Rotary Support Local Students

The Angus Peebles Educational Encouragement Bursary welcomed by Tim and Rachel Cottle.
Highlighting Your Event

Photography Competition

Entries close:  March 22
at 12 noon

Topic for the month is:

BUTTERFLIES

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

MERRIWA COUNTRY WOMENS ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED IN THE RINGER ON:

March 26

The competition is open to amateur photographers of all ages.

With spring being just around the corner, the butterflies are out and about. This is the time to get out and practice patience and being very very still.

Merriwa CWA are sponsoring a prize to the value of $50.00 for the best butterfly photo.
This will test out your stable hand and how far your camera can zoom in.

Email your photos to merriwa2-c.sch@det.nsw.edu.au.
Primary News

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our book award recipients for Week 3! Everyone is making a wonderful start to the year and we were proud to acknowledge the efforts of the following students:

Year Kindergarten: Thomas Campbell
Year K/1: Jack Cook
Year 2: Georgie Simmons
Year 3/4: Aaron Hamson
Year 4/5: Tamika Drury
Year 5/6: Isabel Swan

ASSEMBLY

Last Friday our Primary Captains and Prefects hosted the first formal Primary Assembly for the year. With some technical difficulties they used a great level of confidence to speak to a large audience of parents, grandparents and friends. Students from each class presented some samples for ‘Workers of the Week’ and we saw wonderful pieces of writing, artwork and handwriting. Mrs Moore handed out ribbons to our place winners in age categories from the swimming carnival. It was wonderful to see so many people also receive encouragement Blueys for participating in events at the carnival. Thank you to Mrs Moore for all your work organising Primary entries at the carnival and also thank you to Miss King for all your organisation of the carnival.

Coming Events

<table>
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<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 11 Peer Support camp - Omadale Orchard Lodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 11 Peer Support camp - Omadale Orchard Lodge</td>
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<td>Monday 23</td>
<td>Year 12 Work Placement - All week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26</td>
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| Friday 27         | Year 7 and Year 9 (boys only) Vaccinations
                   | Primary Assembly - 2.15pm
                   | Year 12 English and Art excursion                               |
                   | Clean Up Australia Day                                          |
FRUIT BREAK

On the Primary campus our classes have a ‘Fruit Break’ (also known as ‘Crunch and Sip’) scheduled at approximately 10.00am each day. It is a set break during the school day when students can eat fruit (or salad/vegetables) and drink water. This helps kids to re-fuel and boost their physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. We encourage all students to bring a piece of fruit or vegetables to school each day for Fruit Break.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday March 20 at Singleton Swim and Gym Aquatic Centre. Mrs Moore is organising students from Merriwa Central and their nominations. Parents/carers need to transport their child/ren to the event and remain for supervision of the event. Students will also need to bring an entry fee for the pools. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Moore.

SCIENCE NEWS

There is always something interesting happening in science, new discoveries, inventions and developments. In March this year the world’s first compact 3D printer will be available in the U.S.; scientists are researching the bacteria in the human gut to determine its impact on obesity; and lastly, NASA’s Cassini space probe has mapped almost half of Titan, Saturn’s largest moon, revealing vast desert-like sand dunes. Very interesting.

At Merriwa Central School there have also been some exciting happenings in the science classrooms.

In Year 7 students have been learning a range of scientific skills and developing the foundations of scientific understanding. Students are taught by both Mr Bartlett and myself and are gaining many different scientific skills and have recently learnt how to light a Bunsen burner.

7/8 (Mrs Grant) and Year 8 Science (Mr Bartlett) students have been learning about the water cycle and the importance of water in maintaining health. They have been investigating how some countries around the world do not have adequate water supplies and lack sanitation services.

Year 9 students, with Mrs Harrison, are learning
about matter with the atomic theory; looking at how atoms bond with other atoms to form an almost infinite array of compounds that make up our universe.

9/10 (Mrs Grant) and Year 10 (Mr Bartlett) students are learning about the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection and the history of the Earth over the past 4.6 billion years. They will also learning about the diversity of living things and the impact genes and environmental factors play in the survival of a population.

In senior years students are all hard at work on their first assessment tasks for the year. Soon, Preliminary Biology and Preliminary Senior Science students will be undertaking a field study at Merriwa River into the health of the ecosystem. Throughout the year all of our senior students in Chemistry, Biology and Senior Science will be offered various excursions to help them strengthen their understanding of their chosen science and improve their skills and knowledge in preparation for the HSC.

Lana Grant
Science Teacher

VET NEWS

2015 has begun with a busy first few weeks. Students have begun TAFE, Distance Education classes, and had their first lessons with the new Virtual School Aurora College as well as attending their school classes, traineeship work days and fitting a swimming carnival in.

Merriwa Central School has three students enrolled at Aurora College the new Virtual School that has opened its doors (figuratively speaking) in 2015. Students are taught by teachers located all over the state and are using Adobe Connect for their lessons. They have been provided with head sets, webcams and use their school laptops to connect to other students and teachers for their lessons. The school does not have a campus but is transmitted electronically to students all over NSW. So far lessons have gone according to plan with minimal technology problems.

Students began their first TAFE lessons for the year on Thursday January 29 and caught the bus over to Scone and Muswellbrook. This bus is subsidised by region at a substantial cost so it is important that students use this service and pay for their weekly travel to and from TAFE. School uniform is to be worn to TAFE each week and students are reminded that it is important to be prepared for these lessons with the correct equipment required.

Year 12 are on a University Roadshow trip today travelling to Muswellbrook High School to learn about the opportunities that New England University, Southern Cross University and Charles Sturt University can provide for tertiary studies. These three regional Universities are often the first choice for our students to study at as they are closer to home and often the accommodation on campus is cheaper than other Universities. Parents are welcome to come along to this information session if they are interested.

Year 10 will have their mock interviews in Week 9 this term and are busy preparing their application letters for a selected advertisement. Industry representatives will interview students for a position on that day and students will need to have their resumes completed and be able to bring a portfolio to school that day that highlights their achievements noted in their resume.

Year 10 are also busy planning their work experience for 2015. Career classes are opportunities for students to explore a range of ideas and get organised for the world of work. Work experience weeks in 2015 are from the May 18 to May 22 and November 16 to November 20.

Jane Hegarty
Relieving VET Head Teacher

Ringer Deadline!
Please Remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer by 12.00 noon Mondays.
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between March 9 and April 2. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday February 27. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Why I want to be in ROAR: Because it makes me push myself

Favourite subject: Woodwork

Favourite sport: NRL

Favourite team: West Tigers

Favourite player: Luke Brooks

Best personal sporting achievement: Playing rugby union for the first time

Who inspires you and why: My brother because he’s a hard worker

Advice to young players: Never give in, never give up and never back down from anything.

THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

NEW CAREER EVENTS

ADF Gap Year: The ADF gap year provides opportunities for students between the ages of 17-24 to experience military training and lifestyle while gaining new skills and receiving pay. Experiences are available in the army navy and air force. Registrations are now open on the website: defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear

Chemical Users accreditation course will be held either at Merriwa or Coolah on Thursday March 26. Course locations are flexible and determined by bookings. Venue and times to be confirmed after close of bookings – Monday March 2. New and updated course available – certificates valid for five years. Pre-course material sent prior to the course for New Accreditation – one day course. Course cost - $230.00pp. Contact Countryco Training Pty Ltd on Ph 07 4639 4919 or 1800 626 681.

First Aid Course will be held in March at Cassilis. Anyone interested in completing this course please contact Ivan Gant on 6376 1044 or 0467 718 109.

Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize sponsored by the Faculty of Science, the Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize encourages primary and high school students with a passion for science and communicating ideas to tell a scientific story via a short video piece. For more information on this Prize and other science Outreach programs visit the website http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/index.shtml

NSW Family and Community Services is offering Scholarships of $1000.00 - $5000.00. The Tools for Success scholarship is available to women over

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Lana Grant

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Merriwa Ringer
the age of 16, living in social housing to start or continue training in a non-traditional trade. The final second round closes 27/2/15. Further information and access to the online application form: www.communityhousing.org.au/toolsforsuccess or call (02) 9281 7144 ext 207, or send an email to toolsforsuccess@communityhousing.org.au

VET Scholarships for 2015 Academic Year
Scholarships are up to $5,000.00 for full-time study $2,500.00 for part-time study. Applications close February 22, 2015.

Applicants for a VET scholarship must: Be enrolled in or applying for study in any accredited VET course at an approved Australian education provider. Demonstrate a desire to contribute to the future of rural NSW. Demonstrate how a scholarship would assist them in achieving their education or training goal Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. To apply and/or find out more information please visit: http://www.rasnsw.com.au/RASF-VET-Scholarships-2553.htm

PREVIOUS WEEKS NEWS
Projects Abroad Information evening March 30 2015 6.30pm – 7.30pm Sydney Central YHA 11 Rawson Place, Sydney 2000. FREE. Contact Aimee Townley aimeetownley@projects-abroad.com.au / 1300 132 831. Programmes are available for school leavers and for Year 10 and 11 students during their summer break.

Kickstart HSC Science Workshops in the School Holidays June 29, 9.00am, The University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus, $29.70. Kickstart workshops give HSC students a chance to do experiments and demonstrations of key ideas in the syllabus that are difficult to do in the classroom. Contact:Jessica Morris jessica.morris@sydney.edu.au

Please contact me if you require any further career information.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

Did you know!

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL P AND C TRIVIA NIGHT
When: Saturday February 28 at 6.00pm
Where: Merriwa RSL Club
Tables of eight
Cost: $5.00 per person
Tables to be booked at Max’s Country Cuts.
Everyone welcome. Feel free to bring your little ones.

Gaynor Blackadder
Secretary

Favourite Subject: All tech subjects and Science
Extra-Curricular activities: Lots of swimming and playing Xbox
Best Personal Achievements: Getting the highest individual points score at the recent Merriwa Central School Swimming Carnival. I helped my house Wentworth be the winning house on the day
Best thing that’s happened to you at school, this year! Getting into ROAR and Wentworth house winning the Swimming Carnival

Year Advisor’s Comment: Lachlan has made an outstanding start to the year in 2015. His efforts in class have been noted by his teachers, but most impressive was his 80 points individual tally at the swimming carnival. His effort, the highest number of individual points scored in the school, helped his house Wentworth take the lead in the end.

He should be extremely pleased with his efforts, results and achievements. Well done Lachlan, keep up the great work.

Andrew Duncan - Year Advisor

Student of the Week
Lachlan Walker
Year 8

Merriwa Ringer
Last week our teaching and learning support staff attended professional development to build our capacity to form “Professional Learning Communities” (PLCs) within the school. A PLC is made up of teams working collaboratively to ensure that the learning of ALL students is maximised. All staff members have returned to school eager to form collaborative teams, to work together to analyse student data and plan appropriate learning experiences to meet the challenge of helping all students to learn at high levels. In four weeks time we will have our efforts analysed and refined by our facilitator to ensure we are moving in a positive way to reach this goal to help all students learn at high levels. The project requires a commitment to continuous learning and its success will be assessed on the basis of the results achieved by the students. We are all very keen to embark on this project which we hope will lead to ongoing and continuous learning for both teachers and students.

I look forward to seeing all families at the opening school Mass on Thursday evening at 6.00pm where we will thank God for the new school year and ask for his blessings on all our efforts in this learning journey on which we are all travellers. Following the Mass all new students will plant a tree for 2015. Teachers will then welcome parents in their classroom for a brief information session, followed by a family BBQ sponsored by the Parents and Friends Association.

Thank you to the many parents who help out at the school in a variety of ways. Canteen helpers, clothing pool operators, library helpers, reading helpers etc. The school can’t operate without your generous spirit. A special vote of thanks to Mr Dermot Shannon for making and swinging a new canteen screen door. It looks lovely and will keep the canteen fly free. Thanks to Karin Brazier for controlling the weeds in our lawns and playing fields. Thanks Karin and Inga Keegan for applying the decking oil to all the remaining verandahs. The school looks great!

The new library is in action even though we are still awaiting the installation of our beautiful new furniture. Thank you to Mrs Oldman and Mrs Gilbey for making the library a great place to learn.

Our Year 6 leaders are off to a great start. They have had several meetings so far looking at the roles and responsibilities of leaders. Their first fundraiser was held on Tuesday, with the sale of pikelets. This was a very well organised event.

On Tuesday we celebrated Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Tuesday). This is an old tradition and people used it to prepare for Lent’s fasting, some people cooked all the meat they had. Another custom on this day is to ‘feast’ on pancakes to use up all the supplies of flour and eggs. It is a day of happiness and rejoicing with food.
The following day was Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent. Lent lasts for forty days. It is traditionally a time of prayer and fasting in preparation for the celebration of Easter. However, with young children, our focus is more on reflecting upon our lives and being more like Jesus- A time when we remember Jesus’ love and concern for others.

Eg. I play soccer--------- I could be more like Jesus by being kind to my team mates and not getting angry with them.

I read books--------- I could be more like Jesus by reading a story to my younger brother and sister each night.

Lent is an important growing time for us all, please encourage your child to share with his/her teacher and class the activities that your family is doing to get ready for Jesus’ Resurrection. During the Season of Lent the children will be studying a Lenten/Easter unit from our Religious Education Programme.

Mrs Anne Marie Peebles

PROJECT COMPASSION

Each family will receive a project compassion box. We ask that during Lent each family stops and thinks about others and contributes to the box.

The theme for Project Compassion 2015 is “Food for Life”.

Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world’s poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day-to-day, uncertain of how to afford or how to access their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate: how can you plan for the future or educate your children when you fear you will be hungry?

As Pope Francis says: “It is a well-known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation. This is truly scandalous.”

Project Compassion 2015 explores how Caritas Australia is helping the world’s poorest people establish sustainable food, walking with them as they free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future.”

Taken from http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/about

Please see for more information about project.

WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

WEEK 3

Kinder - Tilly Clark - for taking pride in the presentation of her work
Jack Patterson – for being ready to learn at all times
Year 1/2 - Ben Patterson - for showing persistence while working with two digit numbers
Seth Pepper - for being a responsible class member
Year 3/4 - Jock Grady - for great work using mental strategies to solve addition problems
Darcy Taaffe - for her great contributions to class discussions
Year - 5/6 - Damian Jamieson – for amazing work with addition and subtraction
Nicole Martin – for excellent Spelling activities completed as part of homework
Principal’s Awards - Tia Magner – for always trying her best in all situations
Rebecca Keegan – for always greeting everyone with a smile.

Helen Whale
Principal
Maddison has earned the title of ‘Student of the Week’ for her excellent attitude and behaviour last week. Throughout the week she was respectful of all staff and students and encouraged others to do their best in the classroom and in the playground. She stepped up to her role as school leader and was a positive role model to her peers. At the swimming carnival, Maddison was keen to have a go at each event and represented the school proudly. Congratulations on your achievement Maddison and keep up the wonderful work!

ATTENDANCE

Unfortunately again, every day this week some students arrived late. If your child is late an adult is required to sign in at the office with the time of arrival and reason for lateness.

It is important that students are at school on time every day unless they are ill or have an appointment. A note must come to school on the day your child returns to school explaining the absence.

Continued unexplained absences will be followed up by the home school liaison officer.

HEAD LICE

TREATMENT OF HEAD LICE

Around 23 per cent of primary school children screened through the NSW Health Nitbusters program have head lice. Head lice are a very common problem that most parents and teachers are more than familiar with. If your child has head lice here are some treatment tips:

- Do not treat your child if their scalp is irritated or inflamed
- Always read the head lice product label and directions before you apply it to your child’s head. Products can be found in local chemists

- Apply the head lice product to every strand of your child’s hair and work through, leave for 20 minutes, and comb out with a good quality lice comb
- Check your child’s head and if dead lice are found, the product has worked. However make sure you re-treat your child’s head in seven days to catch nymphs that have emerged from unhatched eggs
- Reduce the risk of your child catching head lice by tying their hair back or braiding it.


Tips for tackling kids head lice:

- Use hair conditioner and a fine head lice comb
- Apply conditioner to the hair and comb through with a wide-toothed comb to remove the tangles
- Then use a fine metal lice comb to remove the lice and pull the nits off the hair
- The conditioner helps slow down the louse and makes it easier to comb out.

For more information go to the “Nitbusters” website www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice

SCRIPTURE STARTS WEEK 4

We welcome Mrs. Parker back to our school for scripture lessons and thank her for her ongoing contribution to CPS.

Scripture will be 1.00pm -1.30pm Thursday.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL FUN

Last Friday Cassilis and Sandy Hollow combined for our annual swimming carnival. It was a pleasant day and all participants enjoyed themselves.
HAPPY HAROLD AND CROSS COUNTRY OOPS!

Unfortunately the Happy Harold visit has had to be cancelled this year due to a clash with Cross Country. The teachers are planning a fun and educational day for students to make up for this disappointment. The day will involve dress up, healthy lunchbox, cooking, teeth brushing, online health games, and more!

BREAKY CLUB A YUMMY SUCCESS

Monday and Wednesday 8.30-8.50am

Students and staff loved Brekky club this week!

BREAKFAST CLUB MENU

- Cereal - Rice Bubbles with milk (per bowl) - $1.00
- Cold boiled egg with toast - $1.00
- Cold boiled egg - 50c
- Toast (per slice) - 50c
- With jam, honey or vegemite
- Orange or apple fruit drink - 50c

* Parent Helpers needed to assist *

AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE

When: Wednesday 3.15-4.00pm

On Wednesday students and parents enjoyed Learning Centre. We had French lessons, pivot animation making, ukulele lessons and art.

A HUGE thankyou to everyone who joined in. All welcome next week also.

Rules:

- Your parent must be here or send a note saying you can stay
- It’s not a play time
- If you misbehave you go home –remember it’s voluntary and you don’t have to be here!
- Have fun, be happy!

Any parents or community members who would like to offer an activity please see a staff member or contact the school on 6376 1009. All welcome!

Jeanette Grinham
Relieving Principal
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING AT SCHOOL ON TIME

Are you aware of how much learning your child misses if they arrive late to school? Our school day begins at 9.15am. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, we go straight out to the playground for 20 minutes of fundamental movement skills. Students work in small groups and focus on a specific skill for three weeks at a time. These skills are essential for students to participate successfully in lifelong physical activity and sport. On Thursday our primary day begins with sport and our infants’ day begins with writing. When children are late to school, not only are they missing out on essential learning time, but they are also disrupting the learning of other students as the classroom teacher has to stop what they are doing to ensure the late arrivals are settled in and ready to learn.

We suggest that students be at school at least by 9.00am so that they can organise their equipment, have some social time with their friends and be ready to start their learning at 9.15am. Students who are late will be marked as being partially absent for the day.

We do understand that sometimes things do not go to plan in the mornings and so arriving late is out of your control.

CHANGES TO TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

We are asking parents/caregivers to please contact the school either with a phone call or a note to notify staff when your child/children are travelling home via alternative arrangements. If we haven’t been notified, your child will be sent home using their usual form of transport.

P AND C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The P and C AGM and first meeting of 2015 will be held at 2.00pm in the school music room (old library) on Thursday February 19. Everyone is welcome, especially new parents. This is your opportunity to have a say in how the P and C raises and spends funds for our school.

WEEKLY AWARDS

- **Abby Cooper** - excellent problem solving skills in Maths
- **Ayden Marsh** - trying hard to complete all tasks in Maths
- **Steven Allen** - excellent effort in reading
- **Cody Parkinson** - working well on all tasks
- **John Ward** - making a wonderful start on his reading.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Kinder/1/2  - Isabelle Pike and Livianna Craig
Years 3/4/5/6  - Sam Thompson, Reece McCandless, Dustynn Turner and Darcy Wallace.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Marshall Hinze  - Always displaying excellent manners

SPORTSPERSON OF THE WEEK

Natasha Marsh  - tremendous effort at swimming carnival.

Christina Darlington
Principal

Merriwa Ringer
LOTS TO DO

Last week families attended the Pre-School to share morning tea and chat with other families and educators. We would like to thank those who were able to attend despite being very busy, it is really nice to have you around the service and share some of the day with your child in the school setting.

Tonight we will hold the Annual General Meeting of the Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre. All positions will be declared vacant. It will be at 6.30pm in the Fletcher room at the RSL. Thank you to Max McNaught for chairing the meetings. I have heard a position on the committee described as a learning curve so it could prove handy when moving onto other committees. I had my introduction to Children’s Services through volunteering on committees when my children were attending Pre-School and found them a nice way to meet people and apply skills.

Book Club is starting off for 2015, if you would like to receive catalogues to order books for this year please return your note or just call and we will add you to the list. Our special thanks to Jayne Cronin for keeping the book club thriving at Merriwa Pre-School for many years. The torch has now been handed to Danielle Taylor and Olivia Gear and we hope that you enjoy the experience of providing this service to the families in our community.

On Friday February 27 we invite families of children aged 3.5 years and over to a performance by the Young Australia Workshop ‘Sharing Cultures’. It is at 10.00am and please ensure that if your child is not enrolled on the day that they are accompanied by an adult. This performance is in response to some learning and interest that our children have been engaging with about our world and the people in it. Today we explored an interactive atlas and the children were asked to place the animals in the right country. Although this was mainly trial and error, it is a great way to expose children to the name of countries and some of their features. I am sure we will revisit this activity again soon. Unfortunately, I will not be in the service at this time as I have to attend a conference at Muswellbrook Pre-School, but I’m sure the children will tell me all about it.

Leah Folpp
Director

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – CALLING ON COMMUNITY GROUP TO ASSIST

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Upper Hunter Shire Council is unable to run the community Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday March 1, 2015.

If any community groups would like to come forward to organise the event, Council is happy to sponsor by providing bags for rubbish along with meat and bread for a BBQ for participants.

Please contact Phoebe Richard on 6521 7000 if you are interested in hosting Clean Up Australia Day for Merriwa.

Phoebe Morgan

Please return your planning feedback form which went out to families last week, this is a tool that educators use to assist in individual planning for your child. A colourful list of who is beginning to plan for your child is available at the sign on. This process is that of consultation and developing partnerships with families.

Merriwa Pre-School Kindergarten Assoc.
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Women's Guild Meeting - First Thursday Monthly:
March-November: 2.00pm

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

Men's breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday
February-November: 7.30am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 20: Guild Street Stall
February 21: Men's Breakfast 7.30am
February 28: Messy Church 3.30pm

March 6: World day of Prayer 6.30pm Uniting Church
March 15: Parish AGM

An extract from Rev'd Glen's newsletter...

Are we church members, or Disciples of Christ? So following on with these extracts

We now come to Lent: Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance - a time to get your spiritual house in order. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves to Christ and faithful discipleship and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD1500 observe Lent - including the churches of the worldwide Anglican communion. Rev’d Glen goes onto say…..I don’t think it is a helpful practice to give something up for Lent - better to ask the question “How might I serve God better this Lent?” or perhaps “How might I become a more effective disciple this Lent?”

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa Surgery
DR EMAD JASEM

For all 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.

Dr Emad Jasem

Dr Noman Jawaad Medical Practice

WE ARE OPEN FIVE DAYS A WEEK

Our hours currently are:

MERRIWA

Dr Jawaad works Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

Dr Cho works Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm.

DENMAN

Dr Jawaad works Tuesday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Friday 8.00am to 5.00pm.

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

Meredith Llewelyn, our practice nurse is in our surgery every Thursday. Meredith is available for pathology, immunisations and Antenatal checks.

Kerry Collins, our practice nurse is in Merriwa on Wednesday and Denman on Tuesday. Kerry is a registered nurse, a Diabetic Educator and a Clinical Nurse Consultant in Diabetes. Kerry is available for appointments on both these days.

We also have a Psychologist, Sharon Wells, from Scone attending Merriwa every second week. To see Sharon you do need a referral from Dr Jawaad or Dr Cho.

Dr Noman Jawaad
MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

All the candidates for the Upper Hunter Electorate in next month’s State Election will be at a public meeting chaired by the Merriwa District Progress Association in the Auditorium of the Merriwa RSL on Wednesday February 25 commencing at 6.00pm.

This is the chance to find out what each candidate is offering the Merriwa area. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Beron Arden-Wood, Merriwa District Progress Association Inc Secretary on 6548 8560. Don’t forget to call Elaine for attendances/apologies.

ABC COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS ON FRIDAY’S

Peter Holland has kindly offered to do the public announcements on the ABC local radio Friday mornings and 2MN radio each week. If you wish your organisation’s notice publicised, then contact Peter at pholland913@gmail.com or phone him on 0405 347 193 with the particulars to be announced by Thursday each week.

Merriwa District Progress Association

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

Our first Dinner Meeting for the year will be held at the Merriwa RSL Club on Thursday February 26, 7.00pm for 7.30pm meal. This meeting is our Annual General Meeting with the election of 2015 Executives taking place.

Our PLAN, as stated in the last Ringer, is to acquire eight young cattle, have them raised over a three month period and then sold, with all proceeds going to GUMMUN PLACE.

If you can assist, please contact Merriwa Rotary.

GUMMUN PLACE NEEDS OUR HELP
WE CAN ALL HELP ROTARY TO HELP GUMMUN PLACE

Since our last report, to help our hostel install a MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM, this appeal has received a great boost with the generous donation of a steer by David and Julia Hardy.

Our thanks to the Hardys for their support.

Our plan, as stated in the last Ringer, is to acquire eight young cattle, have them raised over a three month period and then sold, with all proceeds going to GUMMUN PLACE.

If you can assist, please contact Merriwa Rotary.

Donations, large and small are welcome and can be made by

1. Contracting any Merriwa Rotarian
2. Using the donation tins at various locations in the town
3. Electronic transfer to Merriwa Rotary, BSB 932000 Account 420352. Please include your name as a reference.

ROTARY LONG TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE

The annual information night for prospective Rotary Long Term Youth Exchange applicants will be held at the Mudgee Golf Club will be held on Tuesday March 3.

Former exchange students from the Mudgee/Rylstone/Kandos districts will speak on their experience of 12 months abroad as part of Rotary’s YEP.

A powerpoint presentation on the program will be given. A question and answer session will follow.

Merriwa Rotary has decades of involvement in Long Term Exchange. Would anyone interested in finding out more about it please contact our club.

Further enquiries can be directed to Geoff Smith from RYE 9670 program on 6889 5447.

Elaine Sparrow

Mark Smith

Merriwa Rotary

Merriwa VIEW Club

Our first Dinner Meeting for the year will be held at the Merriwa RSL Club on Thursday February 26, 7.00pm for 7.30pm meal. This meeting is our Annual General Meeting with the election of 2015 Executives taking place.

Could all members consider taking on a position either this year or definitely next year. The current executive are ready to take a break but not all at the one time.

A gradual easing out is what the thinking is, so as to relax and rejuvenate and take a back seat for a couple of years. Everyone needs a break. So please think about it.

Our VIEW Club is a fantastic night out for all ladies and we would welcome new members. The evening is a night of relaxation, eating a meal prepared by someone else and great company. During the year we have several Guest Speakers, fun nights and just a night to talk all you like. Anyone wishing to come along to a VIEW Dinner Meeting call Elaine Sparrow on 6548 8560. Don’t forget to call Elaine for attendances/apologies.

See you at the RSL.

Elaine Sparrow

Kim Fenley

Merriwa District Progress Association

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

All the candidates for the Upper Hunter Electorate in next month’s State Election will be at a public meeting chaired by the Merriwa District Progress Association in the Auditorium of the Merriwa RSL on Wednesday February 25 commencing at 6.00pm.

This is the chance to find out what each candidate is offering the Merriwa area. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Beron Arden-Wood, Merriwa District Progress Association Inc Secretary on 6548 2245.

Beron Arden-Wood

Merriwa Rotary
Community Notice Board

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

MEETING

The next meeting of the Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary will be held on Friday February 20, at 2.00pm. It will be held in the Nurses Home Conference Room (off McRae Street).

We have a street stall booked for Friday March 6. We will be needing donations of cakes, biscuits, slices and preserves as well as volunteers for the day. We will have a raffle and 100 Club as well. All will be discussed at the meeting.

Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Markets

When: February 21
Where: RSL Club Footpath and building
Time: 9.00am until 12.00 noon

We have over 25 Stalls and new stall holders are always welcome.

Contact: 0428 496 630

We operate the third Saturday of every month except January.

Julie Russell

Anglican Women’s Guild Merriwa

Anglican Women’s Guild Merriwa are holding a street stall on February 20. All saleable items would be gratefully received.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa CWA

SAVE THE DATE

Merriwa CWA will be holding an International Women’s Day luncheon on Friday March 6, 10.30am for 11.00am in our rooms. More details later.

Thursday April 2 for the CWA Annual Easter Street Stall. Great home cooking to stock up for the Easter holiday.

Next meeting for 2015 will be Monday March 9 at 10.00am at CWA Rooms, Bettington Street.

New members are always welcome.

The rooms are available for bookings at very reasonable rates – contact Barbara Campbell or Jean Price.

Penelope Fenley

Thank you

I have received an email from “Wrap with Love” who received our last bundle of blankets. Extracts as follows:

“I was this morning packing some bedding for an African family, a widow and four children, when I came across blankets with a note coming from your group.

I thought I’d give you feedback as to where some of your blankets go.

This family we had been visiting in Villawood for many months were released from detention Christmas Eve. With help of Red Cross we are trying to find accommodation in Sydney, this family’s only possessions is their clothing.

Your blankets will make a big difference to this family and many other families.

Robyne Reichel, volunteer of Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group”

Thank you, keep up the good work making blankets. God bless you.

Lorna Parnell
Mission Secretary, Holy Trinity Anglican Church

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.

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Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa Ringer

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: February 27
Time: 6.00pm

All members are kindly invited to attend and will be held at the Royal Hotel Cassilis. A dinner will be held afterwards.

More information contact Jane on 6376 1052.

Jane Hegarty

Merriwa Senior Citizens Association

SENIOR’S WEEK IN MERRIWA

Seniors Week in NSW falls on March 14-22 and this is Merriwa’s itinerary.

March 17 - Special Holiday in the Squatters room of the RSL Club
March 18 - Travel with Cowans to Buttai Barn for environment and lunch, departing Merriwa at 8.00am

Cost - Lunch and entertainment - $41.00
Travel - $30.00
Total cost is $71.00 which can be paid in two installments prior to travel

March 19 - Car travel to Singleton for entertainment and lunch, departing at 8.00am
March 20 - Home day in the RSL club’s auditorium from 10.00am, Scone and Denman seniors will be attending. Students from Merriwa Primary and St Josephs will be attending approximately 11.00am.

Lunch - 12.30pm
Cost - $14.00

Hoi after lunch with many prizes, raffles and lucky door prizes. Members are to bring a gift for Hoi prizes.

Come and enjoy these days during Seniors Week and let me know if you are attending so that we have numbers.

GAMES DAYS

May 12 - Singleton invited
August 12 - Muswellbrook invited

Mary O’Neill

St David’s Uniting Church

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer this year will be held at St. David’s Uniting Church, Merriwa on Friday March 6, at 6.30pm, supper will be provided and we look forward to as many as possible being able to attend.

Betty Campbell

Thank you Merriwa Rotary

On Tuesday evening, February 10, Victoria Cottle was awarded the Angus Peebles Educational Encouragement Bursary by the Merriwa Rotary Club. This scholarship will be of great help in purchasing text books, equipment and other start-up costs associated with the commencement of her Bachelor of Archaeology at Macquarie University in Sydney.

We would like to thank Merriwa Rotary Club for their support to Victoria, and their ongoing dedication to those students who wish to pursue University education. It is greatly appreciated.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our daughter Victoria on receiving this special honour. We are very proud of you.

Tim and Rachael Cottle

Merriwa District Education Foundation

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: March 7
Where: Gummun Place Hostel gardens
Time: Commencing at 9.00am

Anyone wishing to assist with maning stalls, supplying crafts and cooking will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: 6521 7011

Sue Duggan

Gummun Place Hostel Market Day
**Max’s Country Cuts**

Max’s Country Cuts has been a part of the Merriwa community for almost 22 years. Behind this business is the owner Max McNaught and his dedicated team, Yvonne McNaught, Cody Nutt, Jay-me Taylor and Bailey McNaught.

Max was born in Merriwa in 1968. He completed all his schooling here, first at St Joseph’s Primary and then Merriwa Central School - Secondary.

Max left school in 1983 to begin his butchery apprenticeship with Hopkin’s Butchery where he worked with them for six years.

He returned to Merriwa to run his own business where he completed his apprenticeship, renaming the business to Max’s Country Cuts.

Max has been a butcher now for nearly 32 years with 28 of those years butchering in Merriwa. Max moved to Sydney for four years while living there he worked in Bowral for twelve months and at Burwood/Ashfield Coles for three years.

Over the time Max has had his business in Merriwa he has had about seven local students do part time work and who have completed an apprenticeship with him. Damian Rush, who completed his apprenticeship here and is now managing a butcher shop in Minmi. Cody Nutt, has also completed her apprenticeship and still works with the Max’s Country Cuts team. Jay-me Taylor, who is in his second year of his apprenticeship. Soon to join the team is Bailey McNaught, who will start a school based apprenticeship.

In the future the business is hoping to add a full Deli case into the shop with all on site cooked meats to be available. So keep an eye out for this new produce.

When asked what Max enjoys to cook, Max replied that his favourite meal would have to be a baked Leg of Lamb and has shared his recipe with us.

---

**CLASSIC ROAST LAMB AND GRAVY**

- 1.5kg leg of lamb
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 800g desiree potatoes, peeled, chopped
- 500g butternut pumpkin, peeled, chopped
- 2 small brown onions, peeled, halved
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 1 cup Stock Chicken
- 1/3 cup dry white wine (optional)
- Mint jelly, to serve

**METHOD**

Preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan-forced. Place lamb in a roasting pan. Combine rosemary, garlic, paprika and two tablespoons oil in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Rub over lamb. Roast for 20 minutes.

Arrange potato, pumpkin and onion around lamb. Drizzle with remaining oil. Roast for 45 minutes for medium or until lamb is cooked to your liking.

Transfer lamb to a plate. Cover with foil. Set aside. Roast vegetables for 10 minutes or until golden and crisp. Transfer to a plate. Cover with foil.

Skim fat from pan, leaving one tablespoon in pan. Place pan over high heat. Add flour. Cook, stirring, for three to four minutes or until bubbling. Combine stock, wine (if using) and lamb juices in a jug. Slowly add mixture to pan, stirring. Cook while stirring for six minutes or until thickened.

Serve lamb with vegetables, gravy and mint jelly.

If you would like your business featured in the Ringer, please give Tina Taylor a call.
Local Land Services has marked its first year of operation in supporting rural and regional communities with the launch of its Facebook page and the release of a publication identifying its key achievements.

The Hunter Local Land Services Facebook page is now live, providing a useful resource for the community, and a snapshot of Local Land Services’ achievements from across the state have been included in a publication issued this month titled ‘2014 - Our First Year’.

Local Land Services (LLS) was established in 2014 to provide integrated and coordinated services that protect and support primary industries, manage threats to natural resources and help communities prepare and respond to emergencies, like flood and fire. The first year of operation has seen a number of strong achievements for the organisation, particularly in the Hunter Region.

‘The Hunter Local Land Services team has achieved great results for both the Hunter and its local industries in the past year. Our staff live and work in the region and are familiar with the local landscapes and natural resources of the area. They are committed to protecting and nurturing them,’ said Hunter LLS General Manager, Brett Miners.

‘Our board and staff are working to support Hunter farmers, producers and landholders to build strong professional relationships and deliver high quality services.

‘Our team are supporting and protecting key industries across the Hunter – including our $171 million beef cattle industry and a $125 million poultry meat industry. Our actions help keep the region free of the many pests and diseases found in other parts of the world and help ensure crucial access to markets is maintained,’ Mr Miners said.

Chair of the Hunter Local Land Services Board, Susan Hooke says LLS is building a strong platform for providing services.

‘The work of Hunter Local Land Services team is to protect our industries, build capacity in our communities and ensure the health of our natural resources is preserved,’ Mrs Hooke said.

‘There is great strength in regional input and decision-making and having local people involved at the grass-roots level has been vital to starting to deliver on-ground results,’ Mrs Hooke said.

‘I am very proud of what our Board and staff have achieved over the last 12 months. I look forward to working with the community and building on these achievements over the next 12 months,’ she said.

The ‘2014 - Our First Year’ report outlines achievements from all LLS regions which illustrate the broad range of services the agency provides to its communities. The publication is available online at www.lls.nsw.gov.au

The Hunter LLS Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/HunterLLS.

Jillian Ayre

Merriwa Newsagency
YOUR LOCAL OFFICE SMART AGENT
WWW.MERRIWANEWSAGENCY.COM.AU

Yesterday was Ash Wednesday - the start of Lent. This means that is only 40 more days until Easter!

HALLMARK

We have finally got our card stand exactly how we want it, with some very nice new ranges in stock. They are inspiring, on trend and happy. The waiting (and all of the empty card pockets) is finally over and we have a great, comprehensive range. We have all kinds of cards - age specific, general boy, girl and teenager birthday, general men’s and women’s birthday, relationship-specific birthday, engagement, kitchen tea, wedding and anniversary, expectant mother, baby and christening, thinking of you, thank you, farewell, good luck, get well and sympathy. There are also beautiful, inspiring, positive, cute and funny cards that are blank inside - perfect to write your own message.

We also have beautiful sheets and rolls of wrapping paper. They are perfect for presents of all shapes and sizes. There is also a great range of ribbons, bows and gift tags to give your gift that personal touch. If you are not too keen on wrapping the present, invest in a carry bag, a gift certificate wallet or a gift box.

HALLMARK MOMENT

Thank you so much… Thoughtful people like you are very special indeed.
CHARLIE BEAR

Penny Chew is an adorable little bear. Her hand-dyed fur is a fascinating combination of deep red, grey, black and white. She is cute and cuddly and completely unique. Her paws are soft and black; her nose is hand-stitched and berry-red. Penny Chew comes with a long leather and glass bead necklace. Penny is a medium-sized bear and is waiting patiently for her new home!

PHONE CREDIT

People often ask us if we sell phone credit. The answer is YES. We not only sell pre-paid mobile credit for any number of companies, we also sell pre-paid internet credit, iTunes gift cards, gift cards for BCG, Rebel Sports, Sportsgirl, Dotti, Just Jeans, Myer, Portman’s, Red Balloon, Cellar Masters, ABC Shop, Google Play and more.

OFFICESMART

Do you have a copy of the 2015 Complete Product Catalogue? What about the current Special Catalogue for January to March? If not, come in and pick one up today. There are so many specials that will save you money at home and at work.

PHONECARDS; all cards are now available including Telstra, Optus and Vodaphone
Cash or Eftpos only

Neville and Leanne Hook

Merriwa Photography Competition

This month’s competition theme is “Butterflies” and although the technique for photographing butterflies really isn’t all that different from other photography, it’s an extra challenge of getting sharp pictures at close range and in a timely manner before the subjects fly away.

Tripods are invaluable for precise focusing and to reduce the risk of blurring from camera shake and would be the first piece of equipment to start with. Choosing the best lens is also fairly important. The focal length of most macro lenses range from 50 to 200mm. For more power when photographing flighty insects, you could use lenses in the 150-200mm range, but they are more expensive.

Many zoom lenses have a macro setting, but they are not true macro magnification (usually less than half life-size, whereas macro lenses begin with 1:1. You can give greater magnification to a standard zoom, by adding screw on macro filters (Dioptries) or by adding extension tubes (or bellows). I don’t like extension tubes as they are fairly fiddly. They fit between the rear mount of the lens and camera body. They work by making the lens focus closer, producing a bigger image of a small subject.

However I often use a Tamron 70-300mm with macro filters screwed into the front element thread (similar to the set we gave away at the end of last year) which gives you stops of +1, +2, +4 and +10. If I need more magnification, I just screw on another filter over the top of the one already on. Although I lose a little in quality, I have more control over what I’m focusing on than the macro 90mm.

DEPTH OF FIELD

Even though you may feel a large aperture would make your subject stand out more, in macro photography it’s the reverse. For best depth of field, use a small aperture such as f/16 or f/22. A larger aperture will create a bokeh effect (circles of light) but if controlled, that could look pretty good too. It’s a matter of playing around and trying different settings, but remember at close range, you will get little depth of field.

FLASH

Using a flash allows you to use very small apertures for maximum depth of field. It also freezes the movement of your subject. Ring flash is designed for macro photography but with a little bit of ingenuity you can improvise with reflectors and external flash.
ATTRACTION INSECTS

Insects such as butterflies are very quick and often by the time you’ve focused, they’re gone. If you watch their behaviour, you may find that they keep returning to a particular plant. Another trick is to smear honey on certain key positions and that often keeps them occupied long enough to try various settings.

The time of day is also a key factor, with early morning being a good time as they are fairly sluggish until they warm up. Not only is it cooler, there’s often little or no wind, so you can shoot at slower shutter speeds and use lower ISO’s. If you’re not an early riser, late afternoon as they settle down for the night is also good, but you will need to watch available light.

Accurate focusing is pretty important with macro work. The amount of the subject that will be in sharp focus, even at the smallest apertures will still be very shallow. Any errors will be really obvious and could mean a wasted shot. Think about what you are focusing on. For insects, as in most live subjects, if possible focus on the eye. Have fun experimenting and let’s see what you come up with. Entry deadline has been extended to March 22 and is sponsored this month by Suzie Kirk.
SENIORS WEEK AT MERRIWA CTC/VIC FREE COMPUTER COURSES

2015 NSW Seniors Week will be held from Saturday 14 March – Sunday 22 March

To celebrate Seniors Week, Merriwa CTC and Visitors Information Centre will be holding two FREE computer courses including a FREE morning tea.

Workshop 1 - Digital photography 10.00am to 2.00pm, Tuesday 17 March. Learn about features and modes on your camera, tips for taking better photos, uploading them to your computer, editing, printing and online photo projects. Class is non-product specific. Bring your digital camera, instruction book, all cords and extra batteries or charger.

Workshop 2 - Introduction to the Internet 10am to 2pm Thursday 19 March. Topics include browser navigation, search engine techniques, terminology, many exciting Web sites for exploring, shopping and trip planning, security and saving sites to your favorites.

Bookings are essential for catering purposes.

NSW Seniors Week is an annual NSW Government campaign and the largest celebration for people over 60 in the southern hemisphere. It is also for people aged 50 and older who have a lifelong disability or people who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The theme for NSW Seniors Week is Be Inspired. The theme is about encouraging greater effort, enthusiasm, or creativity with focus on creative activities that celebrate self expression.

With hundreds of free or specially discounted events held for seniors across the state, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

For more information or to book for a workshop contact:

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

VALENTINE’S DAY

FESTIVAL STREET STALL AND RAFFLE

On behalf of the Festival Committee, I would like to personally thank the Merriwa Community for their support at our Festival Valentine Day fundraiser held last Friday. It was a wonderful day with over $350.00 raised.

Congratulations to the following winners of our 100 Club and Raffle.

100 Club:  1st Ann Carter
2nd Teressa Williams

Raffle:       1st Thi Mai Nguyn
2nd  Merrie Llewelyn

P: Barbara Campbell - Street Stall Coordinator

NEED A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?

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

Please be aware:-

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

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

P: Liam Garment JP 6521 7046
5 Gooch Street Merriwa $220,000.00
Situated on a large 1657sqm block this home has been fully renovated throughout. There are 3 big bedrooms, 2 with built ins, lounge with RC Air and a combustion fire and a brand new kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen is spacious with plenty of cupboards and room for the dining table. At the rear of the home is a double carport and two garden sheds for storage.

26 Marquet Street Merriwa $150,000.00
The home has 2 large bedrooms, a big combined lounge & dining area featuring a combustion fire and RC Air. A good size kitchen, bathroom and an enclosed verandah at the rear. At the front of the home is a wide verandah wrapping around the house. The back yard is fenced and flat with a single garage and attached workshop.

39 Muswellbrook Road Merriwa $235,000.00
This 4 bedroom weatherboard home is in excellent condition with a double colourbond shed and huge outdoor entertainment area. There are 4 bedrooms, the main with built ins. Spacious loungeroom with attached dining room. The bathroom and kitchen are both in good condition and have been modernized. There is a 2nd toilet in the laundry. There is also ducted RC Air to keep you comfy.

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Police Mobile 0408 293 423
Police Assistance Line 131 444
When reporting an incident to the Police, always request and record your Incident Reference Number
Fire Brigade (Administration only) 6548 2005
Hospital 6532 5000
Rural Fire Service (Amimistration and Duty Officer) 1800 081 166
SES Emergency Number 132 500
Merriwa Rescue Squad 6548 2538

ADVERTISE HERE
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Interested? Contact us on 6548 2119

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Start: 9.00am
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Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa District Progress Association Inc
SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION WHICH SUPPORTS YOUR COMMUNITY
Meets every 4th Wednesday at Merriwa RSL at 6:00pm
Phone Kim on 6548 3060
Or Beron on 6548 2245

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

Merriwa Central School P & C Association
President: Jayne Cronin
Senior Vice: Christine Riley
Junior Vice: Yvonne McNaught
Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder
Treasurer: Anna Whaley
Meets the first Wednesday of each Month at 7pm,
Merriwa RSL Club

Merriwa Ringer

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Range facilities and Fire arm testing available
President: Nathan Telfer
Secretary: Phil Martyn
Contact 6547 6031 for information
Shootong weekends 2nd and 4th weekend of the month

Merriwa PONY CLUB
Established in 1946
Rally Day - Second Sunday of each month
President: Clare Martin - 6548 2201
Secretary: Christine Sparrow - 0427 412 128
Treasurer: Yvonne McNaught - 6548 2842
Merriwa, the birth place of Pony Club.....

Merriwa Ringer

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

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Races
Race Day for 2015 is April 18
Race Club President - David Alker
Contact - 0427 482 095
Vice Presidents - Peter Bishop and Paul Frampton

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Anglican Parish.
Services
Holy Trinity - St Columbia
Merriwa - Cassilis
Services
9.00am Sundays 11.00am every 10.00am Fridays 2nd and 4th Short Bible Study
Sunday
3.00am Mon, Wed, Fri
Morning Prayer
Rev’d Glen Hughes - Supervising Priest & Rev’d Pat Kirkby - Local Priest

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Ringer

Catholic Parish MERRIWA & Cassilis
WEEDEND MASSES
St Anne’s Merriwa
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am
St Joseph’s Cassilis
2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am
Parish Priest - 6548 2086
St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

Merriwa Ringer

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Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa Central School

Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
President – Mark Kirkland
Snr Vice President – Seth Morgan
Jnr Vice President – Justine Wilney

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Tina Taylor
Senior Vice President: Trent Cooper
Secretary: Barbara Epper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben

Merriwa Touch & Netball Club
President: Andrew Murray Wright
Vice President: Elaine Sparrow
Treasurer: John Sparrow

Merriwa Ringer

MERRIWA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
President: Robert Smith
6548 2213
Secretary: Emily Hall
Treasurer: Krichelle Khan
Vice President: Hannah Walmsley

MERRIWA JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB
President: Andrew Murray Wright
Vice President: Elaine Sparrow
Secretary: John Sparrow
Treasurer: John Sparrow

MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB LTD 6548 2028
Golf, Bowls, Squash, Putt Putt, Darts, Pool, ATM and Club Keno

Opening Times:
* Monday & Tuesday - 4pm * Wednesday - Sunday - 12pm
Thursday Night 7:00pm Bingo
Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Two Hours and Free raffles
Saturday - 7:45pm Monster raffles and members’ badge draw
Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members’ badge draw.

The Sports Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228
Dine in or Take Away. Banquets and Function catering available.
Lunch Specials
Lunch: Wednesday to Sunday. Dinner: Tuesday to Sunday

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

BBQ area and Kids Play area

Friday
Raffles and 3 Members Badge Draw

Saturday
Raffles
Members Badge Draw between 11.30am & 1.30pm

Club: 6548 2157
Bistro: 6548 2295

For the information of members and their guests.

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone: 02 6547 4521
Fax: 02 6547 4450

Email: sandyhollop.s.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Cassilis Public School

Relieving Principal: Jeanette Grinnah
Coolah Road
Ph: 63761009
Fax: 63761005
Cassilis NSW 2329
www.cassilisp.school.nsw.edu.au

Cassilis Bowling Club

PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm

New CLU Bs

Merriwa Sports Club

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

Mondays - Happy Two Hour - 4.00pm to 6.00pm - Social Darts 7.00pm - Draw for partners
Tuesdays - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Thursdays - 6.00pm Bingo
Fridays - Happy Two Hour - 5.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffles and Merriwa Old Boys Football Club “Chook Wheel”
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

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DON’T FORGET CHINESE SMORGASBORD SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

Chinese/Australian restaurant open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 2.00pm. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5.30pm to 9.00pm. Closed Mondays, reopen 5.00pm Tuesday.

For bookings and take away - telephone 6548 3228.


WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle February 14
Saturday Members Draw no 244 was not won - next week $100.00
Winners Jackpot not won - next week $420.00

Free Tickets: Beatrice Voysey
Dinner: Paul Cronin
Bowls Raffle: Robert Whaley

Sunday Raffle February 15
Sunday Members draw - No 408, not won. Next week $950.00.

Don’t forget!

MIXED BOWLS AT THE CLUB
Come along and enjoy an evening of social bowls, each Friday at 5.00pm and Saturday afternoons commencing at 1.00pm. ALL WELCOME. No experience necessary.

WOMENS BOWLS NEWS
Pennants have commenced, Merriwa/Murrurundi ladies playing great bowls but unfortunately beaten by the other clubs. Better luck next games ladies.

Club mixed Friendship Day with Coolah and Dunedoo is on Wednesday March 25 at Merriwa. All interested people are welcome to come along and join in. It is really a great day. Bowls can be provided by the club. Names are to be left on the board at the Sports Club or with Loretta on 6548 2679.

For more information contact Loretta.

Casual bowls will commence on Wednesdays in March.

The next meeting will be March 9 at 3.00pm at Merriwa Sports Club.

Loretta Cooper

Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $650.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm, the number was 881. This week it jackpots to $700.00. The 7.00pm draw for $480.00 was not won. The number was 141. This week it jackpots to $500.00. The 9.00pm draw for $400.00 was not won and the number was 389. This week it jackpots to $380.00. LTPS/13/04473

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $900.00 was not won last week. The number was 692 and this week it jackpots to $950.00. It will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/13/04473

COMING EVENTS

INTRODUCING ‘T-BONE TUESDAY’ - Every Tuesday you can now order a T-Bone, chips and salad for just $15.00.

Also every Thursday have a chicken schnitzel, chips and salad for just $12.50.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB

HAPPY HOUR IS BACK - Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 12 noon, $3.00 schooners and $2.00 middies, and starting this week $5.00 Corona’s.

THINK PINK – THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE SHOW
When: Saturday February 21
Time: 8.00pm - 8.30pm
Cost: $20.00 per person with limited seating

$100.00 Cheese and Wine platter for best dressed table.

Tickets on sale now! And selling fast!

FOOTY TIPPING
Names and money can be left at the bar for the 2015 footy tipping competition.

Cost: $20.00 entry fee

Competition kicks off on Thursday March 5, Broncos v Rabbits.

Matt Morgan

Cassilis Bowling Club
FRIDAY NIGHT SNACK BAR
Affordable family meals.

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES
Meat trays, vegetable trays, schooner draw, joker jraw, members draw and vegetable trays.

DRAW RESULTS – FEBRUARY 13

Members Draw - $55.00 – Hilary Parker – unclaimed - $60.00 next week
Joker Draw – $973.00 – Paula Palmer – unsuccessful.

Hilary Parker

Merriwa Ringer
Sporting News
Merriwa Tennis Club
AUTUMN COMPETITION

The Merriwa Tennis Club Autumn Night Competition is scheduled to commence Monday March 2. Nominations are now being taken at merriwatennis@gmail.com and Merriwa Pharmacy.

Competition is played from 6.30-8.30pm on Monday evenings and will run until about the start of May (depending on the number of teams). There will be a general bye on Easter Monday.

All competition players must become members of the club (Fees have been reduced for the remainder of the financial year) Adults $30.00, Under 18’s $15.00.

Each week there is a $5.00 fee per player to cover balls and lighting.

IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT THE TENNIS

The night competition provides an excellent framework to get people from across the community together in a healthy, social environment. It provides the opportunity to meet new people and build new friendships.

Last season the club ran a sausage sizzle each week and we plan to do the same again this season. Sports drinks and bottled water will also be available for purchase however the club has made a health conscious decision not to pursue the sale of alcohol. Members may however BYO.

The club has a small but enthusiastic committee and we are always looking for more people to get involved. We have some exciting new initiatives in the pipeline and we encourage and welcome members to come forward with new ideas that will build the enjoyment of tennis in Merriwa.

Boris Becker - Robert Smith

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MCS in touch with our community!
breaking winner to place third in her heat and fifth in the region overall, tenth overall in the 100m and sixth overall in the 200 final. Woohoo!

Jorji Taaffe bettered her performance at last years Regionals seeing her qualify for two events this year and improve her final result to tenth in the shotput throwing a metre more than at Zones with a 4.37 metre final throw then thirteenth overall in the 70 metre sprint. Great job Jorji.

The Keane boys were keen as hot English mustard all weekend, with Dylan sprinting home in his usual gutsy style to final in the 400 metres and run an impressive seventh in scorching heat at the end of the first day and just missed out on the final in his favourite event, the 200 metres placing sixth in a super fast heat.

Jackson’s first Regional carnival saw him in his element throwing some big throws in the shotput, discus and javelin coming nineth in the discus final and fourteenth in the shotput, just missing out in the javelin. Jackson put on some flash new sprint shoes which seemed to give him that little burst of energy he needed to run a good seventh in the heat of the gruelling 400 metres. Glad you gave it a go Jackson, top job.

Darcy Moore had to wait a day and a half before he got to show his effortless running style in one of the toughest races on the program, the 800 metres on Sunday. Keeping up with the top of the pack right from the start, he fought every step of the way amidst excellent competition and held his own right to the end with the whole team cheering him on to take out sixth in the final in his fastest time ever. Just brilliant Darcy.

But this weekend it was our two senior athletes Clancy Moore and Ben Keane that brought home the bacon with two hard earned bronze medals that had the team bursting with pride and admiration.

Clancy Moore had springs in his legs on Sunday as he went jump for jump with two outstanding high jumpers from Newcastle City and Wyong that really pushed him to jump higher than his best ever performance by a staggering 12cm to take out the bronze medal at a whopping 1.37 metres, the teams first medal of the carnival. Clancy went on to come tenth in the long jump final at 3.49 metres and tenth overall in the 400 metres running a hot 1.16.55 seconds and then made it through to the finals in the javelin throwing three metres more than his zone performance to place sixth in the finals. Unbelievable Clancy!
Ben Keane finaled in fine style in the 400 metres taking out seventh spot overall in 1.07.91 seconds, 4th in the heats for his 200 metres to make the final where he placed eighth overall and equal fifth in the high jump final at 1.5 metres. In the 1500 metres on the Saturday Ben ran a good fifth in 5.08.33 minutes against two top distance runners that placed at State last year but it was in the 800 metres that he gave the run of his life with the Merriwa team behind him all the way to just take out third place and the coveted bronze medal from fierce competition.

We now wait with baited breath to see if Clancy and Bens performances will get them a spot at the States. We won’t know until all the regions have completed their championships. Good luck boys!

A big thank you to the Keane, Hourn and Moore families for bringing the athletes to extra training and committing to travel to Zones and Regionals and also to Karen Brazier for helping the team with javelin this season – much appreciated Karen.

A big welcome to Jonathan, Rebekah and Bobby Keegan who have joined us for some Term 1 track and field fun.

With this being the first term of school for many of our Tiny Tots, we understand Monday nights can be a bit of a strain to get to training after an exhausting day of school. We hope to see you again later this term once you have settled into the school routine or when we start up next season in Term 4. Remember you are always welcome.

Tash Taaffe

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Community in highlight

Grand final night is Friday March 27 instead of April 1. Come along and watch the games. Ladies game at 6.30pm and men’s at 7.30pm. We are going to hold a presentation at the Sports Club with music and a meal to follow directly after the Grand Final, all players are welcome to attend. Presentation will be at 8.30pm.

All juniors will recieve a gift (and must be there to collect it as it is too hard to chase in the new year), all players will receive a ‘Chicken and Gravy’ or ‘Lamb and Gravy’ roll with juniors also receiving a drink and packet of chips. More information in the next few weeks.

Tina Taylor

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Merriwa Touch Football Club

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Merriwa Ringer
is proudly published by
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
Address: Bow Street, Merriwa, NSW, 2329
Tel: (02) 6548 2119
Fax: (02) 6548 2534
Email: merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au
ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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Articles are subject to change if they do not suit the requirements of the Ringer, includes spelling and terminology.
Community
What’s happening?
Send your calendar information in before 12 noon
Mondays to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19</td>
<td>Merriwa Activity Centre Annual General Meeting - Merriwa RSL Club - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Women’s Guild Street Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 21</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast - Anglican Parish Hall - 7.30am</td>
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<td>Merriwa Markets - RSL Lawns</td>
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<td>Think Pink - The Ultimate Tribute Show - Merriwa RSL Club, 8.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>Messy Church, first one for 2015 - Parish Hall - 3.30pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 28</td>
<td>P and C Trivia Night - Merriwa RSL Club, 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6</td>
<td>CWA International Women’s Day - 10.30am for 11.00am</td>
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<td>Uniting Church - World Day of Prayer - 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 7</td>
<td>Gummun Place Hostel Market Day - 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Parish Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>The Merriwa Charity Muster</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Merriwa Touch Football Grand Final - Sports Oval Number 1 - 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28</td>
<td>The Merriwa Charity Muster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 29</td>
<td>The Merriwa Charity Muster - Sunday Fun Run -7.30am, Number 1 Oval</td>
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<th>APRIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2</td>
<td>CWA Annual Easter Street Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 11</td>
<td>Select Horse and Working Dog Sale/Challenge</td>
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If you would like your event included in the community calendar or wish to claim a date, please call Tina at the Ringer so that your event is not missed!

The Merriwa Ringer - Merriwa’s only Not-for-profit newsletter serving the community for 25 years.

Interested in placing an advert in the Ringer? Contact Tina Taylor on 6548 2119.