Merriwa Central School succeed at Singleton Junior Beef Competition
Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Hunter

Mobile office coming your way

My Mobile Office will be in your area, to provide information and follow up any Federal Government issue you may have including: Centrelink, Child Support, Immigration, Medicare, Nursing Home and Support Services for Seniors, Superannuation & Taxation, Telecommunications, Veterans’ Affairs.

Appointments available or just pop in!

Merriwa
Date:      Tuesday May 19, 2015
Time:     3.00pm – 5.00 pm
Venue:   CWA Merriwa
        159 Bettington Street, Merriwa

Denman
Date:      Wednesday May 20, 2015
Time:     10.00am – 12.00noon
Venue:   CTC Denman
        7 Ogilvie Street, Denman

Make sure your voice is heard, enrol to vote now!
www.aec.gov.au
or call in to pick up a form

Phone: 02 49911022
Joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au
www.joelfitzgibbon.com
Follow me on
Primary News

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Last week we were proud to present book awards to students working very hard in class. Congratulations to the following students of the week:

Kindergarten: Amelia Wright
Year K/1: Skye Watson
Year 2: Tamara Bailey
Year 3/4: Kasey Jongerden
Year 4/5: Ildiko Tashman
Year 5/6: Madison Nauruschat

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Last Friday our House Captains were presented with their badges and took an oath pledging themselves to their role for this year. Congratulations to all our 2015 house captains.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

A very big thank you to our wonderful P and C for running the Mother’s Day Stall last week. All students were very excited to choose something nice for their mother. A special thank you to Cassie Constable for coordinating the stall and helping students when they had a hard time choosing a nice gift.

ASSEMBLY SING-A-LONG

Next Friday May 22 the Primary Campus will hold its formal assembly where students will receive Merriwa Merits, samples of work will be presented by Workers of the Week, and we will also have a campus Sing-a-Long! In lieu of a class item we invite all parents and community to join us in a group song. We will be singing the classic ‘Mr Clicketty Cane’ by Peter Combe.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The K-12 Athletics Carnival will be held on Monday May 25. There will be a canteen available on the day as well as pre-orders for lunch. Students need to hand their lunch orders to the office before the day of the carnival. Any parents or community members available to help with some time keeping or field events would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mrs Moore to leave your details.

TEACHER EXCHANGE

You may have noticed some new faces on the Primary Campus recently. We have welcomed Mrs Meyer, Mr March and Mr Lomax to the Primary classrooms who have been participating in some classroom observations, team teaching and professional discussions. This is a highly beneficial form of teacher professional development and gives teachers valuable insight into how lessons are structured and delivered across the two campuses. Students thoroughly enjoyed spending time with teachers from the Secondary Campus. Mrs Moore and Mrs West also recently spent time on the Secondary Campus visiting classes from various grades. This has been a great opportunity to see first hand exactly where our students are headed and how to best prepare them for the transition from primary to secondary. We look forward to engaging in more cross-campus

Coming Events

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<th>MAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams – all week</td>
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<td>Year 10 work experience – all week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22</td>
<td>Primary assembly – 2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25</td>
<td>K-12 Athletics Carnival – Merriwa Oval</td>
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teacher professional development in the future.

**NAPLAN**

This week students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participated in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. NAPLAN test results provide information on how students are performing in the areas of literacy and numeracy and support improvements in teaching and learning.

Reports on individual student performance are provided to all students and parents/carers by the states and territories.

NAPLAN results are also reported nationally through summary results released in August and a full national report released in December.

**CLASS LETTERS**

Class letters were sent home recently with information from each class teacher. If you did not receive one please notify your class teacher or see the Primary Office for another copy.

**FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES**

Over the June long weekend the annual ‘Festival of the Fleeces’ will be held in town. Our school has always been a proud participant in the many celebrations. We create a wonderful art display for the window at Max’s Country Cuts and we also walk in the town parade on the Saturday. This year we are extremely excited to be led by our Primary Fife band, who have been rehearsing hard for the event. We look forward to many students walking behind the Merriwa Central School banner on the day. We will keep you posted with information closer to the event.

Rebecca West
Assistant Principal

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**AUSTRALIA’S BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

TUESDAY MAY 26

All cakes and slices $1.00
Tea and milo $1.00

Please help SRC support the Cancer Council

All proceeds go to the Cancer Council

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**Secondary News**

2015 SINGLETON BEEF AND LAND ASSOCIATION’S JUNIOR JUDGING

Last Friday the school was represented at the 2015 Singleton Beef and Land Association’s Junior Judging event by a small group of students from Years 9-12 Agriculture/Primary Industries. Two students, Travis Sutton and Craig Walker both reached the oral judging round of the competition and were awarded third and highly commended respectively in the 16-18 years category. The team also won an encouragement award with a cheque for $250.00 to be used by the Agriculture Department, which will go straight to our steer program.

We also entered a competition to win a stud Angus heifer. This entailed submitting a 500 word essay on ‘Why my school would like to win a heifer?’ before the event and being represented by a group of three at an interview before a panel of judges on the day. A number of teams from our Year 9-11 Agriculture classes wrote essays, which were combined to make one submission. At the event Hanna Byfield, April Eipper and Craig Walker were our representatives and by all accounts did an amazing job. This view was obviously shared by the judges who awarded them one of the two heifers. This heifer will be the start of a breeding program for us, something that we have wanted to start for a few years now. She also comes with two straws of semen from a very nice Angus bull.

There are a number of people who I need to thank for their assistance and donations relating to this event:

- Thank you to the parents who assisted with transport etc. on the day, especially Mrs Walker
- Thank you to Mr Daniel for transporting our heifer from Singleton to school
- Thank you to Mr Porter for his donation of hay and pellets.
We are very excited about the results from this event, which is our first cattle event for the year. Hopefully this bodes well for the rest of the season!

In the classroom, Year 7 students have been learning about the wide variety of life on Earth and how scientists classify them into distinct groups. Year 7/8 Science and Year 8 Science students have been learning about the human body by studying the different types of body systems that support life. Year 9 Science students are learning about Newton’s Laws of Motion. Whilst Year 9/10 Science and Year 10 Science students are learning to refine their scientific skills by practising lots of first-hand investigations. All Year 9 and 10 students will soon be completing an in-class assessment task that requires them to use their problem solving skills to identify a range of household substances. In senior years students are all hard at work preparing for upcoming examinations. Earlier in the year all students were given the opportunity to take part in the ICAS Science competition, which will take place on June 3.

Later this term our HSC students in Chemistry, Biology and Senior Science will be attending various excursions to help them strengthen their understanding of their chosen science and improve their skills and knowledge in preparation for the HSC. First up is a visit to the University of New England in Armidale, for HSC Science and Maths Booster days, which will run from May 31 till June 2. Then on June 15, Chemistry and Biology students will be going to Newcastle University to attend a three hour “Experiment Fest”, allowing them to access university standard laboratory equipment.

Finally, Year 10 students have been offered an amazing opportunity to go to Sydney for four days from June 2 to June 5, as a part of a Country Education Foundation of Australia initiative to give five students the opportunity to experience university first-hand. Students spend a day each visiting two universities’ campuses, elect subject areas of interest to them and participate in a range of interesting practical faculty workshops, and listen to people from their selected faculties speak about the courses they offer.

There is always something interesting happening in science, new discoveries, inventions and developments. Coming up in June, for Years 9 and 10, is the Science and Engineering Challenge excursion. This will take place on June 17 and is an awesome opportunity for students to challenge themselves and enhance their problem solving skills.

The next round of vaccinations will be taking place for Year 7, 11 and 12 students on May 22. Year 7 students will be receiving their second dose of the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine, along with a single dose of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine. Year 11 and 12 students will receive a single dose of the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine.
Why I want to be in ROAR: To be part of a team and to have fun
Favourite Subject: English, Art and PEHPD
Favourite sport: Basket ball and cricket
Favourite team: South Sydney
Favourite player: Josh Renels and Phillip Hughes
Best personal sporting achievement: Athletics carnival coming second
Who inspires you: My family because they always tell me not to give up
Advice to young players: Never give up and keep trying your best.

ROAR - Respect - Ownership - Awareness - Rewards

Some important things to remember on the day of the vaccinations:

- Have breakfast
- Wear comfortable, loose clothing if possible to allow access to the upper arm (such as sports uniform)
- If nervous, talk to the teacher about going first!
- They will be given a record of vaccination by the nurse. It is very important this be taken home to parents as it will be needed at different times in life, for example prior to starting work/work experience or for travel.

The final dose of the HPV vaccine for Year 7 students will take place on October 9.

4C LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The 4C Leadership program is presented by myself and Mrs Roberts and is aimed at helping girls develop the confidence needed to become active leaders throughout their community and within the school. It is designed to teach the skills needed to maintain healthy and happy life styles and focuses on the 4C’s of ‘Caring, Confidence, Cooperation and Communication’. The program runs weekly with 25 students from Year’s 7 to 10 taking part.

FREE TO BE

The Upper Hunter Youth Services will be running the ‘Free to Be’ program, which is aimed at addressing self-esteem and self-image. It focuses on resilience, the comparison trap, real role models, the role of the media, the role of peers and healthy bodies for 12 girls in Years 6, 7 and 8.

This program will run weekly from May 14 to June 18.

RAP

The Upper Hunter Youth Services will be running the ‘Resourceful Adolescent Program’ (RAP), which is a resilience building program for teenagers. Boys and girls from Year 7 will be taking part for the remainder of Term 2.

ROCK AND WATER

The Upper Hunter Youth Services will be running the ‘Rock and Water’ program, which is aimed at enhancing the social, emotional and spiritual development of teenagers. Boys from Year 8 will be taking part for the remainder of Term 2.

CURVE LURVE

‘Curve Lurve’ is a national breast health awareness initiative. Designed specifically for young women, its goal is to communicate the importance of breast awareness, and empower young women to care for their bodies and embrace their curves. Developed by the McGrath Foundation, ‘Curve Lurve’ was inspired by Jane McGrath herself.

Secondary girls will soon be receiving a letter, which helps parents to have the conversation with their daughters to help them develop habits to keep them healthy for life and take action to promote their own health and wellbeing.

Lana Grant
Girls Supervisor/Vaccination coordinator

PISA TESTING FOR 15 YEAR OLDS

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15 year old students. To date, students representing
more than 70 economies have participated in the assessment. This year Merriwa Central School has been selected to be a part of this assessment. The assessment date is Friday July 31.

PISA is unique because it develops tests which are not directly linked to the school curriculum. The tests are designed to assess to what extent students at the end of compulsory education, can apply their knowledge to real-life situations and be equipped for full participation in society. The information collected through background questionnaires also provides context which can help analysts interpret the results.

The tests are a mixture of open-ended and multiple-choice questions that are organised in groups based on a passage setting out a real-life situation. A total of about five hours of test items are covered.

The students and their school principals also answer questionnaires to provide information about the students’ backgrounds, schools and learning experiences and about the broader school system and learning environment.

Lana Grant
School Coordinator

REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Last Friday, three of Merriwa Central School students represented the Upper Hunter Zone Cross Country.

Taylah Blackadder competed in the 17 years 4km event. She finished in a commendable 24th place. Ben Keane finished in 33rd place, also in a 4km event with about 50 competitors. Elly Blackadder competed in the 13 years girls event. She finished 41st out of “heaps”.

Alison King
Careers Advisor

CAREERS NEWS

Listed below are educational careers events and workshops that will support students and parents to make informed decisions about careers choices.


Bachelor of Information technology Co-op Scholarship Program - The scholarship program applications are now open till June 19. The scholarship available is valued at around $46 500 over three years. Go to www.uts.ac/BIT-apply for more information


ACS Distance Education Online - http://www.acs.edu.au/


Please contact me if you require any further career information.

Mark Beiers
Careers Advisor

**Favourite Subject:** Mathematics

**Best Personal Achievements:** Going to Canakkale to participate in the ANZAC Day Centenary celebrations. The most unforgottably sensational experience!

**Extracurricular Activities:** Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), HUDC Gallipoli Tour Group

**Career aspirations:** To become a carpenter or builder

**Year Advisor’s Comment:** Breanna has been chosen as Student of the Week for her achievements representing the school for the Gallipoli Centenary celebrations. She is a hardworking young lady and an excellent role model. Well done Breanna!

Rebecca Hopkins - Year Adviser

Student of the Week
Breanna Goodear
Year 10
EXECUTIVE MEETING

Principals and their executive staff met together with the Director of the Catholic Schools Office – Mr Ray Collins and Acting Assistant Director, Mr Paul Greaves at St Joseph’s School this week to share their journeys so far in becoming Professional Learning Communities. This was a tremendous learning opportunity for all present and afforded us the opportunity to demonstrate the great learning that is taking place collaboratively at St Joseph’s at both staff and student level.

UPPER HUNTER LEAD

St Joseph’s Merriwa was host to the Upper Hunter Lead teachers this week as the group evaluated their progress with collaboratively designing learning opportunities for both English and Numeracy across the region. Mrs Peebles and the visiting Lead Teachers also looked at how each school is targeting student need so that every student achieves a high level of learning.

MATHEMATICS

In an effort to raise the level of Mathematics learning in our Primary schools the Catholic Schools Office has committed to identify and upskill a teacher from each primary school as a ‘champion’ or ‘leader’ of maths who will take the initiative in raising and sustaining the profile of mathematics teaching at the school. To this end, Miss Paige Farrow has been identified at our school and Paige has already begun a very powerful series of Professional development opportunities. Paige has returned from her first PD day with great enthusiasm and has already conducted a staff meeting at school where she has passed on her learning.

THANK YOU

Our new library has been fitted with most of the new furniture. The students will commence their lessons in the beautiful learning space this Wednesday. A special “Thank you” Lucy Johnson and Vic Shannon who helped Mrs Gilbey last Wednesday to put all the books back on to the shelves. We will celebrate the official opening of the library as soon as the remaining furniture is installed.

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) collects data on children’s learning and development. It is used to measure the effectiveness of government policies at all levels and identify areas for improvement.

The Australian Government supports the AEDC to conduct a national survey of early childhood development and to measure how children have developed before starting their first year of full-time schooling.

The AEDC has already provided us with two rich data sets from 2009 and 2012. To date, the development of over 550,000 children – or more than 95 per cent of Australian children in their first year of full-time school – has been recorded. The Government is supporting a third data set in 2015 to complement the existing data.

During Term 2 of this year, teachers from across the country will be asked to record information based on their knowledge and observations of each child in their first year of full-time school. That information will help schools, communities and governments to better tailor services and resources to help young children and their families get the support they need.

The Government is pleased to support this significant and large-scale national initiative and I personally encourage schools and teachers to get involved in this year’s data collection.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the state and territory governments; the Social Research Centre; the Telethon Kids Institute, Perth; and the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne to the AEDC. I would also like to thank the teachers across the country who support the AEDC.

Senator the Hon Scott Ryan
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training

OFFICIAL OPENING

On Friday I attended the Official Opening of the new learning spaces at St Joseph’s High School Aberdeen. I was astounded by the quality of the facilities there and the sense of love and pride which staff, students and families alike have for their school. I was very proud to know that this school is the top end of our K-12 education at St Joseph’s Merriwa and Aberdeen.
NAPLAN

NAPLAN is being completed by all Year 3 and 5 students this week. This assessment program provides teachers with a great quantity of data to direct future learning opportunities. We look forward to analysing the results when they come back to us in September and combining these results with all other data we collect regularly about our students’ learning.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all our representatives who competed in the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival last week. We had 18 competitors and from the accounts of Mr Morris and the many parents accompanying them our students were tremendous sports and wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Well done Darcy Taaffe for qualifying in her race to represent our school at Polding level. From all reports it was a very exciting race.

MOTHER’S DAY

The Mother’s Day breakfast, shared morning Liturgy and activity time were again very well attended. Thank you to Mr Morris and the Year 6 leaders and parents for their organisation and manpower for this event. It is very important that we keep traditions such as this alive at school as it teaches the students about what we value as a school and a society. We indeed value the importance of the nurturing, love and maternal instruction of mothers, grandmothers and other significant women on the wellbeing of our young people both now and into the future. We also value and demonstrate the vital importance of showing gratitude to others. Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Grandparent’s Day are very worthy traditions.

All children were given the opportunity to purchase a special gift for their mums on Friday. Thank you to Megan Towell for organising the Mother’s day stall. The students of all ages have an opportunity to deal with money, collect change, and select an appropriate gift for their mum and to participate in a ritual of gift giving to demonstrate gratitude to another.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEK’S AWARD WINNERS

Kindergarten - Arlia Parker - great progress in reading

Lula Peebles - great progress in reading

Year 1/2 - William Luke - for fantastic work during reading activities

Ella Beaven - for great effort in spelling activities

Year 3/4 - Helena Parker - for great skills in linking multiplication and division facts using arrays

Axul Hourn - for using known facts to work out unknown multiplication facts

Year 5/6 - Gaby Nicholls - for giving up lunchtimes to organise Mother’s Day Breakfast

Nicole Martin - for giving up lunchtimes to organise Mother’s Day Breakfast

Lauren Redgate - for giving up lunchtimes to organise Mother’s Day Breakfast

Emily Ninness - for giving up lunchtimes to organise Mother’s Day Breakfast

Playground Champion - Jonathan Keegan – for showing excellent leadership at assembly

Principal’s Awards - Darcy Taaffe - for a brilliant effort at the Diocesan Cross Country carnival

Ella Beaven - for being responsible on the playground and for being punctual in her return to class after play.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Tobias has earned the title of ‘Student of the Week’ this week for dedication to his learning and improved behaviour. Last week Tobias worked hard to improve his learning. During Pittman Cup training he was a more positive role model to his teammates and during History and First Aid lessons he was keen to learn more and could articulate what he was learning and why. Tobias also did a fantastic job in organising palm cards and presenting his ‘Beach Excursion’ recount to the class on Friday. Congratulations and keep up the great work, Tobias!

AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT

Last Friday students presented a speech, using palm cards about our excursion to the beach. Peers assessed the speeches according to the criteria they set - eye contact, voice, content. They displayed a red, orange or green card and points were awarded. After the speeches the presentation of the cards was assessed by placing coloured counters on each other’s’ work. Everyone agreed it was a great way to give and get feedback on their work.

Green 3 points
Orange/yellow 2 points
Red 1 point

Helen Whale
Principal
AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE IS BACK!

Wednesday 3.15-4.00pm

Keep Wednesday afternoon free for learning centre!

This term we will be offering games and puzzles, personal interest projects, gardening and parent workshops.

Come along and let us show you how we teach reading and maths and learn about the new Australian Curriculum.

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

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

WINTER BREKKY CLUB

Now available!

Monday to Friday 8.30-8.50am

Have your breakfast at school with us.

Available every morning.

NAPLAN

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Year 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests.

Please remember these are a snapshot of your child’s progress and do not show the amazing things they show us every day – such as their creativity, kindness, thinking skills and sense of humour.

140TH CELEBRATIONS

Later this year Cassilis Public School will be 140! Details of planned events will be available soon.

Jeanette Grinham
Relieving Principal

Ringer Deadline!

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

Years 5 and 6 travelled to Tamworth on Monday to attend the GRIP Leadership Conference. It was a fantastic and highly engaging day. The main messages included - standing up for opportunities, standing up for what’s right, standing up for others and standing up for yourself. The students made some plans for a short term project - returning sports equipment and a long term project - beautifying the front of the school. They will finalise their plans and start working on their projects later in the term. A big thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mr Walker for providing transport.

NAPLAN

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the NAPLAN assessments. Students need to ensure they have a good night’s sleep each night and a hearty breakfast, so they are ready to concentrate and do their best.

LEADERSHIP DAY RECOUNTS

On Monday Years 5 and 6 travelled to Tamworth to take part in a Leadership Day Conference.

In the first session of the day we met a man called Ronan. Ronan talked about what we were going to do throughout the day and then he explained what a leader is. Once he covered this he explained about the Loud Noise Boys - Andy and Karl. Andy and Karl came on the stage and said hello. They both picked one side and Andy picked our side. Four people out of every side got to go on the stage. No-one from our school. They got to play a spelling game. We then had recess.

After recess we had another session. We had a girl called Rachel and she also did things about leadership. We did stuff about standing up when there is an opportunity, when it is right for others and for yourself. We then had the Loud Noise Boys again. After then we had another little session with a girl called Kristy. We then had lunch.

In the last session, we learnt a bit about planning. We learnt that with planning you have to have priority areas, you have to listen to other people, and you have to take action and you have to get your next steps ready.

At the end we had the loud noise boys and it was so funny. After the whole show was finished we got to have a photo taken up on the stage.

This was a great day. My favourite thing out of the whole day was the Loud Noise Boys. They made everyone laugh so much. I would love to go there again.

Abby Cooper

On Monday Year 5/6 travelled to Tamworth to participate in the GRIP Leadership day.

First we got to know what we were doing. Then we started off with a spelling game. All the games we played were fun, but at the same time we were learning how to be a good leader. Ronan was one of the hosts and he told us what leading was and how to be a good leader.

Next we had a break, then we went back in for ‘loud noises’. Loud Noises was run by Karl and Andy. It was a time where we could be really loud and do really fun activities. Loud Noises was so funny and was my favourite activity. We did it three times, once in every session. In the afternoon we learnt how to stand up and what for. Some of the things are stand up for others, stand up for yourself and stand up for what’s right. We finished off with loud noises. It was so fun I couldn’t stop laughing.

Right at the end we took a photo up on stage.

This was one of the best days ever and we were learning at the same time.

Amy Thompson

WEEKLY AWARDS

• Angus Higgins - improved cursive writing and neat bookwork
• Jacob Marsh - improved effort in writing
• Rowdy Walters - trying hard in mentals
• Cody Parkinson - always using lovely manners
• Isabelle Pike - works well to complete all tasks.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Kinder/Years1/2 - Marshall Hinze and Livianna Craig

Merriwa Ringer
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Andrew Harris - having a positive attitude in all areas.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE WEEK
Reece McCandless - improvement in Go Go Golf.

HUNTER WINE AND FOOD AFFAIR
The P and C would like to thank the following people who gave up their Saturday to pick up the wood at the Hunter Food and Wine Woodchoppers competition. Nicola Field, Peta-Jane Higgins, Anita and Brad Hinze, Jeannie and Mike Harris and Chris Stokeld. Also the following children did a fantastic job at helping too - Hugh and Angus Higgins, Amelia and Andrew Harris, Marshall and Cambell Hinze. Without these people volunteering, the P and C would not have received a substantial donation to go towards the children of our school. Also the P and C would like to thank Widden Stud for the loan of their Landcruiser and trailer, wheelbarrows, brooms and rakes etc. We really appreciate your generosity.

REMINDER
The Sandy Hollow P and C Committee is holding a “Thompson’s Pies” Pie Drive for a Fundraiser in 2015. All orders and money need to be back to the office, no later than Friday May 22.

PIE COLLECTION IS: Friday June 12 from the School Library. If you require any more info on this please ring Michelle 6547 5058.

Christina Darlington
Principal

Claim the Date
Sandy Hollow Public School and
Sandy Hollow Progress Association
Trivia Night
Saturday May 30, starting at 6.30pm.
Book a table by ringing the school on 6547 4521
Or just turn up on the night!
Family fun and good times happened last week at the Merriwa Pre-School. Our annual Bake Sale doubled as an opportunity to reduce our waste and provide for each other. This wonderful real life experience for the children is such a fantastic learning environment. We discuss what would happen to all the things if we didn’t sell them or give them to other people, how to give change and using our manners to say thank you.

Mia and I looked at the kangaroos on the one dollar coin and counted them to Grace. Together the group inspected all the coins carefully and we discussed the people and animals of our country.

Lucy shared the pencils with her friends and they wrote receipts. We looked at all the work that the older children had done for the sale the day before and discussed the dollars sign that looked like and wiggly snake.

“I want to help” said Tess.

“Put something in here” said Mia and she filled a small cash register with gold coins. It was all good until we realised we couldn’t open the box and Grace took the initiative to shake out the money one at a time. We laughed and celebrated when one came out. I was calling it the reverse money box and at least one person thought it was hysterically funny.

We raised $375.00 at our stall and we are planning to purchase something special for the children, we did have the expense of a new gazebo this year, but I’m sure we can still splurge on something wonderful. Thank you for the generous donations of raffle prizes, flowers and baking goods that really makes this one of the most exciting weeks on the Pre-School calendar. We couldn’t do it without you. Congratulations to Michael Gill for winning our raffle and the Merriwa Activity Centre 100 club was won by Kacie Neale, Sheree Kelly and Jemma Grady.

Our photography session for families will be rescheduled to when things are not so busy. Families will know when the new date has been arranged. Thank you for your interest so far.

The new School Readiness Evening will be held on Monday May 18 at 6.00pm at Pre-School. If you are considering enrolling your child in Kindergarten next year this will be a great event for you to attend. Please refer to your invitation and if you have missed out please call the school.

A performance for children will be held on Thursday May 21 called “What I did on my holidays”. Lionel is back from holidays and is ready to unpack a suitcase full songs about the places he has seen. Using his magic keyboard Lionel is going to tell us all about it. All Pre-Schoolers are welcome for the show. It should be fantastic.
Merriwa Rotary

BOWELSCAN

Merriwa Rotary has been participating in the annual Rotary BOWELSCAN program for many years.

Bowel cancer causes the death of 75 Australians each week. Early detection of bowel cancer is a vital factor in dramatically increasing the survival rate.

Rotary Merriwa will continue to have these kits available at a stand outside the Merriwa Pharmacy until the end of this week. Saturday May 16, after which time, the scheme will cease operation for 2015. ACT NOW FOR YOUR HEALTH’S SAKE!

MERRIWA SES

At a recent meeting, one of our members, Peta Luke gave us an account of the involvement of our local SES group in assisting during the recent serious floods in the Dungog area and the Lower Hunter.

A first hand description of what was involved gave our members a greater appreciation of the valuable work done (without fuss) by our local SES members.

PRESIDENT-TO-BE

Col Bates has attended a weekend briefing program for incoming Rotary Club presidents. For Col and his wife Gaye it provided a good learning experience in the role of a president of a Rotary Club.

Mark Smith

Merriwa Surgery

DR EMAD JASEM

For all your medical needs

OPENING HOURS

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

Dr Emad Jasem

Ringer Deadline!

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

Anglican News

Regular Church Services - page 30
Phone: 0429 996 769

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Women’s Guild Meeting - First Thursday Monthly:
June-November: 2.00pm
Messy Church - Parish Hall - Last Friday Monthly:
May-November: 3.30pm
Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday May-
November: 7.30am

DATES

May 16: Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall 7.30am. Come along for a hearty warm breakfast and wonderful fellowship.

In the book The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis he observes that “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse the “deaf world”. Suffering often helps us to redirect our focus. It shifts our thinking from immediate circumstances so we can listen to God concerning His work in our lives. Life as usual is replaced by a spiritual schoolroom.

Dear Lord, life is so hard sometimes. I confess that I don’t always see your purpose in my trials. Help me to trust You, and teach me to become the person that you desire me to be.

We learn the lesson of trust in the school of trial.

Rosalie Drew

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Rosalie Drew

MERRIWA SES

At a recent meeting, one of our members, Peta Luke gave us an account of the involvement of our local SES group in assisting during the recent serious floods in the Dungog area and the Lower Hunter.

A first hand description of what was involved gave our members a greater appreciation of the valuable work done (without fuss) by our local SES members.

PRESIDENT-TO-BE

Col Bates has attended a weekend briefing program for incoming Rotary Club presidents. For Col and his wife Gaye it provided a good learning experience in the role of a president of a Rotary Club.

Mark Smith

Merriwa Surgery

DR EMAD JASEM

For all your medical needs

OPENING HOURS

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

Dr Emad Jasem

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer by 12.00 noon Mondays.
SCONE AND UPPER HUNTER HORSE FESTIVAL

This is the second big event in the festival season held in the Upper Hunter Shire and includes one of the largest parades in regional NSW.

The festival kicked off with the King of the Ranges at Murrurundi and was followed up with the return of the formal festival ball sponsored and hosted by the Australian Stock Horse Society at the Sporties Club (formerly Scone Golf Club). A three course meal was provided and excellent music by local band Kyda Rock ensured a most enjoyable, entertaining evening.

The increased attendance and participation in the grand parade with colourful floats and many horses ridden reminded us of the importance of the horse in the development of the area. The council staff presented a float worthy of praise with the celebration theme of the ‘Great Gatsby’. I was told later of a comment made at the passing of the float, “I say Gatsby, rather a notable float don’t you think?”, to which another replied, “Indeed, indeed if I may say so”.

The Thoroughbred and Australian Stock Horse industry, from my point of view equals some of the best bloodstock areas in the world, or dare I say it, it is the best. The Upper Hunter area provides an ideal environment for the breeding and development of fine horses. Many outstanding stock horses and thoroughbred racing horses have been bred in the Upper Hunter of which we can be proud.

The festivities on Saturday continued with the fete at the Scone Grammar School and later at White Park. The events at White Park continued to highlight the horse and demonstrated the skills of Farriers, Blacksmiths and Equestrian Tent Pegging.

On Sunday evening, at St Andrews Uniting Church, was a commemorative tribute service remembering the horse industry from the first horses imported with the arrival of the first fleet. Various speakers connected with the present industry all demonstrated their involvement and love of horses.

For those that enjoy the thrill of racing or just to view the magnificent thoroughbred horses attending, then a full two day card of racing, including the Scone Cup Carnival, at the Scone Race Track on May 15 and 16 is a must to attend.

FESTIVALS CONTINUE IN JUNE

The next major event after the horse festivities is the Festival of the Fleeces in Merriwa kicking off with the opening night on Friday June 5 and an action packed programme on Saturday June 6 with the customary Running of the Sheep and grand parade at 12 noon. This year the Ray Hadley team will be broadcasting from the festival. Don’t forget the Sunday activities with the Poets Breakfast and the Working Dog events. A full weekend for everyone.

DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

By the time this article is printed the DPOP meetings will be over, however this does not stop anyone from having a say. I would still encourage you, if you have any thoughts, issues or concerns with what is being presented (and currently out on exhibition) that you write to the General Manager or speak to a Councillor. The forums have produced a variety of comments and questions so far, with most focused around the capital works program and the upgrading and installation of infrastructure programmes. There is a general feeling within the community that the council is endeavouring to address the backlog of infrastructure and a recognition of limited funding.

One of the important inclusions in next year’s DPOP, is the proposal for some major improvements to the Scone Saleyards. These improvements will only go ahead though following endorsement of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan on June 22.

NRMA REPORT ON LOCAL ROAD FUNDING

In a letter to Mayors, Councillors and General Managers from the president of Local Government NSW, Cr Keith Rhoades, he stated. “The NRMA found councils received about $630 million in road maintenance grants, to pay for a maintenance bill of at least $770 million each year. It is no surprise that the condition of local roads could be going backwards when you factor in this funding shortfall and the limited revenue streams available to Councils to make up the difference.”

He further states that “In 2006, the Independent Inquiry into financial sustainability of NSW Local Government confirmed that both NSW and Australian Governments often transfer responsibilities without arranging for adequate funding to fulfil these responsibilities”.

This I believe places our shire at a great disadvantage given the large number of secondary roads in our Shire (1400km approx.).
Our Council is continuing to address this matter and place ourselves in a good financial position and seek funding where we can to address the backlog. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, General Manager, and staff for their support in endeavouring to address this situation.

Clr Ron Campbell

**Portrait Photography**

Taking portrait photos is something we have touched base on a few times over the last few years so in preparation for this months topic “Our Mothers” I will offer these simple hints.

- **Hint 1: Capture ‘that’ expression**

Many photos are over looked even though they are crystal clear and well composed because they lack that ‘something’. Make sure when you are capturing your photo that it has a large amount of expression in it. To obtain this in an image, the subject needs to be comfortable so taking the photo when they are doing something they love is often the easiest.

- **Hint 2: Look at the photo composition**

Be sure to attract the viewers eye straight to the most important part of the picture. Did you know that there are three focal points in portrait photography? Eyes, nose and mouth, with the eyes being the most important. Keeping these sharp attracts the viewers eyes.

- **Hint 3: Lighting - inside and out**

People think that because they don’t have all the big lighting that they can’t take a good portrait photo. This is not true. When taking photos inside, try using the natural light that is coming through windows and door ways. For this midday is often best. Face the subject towards the light source.

When outside have the subject raise their head towards the light, tilting the face up slightly can assist in minimising the shadows on the face. Hope to get the subject in either full light or full shadow. The best time for outdoor portrait photography is an hour before sunset as it offers great soft lighting full of wonderful colours.

- **Hint 4 - Complementary Colours**

When taking portraits, know your subject. Consider the colour of their eyes, hair and skin tone. If a subject is wearing a colour that draws away from the focal point try zooming in a little more. This can also include back grounds. Contrasting backgrounds can draw the attention away from the subject.

- **Hint 5 - Know what you want to do**

If you have the opportunity to choose the setting, what they are wearing then you are set, but it doesn’t always happen that way. If I know I am going to take photos somewhere, what I do the days leading up to the shoot is “google it”. I look at as many photos as I can to find inspiration and then I screen shot it. I then sit back and think - what can I do to make this my own.

But above all, have fun, you are creating memories for years to come.

Tina Taylor

**Upper Hunter Weeds Authority**

The Upper Hunter Weeds Authority would like to provide the following information regarding the change in weed declaration of African Boxthorn (Lycium ferocissimum) from a Class 4 to a Class 3 weed in the Upper Hunter. This change was included in latest gazetted list of declared plants for NSW (Order 30) and applies to all Councils in the Hunter and Central Coast Region.

Plants which have been placed in Class 3 category are consider to pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of a region to which the order applies, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area. These plants must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

For more information on weeds in the hunter visit http://huntercentralcoastweeds.com.au

This website has been designed to keep residents of the Hunter and Central Coast regions of NSW informed of problem weeds in the region and how to deal with them. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Ivan Pillay
Noxious Plants Inspector
Upper Hunter Weeds Authority
Mob 0429 683 494
ivan.pillay@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

Ivan Pillay
Merriwa Ringer

Community Notice Board

Merriwa Red Cross

STREET STALL

Merriwa Red Cross will be holding a Street Stall on May 22. All proceeds will be forwarded to Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery fund to assist those in need.

A raffle and 100 Club will be available on the day and all contributions to the stall would be gratefully appreciated.

We thank you in anticipation for your loyal support helping those less fortunate.

Philomena Constable

LOST

If you attended Merriwa Races this year, a friend of ours has realised that he has taken the incorrect navy jacket with him from the races.

If you, or one of your friends picked up what you believed to be your navy men’s jacket from the luncheon area late in the afternoon, would you mind checking that you have the correct one? If you are missing a navy jacket, size 42, please contact me to discuss.

Contact Amanda Kemp on 0457 485 150.

Merriwa Holy Trinity

MOTHER’S DAY MORNING TEA RAFFLE RESULTS

First: Cake - Charlie Constable
Second: Kay Beard
Third: John Wightman Senior.

The Guild ladies would like to thank all who came along to the morning tea, the takeaway orders, the donations of cooking and Fiona Wightman for the magnificent decorated cake.

Rosalie Drew on behalf of the Guild Ladies

Thank You

I would like very much to thank the generous person that left a parcel at my door. I slept very soundly and was lovely and warm. Thank you!

Eva Towler

Merriwa CWA

Due to the CWA State Conference at Tamworth in May, the next meeting of the CWA Merriwa Branch will be on Monday June 1 starting at 10.00am in the CWA Rooms, 159 Bettington Street. New members are always welcome. Enquiries to: Barbara Campbell on 6548 5131 or 0428 485 131, or Robyn McAlister on 6548 3274.

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

Penelope Fenlee

Merriwa Markets

When: May 16
Where: RSL Club footpath and building
Time: 9.00am till 12.00 noon

We have a variety of stalls and new stall holders are always welcome.

Contact: 0428 496 630

We operate the third Saturday of every month except January.

Julie Russell

Registration for Scone Soccer

Scone soccer is currently seeking extra players that can play in the ages 16 and 17 boys and 14 year old girls and boys to travel out of town to play.

11 to 15 year olds are also needed to play in Scone on Saturdays. Please contact Leslie Whitehead on 0413 958 478 or www.myfootballclub.com.au.

Merle Coluccio

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

GENERAL MEETING

The Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary will be holding a General Meeting on Friday May 15 at 2.00pm to be held in the M.P.S. Nurses Home Conference Room off McRae Street. All members and community are invited to attend.

Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Ringer
Photography Competition

Entries close: JUNE 1
AT 12 NOON

Topic for the month is:
OUR MOTHERS

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

ZANNEART PHOTOGRAPHY

PUBLISHED IN THE RINGER ON:
JUNE 4

The competition is open to amateur photographers of all ages.

With Mother’s Day celebrated on May 9, it is a time to reflect on what our mothers mean to us. It is also a time to create memories with our mothers.

If you have a picture that depicts your mother in her true glory, the love you have for your mother or a funny moment with your mother, send it in to this month’s photography competition to win a $50.00 voucher.

Email your photos to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au.
We hope that everyone had a lovely Mother’s Day on Sunday, the sun was shining and warm (even though the wind was a bit cold!)

AND THE WINNER IS....

Congratulations to Margaret Trenaman for winning the lovely teapot set and different flavoured teas that were displayed in our window. A lovely surprise for Mother’s Day.

Now that Mother’s Day is officially over and done with for another year, it is time to shift the focus back to the children (and the children-at-heart).

BEANIE BOO

Our new range of Beanie Boo’s have finally arrived and are gloriously fun and cute. There are various sizes and a multitude of different styles, from the slightly realistic to the purely fantastical. Beanie Boo’s are highly collectible and so cute that one just won’t be enough. There are owls, monkeys, dogs, cats, seals, and so many more different animals. There are big ones, medium ones and mini key ring ones. They are bright, fun, have BIG sparkly eyes and they are just begging for cuddles.

SWITCH-A-ROOS

Don’t forget our range of Switch-a-roos. They are the perfect gift for that child who has every other type of toy, or is a little bit changeable in their moods when it comes to their favourite toy. It is even great for those who have difficulty choosing a favourite. OK, let me explain them further - they are a plush toy, a horse, monkey, dragon etc. if you get sick of playing with that particular toy, or just need a change, flip him inside out and voila, a brand new plush toy.

MAKE A MODEL

These starter kits are fantastic, a great way to spend quality time with your child, or to allow them to explore their creativity. There are several different aeroplanes and ships to choose from. Each comes with poly cement, acrylic paints and a paint brush. All pieces needed to build them are included and their ratio is 1:72.

TITANIC

Build your own R.M.S Titanic. The set includes all of the pieces needed to build a 1:700 scale model of the most famous ship in the world, information on this ship and it’s disastrous maiden voyage, poly cement, paint brushes and acrylic paints. It will be a great project for you and the kids.

...and finally...

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to April Lawler for getting her photo, from the Royal Easter Show, in the Land newspaper last week.

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

Cash or Eftpos only

Leanne Hook

Merriwa Pharmacy

WELLNESS AND STRESS

Stress is a dominant feature in our everyday lives but the good news is that we seem to be coping better with it, at least marginally.

The impact of stress should not be discounted as it affects the mental and physical health of Australians.

The Stress and wellbeing in Australia survey 2014, an annual Australian Psychological Society report released late last year, found just over 72% of Australians reported that current stress was having at least some impact on their physical health, with almost 17% reporting that current stress levels were having a strong-to-very strong impact on their physical health.

Similar to findings in the 2013 survey, almost two-in-three Australians reported that current stress was having at least some impact on their mental health (64%), with almost one-in-five (19%) reporting it was having a strong-to-very strong impact. Some 22% reported mental health issues as a source of stress.

For people aged 46 years and over, personal health issues were the leading cause of stress.

The annual survey measures the stress and wellbeing levels of Australians and provides a year-on-year comparison of how they are faring.

While the good news from the 2014 survey is that as a nation we are faring slightly better than last year, the bad news is that levels of wellbeing are still lower than the first survey in 2011, and stress and distress levels are higher than those reported
A breakdown of the survey reveals that 25% of Australians reported moderate–to-severe levels of distress and the highest levels of stress and distress were reported by young Australians (18–25 and 26–35 year age groups).

Older Australians, those aged 66 years and above, continued to report significantly lower levels of stress and distress. In contrast to previous years’ findings, men reported significantly higher levels of wellbeing than women and older Australians continued to report significantly higher levels of wellbeing compared with other Australians.

The bad news again was for those aged 18–25 and 46–55 years reporting the lowest levels of wellbeing. The survey also examined mental health and found that almost two-in-five Australians reported experiencing some depression symptoms, with 13% of these reporting depression symptoms in the severe-to-extremely severe range.

More than one-quarter of Australians reported experiencing at least some anxiety symptoms, with 13% reporting severe-to-extremely severe levels of anxiety.

Similar to previous years’ findings younger adults continued to report significantly higher levels of depression and anxiety symptoms compared with older Australians.

The quantified impact of stress as outlined in the survey shows how important it is to do something to minimise its effects – such as have a healthy lifestyle – but paradoxically the effort to maintain a healthy lifestyle emerged as a key source of stress for Australians.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is important to the majority of Australians, with four-in-five (79%) agreeing it is important.

Many Australians are actively trying to improve their health: 87% of Australians had made an effort in the past 12 months to maintain a healthy lifestyle, with the most common reasons being because it’s the right thing to do (97%), to feel better about themselves (95%) and to reduce stress (90%).

Some 66% agreed that maintaining a healthy lifestyle provided opportunities to get together with others.

Few people are unaware of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. People who had made efforts to be healthier (e.g., eating healthily, exercising regularly and getting adequate sleep) reported significantly higher levels of overall wellbeing and lower levels of stress and distress, and significantly lower levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms than those who didn’t engage in those activities.

You can get more detailed information on stress management from the Self Care Fact Cards titled Relaxation techniques and Post-traumatic stress disorder available from Merriwa Pharmacy.

Robert Smith

Merriwa Auto Electrical

We are the experts when it comes to Electrical Componetry of your car! We have:

- Batteries - (If we don’t have it, we can get it!)
- Lighting Circuits
- Vehicle Globes
- Alternators
- Starter motors
- LED lighting
- Key cutting
- Wiring
- We can do DIAGNOSTIC TESTING.

We also have a supply of Kenwood radios and UHF Radios.

OTHER FUN FACTS!

- Air conditioning
- Key cutting
- TV and VAST instillation are also available.

We appreciate you calling us on 6548 2114 or dropping in to 30 Bow Street Merriwa and see Michael or Sally.

Michael and Sally Hagley

Find us on Facebook!

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
Hunter Local Land Services is encouraging Hunter Landcare groups to nominate for the 2015 NSW Landcare Awards.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 NSW Landcare Awards, and Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) is offering assistance to local Landcare groups to complete nominations.

‘We have approximately 350 volunteer Landcare groups and networks across the Hunter and they do some fantastic work on important projects in our region,’ Hunter Local Land Services General Manager Brett Miners said.

‘To ensure these people and their efforts are properly recognised, we are offering support to complete nominations.’

The NSW Landcare Awards are held biannually and state recipients will take part in the 2016 Australian Landcare Awards.

Anyone involved in projects that care for our land or water is welcome to apply – whether it’s protecting or improving your local environment, farm, coastline, bushland, wetland, waterway, school, region, catchment or backyard.

Hunter LLS Regional Landcare Facilitator Nev Reis encouraged Hunter Landcare members to take advantage of the assistance being offered.

‘Landcarers are traditionally quiet achievers, but need to sell their work strongly and this is a great opportunity to give your nomination a chance,’ Mr Reis said.

Nominations are open to all groups, individuals, organisations and activities that care for the land including Landcare groups, ‘friends of’ groups, other community environment groups, farmer and producer groups, indigenous communities and organisations, and individual land managers working in the landcare or natural resource management sector.

Awards will be given in nine categories: Individual Landcarer, Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator, Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices, Partnerships with Landcare, Coastcare Award, Junior Landcare Team, Young Landcare Leader, Indigenous Land Management and Landcare Community Group.

Entries close 31 May.

For further details about, and to enter, the awards visit: www.landcareonline.com.au/landcareawards

Those requiring assistance should phone 02 4930 1030 by May 18 to arrange a meeting with Regional Landcare Facilitator Nev Reis.

**Spice Grill Merriwa**

**WHAT IS A CURRY?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Curry was adopted and anglicised from the Tamil (One of Native Language of India) word kari meaning ‘sauce’, which is usually understood to mean vegetables and/or meat cooked with spices with or without a gravy. According to this
theory, kari was first encountered in the mid-17th century by members of the British East India Company trading with Tamil (Indian) merchants along the Coromandel Coast of southeast India, particularly at Fort St. George (later called Madras and renamed Chennai in 1996). Here, they became familiar with “a spice blend used for making kari dishes ... called kari podi or curry powder.”

ORIGINS AND DISSEMINATION

Dishes of highly spiced meat are thought to have originated in pre-historic times among the inhabitants of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Archaeological evidence dating to 2600 BCE from Mohenjo-daro suggests the use of mortar and pestle to pound spices including mustard, fennel, cumin, and tamarind pods with which they flavoured food. Such dishes are also recorded during the Vedic Period of Indian history, roughly 1700 to 500 BCE. Spiced dishes in the Indian style were apparently carried eastward to Burma, Thailand, and China by Buddhist monks in the 7th century CE, and carried southwards to Indonesia, The Philippines, and elsewhere by coastal traders at about the same time. The establishment of the Mughal Empire, beginning in the early 16th century, transformed much of older Indian cuisine, especially in the north. Another influence was the establishment of the Portuguese trading centre in Goa in 1510, resulting in the first introduction of the Chili pepper to India, as a byproduct of the Columbian Exchange.

From the mid-19th century, curry has been increasingly popular in Great Britain. During the 19th century, curry was also carried to the Caribbean by Indian indentured workers in the British sugar industry. Since the mid-20th century, curries of many national styles have become popular far from their origins, and increasingly become part of international fusion cuisine.

CURRIES OF INDIA

CURRIES OF GOA (WESTERN INDIA)

Curries known as vindaloo have become well known in Great Britain, America, and elsewhere, where the name is usually used simply to indicate a fiery dish of lamb or chicken frequently including potatoes. Such dishes are far from the Goan originals.

The name “vindaloo” derives from the Portuguese vinha d’alhos or wine (vinho) and garlic (alho), the two definitive flavour ingredients. The dish was originally made with pork, not taboo to the Christian Portuguese. The inclusion of potatoes was a later Indian addition, thought to be the result of confusion with the Hindi word for potato, aloo.

What we serve from here is:

- Lamb Vindaloo Curry and Wrap
- Goan Fish Curry

CURRIES OF TAMIL NADU (SOUTHERN INDIA)

Tamil cuisine’s distinctive flavour and aroma is achieved by a blend and combination of spices including curry leaves, tamarind, coriander, ginger, garlic, chili, pepper, poppy seeds, mustard seeds, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom, cumin, fennel or anise seeds, fenugreek seeds, nutmeg, coconut, turmeric root or powder, and rosewater. Lentils, vegetables and dairy products are essential accompaniments and are often served with rice. Traditionally vegetarian foods dominate the menu with a range of non-vegetarian dishes including freshwater fish and seafood cooked with spices and seasoning.

What we serve from here is:

- Lamb Madras Curry and Wrap

BENGALI AND ORIYA CURRIES (EASTERN INDIA)

Bengali cuisine includes a plethora of curries. Seafood and fresh fish are a great favorite with Bengalis, and a large number of curries have been devised to accompany them. Mustard seeds and mustard oil are added to many recipes, as are poppy seeds.

What we serve from here is:

- Lamb Kasundi Curry and Wrap
- Lamb Corriander Curry and Wrap
- Battered Fish Curry and Wrap

CURRIES OF MAHARASHTRA (CENTRAL INDIA)

The curries of Maharashtra vary from mildly spicy to very spicy and include vegetarian, mutton, chicken and fish. Coastal Maharashtrian – Konkani – curries use coconut extensively along with spices. In western Maharashtra, curries are very spicy and groundnut (peanut) powder is often added to it.

What we serve from here is:

- Chicken Tikka Masala Curry and Wrap
- Mint Lamb Curry and Wrap
- Lamb Adraki Curry and Wrap

Rohit Gaur
Alexander Downs is proudly 100% Hunter Valley owned and operated. From our paddock to your plate - Quality Guaranteed.

Beef and Pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday.

**SPECIAL**

BULK BUY - WHOLE T’BONES (8KG OF T’BONE STEAKS) $13.50/KG

T’BONE STEAKS $16.50/KG

LAMB SHANKS $8.50/KG

DELIVERY FRIDAY 22.05.15

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

www.alexanderdowns.com.au
NEW FESTIVAL EVENTS

Ray Hadley and 2GB will be broadcasting live at this year’s Festival so the market stalls and events will continue on Bettington Street until 4.30pm.

New events added to the 2015 program are Gum Boot throwing and Sheep Poo spitting competitions (lollies of course). Along with the old favourites Whip Cracking demonstrations, Hanging of the Quilts, Laser Tag, Minni Jeep Rides, Jumping Castle and over 110 Market Variety Stalls.

SHEEP YARD DOG TRIALS

The 2015 Rosto Olives Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Sheep Yard Dog Trials will be a two day event sponsored by The Royal Hotel Merriwa, Upper Hunter Fire Protection and Merriwa Pharmacy with over $1000.00 in cash & prizes to be won.

Entries close Monday 1 June 2015 5.00pm. To enter please contact Megan Richards on E:peterpearce5@bigpond.com or by phone: 0427437743. Limited Entries.

JUST BACK FROM HER SIXTH U.S. TOUR, AUSSIE POET EXTRAORDINAIRE, CAROL HEUCHAN!

Carol Heuchan – twice Australian Champion Bush Poet and nine time Laureate winner – has produced four top selling books and five award winning CDs. Carol featured in the popular A.B.C. series ‘Bush Slam.’ 2015 sees her on her sixth performance tour of U.S. and Canada whilst also managing to fit in being the Main Arena Commentator at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for the past six years.

Carol will be compering and performing at the Poets’ Brekky in the CWA hall, Bettington Street on Sunday 7 June 2015, 9.00-11.00am, along with a bunch of walk-up poets aiming to take home the cash prizes. $2 Entry then purchase a tasty breakfast made by Merriwa Country Women’s Association. Limited seating. To book:

Ph: Liam Garment 6521 7046

SPORTING CARNIVAL

Merriwa Central School are holding their Athletics Carnival on Monday 25 May 2015 at Merriwa No 1 and 2 ovals between 8.30am and 3:30pm.

During this time the gates between the ovals on Brisbane Street will be closed and there will be no vehicle access.

FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES

NEW PROCEDURE WITH ENTRY FORMS

The Festival Parade is the main attraction for the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces. With Ray Hadley and the 2GB Continuous Call Team attending and promoting the Festival in 2015, it is very important that all parade participants have lodged their entry forms 2 weeks prior to the Festival.

It is also a requirement for insurance purposes that all participating floats have been registered prior to the day. Floats that have not been registered prior to the day will not be permitted to enter the parade.

The committee is requesting all parade participants to write a short paragraph about their float, as all floats will be numbered to a set entry order, this will enable both Ray Hadley and 2GB, and Jake McIntyre on the Festival audio to accurately describe and promote each float to the visitors of Merriwa and the wider Australian community.

Parade Entry Forms are available from the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre, or by email request.

All parade entry forms must be in by Friday 22 May 2015. No late entries will be accepted.

Community groups with many participants are still able to submit individual entrant parade waivers on the day of the festival, but all Floats must be entered by 22 May, to participate.

Ph: Liam Garment 6521 7046
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<th>Business Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Downs</td>
<td>6548 5170</td>
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<td>Australia Post Merriwa</td>
<td>6548 2042</td>
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<td>Brodie’s Cutting Edge</td>
<td>6548 2499</td>
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<td>Cassilis Public School</td>
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<td>0498 378 500</td>
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<td>Merriwa Painting and Decorating</td>
<td>0409 015 678</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pharmacy</td>
<td>6548 2213</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pony Club</td>
<td>0427 412 128</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pre-School and Kindergarten</td>
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**Merriwa Ringer Directory**

A quick reference guide to all that support the Merriwa Ringer

**Emergency Services**

In case of emergency call 000 or 112 from mobile services

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Police (Admin only)</td>
<td>6548 2203</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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<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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<td>SES Emergency</td>
<td>132 500</td>
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<td>Merriwa Rescue Squad</td>
<td>6548 2538</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Noman Jawaad</td>
<td>6532 5013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merriwa Surgery - Dr Emad Jasem</td>
<td>6548 2305</td>
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Support the Ringer regularly but can’t find your business? Contact Tina on 6548 2119.
EMERGENCY CONTACTS
If you need assistance from
Ambulance - Police - Fire
including Hazardous Incidents
DIAL 000

Merriwa Phone Numbers
Police (Administration Only) 6548 2203
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

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

IRLEN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC NEWCASTLE
Suite 3/136 Nelson Street
Wallsend 2287
Phone 4955 6904

Regional Clinics
Singleton: 4955 6904
Taree: 6551 3332
Coffs Harbour: 0437 698 559
www.irlendslexia.com

Expression of Interest
Operating the Steak Hut
Merriwa Springtime
Show

Friday September 18 –
Saturday September 20

Please contact Toni Jones for
further details
0498 378 500 or
secretary@merriwashow.com.au
Closing Date May 31

NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICE
We will get you to your
appointments on time with
special care.

Office hours are:
9.30 to 2.30 weekdays
Bottle Museum building or leave a
message on the answering service for
a call back.
Te/Fax 6548 2653

WATER IS A FEATURE - GREAT BUY!
This 289 acre property is very well set up with excellent infrastructure. The spacious homestead is 6 years old and has five
large bedrooms. The main with a walk in robe + ensuite and three with built in robes. The lounge features a combustion fire
and leads to the dining area off the kitchen. The kitchen is in excellent condition and has plenty of bench space. There is
ducted air conditioning throughout the house. At the rear of the home is a wide verandah overlooking the yard.

The major feature of this property is the water. It has an 81 Meg irrigation license with underground mains in place to run 30
sprays from the pump. There is also an equipped well, 155,000 litres of fresh water storage and header tanks which gravity
feed to the troughs and yard. All paddocks have access to water either from a trough or dam. The fencing is in excellent
condition and the property is divided into seven paddocks. Additional features include a six bay machinery shed, workshop
and two bay shed, cattle yards, a fully established orchard and vegie garden, and a new 12m x 12m shed. A huge bonus is
the 900 acres at the rear of the property which is leased at a very nominal rate. Capable of carrying 50 head of stock easily
and with the water in place this is a very attractive property.

VIEW AT www.jtsrealty.com.au

3160 Wybong Road Wybong
$895,000.00

Merriwa Rescue Squad 6548 2538
Ph: 6541 5331
Fax: 6541 0330
www.jtsrealty.com.au
BUYING LOCAL
SUPPORTING LOCAL
EMPLOYING LOCAL

Ph/Fax: 6548 2375
131 Bettington Street
Merriwa

Di’s Clothing Patch

Clothing and Footwear for all the family
Mens and Ladies clothing
Children and Babywear
Shoes and joggers
Fashion Jewellery and Accessories
Handbags and Luggage
Bed Linen, Quilts and Towels
Hi Vis Work Wear, Boots and Hats
Digitised Embroidery Service
Names and Logos
For clothing, Caps, Towels
School Items and Work Place Uniforms
Quality Clothing Friendly Service Affordable Prices
Phone: 6548 3023
Merriwa Ringer

SPICE GRILL
MERRIWA

Indian and Australian Cuisine Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner every day
Call for an order on 6548 2255

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

Welderup

FABRICATIONS, FIELDSERVICE AND SALES
Specialising in Agricultural, Earthmoving and Mining

WORKSHOP FABRICATIONS
and ON-SITE
FIELD SERVICE
On site repairs and Maintenance
Medium to Heavy Fabrications
MIG, TIG and Stick Welding

SALES
Welding Supplies
Roofing Supplies
Industrial Gases
Bolts and Fasteners
Fencing Products
Power Tools
Hand Tools and Welders
Paint Supplies

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

Air Conditioning ~ Home Installations
Refrigeration ~ Electrical Accessories
Service Dealers (Daikin, Teco, Fisher Paykel, Electrolux) ~ White Goods ~ Appliances

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

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

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

Merriwa 02 6548 2205

Merriwa Ringer
**MERRIWA SURGERY**

**Dr Emad Jasem**

For all your medical needs.

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm

Saturday by arrangement.

For appointments please call the surgery on 6548 2305

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**MERRIWA RACES**

Race Day for 2015 is April 18

Race Club President - David Alker

Contact - 0427 482 095

Vice Presidents - Peter Bishop and Paul Frampton

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**Cockroaches**

**Parish Priest**

For all your medical needs.

Saturday by arrangement.

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**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

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**Merriwa Anglican Parish**

Holy Trinity St Columbia

Merriwa - Cassilis

9.00am Sundays 11.00am every 10.00am Fridays 2nd and 4th Short Bible Study Contact - 0429 999 769

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**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

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**Cathedral 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

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**St David’s Uniting Church**

**Vernacher 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

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**Merriwa Central School**

**Primary Campus:**

6548 2101

**Secondary Campus:**

6548 2119

merriwa-c-school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.merriwa-c-schools.nsw.edu.au

**Sandy Hollow Public School**

**SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Telephone: 02 6547 4521

Fax: 02 6547 4450

Email: sandyhollo-p.scholl@det.nsw.edu.au

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**Cassilis Bowling Club**

Open every day 5pm

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**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: barbara911@gmail.com

Secretary: Robyn McAlister

Phone: 6548 3274

Email: robynawa@bigpond.com

---

**Cassilis Public School**

Relieving Principal: Jeanette Grinham

Coolah Road

Ph: 6376 1009

Cassilis NSW 2329 Fax: 6376 1005

www.cassilis-p-school.det.nsw.edu.au

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**Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc**

**Rotary Service**

Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club

7.00pm for 7.30pm

4 x 4m Marquee for Hire

6548 2025

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**Merriwa Ringer**

**Merriwa Ringer**

**Dr Emad Jasem**

For all your medical needs.

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**Peter Lawler Pest Control**

For your protection and safety!

ABN 66 092 858 985 LIC 150 02974 003

Commercial and Domestic Services

$140.00 Domestic charge

PAYMENT on the day of treatment

Warrants Apply

Call PETER: Mob: 0428 482 332

After Hours: 02 6548 2332

Email: merriwapete943@gmail.com

7 Bow Street MERRIWA NSW 2329

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**Cassilis**

**Post Office**

**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 - Dernol Shannon

Ph 6548 2996

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**Merriwa Central School**

**Primary Campus:**

6548 2101

**Secondary Campus**

6548 2119

merriwa-c-school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.merriwa-c-schools.nsw.edu.au
Merriwa RSL Club

Details for the Members Lucky Badge for $1250.00 was not given this week so the jackpot details are not included this week.

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.
Round 4 APlus Contracting Hunter Valley Group 21 Rugby League

Matt Morgan

Cassilis Bowling Club

FRIDAY NIGHT SNACK BAR
Affordable family meals.

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES
Members Draw, Joker Draw, Meat/Vege tray draw, Schooner Draw.

Members Draw - $50.00 – Georgie Martin – unclaimed - $55.00 next week

Joker Draw – $1172.00 – Ev Kirkland – unsuccessful – $1209.00 next week.

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

Hilary Parker
**Merriwa Sports Club**

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

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

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

**Thursdays** - 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.

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.

**DON’T FORGET CHINESE SMORGASBORD SUNDAY MAY 31**

**WEEKEND RESULTS**

**Saturday Raffle May 9**

Saturday members draw no 151, not won – next week $200.00

Winners Jackpot not won - next week $300.00

Free Tickets: Vera Russell

Dinner: Mick Towler

Bowls Raffle: Jeffrey Cronin

**Sunday Raffle May 10**

Sunday members draw - No. 290, not won. Next week $1550.00.

**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.

**WOMENS BOWLS**

Womens Bowling Club Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday June 24 at Merriwa Sports Club after bowls and lunch. Affiliation fees are now due and should be paid by May 30, either to Beatrice or Loretta. Fees are $50.00 per member (plus $1.00 for bowls for others is optional). We welcome new players to our club.

Mixed social Friendship Day is on at Dunedoo on Wednesday May 20. It is mufti dress. 9.00am is for morning tea, play is at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join Merriwa in a great day of bowls. Please place names on the board at the Sports Club or to Loretta by May 14 (today).

Vivian, Loretta and Joy went to Muswellbrook Association Day last Wednesday. Lovely day was had by all. Loretta came home with a prize.

Mixed social bowls on Wednesdays at 10.00am to start. All are welcome to come and join in.

**Loretta Cooper**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hello everybody. Good news! We have finally sealed our pennant for this season. We are off to Forster for the playoffs at the end of May.

This Saturday we play Muswellbrook at Muswellbrook RSL then a game of Championships (Triples) on Sunday morning. I hope. Then we will have a BBQ and then another game in the afternoon.

As everyone that was at the meeting last Saturday knows, our fees are going up to $90.00 per year. This can’t be helped, also if you are going to practice please close the shed and the mat closet.

**Phil Rush**

**Merriwa Little Athletics Club**

A big THANK YOU to Eva Towler for kindly donating raffle ticket proceeds to Merriwa Little Athletics last week. The donation was gratefully received and will be put to very good use by the club in the 2015/16 season.

**Tash Taaffe**
Our first home game was a success. I would like to thank everyone who helped in the canteen and around the grounds throughout the day. John Cronin, Andrew Jamieson and Toby Jamieson got the fields set up in great time. Paul Medd and Bob and Bev Telfer did a fantastic job on the table's, keeping the games fluent and on time, Andrew Jamieson and Bob Rolfe were kept busy, being our First Aid officer's. Laurel and her helpers did a fantastic job in the canteen. There were a lot of people to serve and a lot of food to cook. Laurel asked to give great thanks to all her helpers throughout the day but especially to her main helpers that hardly left her side from the start to finish of the day. A big thank you to Teresa, Danica, Vikki, Pam, Mary and to Kasie and Bruce on the BBQ, and Karen for her help with the clean up.

The day was a big success raising lots of funds for Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club. Winners of the 100 club were First - Kacie Neale, Second - Webbie (Andrew Webster) and Third - Squizzy. The raffle will be drawn this weekend as we have the 16’s at home on Saturday and possibly the running of Round 2 on Sunday, (postponed because of wet weather) which will be our 12’ and 16’s playing. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more info and start time’s of all our games.

Belinda Keane

MERRIWA RSL CLUB UNDER 6’S

On Saturday, we played at home against Muswellbrook. It is good to see that all our players are improving each week. Try scorers were Riley and Jayden. All the players ran and tackled well. It is good to see that they all seem to enjoy themselves out on the field. We have another new player, welcome to our side Riede.

Player of the Match went to Kayden. Kayden tackled excellently on Saturday and ran the ball hard. Congratulations Kayden. Next week we head to Singleton. See you all there.

Bruce Blackadder

KINGSLYN UNDER 8’S

Playing at your home ground is always an exciting thing for all players. You play to the best of your ability in front of your home crowd, and that’s exactly what the Under 8’s did on Saturday. With the help of some 7’s (Jack, Kallum, Seth and Matthew), the 8’s were on fire with plenty of tackles and really strong runs. Jackson, Harry and Toby were excellent runners all scoring two tries each and coming up with some brilliant try saving tackles. Maddison had a couple of real good runs where she even almost scored her first try but came up short unfortunately. Logan scored his first try of the season through sheer determination and never giving up. Carrying a couple of Denman boys over the line with him so congratulations Logan.

When the team needed to gain those extra metres, Duncan proved to be the go to man, always being there and having good, strong runs. As each week goes on, the 7’s who play up are getting more and more confident and involved which is great to see. So to everyone, keep

Player of the Match went to Harry Cook. He had some excellent runs, with great stepping and palming skills, scored two tries for himself, made some awesome try saving tackles and stopping people from getting past the line. He also helps organise the rest of the team and helps the 7’s out. Good work Harry!

John Cronin

ROSTO UNDER 7’S

Under 7’s took on a very strong Muswellbrook Blue in the first home game of the season. Coach Brendan Richardson has the team looking good both on and off the field. It was good to see the team sitting, listening and taking on board the coaches comments and advice after each third. Merriwa scored early on with Nate Brown advancing the field of play to just before the try line with a successful offload to Seth Pepper who went in for a try.

Muswellbrook defended well on the try line which gave Kallum Heang and Jack Cook a chance to show off their skills in looking for the gap with some impressive footwork and agility. Keep up the training boys and the tries are bound to start happening soon.

Miriam Harrison had a few fearless runs, heading straight into the defence front line on every occasion. Matt Grady also ran well, looking for the gaps in the defence while still running towards the try line. Zac Walker played up from Under 6’s but you wouldn’t have known. He got in there, made some great tackles, and had a few good solid runs on the attack.

All the kids played the best they have yet as a team. They helped each other out in tackles and
they’ve started to offload more during the attack which is helping them to get further up the field. Well done Brendan on organising the kids and getting them looking competitive in just a few short weeks.

Katie Byfield

KINGSLYN UNDER 9’S

The U/9’s were very excited to be playing at their home ground. Tyrell, Dylan, Jyeson, Clayton, David, Brooklyn and Riley, with the help of Toby, Jackson, Harry and Duncan from the Under 8’s all had a brilliant game with great defense and showing lots of speed and agility when they had procession of the ball. Brooklyn for her first game of the season was awarded ‘Player of the Match’.

She was obviously very happy to be back out on the footy field, scoring three try’s and trying her absolute hardest in defense. Well done Brooklyn. Tries went to (as I said) Brooklyn x three, Dylan x two and one each to Tyrell, Jackson and Jyeson. Congratulations to the whole team you all had a fantastic game.

Belinda Keane

Merriwa Touch Football Club

AGM

The committee of the Merriwa Touch Football Club would like to thank and congratulate everyone for another successful year. We would also like to thank the boys that came from Coolah - Tim and Matt Stanley and ... (sorry I haven’t a name) for the help in the final rounds with the refereeing. These guys allowed the games to be played with minimal disruption and generated a positive outcome for the end of the season. Congratulations to both winning teams and commiserations to all others, winners being We got Game and The School Boys! We hope to see you all again next season.

It was decided at the wrap up meeting that the club would like to start the season a little earlier this year so the AGM has been brought forward and will now be held in July. We hope to continue to grow both the Touch Football and its committee and hope to see fresh new faces for next season. We will also be looking for new Junior Committee to run the juniors each week.

THANK YOUS

With every club, there is always a list of thank yous that need to be said and quite often someone is forgotten, so before I start the thank yous I would like to thank the person I have forgotten. You know who you are. You are just as important and the people mentioned below.

Thank you to:

- Issac and Sean - for organising the juniors each week and helping them to become interested in the sport
- Committee members - for the parts you play each week to get the games up and running, without you the games can not be played
- Andrew and Trent - for ensuring that the grounds were marked each week and a special one to Trent for having to move the lines in a last minute rush
- The numerous referees that put up their hand each week - Justine, Mathew, Jay-me, Taylah, Kate, Barbra, Adam, Cody, Sean, Issac, Nathan, Hunter, Glen, Alison, John, (may be missing someone sorry)
- The Merriwa Sports Club for sponsoring the Touch Football. Without the support of sponsors, the touch football would not be able to keep the subs to a manageable price, not have a venue to hold the Christmas get together and the presentation night. We thank all the players who have supported the Sports Club throughout the duration of the comp. We hope that the Sports Club will consider coming on board again for the 2015-16 season
- Lastly, thank you to all the players - for your patience with the changes, for your great behaviour (minus one or two little hick ups), for assistance given to injured players, for inviting new players along and for coming along to have a great family night out.

Tina Taylor

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

LEAGUE TAG

On Saturday the League Tag Ladies travelled to Murrurundi. Unfortunately, they went down 16-10. Try scorers were Taylah and Jessyca with Janaya kicking our goal. ‘Player’s Player’ were Jessyca Morgan and Ainsley Maben. Congratulations ladies.

Thanks to our supporters who travelled up there to cheer us on. A special mention to Daniel and Darryl who both went up just for the drive. Welcome to our three new younger players: Courtney, Maddilyn and Shai.

We have a home game this Saturday against Scone. Ladies start at 2.00pm and guys at 3.00pm.

Gaynor Blackadder

Merriwa Ringer
List 10 (Ten) Reasons why you should go to the 2015 Rosto Olives Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces.

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9. 
10. 

Name:…………………………………………………….Age:…………………………………………………….School:………………………………………………..

Post to Liam Garment, PO Box 111, Merriwa NSW 2329
Community
What’s happening?
Send your calendar information in before 12 noon
Mondays to merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

MAY
Saturday 16 • Merriwa Markets

JUNE
Friday 5 • Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Opening Night - Merriwa Sports Club - 6.30pm
Saturday 6 • Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces - 7.30am til late
• Running of the Fleeces -12noon
• Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces Fire Works - 6.15pm
Sunday 7 • Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces - 7.30am til late
Friday 19 • Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft
Saturday 20 • Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft
Sunday 21 • Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft

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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ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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