With so many entries, it was very hard to judge the winning image for this month’s competition. Congratulations Debbie on your amazing photo, which was chosen for it’s clarity and composition. Thank you to Merriwa CWA for sponsoring this month’s competition.
Martial Arts World Titles Success

Congratulations to Hugh Higgins, Chase Thorburn, Mia Gillespie and Merriwa Central School’s Year 12 student, Jeannie-Belle Mason who all competed at the Martial Arts World Titles in Melbourne last weekend.

In our last issue we congratulated Hugh on his gold win for the 13-14year old boys Point Sparring.

Jeannie-Belle had a successful weekend as well winning gold in the 15/17year old Forms and in Continuous Sparring. She also won silver in the Point Sparring.

Other local contenders were Mia Gillespie who won gold in the 10-11yrs Forms and Point Sparring and silver in Continuous. Chase Thorburn was also successful in placing in the 12-13yr boys.

Instructors Kelly O’Brian received gold in both Point Sparring and forms and Tony Gillespie received silver for Point Sparring and Continuous.

This is a wonderful achievement for all and the community is very proud of the talent of our young members.

Tanya Penfold
Merriwa Central School

Principal’s Report

Local excursions

There are a range of activities throughout the year whereby students walk to various locations around town supervised by their teachers. Last week secondary students walked to the golf course to participate in the cross country, primary students walked to the RSL Club for the senior citizens concert. On most occasions these events are published in advance in the Merriwa Ringer for the information of parents. If you are concerned about your child participating in any of these events please feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

Volunteers

New working with children procedures are in place across the country. Parent volunteers who may be helping out in the canteen, driving students to sporting events, or assisting with carnivals need to complete the new working with children declarations. They are free and straightforward once the 100 point identity information has been provided. Thank you to all our volunteers. WWC forms are available from the Office.

“That’s so gay”

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all our students.

Schools aim to be inclusive environments for all parents and students, regardless of sexuality or gender. We know that depression and youth suicide rates are much higher for same sex attracted students. These rates are even higher for students in rural communities. Last week all staff completed training to raise awareness of gender issues which impact on our students. We also took time to focus on how we treat same sex attracted parents in our community.

Secondary students completed surveys last week which focused on attitudes towards gender issues and bullying. Our challenge is to support all staff and students to develop the confidence to challenge homophobic language or behaviour every time they see or hear it.

We don’t accept racist language towards our Aboriginal students, nor do we accept homophobic language towards students who may be perceived as same sex attracted.

Did you know?

The schools Facebook page is a great way to keep in touch.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Derogative language such as “that’s so gay” is offensive and unacceptable in our school.

The recent Super Rugby fine of $20,000 for homophobic slurs highlights the stance of professional football codes.

For more information parents can find resources at www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au.

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>Primary assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Zone Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30</td>
<td>Secondary formal assembly – Great Hall, 8.55am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31</td>
<td>Secondary Zone Cross Country</td>
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<th>APRIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1</td>
<td>P and C meeting – Merriwa RSL Club, 7.00-8.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 2</td>
<td>Last day for Term 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SRC Out of Uniform Day - Wear something red or yellow - Gold Coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20</td>
<td>Staff return for Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21</td>
<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24</td>
<td>School ANZAC Day ceremony</td>
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<td>11:00am at the Cenotaph</td>
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Primary News

Student of the Week

Our students have had a very busy week and continue to work hard in class. Last week our students of the week demonstrated excellence in reading, writing, and reaching independent learning goals. Congratulations to the following book award recipients:

Year Kindergarten: Mya Haataja
Year K/1: Inara West
Year 2: Makayla Mobberley
Year 3/4: Kiesha-Lee Taylor
Year 4/5: William Whitby
Year 5/6: (recipient to be awarded next week)

Home Day

Last Friday 20 March the primary classes were invited to perform at the ‘Home Day’ celebrations hosted by the Merriwa Senior Citizens Association.

Classes had lots of fun preparing some songs to sing for our local senior citizens. The Kindergarten students all combined to sing “Zippety-Doo-Daa” and the Year 1 and Year 2 students combined to sing “Just the Way You Are”. Following this the Year 3/4 class combined with the Year 5/6 class to sing “Counting Stars”. We finished with a bang as the 4/5 class showed lots of confidence when they performed “Happy”.

It was a great day and we had a wonderful time. We would like to give special thanks to the Merriwa Senior Citizens Association for their valuable contribution to the school, it is greatly appreciated!

Assembly

This Friday March 27 will be the next Primary assembly. The Fife band will be presenting some of the music they have been learning so far this term. All Fife students must remember to bring their Fifes to school on Friday for the performance.

We will also be handing out Merriwa Merit Awards
and view samples of work from our Workers of the Week. We look forward to seeing many parents and guests at the assembly. The assembly will begin at 2.15pm.

**Zone Cross Country**

This Friday March 27 students who qualified for the Zone Cross Country will travel to Muswellbrook to compete against other schools in the region. Students must have returned their permission note and medical information to be able to attend. Students must wear school sports uniform and remember to bring a hat, water, recess and lunch. Parents/caregivers are asked to remain with children in their care, if unable please see Mrs Moore. Good luck to all our competitors.

**Rewards Activities**

Next week is the last week of the term and we will be finalising the term with the Primary Rewards Activities on Thursday April 2. Students who have met the criteria for achieving rewards will be invited to attend a fun activity with either the infants or primary age group.

The infants (years K-2) group will be participating in some Easter themed activities set up in rotations and will involve some games, crafts and even some Easter decorating! The primary (years 3-6) group will be participating in a Trivia Competition. The previous trivia activity was a huge success and we’re sure this one will be better than the last! Students will be ineligible for rewards day if they have received the following:
- Red card/incident report
- 2 orange cards in one week
- 2 timeouts in one week
- Suspension or suspension warning

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

**K-12 OUT OF UNIFORM DAY**

On Thursday April 2, the SRC is hosting an out of uniform fundraiser to raise money for the Westpac Helicopter. Students are to wear red and yellow clothes and bring a gold coin donation to help raise money for a valuable cause that is very important in our community.

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**Secondary News**

**English/History Faculty Report**

As the term draws to a close all classes are in the middle of final assessments, topic tests and, in the case of Year 12, Half-Yearly Examinations. I hope students have taken advantage of their early notifications and have been working on these tasks over an extended period of time because it can lead to stressful times if they leave tasks to the “night before” or the last minute.

Last Thursday saw Year 7 and 10 Geography students outside the classroom and in the field with their Wambangalang fieldwork study of the Merriwa River. Thanks to Miss Roe for organising this great learning experience for the students and Miss Hopkins and Mr Lomax for helping to supervise the excursion.

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**P AND C REPORT**

**General Meeting**

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 1, 2015 - 7pm at Merriwa RSL Club.

**CANTEEN TREASURER: POSITION VACANT**

Position involves:
- Paying accounts and wages
- Quarterly BAS and Super payments
- Filing all invoices, deposit details and Wage Sheets
- Monthly bank reconciliation
- Recording three bank accounts
- Printing reports in MYOB

Gaynor Blackadder
P and C Secretary

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Rebecca West
Assistant

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**Merriwa Ringer**
Teachers have also organised some exciting opportunities for students to engage in enriching educational experiences outside the class room. As I said in my previous faculty reports, these include the ASX Share Market Competition, the Geography Competition (March) and the ICAS competitions in English (Tuesday July 28), Writing (Monday June 15) and Spelling (Tuesday June 16). Good luck to all students who have entered.

Stage 6 students will also be travelling down to the Belvoir Theatre in Surry Hills on May 27 and we are exploring the option of including a tour of Allianz Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground for junior ROAR boys. Permission notes will be issued in the near future.

Since my last report Miss Hopkins and Mrs Roberts have taken senior students on a highly successful excursion to Sydney to the art gallery and to attend HSC lectures. The following is Mrs Roberts’ report on this trip:

Year 12 HSC Advanced and Standard English students and Mrs Roberts braved an early morning start to travel to Sydney and back on a combined excursion on Friday the 27th of February. The study day was very useful and all students who attended agreed they learned a lot of valuable information which helped to prepare them for their Half Yearly English Examinations this week.

The students were blown away by the sheer number of Year 12 students who attended the day and highly impressed with each lecturer. They madly recorded notes from each session and enjoyed a multicultural lunch at Sydney University’s cafeteria area.

I would like to congratulate each student on their outstanding behaviour during this excursion as our faculty were yet again able to show off just how wonderful Merriwa Central School students are.

All English classes have continued to focus on improving their writing skills, in particular Year 8 English have learnt a variety of poetic forms and figurative devices to add variety to the writing and take their written expression beyond the literal. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be required to write either a persuasive text or a narrative in May as part of their NAPLAN literacy testing.

On Friday last week Year 10 English students and Year 11 English Studies students had their “Mock Interviews” in front of a panel of local business people. This was an invaluable experience at a “real life” skill and, combined with preparation of application cover letters and resumes, places students in a good position to apply for future employment. Thank you very much to Mrs Hegarty for organising these interviews and panel members - Ed Shannon, Amanda Kemp, Kim Fenley and Megan Moore - for generously giving your time to help these young people.

Students from Years 9-11 Visual Arts and Photography were lucky enough to travel down to Sydney to view the ARTEXPRESS exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney this term.

Favourite Subject: Industrial Technology - Wood /English
Favourite sport: NRL
Favourite team: Broncos
Favourite player: Ben Hunt
Best personal sporting achievement: Scoring 2 trys when I trialled for Knight’s Under 16s.
Who inspires you: My parents
Advice to young players: Keep trying!

ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards

ROAR
Cody Towell
Year 10
Merriwa Ringer
The exhibition displays the top Year 12 HSC artworks from 2014 and our students were impressed by the technical skill and conceptual strength of these works.

We were also able to catch the Pop to Popism exhibition, seeing famous artworks from Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Brett Whiteley and Roy Lichtenstein amongst others.

I would like to thank these students for such a lovely day- their behaviour was excellent at all times and I look forward to more excursions like this in the future!

Tony March
Head Teacher English/History

VET News
Year 10 Mock Interviews

On Friday March 23, Year 10 students attended a mock interview for a position they had applied for. The two panels were made up of Mr Kym Fenley, Mrs Amanda Kemp, Mrs Megan Moore and Mr Ed Shannon.

Students were required to prepare an application letter, resume, dress appropriately for their interviews and answer a number of questions around the position they were applying for.

Merriwa Central School would like to thank the community members who gave up their time to assist us in educating our students.

Our students appreciated the opportunity to participate even though some were very nervous and would have rather been doing something else.

Student of the Week
Chloe Ponsford
Year 10

Favourite Subject: Visual Art, Food Technology and Photography
Extra-Curricular activities: Drawing and Babysitting
Best Personal Achievements: Scoring high marks in my tests and exams
Year Advisor’s Comment: Chloe is a kind and responsible young lady who has demonstrated a committed and mature attitude throughout the start of this year. Chloe has been working hard in her subjects, especially her electives classes and is a positive role model for younger students.

Well done Chloe and keep up the good work.

Rebecca Hopkins - Year Adviser
Secondary Sport Report

Last Wednesday afternoon, the Secondary Campus organised its Annual Cross Country event. Our competitors ran a course about the No 1 Sports Ground and through the Merriwa Golf Course.

In quite hot and humid conditions, our students competed in 3 km, 4km, 6km and 8km dependent upon their age divisions. It was pleasing to see the majority of students participate to their highest ability, being sunsafe and being safe with their water consumption throughout the event.

The first boy to complete his event was Benjamin Keane, a Year 8 student who represents Wentworth House. He competed in the 15 years boys division and finished 4km at a very good pace. Benjamin Nebauer (also from Wentworth House) finished in 2nd place overall.

The first female student to finish was 13 year old Elly Blackadder (Blaxland) who competed over the 3km course. The second female student home was Sarah Nairne, from Lawson House, who also participated in the 13 year age division.

There were a number of fine performances from our students including Chelsea Borradaile, Lachlan Walmsley, April Eipper, Hamish Cameron, Brady Nairne as well as Tylana Cox, Lachlan Walmsley and Matthew Orton.

The following students are this year’s Age Champions and Runners Up.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Female Champion</th>
<th>Runnerup</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12yrs</td>
<td>Tylana Cox (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Olivia McLean (Oxley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13yrs</td>
<td>Elly Blackadder (Blaxland)</td>
<td>Sarah Nairne (Wentworth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14yrs</td>
<td>Hannah Riley (Wentworth)</td>
<td>Stephane McLennan (Oxley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15yrs</td>
<td>Oliver Towell (Oxley)</td>
<td>Blake Tritton (Oxley)</td>
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Merriwa Central School would like to thank Felicity Orton and the Upper Hunter Shire Council for their support in providing us with transport on the day.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

Year 11 & 12 Careers & Trades Day

On Tuesday March 17, twelve Merriwa Central School students travelled over to Muswellbrook High School thanks to the Upper Hunter Shire Council allowing us to use their community bus.

They attended a lecture about perseverance and advance preparation so that they are able to attain the goals they wish to achieve. They were then able to visit a number of different career booths and information sessions provided by local enterprises and universities.

Students gained valuable insight into the range of opportunities that are available to school leavers but also the need to be organised and to plan early as many applications open during Term 2.

All organisations stressed that there were scholarships available, students just needed to apply as there were many different criteria and they were not all just academic.

Merriwa Central School would like to thank Felicity Orton and the Upper Hunter Shire Council for their support in providing us with transport on the day.

Open Female Champion: Courtney Gibbons (Blaxland)
Runnerup: Elizabeth Hagley (Lawson)

Open Male Champion: Matthew Orton (Wentworth).
In the end, Wentworth House was the champion house. Their elite runners were too good for the other houses. The total house points was 157 points with their boys performing particularly well with 93 points.

Blaxland’s younger runners performed well and
contributed well to their 2nd place with a total score of 145 points. With Lawson boys contributing 69 points and the girls adding 60 points – they finished in 3rd position with 129 points. With 49 points from their boys and 74 points from the girls – in 4th position was Lawson House with 123 points in total.

We have offered a large number of students the opportunity to join our Zone Cross Country team. They will compete at Singleton in early April against Scone, Muswellbrook and Singleton High School students. We wish those students well and will report how they have performed a little bit later.

Finally, I need to give thanks to Jane Hegarty for her time and kindness in helping me in the lead up to the Cross Country.

Also I would to thank the staff who manned checkpoints, completed recording, offered first aid and supported our students as they participated around the course.

Alison King
Sport Organiser

New Career Events

Instructor Internship Opportunity- EA Ski & Snowboard Training specialise in full season job placements through our popular Ski and Snowboard Instructor Internship Program. We have now opened our second recruitment stage for the 2015/16 winter season starting this December, and are looking for enthusiastic individuals looking to experience a fun gap year, or stepping stone into the snow industry. Limited positions available. For general information about our internship programs around the world, check out our website www.easkiandsnowboard.com or email sstraining@educatingadventures.com

Defence Jobs Australia Youtube Channel  ADF applicants research job roles and life in Defence Force.

https://www.youtube.com/defencejobsaustralia


Open Days

University of New England May 1, Armidale. http://www.une.edu.au/info-for/for-high-schools/open-day-schools

UC 4 Yourself University Experience Days June 14, June 18, November 25, November 26, 10.30am to 3.30pm each day. Building 1, Level B Room, Refectory http://www.canberra.edu.au/events/view/8883

Charles Sturt University MyDay Program 2015

Bathurst

Information Technology and Computing May 12
Psychology May 21
Accounting and Business May 28
Teaching and Education June 4
Policing and Criminal Justice June 29

Wagga Wagga
Teaching and Education June 9
Agriculture June 12
Communication and Creative Industries (Years 11 and 12) June 23
Communication and Creative Industries (Year 10) August 25 and 26

Orange
Agriculture June 10

Albury-Wodonga

Nursing May 24
Community Health May 28
Teaching and Education June 11

Please contact me if you require any further career information.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor
As the first school term draws to an end we are busy consolidating what we have learnt over the course of the term.

In Religion our focus has been on a very special season for our faith, Lent. We have studied a unit on Jesus in the Desert. The Infants students explored what Jesus did while in the desert. We learnt that Jesus was faced with many challenges and was tempted to sin. We learnt about our emotions and about being alone. We explored times when we are alone and happy and when we are alone and upset.

The infants students have discovered that Jesus was not alone in the desert he had God with him, just like Jesus when we experience difficulties we are not alone, God is with us. We are now learning about Holy Week, the events which lead up to the death of Jesus on Good Friday. We are learning about prayer and thinking about others in this time of Lent.

In English Year One and Two have been drafting, editing and writing a narrative. The skills required to do so have been developed over the course of the term and all three teachers are very impressed with the imagination and the structure of each student’s narrative! Kindergarten has been working hard establishing skills with the alphabet and also exploring sounds and how they make words. We have been lucky enough to have some parent and family helpers come in to read with our class. This has allowed our students to develop their reading skills one on one with an adult. We have our reading folders organised and user friendly so if you would like to listen to some super readers we would love to have you!

Since the last update from the Infants classroom 4 weeks ago we have been learning about many topics in Maths. We have strengthened our skills in addition and subtraction consolidating our knowledge with concrete materials. For length we headed out to the playground to explore the length of different items and learnt about measuring curved lines by drawing on the concrete. We have always understood the importance of time (especially Lunch time!) and this importance was reflected during our intensive focus on Time in Maths.

Kindergarten students have confidently been identifying “o’clock” on an analogue and digital clock. While Year One and Two are expanding their knowledge identifying and showing half past and quarter to on an analogue and digital clock. In multiplication and division, Kindergarten have been exploring the term ‘groups’ and identifying groups which are equal and not equal. They have also shown their understanding of dividing a group equally among a set number.

In Science we have made musical instruments including a drum and a guitar to explore sound further. The student’s conversations about what was happening was very exciting to hear. We observed the vibrations of each of these instruments and how the sound changes when small things are changed such as the length of a rubber band on our guitars.

In Human Society and Its Environment we have continued our study on the unit Identifying Us. We have been lucky enough to have been visited by Clara and explored the many differences between our surrounds and the country and city Clara lives in. Thank you Clara! We have also seen some photos from a recent visit to India by one of our students. Observations were made and the Infants students have loved seeing a different cultural context.

Our Personal Development, Health and Physical Activity focus has been on Safe Living. We have again revisited the message from Bully Bull Ring and explored playing safe on our playground and on the facility provided in town. We have also continued our learning on Cyber Safety and the importance of keeping our Personal Information private. We have used the following website as a resource. It also has wonderful resources for parents it can be found at http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/.

The budding artists in the Infants classroom have demonstrated their skills in a variety of ways. We have appreciated art by many artists over the course of the term and we have used their artworks as inspiration to create our own artworks. One of the artists we have studied was Henry Matisse. To create this artwork we had to head out of the classroom – things were going to get messy!

Mrs Peebles and Mrs Kerr (closely supervised by the Infants class) made soap flake paint. We were then given our art paper and some paint and that’s the part the students enjoyed most. The paint was spread over their paper and then a skewer was given to each of them to create a portrait using lines. Here are some photos of the process.
WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

Kinder:
Lula Peebles- For great work in sounding out words
Arlia Parker- For participating in class discussions and sharing her great general knowledge

1/2:
Sam Grady- For showing great understanding during time activities
Toby Jamieson- For great skills in completing grouping activities to solve problems

3/4:
Mikayla Telfer- for a fantastic effort in homework with spelling tasks and reading
Axul Hourn- for collaborating well with others

5/6:
Nicholas Morgan – for a fabulous effort in creative writing tasks
Tia Magner – for always taking pride in the presentation of her bookwork
Rebecca Keegan – for always following classroom procedures

Principal’s Awards:
Patrick McLaren: for a very impressive effort at poster making to educate others about the evils of bullying.
Rhianna Smith - for constantly trying hard to get the most benefit from her experiences at school.

Playground Champion
Ha Giang Nguyen – for always letting others join in activities.

Helen Whale
Principal
Isabelle has been awarded the title of this week’s ‘Student of the Week’ for consistently doing her best and being a kind and respectful student. Last week students were asked to write a recount of the Cross Country using key sentence starters such as ‘first’, ‘after’, ‘then’ and ‘finally’ and Isabelle was one of the only students to effectively use these sentence starters in her writing. She has also been working hard in Quicksmart to improve her maths mentals and is a student that can be relied upon to play well with other students in group activities and encourage others to do their best. Congratulations Isabelle, and keep up the great work!

**Design and Make**

This week students made boats and tested them to see if they would float.

After school learning centre was fun, with students playing ukulele. Making masks and doing a colouring in competition.

**Great Barrier Reef Virtual Excursion**

On Monday March 30 at 12:30, Cassilis school students will be lucky enough to take part in a Virtual Excursion to the Great Barrier Reef without even leaving the school. They will participate in a virtual dive into Reef HQ Aquarium’s Coral Reef and Predator exhibits and will have the opportunity to interact live with a SCUBA diver while they learn about the Great Barrier Reef. Students will learn about the diversity of reef creatures, the adaptations they possess and the role they play within the reef community. This will be a free excursion that has been subsidised by excursion fundraising and will align with the Under the Sea topic and the New Australian Science Curriculum that students have been working on this term.

Jeanette Grinham
Relieving Principal
Merriwa Ringer
Good luck to our swim team, Amy Thompson, Sam Thompson, Angus Higgins and Andrew Harris who head to Homebush on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 for the P5 relay. Good luck also to Andrew in his individual competition.

**Zone Cross Country**

We wish all our students who are competing in the Zone Cross Country on Friday March 27 the very best of luck.

**Weekly Awards**

- **Sam Thompson** - consistent application in all areas.
- **Natasha Marsh** - achievement in maths.
- **Cambell Hinze** - excellent contributions to class discussion.
- **Cody Parkinson** - following instructions well.
- **Livianna Craig** - great work in maths.

**Workers of the Week**

- K/1/2 - Rowdy Walters and Marshall Hinze.

**Student of the Week**

- Matthew Allen - being a considerate member of the class

**Denman Horse Sports**

Congratulations to Amy Thompson who won Champion 12yr Girl at the inaugural Denman Horse Sports day last Monday March 16. Congratulations to Sam who won Champion 11yr Boy. Well done team!

**Sandy Hollow Public School Mini Fete**

Saturday March 28
8.00am to 1.00pm.
Stallholders are welcome
Cost $20 per site
Still taking bookings
This term has been great with 7 new enrolments in the centre. We are now all starting on Easter crafts with some edible surprises for everyone.

Next term we are holding a giant event for all families as we all re-use, reduce and recycle. We will be holding a stall in the playground operated by the children we will be selling all recycled goods e.g. clothing and toys.

Mac and preschool are holding a Easter raffle and 100’s club look out for tickets for sale at the preschool and Mac on the sign on.

This week our centre is being assessed and rated to ensure we meet the National Quality Standards for Children Services.

Its nearly holiday time again. The preschool will close on the April 2, and will re-open for Term 2 on Monday April 20. Mac will be open Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursdays throughout the holidays so to avoid disappointment book your child/children in asap.

We have Jasper Photography coming to the centre for family photos again on the May 9 just before mother’s day, we have invited all families to have their family portraits done.

More information to come soon so SAVE THE DATE.

On Wednesday the April 22, the Pre-School and Mac will be holding a special general meeting.

On the agenda
- Special resolution to change business name
- Special resolution to change constitution
Followed by normal general meeting.

Natalie Hourn

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

March 29: Palm Sunday 9am Merriwa. Holy Eucharist and Procession

April 2: Maundy Thursday 6pm Foot washing Service followed by Seder Meal in the Parish hall. All Welcome.

April 3: Good Friday-9am Holy Trinity Merriwa Solemn Liturgy

April 5 : Easter Day-8am St. Columba Cassilis

10am Holy Trinity Merriwa – Sung Eucharist.

May 8: Mothers Day Morning Tea CWA Hall
10am….The Ladies Guild invites you all to come along and enjoy !

We welcome you to join us at worship as we remember and celebrate the events surrounding the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and what this means for us and for the world today.

Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of praise from the people. When others throughout the city asked. “Who is this?”, the crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee…. he didn’t come claiming special privileges, but in humility He came to give his life in obedience to His father’s will.

Thank you for the simple message of salvation. Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life. Thank you for giving your life for me.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa Rotary

FUN RUN / POET’S BREAKFAST / SPIT ROAST DINNER/AUCTION

This weekend will see the Merriwa Muster Kaleidoscope Kids weekend come and go so DON’T MISS OUT. There is a lot planned with plenty to see and do this weekend in Merriwa starting with a great Poet’s breakfast, Saturday morning 7.30am $7.50 at the School of Arts entertained by Greg North, an award winning Australian poet. One not to be missed.

Rotary will be catering for the Spit Roast Dinner Auction on Saturday night at the School of Arts with Mike Rabbitt as guest with country and rock artists. Lamb and beef with vegetables on the main course followed by the Rotary mouth watering desserts and then a fantastic Auction of some wonderful items that have been donated by many Newcastle businesses – Kendy Caravans & Trailers; Valley Motor Auctions; All Four 4x4 Spares; ARB 4x4 Accessories; Out of Town 4WD; Motor Homes Australia and some sporting memorabilia to name a few. Tickets are available from Di’s Clothing at $25.00 - children welcome (priced accordingly). Our Merriwa community have supported Rotary functions so come down this weekend - you will be happy with everything that is planned.

After such a wonderful dinner it is time to get healthy and enter the 3km Fun Run/Walk on Sunday morning starting at 8am – a mostly level 3km meander through Merriwa from the Sports Oval to the Sportsground – a walk or a run or a bit of both. There will be a trophy for the first three place getters and a random surprise draw from each of the categories for a lucky entrant who
is present at the presentation at 10am. Kids ($10 entry fee) category 7 to under 12 draw a bicycle; junior ($15) 12 to under 18 draw a swag; adults and Golden Oldies ($20) draw $120 Voucher card. As of writing this (Monday) there are very few entries into our fun run. Does that mean that Merriwa is a ‘don’t want to be healthy town’ or is there something wrong with my fun run ????

Maybe it is just Merriwa who don’t want to enter anything early and get in there at the last minute ????

However I am ever hopeful that the Fun Run will be successful so I will be down at the Roach Pavilion at the Showground on Saturday afternoon between 3pm and 6pm taking entries for those who will be around for voting or down there to see the heavy horse verses pony club horse exhibition at 3pm. Number bibs can also be collected at the Roach Pavilion between 3pm and 6pm for those who have pre-entered. Entries and bib collection will also be available at the Sports Oval on Sunday morning however it would be nice to have the paperwork completed – not doing it on the morning. Whichever way I hope to see many of our Merriwa community walking or running at our 3km Fun Run Walk on Sunday morning.

GET YOUR ENTRY FORMS (please) from Merriwa Pharmacy or Newsagents; money and completed forms to Di’s Clothing. TICKETS for the Poet’s Breakfast ($7.50) and Spit Roast Dinner Auction ($25) can be obtained from Di’s Clothing. Children are welcome at all our events and priced accordingly. Pre paid tickets are preferable for catering purposes or can be obtained at the door prior to the event. Letting us know that you are coming would assist with catering.

Any enquiries contact Elaine Sparrow 65488560.

Elaine Sparrow 65488560

Australia/New Zealand Student Exchange.

Our club will, before the end of this month, welcome two students from New Zealand who will spend Term 2 at school in Merriwa.

At our St. Patrick’s night dinner meeting, we were delighted to meet again the two girls, Paige McConnell and Teianna Taylor whose families will host the NZ students while they are in Merriwa and who will spend Term 3 at school in NZ.

Both girls, full of confidence, addressed our gathering about their families and their interests and about the NZ families by whom they will be hosted. Good contact via the Internet has enabled friendships get off to an early start.

Our latest member, Alison King, the fourth new member of the current Rotary year, was welcomed enthusiastically into our club. Alison spoke with great enthusiasm about joining Rotary. Our club welcomes the drive and experience and ideas which she will give Merriwa Rotary.

Anyone who would like to know more about Rotary Merriwa, with an interest in possibly joining our group, is invited to contact a Merriwa Rotarian.

Kaleidoscope for Kids. This event is coming back to Merriwa and is scheduled for 27th till 30th March. Many visitors will be in Merriwa for this event. Merriwa Rotary will be providing substantial assistance to the organisers of the weekend.

It will be an enjoyable, entertaining gathering. Please come along and help a good cause.

Mark Smith
Rotary Merriwa

Ringer Deadline!

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

Elaine Sparrow 65488560
Obesity is a disease

Obesity means BMI [Body mass Index = Body weight [Kg] / Height [Meter]²] more than 30 or Waist circumference > 102 cm [male], > 88 cm [female].

Overweight means BMI 25-29.9 or Waist circumference > 94-101.9 cm [for male]; 80-87.9 cm [for female]. Healthy person BMI is 18-24.9 or Waist circumference <94 cm [male], < 80 cm [female]. If we are “overweight”, we are prone to have “obesity” in the future.

Obesity causes a lot of health problems starting from body shape issue, affects self-esteem, work performance, weight bearing joints damage [ankles, knees, hips], osteoarthritis, low back pain, gastro-oesophageal Reflux, Sleep apnoea, Fatty liver, Gall stone, then High blood pressure, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, ischemic heart disease, Heart attack, Stroke, brain attack, and increased risk of having Cancers.

We are overweight or obese because we “eat” more than what we “need”. Food we eat = energy [used by body movement] + fat [storage for energy] in our body. Food we eat > body need = increase Fat storage [overweight, then obese] [“>” means “more than”]. Food we eat = body need = no changes in body weight. Food we eat < body need = weight loss [“<” means “less than”]

Weight lost tips

To lose weight, we need both cutting back our “Diet” as well as increasing our regular daily “Activity/exercise”.

Build up motivation [e.g. “I don’t want to have stroke and live as a disabled person”]

Plan ahead, such as 6-12 months to achieve ideal weight/

Aim to lose weight. “0.5 Kg” every week will be enough. Monitor your weight with the same scales every week.

If weight is increasing or no change, reduce the further food intake and do more physical activity.

Perseverance…..keep doing it until you achieve your goal.

Diet Think about 1. Type of food; 2. Amount of food; 3. Timing of food intake.

Eat diet as guided in “Food Pyramid” [further reading … “eatforhealth.gov.au”]

Avoid junk foods.

Avoid alcohol, sugary soft drinks and high calorie fruit juices.

Avoid cakes, biscuits, buns [if you want, eat a small piece and drink plenty of water].

Eat slowly – enjoy your meal [the slower you eat, the smaller amounts you tend to swallow].

Eat one-third that you usually eat.

Avoid seconds and not to eat left overs.

If you still feel hungry, fulfil your satisfaction with High fibre food [such as carrot after carrot] or water.

If we eat then sleep, the food we eat is not used for energy and stored as fat in our blood vessels and body. My method is “Eat more at breakfast, moderate at lunch, the least amount for dinner”. Eat more high fibre diet such as vegetables and fruits at dinner time. Better NOT to have milk, dairy products, chocolate, sweets, biscuits or cakes after 6 pm.

If you desperately want to lose weight, substitute dinner with water on Sunday every week. “Fasting except drinking water in the afternoon once a week” is a traditional way of practice in other parts of the world, especially for people over 40 years of age.

Physical activity - Try not to overdo it for a few days, but keep doing it for 20-30 minutes every day for life. Start with 5-10 minutes a day, increase activity gradually as you can tolerate.

Better to start with non-weight bearing exercises, such as swimming, to save your weight bearing joints. Aim for a brisk walk 20-30 minutes each day at least 5 times a week.

If you are stuck, get Dietician advice and exercise physiologist involved.

Remember … “Obesity is a disease”. That we should not ignore.

If you need “support counselling” and further advice, we are here happy to help.
St David’s Pie/Lamington Drive

Orders have closed for this Pie Drive.

Delivery day is: TOMORROW
Friday March 27

From: St. David’s Uniting Church
        Cnr Mackenzie and
        Vennacher Streets

Time: 10.30am to 3 pm

If these times are not suitable to anyone, please call me on the above numbers to make a suitable arrangement.

If anyone has forgotten to order, we will have some extras, so just pop along to the Church and we may be able to help you.

Barbara Campbell

Red Cross
RED CROSS CALLING

This year, Merriwa Red Cross will be selling raffle tickets for a basket of Easter goodies and having a 100 Club on Friday March 27 to raise money for Red Cross Calling. This money will be used to support vulnerable people in our communities who find themselves in a less than fortunate position due to unforeseen circumstances.

ATTENTION MERRIWA SCHOOLS AND SPORTING GROUPS

Are you aware of Red Cross Project Defib?

This program will enable schools and clubs to receive a grant which will provide a comprehensive Defibrillator package at a subsidized cost to assist in reducing the number of fatalities resulting from cardiac Arrest. This program has been organized through Red Cross Training Services. For more information please go to the Red Cross Website or direct to http://projectdefib.com.au

Philomena Constable
Liaison Officer Merriwa Red Cross

Messy Church

Messy Church Friday….  
27 March 2015
3.30pm

We look forward to seeing you all again at the parish hall.

Theme “Getting Ready for Easter”

Rosalie Drew and Messy Church team

Merriwa CWA

“Come and visit the CWA Annual Easter Street Stall on Thursday April 2, where you will find great home cooking to stock up for the Easter holiday.

Next meeting for 2015 will be Monday April 13 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 65482456”

Penelope Fenley

Welcome Alison King!

Congratulations Alison King on joining Merriwa Rotary Club and welcome.

Hylton Cronin

James Campbell (Cam) Sharpe
19-05-1926 - 04-03-2015

The family of the late Cam Sharpe wishes to thank so many people for their kind help and thoughts.

This is a wonderful community with so much concern for others it’s primary feature.

Shirley, Richard, Stuart, Judithe and families.
You are invited to join us for High Tea at ‘Brindley Park’ Tea Garden on Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 10.30am. All proceeds to Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary – cost $15 per head.

A decadent High Tea Sitting in the exquisite gardens of ‘Brindley Park’ – indulge in delicious sandwiches, divine chocolates, cakes, slices and scones plus unlimited tea and coffee. Crooking one’s pinkie finger and sipping fine tea is not an essential requirement for attending our High Tea but enjoying the company of wonderful friends over this revival of British tradition is. ‘Brindley Park’ is the perfect scenic country setting for a morning tea indulgence bringing a sense of flair and style to this High Tea experience.

The High Tea is not to be missed and will be a unique experience in Merriwa for the whole in-town community and our farming community alike. Sweet treats and savoury bites will be matched with teas sourced from all over the world for the ultimate in High Tea.

WHEN : Tuesday 21 April, 2015
TIME : 10.30am
Where : ‘Brindley Park’
WHY : To raise money for our local M.P.S. by the Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary.

An invitation is extended to all of the Merriwa Community to come along and enjoy a morning tea of super quality and scenery. Our fine china cups will be something to look at and marvel at, however if any of the men wish to have a ‘man size’ cup of tea we will bring out the ‘big old mug’ just to please you on the day.

The ladies can crook their pinkie finger and the men can grab their mug. Whichever way, it will be an enjoyable High Tea with money raised going to our very own MPS and much needed equipment.

Start getting your friends together to attend this fantastic event. For any enquiries ring Elaine Sparrow 65488560 or Kay Taylor 65482281. More in future Ringer’s.

Elaine Sparrow

Youth Beat Music Festival

Youth Beat – Local performers and DJs to rock Scone
Friday night, March 27, is Youth Beat. Young people from all over the Upper Hunter are invited to a concert with young local performers ranging from solo acoustics to rock bands and DJs. Youth Beat is for people of High School age and older. It is strictly no drugs or alcohol and will be supervised by UHSC Youth Services plus professional security.

The concert has been organized by Youth Council students and the Entertainment Class from Scone High.

Cost: $10 at the door. SRC reps may be selling tickets at school beforehand.
Canteen: Open for snacks and drinks
Buses: Will run from outlying towns and the cost is $5, whether you go one way or return. All school age travellers must bring a permission to travel note from parents. These are available from school offices. The buses will leave the concert venue at 11.00pm sharp and return. Ask Youth Services staff at pickup re return times.

Merriwa: 6:00pm from outside the Council Chambers
Muswellbrook/Aberdeen: 6:00pm from the Railway station and 6:30pm from St Joseph’s Aberdeen

State Elections

When: This Saturday March 28, 2015
Opens 8:00am
Closes at 6:00pm

Please note voting is at the Library at the Merriwa Central School - Primary Campus in McKenzie St.

Bryan Baker
Polling Place Manager.

Good Luck Travis

All the best to Meriden Limousin from Merriwa that are currently participating at Sydney Royal Easter Show Stud Cattle Section 2015.
We wish you all the best and hope your enjoying your time away.

Cassandra Sutton
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1996 REUNION

It’s been 19 years now it’s time for a reunion!!!!!

Attention Merriwa and surrounding Community. If you know of anyone in our year 10 1996 picture please pass this on.

The invite is for all of us that were in our class, partners and kids, whether you left before year 10 or not.

Now here is a little fact.

And this approximately all depends on who wagged the last days of school. (I know I didn’t)

It will be 18 years 3 months 28 days 20 hours and 30 minutes which is 6692 days since we finished Year 10 till we all meet again.

We will be meeting up at The Merriwa Races. Nibbles will be supplied, BYO Alcohol or there will be a bar.

Where: Merriwa Race Track
When: Saturday April 18, 2015

Megan Towell

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

A quick reference guide to all that support the Merriwa Ringer

<table>
<thead>
<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>
<td>Australia Post Merriwa</td>
<td>6548 2042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brodie’s Cutting Edge</td>
<td>6548 2499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassilis Bowling Club</td>
<td>6376 1002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassilis Public School</td>
<td>6376 1009</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJ and JM Vero and Sons</td>
<td>6548 2303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Mutual - Merriwa</td>
<td>6548 2651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Womens Association</td>
<td>6548 3274</td>
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<td>Craig MacPherson Haulage</td>
<td>6548 2663</td>
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<td>Cross Country Merriwa</td>
<td>6548 2106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis Gant and Irving</td>
<td>6543 2433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custom Made Kitchens</td>
<td>6548 2025</td>
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<td>Di’s Clothing Patch</td>
<td>6548 3023</td>
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<td>Festival of the Fleeces</td>
<td>6548 2109</td>
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<td>Fire and Rescue NSW</td>
<td>6548 2005</td>
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<td>Gummun Place Merriwa</td>
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<td>JTS Realty</td>
<td>6541 5331</td>
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<td>La Scaletta</td>
<td>6548 3005</td>
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<td>M Nutt Contracting</td>
<td>6548 2004</td>
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<td>Max’s Country Cuts</td>
<td>65482375</td>
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<td>Merriwa Activity Centre</td>
<td>6548 2082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Anglican Parish</td>
<td>0429 996 796</td>
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<td>Merriwa Auto Electrical</td>
<td>6548 2114</td>
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<td>Merriwa Bushmans Campdraft</td>
<td>0427 437 743</td>
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<td>Merriwa Catholic Parish</td>
<td>6548 2086</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 Little Athletics</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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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Painting and Decorating</td>
<td>0409 015 678</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pharmacy</td>
<td>6548 2213</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pony Club</td>
<td>0427 412 128</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pre-School and Kindergarten</td>
<td>6548 2083</td>
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<td>Merriwa Race Club</td>
<td>0427 482 095</td>
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<td>Merriwa RLFC</td>
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<td>Merriwa RSL Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Sports Club</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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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Touch Football</td>
<td>0447 219 193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre and Mens</td>
<td>6548 3201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Tyre and Service Centre</td>
<td>6548 2078</td>
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<td>Merriwa VIEW Club</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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<tr>
<td>NSW Farmers Association</td>
<td>0455 455 760</td>
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<td>PT Pest Control</td>
<td>0428 482 332</td>
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<tr>
<td>R and M Moore Rural Support</td>
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<td>Rockwell Livestock</td>
<td>6548 5100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club of Merriwa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Hollow Public School</td>
<td>6547 4521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Witton Building</td>
<td>6376 1168</td>
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<td>Sporting Shooters Association</td>
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<td>St Davids Uniting Church</td>
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<td>St Josephs Primary</td>
<td>6548 2035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tash Holden Communications</td>
<td>6548 5059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity Markets</td>
<td>6548 2438</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Hunter Shire Council</td>
<td>6521 7000</td>
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<tr>
<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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### Emergency Services

In case of emergency call 000 or 112 from mobile services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police (Admin only)</td>
<td>6548 2437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Mobile</td>
<td>0408 293 423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Assistance</td>
<td>131 444</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire (Admin only)</td>
<td>6548 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital -MPS</td>
<td>6532 5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Fire Service</td>
<td>1800 081 166</td>
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<tr>
<td>SES Emergency</td>
<td>132 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Rescue Squad</td>
<td>6548 2538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Noman Jawaad</td>
<td>6532 5013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merriwa Surgery - Dr Emad Jasem</td>
<td>6548 2305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Post Office box renewals have arrived. If you decide that you no longer require a box please let Kellie or Kylie know as soon as possible. Please also let us know if you have not received your renewal notice. And remember you have until 15 April 2015 to pay your renewal with a discount applied. This year Australia Post is introducing electronic notifications for PO box customers to let you know when you have mail awaiting collection. AP is also offering PO box customers the chance to win one of 50 $200 prepaid visa cards when they renew and update their details by 31 March 2015. This can be done in store, by mail, via phone (1800246763) or online at www.auspost.com.au/pob-update

Technology

In stock we have 8GB ($7.99) and 16GB ($15.99) USB sticks as well as USB wall charger for Iphone 5 ($39.95). Looking for an internet stick we have a Telstra 4G My Pocket Wi-fi Plus for $99 which can connect to up to 10 devices and has a LCD display with data usage meter.

Stylish Lunch Bags

We have new insulated lunch bags in stock for $19.99. These bags are great for lunches or even to carry drinks and snacks in the car.

AVON in Store

We have now entered campaign 9 which ends on Thursday 2nd April 2015 Every Avon catalogue contains some great deals with freebies so come in a pick up a catalogue or go to my online shop – shop.avon.com.au/store/kelsw

2015 Diaries

All 2015 diaries in stock are now 10% off RRP.

Scentsy

For those wondering what fragrance is wafting from the Post Office when you walk by or come in it is Black Raspberry and Vanilla which is one of the many fragrances Scentsy offer. When you walk in you will notice it burning in one of our electric warmers which is part of the Silhouette Collection with an etched core warmer and butterfly wrap. This could be burning in your home or workplace for $69.75. There are many ways to purchase these products – by hosting a party at your home, collecting orders at your leisure with our basket party system, visiting the Merriwa Markets, shopping online at lusciousmelts.scentsy.com.au or calling in and picking up a catalogue. While you are in check out my display of the fabulous products Scentsy has to offer.

Saturday Trading Dates

March
Saturday 28th March Open 9am-11am

April
Saturday April 4 Closed
Saturday April 11 2015 Open 9am -11am

As of 11 April 2015 Merriwa Post Office will no longer be trading on Saturdays. Sorry for the inconvenience this may cause however it is no longer viable for the business to trade on Saturdays.

Free Pocket Calendars

Don’t forget to grab a free 2015 pocket calendar when in store. Handy to have in your wallet.

Merriwa Post Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm.

Until Next Time

Kellie & Kylie

Find us on Facebook!

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
We mentioned a couple of weeks ago that we were in Melbourne, checking out all of the new products that are coming out over the next year. Well, some of it has arrived and we have been busily unpacking it so that you can see it too. I thought that I’d give a brief description of all of the different ranges of stock today, and more detailed descriptions over the next couple of weeks. Have Easter in the back of your mind as you read the rest of this article.

Charlie Bears: These amazing, individual, hand-crafted, precious bears are back in store and just begging to go home with the right person. They are unique, timeless, made to an extremely high quality and will be treasured for many, many years to come. Come in and meet them today.

Swarovski Crystals: As any girl knows, these crystals are amazing range of earrings made with them. There are many colours to choose from, and they are the perfect gift for that special someone in your life. Do not be scared off by the exclusivity of the brand- they are beautiful and affordable.

More Jewellery: Be inspired further by the very chic range of jewellery that we have- the necklaces, bracelets, cuffs and earrings that we have are beautiful, unique and the perfect gift.

Tea Pots: The perfect cup of tea can be made in one of these one-cup tea pots. The pot fits neatly on top of the cup and makes the perfect sized cup of tea. It is great for those who love their leaf tea. The designs are pretty and perfect as the weather cools down.

Cushions: Who doesn’t like a good, new, fabulous cushion! These cushions are based around a theme, are colourful without being overly bright, and have a fantastic texture. They will brighten up any girl’s bedroom, any lounge, any comfy chair.

Note Books and Sets: This range of writing paper, note card sets, sticky note sets and note books have been something that our customers have been asking after for a while. They are finally here and waiting for you to come in and snap them up.

Books: We have a great new range of adult paperback novels, childrens’ picture books and primary school Naplan guides. There is definitely something for everyone among these books. They are especially perfect for the Easter School Holidays.

Lay-by
We are happy for you to start a lay-by; you start a lay-by with a small deposit, then make regular payments until the item is paid in full.

Top Ups for all mobile phone carriers available, a range wall & car chargers for mobile phones.

NSW FIRE AND RESCUE
Change your clock! Change your smoke alarm battery!

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) firefighters from Merriwa Fire Station today urged local residents to change the batteries in their smoke alarms at the end of Daylight Saving – it could save a life.

Captain Dave Redgate said firefighters were happy to participate in the national Change Your Clock! Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery! campaign, supported by Duracell.

"Only working smoke alarms help save lives," Captain David Redgate said. “A fire can take hold in just three minutes, filling your home with deadly smoke. A working smoke alarm gives you vital seconds to get out before you’re overcome.

“A smoke alarm with a flat battery is just as risky as not having a smoke alarm at all. That’s why you should change your smoke alarm battery when Daylight Saving ends on Sunday, 5 April."

FRNSW recommends householders install photoelectric, interconnected and hard-wired smoke alarms. “In addition to the legal minimum requirement of one smoke alarm per level, FRNSW recommends having smoke alarms installed in all bedrooms for maximum protection."

Smoke alarms are also mandatory for all caravans, campervans, and other moveable dwellings where people sleep – even if the vehicle is kept off the road.

Captain David Redgate said a working smoke alarm and a home escape plan could save you, your family, pets and possessions in a fire.

“If you don’t have smoke alarms, don’t gamble with your family’s life by waiting to install them – you should do it now," he said.

If you need help checking or replacing the battery in your smoke alarm, contact your local fire station and ask about the Smoke Alarm and Battery Replacement (SABRE) program for seniors and people with disabilities.

Contact:     Dave Redgate  0428482469 or Annie Rodgers 0408482778
Merriwa Show
Local Youth Compete in State finals at Sydney Royal

The Sydney Royal Easter Show kicks off this week and Merriwa Show committee is very excited to have local finalists representing Group 3 in the State Finals of the Junior Judging Competitions.

This successful group all placed in our Merriwa Show Group 3 finals held at the 2014 Merriwa Show.

Representing our region in the Meat Sheep Junior Judging on Saturday at 8am is Kylie Fairfull. Kylie and Rolanda Clout-Collins will then appear in Wednesday’s Merino Sheep Judging Final at 8am with Rolanda and James Hagley then judging wool in the Merino Fleece event at 1.30pm the same day. Next Thursday, Craig Walker is our representative in the Grain Judging at 9am.

We are very proud to have such a talented line-up of youth competing for our Hunter Region in the NSW finals and wish them all the best. A big thank you must go to the local stud breeders and grain growers who have donated their time and expertise to train our young judges including Peter Campbell, Paddy Carrigan, Peter Pike, Cam Armstrong, Ken McAlister and Peter Gallagher.

If you’re at the Easter Show on these days please call by the Cox Pavilion (Sheep) or The Flower and Garden Pavilion (Grain) to support our local youth. This event has been running for nearly 100 years and continues a wonderful tradition encouraging pride and excellence in agriculture.

Maria Cameron

Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft and Rodeo

To all our wonderful and consistent sponsors, thank you for your support for 2015. Letters have been sent out and our Program will shortly be ready for printing. If you are interested in sponsoring this event and have not already done so, please contact Megan Richards 0427 437 743 or merriwacampdraft@gmail.com.

WORKING BEE

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.

Closing date April 30, 2015.

RSA COURSE

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.

REMINDER: Membership is now due.

For further information, please contact Megan Richards on 0427 437 743.
Shire Notes

UHSC and Kia Ora Music Concert

Last Friday evening we were entertained by aspiring young and talented musicians who were coordinated by distinguished and inspirational conductors, music professionals and tutors, who certainly got the best out of their students. The entertainment included dancers performing hip-hop, a couple of sessions of junk percussion and talented singers to name a few, all of which was well choreographed. It was pleasing to have all of the performers from local schools within the shire participating in the performances. Many hours of preparation and practice by the staff and students are needed to coordinate and bring a performance to such a professional level. Of particular note was the individual performances of the pianists. To perform in public and at such a high level of professionalism takes a lot of courage and dedication to overcome those ever present nerves. Personally for me, it was great to hear an experienced bass player revealing his talent by playing good bass and harmony.

Kaleidoscope for kids

Next weekend the Merriwa Rotary club is hosting a fund raising event with all proceeds going to the Kaleidoscope foundation. This foundation supports children, young people and families in need especially when admitted to the John Hunter Hospital or are referred by a hospital counsellor for help within the Hunter region. Various events are planned starting with a Bush Poets breakfast on Saturday morning. Greg North will entertain with his version of poetry, coupled with various stall displays. TV presenter Mike Rabbitt will be the guest speaker at the Saturday night spit roast dinner along with live music. Some of our local children from the Upper Hunter have benefited from the kaleidoscope support and the Upper Hunter Shire Council is pleased to have provided support to the foundation in the past.

NSW Container Deposit Scheme

This scheme is scheduled to start from July 1, 2017 and is part of the Government’s broader scheme to reduce litter. I believe this is a major environmental win which will result in less used cans and bottles being discarded. Some of us can remember when a bottle deposit scheme was introduced when many young people collected bottles and cashed them in to obtain the benefit of some extra cash. However, as with all schemes such as this a community education awareness programme needs to be implemented. The Government has stated that a $20 million over 5 years programme will be implemented to achieve this result.

Shire Anniversary

This is the 10th anniversary of the first UHSC meeting that was held on the March 21, 2005.

I understand that there are a few out there that believe the amalgamation should not have proceeded. I’m equally of the belief that together we have made some great gains over the years as one Shire. There is always more to do, but it is always much easier to achieve the results we would all like to see with the support of all the residents. I would encourage all of us to work together for the betterment of all the residents of the Shire.

Council Infrastructure Works

Council infrastructure works continue with road closures in Bedford and Kyuga Streets, Aberdeen.

These works are proposed to be carried out over the next six weeks which will include storm water, kerb and gutter works.

Essential work will be carried out in Aberdeen, Scone & Murrurundi for the purpose of replacing water mains and sewer rising mains. These works are proposed over the next ten weeks. For details which may affect your particular area please contact your local UHSC office during business hours.

Maintenance grading is scheduled in the coming month on Middle Creek, Upper Dartbrook, Thompsons Creek, Brawboy, Barrington Tops and Forest Roads along with Hunter Road rehabilitation work. All these works are scheduled weather permitting and you should check our website for further details and any updates www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au.

Delivery Program and Operational Plan Meetings

Although these meetings are a few weeks away starting (May 5), I would encourage you all to attend and participate in what your Council plans to deliver in the coming years. These meetings provide you with the opportunity to comment and put forward your views and ideas on proposed works and the services that Council delivers.

Clr Ron Campbell
494 Giants Creek Road Sandy Hollow $745,000.00

40 Acres, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 3 Bay Garage

Situated just 5km’s from Sandy Hollow this 40 acres property is very well established. Fronting Giants Creek it has very good water from the creek and a bore plus 75,000 litres of fresh water storage. The fencing is in excellent order with 4 paddocks and very good pastures. The land is flat and ideal for cropping, or grazing. There is a large machinery shed, a small open shed, cattle yards, a 3 bay garage and a long list of machinery including a tractor and slasher is also part of the sale. The homestead and yards are extremely well maintained.

There are 4 big bedrooms all with built in robes and the main with ensuite and walk in robe. There is a formal lounge and dining room, a big open plan family room with a combustion fire, attached casual dining and a huge rumpus room. The kitchen has a dishwasher, electrical appliances and a pantry. The main bathroom is also large and there’s a 3rd toilet in the laundry. The home has ducted reverse cycle air conditioning throughout.

The yard is fully fenced with established lawns and gardens with plenty of water to keep it green. This is one of the best presented properties you will see in the area and is well worth an inspection.

ISABROWN PULLETS
Galilee Poultry Narromine will be delivering their Isabrown Laying Pullets to Merriwa on Thursday

March 26
For details and to place orders
please phone Jim on (02)6889 1942 or 0402 574 910

Hooked on Fresh Seafood
SEAFOOD FOR EASTER 2015
“Outside the Royal Hotel” Vennacher Street
Tuesday Afternoon
March 31
2.00pm till 5.30pm

Phone: 0413 724 232
Eftpos Facilities Available
Kent and Family Wish you all a Happy Easter.

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

DIAL 000

Merriwa Phone Numbers
Police (Administration Only) 6548 2437
Police Mobile 0408 293 423
Police Assistance Line 131 444

Fire Brigade (Administration only) 6548 2005

Hospital 6532 5000
Rural Fire Service (Administration and Duty Officer) 1800 081 166

SES Emergency Number 132 500
Merriwa Rescue Squad 6548 2538

Merriwa Ringer
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.

RSA COURSE

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.

Membership is now due.

For further information, please contact Megan Richards on 0427 437 743.

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 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

MAKES MORE POSSIBLE
LOOKING FOR AGISTMENT
50 plus cows, minimum 3 months
LOOKING FOR
Quality Feedlot cattle, competitive pricing
Contact
Elders Scone
Zac Ede 0428 293 024
SENIORS WEEK A GREAT SUCCESS

Merriwa CTC and Visitor Information Centre held four, two hour classes on the internet and digital photography during Seniors Week 2015.

Krichelle Khan volunteer tutor.

The courses proved very popular. Gay Stanton said, “What a marvelous course, I will definitely be calling back to learn more.” and Beatrice Voysey commented, “This is the second year that I have attended and I know that I am getting better. Computers aren’t so scary now”.

Volunteer tutor Krichelle Khan added, “This has been an amazing two days, and so much fun. The enthusiasm of the class was inspiring.”

In all 16 Seniors attended the four lessons, with some attending all four.

Commencing soon “Seniors Games Day” where all participants will have an opportunity to play a huge variety of interactive games. Play against yourself or why not challenge a friend to some friendly competition. To join the competition and Senior Games Group please call in to Merriwa CTC or phone for more information. It’s only $5.00 to join in and have some fun.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development &amp; Environmental Services Committee</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 April 2015</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Works &amp; Technical Services Committee</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 April 2015</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Services Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 April, 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>(including Youth Services and Safety Precinct Report)</td>
<td>Wednesday 15 April 2015</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Friday 24 April 2015</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordinary Council Meeting</td>
<td>Monday 27 April 2015</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

THE 2015 ROSTO OLIVES MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES

‘RED SOCKS’ SHEEP YARD DOG TRIALS,
Sanctioned by the New South Wales Yard Dog Association and sponsored by The Royal Hotel Merriwa, Upper Hunter Fire Protection and Merriwa Pharmacy. With over $1000.00 in Cash and Prizes the event will be held over two days, Saturday 6 June and Sunday 7 June from 7.00am.

Entries will close on Tuesday 2 June 2015 at 5.00PM. Contact Megan Richards E:peterpearce5@bigpond.com or Phone: 0427437743 for further information. Limited Entries

BUS ZONE VENNACHER STREET

A reminder to all drivers that the bus zone outside of the Visitor Information Centre will be changing enforcement times as coaches now stop three days per week.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046
Interested in Sponsoring?
Please contact Merriwa Central School on 6548 2119 for more information.
Thank you!

Merriwa Auto Electrical

newsXpress & OFFICESMART AGENT

Neville and Leanne Hook
65 482 031
mwanews@bigpond.com
www.merriwanewsagency.com.au

Merriwa HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC

Caring for our land, our water and the air we breathe
Contact: Graham Brown 6547 6048
Visit: www.merriwa.nsw.au

Merriwa District Education Foundation

President - Ivan Gant
6376 1044
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.

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- Handbags and Luggage
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Merriwa Ringer
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Please contact Merriwa Central School on 6548 2119 for more information.
Thank you!

DR NOMAN JAWAAD
AND
DR CHO OO MAUNG
Private Medical Practice
Cnr Brisbane and Mackenzie Streets, Merriwa
Merriwa
Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm
Also consulting in Denman
Tuesday and Friday 8.00am-6.00pm
For appointments please phone 6532 5013

2015 ROSTO OLIVES
MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2015
A Family & Community focused event.
Phone: 6521 7046
email: lgarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

NEIL HUNT 6548 2025

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Ph: 6548 2500 – Fax: 6548 3049 – Mob: 0407 488 560
29 Blaxland Street, Merriwa 2329
Email sales: Justin@welderup.com.au
Email accounts: accounts@welderup.com.au
Web: www.welderup.com.au

Electrical Contractors
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C.J & J.M Vero & Sons
Phone: 6548 2303
Fax: 6548 2053 After Hours: 6548 2045 (Emergencies Only)
102a Bettington Street, Merriwa
ABN: 65 810 824 869 Lic#: 243746C Au: 29030

Curtis Gan Irving Solicitors
Proud to have serviced the people of the Upper Hunter since 1890
Practise Areas include:
Property Law/Subdivisions
Conveyancing
Accident Claims
Wills and Estates
Powers of Attorney

59 Brook Street
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433

86 Bettington Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329

Merriwa 02 6548 2205

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

Purple Pumpkin Tree
133 Bettington Street Merriwa
Tuesdays and Fridays
0408 247 499
Interested in Sponsoring?
Please contact Merriwa Central School on 6548 2119 for more information.
Thank you!

Curtis Gan Irving Solicitors
Proud to have serviced the people of the Upper Hunter since 1890
Practise Areas include:
Property Law/Subdivisions
Conveyancing
Accident Claims
Wills and Estates
Powers of Attorney

59 Brook Street
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

Muswellbrook 02 6543 2433

86 Bettington Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329

Merriwa 02 6548 2205

Purple Pumpkin Tree
Merriwa Ringer
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 6:00 pm
Phone Kim on 6548 3060
Or Beron on 6548 2245

CWA
Meet 2nd Monday of the month
at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms,
159 Bettington Street
Visitors and new members are always welcome.
Enquiries to:
President: Barbara Campbell
Phone: 6548 5131
Email: barbara911@gmail.com
Secretary: Robyn McAlister
Phone: 6548 3274
Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

Ph: 6548 2213

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

Merriwa Anglican Parish Services
Holy Trinity
Merriwa
St Columba
Cassilis
9.00am Sundays
11.00am every 2nd and 4th Sunday
10.00am Fridays
Saturday Short Bible Study
Mass at 7.30am Mon, Wed, Fri
Morning Prayer
Rev'd Glen Hughes - Supervisor
Rev'd Pat Kirkby - Local Priest

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

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

Cassilis Public School
Relieving Principal: Jeanette Grinham
Coolah Road
Ph: 63761009
Fax: 63761005
Cassilis NSW 2329
www.cassilis-p.school.nsw.edu.au

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

Gummun Place Hostel
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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 JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB

President: Andrew
Vice President: Murray Wright
Junior Vice President: Andrew Webster
Secretary: Elaine Sparrow
Treasurer: John Sparrow

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

MERRIWA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
President: Robert Smith
6548 2213
Secretary: Emily Hall
Treasurer: Krichelle Khan
Vice President: Hannah Walmsley
Day - Night Competitions
Junior Competitions
Court Hire

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Tina Taylor
Senior Vice President: Trent Cooper
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben
ph: Tash Taaffe 6548 5002
e: tashholden@bigpond.com

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
For the information of members and their guests.

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 - Prizes of club and meat vouchers. Raffle and Super 39 special prize

Fridays - Happy Two Hour - 5.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffles and 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 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.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle March 21
Saturday Members Draw no 308 was not won - next week $130.00
Winners Jackpot not won - next week $160.00
Free Tickets: Beatrice Voysey
Dinner: Rob Whaley
Bowls Raffle: Dermott Shannon

Sunday Raffle March 22
Sunday Members draw - No 276, not won. Next week $1,200. Come along and enjoy a friendly drink and chat, buy a raffle ticket and if you are a member you could walk away with the prize. Good luck everyone. Don’t forget!

MUFTI BOWLS AT THE CLUB
MUFTI BOWLS - Enjoy an evening of social bowls, each Friday night at 5.00pm and Saturday afternoons commencing at 1.00pm. ALL WELCOME. No experience necessary.
NEXT TRIVIA NIGHT
When: Twist-Top Trivia in June. Watch this space!

NRL FOOTBALL TIPPING COMPETITION
Make sure your picks are to the Club by 6.00pm on first game night of each round. First Prize of $300.00, second prize $200.00, third prize $100.00, last prize $50.00. Weekly spondula of $10.00 for picking the round. Good luck.

CONGRATULATIONS JEANNIE!
Merriwa Sports Club wishes to congratulate Jeannie-Belle Mason, Year 12 Merriwa Central School student on her great achievement in the recent Tai Kwon Do competition. Jeannie received 2 World Titles (Forms and Continuous Sparring) and 1 second (Point Sparring). A great achievement. Well done Jeannie!

MENS BOWLS
Last weekend we played Denman at Denman coming away with a good two nil win. In regards to this weeks pennant round, we play Muswellbrook at home. The only change to last week is that Gary Anshaw replaces Scott in Kevin’s side. Championship results from last weekend, Des the giant killer knocked off last years champion Scott in a very close game. Phil, Ken, Jim and Jeff beat Greg, Robert, Gary and Bruce in the final of the Fours. Congrats to the winners. Also a thanks to Lynn and Paul for cooking our BBQ last Sunday. Don’t forget if you’ve nothing to do, get up to the club and do some work on or around the green.

Phil Rush

UPPER HUNTER VETERAN’S GOLF
Twenty-six Vets came to a very dry Aberdeen Golf Course on Tuesday, March 24 for their stroke with putting event. Doug Dowell and his helpers have the greens and teeing areas green and lush.

It was very close, and the winner on a count back was Terry Mitchell with nett 63 from Bob Thorley. Third was Graham Boles 64 and fourth President George T Smith 65.

In the ball comp balls went to Brian Dever and Mal Bruce 66, Carey Wallace 67, Rick Cooper 68, Cath Goodsell and Peter Daunton 69, Gerrit de Boer 70, Doug Dowell 71 and Reg Davidson, Andy Medway, Phil Ledgerwood and Rod Auld 72.

Best scratch score: 79 by Terry Mitchell.

The putting wine, kindly donated by Aberdeen Golf and Bowling Club, went to Graham Boles with 26 putts.

Nearest the Pins: 4th Bob Thorley 7th Brian White 13th Carey Wallace 16th Andy Medway 9th/18th Rod Upton

Thanks to all who helped with the Week of Golf last week at Muswellbrook. It was a great success with some fine golf.

On Thursday, April 9 we travel to Crowne Plaza. Cost for golf and lunch is $55; pay Max or Bob as soon as possible.

Graeme Turvey

Merriwa RSL Club
The Members Lucky Badge for $900.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 543, this week it jackpots to $950.00. The 7pm draw for $100.00 was not won the number was 820, this week it jackpots to $120.00. The 9pm draw for $100.00 was not won the number was 835, this week it jackpots to $120.00. LTPS/14/04323

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $1150.00 was not won last week the number was 149, this week it jackpots to $1200.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/14/04323

Coming Events
Introducing ‘T-Bone Tuesday’
Every Tuesday you can now order a T-Bone, chips & salad or veg for just $15.00
Also every Thursday have a chicken schnitzel, chips & salad or veg for just $12.50

What’s Happening in the Club
HAPPY HOUR IS BACK- Friday 6pm to 7pm and Sunday 11am to 12 noon, $3.00 schooners and $2.00 middies, and $5.00 Corona’s.

Change of Raffle night - Thursday April 2, we will be holding the Easter Raffles.

M Morgan

Cassilis Bowling Club
FRIDAY NIGHT SNACK BAR
Affordable family meals.

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES
Members Draw, Joker Draw, Meat/Vegetable trays, Schooner Draw.

DRAW RESULTS
Members Draw - $80.00 – Celia Ellingford– claimed - $50.00 next week
Joker Draw – $1026.00 – Hiliary Parker– unsuccessful – $1048.00 next week.
Saturday afternoons are free pool and music afternoons from 2pm-5pm – ½ price drinks plus bar snacks.

Hilary Parker
OLD BOYS BBQ
This Sunday, March 29.
All ex-players, coaches, managers etc invited
12noon at Merriwa RSL Club

Training tonight - Thursday March 26
Boys will train tonight instead of Friday due to
touch Grand Final. 6.30pm start.

On Saturday evening, Merriwa Magpie Boys
played Trangie. Our guys played well though lost
24-12.

Magpies first competition game is on Sunday April
12, 2015 at Singleton.

Ladies League Tag at 10.15am.
Reserve Grade at 12.30pm.
GO MAGPIES!!!

Gaynor Blackadder

Merriwa Junior Rugby League &
Netball Club
Group 21 Rep Trials

Under 12’s
Mark Forster, Damien Jamison and Nick Whitby
tried out and performed very well. Nick Whitby was
selected for The Group 21 side. Congratulations
Nick and well done to all of our boys.

Under 15’s
Dylan Cox, Kasey Cassar, Tom Neale, and Kyle
McLennan played extremely well, with Tom
extremely unlucky not to go on and be selected.
Dylan and Kasey suffered injuries early on but
performed very well and Kyle played very well.
I'm sure they will all have a very good year for the
club.

Under 16’s
Hunter Hood, John Whitby and Matt Porter
went over to Muswellbrook and made us proud
with Matt and John selected for the possibles /
probables trial after playing extremely well in the
lead up games. John went on to be selected from
that game. Hunter showed great form and I'm
sure he is going to be up for a good year.

Belinda Keane

Our netballers are enjoying the start of their
netball season already having had two games
of competition. Any queries talk to our Netball
Coordinator Heidi Inder 65485100.

Our League competition starts on Saturday April
18 at Singleton. The draw is still not out but will
be given to all players as soon as possible. If it
comes out in school holidays I will put the game
times for each age group on our Facebook Page
which will be used all season to let you know
what is happening within your club. We had a
coaches and executive meeting Monday March
9, to discuss our teams and the game plan for the
year and we have the following teams entered
into competition.

Under 6’s – coach Bruce Blackadder, Under
7’s - coach Brendan Richardson, Under 8’s –
coach John Cronin, Under 9’s – coach Brady
Hilton, Under 12’s – coach Reece Hancock and
Under 16’s – coach Seth Morgan. We thank these
coaches who volunteer their time two afternoons
each week to train our little leaguers and assist
them on game days. Our thanks also to our first aid
people Andrew Jamieson, Phil Neale and Elaine
Sparrow, with at least any two being available at
training each week.

We thank our sponsors – Merriwa Sports Club,
Rockwell Livestock & Property, Rosto Oils, Kingslyn,
Welderup, RSL Club, Max’s Country Cuts, Wayne
Smith Automotive, Merriwa Cakes & Café,
Morgans Maintenance, Merriwa Newsagents,
Williams Concrete. We appreciate your support
for junior sport in Merriwa.

All registrations ($60) must be paid by the beginning
of the first round. Elaine will be at all training days
receive money. All birth certificates of new
players has to be sited and number recorded
by Elaine. New players shorts & socks should be
in shortly (I hope) and will be given to all new
players. I do have bigger sizes in stock for anyone
wishing to up size from last year. Again see Elaine
at training. Club polo shirts are also available $30,
adults and some kids sizes.

Facebook: Merriwa Junior Rugby League &
Netball Club. If you want anything placed on
Facebook see our publicity officer Belinda Keane.

We hope to see many of our league and netball
players supporting the Rotary Fun Run on Sunday
morning. Get mums and dads to take you down
on Sunday morning at 8am and fill out an entry
form. Great prizes to be won. 7 year old and up
– 7-12 $10 entry fee, 12 to 18 $15 entry fee and
mums, dads grandmas and grandpas are all $20
entry fee. Make it a family day out, keep your
own times and see who walked or ran it the best
time for your family. A walking time and a running
time to be fair to all. See you at training or see
you at the Rotary Fun Run/Walk.

Elaine Sparrow (Secretary) 65488560

Belinda Keane

Merriwa Junior Rugby League &
Netball Club
While the wild weather kept us off the track last week, one of our senior athletes was making his presence felt at the NSW Little Athletics State Championships in Sydney.

For the second year in a row, Ben Keane qualified for State, this time in the 800 metres. The Keane family travelled to the Olympic Stadium at Homebush for the heats on Saturday, which was both daunting and exciting.

Pumped and ready to outdo his performance in the 3000 metres last year, Ben stepped up in his heat against one of his arch rivals who won the 800m at Regionals in February.

Undeterred, Ben focused his energy into his own race plan taking off fast and furious, determined to stay with the leading pack. Much to the exhilaration and jubilation of his family, Ben ran 2nd the entire race beaten only by a whisker at the finish line BUT was still fast enough to QUALIFY FOR FINAL OF THE 800 metres! A tremendous achievement in itself, Ben was able to get a little bit of rest before facing up for the final on Sunday. He ran another magnificent race, kept his composure and finished an admirable 15th.

This is the first time in recent history of our club that we have had an athlete qualify not only for State, but to final. This is an outstanding achievement Ben and we are extremely proud of you and all that you have achieved this season. You are a wonderful role model and have clearly proved that with persistence and hard work you can realise your athletics goals. Congratulations.

Sincere thanks must go to junior coach John Cronin who was instrumental in preparing Ben for his State championship performance, providing extra coaching, mentoring and encouragement all the way.

It was also wonderful to see our younger athletes so keen and enthusiastic to help Ben prepare for the State’s, running their hearts out in endless laps of ‘cat and mouse’. It was a great team effort.

Alas, next Monday 30 March will be our last training session for the term. As we ran out of light and it got a bit chilly last year, we will hold our AGM and trophy night at the Merriwa Sports Club on a Monday night in the first or second week of term 2.

More details to follow!

Elaine Sparrow
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27</td>
<td>- The Merriwa Charity Muster</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Merriwa Touch Football Grand Final - Sports Oval Number 1 - 6.30pm</td>
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<td>- Messy Church - Parish Hall - 3.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28</td>
<td>- The Merriwa Charity Muster</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Merriwa Campdraft - Working Bee - 8.00am start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- NSW State Election</td>
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<td>Sunday 29</td>
<td>- The Merriwa Charity Muster - Sunday Fun Run - 7.30am, Number 1 Oval</td>
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<td>- Palm Sunday 9am Holy Trinity Eucharist and Procession</td>
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<tr>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2</td>
<td>- CWA Annual Easter Street Stall</td>
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<td>- Maundy Thursday 6pm Holy Trinity Holy Eucharist and foot washing followed by Seder Meal in Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 3</td>
<td>- Good Friday 9am Holy Trinity Solemn Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 5</td>
<td>- Easter Day 8am Holy Eucharist St Columba Cassilis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 10am Holy Trinity Merriwa Sung Eucharist</td>
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<td>- Daylight savings ends. Clock goes back 1 hour.</td>
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<td>Saturday 11</td>
<td>- Select Horse and Working Dog Sale/Challenge</td>
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<td>Saturday 18</td>
<td>- Men’s Breakfast 7.30am Anzac Remembrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21</td>
<td>- Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary High Tea Party 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24</td>
<td>- Messy Church 3.30pm</td>
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