member of the Upper Hunter Youth Council and a member of the MCS SRC team. Liana is always working at the best of her ability receiving top marks in most of her assessment and examinations as well as receiving first place in most of her courses. Liana has made a positive contribution to the school community and I am looking forward to seeing her continue achieving fantastic things in 2016.

Patrick Lomax
Year Adviser

Rebecca Hopkins
Teacher

Secondary News
VISUAL ARTS REPORT

It has been a fantastic term for our aspiring artists here at Merriwa Central School, with lots of interesting and creative artworks being produced throughout the last few weeks of the term.

Year 12 Visual Arts have started their journey to creating their HSC Body of Works, with lots of experimenting, researching and investigating happening in order to formulate their ideas and concepts. They were lucky enough to be involved in two digital excursions using Connected Classrooms video conferencing technologies. The first was a tour of the Brett Whiteley Studio in Surry Hills with a curator from the Art Gallery of NSW answering questions from students around the state. The second virtual excursion featured the artist Ben Quilty in a tour of his studio and a question and answer time that involved over 500 students and even a school in Hong Kong! Ben Quilty is an Archibald Prize winning artist and he offered insight into his own practice as well as giving advice for the students own work.

Year 7 have been looking at the Pop Art work of Howard Arkley and these are some of the excellent drawings they have drawn by hand and meticulously coloured this term. Year 7 have been a fantastic class in Visual Arts this semester and I am very proud of their dedication and application in class.
CAREERS NEWS

Year 12 Key dates:
• January 5 – First round of University offers based on ATAR results

University of Canberra Study Skills Orientation and Student Q and A: February 8 to 12 - Do online or in person during orientation week. http://www.canberra.edu.au/current-students/orientation/study-skills-orientation

University Bridging Courses - Provided to assist students with the foundation HSC knowledge assumed to cope with University level work.

Australian National University - http://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/preparatory-bridging-courses

Macquarie University - https://web.science.mq.edu.au/bridging-courses/

South Cross University - http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/science/essential-information/bridging-courses

University of New England - http://www.une.edu.au/study/study-options/landing/foundation-units

University of New South Wales - http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/future-students/bridging-courses

University of Newcastle - https://www.newcastle.edu.au/future-students/uonprep-bridging-courses/about-uonprep-bridging-courses


UTS Science Bridging Course - February 8 to March 4 http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/science/essential-information/bridging-courses


Campus Quest game for life at uni - https://campusquest.com.au/

Karl Von Busse Institute of Design Work Experience Program - Applications are now open - for Fashion, Graphic or Interior Designer in senior high school. Includes a four-day (Monday to Thursday) experience in Fashion Design, Graphic Design or Interior Design (or all 3). http://karlvonbusse.com/program/school-work-experience/

ADFA Education Award - Closes February 28 - for current Year 11 students. Award presented in year 12 to students with leadership, academic and sporting achievement. http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/adfa/howToApply/educationAward.aspx

The Horizon Scholarship - Closes February 19 - for future agricultural leaders, passionate about agriculture, studying an agriculture-related degree. $5,000 per year bursary with mentoring, professional development workshops, industry work placement. http://www.rirdc.gov.au/research-programs/rural-people-issues/horizon-scholarship


Lastly I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2016.

If parents have any questions or require information about careers please contact me.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Adviser
End of Year News

Last Wednesday night we held our annual school presentation evening. This evening gives our school community a chance to come together and celebrate the successes of our students over the course of the year. Congratulations to each and every one of our students who received an academic book prize for positive learning behaviours demonstrated throughout the year. Congratulations to each of our class’ special award winners. Listed below are the winners of our perpetual trophies presented on the night.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year the award goes to Darcy Moore. Darcy is awarded this prize as he consistently achieves high results and applies maximum effort. He is able to work successfully both collaboratively and independently. Darcy critically reflects on his learning and strives to achieve his personal goals at all time. If unsure he will always ask. Darcy is always looking for new challenges. He has developed a good study routine for high school by always completing all set homework.

THE LITERACY AWARD: SPONSORED BY THE KEMP FAMILY

This year the award goes to Claudia Patterson. Claudia has shown a consistent and enthusiastic approach to enhance her Literacy development. Claudia’s work ethic is to be applauded as she always strives to increase her knowledge and skills. Claudia has applied a dedicated effort and challenges herself through the setting of explicit learning goals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD

This year this award goes to Peter Hagley. Peter has demonstrated his passion for scientific thinking and understanding through a high level of involvement and curiosity. Peter has a naturally investigative nature and it is a pleasure to watch him link his broad range of general knowledge to our science lessons. Peter’s passion for science and his dedication to improve sees him as a deserving winner of the Science and Technology award.

MATHEMATICS AWARD

This year this award goes to Korey Halse. Korey has worked hard to develop his mathematical skills and understanding. He can apply the mathematical concepts taught to real life situations readily. He always strives to improve and extend his expertise in this area.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

This year this award goes to Charles Brazier. Charles has become a very active member of our school community by being a keen steward of the outside environment. He notices when things are not as they should be and shows great interest and care in the environment.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Is awarded to the student who consistently represents the school with pride at functions outside of school hours. This year the award goes to Emily Ninness. Emily has been an active member of the Merriwa community as well as of the St Joseph’s school community. Her attendance representing the school, at such events as the ANZAC Day March, The Festival of the Fleecees, St Joseph’s Christmas Carols, Special Masses, Working Bees and the like have deemed her a most worthy of this very special award.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

This year this award goes to Darcy Taaffe. Darcy was the Age Champion in all school carnivals, Diocesan level for Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. She has qualified for Polding level with competitors being selected from six diocese across NSW in Athletics for 100m and for Cross Country.

Darcy’s success has been achieved with her demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship consistently congratulating other competitors.

TOM RAWLINSON MEMORIAL “ACTIONS NOT WORDS” TROPHY: SPONSORED BY ROBYN RAWLINSON AND FAMILY

This award is a very special award because it recognises the person who constantly tries to live up to the school motto “Actions NOT Words”. This Year this award goes to Tia Magner. Tia ‘s behaviour models Christ’s commandment to love one another. Not only is she able to discuss right actions in Religion lessons but she is also able to demonstrate them in the playground, on the bus and when there is not a teacher or parent watching her.

We have been creating shelters in the final learning experiences of HSIE for this term, here are some photos!

Page 8
Thank you to all members of our school community for their support over the course of the year. We look forward to educating with you again next year!

From all of us at The Merriwa Ringer, we would like to take a moment to say how grateful we are to have worked with all businesses, community organisations and patrons of the Ringer. We wish you the merriest Christmas full of happiness and a New Year filled with hope.

At this wonderful time of year it is easy to get lost in the flurry of activity during the holiday season. We hope you get time to take in the beauty and true meaning of the season.

We look forward to working with you all again in 2016.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Samantha Kerr
Angus was respectful and participated well in soccer. All week he listened to feedback from staff and took their advice to help improve his learning. Angus continued his impressive effort in all activities in the classroom.

During Presentation Night, he was very proud of receiving his book award, book award for PD/H/PE, PBL medal and swimming certificate. Angus congratulated and thanked all special guests by clapping. He showed impressive maturity during Presentation Night and didn’t become influenced by other students’ behaviours around him. Congratulations on your achievements Angus. You should feel very proud of yourself.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK - ANGUS HEYCOX**

Angus has earned the Student of the Week for his willingness and effort during the play practices and during the performance. He understood that part of his role was to entertain the audience and he did a great job!

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Congratulations to every student for their individual achievements during the year. All students have made progress both academically and socially and should feel proud of themselves!

Thank you to our special guests, Mr James Armstrong, who spoke very fondly about his time as a student at Cassilis. He commented how the students continue to be extremely lucky to have all the opportunities that they are given.

Thank you to Mr Mark Young, Director for the Wollemi Network, and Mr Wayde Crockett, General Manager for the Upper Hunter Shire Council for showing their support by attending our special evening.

Thank you to everyone who helped including all the Cassilis Staff, Cassilis Bowling Club, people who picked up and returned chairs and cooked the bbq. Thank you to our financial supporters for our Presentation Night including the Merriwa Pharmacy, Merriwa Rotary Club, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Coolah Sporting Club, Coolah Roos Rugby Club and the Cassilis CWA.

Their valuable sponsorship and assistance allows the school to purchase book prizes, medals and trophies.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS**

**Sophie Anderson - Strive With Pride Shield**

**Maddison Turner - Academic Achievement Trophy**

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2015. I hope you have a relaxing and safe holiday. If you are travelling on the roads please take extra care. School resumes for students on Thursday January 28.
Tobias Bowler - Sporting Achievement Trophy

Summer Turner - The Coolah Sporting Club and Coolah Roos Rugby Club Encouragement Medal K-2

Jack Sumpter-Cornish - The Coolah Sporting Club and Coolah Roos Rugby Club Encouragement Medal 3-6

Summer Turner - Cassilis CWA Citizenship $20.00 Award K-2

Rachel Bibby - Cassilis CWA Citizenship $20.00 Award 3-6

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) medals - All students (this is a fantastic achievement as some students received their second medal)

INDIVIDUAL KEY LEARNING AREA BOOK PRIZES

Sophie Anderson - English
Isabelle Bowler - Mathematics
Angus Heycox - PD/H/PE
Georgia Bowler - Creative Arts
James Bibby - Science
Jack Sumpter-Cornish - History

Congratulations to Gordie Anderson for graduating from the Kindy Orientation Program.

BOOK AWARDS FOR 2015

It is brilliant that every student as Cassilis is awarded a book award. It is especially fantastic that the students help to choose their own books.

SCHOOL CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN FOR 2016

Congratulations to Maddison Turner who was voted School Captain for 2016. Congratulations also to Tobias Bowler who was voted School Vice-Captain for 2016. These two students, along with James Bibby, will make up the School’s Leadership Team for next year. The staff are looking forward to working with our three leaders and helping to build their capacity for leadership.

Mmmmmmmmm… SUCH A DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND A GREAT VISIT FROM SANTA

All students were treated to a free Christmas lunch today which has been a long running Cassilis tradition. Thank you to Miss Hodgson, Mrs Cornish and Mrs Nairne who bought, prepared and decorated the classroom for the students.

Thank you to Santa and his helpers for making a stop-over at our school and chatting to the students.

Katie Burgess
Principal

Ringer Deadline!
Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer by 12.00 noon Mondays.

First Ringer for 2016 will be Thursday February 4, articles due Monday February 1

Merriwa Ringer
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Women’s Guild Meeting - First Thursday Monthly:
February to November: 2.00pm

Messy Church - Parish Hall - Last Friday Monthly:
February to November: 3.30pm

Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday
February to November: 7.30am

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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

Sunday December 25:
Christmas Day -
8.00am - St. Columba’s, Cassilis
10.00am - Holy Trinity, Merriwa

CHRISTMAS EVE

God of light and hope; of stars and surprises: open our eyes to your glory and our hearts to your presence, that we may respond with joy to the angel song; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, they may experience the hope of this holy night.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Eternal God, this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son, Amen.

Wishing you and yours all the Joy of Christmas.

Rosalie Drew

Shire Notes

DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – A BIG LOCAL ISSUE

Upper Hunter Shire Council has again launched a survey, available on our website, to ask residents what their preferences are for local holidays in the Shire in 2016 and 2017.

Traditionally there has been a half day public holiday for the Scone Cup which applied across the Upper Hunter but not the Merriwa and Cassilis districts.

Local holidays only happen if there is support from the community. Just because we have done it this way in the past, doesn’t mean things can’t change. Council is again asking the community if the Merriwa and Cassilis districts should be included for the Scone Cup holiday, or if there should be a special day for those districts on the Friday afternoon of the marvellous Merriwa Springtime Show.

Decisions about public holidays are not taken lightly by Council. The existing half day public holiday from noon means businesses are paying penalty rates (or not opening at all) and that can have a big impact. At the same time we want to support popular events such as the Scone Cup and the Merriwa Springtime Show.

I urge anyone who has views on these matters to complete the survey or write directly to Council before Friday, January 29, 2016. We will also be writing to businesses, schools and other organisations to ask their views.

Rosalie Drew
Councillors will consider the survey results at our first meeting in January 2016 and then make an application to the NSW Minister for Industrial Relations who has the final say.

The survey which only takes a few minutes can be found at www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au under ‘Hot Topics’.

**SMALL RATES RISE**

The level of rates is determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) who has determined that the maximum increase in the general income local councils can earn in 2016/17 will be capped at 1.8 per cent.

Councils do have the option to apply for a special rate variation, and this Council has done that in the past but there are no plans to implement an additional increase for the 2016/17 financial year.

Council’s bottom line has continued to improve in recent years and has met the NSW Government’s ‘Fit for the Future’ benchmarks. This has enabled us to keep rates to a minimum.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY PROPOSAL TO COLLECT THROUGH COUNCIL**

The NSW Government is proposing that the existing Emergency Services Levy will in future be collected through Council rates. It has been reported that the new arrangements will see a levy being placed on properties of approximately $160. The NSW government has said this will be offset by home and contents insurance dropping by around $200 a year. It is proposed that the levy will be collected through your rates account.

**COUNCIL’S LIGHT IT UP COMPETITION**

Murrurundi and Merriwa winners of the Upper Hunter Shire Council ‘Light It Up’ competition for businesses and shopfronts were announced at Christmas carol events over the weekend.

Murrurundi Pharmacy were announced as winners during the Murrurundi Lions Christmas Carols at the Pioneer Cottage on Saturday evening. The runner up display was by Paul and Maureen Bowd of Dooley’s Store.

Di’s Clothing Patch was the winner of the Light It Up competition in Merriwa which was announced at the Merriwa Combined Churches Carols event on Sunday evening by Mayor Wayne Bedggood.

Cr Deirdre Peebles and I agreed it was a very worthy winner.

All businesses and retailers in the town centres of Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone were invited to participate in the ‘Light it up’ competition for the most festive shop front and/or window display.

The Light It Up winners for Scone and Aberdeen will be announced at the Scone Neighbourhood Centre’s Christmas in the Park starting at 5.00pm in Elizabeth Park, Scone on Saturday December 19, which I would encourage you all to attend.

Council hope to make this an annual event.

**ONLY EIGHT SLEEPS TO GO...**

As this is the last edition of the Shire Notes before the holidays, on behalf of Council I wish you all a very safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Council staff will be taking a well earned break and most Council services will close from noon on Thursday December 24 and reopen on Monday January 4, 2016.

This includes the libraries (although some close on Wednesday December 23) so make sure you drop in to borrow some books, movies, etc for the holidays. You don’t want the kids being bored and you may want to have an escape from the “enjoyment”, which can accompany all that food, cheer and relatives.

Our Visitor Information Centres also remain open every day except Christmas Day (although Murrurundi VIC is also closed Boxing Day), so keep in mind they can be a great resource for last minute gifts or somewhere to send visiting relatives – there are some lovely long drives around the Shire they may want to check out!

Take care.

Cr Ron Campbell
CWA is holding a craft day making Christmas decorations for school age children on December 21.

Turn up at the CWA Rooms Bettington Street Merriwa from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Lunch will be provided. All children are to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Any queries or bookings (for catering purposes) to Jean on 6548 2456.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2015. Season’s Greetings to you all from Merriwa CWA Branch.

The next meeting of the CWA Merriwa Branch will be on Monday February 8 starting at 10.00am at 39 Marquet Street, Merriwa. The meeting will be followed by the CWA Christmas party and all partners and former members are welcome. Please phone Jean on 6548 2456 for details.

New members are always welcome. Enquiries to: Barbara Campbell on 6548 5131 or 0428 485 131 or Robyn McAlister on 6548 3274.

The CWA Merriwa rooms are available for bookings at very reasonable rates – contact Jean Price on 6548 2456.

More information at Merriwa Branch CWA.

Penelope Fenley

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**Merriwa CWA FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY**

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More information at Merriwa Branch CWA.

Penelope Fenley

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**Thank You**

**GLADYS MAY ROBISON**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2015.**

On behalf of my brothers Gary and David and my sister Julie and I we would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards, phone calls and cooking and also to all that attended Mums funeral.

Also a big thank you to Dr Jasem and the staff at MWA MPS.

Thanks again.

Lena Morrison

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**Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance on Thursday night last week with the accident I had on Cullingral Road. So many people stopped to assist me and I am grateful for your help. Thank you.

Lena Morrison

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**Thank You**

Nita Tudor and family would like to thank Dr Jawaad, Dr Cho and Merriwa Hospital Staff for their wonderful care and support given to Horry and our family whilst Horry was ill.

We would also like to thank everyone for their help on Horry’s passing; the RSL Club, friends, family and everyone who has sent cards, flowers and messages.

Nita Tudor

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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 before 12.00noon on Mondays.
Community Notice Board

Merriwa VRA
MERRIWA’S NIGHT OF NIGHTS

On Saturday November 21, Merriwa hosted the Night of Nights Combined Services Award Ceremony. The Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA), Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and NSW Fire and Rescue were all awarded medals for years of service as well as special awards for achievement. It is a fantastic way to recognise the contributions of the many volunteers that help us in the community - especially at this time of year, when bush fires and road accidents are unfortunately more common.

This was Merriwa’s first multi-agency Awards Night, and may also be the first of its kind in NSW (we are trying to confirm this). The night was a success for all involved, with reports that the atmosphere was congenial, the speeches heart-felt (but not too long), the Auditorium was beautifully decorated and the meal was very good. We would like to thank Merriwa RSL Club for the wonderful dinner that they prepared, the Merriwa Rotary Club for the delicious desserts, and Peta Luke, who organised the entire event.

It was also lovely to catch up with Dennis and Lyn Moroney, who have left our squad, but came back for the event.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas. Please take care when travelling over the holiday period - take regular breaks, utilise the Driver Reviver stops across the state, and don’t drive when tired. Remember - you may be the best driver in the world, but other drivers, kangaroos, weather and road conditions can all conspire against you!

Stephanie Hook

St David’s Uniting Church
DECEMBER SERVICES

- Sunday December 13 - 11.00am service
- Sunday December 13 - Carols in the park
- Sunday December 20 - 6.00pm service
- Friday December 25 - Christmas Day 10.00am service
- Following the Christmas Day service we will break until Sunday January 31.

Happy Christmas from all of us at St David’s Uniting Church.

Karen Campbell

Caroline’s Cafe
ONCE AGAIN IT IS WISHING TREE TIME!

Caroline’s Cafe is having its Wishing Tree in support of our three Parish churches.

We are asking our community to dig deep this Christmas and call in and grab a tag from the tree and buy a gift suitable to the tag.

Then simply drop it in to the Cafe.

We can wrap them up if you wish.

Alternatively, we will have hampers to distribute so any non perishable goods would be appreciated.

Jo and staff at Carolines

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 before 12.00noon on Mondays.

Merriwa Ringer
We would like to wish everyone a safe, fun and relaxing Christmas. It is a time to celebrate with your family and friends, so take the time to focus on those around you and enjoy your time with them.

OPENING HOURS

- Christmas Day - closed
- Boxing Day - 7.00am - 10.00am
- December 27 - 7.00am - 10.00pm
- December 28 - 7.00am - 10.00am
- New Year’s Day - 7.00am - 10.00am

IT’S NOT TOO LATE

There is still time to get a gorgeous gift for a loved one! We have so many wonderful present ideas available just for you, including:

- Jewellery
- Vases
- Glass Animals
- Charlie Bears
- Sluben Blocks
- Beanie Boo’s
- Notebooks
- Diaries
- Art Supplies
- Colouring Books
- Children’s Picture Books
- Magazines
- Subscriptions
- Gift Vouchers
- Gift Cards for a wide range of stores
- Car Fanatic USBs
- Kombi Bluetooth Speakers
- Car Suitcases for Children

DECORATE, WRAP, AND ALL OF THE LITTLE THINGS

Do not forget that Christmas DECORATIONS make a great little gift for a friend, as well as being a welcome addition to your own home. We have a lovely range to choose from. BON BONS are an essential part of any Christmas Table and we have a great range that will keep the arrangements tasteful and in keeping with your theme. CARDS are an important part of Christmas and it is not too late to get a special card for the one you love. WRAP is an essential part of Christmas and we have a great range of rolls of Christmas wrap to choose from. We also have all of the tags, stickers, ribbon and coloured tape that you need to make the presents as amazing to look at as possible.

2016 DIARIES

It is not too late to grab your diary for next year. We have a large range of business diaries as well as ladies diaries to choose from. It is important to be ready for the New Year, if you leave it too late, there will be none available.

BACK TO SCHOOL

As well as thinking about our Christmas Holiday’s, we must also start getting organising the kids for school next year. Take some of the stress out of it by dropping your school book list off with us so that it can be done up for you whilst you bake on the beach with a good book. We will have the Back to School Catalogue available after Christmas, with everything you could need for school (and the office) at great prices. There will be books, folders, pens, pencils, textas, scissors, pencil cases, plastic sleeves, loose leaf paper, more pens, sharpeners, erasers, contact for covering books, non contact book covers (the most brilliant invention ever!) some more pens, and other little bits and bobs that you forgot that you even needed.

PHONECARDS; all cards are now available including Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone.

Cash or Eftpos only.
Please be advised that the Merriwa Surgery will be closed from Sunday December 20 until Monday January 11, 2016 as Dr Jasem will be going back to the UK to visit his family. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

You may have noticed that we are experiencing a high demand on appointments, we are reaching our capacity, because of this we will soon be closing our books.

Still we have some appointments available for new patients. This is a dynamic process as some patients leave and more will come. We will re-open our books later when we find an additional GP to help and join our practice.

Please be patient with us as we understand how frustrating it can be if we can not see you at the time that suits you, currently the appointment book is booked for two weeks in advance for our current patients, we still do however provide urgent care to those in need in a timely manner.

We have a commitment to our patients who have already booked their appointments. Everyone who is registered with us will continue to be looked after by our surgery, new patients will need to register first until we can fit them in, hopefully the waiting time will not be long,. We will do our best to accommodate everyone. The priority is to our existing loyal patients.

To reduce waiting time please let reception staff know if you have more than one problem or if you think your consult will take extra time. This ensures we can give you the correct amount of time to see the doctor.

A reminder that the Merriwa Surgery is closed on Wednesday Afternoons, from 1.00pm onwards. Patients registered with our surgery can still call our after hours emergency care number on 0455 323 287.

We are currently updating our records, it would be appreciated that all patients see our reception staff upon arrival so we can have your most

The staff at Merriwa Post Office would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your patronage in 2015 and we look forward to continuing our service to the community in 2016.

STAMP INCREASE

As of January 4, 2016 Australia Post will be introducing a two speed service with letters - priority and regular. As such the cost to send a regular letter will increase to $1.00. Should you wish to send your letter quicker via the priority service you will need to purchase a label to add to your $1.00 stamp. Priority service will be delivered within 1-4 days whilst the regular service may take up to two days longer than priority. The price for the priority label has not yet be confirmed. Express Post envelopes will still be available.

PARCEL PICKUP

As you would know this time of year generates more parcels delivered to the Post Office. Please ensure that you bring in your parcel cards and in particular have the authorisation on the back of the card filled in correctly if you are picking up a parcel on behalf of the addressee. Please make sure all parcels are collected before 3.00pm on Thursday December 24.

Merriwa Post Office is opened Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Kellie Orton and Kylie Austin
updated records.
The practice is registered for Q fever testing and vaccination, contact reception to arrange your test and vaccination.

Dr Emad Jasem

Max’s Country Cuts

We are now supplying fresh seafood every week.

Orders will need to be in by no later than Monday afternoons for a delivery every Friday.

The seafood is fresh from Sydney markets with a range of whole and fish fillets, oysters, prawns and much more will be available – come in and talk to us about the range of seafood and your ordering options.

Christmas orders that have been placed for seafood will be ready for pick up on December 22 and 24 and for New Years, December 30.

The staff at Max’s Country Cuts would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year. Also a we would like to thank our loyal customers for their support throughout 2015 and hope to see you all in 2016.

Max’s Country Cuts
Buying Local
Supporting Local
Employing Local

Located at 131 Bettington Street Merriwa or by phoning us on 6584 2375.

Di’s Clothing Patch
ONLY EIGHT MORE SLEEPS TILL CHRISTMAS

With seven days until Christmas, we still have some great gift ideas left and you still have time to get that special gift. We will be open right up until late on Christmas Eve.

SUMMER SALE

Di’s Clothing Patch is having a final sale for 2015. We will be taking 30% off all ladies, mens and kids summer clothing. There will also be 25-50% off a selected range of jewellery and 30-50% off handbags - while stocks last.

For the ladies we have dresses, tops and 3/4 pants from Goondiwindi, Corfu and Jillian, as well as wallets and handbags.

For the men we have in stock, shorts, polo shirts, “double plugger” thongs and sandals and an array of beach towels for those summer holidays on the beach.

And don’t forget about the RM Stockyard Clothing and Ritemate coloured work shirts, Akubra and Brigalow hats.

The new range of glass placemat and coaster from Brigalow has arrived just in time for Christmas.

We still have lots of gift ideas for everyone from the easy to that person that has everything and that hard to buy for person,

We also do free gift wrapping.

EMBROIDERY

It is not too late to have beach and bath towels embroidered for that special personalised gift.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We are still taking pre-orders for Merriwa Central School Kindergarten and all back to school uniforms for 2016. Currently in stock, we have all polo’s, shorts and skorts, caps and hats, ready to go.

Primary school dresses, navy skirts and senior skirts are all made to order and need to be ordered in early January to ensure that they are ready for the beginning of Term 1.

Our opening hours have been extended up until Christmas, times are on display in the shop window.

Di’s Clothing Patch wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thanking you for your support in 2015.

Yvonne and Max McNaught
Curry is the generic English term primarily employed in Western culture to denote a wide variety of dishes whose origins are Indian and Southeastern Asian cuisines, as well as New World cuisines influenced by them such as Trinidadian or Fijian. Their common feature is the incorporation of more or less complex combinations of spices and/or herbs. Chilly Hotness can be added as per the taste. Only the mild ones are famous and been served outside India.

In the original traditional cuisines, the precise selection of spices for each dish is a matter of national or regional cultural tradition, religious practice, and, to some extent, family preference. Such dishes are called by specific names that refer to their ingredients, spicing, and cooking method.

Traditionally, spices are used both whole and ground; cooked or raw; and they may be added at different times during the cooking process to produce different results.

Curry powder, a commercially prepared mixture of spices, is largely a Western notion, dating to the 18th century. Such mixtures are commonly thought to have first been prepared by Indian merchants for sale to members of the British Colonial government and army returning to Britain.

Dishes called “curry” may contain meat, poultry, fish, or shellfish, either alone or in combination with vegetables. They may instead be entirely vegetarian, especially among those for whom there are religious proscriptions against eating meat or seafood.

Curries may be either “wet” or “dry.” Wet curries contain significant amounts of sauce or gravy based on yoghurt, coconut milk, legume purée (dal), or stock. Dry curries are cooked with very little liquid which is allowed to evaporate, leaving the other ingredients coated with the spice mixture.

Curry was adopted and anglicized from the Tamil (One of Native Language of India) word kari meaning ‘sauce’, which is usually understood to mean vegetables and/or meat cooked with spices with or without a gravy. According to this theory, kari was first encountered in the mid-17th century by members of the British East India Company trading with Tamil (Indian) merchants along the Coromandel Coast of southeast India, particularly at Fort St. George (later called Madras and renamed Chennai in 1996). Here, they became familiar with “a spice blend used for making kari dishes ... called kari podi or curry powder.”
As 2015 draws to a close, we would like to sincerely thank all those who have supported our business. We continue to offer a variety of auto electrical goods and services as well as key cutting and VAST and digital TV upgrades. We are a fully licenced motor vehicle repairer (electrical) and are fully licenced to perform vehicle air conditioning repairs and maintenance. You can be confident we will do our very best to complete any work we do to the highest standard at the most reasonable cost. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to do auto electrical work for you, which is what we have been trained to do.

Many people have asked me about the course I have been doing. I am pleased to say that I have completed the Certificate 3 in Automotive Electrical Technology from Kurri Kurri Tafe. It has been a four year course and very challenging for me as I had no prior knowledge whatsoever of the content or practical skills required. There was physics and engineering knowledge which was all new to me. There were many times when I really questioned what I was doing.. and I thought about giving up, but with the encouragement of my wonderful Tafe teachers, terrific family and friends I got through! I discovered that the more you know about something, the more there is to learn about it... you never stop learning, there’s always more detail/theory/practical knowledge to find out. I would like to acknowledge another apprentice, Jacob Russell, who has passed his course with flying colours. Congratulations Jacob! We wish you all the very best in your career and the future.

From our family to yours, our sincerest wishes for a peaceful Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year!

Looking forward to catching up with you in 2016. We will re-open on Monday January 11, 8.30am.

Dr Noman Jawaad and Dr Cho Oo Maung
May your Christmas be blessed and happy,
May your New Year be bright and full of hope
and
May God bless you and your families.
MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the
THE ROTARY CLUB OF MERRIWA
Merriwa Youth Centre invites you to the
Community Christmas Party
at Merriwa Pool
6.00-8.00pm, Friday 18 December 2015

Pool entry fee applies (unless you are a season ticket holder)
Children under 12 to be supervised by a responsible adult
Food available to purchase at the canteen on the night or bring a picnic dinner!

Merriwa, Murrurundi & Scone
SCHOOL HOLIDAY EXCURSION!
WET n WILD @ Sydney
12-17 year olds ONLY
22 January 2016

Cost: $80 per person - and must be paid to secure your spot by Friday 15 January, 2016
(can be paid in installments)

Full details and permission notes are available at all Council Administration Centres,
UHSC Youth Centres and on Council’s website www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

For more information contact Merriwa Youth Worker: Felicity Orton - 0447 610 915
MPV Solar Congratulates Papanui for going Solar!

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www.mpvsolar.com.au
Phone: 0412 285 923
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<td>Merriwa Activity Centre</td>
<td>6548 2082</td>
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<td>Merriwa Anglican Parish</td>
<td>0429 996 769</td>
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<td>Merriwa Auto Electrical</td>
<td>6548 2114</td>
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<td>Merriwa Bushmans Campdraft</td>
<td>0427 437 743</td>
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<td>Merriwa Catholic Parish</td>
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<td>Merriwa District Education Foundation</td>
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<td>Merriwa Engineering</td>
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<td>Merriwa Healthy Environment Group</td>
<td>6547 6085</td>
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<td>Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club</td>
<td>6548 8560</td>
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<td>Merriwa PAH and I Show</td>
<td>0498 378 500</td>
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<td>Merriwa Painting and Decorating</td>
<td>0409 015 678</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pharmacy</td>
<td>6548 2213</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pony Club</td>
<td>0427 412 128</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pre-School and Kindergarten</td>
<td>6548 2083</td>
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<td>Merriwa Race Club</td>
<td>0427 482 095</td>
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<td>Emergency Services</td>
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<td>In case of emergency call 000 or 112 from mobile services</td>
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<td>Police (Admin only)</td>
<td>6548 2203</td>
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<td>Police Mobile</td>
<td>0408 293 423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Assistance</td>
<td>131 444</td>
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<td>Fire (Admin only)</td>
<td>6548 2005</td>
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<td>Hospital -MPS</td>
<td>6532 5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Fire Service</td>
<td>1800 081 166</td>
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<td>SES Emergency</td>
<td>132 500</td>
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<td>Merriwa Rescue Squad</td>
<td>6548 2538</td>
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<td>Dr Noman Jawaad and Dr Cho Oo Maung</td>
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Support the Ringer regularly but can't find your business? Contact Tina 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.

Alexander Downs wishes all our Merriwa clients, staff and business partners all a wonderful Christmas. We thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you all in 2016.

First delivery Friday 8.1.16

Please place orders by 5pm Mondays for Friday delivery. For Order Forms Phone: 6548 5170 or 6548 5008. Fax: 65485181. alexanderdownsgroup@bigpond.com

NEW YEAR’S EVE 2015

Come and have a great family night out and celebrate at the Cassilis Bowling Club

2 course meals prepared and served by the “Cassilis Anglican Church” from 6.00pm to 8.00pm, $15.00 per adult - $7.50 per child (under 14)

Music by “The Sly Pigs”
POSITION VACANT
Looking for a young person seeking permanent work overseeing a property on Tunbridge Road, Merriwa.
Farm experience and licence necessary.
Free accommodation, power and water.
Reasonable wage for a good honest person.
For more information contact Mark on 0429 318 493 or 4973 6308 or email markamannile3@bigpond.com
To start immediately

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

Police Hunter Valley LAC 6542 6999
Police Assistance Line 131 444
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

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

Fire Brigade (Administration only) 65482005
Hospital 65325000
Rural Fire Service (Administration and Duty Officer) 1800 081 166
SES Emergency Number 132500
Merriwa Rescue Squad 65482538

POSITION VACANT
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Free accommodation, power and water.
Reasonable wage for a good honest person.
For more information contact Mark on 0429 318 493 or 4973 6308 or email markamannile3@bigpond.com
To start immediately

Hooked on Fresh Seafood
SEAFOOD FOR CHRISTMAS
“Outside the Royal Hotel”
Vennacher Street
Thursday December 24
8.00am till 10.45am
Orders Close December 18
Phone: 0413 724 232
Eftpos Facilities Available
Kent and Family Wish you all a Merry Christmas and thank you for your continued patronage in 2015.
Please note: Back Wednesday January 13, 2016
Times 8.00am - 10.45am Fortnightly
Email aussieseafood@gmail.com
Prawns and all other Seafood are Australian, not cheap imported prawns from China and Vietnam

Listing Price - $420,000.00

10654 GOLDEN HIGHWAY, CASSILIS
25 ACRES CONVENIENT TO ULAN
Situated on 25 acres with convenient access to Merriwa, Cassilis and the Ulan coal mines this is a fantastic lifestyle acreage. The school bus picks up at the front gate making it ideal for a family. The homestead has three big bedrooms all with built in robes and reverse cycle air conditioners. The living area is open plan with a large lounge, dining and an attached kitchen also with reverse cycle air conditioner. The bathroom features a claw foot bath. There are verandahs front and rear to take in the views. There is a double garage and machinery shed for storage. A major feature of the property is a huge hydroponics shed, set up with power, water and air conditioning. This shed could be used for numerous purposes form growing vegetables to boarding kennels. The land is fully fenced and would suit horses or a few head of cattle. If you are after a small acreage this property is well worth an inspection.
Di’s Clothing Patch

Clothing and Footwear for all the family
Mens and Ladies clothing
Children and Babywear
Shoes and joggers
Fashion Jewellery and Accessories
Handbags and Luggage
Bed Linen, Quilts and Towels
Hi Vis Work Wear, Boots and Hats
Digitised Embroidery Service
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For clothing, Caps, Towels
School Items and Work Place Uniforms
Quality Clothing Friendly Service Affordable Prices

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**Merriwa Ringer**

**2015 ROSTO OLIVES**
**MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES**
**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**
**SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2015**

A Family & Community focused event.

Phone: 6521 7046
email: lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

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29 Blaxland Street, Merriwa 2329
Email sales: Justin@welderup.com.au
Email accounts: accounts@welderup.com.au
Web: www.welderup.com.au

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Fax: 6548 2053 After Hours: 6548 2045 (Emergencies Only)
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Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433

86 Bettington Street
Merrigwa NSW 2329

Merriwa 02 6548 2205

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**Merrigwa**

Indian and Australian Cuisine Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner every day

Call for an order on 6548 2255

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DR NOMAN JAVAADD AND DR CHOO OO MAUNG
Cnr Brisbane and Mackenzie Streets, Merriwa
Merriwa
Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm
Also consulting in Denman
Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm

For appointments please phone 6532 5013

**Company Name**

**Service Description**

**Contact Information**

**Address**

**Phone/Fax Numbers**

**Email Addresses**

**Website**

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**Electrical Contractors**

**Service Offerings**

**Contact Details**

**Solicitors**

**Practise Areas**

**Address**

**Contact Information**

**Home Services**

**Other Services**

**Location**

**Achievements**

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**Welderup**

**Specializations**

**Contact Information**

**Location**

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**Merriwa Ringer**

**Event Details**

**Contact Details**

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**Merriwa Ringer**

**Event Title**

**Event Details**

**Contact Information**

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**Merriwa Ringer**

**Event Title**

**Event Details**

**Contact Information**

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MERRIWA RINGERS

For your medical needs.

OPENING HOURS
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm
Saturday by arrangement.
For appointments please call the surgery on 6548 2305

MERRIWA RACES

Race Day for 2016 is April 23
Race Club President - David Alker
Contact - 0427 482 095
Vice Presidents - Peter Bishop and Paul Frampton

Merriwa Anglican Parish

Services
Holy Trinity  St Columbia
Merriwa  Cassilis
9.00am Sundays, 11.00am every 10.00am Fridays and 2nd and 4th Short Bible Study
Sunday
3.30pm Mon. 769
Wed, Fri
Morning Prayer
Rev’d Glen Hughes – Supervising Priest
Rev’d Pat Kirkby – Local Priest

Merriwa Central School

Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119
merriwa-c-school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.merriwa-c-schools.edu.au

MERRIWA TOURIST WELCOMING CENTRE & MEN’S SHED
Arts, Crafts, Farm Produce! Clean toilets!
CENTRE:
Open every day 9.30am–2.30pm
MEN’S SHED:
Every Thursday 10.00am onwards
President: J Alker
Secretary: E Shipway
Telephone: 6548 3201

CWA

Meets 2nd Monday of the month at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms, 159 Bettington Street.
Visitors and new members are always welcome.
Enquiries to:
President: Barbara Campbell
Phone: 6548 5131
Email: barbara9112@gmail.com
Secretary: Robyn McAllister
Phone: 6548 3274
Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Catholic Parish

Merriwa & Cassilis

WEEKEND MASSES
St Anne’s Merriwa
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.30pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am
St Joseph’s Cassilis
2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am
Parish Priest - 6548 2086
St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

Cassilis Public School

Relieving Principal: Miss Hodgson
Coolah Road
Ph: 63761009
Cassilis NSW 2329
Fax: 63761005
cassilis.p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.cassilis.p-school.nsw.edu.au

La Scalaetta

PIZZERIA

Traditional Wood-fired pizza
Friday 6pm – late
Saturday 6pm – late
Call us for your next function!
02 6548 3065
0415 232 270
robert.marchese@bigpond.com
SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION WHICH SUPPORTS YOUR COMMUNITY
Meets every 4th Wednesday at Merriwa RSL at 6:00 pm
Phone Kim on 6548 3060
Or Beron on 6548 2245

President - Anne Marie Peebles
Vice President - Leanne Hunt
Secretary/Registrar - Jodie Magner
Treasurer - Bronwyn Redgate
Head Coach - Jodie Magner

Squad Days - Monday/Tuesday
Time Trials - Thursday
Learn to Swim - Thursday/Friday
Contact Jodie on 0429 375 280

INFORMATION

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

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
President – Andrew Constable
Snr Vice President – Gaynor Blackadder
Jnr Vice President – Cynthia Morgan
Secretary/Treasurer - Matthew Morgan
Publicity Officer - Jessyca Morgan

Merriwa R.S.L Club Ltd
Bistro/Snack Bar
Take Away
Lunch & Dinner 7 days
Parties & Weddings a specialty
ATM, SKY CHANNEL
CLUB TAB, CLUB KENO
DARTS, SNOOKER, POOL

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Trent Cooper
Senior Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben
For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

Merriwa Cricket Club
President: Craig Drury - 0477 129 937
Senior Vice President: Murray Wright - 0428 482 394
Secretary: Sonya Drury - 0459 541 450
Treasurer: Max McNaught - 0437 482 375

DYSLEXIA OR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES?
Some children experience reading and learning difficulties as a result of visual perception problems caused by
Irlen Syndrome/Scotopic Sensitivity
Irlen Syndrome can cause Dyslexia and difficulties with:
• Reading                      Spelling
• Comprehension                Concentration
• Fatigue                      Eye Strain
• Writing                      Headaches

IRLEN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC NEWCASTLE
Regional Clinics
Singleton: 49556904
Taree: 0409 653 700
Coffs Harbour: 0437 698 559
www.irlandyslexia.com

MERRIWA BUSHMAN’S CAMPDRAFT EST. 1947
President: Roger Moore
Secretary: Megan Richards
Treasurer: Jake McIntyre
October Long Weekend 2016
merriwacampdraft@gmail.com

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www.irlandyslexia.com

PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm

MERRIWA JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB
President: Andrew Constable
Vice President: Gaynor Blackadder
Junior Vice President: Cynthia Morgan
Secretary: Bronwyn Redgate
Treasurer: Max McNaught

Note: Phone numbers are subject to change. For more information contact the respective club.

For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.
MCS in touch with our community!
The Sports Club provides a wide range of benefits for members and guests.

**Mondays** - Happy Two Hour - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

**Tuesdays** - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

**Thursdays** - 7.00pm Bingo - prizes of club and meat vouchers. Raffle and Super 39 special prize

**Fridays** - Happy Two Hour - 5.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffles and twilight bowls from 5.00pm. All welcome.

**Saturdays** - Monster Raffle. Tickets on sale at 7.00pm drawn 7.45pm, winners jackpot, dinner draw and Saturday Badge Draw.

**Sundays** - Members badge draw plus three raffles choice of $25.00 meat or fuel vouchers

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

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

Chinese/Australian restaurant open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 2.00pm. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5.00pm to 8.30pm. Closed Mondays, reopen 5.00pm Tuesday.

For bookings and take away - telephone 65483228.

PLEASE NOTE: The Chinese Restaurant will be closed from Monday December 21 until Sunday December 26. REOPEN SUNDAY DECEMBER 27.

SMORGASBORD ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 27

**WEEKEND RESULTS**

**Saturday Raffle December 12**

Saturday members draw no 301, was won – next week $100.00

Winners Jackpot not won - next week $500.00

**Dinner:** Nancy Coulton

**Bowls Raffle:** Fiona Hedges

**Free Tickets:** Loretta Cooper

**Sunday Raffle December 13**

Sunday members draw - No 299, was not won. Next week $300.00.

**COMING ATTRACTION**

Daniel Champagne, International Entertainer, will be appearing at the Sports Club on Sunday January 10, 2016 from 2.00pm. Tickets $10.00 and now available at Merriwa Sports Club.

**TRADING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>12 noon until 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday December 27</td>
<td>Normal trading hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday December 28</td>
<td>12 noon until 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday December 31</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve 12 noon until 1.00am</td>
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</tbody>
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SATURDAY raffles for December 26 will be held over until Sunday December 27 at 6.00pm.

**Cassilis Bowling Club**

**FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES**

Members Draw, Joker Draw, Meat/vege tray draw, Schooner Draw.

December 11 – Member’s draw - $60.00 – Tony Argyropoulos – unclaimed - $65.00 next week.

Joker draw - $599.00- Cookie Cornish - unsuccessful - $620.00 next week.

Our AGM was held on Sunday December 6 and our board members are now as follows:

**President:** Ray Tillitzki

**Vice Presidents:** Derek Ellingford and Hilary Parker

**Directors:** Linda Lacey, Bernie Parker, Chris Pittman, Kathy Sumpter, Audra Tillitzki, Natalie Haydon and Anne-Marie Nairne.

Saturday afternoons are free pool and music afternoons from 2.00pm-5.00pm – ½ price drinks plus bar snacks.

Hilary Parker

**Merry Christmas**

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.

MCS in touch with our community!
Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $550.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 632, this week it jackpots to $600.00.

The 7.00pm draw for $100.00 was not won, the number was 60, this week it jackpots to $120.00.

The Thursday Badge draw for $260.00 was won, the number was 238, this week it commences at $100.00 and will be drawn between 6.00pm–7.00pm. LTPS/14/04323

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $700.00 was not won last week, the number was 570, this week commences at $750.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/14/04323

COMING EVENTS
Social Darts
Social darts is back on in the games room and starts at 7.00pm every Monday.

RAFFLES
We now have a ham in each raffle leading up to the Christmas Eve raffles, we will also have four extra Christmas hampers in the Christmas Eve raffle, and don’t forget that the 8.30pm badge is drawn until it is won.

‘T-Bone Tuesday’
Every Tuesday you can now order a T-Bone, chips and salad or veg for just $15.00.
Also every Thursday have a chicken schnitzel, chips and salad or veg for just $12.50.
New to our menu - Wagyu burger.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB
NEW HAPPY HOUR – Thursdays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm a extra happy hour has been introduced along with the 9.00pm Friday badge draw moving to this time slot to be drawn between 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

HAPPY HOUR IS BACK - Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 12.00noon, $3.50 schooners and $2.50 middies, and $5.00 Coronas.

BISTRO HOURS FOR THE SUMMER – lunch 11.30am – 2.00pm, evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
First: Diamond Plate Flush Lid Toolbox 440H x 1220W x 483Dmm
Second: Pop-Up Bench Centre seat converts to handy drinks table. 150 x 57 x 90cm
Third: 33cc 2-in-1 Brushcutter and Line Trimmer.
Tickets are $1.00 each and are on sale now from the bar. Drawn Christmas Eve at the Thursday night raffles.

MERRIWA RSL CRICKET CLUB REPORT
This Saturday is the last game for the year with a home game against Belltrees.

Merriwa RSL Cricket Club would like to thank their sponsors for the 2015/16 season:
Merriwa RSL Club, Frampton Freight, and Wallings Pastoral Company.

Matt Morgan

Street stall on Saturday December 19 at 8.30am in front of the IGA.
If you able to help out on the day or make cakes, slices, etc for the stall to help support the Merriwa Magpie Rugby League and League Tag Football Club that would be greatly appreciated. Please inform one of the committee members.

Jessyca Morgan
Merriwa Pony Club enjoyed an exhilarating ride through the Goulburn River National Park last weekend as part of their annual end of year trail ride and Christmas party.

Splashing across the river and dodging the ‘quick sand’ were highlights for many, as well as reaching base camp at ‘Coomialla’ after a long but invigorating day in the saddle. There was plenty of curious wildlife along the way including ibis, pelicans and a huge goanna as well as some interesting historical tracks and buildings. At days end, once the horses were washed, fed and watered it was party time down at the river, which no doubt sent the carp and eels packing. The new BBQ show on TV had a bit to answer for as the kids made this their mantra (one, two, bbq!) before plunging into the river only to do it all again several hundred times!

Sincere thanks to camp host ‘Ribbo’ and his trusty palomino steed who planned the perfect trail ride that all level riders were able to enjoy across the magnificent property ‘Coomialla’. To ‘Santa’ thanks for finding us all down on the river bank and to chief instructor Pauline Lawler, husband Tim and president Clare Martin for putting in all the hard yards behind the scenes to make it happen.

This really was the stuff kids dreams are made of...

See you all next year for the first rally day in February and may you and your ponies enjoy a well earned break over Christmas.

Tash Taaffe
Twelve athletes stepped onto the East Maitland Athletic track over the weekend to represent the Merriwa Little Athletic Club in the Hunter Zone Championships. Several new comers this year included Jayden McPhie and Ben Patterson who stepped up to compete in their first zone meet in the U/7 age group regionals (ie. placegetters receive medals, but don’t progress to regionals) with Jayden putting in a stellar effort to come home with two golds in the 50m and shotput. Ben Patterson put in 100% across the board and was absolutely delighted to take home a bronze in the long jump, fifth in 100m, eighth in 70m and fourth in 200m.

Delightful athlete Grace Booth who does everything with great enthusiasm, ran a fabulous third in the hurdles and 100m qualifying her to regionals, fourth in discus and long jump. Cody Bates gave it his all amongst stiff competition to run fourth in the hurdles and 70m, fifth in the 100m, and jumped a PB in the long jump. Love your work ethic Cody.

Junior team member David McPhie, who has shown buckets of natural talent at training, stepped up for the first time at zones to throw a much deserved second place in the shotput, third in long jump and discus and fifth in the 800m. Well done David. Dylan Keane was in good form all weekend winning the 100m, second in 400m, fourth in high jump with a PB of 1.10m and second in high jump. Darcy Taaffe was on fire in her usual ‘pocket rocket’ style placing first or second in each of her events 70m, 100m, hurdles and 800m going straight through to regionals. Brilliant Darcy. Big sister Jorji, not to be outdone qualified third in hurdles and jumped a fabulous second in longjump, with some good throws to place fourth in discus and shotput.

Senior athlete Darcy Moore put in a tremendous effort in the fast paced 800 metres, running through the pain to finish fourth with a great time and fifth in the 200m. Brilliant job Darcy. Big brother Clancy put his long legs to good use running fifth in the 100m, second in high jump with a personal best of 1.45m, second in the hurdles and 800m and third in the javelin. Jackson Keane gave Clancy some competition to place second in his favourite event, javelin, third in discus, first in shotput and did a great job of finishing the 800m. Ben Keane as always one to watch and this weekend was no different. He had some of the toughest competition on the track but wasn’t deterred placing third in 1500m, first in 400m, fourth in long jump, first in 800m, third in high jump and 200m.
Merriwa Touch Football Club

On Wednesday December 16, four teams played a round of AusTag. An enjoyable game was sure to be had with everyone finishing the night at the Merriwa Sports Club for roast chiken and gravy rolls and snag and gravy rolls. All the kids that were in attendance enjoyed a popper, chips and lollies. One (or two depending on the prize being a whole ham or a half ham) was lucky enough to grab the door prize for the night to enjoy over Christmas.

This has finished the year off and the remainder of the season kicks off February 10 at 5.00pm with the many juniors we have signed up. The next mixed AusTag will be held on Wednesday February 17, with teams staying the same as this years teams.

Merriwa Touch Committee wishes everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a fun New Year. See you in 2016.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ladies</th>
<th>Mens</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>Touch-n-go v’s MWA School Girls</td>
<td>Welder Up Rock on Touch v’s Denman Devils</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>CC’s v’s MWA RSL Ladies</td>
<td>Tourist Terriers v’s Kocinakis</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.30</td>
<td>DMC’s v’s Incred-i-bowls</td>
<td>Bowling Barrels v’s ROAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.15</td>
<td>Furfot - bye</td>
<td>Cassilis v’s MWA Tyre and Service Centre</td>
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Table Duty: Touch n go

Tina Taylor

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer by 12.00 noon Mondays.

Remember only 1 more issue for 2015
Community Calendar

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DECEMBER

Friday 25 • Christmas Day
Saturday 26 • Boxing Day
Thursday 31 • New Years Eve

JANUARY 2016

Friday 1 • New Years Day
Sunday 10 • Daniel Champage - International Entertainer - Merriwa Sports Club - 2.00pm

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

If you would like your event included in the community calender, wish to claim a date or interested in placing an advert in the Ringer?
Contact Tina Taylor on 6548 2119.

The Merriwa Ringer - Merriwa’s only not-for-profit newsletter servicing the community for 25 years.

MCS in touch with our community

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