Excellence in Leadership Award

Helen Whale receives Monsignor Coolahan Award for School Leadership.

Continues page 8

Enjoy the benefits of a better banking relationship, happily ever after.
Labor has committed to fully funding the Gonski reforms we began when in Government

Email or write to Malcolm Turnbull and demand that he reverse his Gonski funding cuts.

Email: minister@education.gov.au (Don’t forget to cc me in)
Post: House of Representatives
PO Box 6022
Canberra ACT 2600

Joel Fitzgibbon MP
3 Edward Street
CESSNOCK NSW 2325
Phone: 4991 1022
Email: joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au
Website: www.joelfitzgibbon.com

Follow me on
Primary News

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Last Friday, seven students were presented book awards for Student of the Week. Congratulations to the following students. We are very proud of everyone’s great efforts so early in the year.

Kindergarten: Darcy Clark
Year 1: Shayla Cronin
Year 2/3: Miriam Harrison
Year 3/4: Dylan Keane
Year 4/5: David McPhie
Year 5/6: Tahli Gleeson

Early Action for Success/Learning and Support: Steven Allen

ZONE SWIMMING

Today, Primary students from Merriwa Central School will be competing in the Zone Swimming carnival at Muswellbrook Aquatic and Fitness Centre. Mrs Jones and the following seven students will be representing our school:

- Samantha Bristow
- Josie Porter
- Kyah Johnston
- Alyssa Carrall
- Mia Morgan
- Dylan Keane
- Zali Wallings

Thank you to Mrs Moore for arranging permission notes and transport for our competitors and to Mrs Jones for attending the Zone carnival. We look forward to sharing our students’ results in next week’s Ringer article.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY HELPERS

Teachers and students have been busy settling into their classrooms and establishing daily routines. We are very fortunate to have many parent and community helpers who visit our school to help run the Primary canteen, teach Scripture lessons and organise fundraising events.

Throughout the year, teachers will be completing lessons and activities which could be vastly improved by the involvement and support of

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>Year 12 Uni Road Show – Muswellbrook High School, 10.05am-2.40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>Year 12 work placement – all week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24</td>
<td>Under 15 Hunter Rugby League trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
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adult helpers. In the past, such helpers have most commonly been involved in practising reading skills with younger students. Such support does not have to be limited to Literacy activities, young students or the classroom. Many teachers would welcome assistance during Numeracy activities, Art lessons and even Sporting lessons completed in the playground.

Parent and community helpers are one of the greatest resources a school can have and below are some of the countless benefits for the school and for the people who volunteer.

**BENEFITS FOR SCHOOL**

- Able to implement more individualised programs for students
- An active parent and community body helps create a vibrant and positive school climate
- The importance of education is able to be promoted by teachers, parents and community members

**BENEFITS FOR OUR CHILDREN**

- Children see adults working together effectively and interacting to improve learning outcomes
- Children are excited to see their parents are interested in their learning and want to help them and their friends.

**BENEFITS FOR OUR PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

- You meet a variety of great people and build positive relationships
- You get to see your child in a different social setting
- You can speak about school with your child and really know what they are talking about
- You learn a range of skills which can, in turn, assist you in helping your child.

Helpers are always appreciated so if you have a particular interest or skills we would love for you to share it with us. If you are able to volunteer, please see your child’s class teacher to discuss how you can support them during the year.

Megan Sinderberry
Assistant Principal

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**English and History Report**

The English and History faculty have kicked off the year with outstanding organisation and flair as junior English classes have set out their workbooks with excellence. Well done to all of our junior students for taking pride in your book work.

Year 9 have enjoyed creating interesting rap songs in English classes this week. Below is an extract of the poem Consumer Rap by the Australian poet Komninos, who has inspired the class to turn every day events into their own quirky texts. Bailey, Jy and Dean are shown here, enjoying a moment dressed as professional rap artists, after reciting their own comedic raps.

**Consumer Rap - (Extract)**

When you spend your bucks, get your money’s worth
Is it safe for you. Is it a friendly earth?
If you pay on credit, don’t get rash
You can ask somebody, if in doubt.

By Komninos Zervos

The faculty would also like to say a huge welcome to all of the Year 11 students who have chosen to study Ancient History this year. Year 12 are appreciating your company in our growing composite class and enjoyed putting their competitive nature to the test by versing their younger peers in a Historical test last week. Although Year 12 may have been the triumphant students on this occasion, I look forward to watching you all grow into impressive young historians, just as they have done.
Last week, most of our students from Year 7 and eight Year 11’s went to Orchard Lodge for three exciting and insightful days for our annual Peer Support Camp. The camp was great fun! Year 7 had the opportunity to get to know each other better through the Peer Support workshops, especially students coming from different primary schools. They learnt a few tricks and techniques to successfully adjust to high school and other challenging situations.

The Year 11 Peer Support leaders led these sessions covering things such as resilience, positive thinking and team building exercises. Our Peer Leaders were responsible and caring, which really helped our Year 7 students to have the best experience possible!

After the workshops, we played cricket and footy, had boat races in the river and splashed around in the swimming hole. Mr Grant was a big kid and enjoyed catching all of the Year 7’s out in a savage game of spotlight.

I’d like to thank all of the Year 7’s for their excellent behaviour and respectful attitudes (except the ones who poked fun at me for freaking out about a bat) but especially Harry Amidy, Kristy Walker, Abby Cooper, Hunter Marsh, John Magner, Mackenzie Blackadder, Gordon Bradley and Joanne Hamson who were all nominated as ‘Champs of the Day’ by their Peer Leaders.

Thank you to our Year 11’s Peita Cassar, Jordan Taylor, Hanna Byfield, Ross Proctor, Cara Hunt, Tempany Boland, Luke Cronin and James Hagley for being amazing over the three days!

Also a massive thank you to Mr Grant for all of his hard work and organisation of the camp.
FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Sports Coaching
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Horse riding and football

BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Horse riding with Isabella Neale and Tamsin Gough from Merriwa to Muswellbrook last weekend to raise money for Breast Cancer research. We raised a total of $2000.00 for this charity

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS: Working on properties and eventually owning my own property

YEAR ADVISORS COMMENT: John has received Student of the Week for his outstanding citizenship and responsible attitude at the Swimming Carnival. John helped the younger students get organised for their races and did so in a mature and friendly manner. John has just started Year 11 and is adjusting to the increased workload and extra pressure quite well so far. He should be proud of his efforts!

Rebecca Hopkins
Year Adviser

Miss Hopkins
Year 11 Adviser
CAREERS NEWS

Hunter Youth Leadership Program: An Outwood Bound representative will be speaking to students Years 9 and 10 on Tuesday February 23 at 12.30pm about the camp and the opportunities it provides. Students in Years 9 and 10 interested in an Outwood Bound experience can apply to attend this camp from Sunday May 28 – Saturday June 4, 2016. Applications are available from Mrs Hegarty and close on March 24. For further information access: www.outwoodbound.org.au

Migas has a number of traineeships available in the Hunter Region. Access: https://www.migas.com.au/vacancies/new-south-wales/ to view more details about the following positions. 

Automotive apprenticeship (First or second year) 
Rutherford - Electronics Traineeship - Newcastle

Macquarie University Global Leadership Entry Program - Year 12 students who are achieving strong academic results and are leaders in their community and involved in extracurricular activities can apply for this program. Applications open May 9 – August 29. Access: http://www.mq.edu.au/study/high-school-students/getting-into-university/entry-schemes-and-pathways

UBS Finance Academy 2016 - Applications are open for talented Year 11 students to attend the UBS Finance Academy. It provides the opportunity for students to explore leadership and career pathways in the banking and finance industry. The camp goes from July 11 – 15. The program is residential and participants live at Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University. General travel, food and accommodation expenses will be covered by UBS. Applications close on March 9. Interested students can access an application form from Mrs Hegarty

2016 UNSW Indigenous Winter School Program - This program is open to all Indigenous students in years 10, 11 and 12 who are considering tertiary studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. For your information, included below is a link which provides a brief overview of Winter School. http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au/winterschool.html. The closing date for applications is 5.00pm, Friday April 8.

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

Jane Hegarty

Merriwa Central School SRC

PINK RIBBON GIRLS NIGHT IN!

This is a sleepover for girls from Years 6-12 from Merriwa Central School to raise funds for Breast Cancer, Pink Ribbon.

Where - Merriwa Central School Great Hall

When - Friday March 4 at 5.00pm until Saturday March 5 at 9.00am

Cost - $10.00

Activities - Games – dinner – movie marathon – breakfast

Permission notes available from both Primary and Secondary office, Year Advisors and SRC members.

Rebecca Hopkins

WHY I WANT TO BE IN ROAR? To contribute input to the ROAR Program and to make an impression on junior members

FAVOURITE SUBJECT? Metal Work

FAVOURITE SPORT? Rugby League

FAVOURITE SPORT? Manly Warringah Sea Eagles

WHO INSPIRES YOU AND WHY? My family because they have taught me everything I know

FAVOURITE QUOTE? ‘A goal without a plan is just a wish’ Antoine de Saint-Exupery

BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT? Representing my school for rugby league

ADVICE TO YOUNG PLAYERS: Winning isn’t everything. If you have fun doing something you love you can’t lose.

Luke Cronin

2016 ROAR PROFILE

Merriwa Ringer
On Tuesday evening February 9 the Staff of St Joseph’s travelled to Newcastle to be part of the annual “Called to Serve Mass” at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hamilton. This is a very special Mass where all the staff members in our schools are asked to come together to pray and receive a special commissioning to continue to do the work of God in our schools.

It is also at this Mass where staff members are awarded the Monsignor Coolahan awards for excellence in particular areas: Teaching, Leadership, Support Staff, First Five Years, Innovation and Community.

We were very honoured to be part of this evening as Mrs Helen Whale received the Excellence in Leadership award. I have included part of the citation from the evening regarding Helen’s award.

‘St Joseph’s Merriwa is a warm and friendly school, due in large part to Helen Whale’s strong commitment to the Catholic ethos. This is evident in her spiritual leadership, her involvement in the parish and the way in which she communicates and models the teachings of the Gospel to staff, students and parents. Helen Whale leads the school community of St Joseph’s Merriwa in a manner consistent with Catholic values and provides opportunities for staff and students to participate in liturgy, pastoral care and social justice initiatives. She encourages and supports a positive climate within the school community, building strong relationships with all levels of the school, the parish and the local community. On a recent visit to St Joseph’s colleagues were greeted by an atmosphere of welcome, where students, staff, families and the surrounding community clearly felt valued and supported. ‘Let the children come’ examples the inclusive nature of enrolment at St Joseph’s under Helen’s guidance. Helen obviously places an important emphasis on the Catholic school as an ‘option for the poor’ and ensures equity for all families. She is clearly committed to authentic learning and challenges her staff to provide quality teaching and learning which will enable students to become self-aware, intellectually curious, critical and creative thinkers, respectful of others, engaged citizens and committed to both spiritual growth and lifelong learning. Helen acts with truth and integrity in all her interactions. She relates to students, teachers and parents in ways that are engaging and open, inviting reflection and evaluation of school policies, processes and procedures.

Helen lives and attends Mass within the community, takes an active role in the district and participates in the life of the parish. She clearly values the link between school and home, school and parish and home and parish, and works to strengthen and grow these relationships in a positive manner.

Helen speaks about ‘our school’, and ‘our plans for improvement’. She clearly articulates the school achievement goals and is prepared to acknowledge the barriers to learning which are specific to her community. As a teacher and leader, Helen works for and with the staff to impact student achievement, enabling all stakeholders to actively participate in the improvement and achievement of school goals.

Helen is growing St Joseph’s Merriwa as a school which is Catholic, authentic, effective and a place of excellence. She is a highly effective and quality principal who is able to interpret the narrative of St Joseph’s to remind everyone why they are there, and why their contributions are so important.’

As a staff we were very privileged to join with Helen and her family for such a special night and we would like to congratulate her on such a wonderful award and all that she does for our school.

By Mrs Peebles

On Monday evening we celebrated the St Joseph’s Opening School Mass and Information evening. In the classrooms the teachers demonstrated to the parents the routines and practices particular to their space of learning and the course of learning the students will undertake throughout the year.

It was obvious how the atmosphere of the classrooms has changed over the year as the collaborative classrooms and shared learning spaces have become the norm. Parents were able to sense the enormous pride the students have in their learning spaces and how engaged they are in their educational processes.

Merriwa Ringer
The parents in all classes were introduced to the more formal goal setting practices taking place in 2016. The teachers are working currently with the students to help articulate student learning goals. At the Term 1 Parent interviews, parents, students and teachers will state the individual current goals and design a collaborative plan for the students to achieve these goals. Each child will be focussing on their individual goals and parents and teachers will be assisting them to succeed in achieving them.

Goal Setting needs to be SMART:

SPECIFIC
MEASURABLE
ATTAINABLE
RELEVANT
TIME-BOUND

Congratulations to our swimming squad that represented St Joseph’s at the regional carnival last week. Again I was very impressed with the reports of the sportsmanship of every student. Congratulations to Tia Magner, Amy Redgate, Patrick Magner and Axul Hourn who were selected to represent the Upper Hunter Region at Diocesan level in March. The photo shows the team’s delight. Darcy Taaffe was obviously swimming at the time!

Video conferencing facilities have recently been installed in the Library. Already teachers have been able to use these to hold collaboration meetings and professional development sessions with educational personnel in Sydney. We are looking forward to using it to bring increased educational opportunities for our students also...

The Parents and Friends Association at St Joseph’s now has a new secretary. Thank you to Peta Luke who accepted this position at our last Monday’s meeting.

Teachers will be learning new ways to motivate and inspire students to become quality writers this week as they attend professional development in Muswellbrook. Miss Farrow and Mrs Whale will be travelling to Newcastle on Thursday to investigate a framework to guide our student wellbeing programs. More information on both of these days to follow.

St Joseph’s School is a very vibrant, happy place of lifelong learning. Our team of fabulous teachers and support staff work tirelessly to help every student to reach their potential and every occasion to be an opportunity to learn. I am so proud of our school community and I hope you are too.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEK’S AWARD WINNERS

Kindergarten - Annabelle Hunt - showing good skills during literacy groups
Chad Booth - for sharing interesting information with the class
Year 1/2 - Jeremy Hopkins - for showing great knowledge of number facts
Ellie Holland - for a fantastic effort during literacy groups
Year 3/4 - Braeden Halse - for excellent strategies in spelling unknown words
Paddy Wong - for excellent communication skills
Year 5/6 - Olivia Collins - for her great background knowledge about Australia’s colonisation
Tia Magner - for always giving of her best
Playground Champion - Jye Bates - for beautiful manners on the playground
Alister Fairfull - for being a great friend on the playground
Principal’s Awards - Fiona Tomy – for her outstanding reading skills.

Helen Whale
Principal
CLASS STRUCTURE

Now that swimming is finished, all students have settled into their new classes. We are structuring the classes exactly the same as last year.

Monday to Wednesday (until lunch), students are split into three groups:

- Kinder - Year 1 - Ms Bullock
- Year 2 - Mrs Parker
- Year 3-6 - Mrs Darlington

After lunch, students go back into two classes:

- Kinder - Year 2 - Ms Bullock
- Year 3-6 - Mrs Darlington.

On Thursday and Friday, students are in two classes:

- Kinder - Year 2 - Ms Higgins,
- Year 3-6 - Mrs Parker (Thursday), Mrs Darlington (Friday).

Although on paper it looks complicated, we have found this structure to best meet the needs of our students.

HOMEWORK

All classes are now receiving weekly homework activities.

- Kinder - Year 1 homework is due back Friday.
- Year 2 - homework is due back Thursday.
- Year 3-6 - homework is due back Friday.

Children are encouraged to change their home readers daily.

CANTEEN

At the moment the canteen will be open at lunch time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The only thing on the menu is Zooper Doopers. Regular canteen will resume in a few weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience this is causing.

HEAD LICE

Yes, it’s that time of year again. We have had some incidents of head lice. We ask all families to be vigilant. Please check your child’s hair every day. If you find evidence of eggs or lice, they need to be treated and removed before you child comes to school. I thank you in advance for helping to keep these pests out of our school.

ROAD SAFETY

At the end of last year, I had the pleasure of working with Peter Harris on our school’s Road Safety Policy. We looked at road safety from a few different angles, including teaching about it in the classroom and applying it within our school context. As part of our reviewed policy, we are introducing bicycle, scooter, skateboard etc safety guidelines. A copy of these guidelines is included in today’s newsletter.

All children (and their parents/carers) who ride to school are now required to read and sign an agreement that ensures they will follow basic road rules and maintain their bikes/scooters. The agreements need to be returned before they start riding to school.

We have also included a bicycle maintenance check list and a guide to fitting a helmet for reference at home.

Now that this policy is in place, all students will be expected to follow it. Any student breaching the rules will receive a warning letter. Parents will be contacted if staff feel the students’ bikes/scooters are unroadworthy.

If you have any questions/issues with our revised policy, please contact me during school hours.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Andrew Harris and Mason Meyer who both attended the small schools swimming carnival at Murrurundi on Monday. Andrew placed first in all his events and was awarded Junior Boy Champion for his efforts. Mason placed third in freestyle and breaststroke. Both boys were wonderful representatives of our school. I’ve had some fantastic feedback from two of the attending Principal’s about their exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship. Well done, Andrew and Mason. Thank you to the boy’s families for organising to get them to Murrurundi and for supervising on the day.

Andrew will now go onto compete in the Zone carnival at Muswellbrook next week. Andrew and Mason.
YEARS 3-6 CLASS NEWS

Last week, the class worked on a personal development program. They completed activities around problem solving, compromising and teamwork. They established class rules, values and expectations. They also reviewed work from the You Can Do It program, revisiting the five keys to success - organisation, getting along, persistence, resilience and confidence. For the next few weeks they will focus on being organised.

This week we have started our classroom program. In Literacy, we are focusing on fine motor skills in handwriting and revising short vowel sounds in spelling. Students have submitted two pieces of writing as a benchmark for improvement this year. Next week, we will begin an English unit based on the Aboriginal story “The Two Hearted Numbat”.

In Maths we are currently focussing on numbers. Years 3 and 4 have been looking at odd and even numbers, place value to tens of thousands (Year 3) and beyond tens of thousands (Year 4). All year levels are also learning about rounding to 10’s, 100’s and 1000’s.

Year 5 have been focusing on factors and prime numbers.

On Thursdays, the whole class work with Mrs Parker on problem solving strategies. To date they have covered “guess and check” and “make a table or chart”.

Yesterday we began our Geography unit “Natural Disasters”. Students watched a short Youtube clip about natural disasters around the world, then shared their current knowledge on the topic. Over the next few weeks, students will create a natural disaster map of Australia and then focus on bushfires. Our visual arts program this term will also be around the theme of natural disasters.

Our PD unit for the rest of this term will focus on farm and rural safety.

Christina Darlington
Class Teacher

WEEKLY AWARDS

- Ayden Marsh - trying to be organised with his equipment
- Shaneka Marsh - working well in all areas
- Kayden Adams - great participation in writing activities
- Isabelle Pike - organisation award
- Tyson Marsh - managing his time wisely in class
- Thomas McLean - always displaying beautiful manners.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Kinder/Year1/2 - Noah Adams
Year 3/4/5 - Andrew Harris.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Reagan Turner - working well in all classroom activities.

SPORTS PERSON OF THE WEEK

Austin Adams - guiding others during sporting activities.

Find us on Facebook!

Look for Merriwa Central School’s official page!
Isabelle Bibby has earned the title of ‘Student of the Week’, this week for her consistent hard work and dedication to all areas of learning. Isabelle is improving her hand to eye coordination in PDHPE and made some impressive improvements in volleyball last week. She displayed creativity and attention to detail while independently making her scarecrow in Art. Isabelle also provided some good reasons for where it is and is not safe to cross the road in our Road Safety unit. In Science on Friday, Isabelle worked well in her group and wrote up the experiment using some technical language. She also got all but one of her spelling words correct this week. Congratulations and keep up the excellent work, Isabelle!

A MESSAGE FROM MISS H

Thank you to everyone who came to the P and C meeting last Monday. Topics discussed at the meeting included the success of Cassilis Rodeo gate, upcoming events such as the Variety Bash which will be heading to Cassilis School for lunch on Sunday May 15. Also discussed was a change of date for school photos from Term 4 to Term 1 this year and the idea of changing the school’s sports shirt design. The next meeting will include the AGM and will be held Monday March 14 2016, 3.15pm at Cassilis Public School. Everyone is welcome to come and join our wonderful P and C. We look forward to seeing you there!

TOWN LIBRARY VISIT

Cassilis School students will walk down to the town library this Wednesday at 2.00pm for Library Lovers Day. At the library students will meet the new town librarian Mrs Bronwen Dowler. They will then listen to a story and complete a craft activity. It would be greatly appreciated if students could be picked up from the library on this day.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

At our P and C meeting on Monday, parents suggested changing School Photos from Term 4 to Term 1 in order to allow for improved weather conditions. We are now booked in with the School Photographer on Monday March 21 thanks to the lovely Mrs Hunt.

PBL AWARDS

Congratulations to Angus Heycox, Rachel Bibby, Brooke McLennan, Isabelle Bowler, Tobias Bowler, James Bibby and Jack Sumpter-Cornish for receiving their first PBL certificate for being caught being safe, respectful, and doing their best 10 times this term!

VOLCANO EXPERIMENT

Last Friday, students began learning about Natural Disasters in Science with a focus on ‘Volcanoes’. They completed a very hands-on experiment with Mr Gant involving making papier Mache volcanoes and combining vinegar with bicarbonate soda and water to create the eruption. A great time was had by all and we apologise to all families who have spent the weekend trying to get paint and glue out of uniforms.

SWIMMING

We are going swimming at Merriwa for the next two Fridays (February 19 and 26). Permission notes went out on Friday and need to be returned by this Thursday in order for students to attend. The cost will be as little as $1.00 per student, however, any owed money needs to be paid to the school prior to the day.
IT WAS ALL IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE!

Dylan and James ready for their volcano to erupt.

Everyone helping to measure the ingredients

Jack and Angus stirring the mixture

KIA ORA MUSIC CAMP

Preparations are currently underway for the 2016 Upper Hunter Shire Kia-Ora Youth Music Camp. It will be held in Scone on Wednesday March 16, Thursday March 17 and Friday March 18 2016. Enrolment Forms, Fact sheets and Parental Consent Forms will be sent home this week to Years 3-6 students who are interested.

Katrina Hodgson
Relieving Principal

CALENDAR 2016

February
Thursday 25  Healthy Harold Visit
Friday 26  Swimming at Merriwa Pool

March
Friday 4  Clean up Australia Day
Monday 14  P and C Meeting 3.15pm
Tuesday 16-Thursday 18  Kia Ora
Monday 21  Harmony Day/ School Photos

April
Friday 1  Cross Country
Monday 4  P and C Meeting 3.15pm
Friday 8  Last day of Term 1
What a thrill to finally be back to Pre-School and have an opportunity to meet with our families for the year. Enrolments have been pouring in since my return and today we welcome another intake of wonderful new families to the service. For a portion of the holidays and for the beginning of the school year I have been at the Muswellbrook Child Care Service working in long day care. This last professional placement completes my Degree in Early Childhood Teaching. I am also pleased to announce that Jessyca Morgan has achieved her Diploma in Children’s Services. We will shortly address where our next steps for professional development may lead.

We are pleased to be up and running with our electronic portfolio system and daily diary KEPTME. This system has so far proven to be extremely popular with families and educators. Individual observations and group stories are sent directly to mobile phones and tablets. These stories are also generated in hard copy to add to the children’s portfolio of work. It is a great saving to the service to reduce our printing costs and efficiency. If you have somehow missed the invitation to login into KEPTME please contact the Pre-School immediately, you could be missing out. The Skoolbag App is also a wonderful communication tool for us with notifications being posted about health alerts and events.

Most recently we have sent notifications out for the new “Create and Grow” Playgroup. It is being held each fortnight in the Activity centre. Our first week was an introductory information session. Our thoughts are to hold the group each fortnight with sessions alternating Monday and Wednesdays to improve access for families with numerous commitments.

Upcoming session dates will be Wednesday February 16 attended by Hunter Prelude with access to educators, speech therapists and physiotherapists

   Monday       February 29
   Wednesday    March 16 with Hunter Prelude
   Monday       April 4

When these sessions are complete we will review the attendance and progress of the group. The Playgroups survival will hinge on those attending to coordinate morning tea, setting up and packing away, the replenishment of any consumables and the collection of a donation toward morning teas. Rosters will be made available at our next meeting. This is to be a community run project to keep the costs low. Please contact Leah at Pre-School if you are interested in assisting.

Our special thanks to the community for some particularly generous donations so far this year. Some beautiful books and puzzles have been a wonderful surprise for the children and I must make special mention to the Thompson family who donated the wonderful new pirate ship for our playground, what a treat, the children enjoy it every day.
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

March 16: Anglican parish Merriwa AGM - 4.00pm Parish hall

June Long Weekend - Festival of the Fleeces - Morning tea Quilters display.

Ash Wednesday has passed so through this Lent we continue our quiet time of prayer:

A LITANY FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Jesus, the Word of God, invites us into silence and reflection. Be still and know that your God is here present with you, in you and all around you. In this second week of Lent we will focus on the symbol of oil. Throughout history oil has been used to soothe and heal, to comfort and console. In the Hebrew scriptures, oil was used to signify authority and leadership. Those who were chosen and called by God for some special task were anointed with oil. Oil is used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, ordination and anointing of the sick. You could now take some oil while in your quite place and make a sign of the cross on your hands.

Open my heart and ears so that I may hear you speaking to me in the sounds and silences of this time together. Touch my life with your peace and patience and enfold me in your love. God of the journey, I ask your blessing on my community. Help me to listen to your word and empower me to respond with conviction and courage. Amen.

Rosalie Drew

Merriwa Rotary Club

LONG TERM YOUTH EXCHANGE

Having just hosted a gathering of long term exchange students who are back with us from their 12 month stays in many countries, Merriwa Rotary is preparing to give a special welcome by our club to Kristyn Telfer, the Merriwa girl who has spent a year in Germany as our representative.

Kristyn had a stimulating and enjoyable stay in Germany.

As this edition of the Ringer goes to press, we are looking forward to next Tuesday, when Kristyn will be telling her story to our club.... in English, we trust.... (she is now fluent in German.)

Welcome home Kristyn!

Mark Smith

Merriwa CWA

COOKERY FOR HUNTER GROUP MINI-SHOW

A reminder anyone can cook any of the recipes on the schedule and enter them at CWA Merriwa before February 22. For details phone Kay Burgess on 6548 3222.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE!

CWA Merriwa will be holding an International Women’s Day lunch on Tuesday March 8.

Guest speaker - Jane Watson from Scone Legal Practice will speak on wills – executors, guardians, powers-of-attorney.

When: 10.30am for 11.00am start.

Gold coin donation. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

NEXT MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE AND DAY

Please note the next meeting of the CWA Merriwa Branch will be on Tuesday March 15 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 131or Robyn McAlister on 6548 3274.

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

More information at Merriwa Branch CWA.

Penelope Fenley
Merriwa District Progress Association

The first meeting of the Merriwa District Progress Association for 2016 will be on Wednesday February 24 at the RSL commencing at 6.00pm.

If you have concerns about anything in Merriwa, please come along.

For more information call me on 6548 2245.

Beron Arden-Wood

Merriwa Senior Citizens Association

Please note upcoming functions:

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

More details will be available at a later date.

Mary O’Neill

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

NOTICE OF MEETING

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

All welcome.

Amanda Kemp
Secretary

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 vegetables, eggs, jams and other such yummy items, are greatly appreciated.

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

Barbara Campbell

Thank You

The Cronin family would like to express their sincere gratitude towards all who contributed towards Liam’s success. Thank you.

Jayne and Hylt Cronin

Anglican Church

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Anglican Parish of Merriwa are holding a Harvest Thanksgiving at St Columba Cassilis on February 27 at 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

When: February 19

All saleable items gratefully received.

Raffle: Collection of Tupperware.

Rosalie Drew

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.
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.

Marie Scott

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

Merriwa Markets
When: February 20
Where: Near RSL Bow Street Side
Time: 9.00am till 1.00pm
We have a very wide variety of stalls. Something for everyone!
Held every third Saturday of the month.

Teresa Williams
Secretary

In Memory
PHYLLIS BEVAN (NEE TRAIN)
JANUARY 26, 1930 – JANUARY 23, 2016
The family of the late Phyliss Bevan would like to thank all those who attended her funeral service and those who sent their condolences and support during the sad loss of our beloved mother/grandmother/great grandmother.
We also send our gratitude and appreciation to Doctors Jawaad and Cho, nurses and staff at the Merriwa District Hospital along with Rev Pat Kirkby and the late Winston Folpp (Muswellbrook and Scone Funeral Services)
Special thank you to the Anglican guild and for the generous donations of cakes and slices it was greatly appreciated.

Kylie Austin

Merriwa Soccer Registration
Registrations for the 2016 Scone Football Club - team Merriwa, season are now open.
As per previous years we will have two competitions - Town Competition is played in Scone on Saturday mornings. The other competition is an Interdistrict Competition in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Competition also played on Saturdays, each team will have seven home and seven away games.
Registration is online, please use the following link http://www.myfootballclub.com.au/index.php?id=3

MY FOOTBALL CLUB
Whether you’re a player, coach, volunteer, referee or a parent looking for a club for your kids MyFootballClub will provide you with the right information. View on www.myfootballclub....

A FEW NEW THINGS THIS YEAR
There is a subsidy available to help with the cost of registration from UHSC if you hold a current healthcare card. Please take your card to the council to apply for the subsidy.
Town Competition registrations include a shirt for your child to keep. Please look out for size selection in the additional questions. You will also have the option to purchase club shorts and socks (not compulsory for town competitors).
Inter District players - due to lack of supply we have had to change the club shorts please make sure you make your purchase and select sizes where prompted.
Any further inquires please contact the club committee members at sconefc@huntervalleyfootball.net.au, or contact Registrar Lesley on 0413 958 478

DATES FOR THE SEASON
• Gala Day April 2, 2016 - 10.00am
• Interdistrict Competition first round April 23, 2016
• Town Competition kicks off - April 30 (no Town comp games May 7 due to Horse Festival Parade)
The new committee is keen to implement some new ideas to help make a successful season!
As many people are already aware, the Daily Telegraph and the Sunday Telegraph have been giving Dr Seuss books with the paper. The Telegraph allocates how many of these books we receive - as with any other book, DVD or CD deal they have promoted. As such, we receive 20 Dr Seuss books. We cannot get any more. With every one of these promotions, we have a list. The first 20 people to put their names down are the ones who are being given these books. We apologise if you have missed out on the collection but there is nothing we can do about it. We thank all of those who have been understanding when we had none left to give. You can try to source them from other newsagencies or contact the Telegraph directly if you would still like to collect the series.

CHARLIE BEARS

Come in and introduce yourself to the latest addition in our Charlie Bear Range. Her name is Patience and she is definitely unique. With long moveable limbs, a big red organza bow and long hand-dyed fur, she is adorably scruffy. Her ginger, burgundy, black and white colouring makes her a centrepiece for your collection.

MAKE A GAME OF IT

We have restocked our board games and have a great selection on offer. Many of them are games you have known and loved for many years (maybe with a different name and from a different company) including Battleship, Connect 4, Snakes and Ladders, Uno and more. We also have a Compendium of games that allows you to play many of your childhood favourites. Introduce these games to your own children, even introduce Game night as a way to disconnect from technology and connect as a family. There are many fun evenings to be had with the choices we have on the shelf.

GET LAMINATED

It is the start of the school year, and a time in the lives of children when artworks and awards are precious. Keep them pristine with a laminator. We have some in store that are perfect for the home. They are compact and affordable. They are designed to suit A4 paper and are perfect for keeping the precious memories made by your children. We also stock the pouches for these machines.

BY POPULAR DEMAND

Over Christmas we stocked a range of gorgeous leather ladies wallets. They included technology that allowed you to keep your credit cards safe from hacking. We now have men’s wallets available that do the same job. We also have other colourful leather pouches and credit card holders available. They are high quality and affordable.

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

Cash or Eftpos only.

Leanne Hook
The importance of doing something healthy for your heart is highlighted by the fact that 90% of Australians have at least one risk factor for heart disease. The main risk factors include a family history of heart disease, but the risk also increases as you age. Gender is important because men are at greater risk of predisposing conditions.

As a nation, we tend to take our hearts for granted but the sobering facts are that cardiovascular disease is the cause of 34% of deaths in Australia, followed by all cancers on 29%.

Research and awareness-raising is necessary in order to find cures for heart disease. As such February is designated as Red Feb (www.redfeb.com.au) by Heart Research Australia – the organisation which raises funds for research into the treatment and prevention of heart disease and associated medical conditions.

Information on healthy hearts is available at Heart Research Australia’s website (www.heartresearch.com.au). The site also provides four simple steps that we can undertake to make some inroads into improving the health of our hearts.

The first step is to keep moving at any age and at any level of fitness. Exercise has many benefits beyond fitness and flexibility. Exercise stimulates the body’s immune system, reduces the blood’s ability to clot easily, improves brain function and lowers blood pressure.

Exercise can even prevent some forms of cancer. Research in older patients with age-related muscle wasting (also called sarcopenia) has shown that strength training was found to prevent disability, slow down dementia and reduce the risk of accidental falls. In later life independence and good health are closely related to physical fitness.

The second step is to look at what we eat and to ensure we eat wisely. Good nutrition extends beyond controlling our intake of cholesterol, calories and chocolate. There is also great benefit in understanding the importance of trans fats (bad for you), and polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats (good for you). Or how the body metabolises different carbohydrates (sugars) and the impact this has on weight, diabetes and body fat deposits.

Research consistently shows that the right balance between food intake and exercise is vital for optimum weight, fitness and health.

The third step suggested is to keep track of our health measurements. This includes cholesterol levels, blood pressure, weight, sugar levels, and exercise capacity. For years health professionals have understood the value of monitoring blood pressure, cholesterol levels, sugar level and body weight. To this we can now add the importance of measuring heart pump function (ejection fraction), exercise capacity (6 minute walk test), waist circumference, and kidney function, among many others. A close relationship between the family doctor, pharmacist and consumer will optimise the way good health is measured and monitored.

Finally, the fourth step is our mental approach and staying optimistic. Studies show our state of mind can protect, as well as damage, heart health. Important risk factors that may lead to heart disease include stress, anger and depression and these can be as damaging as high cholesterol levels in causing heart disease. Conversely, a positive state of mind, a supportive community, and personal happiness may help reduce cardiovascular problems.

Your local pharmacy is your health destination and can provide a range of products, medicines, services and advice to support heart health. These include:

- Prescription medicine and medicine advice
- Health advice such as managing your weight
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Services to help you lose weight and quit smoking.

Visit your local pharmacy today and find out what they have available.

In addition, you can get more information on heart health from Merriwa Pharmacy. Self Care Fact Cards available from these pharmacies include topics such as High blood pressure as well as lifestyle topics such as Staying a non-smoker.

Robert Smith
WELCOME TO THIS WEEK'S UPDATE WITH AILEEN HOGAN

FARMER MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

Researchers at the University of Technology Sydney are calling on full time farmers aged 18 years and over to complete a survey in an effort to gather data on the underlying thoughts and emotions that influence mental health in Australian farmers. If you are interested in participating in this 23-30 minute questionnaire or know anyone who would be please go to the link provided in the Farm Post Newsletter dated February 5, 2015 or head directly to https://utshealth.au1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_B8n80JRyYlm3nyB.

GRDC RESEARCH UPDATES

The Grains Research and Development Corporation will host its 2016 research updates for growers and advisors across NSW in February. Go to the Farm Post for the link to find out more and to register for an update near you or head directly to http://www.grdc.com.au/Research-and-Development/GRDC-Update-Dates?f=2&c=2&all=0

SPRAY DRIFT WORKSHOP

NSW Farmers attended a workshop convened by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) held in Narrabri this week. The workshop identified actions available to industry to reduce the risks of spray drift with a specific focus on opportunities for R and D investments and industry led education and information.

Farmers are reminded of the need to follow the requirements of registered labels for all chemicals to ensure we maintain access to chemicals and reduce restrictive red tape on their businesses. GRDC has fact sheets on managing spray drift and managing the risks of surface temperature inversions when spraying.

The influence of surface temperature inversions on spray operations

In cooling night conditions airborne pesticides can concentrate near the surface and unpredictable winds can move droplets away from the target. Understanding weather conditions can help spray applicators avoid spray drift.

KEY POINTS

1. Where surface temperature inversion conditions exist it is unsafe for spraying due to the potential for spray drift
2. Spray applied at dawn, dusk and during the night is likely to be affected by a surface temperature inversion
3. During surface temperature inversions, air near the ground lacks turbulence. This can lead to airborne pesticides remaining at high concentrations in the air at or near the surface
4. The direction and distance that pesticides can move in the air close to the ground is very hard to predict when surface inversions exist.


WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A HOLIDAY WORTH $10,000.00?

The NSW Farmers ‘Proud Member’ farm gate sign competition is seeing members vying for a $10,000.00 Swagman Tours holiday voucher or for one of two $500.00 runner-up prizes. The signs can be placed in any prominent position on a gate, fence, building or farm vehicle.

“This is an opportunity for members to display their connection to our association by showing off their ‘Proud Member’ signs and be in the draw to win a well deserved holiday,” said NSW Farmers President Derek Schoen.

Competition photos can be uploaded at www.nswfarmers.org.au by clicking on the farm gate sign competition link. The competition runs until 15 July 2016 with winners announced at the NSW Farmers annual conference on July 19-21, 2016.

Please contact Aileen Hogan, Secretary, if you would like a sign for your gate.

IS YOUR NSW FARMERS RENEWAL DUE?

The Merriwa Branch of NSW FARMERS is your local Branch. Renewing your membership is now even easier with the option of renewing online at http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/join-us/how-to-join. A NEW FLAT FEE. $399.00 PLUS GST. There is also a new Membership for small farmers, which is great value only $150.00. If you have any questions call our member service centre on 1300 794 000 or, for further information locally, contact Pat Ryan, President on 0428 485 090, Kim Fenley, Vice President and Aileen Hogan Secretary on 0455 455 760.

Aileen Hogan

NSW Farmers Association

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Spice Grill Merriwa

The Spice Grill Merriwa introduces the legendary Dal Makhani which was served at the Cassilis Australia Day Awards.

Dal Makhani is an important staple especially this year which we are currently celebrating “the Year of the Pulses”. This celebration covers the lentils, beans, peas, and chickpeas.

Dal Makhani is a very popular recipe that is served in many Indian celebrations. Made on lentils, it is full of protein and is often served with butter and cream and goes well with rotis, rice and naan.

To all those who enjoyed The Legendary Dal Makhni (from one of our Menu’s many dishes) on Australia Day and after that in our cafe, we thank you for your support and feedback.

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

Hunter Local Land Services

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR GRAZING PERMITS ON HUNTER TSRS

Farmers are encouraged to apply for Long Term Grazing Permits through Hunter Local Land Services on a range of unallocated Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) in the region.

A small number of TSR’s are still available in the Hunter and are now being offered to interested applicants for the period to December 31, 2018, allowing farmers to increase their livestock or grazing options.

TSR coordinator Jamie Maddocks said Hunter landholders can apply for grazing permits on unallocated reserves throughout the region.

‘We encourage farmers to take advantage of these reserves to run additional livestock, and increase their production capacity or grazing options,’ Mr Maddocks said.

Formerly called Annual Grazing Permits, Long Term Grazing Permits allow landholders to run stock on designated TSRs for a three-year term to benefit both permit holders and achieve sustainable land management on reserves.

Following a successful Expressions of Interest process in late 2015, a number of TSRs remain unallocated.

‘Long term grazing permits allow permit holders to graze livestock and make more strategic land management decisions,’ Mr Maddocks said.

Interested farmers must complete an application form and are required to tender a price they are willing to pay annually for the use of the land over the three-year period. Additional information is also requested regarding land management experience, skills and resources.

‘A buoyant cattle market is likely to generate significant interest in these unallocated reserves and livestock holders are encouraged to apply for a permit,’ Mr Maddocks said.

TSRs are parcels of Crown land reserved under legislation for use by travelling and grazing stock, which can be beneficial for farmers in times of drought, bushfire or flood. They are also used for public recreation, apiary sites and for conservation.

Interested parties are encouraged to apply for Long Term Grazing Permits as soon as possible, with applications to be assessed at the end of each month.

A full list of unallocated TSR’s and the application
Built in 1916 as the CBC Bank located in the heart of Merriwa in the main street on a large corner block, this double brick building was transformed extensively into a 4 Star 6 Room, Motel style accommodation facility four years ago and is currently operating with an occupancy rate of approximately 89% with room to expand. A council DA has been approved for a further six room motel self-contained units with ensuites to be built on the side of the property.

Upstairs has four large bedrooms, with balconies overlooking the township and country side of the Merriwa in the Upper Hunter Valley. The rooms consist of one Queen plus one King Single bed or one Queen plus two King Single beds. All rooms have been tastefully decorated to the highest standards. All rooms are complete with Split Cycle air conditioners, large TV fridge and wardrobes.

All other accessories in the rooms are also of high standard. Located upstairs are also two full bathrooms, two toilets and staff linen room. Downstairs has another large guest room with one queen bed plus one king single bed including all the comforts plus a private guest bathroom. Also located downstairs is another bathroom, plus two toilets, a guest dining room for seating up to 16 persons, sun room, kitchen, laundry, an open plan managers quarters close to reception with own private bathroom, own entry and private courtyard.

The property area in total is 2026.2sqm. There is plenty of room for off street parking, including managers two car lock up garage, large garden shed, both of which already have been approved by Council for a relocation DA for another four units to be built across the back of the property if required. Two Large water tanks with a very large underground storage tank. This is an outstanding property with all the hard work done and has an excellent repeat business clientele. If you’re looking for a new investment or a new lifestyle this is your chance to buy a magnificent property within the Upper Hunter Valley.

New Listing $995 000.00

VIEW AT www.jtsrealty.com.au

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

DIAL 000

Police Hunter Valley LAC  6542 6999
Police Assistance Line  131 444
Crime Stoppers  1800 333 000

When reporting an incident to the Police, always request and record your Incident Reference Number

Fire Brigade (Administration only)  65482005
Hospital  65325000
Rural Fire Service (Administration and Duty Officer)  1800 081 166

SES Emergency Number  132500
Merriwa Rescue Squad  65482538

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

Jillian Ayre

package are available on the Hunter Local Land Services website at: www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au.
Farmers seeking further information can contact Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.
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<td>Hunter Medical Practice</td>
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**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
- **Merriwa Surgery - Dr Emad Jasem:** 6548 2305

Support the Ringer regularly but can’t find your business? Contact Tina on 6548 2119.
Position Vacant - Compliance Officer, Merriwa (full time)
The Role: Council is seeking a highly motivated individual to undertake the above position. The primary role of this position is to provide efficient and effective administration of the compliance and inspection functions of Council in accordance with the provisions of all relevant Acts and Regulations. This position will also be responsible for the prompt and accurate investigation of complaints in relation to compliance matters and includes animal control.

What you will need: All applicants must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office and other software relevant to the position and have a demonstrated understanding of regulatory frameworks. In particular, applicants must have the ability to rapidly acquire knowledge of associated policies, regulations and guidelines related to regulatory enforcement and compliance. The ability to work independently and also within a team and the possession of strong communication skills are essential to the position.

Certificate IV in Animal Control and Regulation, Local Government (Regulatory Services) or Government (Investigations) would be highly regarded.

Salary Range: $988.60 - $1107.20 per 35 hour week, in accordance with Council's salary system. Other conditions are in accordance with the Local Government (State) Award and Council's policies and procedures.

Closing Date: 4pm on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

Enquiries and Further Information: Christine Robinson on 02 6540 1144.

How to Apply: Visit the positions vacant section on Council’s website.

Upper Hunter Shire Council is a smoke free workplace and an EEO employer. Drug and alcohol testing is a condition of employment.

Ringer Deadline!
Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer by 12.00 noon Mondays.
Merriwa IGA
104 Bettington Street, Merriwa
Use your Community Chest to support your local businesses
Ph: 6548 2515

HANCKEL RURAL
Hay for Sale
Barley Stubble Hay
Round and Small Bales available
Ring Darryl on
0429 485 168

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

Craig MacPherson
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Pick up at Sydney depot every Thursday
Ph/Fax: 6548 2563
Mob: 0401 293 448

MERRIWA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT GROUP INC
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Contact: Graham Brown 6547 6048
Ted Finnie 6548 5171
Visit www.merriwa.nsw.au
Clubs and Groups

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
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Phone: 6548 3023

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

Electrical Contractors
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

Custom Made Kitchens
Kitchen – Wardrobes – Vanity Units – Wall Units
Bench tops from timber, Laminated, S/Steel, Caesar Stone or Granite. Doors from Melamine, timber or Polyurethane
Computer 3-D Design
Lic No 26786
NEIL HUNT 6548 2025

Businesses
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 Ringer
Page 25
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 Rugby League Football Club**
President – Andrew Constable
Sr Vice President – Gaynor Blackadder
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
Sr Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben
For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

**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
merriwacampdraft@gmail.com

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

**MERRIWA JUNIOR LEAGUE AND NETBALL CLUB**
President: Andrew Constable
Sr Vice President: Gaynor Blackadder
Jnr Vice President: Cynthia Morgan
Secretary: Elaine Sparrow
Treasurer: John Sparrow

**WISH TO SPONSOR THE MERRIWA RINGER?**
Sponsorship letters will be sent out for Term four in coming weeks, please let us know if you are interested in coming on board.
6548 2119

**MDHA Inc. 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.
Tel/Fax 6548 2653

**RALLY DAYS & DISTRICT LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE**
2015/16 starts Oct 12!
Tots (3 & 4 yrs) to u/17 yrs
Mondays 5.30 to 7.00pm
at Merriwa No. 2 Oval
(throughout Terms 4 & 1)
New Members Welcome
ph: Tash Taaffe 0458 574 015
e: tashholden@bigpond.com

**Merriwa Tennis Association**
President: Robert Smith
6548 2213
Secretary: Emily Hall
Treasurer: Krichelle Khan
Vice President: Hannah Walmisley
Day - Night Competitions
Junior Competitions
Court Hire

**Cassillls Bowling Club**
PH: 6376 1002
Open every day 5pm

**Merriwa Touch Football**
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp
President: Trent Cooper
Sr Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Barbara Eipper
Treasurer: Ainsley Mayben
For more information contact 6548 2124 after hours.

**Merriwa Ringer**
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
Merriwa Sports Club

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 - 6.00pm 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.

SMORGASBORD ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle February 13
Saturday members draw no 412, was not won – next week $190.00

Winners Jackpot won - next week $110.00
Dinner: Des Snelgrove
Bowls Raffle: Rebecca Turner
Bowls Raffle: Max Barwick

Sunday Raffle February 14
Sunday members draw - No 433, was not won. Next week $750.00.

DON’T FORGET

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

GOLF NEWS

Attention Golfers - Save the date of Saturday February 27 and bring along a non golfer for a two person ambrose. Meet at the club at 12 noon for a 12.30pm hit off and enjoy a fun afternoon. All are most welcome.

Kathleen Sumpter

Cassilis Bowling Club

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES

Members Draw, Joker Draw, Meat/vege tray draw, Schooner Draw.

February 5 – Members’ draw – Chantelle Burgess – unclaimed - $70.00 next week.
Joker draw - Bernie Parker - unsuccessful - $850.00 next week.

February 12 – Members’ draw – $70.00 - Jenny Riley – claimed - $50.00 next week.
Joker draw - Craig Garland- unsuccessful - $875.00 next week.

Snack Bar is back on Friday nights from 6.00pm to 8.00pm, with raffles of meat trays, vege and fruit trays and the Joker draw.

Saturdays is half price drinks from 2.00pm to 5.00pm with snacks and a free jukebox session.

A ‘Thank You’ to all Cassilis and Merriwa District and surrounds that joined us for a great Australia Day Ceremony. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, and congratulations to the Nominees and the Awardees.

Kathleen Sumpter

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

The Members Lucky Badge for $750.00 was won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 127, this week commences at $500.00.

The 7.00pm draw for $260.00 was not won the number was 818 this week it jackpots to $280.00.

The Thursday Badge draw for $260.00 was not won the number was 566, this week it jackpots to $280.00 and will be drawn between 6.00-7.00pm. LTPS/15/04749.

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $650.00 was won last week the number was 547, this week it commences at $500.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/15/04749.

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.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE CLUB

FOOTY TIPPING – with the NRL season just around the corner nominations are now being taken for the footy tipping comp, $20.00 entry with a pool of $1000.00 prize money.

NEW HAPPY HOUR – An extra happy hour has been introduced along with the 9.00pm Friday badge draw. This time slot will be drawn between 6.00–7.00pm Fridays.

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

MERRIWA RSL CRICKET CLUB REPORT

Last Saturday Merriwa RSL played Aberdeen 1 at Merriwa going down by 54 runs.

Top scorer for Merriwa – Glen Tommerup with 48, and matched this with bowling figures of 2 for 14 off 6 over’s.

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

Sporting Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball Club

Training and registrations commenced Friday February 12 at 4.30pm. New players will have to submit a birth certificate to be sited 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 Rugby League Football Club

WORKING BEE

When: Sunday February 28
Where: Merriwa Number 1 Oval
Time: 8.00am

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

If you would like to play league tag or rugby league and would like to talk to someone about it, please come along to training on Tuesday nights for men and women, Thursday nights for women and Friday nights for men.

Jessyca Morgan
Merriwa Touch Football Club

On Monday night the last of the meetings was held for this season, with the trophy meeting being the last one, which is a closed meeting for committee only.

At this meeting many small issues were addressed to help the touch season run smoothly but also so that the next season can flow also.

It was also brought up at the committee that I had put the points in incorrectly for the Ladies competition, for this I am sorry. Last week’s points have not been added but as of Round 11 the top four points should have been:

Ladies:
DMC - 15
Furfot - 14
RSL Ladies - 13
Touch-n-go - 6

Please remember that some teams have had one or two byes which means the table can change in an instant.

Points are awarded as:
Win - Two points
Draw - One point
Loss - No points
Bye - No points

As it was decided at the start of the season, no washed out games will be played so the finals will kick off Wednesday March 23 with Team 1 playing Team 2 (Winner going to grand final) at 6.00pm and Team 3 playing Team 4 (looser is out of the competition) at 6.45pm - both men’s and women’s at the same time.

The following week, Wednesday March 30 loser of Team 1 and 2 plays winner of Team 3 and 4 ladies kicking off at 6.00pm and men’s kicking off at 6.45pm. The winners of these games go into the grand final to play against the winner of Team 1 and 2. The grand final will be on Friday April 1 with men’s kicking off at 6.00pm and ladies kicking off at 6.45pm.

After the grand final, a free feed of chicken/lamb and gravy rolls will be on offer with a free drink and chips for the juniors. Juniors will also receive a small gift (to those present, the committee will not chase those who cannot make it).

All seniors will receive a ticket in the draw (tba).

TROPHIES

This year the committee, along with those representing their teams, have voted on a new trophy for this years presentation. This year there will be a Most Improved awarded to both the Mens and Ladies competition.

To do this, we are asking each team leader (or the person that put the team together) to have a think about the player on their team that they feel has improved and put forward five reasons why you think that your player is worthy of the award. This needs to be in by March 2, handed in to the committee on that day. The committee will then be working together with referees over the next two weeks to help find the two players that will take out the award.

Not sure who to choose, ask for advice... You have other team members that you could ask, the referee of the game you have just played or ask the committee to watch a game.

This does not have to be a young player, it can be a new old player, someone who has played for years but has just clicked. And remember, if you don’t want the committee to hound you, have your selection ready for March 2 - on a piece of paper, to had to a committee member only.

So by the time that this article, the mixed competition of AusTag will be over, another get together at the Merriwa Sports Club will be finished and we will be on the home run for the competition with only four rounds to go.

As the season is going on, teams are losing players due to moving, injury or busy and some teams have to forfeit. Please remember to let the other team know if this has to happen. Where possible, give the other team plenty of notice as some teams travel and notice would be appreciated.

NEXT WEEKS ROUND

6.00pm  Touch n go v’s Incredi-bowls
         Bowling Barrels v’s Denman’s Devils
6.45pm  Mwa School Girls v’s Mwa RSL Ladies
         Welderup v’s Cassilis
7.30pm  CC’s v’s Furfot
         Tourist Terriers v’s MWA Tyre Services
8.15pm  Kocinakis v’s ROAR

DMC has the bye and Incredi-bowls are responsible for the table.

Tina Taylor
Community Events
Merriwa Pony Club

The 2016 season kicked off on Sunday with extremely hot and humid conditions. This didn’t seem to deter too many people as we had 22 eager young riders saddle up their ponies for a morning of instruction. This included new riders Lilly and Holly Martin, Olivia and Elanore Curteis and Robert and Nicholas Thorburn, who have transferred over from the Aberdeen Pony Club. Welcome guys and we hope you enjoy our club. We also had Georgia and Charlotte Bennetts from Cassilis Pony Club and Brodie Martin from Hargreaves Pony Club (Mudgee) join us for the day.

The morning kicked off with some troop drill for the older kids and the younger ones, of which we had six on the lead, did some games and sporting event familiarisation and a quick trail ride around the showground. The heat got the better of the six led kids (and their leaders) who headed for the shade just before lunch. The older kids went on to do some practice for the sporting events in preparation of our President’s Cup competition day coming up on Sunday, March 20.

On Saturday afternoon we hosted a practice and qualifying day for the Zone in the lead up to the NSW Combined State Championships which are being hosted at Quirindi in April. These championships include the disciplines of Sporting, Campdraffing, Team Penning, Mounted Games, Team Sporting and Polocrosse. The standard of our Merriwa Pony Club is evident with 15 children qualifying in one or more disciplines. This is truly testament to the undying dedication and hard work of our Senior Instructor, Pauline Lawler and President, Clare Martin to educate our children and their parents. The hours of work behind the scenes must seem somewhat worthwhile when such a small club can achieve this sort of result. Well done ladies and thank you.

Our next Rally Day will be held on Sunday, March 13.

De Patterson
## Community Calendar

### FEBRUARY

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| 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 - Cassillis - 6.00pm |
| Sunday 28 | Merriwa Rugby League Football Club Working Bee - Number 1 Oval - 8.00am |

### MARCH

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| 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 - 10.30am                     |
| Sunday 13 | Merriwa Pony Club Rally Day                                           |
| Monday 14 | Veterans Golf Week                                                    |
| Tuesday 15 | Merriwa CWA Branch meeting - CWA Rooms - 10.00am                     |

**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.*

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