Cassilis School Leaders

Introducing Cassilis Public School Captain Tobias Bowler and Vice Captain James Biddy

Darcy Taaffe on Pepper

Working hard in Year 5/6

Merriwa Meals update

World Day of Prayer

Merriwa RLFC working bee

Enjoy the benefits of a better banking relationship, happily ever after.

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Introducing Merriwa Central School Kindergarten for 2016

AN INTERVIEW WITH KINDERGARTEN 2016

1. What have you liked best about Kindergarten so far?

   Emerson Simmons: “Using the Smartboard”.

   Jai Wright: “Singing songs”.

   Rylan Neale: “Colouring in and playing on the high rise”.

   Alesha Wright: “Doing Maths with blocks”.

   Nicole Tudor: “Doing drawings”.

   Jason Bristow: “Cars and running around on the grass”.

   Ashton Marchese: “I love the teacher reading books like Curious George”.

   Holly Barker: “Swinging on the monkey bars”.

   Mia Horvath-Richards: “Sliding down the slippery dip”.

2. What games have you been playing with your friends in the playground at ‘big school’?

   Jason Bristow: “Cars and running around on the grass”.

   Holly Barker: “Swinging on the monkey bars”.

   Mia Horvath-Richards: “Sliding down the slippery dip”.

3. What do you miss from preschool?

   Emma Grady: “Painting every day”.

   Seraphina Dening: “My sister”.

   Sharolette Oldham: “I had a birdy made of paper and I lost it there. I miss that birdy”.

   Catherine Circosta: “Playing with my little friends”.

4. What do you hope to learn by the end of Kindergarten?

   Darcy Clark: “To make rhyming words”.

   Kirralea Allen: “How to write”.

   Paige Walker: “To read big books”.

   Grace Collits: “To play tricks on people, like trick the class that it is home time but it actually isn’t”.

   Shakira Andrews: “To play soccer”.

   Savannah Beeney: “To sing more songs”.

Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa Central School

Principal’s Report

WHY WE WEAR UNIFORM

Merriwa Central School is a uniform wearing school. It was fantastic to see all students in uniform for school photographs. This Policy is the result of extensive consultation with the school community. The reasons for uniform include:

ALL STUDENTS ARE EQUAL

People judge one another by their appearance. It can shape expectations, influence reactions, often inaccurately. Uniform helps to ensure that people are not misjudged as individuals and learners.

NO COMPETITION

The forces of fashion are very strong. Without a uniform, many students would compete in a fashion stakes. A costly exercise. The winners would be those who could afford it. This would divide our school.

REDUCE CONFLICT

By wearing a uniform we identify as one group. Without it there would be splinter groups based on clothing styles. E.g. colour gangs are a major problem in US schools.

SAFETY

Uniforms help us make our school safe. We can easily identify people who should not be in the school and who place students at risk. We can also identify you if you need assistance. Your uniform says ‘You are one of us!’

MEMBERS OF A TEAM ...

We all enjoy and take pride in being part of a successful team. The community supports us in wearing our school uniform, showing we are proud of our achievements and our team. The workplace expects young employees to be team players.

STUDENTS’ REPUTATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Uniform builds pride. Our community wants to be proud of our school and it’s students. They expect high standards and judge students poorly when they do not meet community standards. Uniform enhances our students’ reputations and their prospects in a competitive job market.

PREPARATION FOR WORK ...

Most work places have dress codes or uniforms these days. A visit to local businesses, banks, corporations and even supermarkets and shops will highlight this. Construction sites have strict codes. Therefore, our school Policy reflects the workplace.

BUT WE ARE ALL INDIVIDUALS ...

By wearing a uniform we are foregoing some of that individuality. However, we can express our individuality in many ways through our achievements and contributions in academic, sporting, musical, social, technological and creative aspects of school life.

At the P and C meeting last week we decided it was time to review our uniform. The review process will involve discussion with parents, students, staff and uniform suppliers over the next two years. Any change to uniform will be gradual, so parents need not worry about uniforms recently purchased.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11</td>
<td>Peer Support Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12</td>
<td>Peer Support Camp – Omadale Orchard Lodge, returning by 3.00pm Primary Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>Secondary Zone Swimming at Muswellbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18</td>
<td>PSSA Zone Swimming Wannarunah Lands Council visit - 9.00am Great Hall - Students and Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>Year 12 Uni Road Show – Muswellbrook High School, 10.05am-2.40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>Year 12 work placement – all week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>Under 15 Hunter Rugby League trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Primary News**

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Last Friday, we presented our first book awards for Student of the Week. These book awards are again kindly donated this year by our ever supportive P and C. The following students were excited to be selected from their respective classes.

- **Kindergarten:** Jason Bristow
- **Year 1:** Riley Bristow
- **Year 2/3:** Matilda Whitby
- **Year 3/4:** Matthew Allen
- **Year 4/5:** Jesse Watson
- **Year 5/6:** Christian Beveridge

**Early Action for Success/Learning and Support:** Shawn Smith

---

**PRIMARY ASSEMBLY**

Tomorrow will be the first formal assembly to be held at the Primary campus for 2016. The assembly will start at 2.15pm and staff will be presenting swimming carnival awards, Merit Awards and Student of the Week books. We will also be inducting our new sporting house captains. All parents, friends and families are welcome to attend and join us in celebrating our students’ recent achievements.

---

**ATTENDANCE**

The attendance of students at the Primary campus has been excellent so far. Please remember the importance of your child attending school every day and arriving at school on time. School begins at 9.00am and it is very disruptive for all students in class when their peers arrive late and miss morning routines and instructions. To support all our students we ask that they arrive at school prior to 9.00am so they can play with their friends before attending our morning assemblies and entering their classrooms. If your child is unable to attend school on a particular day due to illness please call the Primary office on 6548 2101 so their class teacher is aware of their explained absence.

---

**HOME READING**

This week the Home Reading program will begin. Home Reading is a valuable way for parents to help their children develop their reading skills and promote a love of reading. All students will be given a book, recording sheet and a plastic folder to keep their book safe and clean. Students are to return their books each Friday and will receive a new book the following Monday. If you have any questions about the program please see your child’s classroom teacher.

---

**SCRIPTURE**

This week Scripture lessons began. Every second Wednesday, Primary students will take part in half hour class lessons. We really appreciate our wonderful Scripture teachers Aunty Barbara, Mr Moors and Reverend Glen who give up their own time to visit us each fortnight.

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**CLASS INFORMATION**

Teachers will be sending home class notes with information about school routines and class structures as well as any information pertaining to that class. If parents and caregivers have any questions please make an appointment to see class teachers. Our teachers are extra busy during the first few weeks of the school year as they are building rapport with their students and establishing their classroom procedures. If parents have any questions or concerns it would be greatly appreciated if appointments could be scheduled with sufficient time for discussions to be held with classroom teachers.

---

**A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY**

Merriwa Central School is very lucky to have a helpful and considerate P and C. Not only do our P & C donate our Student of the Week book awards but they have also generously purchased hats for our new Kindergarten students. Kindergarten are happy to have their new hats which protect from the sun and help them to feel like they are like all the other students in our school. Thank you to the P and C from our delighted twenty Kindergarten students.

Last Friday, the lovely members from the local View Club presented our Kindergarten students with homemade library bags. The Kindergarten students and their parents were grateful for the kind gifts which were specially made so that each bag was unique and made of different material. We are very appreciative to have such a great community group who provide our students with beautiful and useful resources which students can use throughout their schooling.
It is only week three and all classes are organised and learning. Books are set out to allow students to maximise their understanding of the course requirements for the year. They have all been issued with Assessment Booklets to outline the timing, type and weighting of their tasks. They should be able to explain the expectations of each course to any interested party. In addition the safety requirements for practical courses have been explained eg. Long hair tied back, enclosed leather shoes and a hat if any outdoor activities are involved.

The Ag Farm is a mass of feed, the alpacas and sheep are very happy, vegetables are still in plentiful supply, egg supply is dropping off and our heifer is still on holidays at Baerami Creek, soon to return, hopefully in calf.

Once again Mr Lomax is offering Maths tutoring, however it will be on Monday afternoons this year. If your child is interested in attending they will need to collect a permission note and have it signed and returned with the expectation that they remain for the full session when they attend. QuickSmart testing is almost complete and the aim is to start lessons next week for 30 weeks. It has been a great start to the year. If you have any concerns or questions, please ring the Office and an interview can be arranged to discuss the issue.
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Last Wednesday at the Merriwa Memorial Pool, the School ran its annual Swimming carnival, which combined the Primary and Secondary students’ events. We aim to offer a full swimming experience - in which our students participated in a range of swimming strokes over varying distances (from 25m events to 200m events).

We started with 200m Individual Medley events followed by 25m Butterfly and 50m Butterfly events. It is pleasing to see lots of students challenging themselves and wanting to do their best. At the first announcement of house points, Lawson, Wentworth and Oxley were competing very well.

One of the delightful elements of our combined carnival is the way our senior high school students enable the younger primary students to become involved in the events throughout the day. Especially when a student is really trying hard to do an event they might never have tried before and at relay time, the side of the pool is filled with students dressed in red, yellow, green and blue – all cheering loudly. The support and fun ripples through to the parents and staff who engage in it as well. It is that kind and helpful behaviour that makes the day all that bit more special.

In mostly warm conditions, students swam well in a range of individual and team events. It was pleasing to see lots of participation across the four Houses, fine performances and displaying good sportsmanship throughout the day.

The four houses were persuasive, tuneful and artistically creative in producing chants and songs in convincing Mr Jason Constable and Mr Adam Johnston to choose them as war cry champions. Like last year, Lawson House were the standouts with their chant.

Our recorders have efficiently added up the points allocation for more than 180 swimming events. As can be seen by the Age Champions and Runners Ups – there is a good mix of swimmers from all four houses and in the end – there is less than 45 points between the top three houses. It was announced at the end of the day. Congratulations goes to Wentworth House with 750 points. In second place (like last year) was Oxley House on 720 points, Lawson House was third on 705 points and finally Blaxland House with 631 points.

In an interesting element, in comparison to last year, all houses increased their house points tally (by at least 90 points). For me, that is a good indication of the improving participation rates from our students. A greater water confidence and willingness to get involved by our younger swimmers, in particular.
The Swimming carnival seems to be a bigger event every year and it takes months of organisation. I must pass on my gratitude to a number of organisations and people who are kind and help us run a successful carnival. So firstly to the Merriwa Amateur Swimming Club for sharing their starting mechanism, lane ropes and flags. To Jason Constable of the Merriwa Pool – thank you for allowing us to take over your facility from early hours on Wednesday and judging the war cry competition. Mr Andrew Taylor for his assistance in the “heavy lifting” and transporting the furniture and marquees. To all the parent helpers and community volunteers who manned stopwatches to assist in the smooth running of our event.

Thanks to the House captains for their work in organising their Houses and the Sports Coaching class for their help with the morning set up. Additionally thanks to my colleagues for their help and contributions whether it was setting up the tent, announcing, marshalling, timekeeping, recording or cutting up fruit. Lastly, and importantly, to the students who swam, cheered or helped with the running of the carnival by volunteering their time and skills.

The school wishes those students who have qualified to participate at the Upper Hunter Zone Swimming carnival in Muswellbrook on February 17, the best of luck with their training and preparation.

After all the races were run and won and all the thank yous have been said, it is time to reveal the Secondary Age Champions and the Runners Up for 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Age Champion Boys</th>
<th>Runners Up Boys</th>
<th>Age Champion Girls</th>
<th>Runners Up Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Hunter Marsh (L)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Nicole Martin (O)</td>
<td>Mekayla Towell (O)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td></td>
<td>68 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>John Magner (B)</td>
<td>Jack Wallings (W)</td>
<td>Clancy Martin (O)</td>
<td>Sarah Nairne (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80 points</td>
<td>24 points</td>
<td>54 points</td>
<td>34 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Years</td>
<td>Jackson Keane (W)</td>
<td>Clancy Martin (O)</td>
<td>Elly Blackadder (B)</td>
<td>Hannah Riley (W)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td>68 points</td>
<td>54 points</td>
<td>42 points</td>
<td>16 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>Lachlan Walker (W)</td>
<td>Dean Swan (O)</td>
<td>April Lawler (O)</td>
<td>Maddilyn Blackadder (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69 points</td>
<td>38 points</td>
<td>46 points</td>
<td>18 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Years</td>
<td>Ben Keane (W)</td>
<td>Ray Murphy (L)</td>
<td>Shai Blackadder (B)</td>
<td>Demmion Hilton (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63 points</td>
<td>40 points</td>
<td>38 points</td>
<td>6 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Years</td>
<td>Luke Cronin (O)</td>
<td>Hunter Hood (O)</td>
<td>Alkira Tritton (O)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36 points</td>
<td>33 points</td>
<td>24 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Swimming Carnival Action
Meet A Keeper Days at Taronga MAK is a one-day program for students 14 years and over who have expressed a keen interest in a career at the Zoo. The day includes a seminar presented by a panel of Zookeepers and other Zoo staff. Students will learn about aspects of zoo-keeping, including: qualifications, career opportunities, core responsibilities, careers structures and wages. Afterwards students will explore the Zoo and enjoy a mystery behind-the-scenes animal tour. Please note all Meet a Keeper days are being run in the first term in 2016, to assist students with subject choices for 2017. For booking forms and information visit https://taronga.org.au/education/sydney/meet-keeper

Free Exam Techniques and Strategies Course - During the course of our “Exam Techniques and Strategies” lectures, students will learn vital skills that will help optimise performance in school-based assessments, as well as strategies that will maximise learning and cut down on study time. This course valued at $300.00 is FREE with a $10.00 donation to the Fred Hollows Foundation. Book at http://www.tsfx.com.au/?hsc-program=succeeding-in-the-hsc

School Based Apprenticeships - Apply now for a School Based Chef Apprenticeship Opportunity with HTN for 2016 Areas include the Greater Sydney Area - Newcastle and the Hunter Valley Area Email your application to recruitment@htn.com.au or call 1300 139 108 to find out more Get the start you want, apply now. http://www.tsfx.com.au/?hsc-program=succeeding-in-the-hsc

Free Training - three Day Bootcamp MPGTC will be running a FREE three day Bootcamp on February 29 to March 2, 2016. During the Bootcamp participants will learn the basics of the Painting and Decorating industry - it is a fun and interactive three days with one on one training. On completion of the Bootcamp an Apprenticeship in the Painting and Decorating Industry will be discussed. Limited spaces call 9758 8988 to join us

BiG Day In Newcastle - Tuesday May 3 2016, BiG Day In IT Careers Conference for students Years 9-12 @ Uni of Newcastle – Tuesday May 3, 2016. Speakers incl. Microsoft, Greater Building Soc, NIB, IBM, Tata Consultancy, Adobe and more talking about their careers and the future of technology. Loads of cool exhibitors including IBM, TCS, Australian Govt ICT Apprenticeships and loads more. $10.00ph for students http://www.thebigdayin.com.au.

If you have any career questions please contact me at school.

Jane Hegarty

Alison King
Sports Organiser

Merriwa Central P and C
CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are a parent, grandparent or friend who would like to help out on the Primary Canteen your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Canteen operates each Monday at recess and lunch.

Please contact Tammy Bradley, P and C Canteen Coordinator 0419 9940 55 if you can assist, or call into the Canteen on Mondays.

Darren Noonan
What a fun and exciting start Year 5/6 has had to the school year!

We began the term with a bang! As a class we created a set of rules and expectations, accepted our responsibilities, and looked forward to working together collaboratively and leading the school with enthusiasm and maturity.

Our English focus this term is on appreciating literary texts. Our reading aloud text this term is “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” by J.K. Rowling, which the students are enjoying. We have begun implementing Applied Writing And Reading Daily (AWARD) time four days a week in our literacy sessions, and this focuses on students’ reading and writing skills. During AWARD time, the students are placed into groups and each day they complete activities with a different reading or writing focus suited to their own individual literacy levels. Each group works with Miss Foran one AWARD time session per week and gains feedback on their reading and writing. Miss Foran and the students have been very excited about implementing AWARD time and it has already proven to be a successful way to enhance the students’ reading and writing skills.

This term in Mathematics we have discovered a number of skilled mathematicians in our classroom! Last week, Year 6 learned about positive and negative integers and the various situations where we may find these in our daily lives, such as on thermometers. The students enjoyed playing a game based on positive and negative integers involving adding hot air (positive integers) to a hot air balloon to increase its progress on a number line, or adding sand bags (negative integers) to decrease its progress on the number line. Whilst Year 6 was learning about integers, Year 5 was focusing on the place value of numerals and the different ways we can identify these and use place value in addition. The students learned about the partitioning method for addition and used algorithms to check their answers. Though challenging at first, the Year 5 students found it satisfying when they were able to confidently use the partitioning method for addition by the end of the week.

Jesus has been at the centre of our Religion unit this term. Last week we read some Bible passages from the Gospel of John which emphasised the great qualities Jesus had. We compared our own personal qualities and values to those of Jesus, and discussed how we could learn from Jesus’ example. Following this, we made connections between how Jesus’ leadership can influence our own leadership within the context of a Catholic school.

In Science and Technology this term we have been learning about how living things adapt to survive in their environments. The students worked in collaborative groups to discuss the different types of adaptations animals may make, and reported back to the class. We then learned that the two main types of adaptations living things make are physical adaptations and/or behavioural adaptations. The students found the reasons behind some animals’ adaptations very fascinating and are looking forward to learning more this week!

The Colonisation of Australia is our unit of work this term in History. We began the unit of work by studying the social, economic and political reasons the British Industrial Revolution contributed to the colonisation of Australia. In recent lessons, we have looked at how to identify primary and secondary sources of information when considering historical records. We also focused on the Aboriginal peoples’ way of life prior to British settlement and the effects that colonisation had on the Aboriginal people and their culture. So far this unit has prompted many meaningful class discussions and high-order questions; the students’ interest in, and enthusiasm for learning about Australian history is remarkable.

“I Like Me” is the title of our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education unit of work this term. This unit requires the students to acknowledge the things they like about themselves and others, and the importance of good self-esteem. As a part of our unit we have been looking at some of the gender stereotypes people may face in society and how these stereotypes can affect self-esteem. The students viewed a popular cosmetic advertisement which demonstrated to the students that often the images we see in magazines are not true representations of the person in the image - the advertisement showed a woman being changed from having no makeup, to being photo-shopped. The students were at first surprised that this occurs, and all agreed that the woman was beautiful just as she was at the beginning of the advertisement, before she received the makeover. The students successfully grasped the message that they are perfect just as they are, and that they should not let images in magazines affect their self-esteem. In Sport last week we were working on our fitness for the
upcoming Cross Country Carnival, and following this we played a game of soccer as a class. Miss Foran was delighted to see all students displaying wonderful sportsmanship throughout the game and having a great time.

All staff can agree that the new Year 6 leaders have taken to their leadership duties like ducks to water! Some of the responsibilities our Year 6 leaders undertake are attending weekly leaders’ meetings, leading the school prayer each morning, putting up and taking down the Australian flag with respect, managing the sports shed at break times, collecting the note bags and the bus board, ringing the school bell and last but definitely not least, caring for their Kindergarten buddies. It has been fantastic to see our leaders begin their leadership duties with great fervour and the staff have no doubt this will continue throughout the year.

**Miss Lizzie Foran**
**Year 5/6 Teacher**

**WEEKLY AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following award winners:

**Kindergarten - Jye Bates** - for great work in computers and helping others

**Ivanna Gaur** – for great work during maths

**Year 1/2 - Levi Hourn** – for great participation in solving whole number problems

**William Collins** – for being a great class leader

**Year 3/4 - Alister Fairfull** - for settling beautifully into the 3/4 classroom

**Emily Wright** - for her excellent knowledge of collective nouns

**YEAR 5/6 - Axul Hourn** - for his interesting contributions to class discussions

**Jorji Taaffe** - for her wonderful work ethic

**Playground Champion - Patrick McLaren** - for showing consideration towards others in the playground

**Principal’s Awards - Nate Brown** for being proactive in finding positive ways to prepare for a new school year.
Cassilis Public School

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

GORDIE ANDERSON

Gordie has earned the title of student of the week this week for settling in well into Cassilis School.

Gordie is a keen and enthusiastic learner who has demonstrated how clever he is at reading and writing. He is quick to pick up new things and works well with others.

In Number work, Gordie has demonstrated his ability to count objects up to 10 and add two groups together.

We have quickly come to appreciate Gordie’s cheeky grin and speedy legs and look forward to watching him reach his learning goals. Congratulations, and keep up the wonderful work, Gordie!

A MESSAGE FROM MISS H

It is hard to believe we are already in Week 3 of term 1. Congratulations to all students who received awards at the Week 2 assembly on Friday and to our new Captain (Tobias Bowler) and Vice-Captain (James Bibby) who have both stepped up to the role of school leaders!

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, staff at Cassilis Public School will be working on some new learning of their own this year through participating in Quality Teaching Rounds.

In partnership with the University of Newcastle, teachers from twenty schools across the Hunter Valley, including Cassilis, will work together in 2016 in the Systems Leadership Project: Building a Community of Practice through the Quality Teaching Rounds.

Quality Teaching Rounds offer a research-based tool for deep collaboration between teachers about teaching and learning within and between schools. Within this partnership, teachers will be observing each other teach and providing constructive feedback to improve practice. We look forward to building our knowledge and skills through participating in this project.

WEEK 2 ASSEMBLY

Brooke McLennan received the Impressive Work Award for consistent effort and application in all Key Learning Areas.

Isabelle Bowler received the Impressive Sports Award for being a positive role model and displaying sportsmanship in volleyball.

Dylan McLennan received the uniform award for wearing the school uniform with pride.

Cassilis Public School’s New Vice Captain James Bibby and Captain Tobias Bowler

HEALTHY HAROLD VISIT

On Thursday February 25 (Week 5) Healthy Harold will visit Cassilis Public School. All students will get to see Harold at different times throughout the day and the cost of his visit will be free to all students as the school has covered the cost. Permission notes went out last week!

Katrina Hodgson
Relieving Principal

Merriwa Ringer
DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - Third Saturday
February to November: 7.30am

February 19: Guild street stall – Raffle collection of Tupperware
February 27: Harvest Thanksgiving St Columba Cassilis 6.00pm
March 3: AGM ladies Guild
March 4: World Day of prayer St. Anne’s  7.00pm
June Long Weekend - Festival of the Fleeces - Morning tea Quilters display.

LADIES GUILD

As we enter into this time of Lent may it be a time for entering the depths of our own spirituality and examining new ways to be the light of Christ in our home, our workplace and our Church.

A Litany for the first week of Lent:

As you pray take off your anxieties, leave behind your concerns and calm your mind and heart.

Let us pray this Lenten journey be a time of choice and challenge.

God of the journey guide our choices.

May this Lenten journey be a time of prayer and reflection.

God of the journey, still our hearts to hear your word.

May this Lenten journey be a time for personal and spiritual renewal.

God of the journey, mould us and shape us into your image.

God of the journey, we ask your blessing on our community. Guide our thoughts and refresh our imaginations. Grant us wisdom to discern and decipher your will for us.

Go and reflect God’s image in all you do and say,

And may God’s blessing and God’s peace go with you. Amen.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa District Education Foundation

2016 GRANT RECIPIENTS

On January 25 the Merriwa District Education Foundation held interviews with a number of students who had applied for financial assistance with their tertiary studies. The Merriwa District Country Education Foundation would like to congratulate the following students on their successful applications for 2016 grants to support their tertiary education.

Hayley Fairfull is commencing a Bachelor of Animal Science at Charles Sturt Wagga Wagga this year. She is keen to work in the livestock genetic area with a particular interest in the beef and dairy cattle industry.

Ashley Gibbons is commencing a Bachelor of Business at Newcastle University in 2016. During 2015 Ashley has been working towards her Certificate IV in Business so already has a range of practical skills that will assist her when she is working in the business area.

Zoi Russell will be commencing her third year of a Bachelor of Nursing at Southern Cross University. Zoi has been able to supplement her income by working part time in her chosen career. She has already achieved excellent results in her first two years and is to be congratulated on her dedication to her studies.

Patrick Gilbey will be commencing his second year of a Bachelor of Science at the University of New England. Patrick has also achieved
Merriwa CWA

COOKERY FOR HUNTER GROUP MINI-SHOW

Merriwa CWA is planning a Children’s Cookery Caper on Saturday February 20 at 10.00am-2.00pm (lunch will be provided) to enable young people to enter their cooking in the Hunter Group Mini-show on February 24. There is a section for Under 18’s to enter their cornflake cookie so why not try out the recipe before February 20?

CORNFLAKE COOKIES

Ingredients:

• 125 gm butter
• ½ cup sugar
• 1 cup self-raising flour
• 2 cups cornflakes
• 2 teaspoons vanilla essence
• ½ cup sultanas
• 2 eggs

Extra cornflakes to roll the cookies in.

Method:

• Preheat oven to 180 degrees C
• Beat butter and sugar with the vanilla essence until light and creamy
• Add eggs, one at a time beating after each egg
• Add sifted flour and mix well
• Stir in sultanas and cornflakes, missing until combined
• Roll into small balls about the size of walnuts
• Roll in the extra cornflakes
• Place on a lined biscuit tray allowing room for cookies to spread
• Press slightly to flatten
• Bake at 180 degrees for approximately 18-20 minutes
• Remove from oven, allow to cool and remove from tray.

Anyone under 18 can enter. If you cannot attend on February 20 just make your cookies and bring them along to CWA or give them to one of our members before February 22. Place four on a plate if entering the competition. Otherwise simply enjoy them. Phone for details Jean Price 6548 2456.

For all other community members, a reminder

excellent results in his first year and plans to use his science degree to go into research hopefully with the CSIRO.

It is always exciting to see the different pathways students take and what a talented number of students the Merriwa district can produce.

We wish these students all the best and we look forward to assisting them to achieve their educational goals.

On another note we have the opportunity to support a student who is studying engineering, technology, heavy trades or courses related to these disciplines (at Uni, TAFE or through private providers). This money has become available through the Kirby Foundation and the grant is worth $800.00. If there is a local student who would like to apply, they will need to access the CEF website (www.cef.org.au) and complete the Merriwa Application form and return it by February 19.

Jane Hegarty

Merriwa Rotary Club

LONG TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE DEBRIEFING

Merriwa Rotary club has for many decades been involved in the long term exchange program.

Our club has sponsored many young local people going to many countries and has, in exchange hosted many visiting students, at present we are hosting, Lotta, our first participant from Estonia

Last Sunday, Merriwa Rotary hosted a gathering of students recently returned from overseas at Merriwa Central School. About 40 students and Rotary organisers from throughout our Rotary district, which stretches from the Hunter coastline, through to far Western NSW attended and our club catered for the gathering.

It is always very interesting to hear the accounts of these young people of their great experiences, of what they have learned, the challenges they have met and dealt with. In many cases they can now speak languages of which they had little or no knowledge before.

Rotary can always learn from the students’ accounts of their experiences. It was our our pleasure to have them here.

Mark Smith
MERRIWA LANDCARE TREE PLANTING FIELD DAY

Thinking about planting some trees? – Well come along to the Merriwa Landcare field day next Thursday, February 18! After an 8.00am breakfast cooked by Merriwa’s Men’s Shed, we’ll be discussing Stepping Stone’s funding for tree projects, site preparation, planting, tree selection, fencing options from local suppliers, herbicides, tree guards, weed mats and much more. Then we will head off to Robert and Maree Goodear’s farm for a tour of their successful tree planting projects. This is a great opportunity to network with experienced locals, learn what works in our Merriwa area and hear how trees can improve your land’s productivity and farming sustainability while improving biodiversity outcomes for the whole community. Then, enjoy a shady lunch and a chat! RSVP for catering.

BLUE HELIOTROPE BUS TOUR

Having problems with the pungent blue-purple flowering major weed – Blue Heliotrope? Well then come along on Hunter Local Land Services’ free bus tour to John Atkin’s “Clarefield” property at Binnaway on Tuesday March 1 and see the successful results of a trial for the long-term control of Blue Heliotrope using chemical and tropical grasses. The tour will feature discussions with the property manager on the on-farm program, agronomist, Bob Freebairn on effective establishment and management of tropical grasses, improving native grass pasture systems, and the role of legumes in the fight against Blue Heliotrope. Don’t miss this exciting opportunity – bus seats are limited with pick-ups in Sandy Hollow and Merriwa. Book early.

Contact Hunter LLS Maria Cameron 0409 636 765 or email maria.cameron@lls.nsw.gov.au.

Penelope Fenley
Merriwa District Progress Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch will be having its Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 14 commencing at 10.30am. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Mary O’Neill
Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Senior Citizens Association

Please note upcoming functions:

1. Movie Day Thursday February 11 from 12 noon
2. Senior’s Week April 1-10 with Home Day on Friday April 8
3. Game’s Day Tuesday May 10 with Singleton visiting
4. Games Day Tuesday August 9 with Muswellbrook visiting
5. Trip to Xmas in Winter at Buttai Barn on Wednesday June 22.

More details will be available at a later date.

Mary O’Neill

Anglican Church

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

February 27

Anglican Parish of Merriwa are holding a Harvest Thanksgiving at St Columba Cassilis 6.00pm followed by a bbq meal. All are asked to bring a plate to share at this ecumenical gathering.

Please RSVP Hilary Parker 6376 1221 or Jann Wilton 6376 1112 on or before February 23.

Afterwards there will be an auction of Harvest produce. Our Friendly auctioneer for the evening will be ready to take your bids. All donations of harvest, be it fresh or made from, will be greatly appreciated.

ANGLICAN GUILD STREET STALL

FEBRUARY 19

All saleable items gratefully received.

Raffle: Collection of Tupperware.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch will be having its Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 14 commencing at 10.30am. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Mary O’Neill
Merriwa Ringer

Clean Up Australia Day is only one month away, so make a note of SUNDAY MARCH 6 in your DIARY and help make YOUR town tidier.

Registration will be from 9:30 at Rotary Park and there will be a free BBQ for all participants from mid day.

Go on line at www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au to find out more about Clean Up Australia Day 2016 and register your interest to help clean up Merriwa.

This year Merriwa’s Clean Up is coordinated by the Merriwa District Progress Association. For more information contact Beron on 6548 2245.

Beron Arden-Wood

Festival of the Fleeces

Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces will be holding a street stall on Friday March 4. All donations of cakes, fruit and veg, eggs, jams and other such yummy items, are greatly appreciated.

There will also be a raffle held on the day of tupperware goods. All proceeds from the day will go directly towards the festival for 2016.

Barbara Campbell

Merriwa Meals

ROSTER

February 15  A Kemp
February 22  D Alker and L Gill
February 29  D Leggett and P Amidy

MEETING

A meeting will be held on March 2 at Merriwa Sports Club at 2.00pm. Afternoon tea will be provided for the volunteers.

Anyone interested in receiving the meal service, please contact Jackie on 0438 413 010.

Jackie Roper
Community Notice Board

Catholic Church

St Anne’s Catholic Church will be holding a World Day of Prayer - Cuba on Friday March 4 at 7.30pm.

Jesus said to them “Receive children. Received me.”

For more information please contact Marie Scott.

Barbara Campbell

Pie Drive

Yes, we will be running again this year – Drive has been booked for

Wednesday April 6, 2016 – just in time for the school holidays.

Sheets will be out and around in the next few weeks.

Barbara Campbell

Muswellbrook Physical Culture

Muswellbrook Physical Culture Inc will again bring “Physie” to Merriwa.

Physie is a Dance Sport for girls and ladies aged 3 and up. It is a combination of Traditional Jazz Dance, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Aerobics, Ballet and Gymnastics Disciplines.

It teaches core strength, balance, flexibility and rhythmic skill through age appropriate routines set to modern music.

Muswellbrook Physie is a member of the Bjelkies Peterson School of Physical Culture. Classes in Merriwa are held in the Merriwa School of Arts, Bow Street at the following times:

Wednesday’s (commenced February 17)
- 5-6 years - 5.00pm to 5.45pm
- 7-8 years - 5.45pm to 6.30pm
- 9-10 years - 6.30pm to 7.15pm

Thursday’s (commenced February 18)
- 3-4 years - 4.30pm to 5.00pm
- 11-12 years - 5.00pm to 5.45pm
- 13+ first year Seniors - 5.45pm to 6.45pm
- Open Seniors - 6.45pm to 7.45pm

For further information call 0402 863 764, email: muswellbrookphysie@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Kim Morris

Letter to Merriwa Ringer

I would like to congratulate you on the quality of your publication, your standard is second to none, excellent.

I have only recently moved to Merriwa and have found The Ringer to be a wealth of information for me. Local issues, local people, local “happenings”, and the standard of schooling in the area.

Whilst I do not have children, I am still passionate about their education.

Nowadays, I only seem to hear negative issues with our school system. But the schools of this area are most certainly bucking the trend.

I am very impressed with the programs and enthusiasm that the local schools show. And this is shown, maybe in only a small, but important way, in the politeness of the children/young adults in town.

They say G’day with a smile, even though I am obviously a “blow-in”, just a stranger in town.

They stand aside at the door to IGA, showing respect for this old bloke, something that seems to be lacking in so many other communities.

Of course this comes from family raising, but is obviously reinforced through our local schools.

Once again… congratulations on your excellent publication and the standard of schooling in the area. You are certainly raising our children to the standards we expect.

Regards

John McLaughlin

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

NOTICE OF MEETING

When: Friday February 19 at 2.00pm
Where: Merriwa MPS Staff Quarters

All welcome.

Amanda Kemp
Secretary

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

Merriwa Ringer
Even if you are of the mid that Valentine’s Day is a lot of “American commercial nonsense” it should not stop you from showing your husband, wife, partner, boyfriend or girlfriend a little romance. It is a great excuse to be romantic without feeling weird about it. A romantic dinner for two, a pretty little present, a heartfelt card, a cute little gift to show them how you feel and how much they mean to you.

**PRETTY LITTLE PRESENT**

We have some truly beautiful jewellery available that will make the perfect gift for that special lady in your life. There are silver, gold and rose gold earrings that are full of sparkle and different Swarovski Crystals, there are necklaces that will enhance any outfit, and there are bangles for that special but slightly different gift idea. There are dangly earrings, delicate necklaces, statement necklaces and leather wrist cuffs. Something for everyone.

**CUTE GIFT IDEAS**

Other gift ideas include some beautiful glassware; including gorgeous perfume diffusers that will look stunning on any dressing table, photo frames for those who love cute as well as the more sophisticated.

We have jewellery boxes for those who love pretty things and Charlie Bears for the collector of such things.

There are some lovely miniature books, wallet sized cards, coffee cups and teddy bears that are great gift ideas for those who want to put into words how they feel but aren’t really sure how to go about it.

**ALL WRAPPED UP**

You have picked the perfect gift, now it is time to wrap- we have a great selection of flat wrap and rolls of wrap, as well as ribbon and bows. There is also a large selection of gift bags in different sizes and designs that will fit any gift, including that delicious bottle of wine.

**VALENTINE’S DAY**

Cards are the next item on the Valentine’s Day List. There are cards for every couple- funny, romantic, poetic, cute, for him, for her, husband, wife. There are geeky cards, sexy cards, hilarious musical cards, cards to make your special someone feel loved.

**A ROMANTIC DINNER FOR TWO**

Pour through our range of cookbooks and recipe filled magazines until you get inspired to cook something delicious for your partner. There are some great recipes with easy to follow instructions and ingredients that can be found locally. There are decadent chocolate-filled desserts, summery seafood dinners, romantic Italian dishes and so much more.

Add a little music, some flowers, some jazzy background music and dinner will be a success!

Cash or Eftpos only.

Leanne Hook

---

**Merriwa Surgery**

Dr Emad Jasem
For all your medical needs
Opening hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm
Wednesday 8.30am-1.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm
The Surgery will be closed between 2.00pm-3.00pm
For bookings please call the surgery on 6548 2305.

Dr Emad Jasem
# Merriwa Ringer Directory

A quick reference guide to all that support the Merriwa Ringer

<table>
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<th>Business Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia Post Merriwa</td>
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<td>Brodie’s Cutting Edge</td>
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<td>Cassilis Bowling Club</td>
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<td>Cassilis Public School</td>
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<td>CJ and JM Vero and Sons</td>
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<td>Country Womens Association</td>
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<td>Curtis Gant and Irving</td>
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<td>Custom Made Kitchens</td>
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<td>M Nutt Contracting</td>
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<td>Merriwa Anglican Parish</td>
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<td>Merriwa Auto Electrical</td>
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<td>Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa PAH and I Show</td>
<td>0498 378 500</td>
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<td>Merriwa Painting and Decorating</td>
<td>0409 015 678</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pharmacy</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pony Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Pre-School and Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Merriwa Race Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Squash Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tennis Club</td>
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<td>Merriwa Touch Football</td>
<td>0447 219 193</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre and Mens Shed</td>
<td>6548 3201</td>
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<td>Merriwa Tyre and Service Centre</td>
<td>6548 2078</td>
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<td>Merriwa VIEW Club</td>
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<td>Mortgage Choice</td>
<td>0408 480 562</td>
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<td>Non Emergency Medical Transport</td>
<td>6548 2653</td>
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<td>NSW Farmers Association</td>
<td>0455 455 760</td>
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<td>PT Pest Control</td>
<td>0428 482 332</td>
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<td>R and M Moore Property and Livestock</td>
<td>0427 153 446</td>
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<td>Rockwell Livestock</td>
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<td>Sandy Hollow Public School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Witton Building</td>
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<td>Sporting Shooters Association</td>
<td>6547 6031</td>
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<td>St Davids Uniting Church</td>
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<td>St Josephs Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tash Holden Communications</td>
<td>6548 5002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity Markets</td>
<td>6548 2323</td>
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<td>Upper Hunter Shire Council</td>
<td>6521 7000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Hunter Weeds</td>
<td>6549 3802</td>
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<td>Welderup</td>
<td>6548 2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZanneArt Photography</td>
<td>0427 482 317</td>
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</table>

## Emergency Services

In case of emergency call 000 or 112 from mobile services

- Police (Admin only)                            6548 2203
- Police Mobile                                  0408 293 423
- Police Assistance                              131 444
- Fire (Admin only)                              6548 2005
- Hospital -MPS                                   6532 5000
- Rural Fire Service                             1800 081 166
- SES Emergency                                  132 500
- Merriwa Rescue Squad                            6548 2538
- Dr Noman Jawaad and Dr Cho Oo Maung             6532 5013
- Merriwa Surgery - Dr Emad Jasem                 6548 2305

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

The Spice Grill Merriwa wish to thank everyone for the support shown before, during and after the Australia Day Awards Ceremony. As part of the ceremony table mats were used that one of our spice recipes from the Legendary Dal Makhni which is produced at Spice Grill Merriwa.

For those who were unable to receive a copy, please come and see us at the shop and we will organise one for you.

Also please feel free to come on in and try this from our menu, along with many other enjoyable meals we have to offer.

Rohit Gaur

La Scaletta Pizzeria

VALENTINE’S DAY SPECIAL

DON’T FORGET FEBRUARY 14

What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day with that someone special then at La Scaletta’s Valentine’s Special on Sunday Evening February 14.

Our special includes a three course meal for $60.00 a double and there will be a surprise for the ladies.

Be quick so you don’t miss out, book now on 6548 3005.

Also Now Open Fridays for lunch from 12 noon-3.00pm.

Robert Marchese

Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc.

Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc. in partnership with Upper Hunter Homeless Support are very excited to announce that we are again holding the National Vinnie’s CEO Sleepout Fundraiser for 2016.

We all had such a great time last year and we hope that you will once again come together for this worthy cause to help us in raising awareness of homelessness in our society while raising much needed funds for the wonderful work of St Vincent De Paul.

We are putting out a ‘Claim the Date’ for Thursday 23 June 2016.

Located @ The Showground

95 Maitland Street

MUSWELLBROOK 2333

Phone: 02 6543 4841

Email: admin@uhys.org.au

Co-ordinator/Youth& Family Support Worker

Email: lmcphee@uhys.org.au
Alexander Downs is proudly 100% Hunter Valley owned and operated.
From our paddock to your plate - Quality Guaranteed
Beef and Pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday

SPECIAL

Topside Roast $10.00/kg
Tbone Steak $18.50/kg
Bulk Tbone Special (av. 8kg) $15.50/kg
Delivery Friday 19.02.16

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
MERRIWA PAH AND I ASSOC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOTICE

Please be advised that the AGM will be held on Wednesday March 2, 2016 Commencing at 7.00pm at Merriwa RSL
New members are welcome

FOR SALE - LAYER PULLETS
Black, Red and White Isa Browns
12 week olds - $16.00 each
10 week old Isa Browns - $15.00 each
From Merriwa Petroleum and Ag
Wednesday February 24 at 9.30am
Phone 6548 2071

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

CASSILIS LIBRARY

Cassilis Library, situated in the Cassilis Community Centre, is open on Wednesdays from 10.00am – 1.00pm and from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.

The new Library Officer, Bronwen Dowler, is looking forward to meeting the Cassilis community.

Toy Box operates from the Community Centre and Library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month and Cassilis Library is aiming to introduce “Storytime for Preschoolers” on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

“Storytime for Preschoolers” will be held at the library on Wednesday, 10th February and Wednesday, 24th February, commencing from 10.30am until 11.30am. Pre-schoolers (and their mums) are invited to participate in storytime, simple craft activities and games. If you are interested in attending just drop in at 10.30am on the day, phone Bronwen on 6376 1295 or let Stella Cornish know at the local store.

Library Lovers Day is being celebrated on Wednesday 17th February with morning tea in the library at 11.30am. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided. Have a Mystery Date with a Book or DVD. Borrowers will be encouraged to borrow one of a lottery dip of mystery items, selected by the librarian. The idea is to try something you might not pick normally. FREE heart-shaped chocolates will be given to each person who borrows from the library on that day.

5 children attended the school holiday activity on Wednesday 20th January where they listened to stories and decorated “door-hangers”. Maddie, Summer, Angus, Banjo and Jack attended as shown in the attached photo. Looking forward to seeing you in the library. For any further information please phone Bronwen on 6376 1295 on Wednesdays or send an email to cassilislibrary@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
1010 Bylong Valley Way Baerami

Located just 16kms from Denman this 100 acre property is very well established for horses but would also suit running cattle.

There are six large paddocks, four smaller paddocks and six day yards. Most of the fencing is post and rail with some plain wire fencing. Water to the troughs and tank is supplied via underground mains from the spring fed dam.

There is a six bay stable complex and double lock up shed. The cottage is very comfortable with three big bedrooms all with built in robes and ceiling fans. There is an open plan lounge with combustion fire and air conditioner. The kitchen is a good size and has an electric stove. Ideally situated on the way to Widden and located only 30 minutes from Coolmore and Darley. This property is well worth an inspection.

VIEW AT www.jtsrealty.com.au
HANCKEL RURAL HAY FOR SALE
Barley Stubble Hay
Round and Small Bales available
Ring Darryl on 0429 485 168

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

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

RUSSELL’S Earthmoving PTY LTD
Earthmoving and Construction
02 6548 2246
0417 506 769
6 Gooch Street, Merriwa 2329

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

OFFERS PENSIONER DISCOUNTS, MENS AND LADIES CUTS, PERMS, COLOURS, FOILS, HAIR EXTENSIONS, SPRAY TANS, GIFT CERTIFICATES
Phone: 6548 2499
OPEN TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MERRIWA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC
CARING FOR OUR LAND, OUR WATER AND THE AIR WE BREATHE
Contact: Graham Brown 6547 6045
Ted Finnie 6548 5171
Visit: www.merriwa.nsw.au Clubs and Groups

M NUTT CONTRACTING PTY LTD
BULLDOZERS - EXCAVATORS - GRADER - FRONT END LOADER - ROLLER - BOBCAT - BACKHOE - WATER CART - LOW LOADER - TIP TRUCKS - BULK AND STOCK HAULAGE - CASTROL DISTRIBUTOR
53 McKenzie Street
Bh 6548 2004 Ah 6548 2125
Mob 0417 492 306
mnnutcontract@bigpond.com

NewsXpress
Electrical Contractors

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

Merriwa Ringer
**Merriwa Ringer**

**Junior Vice:**

**Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm**

For appointments please call the surgery on 6548 2305

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**Hunter Medical Practice**

**DR NOMAN JAWAAD AND DR CHO O0 MAUNG**

Cnr Brisbane and Mackenzie Streets, Merriwa

Merriwa

Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm

Also consulting in Denman

Monday-Friday 8.00am-6.00pm

For appointments please phone 6532 5013

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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.**

Services

**Holy Trinity - St Columbia**

Merriwa - Cassilis

9.00am Sundays, 11.00am every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Short Bible Study Contact: 6429 996

7.30am Mon Wed Fri

Morning Prayer

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

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**Merriwa Central School**

**Primary Campus:**

6548 2101

**Secondary Campus:**

6548 2119

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

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

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**Merriwa Pre-School & Activity Centre**

Pre-School is for 2 – 5 year olds

Open Monday – Friday 9am – 3pm

Ph: 02 65 482 083

Email: merriwapreschool@tpg.com.au

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**Merriwa Post Office**

**MORE THAN JUST A POST OFFICE**

One-stop for paying (nearly) all your bills

Business banking and personal banking

Stationary and greeting cards - inexpensive, full range

Computer and technology items

Mobile phones, starter kits and recharge vouchers

Merriwa PO, 82 Bettington Street

6548 2042

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**St Davids Uniting Church**

Vernacker Street, Merriwa

Service Times

1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 11.00am

3rd Sunday at 6.00pm

Rev David Kim - 6545 1396

Paster Richard Moores - 6543 1168

Peter Campbell - 6548 5126

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**Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis**

**WEEKEND masses**

St Anne’s Merriwa

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm

2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am

St Joseph’s Cassilis

2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am

Parish Priest - 6548 2086

St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

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**Cassilis Public School**

Relieving Principal:

Miss Hodgson

Coola Road

Ph: 63761009

Cassilis NSW 2329

Fax: 63761005

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

www.cassilis-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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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: barbara9112@gmail.com

Secretary: Robyn McAllister

Phone: 6548 3274

Email: robyncwa@bigpond.com

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**La Scaletta**

**PIZZERIA**

Traditional Wood-fired Pizza

Friday 6pm – late

Saturday 6pm – late

Call us for your next function!

02 6548 3065

Robert.marchese@bigpond.com

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**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

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**Sandy Hollow Public School**

Laran As A Grew

Tel: 02 6547 4521

Fax: 02 6547 4450

Email: sandyhollo-p_school@det.nsw.edu.au

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**Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis**

**Supporting the Smith Family**

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**Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis**

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Laran As A Grew

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Fax: 02 6547 4450

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Robert.marchese@bigpond.com

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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

Merriwa Swimming Club
President - Anne Marie Peabody
Vice President - Leanne Hunt
Secretary/Registrar - Jodie Magner
Treasurer - Bronwyn Redgate
Head Coach - Jodie Magner
Squad Days - Monday/Tuesday
Time Trial - Thursday
Learn to Swim - Thursday/Friday
Contact Jodie on 0429 375 280

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
President - Andrew Constable
Snr Vice President - Gaynor Blockadder
Jnr Vice President – Cynthia Morgan
Secretary/Treasurer - Matthew Morgan
Publicity Officer - Jessyca Morgan

Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Trent Cooper
Senior Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben

For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

Merriwa Cricket Club
President: Craig Drury - 0477 125 937
Senior Vice President: Murray Wright - 0428 482 394
Secretary: Sonya Drury - 0459 541 450
Treasurer: Max McNaught - 0437 482 375

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

Sporting/Clubs

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

Sporting/Clubs

Merriwa Springtime Show
18, 19 & 20 September!
www.merriwashow.com.au

Cassilis Bowling Club
PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm

MERRIWA JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB
President: Roger Moore
0427 153 446
Secretary: Megan Richards
0427 437 743
Treasurer: Jake McIntyre
0408 112 709
October Long Weekend 2016
merriwacampdraft@gmail.com

MERRIWA BUSHMAN’S CAMPDRAFT EST. 1947
President: Roger Moore
0427 153 446
Secretary: Megan Richards
0427 437 743
Treasurer: Jake McIntyre
0408 112 709
October Long Weekend 2016
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For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

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

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

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

**Thursdays** - 7.00pm Bingo - prizes of club and meat vouchers. Raffle and Super 39 special prize

**Fridays** - Happy Two Hours - 5.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffles and twilight bowls from 5.00pm. All welcome.

**Saturdays** - Monster Raffle. Tickets on sale at 7.00pm drawn 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 5.00pm to 8.30pm. Closed Mondays, reopen 5.00pm Tuesday.

For bookings and take away - telephone 6548 3228.

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**SMORAGSBORD ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28**

**WEEKEND RESULTS**

**Saturday Raffle February 6**

Saturday members draw no 85, was not won – next week $180.00

Winners Jackpot won - next week $100.00

**Dinner:** Bruce Smith

**Bowls Raffle:** Nerida Bailey

**Sunday Raffle February 7**

Sunday members draw - No 354, was not won. Next week $700.00.

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**DON’T FORGET**

Friday Night Twilight Bowls at 5.00pm. Come along for a friendly game of bowls. ALL WELCOME

**Julie Smith**

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**WOMEN’S BOWLS**

Mixed Social Bowls is on Wednesdays 9.00am for 9.30am to play. All are welcome.

Lady Bowlers welcome, anyone who would like to learn to play the great game of bowls contact Beatrice, Vivian or Loretta on 6548 2679. A big welcome to newbies Lorna, Vicky and Jan.

Mixed Friendship Day is Wednesday February 17 at Merriwa. Morning tea is at 9.30am for 10.00am play.

Names are to be on the board at the Sports Club or phone Loretta by Sunday February 14 as we need to complete draw. All are welcome to come.

Loretta Cooper

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**Merriwa RSL Club**

The Members Lucky Badge for $700.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 511, this week jackpots to $750.00.

The 7.00pm draw for $220.00 was not won the number was 300 this week it jackpots to $260.00.

The Thursday Badge draw for $240.00 was not won the number was 923, this week it jackpots to $260.00 and will be drawn between 6.00–7.00pm. LTPS/14/04323.

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $600.00 was not won last week the number was 586, this week it jackpots to $650.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/15/04749.

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**COMING EVENTS**

‘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.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB**

**HAPPY HOUR** - Thursdays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Sunday 11.00am to 12.00noon.

$3.50 schooners and $2.50 middies, and $5.00 Coronas.

**BISTRO HOURS FOR THE SUMMER** – lunch 11.30am – 2.00pm, evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm.
**Ringer Deadline!**

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

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**Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club**

Training and registrations commence this Friday February 12 at 4.30pm. New players will have to submit a birth certificate to be sighted by Elaine and number recorded. Payment for regos will be $60.00 per player and on payment each player will receive a pair of shorts. New players are given a pair of socks, returning players may purchase socks at $15.00 if needed. Regos are now due and will be taken at ANY training day between now and start of competition on April 2.

We need coaches for the Under 6’s and the Under 7’s. If anyone would like to help out with this there is a coaches course at Liddell on March 26 and 27. The club will pay for the course. Anyone wishing to do a first aid course please see Elaine. We have three who will be doing one so talk to Elaine and travel with these three.

See you all at training at Number One Sports Oval every Friday this month then onto Tuesday and Friday from then on.

**Elaine Sparrow**  
Secretary

---

**Merriwa Tennis Club**

**AUTUMN NIGHT COMPEITION 2016**

We are planning to commence play on Monday February 15 – hopefully this will have the finals over before the cold weather sets in.

Competition is played on a Monday evening from 6.30pm (usually concludes by 9.00pm)

Teams consist of four players (two ladies and two men).

Each player plays three sets of doubles (1 x mens/ladies and two x mixed)

Play is of a social standard (no sheep stations or Tomic tantrums).

Nominate as a team of four, a pair, an individual player or reserve at Merriwa Pharmacy or by e-mailing merriwatennis@gmail.com

All competition players must become members of the club.

Ball/lighting fees of $5.00 are payable each evening.

Tennis is a fun way to get some exercise, meet new people and socialise with friends. Give it a go in 2016.

**Robert Smith**

---

**Merriwa Rugby League Football Club**

**WORKING BEE**

Sunday February 28 at the Merriwa Oval at 8.00am.

Please come and help us rebuild our new toilet blocks, if you have tools please bring them along with you. BBQ and drinks are provided.

**TRAINING**

Training is currently Tuesday’s and Fridays at the Oval starting at 6.30pm.

As of February 9 ladies have started training on a Tuesday and Thursday. Men will be training Tuesday and Friday at the Oval.

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors.

**Jessyca Morgan**

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**Merriwa RSL Cricket Club Report**

This Saturday is Round 16 where Merriwa RSL will play at home.

Merriwa RSL Cricket Club would like to thank their sponsors for the 2015/16 season;

Merriwa RSL Club, Frampton Freight, and Wallings Pastoral Company.

**Matt Morgan**

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Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors.

**Jessyca Morgan**
Merriwa Touch Football Club

Last week saw Merriwa Touch football kicked back off for the next part of the season. With a few extra kgs acquired over Christmas (if you did well not to embellish over Christmas, good on you!) there were some heavy breathing and sweat running as the pace of most of the games was quite quick.

Winning teams for the round included DMC’s, Touch-n-go and RSL Ladies for the ladies and Bowling Barrels, Cassilis Mens, Denman Devils and Team Kocinakis all gaining points for the men’s teams.

Juniors had a great roll up and all are looking great in their team colours. Thank you to Di’s Clothing for supporting the juniors.

Kate and John have been working hard with the juniors, introducing them to skills that they will require when they step up into the senior competition. There are some very quick kids out there and some very strong hands and passing skills. Hope to see more come back this week.

Two things to mark on everyone’s calendar for next week:

Touch Football Meeting - Monday February 15 at the Merriwa Sports Club at 6.00pm. Remember that if you do not have a representative at the meeting, your team will lose two points. A number of teams have already lost points.

Wednesday February 17 is the second of the AusTag games. The last one was held just before Christmas and although it was presumed that it would be a wash out, some still turned up to play and had a ball, wet muddy and full of smiles. The teams are still the same and will kick off at 6.00pm. Check Facebook for your team if you did not check at the table on Wednesday.

All referees should have been paid this week and if you have not received yours, please see Ainsley Maben for your payment. Then next payment will be at Presentation night.

With the end of the season fast approaching, now is as good a time as any to mention points table and 3/2/1.

3/2/1 is quite spread out with over 100 people receiving points. After ten rounds, the highest point scorer has 13, so an easy mark to catch for Overall Highest Point Scorer.

Top point scorers at Round 11 (one wash out game not played) are:

**Ladies**
- Lotta - 10
- Elly - 9
- Widda - 9
- Ainsley - 8
- Brodie - 7

**Men’s**
- Jay-me - 13
- Isaac - 13
- Matt P - 11
- Dean S - 11
- Wayde - 9
- Matt M - 9

Tina Taylor

Merriwa Little Athletics Club

What a great first night back at training. Brilliant to see all the familiar faces and even a few new ones!

As the countdown to Regionals builds (it’s this weekend!), there was lots of huffing and puffing around the track on Monday night. Coach Ainsley Maben was wrapped with the progress of Jackson Keane in the javelin who just keeps getting better in his throws. Coach James Hagley sent all the distance runners around for the 800m with Jorji and Darcy Taaffe kicking up a gear with a great ‘duel’ between sisters. Torah Coles and Georgia Maben were pocket rockets over the hurdles while ‘giggling girties’ Isla Murphy and Keira Green were able to keep the giggles contained just long enough to run a few good hurdle races.

In the Tiny Tots Sally Hagley and Brydie Moore were delighted with the progress of the TT team and especially impressed with ‘first timers’ Joshua Sawley and Jensen Grace who both took to Little As games like ducks to water. Another standout was Jayden McPhie, always smiling, always keen to have a go. Good on you Jayden!

A BIG THANKS to Peter Stone who managed to not only repair the old line marker kindly donated by Aberdeen Athletics Club last term but also marked the track for us just in time for our first training night. Big shout out also to Rob Patterson for helping Peter and to Ray McConnell and Merriwa Home Hardware for a special rate on the paint.

Tina Taylor

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Tash Taaffe
Have you considered maybe putting your child in Pony Club? Well, dust off their boots and get the fat ponies out of the paddock. We officially kick off our new year this Sunday, February 14 commencing with a gear check at 8.30am at the Showground. As this is our first day of the year, we will be completing registrations and, as is normal for this time of year, concluding after lunch. New members are welcomed with open arms and there is expert help given to your child, in the most safe and secure environment, in all aspects of horsemanship and husbandry with the emphasis being on fun and participation. Unfortunately due to other commitments, our canteen will not be available for lunch, so pack a picnic and bring along a little something to be shared for morning tea.

Some of our eager members couldn’t wait till next week to get their year underway and ventured “over the range” on Friday afternoon and Saturday to attend a Sporting weekend hosted by Quirindi Pony Club. This was a good hit out for the Quirindi club to test their electronic timing and other equipment in the lead up to the PCANSW Combined State Championships they are hosting in April.

For those wishing to attend the Combined State Championships, we will be holding a practice day this Saturday afternoon commencing at 4.00pm. We will be practicing the State Sporting Events and will provide an opportunity for those members who still need to achieve their times to qualify.

We will also be practicing Team Sporting and making team selections. This day is open to any zone members who would like to be considered for any of the team events being run by State this year. If you are interested please RSVP to Clare Martin on 0428 812 760 or 6548 2201(w) or email clarepmartin@bigpond.com.

De Patterson

Darcy Taaffe on Pepper

Roy Lawler on Matrix

April and Roy Lawler, Jorji and Darcy Taaffe and Ben Patterson
FEBRUARY

Sunday 14  •  Valentine’s Day
         •  Merriwa RSL Sub-Branch AGM
         •  Merriwa Pony Club Rally Day - 8.30am

Friday 19  •  Anglican Guild Street Stall
         •  Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary Meeting -
            Merriwa MPS Staff Quarters - 2.00pm

Saturday 20  •  Men’s Breakfast - Parish Hall - 7.30am
            •  Merriwa CWA Children’s Cookery Caper -
                10.00am-2.00pm

Friday 26  •  Messy Church - Parish Hall - 3.30pm

Saturday 27  •  Anglican Church - Harvest Thanksgiving - St
            Columba Church - Cassilis - 6.00pm

Sunday 28  •  Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
            Working Bee - Number 1 Oval - 8.00am

MARCH

Wednesday 2  •  Merriwa PAH and I Annual General Meeting
            - Merriwa RSL - 7.00pm

Sunday 6  •  Clean Up Australia Day

Monday 7  •  Merriwa Campdraft General Meeting -
            Merriwa RSL Club - 7.00pm

Tuesday 8  •  CWA International Women’s Day Luncheon

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

If you would like your event included in the community calendar, wish to
claim a date or interested in placing an advert in the Ringer?
Contact Tina Taylor on 6548 2119.

The Merriwa Ringer - Merriwa’s only not-for-profit newsletter servicing
the community for 25 years.