Merriwa is set to remember 100 years of the ANZAC’s
Merriwa’s ANZAC Day Commemorations

All citizens are being asked to help share in this solemn occasion to help preserve the Spirit of the ANZAC and to remember the great sacrifice that so many made, in order that we may live in peace.

If anyone wishes to participate in the laying of a wreath or seeks any further information please contact the RSL Sub-Branch Secretary, Mary O’Neill, on 6548 2383.

PROGRAM FOR DAWN SERVICE

- 5.40am - Assemble at the Cenotaph
- 6.30am - End of Dawn Service
- 7.00am - Breakfast at Merriwa RSL Club

PROGRAM FOR MAIN SERVICE

- 10.15am - All citizens/groups wishing to participate in the march are to assemble outside the RSL Club
- 10.30am - March commences
- 10.40am - General Assembly at the Cenotaph and service commences
- 12.00noon - Sausage sizzle for the young people taking part in the ceremony
- 1.00pm - Commemoration Luncheon for all citizens wishing to attend (tickets available for the Merriwa RSL Club)

They gave their lives
for that public gift they receive a praise
which never ages and a tomb most glorious
not so much the tomb
in which they lie,
but in which their fame survives
to be remembered forever when
occasion comes for word or deed.

Mary O’Neill

The Merriwa Community is very proud to have Breanna Goodear, a Year 10 student at Merriwa Central School, representing our community in Gallipoli to commemorate 100 years since landing at ANZAC Cove. Bon Voyage Breanna.

Darren Noonan

Merriwa Ringer
Principal’s Report

Can you believe we are at the end of Term 1? Thank you to all parents who were able to attend a range of events over the last week - parent teacher interviews, Aboriginal education meeting, personalised learning meetings, and to assist with travel for the Zone Cross Country.

STAFF CHANGES

Merit selection interviews have now been finalised for the Head Teacher Vocational Education and Training (VET) position. I am pleased to announce Mark Beiers from Quirindi High School has been appointed to our school. Mark joins us with a wealth of experience, and is looking forward to starting next term. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful leadership Jane Hegarty has provided to our staff as Head Teacher VET, and wish Jane all the best during her transition to retirement. Jane will continue to work part-time teaching Business Services.

Hospitality teacher Aaron Creamer will finish up this week, and move to Newcastle to join his family. I know he will be missed by many in the community, particularly those who enjoyed his martial arts program. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours. At the moment we are awaiting on staffing to fill the hospitality vacancy.

ARSON

In recent weeks minor arson attempts have occurred on school grounds at night. The Police have attended and taken finger prints following the events. I understand that other similar events have occurred within the community. To ensure students do not get the blame for such events, parents are reminded that no students are to be on school grounds after hours.

PRIMARY BUS ZONES

Bus drivers have complained that parents are dropping off students in the designated bus zone in front of primary. Naturally this causes problems for the bus drivers, and places the safety of students arriving at school at risk.

The bus zone sign means that in the direction of the arrow or arrows you are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus. Fines for stopping in these areas are $311.00 and two demerit points. Please avoid this area when dropping off students.

The Merriwa Ringer is now entirely funded by community sponsorship and advertising.

Did you know?

Enjoy the Easter break with family and friends. Staff return to school for a school development day on Monday April 20, students return to school on Tuesday April 21.

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<td>SRC Out of Uniform Day - Wear something red or yellow - Gold Coin donation</td>
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<td>Monday 20</td>
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<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
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<td>Friday 24</td>
<td>School ANZAC Day ceremony Leaving school at 10.00am for commemoration at the Cenotaph</td>
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Primary News

As the term comes to an end we would like to wish all our students and families a relaxing and safe holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday April 21. I would like to thank all the teachers and staff of the Primary Campus for all their hard work this term. We have had a very busy first term and also shared some wonderful successes with our classes.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Last week our Students of the Week demonstrated some wonderful learning behaviours in the classroom that demonstrate the high standards we have for students at Merriwa Central School. Thank you to our supportive P and C for their continued book contributions this term. Congratulations to the following book award recipients:

Kindergarten: Kayden Coulter  
Year K/1: Rhianna Shadlow  
Year 2: Toby Fairhall  
Year 3/4: Emma Khan  
Year 4/5: Danielle Skeffington  
Year 5/6: Ebony Skeffington  
Year 5/6: Corey Parkinson (award from previous week)

Workers of the Week

Our Workers of the Week are showing more confidence when presenting their work to a large crowd. We were pleased to see examples of mathematics, persuasive writing, spelling and creative art. Well done to our following workers of the week:

Year Kindergarten: Alexander Googe and Cadence Tudor  
Year K/1: Rhianna Shadlow and Tye Blackadder  
Year 2: Tamara Bailey and Logan Brazier  
Year 3/4: Jye Byfield and David McPhie

FIFE ASSEMBLY

Last Friday our Fife Band presented a variety of music they have been working on during Fife lessons with Miss Jennifer Kershaw from the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music. First they demonstrated the scales they use to warm up and then performed ‘Hot Cross Buns’. We currently have a large Fife Band with 20 students, although some were absent as they were competing at the Zone Cross Country. Students have been rehearsing every Monday with Miss Kershaw for half an hour but many students are so enthusiastic about the band they have been bringing their Fifes to school each day to rehearse in their own playtime with other band members. The new students to the group have been practising very hard to learn scales and songs and our more experienced Fife members are to be commended for the great work they have done helping the new members. Thank you to Miss Kershaw for all your work this term. We look forward to lessons next term.

YEAR 3/4 HSIE WALK

This term students in the Year 3/4 class have been studying the HSIE unit ‘Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow’. Part of this study involves looking at the local area and how it has changed over the years. On Friday we focussed on learning about how Merriwa Central School has changed throughout
Welcome to the last week of Term 1. It has flown and looking back it has been a very busy term for all staff and students. The term has brought some changes with it as I say farewell to the Head Teacher Vet Roll and Mr Mark Beiers will commence in this position at the beginning of Term 2. I know the community of Merriwa, students and parents will make him feel welcome at our school. Our faculty is also saying goodbye to Mr Creamer who has decided to move back to Newcastle. We will miss Mr Creamer’s passion for the food industry and his ability to inspire the students with new ideas about food, a keenness for producing their own recipes and being more adventurous with the food they prepare. I personally would like to thank him for his support in the VET faculty and his willingness to help out at any of the functions or school events we were involved in. On behalf of the VET faculty we would like to wish him all the best with his move back to Newcastle and we will look forward to catching up with him in the future.

**Secondary News**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) REPORT**

Last Friday March 27 students from the Primary Campus travelled to Muswellbrook to compete in the Zone Cross Country Carnival. Students competed against other schools in their age brackets. It was a wonderful day and students showed a great level of enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Brooklyn Blackadder and Kyah Johnston for making it to the next round! They will be off to compete at the Regional Cross Country Carnival next term. Thank you to all the parents who assisted with travel on the day, it is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Mrs Moore for all your organisation and supervision of the event.

Rebecca West  
Assistant Principal
I would also like to say that it was lovely to see so many parents at our parent teacher evening last week. Staff always enjoy the opportunity to engage with parents and discuss strategies that will help support students in their learning. We would encourage any parents who were unable to attend to make an interview with staff at a time that suits.

Mr Duncan has been busy this week getting students to finish off their Term 1 project in Mandatory Technology, Wood Technology and Metal Technology. Students are always keen to work on the practical aspects of these subjects and leave their portfolios to the last minute. However it is important to complete the portfolio component of their projects to the best of their ability as they make up a large percentage of their assessment mark.

Mr Grant has been to his Certificate IV training in assessment and learning last week. This is a mandatory component of being able to teach a vocational subject and requires staff to demonstrate the ability to set assessment tasks that reflect industry standards but also cater for the individual learning styles and abilities of students.

All the Year 11 VET students completed their Work Readiness training on Tuesday afternoon which is also a requirement for vocational education students before they can participate in their work placement learning which will occur in Week 9 Term 2. Work placement is a Board of Studies requirement for each VET subject and students need to complete 35 hours in Year 11 and 35 hours in Year 12 at a work place that is part of the industry that they are training in at school or TAFE.

Primary Industry students wished Craig Walker all the best this week as he headed off to the Royal Sydney show to compete in the grain judging competition for two days. Craig was involved in the Merriwa PAH and I grain judging last year and as a consequence he was selected to represent Merriwa at the Sydney Royal Show.

Staff are already planning for next terms activities and Miss King is busy preparing for the School Athletic carnival which will be held on Friday May 8. If any parents are keen to help out or would like to be involved on the day please ring the school to let us know as we are always looking for extra people at different events to support staff. Miss King also took our cross country champions to the zone carnival on Wednesday and as usual our students performed well and represented our school proudly.

After such a busy term the VET faculty would like to wish everyone a very happy Easter and a well deserved restful holiday. We look forward to working with you all next term.

Jane Hegarty, Aaron Creamer, Allison King, Andrew Duncan and Chad Grant

THE WORKSHOPS

Year 7/8 Tech Metal has moved onto the timber end component of the process of manufacturing their Bird Feeders. They have completed their Magnabender safety testing and managed to get the right folds, at the right angles in the right locations with their sheet metal. Some have managed to ‘misread’ the plans and have some screw holes in unusual places but they should turn out fine. With any luck they’ll have a completed practical project and supporting portfolio in the early weeks of next term, and will then rotate into another technology focus area.

Year 9 Metal and Timber have been getting used to the practical nature of our workshops and the way assessments are completed throughout the term. Some are already learning not to leave it until the last minute to work on their portfolio, and if they ‘fluff’ around in class they won’t finish their practical project. So those that don’t bring home a practical project after I’ve marked them at the end of this term, your parents will know who you are.

Year 10 Metal and Timber students have been putting the finishing touches on their first assessment tasks. A number of Year 10 boys have once again managed to get all their work done to an outstanding standard, always working well in class with very little assistance. They know who they are and would appreciate not being named here.

My Year 12 Timber students have thus far been planning the design, shape and material composition of their Major Design Project. It is supposed to be constructed over the next term with marking commencing in early Term 3. It is externally assessed by the DEC and counts as 60% of their total HSC marks. The project is worth 40%, the portfolio 20%. So far we have Taylah with a lounge but no real ideas as to what everyone else is making. Good luck boys, time is running out.

Until the next time, stay safe.

Andrew Duncan

Merriwa Ringer
RETURN OF THE SCHOOL ANZAC CEREMONY

After an absence of eight years, the ANZAC Ceremony at the Cenotaph will be held on Friday April 24 at 10.50am. Merriwa Central School students and staff will be joined by Saint Joseph’s school community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Student representatives will present speeches followed by wreath laying and the traditional formal ceremony. We would like to invite community members to join us on this very special occasion.

The Merriwa Central School wish to advise the community that on this day, April 24 at 10.00am to 11.45am, the streets from Mackenzie Street between Bow and Marquet Street and Marquet Street between Mackenzie and Bettington Streets will be closed for traffic. For more information on these road closures, please contact Upper Hunter Shire Council - Merriwa on 6521 7000.

Gwen Meyer
Head Teacher - Maths / Science/Ag

NEW CAREER EVENTS


UNSW Actuarial Studies Workshop - May 15, 9.30am to 11.30am, Finity Offices, Level 7

Year 11 and 12’s UNSW Business School and FINITY - an Actuarial consultancy, give pathways available to actuary, what an actuary does. https://www.whatson.unsw.edu.au/egateway/students.events_search

Jane Hegarty
Careers Adviser

MERRIWA P AND C

Thank you to Tori Simmons, Megan Sinderberry, Gaynor Blackadder and Christine, Hannah and Ty Riley for working throughout the day (set up, helping out and packing away) at the P and C BBQ on election day.

We wish everyone a Happy and safe Easter.

Gaynor Blackadder
P and C Secretary


Hobsons Course Finder Year 12 Survival Tips - http://www.hobsonscoursefinder.com.au/Latest-news/Getting-into-university/Year-12-survival-tips#.VO0GvvmUeW4

Subject Bonus Points at ACU - Up to five bonus points based on performance in specific year 12 subjects relevant to Uni course. http://www.acu.edu.au/study_at_acu/alternate_entry/accessacu

Kickstart in the School Holidays - Kickstart Science workshops give HSC students a chance to do experiments and demonstrations of key ideas in the syllabus that are difficult to do in the classroom. Kickstart Biology, Chemistry and Physics are running in the June School Holidays. Students can register individually to attend at http://sydney.edu.au/science/outreach/high-school/kickstart/school-holidays.shtml

Jane Hegarty
Careers Adviser

MERRIWA P AND C

Thank you to Tori Simmons, Megan Sinderberry, Gaynor Blackadder and Christine, Hannah and Ty Riley for working throughout the day (set up, helping out and packing away) at the P and C BBQ on election day.

We wish everyone a Happy and safe Easter.

Gaynor Blackadder
P and C Secretary

Why I want to be in ROAR: To help me on and off the field

Favourite Subject: Ag and Food
Favourite sport: Football
Favourite team: Tigers
Favourite player: Tim Simona
Best personal sporting achievement: Scoring tries
Who inspires you: Nan because she helps me with everything.
Advice to young players: Never give up!

ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards

Mathew Porter
Year 10

Merriwa Ringer
The annual Cross Country Carnival will be held on Thursday, the last day our school term. We are looking forward to demonstrating our personal bests on the magnificent track which begins with a circle round the showground and then continues along the scenic Merriwa River bank. The students have been training well for this great event and from this several of the primary students will be selected to complete at Diocesan level next term.

Last week was action packed learning for everyone. We began the week by hosting our Denman sister school Stage 3 class for a day of retreat learning about leadership and reflecting on what that means for student leadership within the school. Mr Mark Spencer from the Catholic Schools Office presented the day and it was considered very valuable by our Stage 3 students and their teachers alike. The main take away message for the students was that leadership requires three things: prayer, service and relationship. The students are now analysing their leadership performance in terms of these three components.

On Thursday the whole student body welcomed Mrs Anna Kerrigan back to the school to begin the 2015 whole school Dance and Drama program. The skills Anna demonstrates with the children are reinforced by their teachers over the coming months. Anna will revisit on three more occasions to fine tune the skills and then on September 9 the students will present their skills to their parents and community members in the Annual School Play. The date for your calendar is the evening of September 9, it will be a fabulous night’s entertainment.

Harmony Day was celebrated on Friday. All students viewed a short film demonstrating the importance of accepting all people and valuing their differences.

In the Infants classroom parents and teachers enjoyed creating Henna prints on paper hands. Fiona Tomy, Year 2 was able to explain to the class that many people in India use this form of body art on special occasions such as weddings.

Stage Two students and parents enjoyed the assistance of Lucy Johnson as she taught them how to make Chinese lanterns and lucky bags. They were rewarded at the end with Chinese fortune cookies to place in their bags.

Stage Three Students celebrated Harmony Day learning greetings from around the world and learning in particular some of the customs of Vietnamese people. Ha Giang, Year 3, enjoyed sharing information about her country and the students loved the Vietnamese fried rice shared by Ha Giang. Ha Giang also celebrated her last day with us with a class party. We wish her and her family all the very best as they relocate in Singleton.

At the conclusion of the day the students presented their work to an appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and friends.
in the community memorial march and ask any students who are able to join us, to meet on the RSL corner at 10.15am. Please have the children wear their full summer uniform including hats. Parents, siblings and other friends are more than welcome to march with us. There is a complimentary BBQ in the outdoor area of the RSL club following the march.

For the first time in many years, as ANZAC day falls within the term, the schools will have a commemoration service on Friday April 24. It is very appropriate on this 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign to have the opportunity to participate in an extra community service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING AWARD WINNERS

Kindergarten - Tilly Clark - for gaining confidence and being able to have a joke in the classroom
Emma McLaren - for showing good reading skills when reading a book
Year 1/2 - Aidan Hunt - for a great effort in preparing for our play
Pia Henderson - for great participation in Religion lessons
Ella Beaven - for a great effort in fraction work
Year 3/4 - Thomas Hunt - for a great understanding of fractions
Riley Melmeth - for his enthusiasm and effort in maths
Year 5/6 - Camdyn Constable – for his ability to research a topic using ICT
Jonathan Keegan – for putting in a huge effort in writing his Newcastle Herald article

Principal’s Awards - Lula Peebles, Peter Hagley, Jeremy Hopkins, Tia Magner, Patrick Magner, Emily Ninness and John Magner - for your very generous and prayerful weekend participation in the Ecumenical Way of the Cross

Playground Champion - Sienna Baber – always being able to enjoy herself on the playground

The staff would like to wish every member of our school and wider community a very happy Easter season. We pray that you are able to live more hopeful lives because of the good news of Christ’s resurrection. Have a great holiday – I hope there are plenty of restful periods, family time and good old fashioned fun!

Mrs Helen Whale
Principal
From Mrs. Grinham’s Desk

Term 1 has been a fantastic start to the year with students settling in to good work habits and improving the quality of their work.

The teachers have provided a wealth of authentic learning opportunities for all students and most parents have trusted us to take their students outside the school to give hands on learning experiences to the students. One of the key learning methodologies that are used with the students at present is Connected Outcomes Group (COGs) learning where student learning focuses on a theme “the sea” at present. COGs based learning requires in depth preparation, collaboration and quality teaching too gain the best student outcomes. Cassilis primary staff have over 100 years combined teaching and support experience and are dedicated, caring, highly trained professionals with CPR, first aid, anaphylaxis, asthma, emergency care, child protection and bronze medallion training, which allows us to deliver such a diversified and engaging pattern of learning.

Departmental policy and teacher student ratios are strictly adhered to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

We hope you enjoy the holidays and extra time with your children and we wish you a Happy Easter.

Teachers return on Monday April 20 and will be learning about the Science curriculum, professional goals and working to complete the school’s three year plan, as well as preparing for another busy term full of quality teaching and learning.

School Vision and Strategic Directions

In line with the new school plan, and consultation with parents and community, the school is updating its vision statement and strategic directions for the next three years.

Our Vision

To prepare every student to be successful lifelong learners who are confident and creative individuals; and active informed citizens through a commitment to equity and excellence in education.

We believe it is important for students to be self-aware, build resilience and positive relationships and actively contribute to the school, the community and the society in which they live.

We value and support strong partnerships with the broader community to maximise student engagement and achievement in a nurturing environment.

Harmony Day

Students and families, including our senior citizens enjoyed a wonderful Harmony Day on Friday March 20. Students cooked Chinese, Mexican, Greek and Austrian delicacies, tested their fitness, made Chinese lanterns and learnt about red packets and the Chinese Zodiac, and made harmony ‘click-clack’ games. Everyone enjoyed the multicultural food feast.

Student of the Week

Angus Heycox

Angus from his learning at school last week, Angus ignored them or moved away to get the best out of his learning. He was keen to draw up a draft boat for science last week and although his boat didn’t work out the way he had planned, he didn’t let that affect his mood.

FROM MRS. GRINHAM’S DESK

Angus has been awarded the title of Student of the Week this week for being kind and respectful to others and doing his best to improve his learning by trying harder to concentrate during class. When other students tried to distract Angus from his learning at school last week, Angus ignored them or moved away to get the best out of his learning. He was keen to draw up a draft boat for science last week and although his boat didn’t work out the way he had planned, he didn’t let that affect his mood.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

ANGUS HEYCOX

Angus Heycox

Merriwa Ringer
GOLF WORKSHOP
On Monday March 23 students were involved in a golf workshop, run by Mark from the Jack Newton Junior Golf program. He was very impressed with how well the students’ skills have developed over the term. Congratulations to Miss H for her outstanding teaching.

BEACH EXCURSION
On Friday March 27, students and teachers - Mr. Gant, Mrs. Grinham and Miss H set off in the bus to Newcastle for a day of hands-on Science experiences. On the way Mr. Gant asked tricky questions about rivers, coal powered electricity, beaches, bridges and boats.

The students were excited to reach the beach and wasted no time paddling in the waves, finding shells, seaweed and chasing seagulls.

After lunch we walked along the break wall discussing types of rocks, where the Hunter River meets the sea, and asking lots of fabulous questions.

We walked back to the bags along the beach and jumped in the bus ready for the long journey home. Some students fell asleep almost straight away as they were worn out from all the sun, sea and sand!

Some students asked if we could go to the beach every Friday, but sadly we don’t live close enough for that!

Everyone was very well behaved and had a fantastic day. Thank you to Mr. Gant for driving the bus Miss H and Mrs. Nairne for their organisation and to Macquarie Generation for kindly lending us the bus.

WEEK 10 ASSEMBLY
Congratulations to our award winners.

All students presented their poems and did a great job. Next term we will be working on making eye contact with the audience and using gestures and props to enhance our poems.
SANDY HOLLOW BRINGS HOME SILVER!

Four students from Sandy Hollow Public School have proven you don’t have to come from the big smoke to be tops in the state for swimming.

The four – Andrew Harris (Year 3), Sam Thompson (Year 5) and Amy Thompson and Angus Higgins (Year 6) – brought home silver medals from last Thursday’s (March 26) PSSA state swimming carnival at the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre.

The young swimmers represented Sandy Hollow in the 4x50m freestyle relay against 27 other “small schools” from across NSW. Their category was for schools with between 25 and 54 students. Sandy Hollow has an enrolment of 38.

School principal Mrs Darlington said it was the fourth year in a row the school had qualified for the state championships.

“It is incredible for Andrew, Sam, Amy and Angus to make it to this level of competition and achieve a second place. Our school is very proud,” she said.

All of them recorded personal best times in their legs of the relay.

The team missed gold by a body length but view that as insignificant as they claim the title of fastest relay team in the Hunter in their category.

First place in the relay went to St John’s Catholic School in Trangie while the bronze medal was awarded to Mulbring Public School.

The Sandy Hollow team paid tribute to the training advice and support they received from Kim Stanford, Adam Hume and Ray Byfield.

They also thanked Muswellbrook Shire Council who allowed them free use of the indoor pool at the town’s aquatic centre to prepare for Sydney.

The Denman pool – where they would normally train – closed 10 days before the carnival.

The children also appreciated the dedication of their parents who took turns in driving them to “town” for training. Andrew, Amy and Sam live in the Widden Valley so clocked up quite a few kilometres.

Next year poses a new challenge for the young relay team as Amy and Angus are off to high school, leaving two spots up for grabs. No doubt once summer comes around and the school begins its intensive swimming program all eyes will be on likely replacements.

MARKET DAY

What a fantastic day we had on Saturday. The weather was great and we had lots of visitors to our Market Day. The students did a wonderful job running their stalls. Thank you to all parents who cooked cakes and/or manned stalls. Thank you to Ms Higgins for doing a wonderful job with the face painting. As always, it was a popular stall. Thank you also to the students and parents who gave up their Saturday morning to come along. All the money raised will go towards our end of year reward day.

HOLIDAYS

As this is our last week for the term, I’d like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday. Students return on Tuesday April 21.

ANZAC DAY

Once again our students have been invited to attend the ANZAC Day March at Denman on Saturday April 25. School Captains and Vice Captains are expected to attend as part of their leadership duties. Students are asked wear full school uniform and meet Ms Bullock at 11.30 in Palace Street outside St Matthias Church.

ZONE CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our students who competed in Muswellbrook on Friday. Angus Higgins won his age group and goes on to compete at Regional next term. Well done everyone.

Christina Darlington
Principal

WEEKLY AWARDS

Reece McCandless - outstanding effort in maths investigation
Ayden Marsh - fantastic effort in mathematics
Dustynn Turner - outstanding effort in his maths investigation
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE K/1/2 CLASSROOM

All the children have continually worked well throughout term one.

Kindergarten have enjoyed coming to the launching station in their groups to participate in reading and writing sessions.

Our focus for writing in Year 1 has been sentence structure. Examining the grammatical features, punctuation and how we can make our sentences more interesting to our audience. During maths Kinders have been examining numbers 1 to 10, counting backwards and even using a numberline.

Year 1 are working through an investigation entitled “All About Birthdays”. Birthdays provide the context as the children conduct surveys, collect data and explore calendars; compiling a class calendar to keep track of upcoming birthdays.

Our Personal Development unit is developing the children’s skills to foster resilience by encouraging them to reflect on and identify what makes a good friend. The children enjoyed making their own image of what a good friend is.

Ms Higgins has completed some great art work with the children which is making our room bright and colourful.

Pauline Bullock
Class Teacher

MUSWELLBROOK SHOW

On Friday March 20, I travelled to Muswellbrook Show to compete in the cattle section.

To start off with we had to register and get our junior judging cards. Next we did the Junior Judging: we had to judge four steers. After that I had to get changed into my parading clothes. Next was watching the four heifers being judged.

After that it was time to do parading. I borrowed a heifer from Muswellbrook High School, it’s name was Bella. After I got to know a bit about her, I went into the ring. I felt really confident and relaxed. After about five minutes I was pulled out into another line in front of the others and then I knew I came first and I did. I came first in parading!

Next we watched the older ones. After they finished it was time for Champion Parader which is everyone who came first. So I went out into the ring and I paraded Bella and got Reserve Champion Parader.

Next was lunch break so we went and got lunch. After that it was orals.

I didn’t make it in. After listening to the orals they said the students from the team had to write an essay on how winning a steer would benefit your school and Sandy Hollow was called up and they said to me that I won the steer.

After that it was finished.

I would like to thank the Muswellbrook Show Society for holding the event and Mr T from Muswellbrook High School for the lend of Bella. It was a great day.

Kristy Walker

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Noah Adams - being kind when playing in the playground.

SPORTS PERSON OF THE WEEK

Nicholas Terrell - great effort in tennis.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Kinder/Years1/2 - Jobee McCandless, Declan Adams and Bill Chambers

Years 3/4/5/6 - Isabella Wallace, Sam Thompson and Andrew Harris.

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Years 3/4/5/6 - Isabella Wallace, Sam Thompson and Andrew Harris.

Christina Darlington
Principal
HAPPY EASTER

Today is our last day of Pre-School for the Term, we will resume for Term 2 on Monday April 20.

Chocolate has been a bit of a focus for us this week as you would imagine and the Easter Bunny has been surprising the children in various ways. The Easter bunny always requests that the children share and play fair.

I know that the holidays are often a time to catch up with all the chores around the house and ready ourselves for winter. If you discover any clothes or toys in good condition then please consider donating them to the Annual Bake Sale at Pre-School, which this year takes the form of an opportunity to Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. Feel free to swap an item or leave a donation for what you find. This is not necessarily a money making venture, but rather one which enables the children to experience the many benefits of trade and sustainability. The children will be cooking for our week long stall and primarily in charge of its operation. Of course if we do make some money the children are consulted about how the proceeds are spent. My thought is that a set of child sized recycling bins would be great but we could be for a battle. This event is held between May 4 and May 8 in Week 3 and is just prior to Mother’s Day.

Jaspa Photography will be offering their family portrait sessions on Saturday May 9 so save this date on your calendar. This event is available to the community and is a great opportunity for families.

Next Term I will be conducting a qualitative research project on the benefits of a more relaxed use of the indoor and outdoor spaces in the Pre-School setting for Children between the ages of 3-6 years. This is in response to the National Quality Standards, Area 3 that refers to the facilities being designed or adapted to ensure access and participation by every child in the service and to allow flexible use and interaction between the indoor and outdoor space. The project is part of my university studies and permission for your child to participate in the study will be requested. The outcome of the research will be available to families on completion in July. Trials on the flexible use of the Pre-School environment will occur over the winter months when the concern regarding exposure the hottest parts of the day are minimised. This project will include discussions with the children and the staff as we gauge the effectiveness of the system. Be assured that these tests will only occur on days where we have the staff ratio required to conduct the research. We anticipate greater opportunity for small group and individual interactions and less behavioural issues. We hope that this increases a child’s sense of agency and independence as they explore their own learning and interests.

Please be advised that the MAC service is open over the holidays, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of both weeks between the hours of 9.00am-5.00pm. Times may alter by arrangement with the Coordinator. Call for your bookings today on 6548 2082.

We wish all of our families a wonderful and safe holiday.

Leah Folpp

Merriwa Surgery

DR EMAD JASEM

For all your medical needs

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm

Dr Emad Jasem will be taking holidays to visit his family in England for the first two weeks of April. The surgery will remain open for the regular hours.

We are thankful to Dr Adrian Plaskitt for helping us out during this time.

Our practice nurse will also be available.

For appointments please call the surgery on 6548 2305.

Dr Emad Jasem
Merriwa Ringer
**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

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

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

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

**DATES**

**April 2:** Maundy Thursday 6.00pm - Foot washing Service followed by Seder Meal in the Parish hall. All Welcome.

**April 3:** Good Friday - 9.00am Holy Trinity Merriwa - Solemn Liturgy

**April 5:** Easter Day - 8.00am St. Columba Cassilis -10.00am Holy Trinity Merriwa – Sung Eucharist.

**May 8:** Mothers Day Morning Tea - CWA Hall 10.00am.

The passion narrative is a highly dramatic and unified whole, and demands to be heard in its entirety. It is a time to remember the story that lies at the center of everything we know and believe as Christians. Live with the following questions during the days ahead – the days which Christians around the world observe as “Holy Week. Does the story of Jesus’ passion bring us meaning and support in our lives today? Or do we find ourselves, like the crowds of Jerusalem, wishing that the story ended happily with the excitement of the palm procession? Do we, like the twelve, deny or abandon Christ’s way in our world today when it involves personal risk and possible sacrifice? Are we open to experience the unexpected and entirely unconventional joy of Easter?  Happy Easter to you all!

Rosalie Drew

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**KALEIDOSCOPE FUN RUN/WALK**

What a great weekend at the Showground with the Kaleidoscope Kids Merriwa Muster. There were lots of motorhomers spending the weekend in our town and attending the functions that were organised for all to attend. Commencing on Saturday morning we had sixty four people at the Poet’s Breakfast with Greg North entertaining everyone till ten o’clock. Nobody was leaving until Greg announced he was finished. A very funny poet who had the audience in the palm of his hand and lots of laughter being heard.

Saturday night we had the Rotary Spit Roast Dinner and Auction. The aroma of the spit roast lamb over the afternoon and into the early evening was very tantalizing and drew many comments that dinner ‘smelt good’ but many more comments once it had been consumed. ‘The best lamb I’ve tasted in ages’. ‘That lamb was so tasty, thank you.’ ‘the lamb was mouth watering and finger licking good’. We had so many great comments on the spit roast dinner that we know it was a great success for the one hundred and sixteen people who attended. The auction went well and much money was made for the Kaleidoscope Kids fundraiser. We thank everyone for their enthusiastic bidding on all items and attending our spit roast dinner. Thanks to all Rotarians for their preparation of the meal and beautiful desserts.

We woke up to a beautiful Sunday morning and once again Rotary were out and about setting up for the Fun Run/Walk. Cones placed along the course, first aid/water stations set out and the signage and road blocks put out by our VRA boys and girls and then the sun came up and the fun runners started to arrive ready for the commencement of our first Fun Run. There were sixty two runners in four age categories and we had some good comments on what a great course it was and the weather was perfect. The course was 3.26km in length and some runners/walkers couldn’t believe they could go that distance but everyone made the finish line with some surprising results.

**KIDS – 7 years to under 12:** First - Harry Schumaker (Scone); Second - Ollie Schumaker (Scone); Third - Darcy Moore (Merriwa). Lucky draw (bicycle) was won by Aishlinn Emanuel (Blacksmith)

**JUNIORS – 12 years to under 18:** First - Jesse Schumaker (Scone); Second - Ben Keane (Merriwa); Third - Kristina Wright (Scone). Lucky draw (swag) winner was Ben Keane (Merriwa)

**Adults – over 18:** First - Nicky Western (Scone);
Second - Ainsley Maben (Merriwa); Third - Dean Walsh (Blacksmith) and coming in a close fourth was our Pharmacist - Robert Smith. Lucky draw ($120.00 gift card) winner was Leanne Hunt (Merriwa). Mention must be made of our Merriwa ‘boot camp’ team. Well done to you all and can I say that you are ALL looking amazing. Congrats.

GOLDEN OLDIES – over 50’s: First - John McLain (Swansea) (John ran most of the way – an amazing FIT 74 year old); Second - Julia Hardy (Merriwa); Third - from the Papanui team a tie between Sue Cronin and Di Killen. Luck Draw ($120.00 gift card) winner was Margaret Haywood (Edgeworth).

THANK YOU’S AND THERE ARE MANY!

Firstly to James Constable – what an asset he is to our community. Nothing is a trouble to James and he is always checking to see if there is anything else he can do. James has been a great help to the Kaleidoscope organisers, from garbage bins, to clean toilets, to Showground arrangements, School of Arts Hall and so much more. Thank you James. In your VRA role, you were placing your road closure sign and fun run signs out in the dark of the Sunday morning and together with your VRA colleagues manned the six points of Road Closure Control whilst the Fun Run was in progress. Thank you to you all for your wonderful assistance. Thanks to all Rotarians who rose early on a Sunday morning to mann registration tables and start lines and finish lines. The first aid volunteers were Carol McLoughlin and from junior league Andrew Jamieson and Phil Neale and then there was our Ambulance men who came down to check out the start and then the finish line. No oxygen was needed! A big thank you to you all for your assistance. Thanks to Papanui Eggs for there donation of eggs for the weekend. Always willing to donate and we are very grateful for your support. Lastly to the Kaleidoscope team who fed the crowd after the fun run. I don’t think they have served so many people in such a quick time before. Every time they looked up the line was getting longer. Great job Kaleidoscope team.

The SUMMARY of the whole weekend? A GREAT SUCCESS. Our community and the Motor Home contingency have made the weekend one to remember. Lots of fun, lots of comaraderie, lots of new friends and the most important part is lots of money raised for the Kaleidoscope Kids, John Hunter Children’s Hospital Fundraiser. This committee look after those in the Upper Hunter who need assistance when faced with a sick child in the John Hunter Children’s Hospital, when you are a long way from home and family.

The Kaleidoscope organiser, Paul Garland, will attend another Rotary meeting within the next month and report back to us on the final outcome of money raised over the weekend. We will let you know this outcome when we get the result. In the mean time – THANK YOU to the Merriwa community. It is a lot of organising, a lot of events to attend and the end result was VERY MUCH WORTHWHILE.

Thanks to everyone for all your assistance. I appreciate the help and am amazed at the generosity of the people in our beautiful community. I ask, most say YES. It is wonderful to have such support.

Elaine Sparrow

NEW ZEALAND STUDENT EXCHANGE

Our club is, once again, very happy to take part in this program. Merriwa girls, Paige McConnell and Teianna Taylor will go to New Zealand in Term 3.

Our club is delighted to welcome to Merriwa, Jennifer Evans from Wanganui and Antonia Kayrouz from Devonport who will spend Term 2 at Merriwa Central School. We welcome our visitors. (We shall not mention cricket if they do not mention rugby).

We hope you enjoy your stay with us, Jennifer and Antonia.

Mark Smith
Hygiene means the conditions or practices to maintain health and prevent diseases.

Sleep hygiene means practice of having a good sleep in a healthy way without depending on any pills.

Sleep is one of the important, basic requirements of our body. It is the way we recharge our body and brain. If we don’t have enough sleep, our physical function and mental performance will become impaired. Our health could decline gradually, day by day. Our defence mechanisms become weak and we become more prone to get infections. We could feel tiredness, poor concentration, irritability and low mood- like the symptoms of depression, if we don’t have enough sleep for a certain period. Our way of thinking, memory and decision making will be affected. Micro sleep or tiredness could increase risk of accidents and end up being fatal.

Generally, we need a good sleep, 7-9 hours in a day. The question is how can we make ourselves have a good sleep? Having a pill? This would not be a good idea. All sleeping pills have their own side effects, such as increased confusion, day time drowsiness, dependence, tolerance and medication-induced dementia. It should definitely not be mixed with alcohol, because it could suppress the breathing and lead to death. In short, sleeping pills should not be used for more than two or three nights.

Sleep is a natural process and we should deal with it in a natural way.

That is using the “sleep hygiene” to improve our quality of sleep. Sleep hygiene includes:

- Set up body clock ... e.g. Go to bed at 10.00pm and get out of bed at 6.00am every day.

- What to do in day time ... Avoid naps during the day as it can make sleeping more difficult at night.

Reduce caffeine intake - Coffee, Tea, Coca cola, energy drinks - “0” intake if you have sleep problem.

Cut down alcohol intake [Alcohol can cause disturbed sleep pattern in many people].

Reduce nicotine intake [cut down smoking].

Try to settle down before going to sleep.

Find a settling down routine that work best for you.

Try to know what helps you settle best, such as listening to soft music, warm shower, or mindfulness.

Try not to sleep immediately after a heavy meals, strenuous exercise, emotional upset and argument.

- Sleep environment - fix the surrounding noise, temperature, pillow, bed to suit for your sleep

- In bed... Go to bed only to sleep [not to read, eat, watch TV or think about things].

Do not try too hard in attempting to sleep, if you can’t sleep, just do relaxation and mindfulness.

Don’t take your worries to bed. Avoid thinking anything during the set up to your sleeping period.

Do relaxation and mindfulness in breathing whenever you feel difficult to get sleep.

Relaxation means commanding ourselves to relax all of the muscles of the body group by group, started from feet, legs, thigh, hands, forearm, arm, head and neck, and body.

Mindfulness in breathing means breathe in slowly as much as we can, then breathe out slowly as much as we can, count “1”. Then breathe in and out the same manner - count “2”...then do the same thing again and again up to “10”. After “10” count the breathing from “1” again. Try not to think anything, apart from relaxing your muscles, breath in, breath out and count. Block or ignore all sensations, except relaxation, breath in/out and count.

If you still have sleep problem, just come and chat with us or for more discussion through gandawinhein@gmail.com "

Further chat e-mail: gandawinhein@gmail.com
A very big “Thank You” to everyone who supported our Pie Drive. I hope you enjoyed your goodies and maybe some made it to the freezer.

Our special thanks to the business houses and our schools who took and displayed the order sheets, and in some cases received the goods for customers. We do appreciate your participation.

It doesn’t seem so far away, but I take this opportunity to make advance notice – our next drive is planned for June 19.

We wish everyone a Happy and Holy Easter.

Barbara Campbell

ONCE AGAIN MANY THANKS MERRIWA

The members of Merriwa Red Cross would like to thank the Merriwa Community for their recent support of Red Cross Calling and the Vanuato Appeal.

An amount of $749.50 was forwarded to Red Cross. This is certainly indicative of the generosity of the Merriwa community.

The winners of the Raffle were:

First - Anne Marie - No 51
Second - Renee Roper - No 30
Third - Les Turner - No 71

The winners of the 100 Club were:

First - Robyn Redman - No 1
Second - Nerida Bailey - No 56
Third - Gaye Bates - No 21

Philomena Constable
Liaison Officer Merriwa Red Cross

On April 4 at 8.00am, Merriwa Campdraft will be having a working bee. The Committee would appreciate as much assistance as possible, an hour or a full day, all goes a long way.

Megan Richards

The Merriwa Community News is available to charity groups or non-funded, not for profit organisations and anyone wishing to advise of a special event (birthday/anniversary/etc). If you would like to make use of this free service, please contact us prior to 12.00pm Mondays.
Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary
HIGH TEA PARTY

I hope everyone is getting their friends together to join us for a HIGH TEA morning tea get together at ‘Brindley Park’. As school holidays are approaching and no Ringer for two weeks there will be no more REMINDERS before our event. Tickets are available at Di’s Clothing for $15.00 each. It should be a great ‘catch up with your friends’ morning over a nice cup of tea while you indulge yourself in delicious sandwiches, divine chocolates, cakes, slices and scones in the perfect scenic country setting at ‘Brindley Park’.

This HIGH TEA is not to be missed and will be a unique experience in Merriwa for our in-town community and farming community alike. Sweet treats and savoury bites, pinkie finger or not, bone china cup or ‘man’s mug’, all are welcome to attend, men and women – the ultimate HIGH TEA experience.

Talk to your neighbours, tell them you want to ‘catch up’ and get down to Di’s Clothing to get your tickets. This will be a great gathering of townies and farmies, a great morning tea that will look ‘ever so exquisite’ and taste ‘ever so delicious’ that you will not want to miss out. All money raised will go to buying equipment for the Merriwa MPS, our very own Merriwa Hospital.

When: Tuesday April 21
Where: ‘Brindley Park’
Time: 10.30am
Cost: $15.00

Any enquiries please ring Kay Taylor (6548 2281) or Elaine (6548 8560). Get your tickets from Di’s Clothing or ring Kay or Elaine to let us know you are coming – for catering purposes.

Easter Services at St David’s Uniting Church

Good Friday - 10.00am
Saturday - film 6.00pm for 6.30pm start
Easter Sunday - 11.00am

On Easter Saturday we will be screening the Easter story from “The Bible” series on the big screen. Please come along and join in. Feel free to bring your own nibbles and stay for supper afterwards. Please be aware that this film is rated MA. This is a timely reminder of what Easter is all about.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter

Karen Campbell

Business Relocation

Mom’s Soap Box is still operating in the CBD of Merriwa. It has relocated to the Revital Closet in January with Bernadette, Our display is smaller but stocked with a good variety of soaps. Gift packs can be made to order.

We will be at the Revital Closet on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays but purchases can be made through the Revital Closet during opening hours.

Kelly Cooper and Cheryl Boys

Merriwa CWA

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 6548 2456.

Penelope Fenley
We would like to wish everybody a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all over the next two weeks. We hope your Easter holidays are filled with laughter, family and chocolate. We also hope to see you at the Merriwa Cup, all frocked up and ready to mingle!

We have a great range of new stock that is in store right now. There are some amazing products that were showcased at the NewsXpress conference and we have got them in stock now!

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY BOOKS

These are great as they are especially geared to help young students improve. There are ones designed for the pre-schoolers who are about to start ‘big school.’ There are books for handwriting, english, the alphabet, counting, maths and more. It is never too early for your children to start learning these skills. We also have a range of NAPLAN books in store. They are designed to help your children get used to the structure, format and types of questions they will face in the Naplan Test in Years 3, 5 and 7.

STATIONERY

We have some great new stationery in stock right now. There are notelets, letter writing pads, sticky note sets and memo pads in several different designs. There are also address books and notebooks in styles to suit every personality.

EASTER CARDS BY HALLMARK

What better way to let those you care about know you are thinking of them than to send them a card. We have a great range of cards available, including cute, funny, sentimental, stylish and more. Cards are expected at Christmas or on birthdays, but it is getting one that isn’t entirely expected that is truly more pleasurable. Come in today and check out our range.

SWAROVSKI

Almost no other word needs to be said here - to give a pair of these (very affordable) crystal earrings for Easter will earn you many, many brownie points! They are real, colourful, tasteful, crystal earrings that will be treasured and appreciated.

EASTER IDEAS

For last-minute Easter inspiration look no further than Merriwa NewsXpress. There are some great magazines filled with all sorts of menus, gift ideas, treats and more. Look no further than the current issues of Better Homes and Gardens, Family Circle, Country Style, That’s Life, Take 5 and Women’s Weekly. Come in and get one today.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

Outback Magazine is celebrating its 100th issue. It is a great milestone and is well worth buying. It is a great investment for the Easter holidays.

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

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Leanne Hook

Merriwa Auto Electrical

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Our business will be closed for one week from Monday April 20 and reopening on Monday April 27 - this is the week school returns. We thank you for your understanding, Michael and I and our family would like to thank all of our valued clients for your support and loyalty so far this year.

Sally and Michael Hagley

Merriwa Pharmacy

RAISING AWARENESS OF EPILEPSY

Epilepsy is a common condition in our community and can develop at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic group. According to Epilepsy Australia, research suggests that some 3–4% of the Australian population will develop epilepsy at some stage in their lives.

At one stage it was believed that epilepsy was a disorder of the young, as it appeared most people experienced their first seizure before the age of 20. However, people over 55 are now recognised as being the most vulnerable. This rapidly growing demographic group is subject to the kinds of cerebrovascular (circulation of blood to the brain), respiratory and cardiac events that can lead to epileptic seizures.
There are many causes of epilepsy, which vary with the age at which seizures begin and the nature of the seizures. However, in 50% of cases, the cause is unknown.

In many cases of epilepsy in young children, genetics play an important role. But research has shown that genetics can be a factor in developing epilepsy at any age. It appears that certain people are more prone to having seizures than others. This is, at times, described as having a ‘low-seizure threshold’.

It is more likely for people to develop epilepsy if there is a history of seizures in the family. Epilepsy affects more than 65 million people worldwide (more than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson’s disease combined)

Many people do not understand exactly what epilepsy is. To say a person has epilepsy simply means that a person has shown a tendency to have recurring seizures. Therefore, when a person has a single seizure this does not necessarily mean that they have epilepsy. Some 10% of the population are at risk of experiencing a seizure during their lifetime, while 3–4% will go on to be diagnosed with epilepsy.

Epilepsy is a disorder of brain function that takes the form of recurring convulsive or non-convulsive seizures. Epilepsy is not just one condition; rather it is a diverse family of disorders comprising many seizure types.

It is estimated that approximately 50% of people who have one seizure go on to have more seizures. For people at risk of recurring seizures, approximately 70% can expect seizure control with medicine.

There are seizures that are not epileptic such as those that result from diabetes, kinked blood vessels, and a range of other health conditions.

This week, on March 26, we celebrate Purple Day, an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide.

People around the world are invited to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness. Many people in the general public know little about this disease and much of what they do know is incorrect. Purple Day has a long-term aim of helping us to improve the lives of those with epilepsy by promoting epilepsy awareness and making sure that everyone has the facts.

Purple Day was founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada, with the help of the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia (EANS). Cassidy chose the colour purple after the international colour for epilepsy, lavender. The lavender flower is also often associated with solitude, which is representative of the feelings of isolation many people affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders often feel. Cassidy said: ‘I was afraid to tell people about my epilepsy because I thought they would make fun of me.’ Cassidy’s goal is for people with epilepsy everywhere to know they are not alone.

Your local pharmacy can help too. One of the key aspects to managing epilepsy is medicine management. Pharmacists are medicines experts and can assist you with understanding how your medicines work and any possible side effects.

You can get more detailed information on epilepsy from the Self Care Fact Card titled Epilepsy available from Merriwa Pharmacy.

Robert Smith

POSITION VACANT

The position exists for a clerical assistant with the Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre.

This position begins at two days per week

ESSENTIAL

MYOB, Payroll, Budgets, Accounts payable, Customer service, funding and grant applications.

Certificates in Business administration or MYOB would be an advantage.

Closing date will be 5.00pm Monday April 27.

Please send your resume with 2 current referees to:

Merriwa Pre-School
P.O Box 96
Merriwa 2329.
Cross Country Merriwa Yard Sale

Pallet of Assorted Bolts $900.00 ono

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Sale started March 30 and continues until sold!

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Secretary: Christine Sparrow - 0427 412 128
Treasurer: Yvonne McNaught - 6548 2842
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Secretary: Phil Martyn
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GARAGE SALE
April 12, 2015
8.00am start
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Police Mobile 0408 293 423
Police Assistance Line 131 444
When reporting an incident to the Police, always request and record your Incident Reference Number
Fire Brigade (Administration only) 6548 2005
Hospital 6532 5000
Rural Fire Service (Administration and Duty Officer) 1800 081 166
SES Emergency Number 132 500
Merriwa Rescue Squad 6548 2538

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ATTENTION ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Merriwa CTC and Visitor Information Centre is pleased to announce that the centre will be holding a CTC Techno Club during the Easter school holidays for any interested primary school students from year 3 to year 6.

The Techno Club will be run during normal business hours. Participants will have many challenges and tasks to do with technology, with prizes to be awarded for the participants who best utilize technology.

There will be a one off payment of $12.00 for a holiday Techno Pass, which will enable the participant to utilize the centre at any time during business hours throughout the school holidays.

For more information, or to register, parents are asked to contact the Merriwa CTC and Visitor Information Centre.

Also during your School Holidays, take on the ‘Holiday Adventure Trail’ challenge, through the Upper Hunter Shire. There’s three central locations to choose from! Have fun.....Win Prizes....& Learn more about your community... It’s FUN for the entire family!

Entry forms available at all Upper Hunter Shire Visitor Information Centres.

P: Liam Garment 6521 7046

APRIL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Development & Environmental Services Committee
Tuesday 14 April 2015, 10.00am

Works & Technical Services Committee
Tuesday 14 April 2015, 1.00pm

Community Services Committee Meeting
(including Youth Services and Safety Precinct Report)
Tuesday 14 April, 4.00pm

Finance Committee
Friday 24 April 2015, 1.00pm

Ordinary Council Meeting
Monday 27 April 2015, 5.00pm

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

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

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merriwa@bigpond.com.au

Merriwa Healthy Environment Group Inc
Caring for our land, our water and the air we breathe
Contact: Graham Brown 6547 6048
Ted Finne 6548 5171
Visit: www.merriwa.nsw.au

Country Education Foundation
President - Ivan Gant 6376 1044
Secretary - Jane Hegarty 6376 1052
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1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

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 Central School

P & C Association

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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

Merriwa Po, 82 Bettington Street
6548 2042

Cockroaches

141 BETTINGTON ST
MERRIWA NSW 2329
PHONE: 65482078  FAX: 65482063
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Hostel

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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

CWA

Meets 2nd Monday
of the month
at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms,
159 Bettington Street

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Enquiries to:

President: Barbara Campbell
Phone: 6548 5131
Email: barbarajar911@gmail.com
Secretary: Robyn McAlister
Phone: 6548 3274
Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

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

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: sandyhollow-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

Cassilis Public School

Relieving principal: Jeanette Grinham
Cooalah Road
Ph: 63761009
Fax: 63761005
www.cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Merriwa Central School

Primary Campus:
6548 2101
Secondary Campus
6548 2119

Ph: 6548 2213

Peter Lawler Pest Control

For your protection and safety!
ABN 66 092 858 985 LIC 150 0297 003

Commercial and Domestic Services
$140.00 Domestic charge
PAYMENT on the day of treatment
Warranties Apply

Call PETER: Mob: 0428 482 332
After Hours: 02 6548 2332
Email: merriwapete943@gmail.com
7 Bow Street MERRIWA NSW 2329

Ph: 6548 2213

One-stop for paying (nearly) all your
bills
Business banking and personal
banking
Stationary and greeting cards -
Inexpensive, full range
Computer and technology items
Mobile phones, starter kits and
recharge vouchers
Merriwa PO, 82 Bettington Street
6548 2042

Merriwa Ringer

Springtime Show
18, 19 & 20 September
www.merriwashow.com.au
Pat Ryan - President
Toni Jones - Secretary
Tel: 0498 378 500

Merriwa

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS

Merriwa

50% OFF FIRST ORDER

Merriwa Ringer

St Joseph’s

Primary School
Merriwa

A rich learning environment in
a friendly Christian atmosphere

All enquiries welcome
Principal - Helen Whale
Ph 6548 2035
P&F President - Dermot Shannon
Ph 6548 2996

Senior Vice: Christine Riley
Junior Vice: Yvonne McNaught
Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder
Treasurer: Anna Whaley

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Merriwa Ringer

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Ph: 63761009
Fax: 63761005
www.cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
**Clubs**

**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** - $50.00 – not present – unclaimed - $55.00 next week
- **Joker Draw** – $1048.00 – Denise Cornish – unsuccessful – $1094.00 next week.

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

_Hilary Parker_

**Merriwa RSL Club**

The Members Lucky Badge for $950.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 319, this week it jackpots to $1000.00. The 7.00pm draw for $120.00 was not won the number was 111, this week it jackpots to $140.00. The 9.00pm draw for $120.00 was not won the number was 489, this week it jackpots to $140.00. LTPS/14/04323

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $1200.00 was not won last week the number was 351, this week it jackpots to $1250.00 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 and salad or veg for just $15.00.
  - Also every Thursday have a chicken schnitzel, chips and salad or veg for just $12.50.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB**

- **HAPPY HOUR** is back - Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 12.00 noon, $3.00 schooners and $2.00 middies, and $5.00 Corona’s. This week the raffles will be tonight - Thursday April 2.

The club will be open on Good Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm sharp, no take away alcohol will be sold, Bistro lunch hours as per normal.

_Matt Morgan_
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 APRIL 26

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 28
Saturday Members Draw no 326 was not won - next week $140.00
Winners Jackpot not won - next week $180.00
Free Tickets: Beatrice Voysey
Dinner: Heather Whitby
Bowls Raffle: Michael Cooper
Monthly Prize: Beatrice Voysey

Sunday Raffle March 29
Sunday Members draw - No 51, not won. Next week $1,250.00.

DON’T FORGET MUFTI BOWLS AT THE CLUB

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!

HOTSHOTS COACHING SESSION
The club is organising a training session for hotshots coaches, parents and helpers to be held after easter. We would like to get as many people trained as possible. In order to participate a current NSW working with children certificate is required. These are easily available at the Upper Hunter Shire Council - Merriwa.

More details to follow - please e-mail merriwatennis@gmail.com to register your interest.

AUTUMN NIGHT COMPETITION
The Autumn night competition is in full swing and the standard of tennis is improving with every week.
We currently have nine teams in the competition and a healthy number of reserves. If you are interested in adding your name to the reserves list then please e-mail merriwatennis@gmail.com or leave your details at Merriwa Pharmacy.

There is a general Bye for all teams on Easter Monday.

**LADIES TUESDAY MORNING TENNIS**
Every Tuesday from 9.00am during term time.

**Robert Smith**

**Merriwa Rugby League Football Club**

We would like to acknowledge our sponsors and thank them.

**Major Sponsor:** Merriwa RSL Club  
**Shorts Sponsor:** Max’s Country Cuts  
**Jersey Sponsors:** Morgan’s Maintenance, JTS Realty, Pembroke Beef and Scott Witton Building, LTB Fencing, Glandore Warmbloods, Scott Witton Building Rockwell Livestock and Property, Merriwa Sports Club, C and G Bates and Pembroke meats  
**General sponsors:** Merriwa Pharmacy, Craig MacPherson Haulage, Merriwa Petroleum and Ag, J and A Maben, Wendouree and Hunter Mutual.

On Sunday Merriwa League Tag ladies played trial games against Scone and Singleton at Scone. Merriwa went over with 12 players and I might be a little modest when I say that I think we played very well. In the first game we played Singleton, Taylah crossed for two tries as did Singleton. In the second game we played Scone we kept them out for a while though did go down four tries to none. We’d like to make special mention to Don, Cory and Duncan who looked after us on the field running around in that heat, so thanks guys.

Merriwa’s first game is on Sunday April 12 at Singleton, girls at 10.15am and boys at 12.30pm. Good luck all.

On Sunday April 19 at Greta, Merriwa will play Round 2, Girls at 11.30am then boys at 12.30pm.

We hope you all have a safe and happy Easter.

**Gaynor Blackadder**

**Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club**

Our first game of League is almost here. There was a change of venue come through the emails last Friday. NOW the first game of the season will be played at Muswellbrook. The draw has still not come out but will be given to all members at training as soon as Secretary Elaine gets it. Training will continue throughout the holidays, except Good Friday April 3, so please send all players along for a good training session. Many members are not turning up to training! NOT a good training session with so few numbers! If you have any problems at training please talk to Phil Neale, our League Coordinator or Secretary Elaine Sparrow. They are always at training and will try to solve any problems but can’t solve them if they are not aware of them.

Our first game is on Saturday April 18 (the last weekend of the school holidays) and is at Muswellbrook. All players talk to your coaches if you can’t make the game. There is always car pooling available if you have to be split in your travelling arrangements. Talk to the coach.

Remember to check out our Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club FACEBOOK page for all club matters, wet weather arrangements etc. Announcements regarding rain will be posted at 6.30am. Merriwa’s HOME GAME will be on Saturday May 9 and we will need all hands on deck on that day. A roster will be drawn up for the canteen with each team given an hour time slot to help out. We would appreciate it if as many parents from that team turn up in your time slot. Many hands make light work. You can also turn up if you have free time at any time throughout the day or if you notice it extremely busy and in need of help.

**UNDER 8’S GAME AT THE HUNTER STADIUM – SUNDAY APRIL 19**

Our 8’s team have been allocated a mini game at the Hunter Stadium between breaks when the Knights play the Eels. Coach John Cronin will be organising the team to go to Newcastle on Sunday April 19 and when we get all details of where to meet at which gate we will let everyone know. It is quite an atmosphere for our young Under 8’s to play on the Hunter Stadium in front of a packed house. A big BUZZ for our young members. Talk to Elaine, John Cronin or Phil.

See you all at training. Please.

**Belinda Keane**

**Merriwa Ringer**
Community

Merriwa Pony Club

On March 21 and 22 Merriwa Pony Club held their Combined Training Day and Presidents Cup. 55 riders travelled from across the zone to compete in dressage, showjumping, sporting, hack and rider classes over the weekend.

While the weather was a bit wild on the Saturday and we were a few riders down on expected due to the Upper Hunter Show falling on the same weekend, all riders that took part seemed to relish the challenge of dressage and jumping.

Congratulations to Merriwa riders Ben Patterson - Reserve Champion Under 7 boy; Mikayla Mobberley – Champion 7 and Under 9 girl; Roy Lawler – Reserve Champion 7 and Under 9 boy; Emily Ninness Champion 9 and Under 11 girl; Jack Mobberley – Champion 9 and Under 11 boy; Ty Riley – Reserve Champion 11 and Under 13 boy; Hannah Riley – Reserve Champion 13 and Under 15 girl; Clancy Martin - Champion 13 and u/15 boy; Anastasia Martin – Champion 15 and u/17 girl, and Ashleigh Hocking coming Reserve Champion in the Associates.

The overall Club Point Scores which accumulate for the end of year zone Presidents Club trophy saw Merriwa triumphant on 360 points followed by Denman on 276, Cassilis on 94, Singleton on 91, Aberdeen on 68, Murrurundi on 60 and Scone on 24.

Sincere thanks to Papanui Eggs for their generous donation of eggs over the weekend and to volunteers Heather and Keely Ryan for their invaluable help in the canteen.

Don’t forget, the April Mini Camp is on over the holidays from Wednesday April 15 (or come Tuesday afternoon to help set up) to Friday lunch time April 17. A canteen will run as per normal rally day for lunch with morning and afternoon tea to be supplied by parents on each day. The mini camp will replace the April and May rally days. For more information email Christine Riley on cl.riley@bigpond.com.

Ben Patterson had a very successful Merriwa Presidents Cup day

Anastasia Martin and Hannah Riley took time out in between winning ribbons on the weekend

Isla Murphy and Kirra Green had a hoot hooning around the ‘paddock’ on their ponies at their first show

Tash Taaffe

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Articles are subject to change if they do not suit the requirements of the Ringer, includes spelling and terminology.
### What’s happening?

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

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| Thursday 2     | • CWA Annual Easter Street Stall  
|                | • Maundy Thursday Holy Trinity Holy Eucharist and foot washing followed by Seder Meal in Parish Hall - 6.00pm |
| Friday 3       | • Good Friday - Holy Trinity - Solemn Liturgy - 9.00am          |
| Saturday 4     | • Campdraft Working Bee - Merriwa Show Ground - 8.00am          |
| Sunday 5       | • Easter Day - St Columba Cassilis - Holy Eucharist - 8.00am   
|                | • Holy Trinity Merriwa - Sung Eucharist - 10.00am              |
|                | • Daylight savings ends. Clock goes back 1 hour.                |
| Saturday 11    | • Select Horse and Working Dog Sale/Challenge                 |
| Saturday 18    | • Men’s Breakfast - Anzac Remembrance - 7.30am                  |
| Tuesday 21     | • Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary High Tea Party - 10.30am           |
| Friday 24      | • Messy Church - 3.30pm                                        |

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**Ringer Deadline!**

Please remember that the Ringer is now on holidays. To place your articles and advertisements into the **Merriwa Ringer** for Issue 11, please do so by 12.00 noon Monday April 20

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**Community Calendar**

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

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.

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**MCS in touch with our community**

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**Merriwa Ringer**