Merriwa Central School is just one of the groups that played a small part in Clean Up Australia 2015 on March 1. An estimated 572,406 volunteers assisted in the clean up this year with over 15,708 tonnes of rubbish being removed from approximately 7,140 sites across Australia. Not a bad effort for their 25th year.
In 1989 Mal Frame came up with the name for our community newsletter the “Merriwa Ringer”. The “Ringer” was given this title to reflect its connection with the school, “the school bell” and our local shearing heritage. This year the “Merriwa Ringer” celebrates 25 years serving our community.

You can understand my surprise this week when I received a phone call from the Editor of the “Merriwa Diary” suggesting we could no longer use the name the “Merriwa Ringer”. The Editor stated that she had registered “Merriwa Ringer” as one of her business names, and that we could no longer trade under this name. Various legal implications were outlined if we continued to do so.

Fortunately all is not lost.

The “Merriwa Ringer” is not a business entity, and as such does not trade under any name. The “Merriwa Ringer” is published by Merriwa Central School as a community newsletter on a not-for-profit basis.

As a result the “Merriwa Ringer” will continue to serve the Merriwa community, providing a voice for community organisations, schools, and local businesses. The strength of the “Merriwa Ringer” is that it truly represents a wide cross-section of our community, and is a positive advocate for our town.

In recent years we have made a number of organisational changes to the “Merriwa Ringer”, in order to keep costs down and cover expenses. These changes were made after an extensive period of community consultation.

As usual I will continue to keep the community informed of any other challenges our community newsletter may face in the future.

Darren Noonan
Principal
Merriwa Central School
Deputy Principal’s Report

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

Last Friday we had the good fortune to be visited by Gwenda Stanley. Gwenda spent time with our Year 7 students sharing her culture with us. Our students participated in traditional dances, as well as learning some language, history and traditional artifacts.

Our students had an excellent time learning from the performance and asked some insightful questions at the end to further broaden their knowledge and understanding.

YARN-UP DAY

I would like to invite our Aboriginal parents to a Yarn-Up day on Friday March 13 to be held in our Great Hall at 9.00am.

We will be discussing Aboriginal Education within our school and how we would like to see it develop further. Elizabeth Howard will also be joining us from OCHRE Opportunity Hub. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Adam Johnston
Deputy Principal

Did you know!

Up until 1981, students had to travel to Muswellbrook to complete senior school. The first Year 11 class commenced in February 1981.

Coming Events

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| Friday 13 | Primary Cross Country  
Primary assembly, 2.15pm  
Yarn Up Day - Parents of Aboriginal Students - Great Hall, 9.00am |
| Tuesday 17 | Year 11 and 12 Careers and Trades day – Muswellbrook High School |
| Wednesday 18 | Secondary Cross Country |
| Thursday 19 | Year 7 and 10 Geography excursion – Merriwa River |
| Monday 23 | Year 12 Half Yearly Exams – all week |
| Tuesday 24 | Parent Teacher Interviews – Primary 3.30-6.30pm and Secondary 5.00-7.30pm |
| Friday 27 | Primary assembly  
Primary Zone Cross Country |
| Monday 30 | Secondary formal assembly – Great Hall, 8.55am |
| Tuesday 31 | Secondary Zone Cross Country |
Primary News

ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all the parents and friends who attended our assembly last week. It has been wonderful to meet so many new parents to the school. We were proud to award many Merriwa Merits to students last week who had collected five points worth of ‘Blueys’. A Bluey token is light blue in colour and is worth one point. A Royal Bluey is dark blue in colour and worth two points. When a student collects five points worth they need to return the Blueys to the class teacher for a white Merriwa Merit Award. When a student collects five Merriwa Merit awards a student can then hand those in for a Bronze Award. Then five more Merits achieve a Silver Award and then again for a Gold Award. Blueys and Awards need to be given to the class teacher by the day before an assembly at the latest or students will not receive their award until the following assembly. If you have any questions please see the class teacher.

Our next Assembly will be next Friday March 13 where the choir will present a song they have been working on in rehearsals.

WEEKLY PHOTO

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Students of the Week for Week 5. We know you have worked hard during the week.

Year Kindergarten: Isla Murphy
Year K/1: Amy Zhu (absent)
Year 2: Mitchel Cox (absent)
Year 3/4: Jerone Andrews
Year 4/5: Alethea Fawcett
Year 5/6: Hassan Tashman

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

At last week’s assembly we were treated to some wonderful work samples from students who had worked well in class during the week. We were able to see some great examples of writing, mathematics and even heard all about a Science experiment! Well done to our workers of the week:

Year Kindergarten: Paige Carrall and Riley Bristow
Year K/1: Jayden McPhie and Matilda-Rose Whitby
Year 2: Georgie Simmons and Annabelle Orton
Year 3/4: Jye Towell and Ellie-May Whitby
Year 4/5: Jack Mobberley and Nikita Constable
Year 5/6: Mekayla Towell and Isabel Swan

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Last Friday February 27 Primary students participated in the 25th Anniversary of ‘Clean Up Australia Day’ by cleaning our campus boundary lines. Fortunately we have a very high standard of...
Students were excited to get cleaning at Merriwa Central School and our job was very quick. We found some small rubbish that had been blown around during our recent windy days, which was a reminder that sometimes, even when we are clean and tidy, nature has other ideas. We were proud to participate in keeping our nation clean and ensure our environment is protected.

**PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY**

Next Friday March 13, the Primary students will be participating in the school Cross Country Carnival which also doubles as our school Fun Run fundraiser. Students have received sponsorship booklets containing information about how to raise funds. Students can obtain more booklets from school if they fill their first booklet. When students have finished raising money they need to return the booklets to school with the money (or with their online information attached on the form). If parents/carers are available to assist with the carnival please contact the Primary office on (02) 6548 2101.

Rebecca West  
Assistant Principal

**Secondary News**

**THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY**

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.


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 on March 16 for students in Years’ 11 and 12, March 17 for students in Years’ 7 to 10, and March 30 for Years’ 4, 5 and 6 students.

Lana Grant  
Survey coordinator
NEW CAREER EVENTS

Year 11 and 12 students have been invited to a Careers and Trades day at Muswellbrook High School. We have 12 places available and permission letters will go out this week. There is no cost as the Upper Hunter Shire is subsidising the bus for us.

Sydney Design School Interior Decoration Master Class

Our Interior Decoration Master Class is for students who want to get a taste of life as an Interior Designer or Decorator. Over two day fun, intensive days, earn how to put together an interior scheme including planning your layout, selecting furniture, furnishings, colour and lighting.

Dates: April 15-16
Cost: $330.00 (GST inclusive)
More info amanda@sydneydesignschool.com.au


Apprenticeships - Begin Your Journey Apprentice stories can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO9TR_lGDW8. The video highlights young apprentices who relate their stories visually and with humour. Search ‘Beginyourjourney.com.au’ to access support materials on State Training Services website.

AIE Work Experience Program (games, animation and visual effects) The Academy of Interactive Entertainment’s Work Experience Program returns for 2015. The program is designed for students in Years 10, 11 an 12 who are considering a career in animation, games or visual effects. Students spend the week in a mini studio where they create a small game or film while learning some core skills along the way. To register, head to www.aie.edu.au/workexperience

PREVIOUS WEEKS NEWS


Engineering at Charles Sturt University - Charles Sturt University (CSU) will be introducing a new Bachelor of Technology/Master of Engineering (Civil Systems) in 2016. Study will begin on campus at CSU in Bathurst for 1.5 years, followed by four years of online study while students undertake four one-year paid placements in industry. Contact 1800 334 733 or visit: http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/engineering-civil-systems

Meet The Business Leader May 20 - At Luna Park, Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand are hosting the annual Meet The Business Leader (formerly Cadetship Evening) A fantastic opportunity for students to connect with universities and top employers and secure a highly sought after cadetship. More Information email careers.nsw@charteredaccountantsanz.com

Tax File Number Applications Information to Students A tax file number is a unique nine-digit number issued to administer your tax when you have any job. New process! Students complete an online application form print off the summary

Why I want to be in ROAR: So I can get fit and have fun
Favourite Subject: Sport
Favourite sport: NRL
Favourite team: Broncos
Favourite player: Justin Hodges

Best personal sporting achievement: Going to regional for Little Athletics

Who inspires you and why: My Pa because he is respected by everyone he knows.

Advice to young players: Set yourself a personal goal and try to achieve it. Never give up.

ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards

Jackson Keane Year 7

Please contact me if you require any further career information.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL P AND C

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you to those who came to the P and C Trivia Night on Saturday night.

- First place – “Eye Catchers”
- Second place – “Trivianators”
- Third place – “Google”
- Last place – “Broobitights”

Thank you to the following people:

- Adam Johnston for preparing the questions and being the MC
- Amanda Johnston for being the scorer.
- Krichelle Khan for organising the raffle and prizes.

We would especially like to thank the following for donating the prizes:

- Merriwa RSL Club
- Alexiam of Merriwa
- Brodie’s Cutting Edge
- Merriwa Pharmacy
- Travelmanagers – Krichelle Khan
- Falcon Grove Oils
- Stone Hill Wines
- Happy Guru
- Festival of the Fleeces Committee

Raffle winner was “The Walkers”.
Adult Lucky door winner was Rebecca West.
Children’s Lucky door winner was Brooklyn Blackadder.

Adult and children coin slides were won by the Walker’s table.

AGM

By the time you read this, we would have held our AGM and hopefully all positions have been filled. Keep your eye out in next week’s Ringer to see who the members of the 2015 Merriwa Central School P and C committee are.

Gaynor Blackadder

Download the free
Merriwa Central School App.
MCS in touch with our community!

Favourite Subject: Photography, Food Technology and Maths

Extra-Curricular activities: Touch Football

Best Personal Achievements: Getting into the Scone Representative Netball team

Year Advisor’s Comment: Shai is a diligent young student who works well in all of her classes. She has represented the school for numerous sports on a number of occasions and is excelling in the subject Personal Health and Physical Education. Shai did her year group and the Blaxland House proud at Merriwa Central School’s swimming carnival this year where she achieved first place in a number of events leading to her becoming the 15 year old Girls Age Champion. Well done Shai! You should be proud of your efforts so far this year.

Brianna Roberts - Year Advisor

Student of the Week
Shai Blackadder
Year 9
This year, all Catholic schools in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese will celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) from March 8-14.

Dioceses across NSW and the ACT are joining together to celebrate the theme for CSW 2015 which is ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’.

Catholic schools enrol about 20% of Australian school students. There are 622 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT, providing high quality education in a faith-centred environment.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing what happens in our schools every day.

- Sunday March 8 at 8.30am we will be celebrating Mass at St Anne’s church and commissioning our Year 6 leaders and our teachers to their role of service for 2015
- All week see our vibrant Catholic Schools week displays in the main street
- Monday March 9 at the special time of 2.30pm there will be an extended CSW Liturgy and assembly in the “old Library”
- Wednesday March 10 at 7.00pm join us at the RSL Club, to celebrate CSW at the annual Parish – School Dinner
- Thursday March 11 at 12 noon we will have open classrooms for parents and friends to spend time in our creative learning spaces
- Thursday March 11 at 1.00pm shared lunch with the children and teachers. BYO picnic lunch, cuppa provided.

We warmly welcome all community members to join us in any of these events.

Catholic Schools Week is proudly supported by the Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund, which has more than 88,000 members across Australia.

Supervision of teaching and learning is a large part of my role as principal at St Joseph’s. I teach all classes on a casual basis, enabling the regular teacher to have their release time and to attend professional development. I also teach in the Infants classroom every Friday afternoon and in the library for some time on Wednesdays. I am so thrilled to report that the children are in very good teaching hands. I am delighted with the quality teaching that I am seeing and the quality learning that is taking place. I am also impressed with the cleanliness of the learning spaces and the care both teacher and students are taking of their learning environment.

The classes are very settled and routines are very well established. Students are being encouraged to set their personal learning goals and to work collaboratively with the teacher and peers to achieve these.

All classes are very well aware of the school behaviour management system and students are taking responsibility for their own behaviour and are accepting the consequences when their behaviour is not acceptable. The restorative justice triangle is followed by the teachers in this regard. Some students are experiencing difficulty with their behaviour choices and as such the consequences for repeated offences include parent interviews with the teacher and me.

It is important to remember that the students and the teachers are on a journey of lifelong learning. Every experience at school is viewed as an opportunity for learning. Mistakes are often our best teaching opportunity. We look forward to working with you as your child continues on this journey.
Clean Up Australia School day was held at St Joseph’s school last Friday. We had a difficult time finding rubbish around our school grounds, the convent and the presbytery. The children were very proud of the fact that they are already caring for their environment every day. We turned our environmental attention to watering the trees which were really very thirsty. Thanks to the Upper Hunter Shire for providing the sausage sizzle for the children and also the bags to collect rubbish. Thank you to Fiona Wightman for supplying the gloves, Mr Richard Magner for providing beautiful watermelons for the children afterwards and thanks to ex-students from the St Joseph’s class of 2004 – Jacob Bailey and Josh Whale for coming down to cook the BBQ for us all.

This week the children will enjoy a visit from the Hunter Life Education Van. The Life Education program aims to empower children to make the best choices possible when faced with a range of issues so that they can be safe and healthy. We are very grateful to Mt Arthur Coal for their continued financial support of this program. Mt Arthur provides 70% of the student cost reducing the school’s bill to $3.00 per student.

Reading helpers are welcome and needed in all classrooms at St Joseph’s. If you are able to assist in this very important service at our school, please come along to a workshop at 2.30 pm this Thursday in the MacKillop Room. Mrs Sally Hagley will be explaining to reading helpers how the system works at St Joseph’s and will give you lots of helpful hints about how to actively listen to children reading, when to correct and when to encourage, what feedback to give to the child and teacher and so on. Even if you cannot be a regular parent helper at school, this is great training for helping your child to read at home.

Congratulations to the following award winners for Week 5:

**Infants** - Alana Telfer - for being a caring class member

**Mollie Beaven** - for always having a great smile

**Braeden Halse** - for his participation in sport (dancing)

**Bethany Wightman** - for always being ready to learn

**3/4 - Korey Halse** - for pleasing effort in his attitude to all aspects of school work

**Roy Lawler** - for his enthusiasm and effort in measuring length

**5/6 - Rhys Turner** – for putting in an excellent effort in writing his narrative

**Emily Ninness** – for writing some amazing and astounding alliterations

**Principal’s Awards** -

- **Jemma Grady** – for her patience and kindness when mentoring and welcoming new students

- **Ava Peel** – for her increasing confidence and great efforts to learn new work

**Playground Champion** - Arlia Parker – always including others in her games.
Cassilis Public School

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
SOPHIE ANDERSON

Sophie Anderson has been awarded the title of Student of the Week for consistently being a keen and enthusiastic learner. She is always organised and prepared for school. Sophie consistently brings in her completed homework and at times even asks for additional work to complete. She also regularly remembers to bring in her library books and keeps her school uniform clean and tidy. Sophie started the QuickSmart program this term and has since been determined to improve and challenge herself to do her very best. She upholds each of the Cassilis school rules as well as the school motto of Strive with Pride and should be proud of her efforts. Congratulations and keep up the hard work, Sophie!

ATTENDANCE

Great job Cassilis! 100% attendance four days this week! Only one student was absent for one day and more students arrived on time. Well done families!

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.

Using our Sentral program we are now able to print reminder letters for late arrivals and absent students. These will be sent home every Wednesday as a friendly reminder that a note is owing.

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

CANTEEN

The Canteen will operate every Friday this year! Menus were sent home last week. Helpers needed. Please see Suzanne Bibby.

SENSATIONAL SCIENCE

Last Friday we all went down to the river to collect garbage. We were surprised how much plastic and other rubbish was at the river and on the way down.

After collecting our rubbish we sorted it on the café lawn then returned to school to write up our data.

It was fantastic learning as we calculated how much rubbish would end up washed into the oceans if every town from here to Newcastle had the same amount. It was scary!

We finished the afternoon with a gumboot throwing competition that Ben described as ‘awesome’.

Learning through fun…. WOW!

FACEBOOK

Search Cassilis Public School in your face book account – like and share. Be sure to read the about section for guidelines.
THE IMPORTANCE OF BREAKFAST

It’s the most important meal of the day - but one in four children in Australia skip breakfast.

At school, a hungry child can lose concentration in class, have no energy for playtime and snack on unhealthy foods such as chips or biscuits.

A calm and healthy breakfast every day is the best defence against this happening. It also helps children to get into good habits that they can carry through life.

We know that sometimes factors work against families in the morning and that a number of our children leave home very early in the morning to travel to school. This is why we have breakfast club.

Every morning children have a healthy selection of wholegrain cereal with milk, or wholemeal toast with marmite or baked beans. The children also have the option of a drink of milk. Breakfast Club is almost fully funded by the Red Cross and relies on parent volunteers to run the program.

We are very appreciative of all the mums and dads that give up their time to ensure our children start each school day with a balanced breakfast.

CRUNCH AND SIP

We follow up breakfast with Crunch and Sip which occurs in all classrooms at 10.00am. This allows students to refuel and boost their physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom.

Each day, all students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or salad vegetable to school to eat in the classroom. They are also encouraged to keep a drink bottle of water on their desk so they can drink it at any time of the day to prevent dehydration.

Regular crunch and sip has a positive impact on students by:

- Creating an enjoyable daily routine that increases fruit and vegetable intake
- Promoting a positive attitude towards fruit, vegetables and water.

Later this term we will once again hold a vegetable day. The students have responded very positively towards this activity in the past.

PURPLE DAY

On Monday last week our students dressed in purple to raise money for Relay for Life and the Cancer Council. The school raised $165.00 on the day, a fantastic effort!

PURPLE DAY RAFFLE RESULTS

The winners are Mikayla Borradaile, Rowdy Walters and Cody Parkinson. Congratulations!

CLEAN UP DAY

All students joined in with schools clean up day last Friday. Kinder/Year 1/2 cleaned around our buildings and lunch area. It was quite surprising how much garbage they cleaned up. Year 3/4/5/6 cleaned the playground and along Honey Lane.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

The P and C ran a sausage sizzle in lieu of not having canteen this term. The students enjoyed the opportunity to order their lunch and quickly devoured what was on offer. A huge thank you to Jeannie Harris, Michael Terrell, Nicola Field and Michelle Stennett for making this treat available to our students.

REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Four of our students will travel to Maitland on Thursday to compete in the PSSA regional swimming carnival. We wish them all the very best. Amy Thompson will swim in 12 year girls 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly; Andrew Harris will...
swim in the 9 year boys 50m freestyle and Amy Thompson, Sam Thompson, Angus Higgins and Andrew Harris will represent the school in the P5 relay. Good luck!

**CASSILIS CROSS COUNTRY**

On Friday we are off to Cassilis to participate in the cross country. Thank you to all parents who have offered to drive. We appreciate you giving up your time. Those students who did not order their lunch will need to bring their own. Please remember all food needs to be nut free.

**MARKET DAY AND CAR BOOT SALE**

On Saturday March 28 while the state elections are being held, the SRC are running a market day and car boot sale. All members of the community are invited to set up stalls. Sites will be $20.00 each. Electricity can be made available if needed. Please ring the school to book a stall.

**RUGBY LEAGUE TRIALS**

Good luck to Darcy Wallace who is going to attend the Rugby League trials on Friday.

**WEEKLY AWARDS**

- **Kristy Walker** - application in mathematics
- **Dustynn Turner** - trying hard to solve mathematical investigations
- **Bill Chambers** - trying hard in Literacy activities
- **Isabelle Pike** - reading with expression
- **Tyson Marsh** - trying very hard with his sounds work.

**WORKERS OF THE WEEK**

Kinder/Year 1/2 - Noah Adams and Marshall Hinze.

Year 3/4/5/6 - Amy Thompson, Nicholas Terrell and Matthew Allen.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Andrew Harris - demonstrating school values at all times.

**SPORTSPERSON OF THE WEEK**

Kayden Adams - encouraging others.

**MAITLAND SHOW**

Congratulations to Kristy Walker who placed fifth overall in cattle parading at Maitland Show last Friday. A great result.

**MUSIC LESSONS**

There are vacancies open for Sandy Hollow students to attend private piano and beginner’s guitar lessons here at school. Lessons are held every Wednesday and can be 20 or 30 minutes in duration. In addition to learning how to play the piano or guitar, students will also be taught fundamental theory of music, how to read music and performance skills.

Guitars can be borrowed from the school. Individual lessons are charged at reasonable rates.

If you are interested please phone Rachel Dearnley on 6547 2128 or contact your child’s teacher.

Christina Darlington
Principal
AN APPLE A DAY

We appreciate all the generous donations that have been flooding in this term, we already have some creative programming ideas for a large stack of boxes which have been delivered.

Our thanks to Kasie for agreeing to be our fruit fairy. Kasie shops for our fresh fruit early each week and it is used for the afternoon teas at Merriwa Activity Centre and we also provide it in the Pre-School not only to supplement lunches and morning teas but to be available for the children to purchase as a first canteen experience. Thanks to a generous Christmas gift to the Pre-School we are making eating apples a lot more appealing using a great apple slinky machine, so if you would like, provide an apple or pop 50c into your child’s morning tea or lunch box, they could buy an apple or a wide variety of other fruits.

Often children go through stages in terms what they eat and we at times hear children described as finicky or picky eaters, we ensure that children are supported to eat the food that is provided from home and that they are given plenty of time to make it an enjoyable and relaxed experience. That aside, children still control the amount they choose to eat and it is a process as children discover their likes and dislikes. If your child attends Pre-School on a Tuesday you can now check what your child has eaten at School by checking our monitoring chart which tracks what each child has consumed at each sitting. Although this has been created for our youngest Pre-Schoolers, we are happy to include your child to the list if you so choose, it would be especially useful if your child is displaying a lack of appetite.

A rest time register is also running, so instead of educators estimating the amount of sleep your child has had and the exact time each child begins a nap, it will be displayed beside your child’s name with a line drawn showing the time and duration of rest.

Wow, what a performance by Gwenda Stanley on Friday. She captured the attention of the children, they really enjoyed dancing and moving like bush animals. The children had their faces painted with ocre and repeated a lot of Aboriginal names. Gwenda showed the group all the tools used to catch, kill and skin the bush animals. Oliver asked her why she didn’t have all the things that other people had and Gwenda explained that we like to eat farm animals and her people would prefer to eat bush animals. It was pretty funny when Gwenda danced like a kangaroo and when the children were asked to guess the animal she was they responded with all kinds of strange responses like cow and monkey. We discussed that we don’t really see many monkeys in the Australian bush. What a great learning experience!

Our Committee for 2015 are as follows:

President: Peter Holland
Vice President: Olivia Gear
Treasurer: Ainsley Maben
Secretary: Teressa Williams

General members are: Peter Campbell, Danielle Taylor, Samantha Thompson, Cherrie Patterson.

This year, I’m pleased to report we have retained a high percentage of our committee which means that they bring a great deal of experience to the role and will be well equipped to support our new members.

Leah Folpp
Director

Merriwa Ringer
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

Men’s breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday
March-November: 7.30am

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 6: World day of Prayer 6.30pm Uniting Church

March 15: Parish AGM

If you have been following the lent series and have read St. Mark 1: 9-15 you would notice that Jesus in the wilderness for forty days, was tempted by Satan, was with the wild beasts and the angels ministered to him… On receiving my Bush Church Aid prayer notes this week, I turned to the editorial from Bishop of Tasmania and President of BCA John Harrower. He tells us Jesus loves us! He was taking a service and had just announced the first hymn “Jesus loves me, this I know, and the bible tells me”; when a parishioner walked quickly down the aisle, stood in front of him and presented John with a red rose. He accepted the rose with a light heart and a wide grin. “Bishop do you love Jesus?” To this unexpected question he quickly affirmed “Yes I love Jesus.” To this unexpected question he quickly affirmed “Yes I love Jesus.” Now Bishop John was expecting the parishioner to return to her pew, and he announced the hymn for the second time. BUT… the woman remained standing in front of him, and repeated the question two more times and Bishop John replied in the affirmative. Satisfied at last the woman walked back to her pew and turned to face the Bishop and announced in a loud voice “Bishop, I love Jesus too!” I can picture that congregation erupting with laughter and clapping for joy as Bishop John tells in the editorial. Bishop John goes onto say “This was an undoubted ‘God-moment’ and the angels in heaven would have danced wildly.” When was the last time you felt the presence of Angels? Maybe in this time of Lenten meditation Angels will minister to you.

So this is the Good News that we proclaim, “Yes I Love Jesus!”

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.

Merriwa Rotary

Rotary Merriwa is marking the recent deaths of two people who have been closely connected with our club.

SISTER MARY DUNNE RSJ

Sister Mary was a member of the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar. She served our community firstly as a teacher at St Joseph’s Merriwa and in later years as a community worker in our district.

In 2005, our club awarded her Rotary’s highest honour by making her a Paul Harris Fellow in acknowledgement of her dedicated work in helping many members of the Merriwa community during a difficult time for those on the land.

MARGARET ILUKOL

Margaret was a Ugandan, was brought to Australia by our Rotary District after she had suffered severe facial damage during an attack by a hyena. She lived in our Rotary area while she had many operations on her face. She spent several periods in Merriwa, hosted by local Rotary families while she was receiving treatment and being educated at St. Joseph’s Lochinvar. She later graduated as a qualified nurse and remained in Australia, working in her profession.

PLEASE HELP ROTARY MERRIWA HELP MERRIWA’S GUMMUN PLACE

Last week we acknowledged the generous donation of a steer by David and Julia Hardy to assist Rotary’s effort to fund the MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM which will significantly increase safety for residents. Further sponsorship has come from:

- The Frampton Family
- Merriwa Petroleum and Ag Supplies
- The Mulligan Family
- The Peebles Family

There are indications that further sponsorship will be given to support our appeal.

Merriwa Ringer
Dr Noman Jawaad Medical Practice
WE ARE OPEN 5 FIVES DAYS A WEEK
Our hours currently are:
8.00am – 6.00pm
Monday to Friday
For all appointment please phone 6532 5013.

JUST A CHAT … WITH DR CHO
FROZEN BERRIES OUTRAGE

There is a national recall of several lines of frozen berries under the “Nana’s” and “Creative Gourmet” brands due to a national outbreak of locally-acquired Hepatitis A during January and February of this year. You can find the details on products recalled on the NSW Food Authority website: http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/news/alerts-recalls.

Health Protection NSW suggested:

- Patients who have consumed the recalled frozen berries but are WELL do not require testing or vaccination, because the risk of having Hepatitis A is low
- Patients who have consumed frozen berries and HAVE SYMPTOMS of Hepatitis should be tested with Hepatitis A serology
- The contacts of the suspected Hepatitis A patient should have timely preventative measures.

WHAT IS HEPATITIS A?

Hepatitis A means inflammation of the liver caused by Hepatitis A virus. It is usually a mild disease with a high rate of complete recovery, although some cases can be severe.

The symptoms of Hepatitis A are flu-like illness, feeling sick, vomiting, not willing to eat or drink, muscle aches and pain, upper right quadrant abdominal pain and jaundice, yellow skin and sclera [Sclera = the white part of the eye in normal person]. Some people may never have symptoms.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

The virus is present in the bowel of the infected person. It passes in the faeces and spreads to the mouth of another through infected hands, food, contaminated water and shellfish.

It may take 15-50 days [average 28 days] to show the symptoms.

The patient is most infectious two weeks before and one week after the onset of jaundice.

HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT?

Strict personal hygiene can stop the disease spreading.

- Wash your hands with soap and water before handling food or eating
- Wash your hands after using toilet
- Protect food from flies.
- Avoid drinking contaminated water or drinks.

An infected person who works as a food-counter employee should not handle food or money.

Within a week of exposure, the family members who are in close physical contact can have an injection of immunoglobulin, which protects against Hepatitis for three months.

Life-time protection against Hepatitis A can be achieved by a course of two injections [6-month intervals] of Hepatitis A vaccination. My travelling advice is that people who plan to travel to developing countries should have this immunisation.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

- Seek early medical help
- Rest …. Rest …. Rest …. Stay in bed ….until the yellow skin and sclera fade away
- Drink plenty of water with glucose or sugar [3-4 litres a day for adult], handmade lemon or orange juice
- Avoid things that affect the liver… avoid alcohol and certain medications such as paracetamol, contraceptive pills, etc, until recovery
- Avoid fatty foods until feeling better, if the foods upset the stomach
- I don’t want the Merriwa community to stress about Hepatitis A, because the chances of having Hepatitis A in Australia are very low compared to developing countries.

Mark Smith
25 Years is an amazing achievement for a Festival to continue in a changing world. Where everyone, every town and community is chasing the tourist dollar to assist their own local businesses. The fact that the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces has established itself as a premier NSW and Upper Hunter tourist attraction, attracting in excess of 5000 visitors to the district every June long weekend, is a testament to the hard working community volunteers and generous local businesses that call Merriwa and the Upper Hunter home.

Every year the Festival Committee raises in excess of $35,000.00 in sponsorship and fundraising to run the Festival. But it is the individual community members, their families and local businesses that make the Festival such a success through their continued support.

On behalf of the Festival Committee, we say thank you to sponsors of past Festivals that have enabled our community to celebrate 25 years with the 2015 ROSTO Olives Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces. Words are not enough to express the Committee’s gratitude. Thank you, the Festival would be nothing if not for you.

Contact Liam Garment on 6521 7046.

Liam Garment

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Twenty five years ago the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces hosted its first Parade but did you know that the Festival also held a Fun Run as part of its entertainment?

It seems that the Merriwa Community and Australia as a whole, has discovered fitness and this year the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces committee wish to reintroduce the Festival Fun Run. It will consist of three events; a 5km fun run, a 10km competitive run and a 5km team event.

But to hold this, the Fun Run needs some assistance. We are looking for people to work check points the morning of the festival. This would be from approximately 7.00am until 10.30am.

We are also seeking sponsorship to assist with “prizes” and trophies for the entrants in the races.

All money raised for the event will be split between the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Merriwa Volunteer Rescue Squad and Cancer Council NSW.

Anyone interested in coming on board, please feel free to contact me on 0447 219 193 after 4.00pm daily.
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.

**St David’s Pie/Lamington Drive**

It is Pie Drive time again!

Time to stock up the freezer for the holidays!

Order sheets are out around town but if anyone is unable to access a sheet or have any queries, please contact Barbara.

**Orders Close:**  Monday March 16

**Delivery Date:**  Friday March 27

**Contact:**  Barbara Campbell on  6548 5131 or 0428 485 131.

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**Merriwa CWA**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON**

Friday March 6 at 10.30am for 11.00am at the CWA rooms in Bettington Street Merriwa. Confirmed speaker, Ms Lee Luckett talking on her work with Domestic Violence Victims.

Entry is a gold coin and an item of toiletry to be donated to Muswellbrook Women’s Refuge. Contact Jean Price 6548 2456 or Robyn McAlister 6548 3274.

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**CWA ANNUAL EASTER STREET STALL**

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 Jean Price on 6548 2456.

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**St Anne’s Parish**

**Merriwa - Cassilis**

You are invited to join us for the annual St Anne’s Parish – St Joseph’s School Dinner to celebrate Catholic Schools Week to be held at the RSL club on Wednesday evening March 11, 7.00pm.

There will be trivia, food, fun and friendship for just $25.00 per head.

Everyone is very welcome.

Please ring Marie Scott on 6548 5130 or contact Anne Marie Peebles or Sally Gilbey at the school (6548 2035) to book your tickets.

**RSVP:**  Monday March 9

“It takes a village to raise a child”.

---

**Gummun Place Hostel Market Day**

**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

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**Show of Appreciation**

We would like to show our appreciation to Linda Gant at Plough Inn to Cassilis for the wonderful supply of fresh cakes that were truely enjoyed.

---

**Fr John Tobin, Anne Marie Peebles and Paige Farrow**

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**Committee Meeting**

The Committee of the Merriwa Fitness Centre would like to give notice of a meeting on Monday March 9 at the Merriwa Sports club at 6.00pm.

All members are most welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Annie on 0408 482 778.

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**Penelope Fenley**

---

**Barbara Campbell**

---

**Sue Duggan**

---

**Annie Rodgers**

---

**Hilton Cronin**
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.

A street stall has been booked for our Auxiliary. The date is this Friday March 6. We will be selling the usual cakes, slices, biscuits and fruit, vegetables and preserves. Also we will have a 100 club and a raffle with the prize being a $100.00 fuel voucher – tickets $2.00 or three for $5.00. We’d all love to win this one!

We would welcome any donations of saleable items from members of our community and we thank you all for your wonderful support each and every year. These items can be delivered to the street stall Friday morning or alternate arrangements can be made by contacting Elaine on 6548 8560. All money raised goes to the purchase of equipment for our Merriwa MPS – our very own local hospital.

See you all at the street stall with some yummy scrumptious cakes and slices.

Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Squash Club

Did you know that Merriwa has its own squash club? Ever thought of taking squash up? Wanting to get fit or meet new people? Haven't played for a while and want to get back into it?

Well now is the time to follow those thoughts through and join the local squash club competition. It caters for all grades and the regulars enjoy teaching newbies how to play. With players from as young as 12 to over the 80 mark, no one has an excuse not to play!

The new competition starts Tuesday March 10. Sign up now and place your name at the Merriwa Sports Club.

Bruce Smith

Mary O’Neill

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

Download the free Merriwa Central School App.
MCS in touch with our community!
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.school@det.nsw.edu.au.
Alexander Downs is proudly 100% Hunter Valley owned and operated. From our paddock to your plate - Quality Guaranteed Beef and Pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday

SPECIAL
WHOLE SCOTCH FILLET - $25.50kg
CRUMBED STEAK - $9.50kg

DELIVERY FRIDAY 13.03.15

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

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alexanderdowns@bigpond.com

Merriwa Auto Electrical
Only Fully Qualified Auto Electrician in Merriwa Area
It is a specialist area within the automotive industry. We are the experts when it comes to:

- Electrical componetry of your bar, - ie. batteries - (If we don’t have it, we can get it!)
- Lighting circuits, electric brakes, alternators
- Starter motors, driving lights, LED’S for trailers and vehicles
- We can do DIAGNOSTIC TESTING.

AIR CONDITIONING

All your air conditioning needs come to the shop or we'll come to you!

Did you know? We can also provide and install TV Aerials, plus set up VAST Box Connections at your home or work.

Ring us for an appointment on 6548 2114 or call in to 30 Bow Street Merriwa and see Michael or Sally.

Sally and Michael Hagley

Photography Tips
BEST TIME OF THE DAY FOR PHOTOGRAPHING BUTTERFLIES
If you plan on photographing them in their natural habitat, first thing in the morning just after the sun comes over the horizon is the best time. First thing in the morning they are just starting to wake up and it is a bit chillier at that time of day which means they are moving just a bit slower and they are a little less alert than they would be in mid day.

If you can get to them early in the morning before their wings start to warm up you will have a better chance that they will be a little more tolerant of you and you just might be able to get that money shot. If you wait till mid day, they will be up and moving about, flitting from one flower to the next, stopping only briefly for a snack.

Some butterfly attractors include rotten fruit, salt licks or salt pellets, molasses, gatorade, naval oranges, watermelon, stale beer and fruit juices

To supercharge your attractor factor you might combine some of the above ingredients as well.

This information was sourced from http://www.macrominded.com/photographing-butterflies.html, where more tips can be found.
GUMMUN PLACE HOSTEL MARKET DAY

Gummun Place Hostel will be holding their annual market day on Saturday 7 March commencing at 9.00am.

There will be a variety of stalls such as cake, craft, preserves, furniture, lollies as well as a Devonshire morning tea and BBQ lunch.

All proceeds will be going towards the upgrade of the medical alert system.

Donations of goods to sell are gladly accepted.

P: Suzanne Duggan 6521 7010

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 10 March 2015, 10.00am

Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 10 March 2015, 1.00pm

Finance Committee
Friday 20 March 2015, 1.00pm

Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday 23 March 2015, 5.00pm. Note: This meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Merriwa office of Upper Hunter Shire Council.

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

MOTHER’S DAY RAFFLE

The Festival of the Fleeces Committee would like to help you celebrate Mother’s Day with an amazing fundraising raffle. At just $2.00 per ticket with over $600.00 worth of prizes, there is sure to be something that mum will enjoy.

1st Prize:
- One Half of a prepared Lamb donated by Kemp Rural Partnership Merriwa.
- 1/2 hour Swedish Message Donated by Lisa’s Massage Therapy Merriwa
- Ladies Hair Care Pack Donated by Brodie’s Cutting Edge Merriwa
- One Bottle of Rosto Olives Extra Oomph Gold Medal Winning Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Second Prize:
- One Half of a prepared Lamb donated by Kemp Rural Partnership Merriwa
- Ladies Elite Dress Watch donated by Prouds Muswellbrook
- One Bottle of Rosto Olives Mellow Gold Medal Winning Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Third Prize:
- $50 Voucher to Scratchley’s Newcastle donated by Bob & Jan Baihn
- Mum’s Soap Box Gift Box Donated by Mum’s Soap Box Merriwa
- One Bottle of Rosto Olives Mellow Gold Medal Winning Australian Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Raffle drawn Friday 8 May 2015

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046
1893 Ringwood Road Merriwa
Reduced $475,000.00

Located just 23km’s from Merriwa and only two and a half hours by the new Freeway from Newcastle, this 265 acre property is superbly set up and maintained.

Fronting the Bow River and with a pump set up to pump water to a header tank and over 100,000 litres of fresh water storage, plus five dams water is a feature of this property. Approximately 150 acres is cleared and fenced into six paddocks.

The property has consistently carried up to 50 head of cattle plus horses. There is a good set of cattle yards with a stable attached. Other farm infrastructure includes, three bay stable complex with a tack room and round yard, Wash Bay, two bay open garage and a six bay open machinery shed with attached three bay carport. The yard and accommodation are simply a picture perfect delight.

There is a two bedroom cottage which is only 12 months old with it’s own kitchen and verandah overlooking the yard. The main house is iron clad for a rustic country feel and is very comfortable with a large open plan living area featuring a lounge with combustion fire, dining room and a second bedroom plus a huge timber kitchen. There is the main bedroom and a loft area for the kids. At the rear is a covered entertainment area looking out to the paddocks. The yard is fully fenced with a big lawn, kid’s cubby, covered BBQ area and beautiful shade tree’s with all the tree’s having drippers on them for watering. Backing onto the National Park and boasting outstanding facilities this would make a perfect weekender or a permanent home.
## Merriwa Ringer Directory

A quick reference guide to all that support the Merriwa Ringer

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Downs</td>
<td>6548 5170</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brodie's Cutting Edge</td>
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<td>Cassilis Bowling Club</td>
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<td>CJ and JM Vero and Sons</td>
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<td>Community Mutual       - Merriwa</td>
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<td>Cross Country Merriwa</td>
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<td>Curtis Gant and Irving</td>
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<td>Custom Made Kitchens</td>
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<td>Max's Country Cuts</td>
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<td>Merriwa Activity Centre</td>
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<td>Merriwa Bushmans Campdraft</td>
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<td>Merriwa Healthy Environment Group</td>
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<td>Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Newsagency</td>
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<td>Merriwa Central School P and C</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>
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<td>Merriwa Pony Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pre-School and Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Merriwa Race Club</td>
<td>0427 482 095</td>
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<td>Merriwa RLFC</td>
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<td>Merriwa Squash Club</td>
<td>0429 588 582</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tennis Club</td>
<td>6548 2910</td>
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<td>Merriwa Touch Football</td>
<td>0447 219 193</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre and Mens Shed</td>
<td>6548 3201</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tyre and Service Centre</td>
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<td>Mortgage Choice</td>
<td>0408 480 562</td>
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<td>Non Emergency Medical Transport</td>
<td>6548 2653</td>
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<td>NSW Farmers Association</td>
<td>0455 455 760</td>
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<td>R and M Moore Rural Support</td>
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<td>Sandy Hollow Public School</td>
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<td>Scott Witton Building</td>
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<td>Sporting Shooters Association</td>
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<td>Tash Holden Communications</td>
<td>6548 5059</td>
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<td>Trinity Markets</td>
<td>6548 2438</td>
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<td>Upper Hunter Shire Council</td>
<td>6521 7000</td>
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<td>Upper Hunter Weeds</td>
<td>6549 3802</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welderup</td>
<td>0407 488 560</td>
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</table>

### Emergency Services

In case of emergency call 000 or 112 from mobile services

- **Police (Admin only)**: 6548 2437
- **Police Mobile**: 0408 293 423
- **Police Assistance**: 131 444
- **Fire (Admin only)**: 6548 2005
- **Hospital -MPS**: 6532 5000
- **Rural Fire Service**: 1800 081 166
- **SES Emergency**: 132 500
- **Merriwa Rescue Squad**: 6548 2538
- **Dr Noman Jawaad**: 6532 5013
- **Merriwa Surgery - Dr Emad Jasem**: 6548 2305

Support the Ringer regularly but can’t find your business? Contact Tina on 6548 2119.
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

MERRIWA Auto Electrical
Michael & Sally
All Types of Auto Electrical & Air Conditioning Repairs
(02) 6548 2114
30 Bow St, Merriwa 2329
merrae@bigpond.com

MERRIWA PAINTING & DECORATING
DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
FREE QUOTES
Friendly service with 25 years experience
Fully insured
KYM DANIEL
Phone: 0409 015 678

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Branch & District Council
"a strong and united voice for our members on issues that affect their business, farms and families."
President:
Patrick Ryan 0428 485 090
Secretary/Treasurer:
Alice Hampton 0455 455 769
www.nswfarmer.org.au

newsXpress
newsXpress & OFFICESMART
AGENT
Neville and Leanne Hook
P 65 482 031
mwanews@bigpond.com
www.merriwanewsagency.com.au

Merriwa District Education Foundation
President - Ivan Gant
6376 1041
Secretary - Jane Hegarty
6376 1052
Treasurer - Lesley Nixon
0407 627 846
Education changes lives. And families. And communities.
Our work is an investment in the future of rural and regional Australia.
www.merriwa.nsw.au

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
Names and Logos
For clothing, Caps, Towels
School Items and Work Place Uniforms
Quality Clothing Friendly Service Affordable Prices
Phone: 6548 3023

Dress For Less
Trinity Markets
Accessories, Books, Nick-Nacks
Clothing for all the family
DONATIONS WELCOME!
Times – Fri
9.00am – 12.30pm
Sat
9.00am – 12.00pm
118 Bettington St, Merriwa
6548 2323

MERRIWA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC
Caring for our land, our water and the air we breathe
Contact: Graham Brown 6547 6048
Ted Finne 6548 5171
Visit: www.merriwa.nsw.au

Craig MacPherson Haulage
Reliable, Friendly Service
For all your general freight needs
Servicing Tarworth, Dubbo, Newcastle, Scone & surrounding areas
Pick up at Sydney depot every Thursday
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M 0408 293 448

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

MCT Property & Livestock
Roger Moore 0427 153446
Megan Moore 0400 653446
www.mctpropertyandlivestock.com
Merriwa Ringer

Groups

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Established

www.merriwashow.com.au

St Vincent de Paul

- Tel: 0498 378 500

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Saturday by arrangement.

Photography Services

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 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 Ringer

Merriwa Pharmacy

Opening Hours

Monday 9am – 5.30pm
Tuesday 9am – 5.30pm
Wednesday 9am – 5.30pm
Thursday 9am – 5.30pm
Friday 9am – 5.30pm
Saturday 9am – 12 noon

Ph: 6548 2213

Gummun Place Hostel

14-16 Marquet Street

Merriwa

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

A rural relaxing lifestyle provided with care.

16 Room Low-Care Aged Facility

PHONE: 6521 7011

Merriwa SSAA & APA

Range facilities and Fire arm testing available

President: Nathan Telfer
Secretary: Phil Martyn
Contact 6547 6031 for information

Shooting weekends 2nd and 4th weekend of the month

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, the birth place of Pony Club....

Merriwa Anglican Parish

Services

Holy Trinity - St Columbia - Merriwa
Cassilis

9.00am Sundays; 11.00am every 10.00am Fridays 2nd and 4th Short Bible Study - Sunday
7.30am Mon., Wed. & Fri. Morning Prayer

Rev'd Glen Hughes - Supervising Priest & Rev'd Pat Kirkby - Local Priest

St David’s Uniting Church

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 JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB

President: Andrew Murray
Vice President: Elaine Sparrow
Secretary: Trent Cooper
Treasurer: John Sparrow

Merrriwa Rugby League Football Club

President – Mark Kirkland
Snr Vice President – Seth Morgan
Jnr Vice President – Justine Wilney

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

President: Merriwa Ringer
Vice President: Hannah Walmsley
Secretary: Emily Hall
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben

Merriwa Central School

Primary Campus: 6548 2101
Secondary Campus: 6548 2119

Merriwa Sports Club Ltd 6548 2028

Opening Times:
*Monday & Tuesday - 4pm *Wednesday - Sunday - 12pm
Thursday Night 7:00pm Bingo
Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy 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 Rice Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228

Merriwa Bistro

Merriwa Touch Football

Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Tina Taylor
Senior Vice President: Trent Cooper
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben

For more information, contact 6548 2124 after hours.

Merriwa Ringer

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

Sunday
Raffles
Members Badge Draw between 11.30am & 1.30pm

Club: 6548 2157
Bistro: 6548 2295

Don’t forget the Chinese Smorgasbord Sunday, March 29

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.

Merriwa Tennis Association

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

Day - Night
Competition
Junior Competition
Court Hire

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 Dart 7.00pm - Draw for partners

Tuesdays - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Thursdays - 6.00pm 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 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

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

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

DON’T FORGET CHINESE SMORASBORD SUNDAY MARCH 29

PH: 6376 1002

Open every day 5pm

Cassilis Bowling Club

Schools
WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle February 28
Saturday Members Draw no 409 was won - next week $100.00

Winners Jackpot won - next week $100.00

Monthly Prize: Jill Whitby
Dinner: Leo Bailey
Bowls Raffle: Beatrice Voysey

Sunday Raffle March 1
Sunday Members draw - No 280, not won. Next week $1050.00. Don’t forget!

MUFTI 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.

NEXT TRIVIA NIGHT
When: Saturday March 21 at 6.30pm
$10.00 per head, tables of eight. Come along and enjoy a fun night of trivia. Great prizes, great fun. Basket supper or purchase your snacks at the restaurant. Part of the proceeds will be donated to Gumnun Place to assist in the purchase of a Medical Alert System.

NRL FOOTING TIPPING COMPETITION
Don’t miss out. 30 Names only. Starts March 5. Names are to be at the club by 6.00pm on first game night of round. First Prize of $300.00, second prize $200.00, third prize $100.00 and last prize $50.00. Weekly spondula of $10.00 for picking the round. Good luck.

WOMENS BOWLS NEWS
Merriwa mixed Friendship Day of bowls is Wednesday March 25. Commencing with morning tea at 9.30am and play starting at 10.00am. Casual dress! Everyone is welcome to come along and join a great fun day of bowls, flat sole shoes are to be worn and the club has some bowls.

Names are to be on the board at the Sports Club or Loretta by March 20. Cost for the day is $10.00 per player. For more information by calling 6548 2679.

Over the last few weeks Merriwa/Murrurundi Ladies Bowls have had two wins and two losses. The team play at Scone on March 3. Lets hope they got a win.

Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $750.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm, the number was 882. This week it jackpots to $800.00. The 7.00pm draw for $500.00 was not won. The number was 942. This week it jackpots to $540.00. The 9.00pm draw for $400.00 was not won and the number was 619. This week it jackpots to $440.00. LTPS/13/04473

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $1000.00 was not won last week. The number was 859 and this week it jackpots to $1050.00. 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.

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 draw, members draw and vegetable trays.

DRAW RESULTS – FEBRUARY 27
Members Draw - $65.00 – Terry Cunningham – unclaimed - $70.00 next week

Joker Draw - $1026.00 – Celia Ellingford – unsuccessful - $1068.00 next week..

Commencing Sunday March 8 – Pool and Jukebox arvo – half price drinks and nibblies from 2.30pm.

Hilary Parker
Merriwa Tennis Club

AUTUMN NIGHT COMPETITION

Tennis is played on Monday evenings from 6.30 - approximately 8.30pm.

Anyone interested in leaving their name as a substitute player can do so at Merriwa Pharmacy or by e-mailing merriwatennis@gmail.com.

HOTSHOTS

The Hotshots junior tennis program is gathering momentum - The Tennis Club, Merriwa Central School and St Josephs have all received equipment from Tennis Australia. The club is looking for helpers to help get this program off the ground. Please contact Alyssa Moore at Merriwa Central School if you can assist.

Boris Becker - Robert Smith

Merriwa Junior Rugby League Football and Netball Club

Netball is about to commence their competition in Scone. If there is anyone interested in playing netball each week at Scone in a Merriwa team please ring Heidi Inder to register on 6548 5100.

League still has a month before we start our Group 21 competition. The Merriwa teams are coming along nicely with two six year old teams, one seven, one eight, nines and tens to be decided, a twelve side and a sixteen side. All these teams would benefit with a couple more players in each so if you are interested in playing junior league (girls up to 12 ) we would love you to come along to our training days and talk to Elaine. Training is on Tuesday and Friday at the Sports Oval between 4.30pm and 5.30pm at this stage. As the days get shorter the time will be changed to 4.00pm to 5.00pm. We need new players to register. We need old players to register. Our coaches are ready to go so let’s get all these young budding league players on the field. Come on down to training and chesk us out.

Any enquiries please ring 6548 8560.

Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Touch Football Club

Touch is coming to its final rounds with next week teams playing the washed out game from round 4. This means that:

6.00pm - Field 1 - Touch ‘n’ Go v’s RSL Ladies
6.45pm - Field 1 - Sandy Hollow Mens v’s Sports Club Boys
   Field 2 - Sandy Hollow Ladies v’s Incredibowls
7.30pm - Field 1 - ROAR v’s School Boys
   Field 2 - Can’t Touch This v’s We got game
8.15pm - Field 1 - RSL Men v’s MWA Tyre Service
   Field 2 - Young and the Rest v’s DMC

The finals rounds will then be held March 18, 25 and grandfinal on March 28.

March 18 will see teams placing first and second play at 6.30pm and teams placing third and fourth play at 7.15pm. All other teams are out of the competition. The winner of first and second going straight to the grandfinal played on March 28.

March 25 has the loser of first and second play the winner of third and fourth with the winner playing in the grandfinal on March 28.

Table as of Round 13 is below:

**MENS**

| First - School Boys on 20 | 81/12 |
| Second - RSL Mens on 14 | 47/21 |
| Third - Sandy Hollow on 13 | 49/51 |
| Fourth - The Gambler on 11 | 37/44 |
| Fifth - Sports Club on 10 | 40/47 |
| Sixth - ROAR on 1 | 41/39 |
| Seventh - MWA Tyre Service on 1 | 15/39 |

**LADIES**

| First - We got Game on 24 | 84/2 |
| Second - Touch’n’Go on 18 | 47/20 |
| Third - RSL Ladies on 17 | 41/13 |
| Fourth - DMC on 16 | 34/25 |
| Fifth - Sandy Hollow on 8 | 23/22 |
| Sixth - Young and the Rest on 5 | 8/52 |
| Seventh - Incredibowls on 5 | 5/60 |
| Eighth - Can’t Touch This on 3 | 4/42 |

Tina Taylor
Merriwa Pony Club

Just a few quick reminders of what’s happening at Merriwa Pony Club this month.

MARCH RALLY DAY

Our next rally day will be on Sunday March 8. We will be practicing dressage and jumping and sporting, along with bareback, ring etiquette and pairs. All the things that we have on our programs. We will also be doing memberships for those who have not signed up yet. Hope to see you all there.

Please remember to rsvp so that we can be organised for the day. There will be NO POWER at the showgrounds on this day, so bring a thermos and your own lunch. We will still have cordial and morning tea, so bring along something to share.

MERRIWA PRESIDENTS CUP AND COMBINED TRAINING

Programs have been sent out so mark it on the calendar for March 21 and 22.

KALEIDOSCOPE FUNDRAISING WEEKEND

The Pony Club has once again been asked to put on a demonstration at the Merriwa Charity Muster, the annual fundraising event for Kaleidoscope Kids. This is set to be held on Saturday March 28 at around 11.00am. The program looks to be a great weekend full of music and entertainment and great food and is free entry for locals. Last year they donated a microwave to the club for putting on the demonstration and this year they have mentioned that they may donate a deep freezer if we are interested.

Full uniform will be required to be worn during the demonstration and horses are to be clean and well presented. Let Chris Riley know if you are able to attend by emailing cl.riley@bigpond.com

THANK YOU TO HUNTER MUTUAL FOR BARBECUE

Last Friday we held the bbq won by the Pony Club at the last Hunter Mutual community groups presentation night. Thanks to everyone that bought a sausage or two on Friday. Thank you to the helpers from the Pony Club and to the lovely staff at Hunter Mutual for running the BBQ. We raised $200.00 which has been deposited into our bank account. Great work.

DENMAN PRESIDENTS CUP

Don’t forget Denman is on Sunday March 15 followed by Denman Horse Sports on Monday 16.

That’s it for now, busy month ahead so get those horses ready. Happy riding.

Merriwa Little Athletics Club

Some very exciting news for the club this week. Ben Keane has qualified for the second year in a row to compete at the NSW State Track and Field Championships to be held on March 20-22 at Sydney Olympic Park.

Ben will compete in the 800 meters – a wonderful achievement and on behalf of the club, we wish you every success.

Athletes, this now means it is even more important to come along to training so we can help Ben get ready for his 800. We need lots of ‘mice’ because as we know Ben is one very fast ‘cat’!

A special mention must also go to Clancy Moore who took home the bronze medal in high jump at Regionals last month in Glendale. Unfortunately Clancy was not selected for States this time around based on the heights jumped by other athletes in his age group across. Knowing Clancy, this will only make him even more determined to jump higher, run harder and train more next season. Good on you Clancy, its indeed a fine achievement to medal at Regional against top competition from the Hunter, Newcastle and the Central Coast.

This weekend we have four very special young athletes going to compete at the State Multi Event at Sydney Olympic Park - Grace Booth, Cody Bates, Jorji and Darcy Taaffe. This will also be the first major inter club competition for Grace and Cody. You have both been putting in such a super duper effort at training I am sure you will do a wonderful job in your events! GOOD LUCK KIDS!

Last week we noticed quite a few kids hobbling about after treading on burrs and bindi’s at the oval. Unless you want prickles in your feet kids, keep those shoes on! See you at training...

Tash Taaffe

Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft and Rodeo

With 2015 well on its way the Merriwa Bushmen’s Campdraft and Rodeo committee have started with this year’s event already with the dates and the program set.

To all our wonderful and consistent sponsors, your letters are on your way to you. Anyone that has not received a request or would like to sponsor please feel free to contact Megan Richards 0427 437 743 or merriwacampdraft@gmail.com. Megan will contact all potential sponsors in the very near future to follow up.

Our committee will be holding a RSA course on Friday April 24 at the Merriwa RSL Club which is for one day only and starts approximately 9.00am and finishes up around 4.00pm. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Megan to confirm, this is open to everyone.

Our next working bee down at the grounds will be on Saturday March 28 starting at 8.00am.

Anyone wanting to get involved with our committee please feel free to contact, Megan Richards or President Roger Moore. Reminder to all current committee members that the membership renewals have all been sent out and need to be paid in the very near future for insurance reasons.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Expression of interest is been sourced for operating the canteen and/or Saturday Night Dinner for the Merriwa Campdraft Canteen.

- Friday June 19, 19, 7.00am to late
- Saturday June 20, 6.00am to 5.00pm
- Sunday June 21, 6.00am to mid afternoon
- Saturday Night Dinner 6.00pm for a hot meal.

Please contact Megan Richards for further details 0427 437 743 or merriwacampdraft@gmail.com.

Closing date April 30, 2015.

Successful applicant will be notified by May 8, 2015.

Megan Richards

**Merriwa Rugby League Football Club**

**PLAYERS REGISTRATION COSTS**

- League Tag over 18 - $35.00
- League Tag under 18 - $5.00
- Rugby League over 18 - $100.00
- Rugby League under 18 - $60.00

**TRAINING TIMES**

**Women’s league tag**
Tuesday – No.1 Oval 6.30pm to 8.00pm
Thursday - No.2 Oval 6.30pm to 8.00pm

**Men’s Rugby League**
Tuesdays and Fridays - No.1 oval 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

Training on Friday March 27 for guys has been moved to Thursday March 26.

Group 21 comp starts April 11 and 12. Merriwa’s first game will be at Greta on Sunday April 12.

The guys Rugby League side will play a trial game on Saturday March 21 at 6.00pm in Merriwa against Trangie. Free entry to this game, so come along and watch our 2015 team.

Go the Mighty Magpies in 2015!

**OLD BOYS NEWS**

Merriwa Old Boys are holding a BBQ.

**When:** 2.00pm on Sunday March 29

**Where:** Merriwa RSL Club

All ex-players are welcome to come along.

Gaynor Blackadder

**DISCLAIMER**

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Articles are subject to change if they do not suit the requirements of the Ringer, includes spelling and terminology.
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<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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<td>Sunday 15</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Parish Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>Saturday 21</td>
<td>Merriwa Sports Club Trivia Night - 6.30pm</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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<td>• Merriwa Campdraft - Working Bee - 8.00am start</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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<td>APRIL</td>
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<td>Thursday 2</td>
<td>CWA Annual Easter Street Stall</td>
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<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.