The annual Merriwa Bushman’s Campdraft will be held again this weekend from Friday 22 to Sunday 24. Head down to the Merriwa Show Ground to check out all the action featuring some of New South Wales best horses and riders.

More Inside
* Conveyancing: Rural and Residential
* Leases: Residential and Business
* Family Law
* Wills, Estates and Probate
* Power of Attorney & Appointment of Guardian
* Mining and Gas matters, representing land holders, access agreements.

9 Ogilvie Street, Denman NSW
www.denmanlegal.com.au
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

On Friday night I had the pleasure to attend the Hunter Central Coast Star Struck performance in Newcastle. Sixteen of our students joined over 3,000 dancers and 500 singers from 129 public schools from across the region. The wonderful performances from some very talented students and dedicated teachers made the night an amazing experience. Star Struck is a fabulous opportunity for our students to participate in a production on such a grand scale. It is only possible due to the commitment of our enthusiastic teaching staff Lana Grant and Rebecca Hopkins. Thank you to the parents and broader Merriwa community who supported a range of fundraising activities to ensure our students took part in this event.

Blue Butterfly Debutante Ball
Our P&C will host the Blue Butterfly Debutante Ball this weekend for seven of our girls and their suitably handsome partners. The Debutantes will be presented to Mayor Watts in what should be a very exciting evening for our students and their families.

Industrial Action
You may have seen the NSW Teachers Federation television ads about the Departments Local Schools Local Decisions initiative. Teachers have been directed by the Federation to take industrial action for 24 hours next Wednesday 27 June. Advice will be sent home to parents in regard to the operational status of the school.

Semester Reports
Over the past few weeks teaching staff have been preparing semester reports which will be distributed on the last day of term. Reports provide valuable information to parents about their child’s progress. Please take the time to discuss the report with your child, to highlight the areas they are progressing in, and areas they can improve on. Parent teacher interviews will be held in Term 3, Week2.

Out of Uniform Day
An out of uniform day will be held on the last day of term as a fundraiser for the Student Representative Council. Students are encouraged to make a gold coin donation to support the SRC. A reminder that no inappropriate logos are to be worn, and footwear must meet OH&S requirements.

Violin Recital
Congratulations to Molly and Ruby Wong who competed for the first time in the Strings section of the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod held at St Joseph’s Aberdeen on the weekend. After a full day of waiting and competing, Ruby and Molly Wong won three 1st place trophies, 1 Second place, 2 Third places and a Highly Commended award for their violin playing. Well done, girls!

Darren Noonan
Principal

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MERRIWA RINGER Thursday 21 June Page 3
Recently, in 1/2 the students wrote an innovation on the Nursery Rhyme, Humpty Dumpty. They also illustrated their rhyme using the SMART Notebook program and the interactive whiteboard. These rhymes, along with their illustrations were compiled in a Powerpoint presentation that was shown on assembly. Some of them made the audience laugh, 1/2 hopes they make you laugh too!

Matthew Large, Teianna Taylor, Montana Cronin, Britany Louis and Jye Byfield with their great books which they will enjoy as a reward for their great work in Literacy this week.

Bronze certificate winners: Montana Cronis, Teianna Taylor, Jack Fairhall, Helena Renshaw, Liana Byfield, Tarah Cox and Emily Large.

Handwriting and great sentences were amongst the great work displayed by our infants students at the 1/2 assembly this week. Monique Louis-McCabe, Jack Goodear, Jye Kelly, Savannah Marshall, Jyeson Pike and Jye Byfield proudly display their work.
Alana Smith, Jack McAllister, Britany Louis, Alicia Clydsdale, Jamie Constable, Emily large, Tarah Cox, Mekayla Towell and Helena Renshaw with the great posters and brochures, spelling activities and 2D maths work for which they received awards at this week’s assembly.

This week:
4/5 Assembly this Friday 22 June. All are welcome to attend!

Rebecca West

A NEW EXPERIEICNE
FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES

It was an exciting weekend for everyone involved in the Festival of the Fleeces! The morning started off cold and foggy but as the sun came out so did the fun. As it was my first festival I was very excited to see all the stalls and activities. The old motorbikes and cars looked great all lined up together and all the children were laughing and having fun. The petting zoo was popular and there were a lot of people interested in the reptile show. I enjoyed seeing the Merriwa students dressed up and collecting donations with their woolly friends.

My favourite part of the day was marching in the parade along with the Merriwa Central School Students. As we assembled at the beginning of the parade I had the best spot to watch how the sheep are prepared for their run. I finally got to lay my eyes on the famous sheep that wear red socks!

The sheep went off in a flash and it was time for us to begin the march. Mr Johnston walked proudly with the ROAR boys behind the banner and we received waves and cheers and we passed by.

It was fun seeing all the different clubs and groups that participated in the festival. We hope you enjoy viewing our creative display in the Butcher shop window which was made in line with the theme for the festival ‘The Year of the Farmer’.
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
SECONDARY NEWS

STAR STRUCK 2012!

Last week sixteen of our best dancers from Years 7-10 went to Newcastle to perform in Star Struck 2012 ‘The Time Machine’. The girls had packed all of the essentials (mostly makeup, hair straighteners and chocolate) to take along for our three night trip, staying at the Broadmeadow Basketball Stadium Lodge.

We’d also like to thank all of the parents and helpers who assisted with costumes, fundraising events and transport. Without your support we wouldn’t have made it, so thank you!

Rebecca Hopkins and Lana Grant

patiently for their act to be called, we watched the incredible singers, dancers, actors and musicians practicing their parts in the performance. The concept for this year was the Time Machine, and there were amazing costumes ranging from cowboys and medieval knights to aliens and futuristic robots.

Merriwa Central was a part of the Xian Xian act, dressed as Terracotta Warriors ready for battle. All of their hard work and time spent practicing finally paid off as the girls performed brilliantly in all four shows.

Mrs Grant and I would like to commend the girls on their excellent behaviour throughout the excursion. They represented our school well at all times, but especially when with students from other schools. Our girls were friendly and helpful and teachers from the other schools commented on their good behaviour. Well done girls!
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Name: Chloe Ponsford
Year Group: 7
Favourite Subject: Science/English
Favourite pastime: Drawing
Dream Career: Midwife
Best school experience: Peer Support Camp
Best personal achievement: Winning multiple prizes at the show
Advice on how to get along: Never give up

ROAR Athlete Profile

Name: Chad Grant
Year Group: Staff
Favourite Subject: Maths
Favourite sport: Curling
Favourite team: Canucks
Favourite player: Me
Best personal sporting achievement: 5th in local darts competition
Who inspires you: Abraham Lincoln
Advice to young players: Strive to be the best on the field each game.

Why is ROAR valuable?: Instils respect in young men, setting them up for success in every future endeavour.

Vice-Captains Comments:
Mr Grant assisted us in the setting up of the Petting Zoo at the Festival of the Fleeces. He is responsible for the construction of our training sessions and is a great motivator.
WHAT DOES ROAR STAND FOR?

Last week I was stopped by a member of our community outside of the Post Office. We had a short chat about ROAR and I was asked "What does ROAR stand for? I know it starts with Respect but can you please put something in the Ringer to explain it to the community?" As a result I would like to take this opportunity to explain the ROAR philosophy.

R.O.A.R. is about working hard, physically and mentally. I firmly believe that effort, approach and attitude lead to success in life and that is what we want for these boys.

Adam Johnston
Deputy Principal

CAREER NEWS

HSC Preparation Workshops HSC in the Holidays provides support and assistance to Year 12 students. Programs on the campuses of university partners across Sydney and Wollongong.

Tocal Open Days - Friday 6 & 13 July and 28 September & 5th October, 2012 - Tocal College (C B Alexander Campus) provides practical vocational agricultural training and is recognised as one of Australia's leading agricultural training organisations. Three full-time courses (Cert III in Agriculture, Cert III in Horse Husbandry and Cert IV in Agriculture) and traineeships (Dairy and Rural) are offered at Tocal. Situated in the lower Hunter Valley, near Maitland, the 2200 ha property provides a learning environment for students wanting to pursue a career in agriculture. Commencing 10 am with a morning tea, followed by a talk on courses and employment opportunities, inspection of college facilities, lunch, and a tour of the farm. Tocal's site, http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au, contains information on courses, fees, scholarships etc. For more information, contact Bill Kinsey (D e p u t y P r i n c i p a l ) a t william.kinsey@dpi.nsw.gov.au, or Travers Powell at travers.powell@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Apprenticeships for 2013

Ampcontrol Apprentice and Trainee Program applications open 1 June and close 1 July 2012 for electrical, electronics, fabrication and mechanical apprentices plus trainee electrical engineering technicians. Visit: http://www.ampcontrolgroup.com/Supplementary-Nav

University Open Days
- AIE Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne: Open Days Sunday 19 August, Saturday 17 November www.aie.edu.au
- JMC Academy Course Information Day. 18 August. 10.30 - 2.00pm www.jmc.edu.au
- William Blue College of Hospitality Management Open Day. Saturday 18 August, 10am - 2pm www.williamblue.edu.au

If you have any career questions please contact me at Merriwa Central School.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor
With only two weeks remaining of term 2, all students have been very busy with their learning!

Student of the Week

Sarah has earned the Student of the Week award as she continues to impress with her effort and achievement in all areas of school. She has made excellent improvements, due to her hard work and willingness to give anything a go and try her best! Sarah has a fantastic smile that is contagious and treats everyone at school, whether it is students, staff, parents or visitors with respect. She greatly adds to the happy and friendly environment of our beautiful, little school. Congratulations Sarah. You should be very proud of all your achievements.

Be Respectful, Be Safe, Do Your Bests...steering you to success. This week’s ‘Caught You Being Respectful/Being Safe/Doing Your Best’ certificate recipients include: Tarnisha (7), Taine (10), Steph (9), Corey (6), Thomas (8), Sarah (10), Summer (6), Brady (10), Bonny (12), Angus M (10), Maddie (4), James (11), Priya (11), Jack N (15), Jack S.C (10), Rachel (10), Angus H (9), Isabelle (2), Alfie (1). Well done!

Zone Athletics
Students have been busy practising for the upcoming carnival on Friday 3 August. Permission notes will be sent home this week. Many thanks to Channy Burgess who came along to AAS last week to teach some touch skills to the students. Our first game is against Jerrys Plains and should be played within the first couple of weeks of Term 3.

School Car Park
For the safety of all students, especially in K-2, all children need to be collected from outside the office at 3pm and not asked to walk up to meet the cars in the car park by themselves. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
AAS
Thanks to Mrs A Nairne for providing afternoon tea last week during our rotations of touch skills, high jump, shot put and discus. This week, Mrs Nash is coaching with Mrs T Nairne providing afternoon tea. Reminder: please bring in your receipts to claim the money back ($25) for the food brought.

Guitar Teacher or Athletics Teacher
The school is asking if anyone has particular skills in either guitar or athletics (shot put, discus, long jump or any other area) to please come along and help our children. We would love to provide more opportunities for learning, especially from members of the community.

Book Covering Morning
Next Wednesday, we hope to get some new library books covered in clear contact. Morning tea will be provided. If you’re available to assist at any other time please feel free! It would be great to get all the new books ready to be borrowed and read by the end of term.

Science and Engineering Workshop
Taine, Tarnisha and Steph will be working with students from Sandy Hollow and Denman this Thursday at Muswellbrook during the workshop. You will read all about their investigations in the next newsletter!

Drama Workshop
In the last two school days of this term, Cameron Elkin will be returning to Cassilis to provide some great tips and activities to develop the students’ drama skills, particularly public speaking and acting. In the second half of Term 3, the school will be hosting a performance night and showcasing a great play which will include dancing and singing.

Thulli Aboriginal Dance Group
The school was given a donation by the Upper Hunter Shire Council to use for a cultural activity. This Friday, the Thulli Aboriginal Dance Group will return to Cassilis for a day filled with learning about artefacts, painting and dancing. It’s shaping up to be a great event!

Have a great week.

Katie Bell
Principal
Kindergarten are always very busy at school. We would like you to know about some of the things we do in Kindergarten. We have included some thoughts from the children about what we do.

Religion – Kindergarten have learnt all about the Creation Story this term. They have also read lots of Bible stories.
- “My favourite one is when the whale swallowed Jonah.” By Alyssa.
- “My favourite story is about Jesus. He looks after the kids.” By Tahlia.
- “My favourite is when Joseph had a dream. We got to watch a movie of this one.” By Scarlett.
- “God created the world in six days and he was very tired so he had a sleep on the next day.” By Mia.

English – Kindergarten are always very busy and we love having parents coming in to our classroom for our Literacy block each morning. It is amazing to watch the skill level of children in Kindergarten developing on the computer and smartboard!! It improves so quickly.
- “We write stories in our books. We always write a story about what we did on the weekend.” By Audrey
- “My favourite thing is working the smartboard and reading stories on the smartboard in our reading groups.” By Alyssa
- “Sometimes we help our friends when they are trying to write hard words.” By Reba
- “I like writing stories in my book.” By Mia.
- “Today we read Tucker’s Mob and it was about a cat that came to school. We saw a cat coming to school when we were walking in to the classroom.” By Darcy.
- “We help our friends to sound out words so that we can try to spell them.” By Scarlett.
- “We practise our sounds and do all our actions to help us remember them.” By Tahlia.
- “We got to play a fun game of ring-o’-ring-o’-roses to make letters last week. We got to spin around and when we fell down we made letters with our bodies.” By Helena.

Maths – Kindergarten have been practising their counting and lots of other maths skills lately. This week we have been racing around to learn ordinal numbers – did you know that the number is followed by the last 2 letters of the word to give its abbreviation – for example, first = 1st. The week before we learnt all about money and now Kindergarten are very good at recognising all the coins and notes we use. Kindergarten have also learnt about making graphs.
- “I can count all the way past 100.” By Clayton.
- “When a person wins a race they come first and the next person comes second.” By Bobby.
- “We used plastic money to buy things in our classroom.” By Riley.

Human Society and its Environment - Our classroom has a beautiful display of everyone’s family. We have been talking about how each family is different because some people only
have girls and some only have boys and others have both boys and girls in their family. We talked about the jobs that people have in their family.

- “My job at our house is to clean my room, make my bed and put my pillowcase on.” By Helena.
- “My jobs are to clean my room and sometimes to wash up.” By Mikayla.
- “I have to feed my horse, the chooks and the dogs.” By Roy.

Science and Technology – This term Kindergarten have been learning about toys and how things move. We have played with lots of toys and also have been trying to see if we can move the same ways that toys do.

- “I played with a flute and it works when you blow in it. I pretended to play it” By Scarlett.
- “I played with a tricycle and it moved when you pedalled it”. By Tahlia.
- “I played with the jumping, bouncing zebra. I didn’t go on it because I was too big and might have broken it if I went on it.” By Alyssa.

Sport – Kindergarten have been busy practising their Athletics skills when we were getting ready for our carnival. Our carnival also included a Crazy Hair Day – so we hope you enjoy our pictures! After the carnival they started to practise their fundamental movement skills.

“We have been doing a walking race and also been practising catching the ball.” By Riley.
“We have been practising sprint running and I am very fast.” By Bobby.
“I can balance outside in the playground on the equipment.” By Alyssa.
“We put beanbags on our heads when we are balancing.” By Darcy.
“We ran around the showground (at the Cross Country)”. By Mikayla.

We hope that you have enjoyed hearing about what Kindergarten have been doing in the classroom. We love having visitors and we would love to see you if you would like to come and help!
Upper Hunter Regional Athletics Carnival

Last Thursday, 27 children from our school travelled to Scone to compete in our Regional Athletics Carnival. All children displayed outstanding sportsmanship on the day and competed in all of their events to the best of their ability. Thank you very much to all of our wonderful parents who helped us out by transporting our children for the day. Without your generous support, days like this would not be possible. Congratulations to Tamasyn McNaught who has made it to the next level. She will compete at our Diocesan Carnival to be held in Glendale next term in the Junior Girl’s Shot Put and Long Jump. Congratulations also to Damian Jamieson, Clancy Martin, Darcy Moore and Clancy Moore who will compete in the Junior Boy’s 4 x100 relay. We wish them the very best.

In regard to our school Athletics Carnival in June an error was made in two of the Champion age groups. Our 6 years boy champion was Axul Hourn and our 11 years boys champion was Oliver Towell. I apologise to the boys who were originally published as the champions.

Congratulations to the following award winners:

K
- Darcy Taaffe- for being a sensible class member
- Helena Parker- for always doing her best

1/2
- Damian Jamieson – for his fantastic effort at the Upper Hunter Athletics Carnival.
- Charles Brazier – for his fantastic effort at the Upper Hunter Athletics Carnival.
- Olivia Gill – for her friendly and positive attitude to all class members.

3/4
- Darcy Moore - for being a responsible leader in our class
- Nicole Martin - for her dedication and effort in completing her work

5/6
- Paige Caldecoat – A fabulous effort in writing Newcastle Herald articles
- Hannah Riley – A fabulous effort in writing Newcastle Herald articles
- Cameron Ninness - A fabulous effort in writing Newcastle Herald articles

Principal Awards –
- Clancy Moore - for a wonderful effort in the Regional carnival in Junior boys Relay.
- Clancy Martin - for a wonderful effort in the Regional carnival in Junior boys Relay.
- Darcy Moore - for a wonderful effort in the Regional carnival in Junior boys Relay.
- Damian Jamieson - for a wonderful effort in the Regional carnival in Junior boys Relay.
- Tamasyn McNaught - for brilliant shot put and long jump results at the Regional carnival.

Helen Whale
Principal
What a happy walk in the sunshine, crunching the Autumn leaves under foot, as we made our way to the local library. On our way there were plenty of opportunities to practice our road safety and I'm pleased to report that everybody was very responsible. Of course our popular, coloured holding rings never fail to encourage a social, safe and fun trip.

Once at the library, we were greeted by Mark who informed us about how to use a library and borrow books, it was great to see the children excited to choose a story from the vast selection and settle down together to enjoy a story.

Annie arrived to read us the story of the Cranky Bear, we were so lucky to have the added experience of Annie reading to us and informing us all about fire safety. She was all dressed up in her fire fighting gear which was really impressive, and encouraged a lot of questioning from the children.

Shortly after the story, Mark offered us some craft materials and suggested the children might enjoy some time at the Library tables making some coloured glasses.

With all hands on deck, we got busy cutting cellophane and pasting coloured squares to the handles and rims of the glasses, the results were really original and the children loved having a keep sake of the day.

A favourite of the older children is the song, "Here Are Grandma's Glasses." It never fails to result in copious amounts of loud and long laughter from the entire group.

Time now for a stroll back to school in the sunshine. On our arrival back, the children continued to enjoy the sun with a lovely picnic morning tea, followed by a long play in the shaded playground. What a lovely day.

Leah Folpp
We only have one week left until Grace departs for England. We enjoy yoga and will miss it while Grace is away, however we are looking to replace Thursday afternoons with Zumba.

I have officially got the program for the vacation time completed and it should be being distributed this week with the ringer.

Vacation care is only 2 weeks away, anyone is welcome to attend on any particular day, new enrolments are always encouraged and accepted so please don’t be shy! It costs $32 (not including centrelink discounts) and regardless of the activities occurring and children are still provided afternoon tea, plus craft and many other items to take home.

We have a range of activities happening in the holidays, unfortunately we were unable to get a bus booked so we are not doing any out of town excursions, but we are doing plenty of local activities and a major one to take note of it out Street Stall. We will be out the front of the IGA selling craft goods and cooking on Friday 13th July from 10:30am – 1pm!!!

A huge thank you to all the helpers on behalf of MAC children and staff for their hard work, cooking and donations at the Festival of the Fleeces double decker bus. We really appreciate it!

To end the term we say farewell to Ebony and Jill as permanent staff at MAC and welcome Ciara. It is sad for both myself and the children to not have Jill and Ebony around, however; I assure Ciara will bring lots of fun and excitement to MAC and the community.

Below are some snap shots from the term!

I think MAC is awesome and Lucy. Lucy is also awesome too by Alana Smith

Activity centre CRN (after school care) is 555 014 702K. Vacation care CRN 555 014 708J. Contact Centrelink to find out about your child care benefit (CCB) or contact MAC for more info.

New enrolments always welcome. Phone us today children can be booked in casual or permanent on 6548 2082

Lucy Naef with Ciara & kids
Reflection: Have you often wondered when you open the drawer in a motel room who puts the Gideon bible there? Come along and listen to their stories of how having their bible in a particular place has helped various folk in their hour of need. Next Sunday 24 June 9am

A Deb Ball: For any other girls the last date to put your names down with Joan Morgan on 6548 2036, for the Anglican Deb Ball is 31 August.

Confirmation: Welcome to all Confirmation candidates. Confirmation will be held on the 22 July 2012 at 10.00am. Classes have started so anyone wanting to make their confirmation this year should phone Rev’d Mandy ASAP. 0429 996 769. Prayers of preparation for our candidates, Alexandra Cottle, Hunter Hood, Paige McConnell & Jodie Mulholland. Are offered.

Calendar of Events.
Men’s Breakfast Saturday 30 June 7.30am.

1 July - for your formal farewell to Rev’d Ross Craven at the RSL after 9am church. All welcome.

Church Services.
• Friday 22 June: 10am Eucharist Holy Trinity with discussion & sharing.
• Gummun Place: 11am Extended Eucharist.
• 24 June: 9am Eucharist Holy Trinity, with visitors from the Gideon society.

Answers to the 3 questions you had to ponder:–
1. How many Corgis has the Queen had since her 18th birthday present of “Susan” in 1944? A. 30 or more.
2. The Queen is a breeder of thoroughbred horses. What are her racing colours? A. Purple body, with gold braid, scarlet sleeves and black cap with gold fringe.

We had a lovely service last week celebrating The Queen’s 60 years on the throne and even sang The Royal Anthem, after our show and tell of memorabilia.

Now how rare was that? To sing the anthem “God Save the Queen”.

Rosalie Drew
CONSIDER YOURSELF THE BEST SHOT IN MERRIWA?

Well now is the time to prove it! If you attend the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces for 2012, we want your photo! Bring your photo—electronically, to Merriwa Resource Centre, or email it to ttaylor@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au, where we will put it up for judging. Please name your photo—eg. Fof 2012 Joe Blog. This will allow us to recognize the winner of the photo once chosen (name will not be displayed prior to judging). There will be 3 prizes up for grabs!

First Prize, Second Prize and Peoples Choice award. Limit of 5 entries per person. These photos will be kept on file for future use for the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces, so please ensure you have the permission of those in the photo (with the exception of street shots). Photos are to be in by 20 July.

Keep an eye out for the details on how to vote for people’s choice! More information, please call Merriwa Resource Centre on 6521 7046.

Festival Float and Window Awards

Apologies must be said for not announcing these sooner but the suspense adds to the coming announcement!

- Best Dressed Window—Di’s Clothing Patch
- Runner Up—C Martin’s Accounting & Integratedliving
- Peoples Choice—Integratedliving
- Best Float—Merriwa Activity Centre and Preschool
- Runner Up—Merriwa Junior Rugby League and Netball

A special mention goes to all the schools and the horse sports organisations such as Team Penning and Pony Club.

Tina Taylor

FIND OUT HOW TO SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRICITY BILLS

The Scone Neighbourhood Centre is inviting interested people along to the Neighbourhood Centre on Thursday, June 28 to learn more about the NSW Government’s Home Power Savings Program.

A representative from the Office of Heritage and Environment will be available from 10:30am to explain how the program works, and to sign eligible people up for a home visit.

The program, which is available to eligible low income households, is aimed at offering a free service to people which can lead to power savings of up to 20%. The service includes a free home visit by a trained energy expert, installation of a kit which can reduce your power consumption and a free, tailor made Action Plan listing ways in which households can save more money.

People who may be eligible include those who own their own home or are paying rent or live in Social Housing, and hold one of the following cards: Centrelink, Pensioner Concession Card, Centrelink Low Income Healthcare Card, Department of Veteran Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, Department of Veteran Affairs Gold Repatriation Card, Department of Veteran Affairs White Repatriation Card, or are an Energy Hardship Customer.

Lee Watts, Manager of the Scone Neighbourhood Centre said, “With the ever increasing cost of electricity, information about how to make savings is always welcome, especially for those who are least able to afford the increases”.

Anyone who would like to know more about the program is welcome to attend, but in particular, those who might be eligible for the program are urged to come along and sign up.”

Bernie Riscke
Scone Neighbourhood Centre
THE HARPER OF THE NORTH

Continued from Issue 18

“Yes well, this weekend they have a full two days in Tamworth with Am Drams.” “Am Drams, oh yeah right.” He said not really having a clue as to what Sally was talking about.

“The girls will tell you later.”

“What about Alex, don’t tell me he’s not going to be home this weekend either?”

“Fraid not, he’s spending the weekend at Mathew’s place,” Sally replied.

“Getting the van ready for their trip,” he said, looking at Sally, knowing that she was dead set against the idea of Alex going away on the trip that he and Mathew had planned, especially in an old van. “They may not even get the van on the road. It’s old, that’s why they got it so cheap,” he said.

“I know and that’s the part that worries me, the thought of it breaking down in some desolate place.”

“Any way,” he said changing the subject, he could see the more they talked about Alex’s trip the unhappier it made her. “You’re not going to believe it, but I got paid today.”

“You’re joking,” she said, a surprised look on her face, “what happened, they win lotto or something?”

“Yeah that’s what I thought.” He said.

“Anything I can do to help before I go and clean up?” he asked, leaning on the kitchen bench.

“You’ve got time for a shower if you want, dinner won’t be ready for about half an hour or so.”

“Why, do I smell a bit wiffy?” He asked lifting his arm, taking a sniff. “No, don’t smell too bad, thought I might save the shower till later, just before we go to bed.” He said moving his eyebrows up and down.

Sally flicked the tea towel she was holding at him.

“Oh your way,” She said pointing her finger in the direction of the bathroom. “At least go wash you face and hands,” she ordered “and can you tell the girls I need them in the kitchen please, by that time the roast should be ready to carve.”

“Yes ma’am, on my way.” He said giving her a mock salute, and then headed for the bathroom via the girls in the lounge room.

“Hey Sarah, Molly, how’s the homework going?”

“Hi Dad,” answered Sarah “nearly finished.”

Molly had her head down writing madly. “There, finished. Hi Dad,” said Molly, looking pleased with herself.

“Oh good, cause your mum needs you in the kitchen.”

“Okay shan’t be long,” said Sarah

In the kitchen, Sarah and Molly were busy laying the table, Sally at the stove, was trying to lift the roast out.

“Here, let me get that for you.” He said grabbing a couple of tea towels.

“You’ll need more than that,” she said, handing him the oven gloves.

As he carved the roast Rick helped himself to a couple of tasty bits.

“Ready.” He called after he finished carving.

An extract from the short story “The Harpers of the North” by local author Tom Rogers. Tom would love to hear your thoughts on his first creative writing efforts. Please email any comments to the Ringer.

Tom Rogers

REMINDER

The deadline for articles and advertisements for the Merriwa Ringer is

Monday 12.00noon
BECOME A VOLUNTEER

A life-threatening or terminal illness does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone ...any age... a child, a daughter, a son, a mother, a father, a grandparent, your next-door neighbour - anyone!

By becoming a volunteer with Muswellbrook Carelink Incorporated you can help make a cancer or palliative care patient lead a more dignified and comfortable life by providing any of these:

- companionship
- respite
- transport to medical appointments
- medical equipment to use in their own home

Discover how easy it is for you to help provide a better quality of life for cancer or palliative care patients, their carers and families. New volunteers are needed in the Upper Hunter area, from Merriwa to Muswellbrook to Murrurundi. Don't miss out on gaining new skills to be a palliative care volunteer! Come along to our free Education Program 21 & 22 July 2012.

For bookings and more information phone or email our Coordinator Stacey Cameron on muswell.carelink@bigpond.com or 6542 2041 during office hours: Mon to Wed, 9am to 2:30pm.

Stacey Cameron

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MERRIWA HARDWARE

Welcome back loyal readers for a quick bit of dribble.

The "Toolfest" dogalogue is proving to be quite popular, with not only our local Merriwa customers, but also a growing customer base from both Denman and Scone. So with that in mind, don't wait until next week to pick up that item on special because it may have gone out of town.

So, with winter now upon us, don't you feel the need for a nice warming casserole? We have a few slow cookers in stock that will solve this problem for you. Sunbeam and Kambrook slow cookers in sizes 3.5L, 4.5L and 5.5L. are all in store ready and waiting.

We recently received into stock some chimney flue brushes. Come in and check them out. If your fireplace throws out a fair bit of smoke when you open the door, chances are that your flue is blocked to some degree not allowing the smoke to draw up the flue properly.

Did you know? The ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.

Ray McConnell

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Di's Clothing Patch

Clothing & Footwear for all the family
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Quality Clothing Friendly Service Affordable Prices

Merriwa
Phone 6548 3023

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NSW Farmers
Merriwa Branch/
Merriwa District Council
President: Chris Kemp
Ph: 6348 5130
Fax: 6548 5065
Secretary/Treasurer: Alice Hogan
Ph: 0427 046 483
Vice President: Pat Ryan
New members welcome

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Merriwa Movie Maria

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TRUCK AVAILABLE

2 x 1 24' stock crate
22' tipping tray
and trailer for grain/super.

Phone Andy 6548 2646
0428 485 199
FREE INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP ON PASTURE CROPPING

In November last year, the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) successfully obtained funding through the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country Initiative to undertake a project called Investigating Pasture Cropping at Merriwa and Moonan Flat.

Pasture cropping is a technique of direct drilling winter cereal crops into an existing perennial pasture base to utilise the difference in growth patterns and to provide additional winter and spring forage for grazing.

The aim of the project, to be conducted over a two year period, is to trial and investigate how pasture cropping could be adapted to the different farming systems of the Merriwa and Moonan Flat areas.

The benefits of pasture cropping may include:

- Maintenance of year round groundcover thereby minimising erosion.
- Improvements to soil health, soil structure and nutrient management.
- Improvements in pasture diversity and perennial plant numbers.
- Increased water use efficiency which can also reduce dry land salinity.

To improve overall understanding of the pasture cropping concept, the CMA in conjunction with the Advanced Pasture Cropping Company, will be conducting a 2 day workshop, Introduction to Pasture Cropping and No Kill Cropping, in the Upper Hunter. This workshop will be hosted by Colin Seis, pioneer of the pasture cropping technique, on the Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 June 2012, commencing at 9am.

Places are limited so to reserve your seat or for further information please contact CMA Officer Adam Bush, on 02 6542 4436 or 0467 719 698.

Jane Dickinson

TRINITY MARKETS NEWS
THANKYOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Once again, a big thank you goes to all our volunteers who spend their time and effort helping the community by manning the counter at Trinity Markets.

We would like to thank particularly those dedicated workers who turned out to support us on Saturday at the Festival of the Fleeces. Well done all.

And thanks also to those generous people who take time to parcel up their donations and bring them in to the shop. Clean saleable items go straight onto the shelves or the racks, and give customers a wider choice when making their decisions.

At the moment Trinity Markets has ladies jackets, coats, jumpers and cardigans on offer at ridiculously low prices. Men’s jeans and trousers (new), plus work shirts, jumpers and a good range of larger sizes in casual shirts are also in stock waiting for the right customer.

Although we are not able to stock the following items we can recommend them - and they’re free to good homes. Please phone the owners for more details:

- A freshly-upholstered three-seater couch (phone 6548 2489)
- A king single bed with good quality mattress (phone 6548 2948)
- A four-wheeled walking frame (phone 6548 2230)

That’s all for now,

"Dress for Less” at Trinity Markets

Enid Holt for The Volunteers
HELLO FRIENDS OF IGA

The week has once again flown by, and its time to start the weekly routines again, so its time for another IGA weekly wrap.

This week in the liquor there are specials to take advantage of, with many of your favourites at prices you like. The specials this week are as follows:

- **Bargain Beer has returned, at Un-Beer-Lievably low prices!** Tooheys Extra Dry, Carlton Draught, Melbourne Bitter and XXXX Summer Bright Lager 24 packs, for a great price of $38.99 each.
  - 2 for $60 Multi Buy on selected 700ml spirits, including, Eriskay Blended Scotch Whiskey, Bear Grass Creek Bourbon, Imperial Court Vodka and Dewar’s White Label Whiskey.
  - 2 For $75 Multi Buy on 700ml Spirits, including, Bundy Rum, Smirnoff, Bulleit Bourbon and Jim Beam Black Triple Aged.
  - 2 for $22 Multi Buy on selected 750ml wines, including Windy Park Chardonnay, Wyndham Estate Bin 555 Shiraz, Rosemount Estate Chardonnay.
  - 2 for $25 Multi Buy on selected 750ml wines, including Brancott Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Brown Brothers Dolcetto & Syrah and Jacob’s Creek Reserve.
  - 2 for $64 Multi Buy on Bundaberg Rum and Jonnie Walker Red Label 10 packs.
  - XXXX Gold and Carlton Mid 24 packs, $34.99 each.

So we hope to see you this week, enjoy the bargains to be had.

The Weekly Grocery Specials Catalogue starting Monday June 18 and continuing until Sunday June 24 is in store now and there are savings of up to 55% off, so it’s definitely a good idea to take advantage of the specials this week.

The Fresh Food specials are something to have a look at, some prices are so low they’ll be walking out the door. The specials this week are as follows so take notes:

- Beef Topside Roast, $7.99 per kg.
- Beef T-Bone Steak, $15.99 per kg
- Lamb Loin Chops, $15.99 per kg.
- Family Chef Boned and Netted Pork Shoulder Roast, $9.49 per kg.
- Steggles Chicken Wings 2kg Bulk Buy, $4.99 each.
- Primo Honey Leg Ham, $13.99 per kg.
- Steggles Chicken Breast Premium, $14.99 per kg.
- Don Middle Bacon Rind Off, $7.99 per kg.
- Pre Packed Brushed Potatoes 4kg, $3.99
Our next dinner for VIEW will be held at the Royal Hotel on 28 June, 2012, 7pm for 7.30 dinner. All members are invited to attend and apologies/attendance to be in to Elaine on Monday night. Don’t forget membership fees are now overdue ($10). The raffle this month will be donated by Kay Taylor and the Lucky Door prize by Maria Abra.

Merriwa VIEW extends an invitation to anyone in our community who would like to come and join us. VIEW meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at various locations shared within Merriwa. The cost of the dinner is $25 which covers your meal, housekeeping costs and a donation to the Smith Family. VIEW is a valued partner to The Smith Family. All monies raised goes exclusively to the Smith Family helping disadvantaged children throughout Australia.

Elaine Sparrow - Secretary

Classes – Thursday;
Kids @ 5.00-6.00pm
Adults @ 6.30 – 8pm

Venue – Merriwa Anglican Church Hall
(opposite youth centre)

Clothing –
Gi or shirt/shorts

Contact – Aaron on 0413 925 930

**All people welcome regardless of age, fitness level, etc**
Change of owner details- For anyone that is buying or selling microchipped pups/dogs. The form needs to be completed by both the breeder & new owner/s (which we supply when we microchip your pups/dogs). When completed by both owners it is the responsibility of the breeder to take the yellow copy to their local council so that the animal is then transferred into the new owners name.

This takes liability off the breeder. Should the animal be lost or injured, the microchip number will be confirmed & the current owner can be contacted.

We have another “What’s in the jar” – so come into the office & let us know what you think it is & you will go into the running to win a $20.00 gift voucher to spend with the clinic. Entries close Friday 13 July 2012. Sorry about that date!!!!!

Claim the Month! At this stage we are looking to run another "Puppy Pre-School" in October for 3 sessions on Wednesday nights. The essential requirements for your pup/dog to attend is that they have had at least two C3 vaccinations & are under 12 months of age.

Should you be interested in attending please contact us at the office so we can get all contact details to advise closer to the date.

We try our hardest to keep up to date with our vaccination reminders, however, should you feel that we may have missed your dog/cat please give us a call & we can double check and hopefully get your animal back on track with the prevention! Not only is prevention better than cure, but we can pick up any health problems early & help attend to them before they become an even greater issue!

Cold, miserable winter weather has now set in so too take a little extra time to ensure your beloved animals are warm with their rugs on and beds with blankets to help them fight off the cold especially if they are older animals.

Due to NSW Racing commitments Anthea will be away from the office on Monday 25 June & 16 July 2012 however Julie & Megan will be in for any grooming & general enquiries.

Until next week, keep up the good work girls.

Anthea Wright with Julie, Megan & our wonderful offsiders
Entries Close 12 Noon on Monday 24 June

This month the theme is: Bridges

The winning photo this month will receive a Prize donated by Peel Valley Machinery.

The competition is open to amateur photographers of all ages. The winning photo will be published in the Ringer on 28 June and will receive a prize donated by our sponsor. All entries will be displayed at Merriwa Pharmacy after the winner is announced.

Each month will be a new competition with a new theme and prize!

Email your entries to: merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au or drop them into the office to be scanned.
ROTARY CLUB OF MERRIWA

It was a very well attended Rotary dinner last Tuesday evening with members and guests having come to listen to Hannah deliver her farewell speech. Hannah’s 12 months stay in our community is quickly coming to a close. She has been a great little ambassador for her country (Germany) and we wish her well as she prepares for the trip home.

Club President Robert Goodear presents Hannah with Merriwa Rotary banners.

Merriwa Rotary look forward to the return next week of Jay-me Taylor and Isaac Austin who have been exchange students living in New Zealand for the past 3 months. Two New Zealand boys; Liam Murupaenga and Kane Davies will accompany the boys on their return and will spend 3 months with host families in the Merriwa community.

On 10 July Merriwa Rotary will be having their annual Change Over dinner. The evening is a handover takeover function, giving thanks for the outgoing President, Robert Goodear and his committee and also to welcome Mr Frank Armstrong as the incoming Merriwa Rotary Club President for 2012-13.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary, our regular dinner meetings are at the Sports Club Tuesday nights 7pm for 7.30pm dinner. Membership is open to both men and women.

Michael Wheatley

MERRIWA BUSHMEN’S CAMPDRAFT

Merriwa Bushmen’s Campdraft will be held this weekend 22, 23 and 24 June 2012.

The action starts at 5.30pm Friday and the drafting will continue over Saturday and Sunday. At 8.30am Saturday, Ring 2 events will commence with riding classes, hacks and sporting events for all ages.

We invite everyone to come along and support our annual event. Entry is free, so come down and check out some of the best horses and riders in the country and enjoy this community event. Steak Hut and Bar facilities will be operating all weekend.

Merriwa Campdraft Committee proudly support our local schools, many community groups, Cancer research and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter with donations.

This is only possible with the support of local cattle donors and business sponsors: Coal and Allied, Frampton Freight, Russell's Earthmoving, Michael Nutt Contracting, PT Pest Control, Davis and Sons Cattle Co., Max's Country Cuts, Fernandes, Caroon Pastoral Co., Merriwa RSL, Merriwa Petroleum & Ag Supplies, Pitt Son and Keene, Merriwa Sports Club, Kerrie Murray Saddler, M & H Grady, Throwley Station, Di's Clothing Patch, Merriwa Pharmacy, Merriwa Hardware, Brindley Park Lucerne, Merriwa IGA, Merriwa Lic Post Office, Anthea Wright Veterinary Services, Diane Mitchell, MacCallum Inglis, Mitavite, RM Williams, Mbk Steel Supplies, Marsh Carney Saddlery and Cross Country Merriwa.

Shirley Hunt
Secretary

Shirley Hunt
Secretary
REMINDER
The deadline for all articles and advertisements is Monday Noon, for distribution on Thursday

FOR SALE
6ft 3pt Linkage 3 Blade Slasher. Moarhouse Gyro. Good Condition Ph 6548 5153 or 0428 485 153
$1,850 Inc GST

Clearing Sale
“Wangurra”
Neely’s Lane, Cassilis
30 June 2012
10am Start

ALEXANDER DOWNS WHOLESALE
Top Quality local beef and pork delivered to the Upper Hunter every second Friday

SPECIAL
Whole T’bones (8kg) and Rumps (5kg) $12.50/kg
Fillet Steak (Minimum 1.5kg) $21.00/kg
Delivery Friday 6.07.12

PLEASE PLACE ORDERS BY 5PM MONDAYS FOR FRIDAY DELIVERY

For Order Forms
Ph. 65485170 or 65485008
Fx. 65485181
alexanderdownsgroup@bigpond.com
Towards the end of 2006 I wrote a series of articles in these columns saying that I was becoming more and more concerned about the way in which Australia and the world were heading economically and financially. I forecast that the 20 year boom would finish in an equivalent crash and gave my reasons in detail, though declining to predict when it would happen and what the trigger would be, since nobody could forecast these. For a couple of years I suffered criticism for my predictions, however towards the end of 2007 the first crack appeared (failure of the Northern Rock Bank) and towards the end of 2008 the dam finally broke with the collapse of Lehman Bros in the USA, the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) began, it is still with us, and likely to last in varying degrees for some years yet. I claim no credit for those 2006 predictions since, if the boom had not bust, it would have been the first in history not to have done so. I expect there have been booms and busts since mankind first descended from the trees, however my historical knowledge of these goes back only a few hundred years to some of the more notable ones such as the South Sea Bubble and the Dutch Tulip Bubble. In more recent times I personally remember the results of the Great Depression (1929-1939), though at the time I was too young to understand what was happening, and since the war I have suffered more recessions than I can count, the first being about 1950. At that time there was very little social welfare for the unemployed to fall back on, that recession was not a rural one, and many of the cities' unemployed went bush, including some passing through Merriwa, looking for work. In later recessions this exodus did not eventuate, partly because of increased welfare payments (which today can make work almost optional for those willing to accept a comparatively low standard of living), and also because the once very prosperous post war bush has fallen on much harder times.

Therefore my 2006 predictions were based on little more than an 85 year old bushie's recollections of innumerable booms and busts, and much pondering on their causes and remedies. This pondering over 70 years or more has led me to think about great economic truths in life, certain laws and rules, which are almost certainties. I say almost because there is nothing certain or predictable in this life, but there are some that are so close to certain that we can safely count on them. Here are a few of these, bearing in mind that, by definition, a Law admits of no exceptions, whereas a Rule does, hence the old expression "It is the exception that proves the rule". I am far from being an Economist, yet I believe the first rule of all Economists should be: "See the world as it is, not as you would like it to be or even as you hope it is". To put this in more colloquial terms: "Economist, do not kid yourself, or us either!!", admittedly a very difficult policy to achieve. Right up till very late 2008, when the financial world was descending into chaos, Australians were still being told: "Don't worry, China will save us" which of course she has so far, but it will not do so for ever; we were also still being told: "The 9% superannuation levy is a river of gold flowing into the share market which will therefore survive any bust". Anyone with superannuation knows how correct that was, though at some future (and unknown) time, the share market will undoubtedly come good again, but hopefully never again to match, proportionally speaking, what it was at the end of the twenty year boom. Here are a few more ponderings:

“If money is borrowed, it must be repaid”. Corollary: “If it is not repaid, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth by both borrower and lender”. Readers may well think this such an obvious statement that this old fool of a writer must be in his dotage to write it, and indeed it clearly is a statement of the obvious. Yet for twenty years unwise individuals, families, companies and even nations rushed to over borrow trillions of dollars from over anxious lenders, creating loans which were frequently unlikely ever to be repaid, and in countless cases clearly impossible of repayment. These were euphemistically titled “Low Document Loans” (Australia), and “Sub Prime Loans” (USA), though in these columns in 2006, two years before the crash, I accurately termed them “Crap Loans”. The Sub Prime Lenders took their commissions for these loans, bundled them together in packages of many thousands and onsold them after obtaining good credit ratings, sometimes AAA, for them
WOOLBROOK RURAL INDUSTRIES
MERRIWA NURSERY AND IRRIGATION
Depot Road, Merriwa

AUSTRAL WIRE PRODUCTS.
We are distributors for Austral Wire Products. They have a large modern factory in Sydney where they manufacture:
- Fencing wire, Barbed wire, Wire netting, Hinge joint and ring lock.
- Available in standard AND HEAVILY GALVANISED.
- They also import black and hot dipped galvanised steel posts.

We happily accept large or small orders. If you are thinking fencing please call us because the quality and price are both right.

WOOLBROOK RURAL INDUSTRIES: Please call Max Wurcker 6548 2150. NURSERY: Please call Jenny Lee 6548-2472

Max Wurcker

from credit rating companies, and they have often collapsed with huge debts, again in the trillions of dollars. So great was the volume of these loans, and the paperwork so overwhelming, that this paperwork was often not done properly, or even not done at all, and some of those holding the loans are having difficulty even proving their validity, let alone obtaining repayment. Therefore, even if I am an old fool in my dotage and guilty of stating the obvious, I have millions to keep me company ranging from individuals to families to companies, indeed all the way up to Treasurers and Prime Ministers (think Greece and Italy etc.).

Max Wurcker

JTS REALTY
A Family Business

Cullingral Street Merriwa - $195,000
Located opposite the primary school and in walking distance to the Main Street this is an ideal family home. There are 3 big bedrooms one with built in robes. The lounge is large and has gas heating there is a second family room at the rear of the house. The kitchen is original but in very good condition with a near new stove. The attached dining is a good size and features reverse cycle air conditioning. At the rear of the home is a covered entertainment area overlooking the fully fenced yard. For storage there is a single lock up garage, garden shed and a green house.

1541 Merriwa Road Sandy Hollow - $380,000
Situated on 2.6 acres in the village of Sandy Hollow and walking distance to the local school, pub, service station, coffee shop and only 10 minutes drive to Mangoola mine this is an ideal small acreage close to everything. The main house is brick and has a beautiful country feel. There are 2 big bedrooms the main with a walk in robe, an open plan lounge and dining featuring reverse cycle air conditioning and a unique combustion fire. The kitchen is in excellent condition and is constructed of steel and timber. The bathroom is also fully renovated. At the rear of the house is the third bedroom with r/c air and would be ideal in-law or teenager accommodation. There is a 10m x 5m shed with power plus a 2 bay carport and garden shed. There is plenty of room for a couple of horses with one fully fenced paddock room for another. Water is supplied via town water, tanks and a dam.

838 Ridgelands Road Wybong - $465,000
Comprising of 117 Acres of fertile grazing country and only 20 minutes from Muswellbrook this is a top quality rural holding. The land is mostly flat and is fenced into 6 paddocks all with water, either from the 3 stocked dams or troughs which are fed by underground mains supplied from the creek. One dam is licenced as an irrigation dam should you wish to plant crops or irrigate the 600 olive trees that are established. There is a 2 bay lock up shed with power connected and a toilet with the septic system in place. All fencing is in excellent order and there is a set of steel cattle yards. All infrastructure is set up on this property and once you build a new home it will be perfect.
The Merriwa Community News is available to charity groups or non-funded, not for profit organisations and anyone wishing to advise of a special event (birthday/anniversary/etc). If you would like to make use of this free service, please contact us prior to 12pm Mondays.

MERRIWA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Our auxiliary will be having a street stall on Friday 29 June, 2012. We ask for donations of cakes, slices, preserves and any saleable item from our members and the community. We will also have a 100 Club and a raffle with a $100 fuel voucher donated by Richard & Lesley Killen. See you at the street stall on June 29, 2012.

Elaine Sparrow
Secretary

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Hunter Mutual is having a sausage sizzle and everyone is invited on Friday 22 June, on Bettington St corner, from 10am – 2pm. Gold coin donation.

All proceeds will go to one luck community group drawn on the day, it could be your group so come and have some lunch with us.

Also, don’t forget you could win $1000, for yourself and your charity, just by filling in a survey, it’s that simple, it takes less than 5 minutes, we have spare ones at the branch if you need more, or you can go on line at www.communitymutual.com.au and fill one in there.

For all your financial and insurance needs call into your local branch and talk to us today, or call us on 6548 2651.

Trudie Byfield with Fiona and Kylie

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

A huge congratulations to Cassie and Richard Wilkinson on the birth of Mia Louise on the 27 May 2012.

Love from:
Danielle Taylor with Seraphina, Tiarnee, Lex, Christine and Mark

MERRIWA SENIOR CITIZENS

We will be having our AGM meeting on Thursday 26 June at 10am in the Squatter’s Room of the RSL Club. Subs will be due ($3) for members, for new members there will be a $5 joining fee.

The meeting will be followed by a 2 course luncheon costing $14 per member. The raffle prize will be a $30 voucher and there will also be several lucky door prizes.

Please let me know if you would like to come.

Mary O’Neill

MERRIWA TENNIS CLUB

Coaching - Merriwa Tennis Club is looking for any interested children to join in tennis coaching on Thursday 5 July and Friday 6 July (first week of the school holidays). The clinic will run from 10am to 1pm and the costs is $40 per child for the 2 days. Children are to bring morning tea and a hat. Children aged 5 to 12 years only. Numbers are limited.. The coach will be Lisa McGrath. Names to Loretta Cooper on 6548 2679 after 4pm by 29 June 2012.

Loretta Cooper

HOSTEL VACANCIES

Gummun Place Hostel currently has 4 vacancies! This is a rare opportunity to join the Gummun Place Hostel community. Contact Suzanne Duggan on 6521 7011 for more information.

Phoebe Richards
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Molly and Ruby Wong for their wonderful effort in playing the violin in the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod on Sunday 17 June. They put in a massive effort and were rewarded with 3 first place trophies and four other certificates. It was a very long day as they had to be ready to perform from 9am until about 6pm at night.

Thank you very much to the Eisteddfod for such a great opportunity and wonderful feedback and experience.

Thank you to Mrs Jenny Kershaw from the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music who taught them and accompanied the girls on the piano.

From Lucy Johnson with Mike, Jenny and Paddy

MERRIWA TENNIS CLUB

Merriwa Tennis Club will be holding their AGM meeting on Tuesday 24 July and Merriwa RSL Club from 6pm. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting to keep tennis in Merriwa alive. All positions will be declared vacant.

Loretta Cooper

ST DAVID’S PIE & LAMINGTON DRIVE

Orders have now closed.

Delivery day will be Monday 25 June, 2012, from St David’s Uniting Church, Vennacher St. Pick up time will be from 11am to 3.30pm.

If the delivery times are difficult for anyone please contact me on 6548 5131 or 0428 485 131.

If anyone has forgotten to order and would like some goods, just pop in on the day as we usually have some extra’s.

Barbara Campbell

RINGER COMMITTEE MEETING

A Merriwa Ringer Committee meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 26 June in the Merriwa Central School Secondary Office.

Members of the community, business and community group representatives are invited to come along and provide input.

Candice O’Neill
Ringer Co-ordinator

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NOTES:
1. SF: Newcastle – Dubbo – Newcastle operated by Sid Fogg’s Coachlines, for bookings phone 4928 1088 or McConnell’s This n’ That in Merriwa, 6548 2889. Pick-up and set down outside/opposite Merriwa Post Office in Bettington Street.
2. TC: All other services are operated by TransCare Hunter Ltd, phone 6545 3113 or 1800 453 113 for bookings.
3. All TransCare services operate from and to the Community Bus Stop outside the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre in Vennacher Street.
4. Services marked * connect with CityRail or CountryLink trains at Muswellbrook Station.
5. Wednesday morning Muswellbrook – Merriwa - Muswellbrook service, operates subject to demand and booking is essential.

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MERRIWA RINGER Thursday 21 June Page 31
Festival of the Fleeces Silent Auction

Auction includes 2 tickets to Matinee of “An Officer and a Gentleman”. Includes bus travel with Cowans Bus Service. Donated by Cowans Bus Service. Valued at $330.00

When: 30th June at 2pm for Matinee

What your ticket involves:
Free transfers to and from Merriwa Post office or Muswellbrook Rail, departure time is 6am to 7am, for return between 9 and 11pm—location of pick up dependant.
2 Tickets to the matinee at Star Casino, Sydney
Morning tea supplied
Arrival will be approx 1 hr prior to the show, no lunch is supplied but arrival will allow time to grab a bite and stops will be made at the twin Caltex on the way home.
Bids must be received by 3pm Tuesday 26th June 2012. Payment MUST be made by close of business Wednesday or the next in line will be contacted.
Kindly donated back by Cr Watts.

Upper Hunter Shire Council
A Quality Rural Lifestyle in a Caring and Thriving Community

Telephone:
Scone Office – 6540 1100
Merriwa Office – 6521 7000
Murrurundi Office – 6540 1360

Email: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
SENIORS WEEKS ARTE-FACT PHOTO DISPLAY MERRIWA LIBRARY

"Arte-Facts" is a photographic competition and exhibition that aims to celebrate older members of our Upper Hunter Shire community and their continuing contribution to family, friends, workspaces and communities, and challenge some of the stereotypes around ageing. It is a joint initiative of Upper Hunter Shire Council and NSW Department of Human Services.

The Competition was held in Seniors Week 2012 and has been on travelling display around Upper Hunter Shire Council since April. It features active seniors from around our Shire, including some local Merriwa identities. Pop into the Library in the next few weeks to see the display, and take the opportunity of joining the Merriwa Library.

VACANCIES AT GUMMUN PLACE!

Gummun Place Hostel currently has 4 vacancies! This is a rare opportunity to join the Gummun Place Hostel community. Contact Suzanne Duggan on 6521 7011 for more information.

- A place for ageing community members to enjoy life and receive the care that they need
- Friendly rural lifestyle in a small community
- A rural relaxing lifestyle provided with care
- 24 hour care provided by trained staff
- 16 Room Low- Care Aged Facility
- Generous dining and lounge spaces
- Single & couples accommodation— en-suites to all rooms
- Lovely gardens & BBQ for the residents
- Assistance with daily requirements along with
  Regular activities & outings
- 3 meals cooked on the premises every day
- Generous dining and lounge spaces
- Weekly Church Services

MERRIWA YOUTH CENTRE
JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2012
12-17 YEARS

Permission notes are available from the youth centre or the front council office as permission notes are needed for all excursions.
Putt Putt Golf cost is $2 meet at the youth centre as we have a bus for transport.
Excursions will only go ahead if there are sufficient numbers.
Please call 04474610915 for more information or enquiries.

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<th>Mon</th>
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We are at the business end of the Financial Year and now is the time to get all of your stationery!

Big Stationery Sale - This catalogue was in the Ringer last week, but if anyone missed out, we have more in store.

Magnetic Whiteboard - This is perfect for the home or office. Keep track of what everyone is doing with one of these lightweight boards. They are 90cm by 60cm, aluminium frame and includes an tray to hold the whiteboard markers.

Shredders - We have shredders in stock, and they are perfect for destroying documents that hold private and sensitive information. There are the 5-sheet shredder and the 12-sheet shredder. Both come with a 15 litre bin and are easy to use.

Office Smart Catalogue - As well as the Financial year sale, the Office Smart catalogue also has a great range of specials.

Filing Cabinets - A filing cabinet is a must have for any home office, or work office. Most of us now try to buy one on-line and end up paying much more than we should. Statewide filing cabinets are Australian made, made of fully welded steel, have a tough powdercoat finish and an anti-tilt drawer lock. There are three sizes - 2, 3 and 4 drawer - as well as three colours- black, grey and beige. They are delivered freight free to the newsagency, so the price you are given is the total cost.

Inkjets - They are a necessity, and so often expensive. The catalogue has some great prices on inkjets including- Canon BCI-3e black and colours Canon CLI-8 black and colours, HP #60XL black and tri-colour, HP #21 black, Lexmark #32, Lexmark #70 and so many more I cannot even write them all down.

Financial Year Diaries - Now is the time to buy financial year diaries, before stocks run out - they are a must have for any business, so don't wait until your accountant tells you that you need one (in three months when they are all gone) get one now!

New - We have just installed a new phone card system and it is faster and better than the old one. There is also a wider range of products on offer.

Phone cards - There are all of the major phone companies, as well as a good range of the minor ones- Telstra, Optus, Virgin, Boost etc.

Internet - There are a good range of pre-paid internet providers including Telstra, Optus, Dodo, iprimus, Boost, and more.

Music and Movies - We also now have vouchers for Bigpond Music an Bigpond Movies so you can download at your leisure.

Phone Cards; all cards are now available including Telstra, Optus & Vodaphone

Cash or Eftpos only

Neville and Leanne Hook
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<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Andy Carrigan</td>
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<td>Mick Hayes Concrete Pump Hire</td>
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<td>Monocom Computers &amp; Home Theatre</td>
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<td>Mortgage Choice - Lauren Murphy</td>
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Don’t see your listing here? Then you need to contact The Ringer to organise your sponsorship for 2012!
NSW first homebuyers set to benefit from generous incentives...but only if they buy new.

In the budget handed down by the O'Farrell Government on 12 June 2012, New South Wales first homebuyers have been encouraged to “think new”, if they wish to benefit from government incentives.

In a scheme described by the state’s Treasurer as “the most generous in Australia”, from 1 October this year the First Home Owner Grant will increase from $7,000 to $15,000 on newly built or off the plan properties, with a value of up to $650,000. The grant will remain in place until 31 December 2013, but from 1 January 2014, it will drop back to $10,000.

In addition, first home buyers will be exempt from stamp duty if they purchase a newly built home with a value of up to $500,000 ($550,000 from 1 July 2012) and will receive a stamp duty concession for a newly built home valued between $500,000 and $600,000 ($550,000 and $650,000 from 1 July 2012). Similarly, those purchasing a vacant block of residential land to build their home on will pay no duty on vacant land valued up to $300,000 ($350,000 from 1 July 2012) and will receive a concession on duty for vacant land valued between $300,000 ($350,000 from 1 July 2012) and $450,000.

Even if you are not a first homebuyer, the Government will from July onwards give you $5,000 if you purchase a newly built or off the plan property valued up to $650,000 or vacant land that you intend to build on that has a value up to $450,000. However, this bonus replaces the NSW Home Builders Bonus, which provides investors, subsequent homebuyers and seniors with stamp duty exemptions or concessions for certain purchases of newly constructed property, off the plan property and vacant land on which to build property.

Whilst this is all great news for buyers of newly built homes or even vacant land, there is little help in sight for the majority of the market who are looking at purchasing existing properties. The current First Home Owner Grant of $7,000 for an existing property will be axed from 1 October, with major flow on effects expected to be felt by real estate agents and the property market in general.

While the Treasurer acknowledged that axing help for some first homebuyers was a difficult decision, he felt that the changes will help kick start the struggling building industry by “targeting assistance where it is most needed in the economy”.

Cross Country Merriwa Service Special

Welcome to Cross Country Merriwa Service Department

For $169.00 we will have your vehicle feeling like new again
4 & 6 Cylinder Passenger Vehicle

* Valvoline Engine Oil * Valvoline Oil Filter
* Brake, Cooling System and Air-Conditioning inspection
* Battery Check * Under Bonnet Fluid top-Up
* Tyre Rotation & Balance and Tyre Pressure adjustment

$290 for 4WD Vehicles
At all times you will receive professional, friendly, courteous, prompt efficient service
All business dealings will be done with absolute honesty and integrity

We also offer Ford Capped Price Servicing

Ph: 6548 2106
Email: accountsccm@bigpond.com
KEEPING YOUR FAMILY IN THE PICTURE

It seems there are many more health issues to consider than there are weeks in the year; so it's probably no surprise that some days and weeks have to be shared around. For instance the recent World No Tobacco Day fell squarely in the middle of Macular Degeneration Awareness Week.

Nevertheless, these two events are a very comfortable fit; because smokers and people who have smoked are three times more likely to develop macular degeneration.

Macular degeneration (MD) – sometimes known as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) because of its high prevalence in older people – is the name given to a group of diseases of the retina which cause progressive, painless loss of central vision. Thus the ability to see fine detail, drive, read and recognise faces is slowly but surely lost. It's the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Australia and other Western countries.

Presently there is no cure for AMD; and treatments to delay or stop its progression have met with limited success; so there is increasing interest in identifying risk factors which, when modified, may reduce the chance of getting AMD, or stop the condition becoming worse when it does occur.

A family history of macular degeneration gives us a 50% chance of developing the disease - as a consequence the theme this year for Macular Degeneration Week was "keep your family in the picture". We can't do too much to change our parents, so if one or both of your parents has or had AMD, a regular and frequent check up by your optometrist or eye specialist is important for early diagnosis and the best available treatment.

On the other hand, prevention strategies are essential. Something we can address is a commitment to become a non-smoker. Many studies have clearly demonstrated the link between smoking and AMD. Also, there is ongoing debate about the relationship between AMD and obesity, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels; but research certainly suggests that diet is significant.

In particular the likelihood is that the pigments beta-carotene, lutein and zeaxanthin found in carrots, pumpkin, corn and some green leafy vegetables are beneficial. Other antioxidants of interest include vitamins A and E and the trace elements zinc and selenium.

Proprietary preparations containing these substances are now available, but the use of anti-oxidants in high doses is not without risk. Beta-carotene has been found to increase the risk of lung cancer in smokers; and vitamin E has been associated with an increased risk of heart failure in people with diabetes or disease affecting circulation. Check with your pharmacist before you choose a specific product.

On the other hand, there is evidence that fish oil (containing so-called omega-3 fatty acids) might provide protection against AMD. So, the Macular Degeneration Foundation advises eating fish two or three times a week, eating dark-green leafy vegetables and fresh fruit, eating a handful of nuts once a week and protecting your eyes from sunlight exposure; and of course, if you're a smoker, then quit! You can get more good advice from the Foundation at www.mdfoundation.com.au Check out their publication Slips, Trips and Falls. It's an excellent guide for people with low vision on how to avoid some of the inevitable problems.

Also, a fact card titled Vision Impairment is available from Merriwa Pharmacy. The card gives details about not only AMD but also glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and refractive error.

Merriwa Pharmacy is Open 9am-5.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-12pm Saturday.

Robert Smith
Merriwa Pharmacy

MERRIWA RINGER Thursday 21 June 2012
Ellamara - Giants Creek
Open Sat & Sun 10am to 4pm. Antiques Books & Collectables. Local Produce & Wine Tasting. Morning & Afternoon Tea. Local History Museum
www.ellamara.com.au
6547 4589
2kms west of Sandy Hollow on the Golden Highway

Affordability. Always available in Green.
John Deere 6130D Tractor & Loader Package

128HP


$84,990*

Peel Valley Machinery
102 Loder St, Quirindi - Ph 6741 2600
AH Chris Canham 0428 282998
www.peelvalleymachinery.com.au

* Based on prices current as at June 21, 2012 and subject to change without notice. Prices include GST. Prices are Trade Only. Not available with any other offer

DAY TOURS
30 June 2012 An Officer and a Gentleman - NOTE NEW DATE Based on one of the top ten love stories in cinema history. Promises to be the musical blockbuster of 2012. $165 P/P
14 July 2012 Mudgee Small Farms Field Day - Travel with us to this great little event, held annually since 1977. Entry at own expense - $15 Adult $10 Pensioner Fare - $35 P/P
24 Aug 2012 Kenny Rogers and Glen Campbell Newcastle Entertainment Centre 8.00pm. Two of the greatest country singers together just for you. ‘A’ Reserve $165 PP
30 Aug 2012 Mystery Tour. We have another great day in store for you. Always popular, come along just for fun. $75 P/P

EXTENDED TOURS –
22 July 2012 16 Day Tour Across The Nullarbor and North to Broome Includes Home Pickup from the Upper Hunter and Hunter $4,950 PPTTS
8 Aug 2012 9 Day “Kimberley Experience” from Broome to Darwin. Includes courtesy home pick up from the Upper Hunter and Hunter $2,950 PPTTS
22 July 2012 16 Day Tour Across The Nullarbor and North to Broome Home Pickup from the Upper Hunter and Hunter $4,950 PPTTS
11 Oct 2012 7 Day Tour to Griffith Convenient pick up in the Hunter and the Upper Hunter. Over 15 attractions $1,180 PPTTS
20 Feb 2013 16 Day New Zealand Tour. We fly from Sydney to Auckland. Includes Bay Of Islands, Waitomo Caves, Wellington, Christchurch, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, Dunedin. Four scenic boat cruises! Fly back from Christchurch. Includes courtesy home pick up from the Upper Hunter and Hunter $4,450 PPTTS Plus Flight taxes RING FOR BROCHURE & ENQUIRIES TODAY
PH: 6547 4416 or 1800 077 099 (freecall)
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buses@cowans.com.au www.cowans.com.au

MERRIWA RINGER Thursday 21 June Page 39
A vocal crowd of more than 100, including several Merriwa Healthy Environment Group (MHEG) members, attended the NSW Farmers public meeting held at Bunnan Hall last Wednesday. They heard Fiona Simson (president of NSW Farmers), other NSWF personnel, and representatives from gas companies Santos and AGL, speak on a range of issues.

One of the most interesting developments at the meeting was the public statement by Sam Crafter (Santos) that the company would not force entry onto anyone's property. In response to a question by an MHEG member, the AGL representative then made the same commitment.

Mr Crafter gave an overview of water bore testing in the Bunnan area to establish a baseline before exploration for coal seam gas proceeded.

Work has been suspended in the Santos Pilliga coal seam gas operations and until this recommences there is no further news available about the possibility of a gas pipeline from Narrabri to Kooragang.

There was wide agreement at the meeting that maps forming part of the NSW Government’s Strategic Regional Land Use Plan (SRLUP) now under consideration, are just plain wrong. They do not fit with the actual circumstances of rainfall, soil fertility and land use - they’re incorrect and misleading. As SRLUP submissions have now closed we will just have to wait and see what decisions the Government makes. Hopefully they will be just and sensible.

At the meeting, Mrs Simson addressed the issues of increasing threats from pest animals and weeds on rural properties and native vegetation and grasslands.

Other NSWF speakers dealt with the existing legislative framework with regard to coal seam gas and what can be done by property owners faced with gas company advances.

This meeting was concerned with coal seam gas. However, coal mining also poses many dilemmas for local people.

At the recent Festival of the Fleeces we featured Sharyn Munro’s book “Rich Land, Wasteland“, on the MHEG stall. It deals with the effects of coal mining on communities throughout Australia.

We are pleased to announce that Sharyn will visit Merriwa on July 12. She will speak at a public meeting hosted by MHEG at the RSL Club that evening. Sharon will also address the CWA in the afternoon.

More details next week.

Ted Finnie for MHEG
CASSILIS BOWLING CLUB

Friday night fun:
Friday night is Darts night – 7pm start – names to club by 6.45pm
Last week results – Chooks: Cheryl and Joy
Chocolate: Kathy and Sophie

Friday night Snack Bar – The Two Ds
Affordable family meals

Friday night raffles: Meat trays, Vege trays, Schooner Draw, Joker Draw, Members Draw.

Last week’s results:
- Members Draw: $50 – Lorraine Hourn - claimed - $50 next week
- Joker Draw: $667 – Linny Lacey – unsuccessful - $703 next week

Tai Chi - Every Tuesday at 6pm - Low impact exercise. Excellent for relaxation, balance and reducing high blood pressure. Gold Coin donation. Come along and join us. See you there.

Saturday July 8, 6.30pm - Cassilis Public School Masquerade Party. Entertainment provided by ‘The Sly Pigs’. $20 admission for adults, $10 for children. Lovely meal, good music and fun prizes. Come join us for a great night! For bookings, please phone Vanessa on 6376 4629 or Joleane on 6377 4563. RSVP 20 July 2012.

Facebook - The club now has it’s own Facebook page, so please check it out and like us. Coming Events will also be advertised on this page as well as the web page (as soon as there is a confirmed date for them).

Hilary Parker

MERRIWA RSL CLUB

The Members Lucky Badge for $500.00 was not won on Friday at 8.30pm the number was 49, this week it jackpots to $550.00. The 7pm draw for $460.00 was not won the number was 746, this week it jackpots to $480.00. The 9pm lucky ticket draw for $1260.00 was not won the number was 35795, this week it jackpots to $1280.00. LTPS/11/04452

The Sunday Morning Badge Draw for $500.00 was not won last week the number was 1014, this week it jackpots to $550.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. LTPS/11/04452

The Friday 8.30pm badge draw and the Sunday badge draw both now commence at $500.00.

Coming Events
The 9pm lucky number draw of a Friday if not won this week will be drawn till won on Friday the 29 June, the value will be $1300.00, you must be present and a member to win this.

Saturday 6 October - The Beetles and Classic Creedence Show - more details as it gets closer.

In the Bistro on pension day we now have a choice of a couple of senior’s meals for $7.50, but you must show your senior’s card to be eligible. The bistro opening times for the winter have now changed to 5.30pm for dinner.

A reminder that as of 1 July the new membership cards will be in use.

Matt Morgan
Secretary/Manager
**MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB**

**Sunday 16 June**
- Saturday Members Draw 212 Not Won
  Next week $110
- Winners Jackpot 33330 Not Won
  Next week $1140
- Free Tickets Nerida Bailey
- Dinner Ken Bevan
- Bowls Raffle Jess Morgan

**Sunday 17 June**
- Sunday Members draw No 224 Not Won
  Next week $300
- $20 one off prizes No 223 Not Won &
  No 225 Not Won

Transport Service is available Friday and Saturday. Don't take the risk and drive when for $3 per person you can be chauffeured home. To access the transport service you must book through the Sports Club to check availability of the service.

Members and Associations - Looking for a venue to hold your meetings etc? The Sports Club may be able to assist. Please contact the Club for further details.

Bingo - Every Thursday Night commences 7:00pm. Win Sporties Vouchers $5, $20, $50 + Fruit, Veg and meat trays + Super 39 $100
IGA Gift Voucher

**Saturday 30 June**
“Allan Caswell”
Winner 6 Golden Guitars Awards
Free show

**Saturday 7 July**
“Petra”
Karaoke

**Saturday 10 August**
“Matt O’Leary”

The Sporties - Chinese/Australian Restaurant
Smorgasbord Last Sunday in the Month - All you can eat Entree’s Mains and Desert - $18
Adult $12 children under 12. Shan and Jinna also have lunch time specials $7.50. Open for Lunch Wednesday to Sunday 12noon to 2:00pm. Dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5:30pm to 9:00pm. Closed Mondays. Reopens 5:00pm Tuesday. For bookings and take away ring 6548 3228.

John Rindfliesh

**LADY BOWLERS NEWS**

Loretta, Joy, Merle and Sylvia had a most enjoyable day at Denman Association Day on Wednesday 6 June.
Sylvia and Joy came home with prizes and Joy won the raffle.

Wednesday 13 June a game of consistency was played at home with Noel winning the day.

Loretta, Merle, Joy and Marissa went to Scone for their Gala Day. It started to rain on the way over and didn’t ease up so no bowls were played. Prizes were drawn from the hat with Loretta receiving the prize for skip.

Don’t forget Monday 25 June is our AGM and our Association Day is on 4 July.

Coming up
- Our next meeting will be the AGM on Monday 25 June at 2:30pm
- Wednesday 27th June Scone RSL Gala Day
- Wednesday 27 June Mixed Mufti
- Wednesday 4 July Merriwa Association Day. No Mufti bowls on this day.
- Monday 9 July Monthly Meeting 3:00pm
- Wednesday 11 July Mixed Mufti

Beatrice Voysey

GOLF NEWS

On Saturday there were 9 starters to play the Williams Putting Comp. It was also the 1st round of the Club Championships.

It was a tough day of golf with the weather bringing showers and rain.

The winner was D Walmsley with 23 points and nett of 69. He had two out of bounds on the second hole but recovered very well.

Runner up “Bulla Bulla” Vero 71 nett Bal Comp R Paterson, D Taylor

Nearest the Pin 18th P Williams

Results of the first round of the Club Championships.
- “A” grade Head to Head between R Paterson and P Williams
- “B” grade too close to call
- “C” grade D Hogan needs a miracle to catch up to A Medway.

Next Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 its the 2nd and 3rd rounds of the Club Championships.

2nd Round starts at 12:30pm Saturday with the 3rd Round starting at 10:00am Sunday

Andrew Medway
UPPER HUNTER VETERAN'S GOLF

The nine Veterans who played at Denman on Tuesday, 12 June wore black arm-bands as a mark of respect to Bernie Behringer who died suddenly on Friday. His funeral will be held on Thursday, 14 June at 10.00am at the Catholic Church, Muswellbrook. All Vets are asked to form a guard of honour wearing their Vets shirts to express their condolences to Bernie’s family and friends.

The winner of the stableford event at Denman (changed from Scone due to the weather) was Gary Gray with 43 stableford points.

In the ball comp balls went to Bob Keating 36, Carey Wallace & President George T. Smith 33 and Mal Bruce & Rod Auld 29.

Nearest the Pin: 5th/14th Bob Keating

On Tuesday 19 June we played a stableford with putting event at Scone with hit-off from 8am until 8.30am.

On Tuesday 26 June we play a stroke with putting event at Aberdeen with hit-off from 8.00 till 8.30 am.

Graham Turvey

MERRIWA PONY CLUB

Merriwa campdraft is this weekend and we are committed to running the second ring events on Saturday 23 June. This will involve helping to mark out sporting events and taking entries on Friday afternoon (around 4pm), and running the events on the Saturday. The ring starts at 9am. Please make an effort to come and help!

The program for Zone 7 Show Jumping School being held in Denman 21 and 22 July 2012 was emailed late last week. If you are interested in attending please let Christine know before the end of June as entries need to be posted and paid for before 9 July and she will be away in the first week in July.

Merriwa Pony Club campdraft school and ribbon day will be held on 28 and 29 July. The campdraft school will be a bison school and the ribbon day will be a campdraft and sporting day. Further details will be forthcoming!

Still waiting on people to send me in their results!

Upcoming Dates:
- 24 June Singleton Presidents Cup
- 22-24 June Merriwa Campdraft
- 30 June St Joseph’s Merriwa Junior Campdraft, Sporting and Fun Day
- 30 June Denman Horse Trials
- 1 July Denman Horse Trials
- 8 July Rally Day
- 21-22 July Zone 7 Show Jumping School at Denman

Happy Riding

Tanya Ninness
Festival of the Fleeces - Thank You Volunteers.
Parade - Thank you to all the netball & rugby league players who participated in the Merriwa Junior RL & Netball float. A special thank you to Ian & Trish Medd who supplied & drove the truck, & supervisors Matt Attenborough, Belinda Keane & Karin Brazier.

Canteen - A huge thank you to the wonderful ladies who volunteered to help out at the Merriwa Senior Rugby League canteen last Saturday at the Festival of the Fleeces. This is the netball girls only annual fund raising opportunity for the club. The crowd at the footy was massive; bigger than any grand final at Merriwa Oval. With 2 draw card games in the afternoon, including the ‘Old Boys’ & Reserve grade, the line –up at the canteen for refreshments was unprecedented. These ladies did a mammoth job all afternoon in the canteen with Cassie Porter cooking up a storm on the BBQ, Bronwyn Redgate flat out preparing food in the kitchen, & servers Amanda Attenborough, Erica Edwards, Grace Annand, Trish Medd, Kate & Gaynor Blackadder. Thank you also to Matt Attenborough. None of us really had any forewarning as to the size of the job & yet these wonderful volunteers really stepped up under difficult circumstances and kept the hot food & cold beer flowing. Thank you so much!

Home game for Netta girls Spiders v Grasshoppers on Saturday 14 July at 9am at Merriwa Oval. This is the last weekend in the school holidays so please let Heidi know if your daughter isn’t playing. Don’t forget to rally family and friends to come and cheer the girls on.

All the Netta Spiders team played brilliantly on Saturday 16 June. As team manager for their games ,I was very proud to witness all the girls playing as a team, supporting and encouraging each other and enjoying their game. All of you happily took to your allocated positions and tried your best. I saw lots of great team work (defending & attacking) to get all those goals. At the end of every game I especially like our team ‘hug’. This week’s Team Player was Emily – well done.

Seniors - Team Managers - For senior players when you have queries or concerns or game cancellations due to wet weather please contact your new team managers or Heidi Inder. Black Magic – Trish Medd (6548 5178) & Amanda Attenborough (0448 640691), Extreme – Carol (6548 8522) & Terrianne McLoughlin (0488 129342)

Under 12’s Junior Rugby League - On Saturday we played at home ,and as always, the boys were exited to prove that Merriwa is a place where other teams have to respect our team. We had a great start with Luke scoring under the posts and Baily converting giving us a 6 point lead. Luke then scored out wide, we were up 10 - nil. Riley scored close to the posts which was converted by Logan. That brought us up to 16 - nil. Riley was then in for another which was converted by Luke, 22 - nil. Luke was then able to push through the defence to score another try which was converted by Jack, 28 - nil. Ben then took a lovely pass on the outside wing, to push of one defender, and use his speed to score under the posts which was converted by Thomas Neale, 34 - nil. Casey then scored his try, breaking through strong defence, 38 - nil. After a penalty the opposition were able to score out wide, 38 to 4. Luke got his third try, 42 to 4. Joseph Whaley with his wonderful step scored under the posts which was converted by Riley, 48 to 4. Man of the match went to Casey, the coaches to award Dylan Daniel, Inspirational Tackle award to Ben. Big thank you to Des and Gavin for doing the BBQ. Thank you to Erica and Belinda for helping with the store. Thanks to Steve, Jason, Phil, Murray And Matt, and thanks to John Sparrow for your help at training on defence. Our defence was fantastic and the best I have seen all year. If I forgot anyone I’m sorry. See you all at training.

We are at home again 23 June, this Saturday, so come along and watch these boys play. Yvonne is now allowed to watch, however if we loose again with her there she will be banned completely for the season.

Heidi Inder & Mark Edwards
The long weekend saw the much anticipated clash between the Merriwa Old Boys and the Denman Old Boys. With one of the largest crowds seen at the ground for 30 or 40 years the game started with the old magpies kicking off. Denman’s first hit up was taken by crowd favourite big Mick Medhurst, unfortunately for Mick there was a snapper in the crowd and he went down before he got to the defensive line and turned the ball over to Merriwa. The Magpies posted first points with a runaway try to Nev Blackladder, Nev showing great pace and could probably force his way into the reserve grade team with a couple of training runs. Denman soon hit back with a try to Mark Brown, running off a well directed pass from Paul Tudor, tying the scores at 6 all. The never aging Peck Gleeson danced through the Denman defence to give the magpies the halftime advantage 10 – 6.

The second half started with big front rower Chook Walmsley breaking the line off a ball from Peck Gleeson (as they did back in the nineties) to cross the try line to take the score to Merriwa 14 - Denman 6. With captain/coach Ben Kirkland out possibly for the remainder of the season we may be looking at bringing one of the old boy’s front rowers, Bones Inder or Chook, in as a replacement. Denman once again hit back with a try to Web Saunders closing the gap to 14 to 12. Merriwa soon retaliated with second rower Bruce Blackadder (who may also be looking to sign to make himself eligible for Mad Monday) lingering out in the backline scoring under the post and converting leaving the Magpies with a slender lead 20 to 18. With full time thankfully fast approaching, big Bones Inder taking his 37th hit up, got a swooping ball away around the back off a Denman defender to give support player Mick Boyd a 50 metre run to the try line to bring the final score to Merriwa 26 to Denman 18.

The MRLFC would like to thank all the supporters that turned up to support the day, and ex-NRL players Tony Butterfield, Peter Johnson and Jason Hoogerwerf who were on hand to mingle with current and ex-players, the Club was able to donate $200 to both the Cancer Council, and the local VRA, over $700 to the Men of League Foundation and $600 to the Merriwa Junior Rugby League & Netball Club and this being for the wonderful hard work that the Netball ladies did in the canteen.

We would also like to thank all the magpie old boys that came back for the day, both players and spectators, and the Denman old boys for coming out and making it a great day for all, and not to forget the 3 water boys from the 80’s teams Des & Dick Vero and Bones Amidy, and ex ref Tony Goldman who could possibly get a job in the current referring ranks. For all those that may be wondering, this will be an annual event and we all can not wait until next year when it will be possibly bigger and better.

In the other game on the day Merriwa went down to Denman 20 to 6 after having an early 6 to 0 lead.

Matt Morgan
FOR SALE – “OAKFORD” 216 Cullingral Road, Merriwa 247 Acres $360,000.00

GREAT BUYING - 5 kilometres south west of Merriwa. The property is subdivided into 3 main paddocks with the fencing being in good stock proof condition. Some excellent home sites taking in beautiful picturesque views of the Merriwa Shire. Power and phone are available. School bus to primary and secondary schools, mail delivered 3 times weekly. The topography of the land is undulating to flat plateau areas with the soils consisting of loam soils to red and chocolate basalt. Timber has been cleared to shade timber only and is mainly gum, yellow box and kurrajong. Oakford is watered by a trough reticulation system and one dam. A great property – representing excellent value for money.

FOR SALE – 1279 Cullingral Road, Merriwa 15.36 Ha – 37.93 acres $480,000.00

Rural lifestyle with river frontage! Property features include a well-appointed 3 bedroom home, 2 bedrooms with built in robes, with ducted air conditioning and slow combustion fire. The beautiful spotted gum kitchen is complemented by conjoined large family living areas. There is also a handy extra shower and toilet. Set amongst established gardens is a relaxing covered entertaining area overlooking the Merriwa River for you to enjoy. A massive 60’x 30’ enclosed shed with power connected, a double carport and a 53’ x 80’ fully enclosed barn with 7 stables for the horses. Just 12 minutes from Merriwa this is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy country life at an excellent price.

Roger is committed is to providing the highest standards of customer service to all of his clients. Roger Moore of First National Max Bailey would really love the opportunity to assist you with your next move, Real Estate, Stock & Station, Property Management, Auctions or just honest, down to earth advice.

Call Roger today on 0427 153446.
### JUNE

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<tr>
<th>Thursday 21</th>
<th>Have-a-Chat - Merriwa RSL - 6.30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22</td>
<td>Merriwa Bushman's Campdraft</td>
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<td>Hunter Mutual Fundraising Sausage Sizzle - 10am - 2pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 23</td>
<td>Merriwa Bushman's Campdraft</td>
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<td>Merriwa Central School P&amp;C Debutante Ball - School of Arts</td>
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<td>Sunday 24</td>
<td>Merriwa Bushman's Campdraft</td>
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<td>Singleton Pony Club Presidents Cup Day</td>
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<td>Monday 25</td>
<td>Entries close for “Bridges” photo competition - 12 noon</td>
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<td>St David’s Uniting Church Pie Drive Delivery Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26</td>
<td>“Fabric of Society: Australia’s Quilt Heritage” Lecture - Scone - 6pm</td>
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<td>First Aid Training Course - St Joseph’s</td>
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<td>Thursday 28</td>
<td>Entries open for “Night Time” photo competition</td>
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<td>Last Ringer for Term 2</td>
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<td>Friday 29</td>
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<td>Saturday 30</td>
<td>“Allan Cashwell” - Merriwa Sports Club</td>
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<td>St Joseph’s Primary School Junior Campdraft &amp; Sporting</td>
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<td>Denman Horse Trials</td>
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### JULY

| Sunday 1   | Denman Horse Trials |
|            | Denman Farmers Market |
| Wednesday 4| Merriwa Bowls Association Day |
| Thursday 5 | Merriwa Tennis Club - Tennis coaching for children |
| Friday 6   | Merriwa Tennis Club - Tennis coaching for children |
| Saturday 7 | “Petra” Karaoke - Merriwa Sports Club |
| Tuesday 10 | Soil Carbon Workshop with DPI - Muswellbrook |
|             | “Extremely Loud, Incredibly Close” Merriwa Movie Mania - School Hall - 2pm |
| Thursday 12| CWA Agricultural & International Day |
|            | Sharwyn Munro, “Rich Land, Waste Land” Author Talk - Merriwa RSL Club - 6pm |
| Wednesday 14| Mudgee Small Farm Field Days |
| Sunday 15  | Mudgee Small Farm Field Days |
| Monday 16  | Merriwa Ringer Deadline for 1st Issue in Term 2 |
|             | Student Free Day - Merriwa Central School |
|             | St Joseph’s Annual Open Day - 12 noon |
| Tuesday 17 | Students resume for Term 3 |
| Thursday 19| Merriwa Ringer resumes for Term 3 |
| Friday 20  | St Joseph’s P&F Street Stall |
| Saturday 21| Pony Club Zone 7 Show Jumping School - Denman |
| Sunday 22  | Pony Club Zone 7 Show Jumping School - Denman |
| Monday 27  | HeART of the Country Exhibition - Local Artists - Pandora Gallery - Coolah |
| Saturday 28| Cassilis Public School Masquerade Ball - Cassilis Bowling Club - 6.30pm |
|             | Merriwa Pony Club Campdraft School |
| Sunday 29  | Merriwa Pony Club Campdraft School |
| Monday 30  | National Tree Planting Day |