

MERRIWA Ringer

FREE

Issue 10
Thursday May 28, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE




Pest Alert
Termite Solutions

Are Termites
eating your home?
(02) 6884 7557



Termites
Spiders
Rodents
Cockroaches
Ants

Your Community is working with you during COVID 19

Merriwa Pharmacy

Many changes have been made to allow the Merriwa Pharmacy to adapt to the social distancing regulations. Along with the visual changes of protective screening, outdoor seating and distance markers, the pharmacy has placed a two person/customer limit within the shop at one time. For this to happen the pharmacy has placed a buzzer at the door and customers will be allowed in when numbers allow.

Merriwa Pharmacy currently offer medication deliveries for any Covid 19 affected persons along with any other customer deemed to have special circumstances. If you feel that this could be you, please contact the Merriwa Pharmacy on 6548 2213 for assistance.

In recent years, the Merriwa Pharmacy have been a wealth of knowledge and have supplied the community with beneficial reading through the Merriwa Ringer. Merriwa Pharmacy acknowledges as do the Merriwa Ringer, that the articles often supplied crucial information and food for thought. We hope to one day return to these articles in the future.



Continues pages 30
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Merriwa Central School

Phone: 6548 2119

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

St Joseph's Primary School Merriwa

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners

All enquiries welcome

Principal - Ashley Borg
Ph 6548 2035

P&F President - Andrew Luke
Ph 6548 2993

Ringer Deadline!

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

MCS P&C

President: Julie Llewelyn

Vice Presidents: Hollie Hunt and Keirra Hourn

Secretary: Talitha Sawley

Treasurer: Emma Douglas

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm at Merriwa RSL Club

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone: 02 6547 4521 Fax: 02 6547 4450

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

Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

(PO Box 96) 43 Bow St, Merriwa NSW 2329
Ph: 0265 482 083
merriwapreschool@tpg.com.au

Merriwa Pre-School
For children 2 – 5 years

Activity Centre
For children attending Kindergarten to Year 6 After School Care and Vacation Care

Cassilis Public School

Principal: Mrs Katie Burgess

Coolah Road Ph: 63761009
Cassilis NSW 2329 Fax: 63761005
cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.cassilis-p.school.nsw.edu.au



Merriwa Central School

Principal's Report

Welcome back to all students after an incredibly uncertain time with COVID-19. There are many advantages to living in the country, some of which are highlighted during a pandemic- plenty of space and fresh air resulting in lower rates of infection. With the return to school we don't have to worry about our students sharing crowded inner city buses with a throng of daily commuters.

RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

All schools have returned to full on-campus learning from Monday May 25. All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee External link (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

School students do not need to follow strict adult physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately

ATTENDANCE

All students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition
- they are currently unwell

REPORTS

Assessment for reporting will include learning at school and the learning from home. Naturally we don't expect parents to be teachers, and that progress may be mixed. Essentially we have all done our best in difficult circumstances.

However for our secondary students we do expect that they have kept up with the work issued by their teachers. For our Year 11 and 12 students this is critical. Year 12 reports have been issued this week.

Semester 1 reports will be completed by the start of Term 3. This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive.

SCHOOL CLEANING

Additional cleaning is in place in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and bubblers and topping up of supplies like soap.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Only essential visitors to school grounds. There should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential eg teaching and cleaning staff. Additional activities like scripture and music lessons are currently on hold. Parents are asked to continue "kiss and drop" and afternoon pick-up arrangements.

SCHOOL FEES WAIVED

School fees have been waived for all students Kinder-12 due to the impact of the drought and COVID-19 on many families. For those who have already paid school fees they will be credited towards 2021 fees in advance. Alternatively, parents can request a refund (please contact the office for details).

CANTEEN

The P and C operated canteens will re-open after the June long weekend. Our volunteers will review the health advice in regard to canteens and restock in preparation for opening.

Primary canteen will open on Tuesday after the long weekend, then return to its normal Monday operations. The secondary canteen will resume operations on the Wednesday after the long weekend.

TECHNOLOGY RETURN

If the school provided assistance with technology (loan of laptops and/or dongles) during the learning from home period, we ask that parents return these devices. We are keen to return these items to classrooms now that students are back at school.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2!

It was so lovely seeing so many smiling faces on Monday morning. As you know, from Monday May 25, schools across NSW have returned to full time face to face teaching. A big heartfelt thank you to all parents who assisted their children with their school work while we were in our blended learning phase.

With the colder winter weather arriving, there has been an influx of non-uniform jumpers and jackets appearing in our playground. A friendly reminder that it is expected that your child is in full school uniform. Please only wear navy scarves, gloves and beanies as they reflect the colours in our school uniform. If you are experiencing financial difficulty in purchasing school uniforms for you child, please see Mrs Morgan, Mrs North or Mr Noonan.

Again with the colder mornings, many students who are wearing jumpers in the morning are taking them off at recess. These jumpers are then being discarded and forgotten. While every effort is made to return them to their owners, it is incredibly difficult to do so when they do not have names on them. Please label your child's clothing.

For the remainder of Term 2, some classes have a different library day to last term. Please be prepared by returning any currently borrowed books and having a library bag ready for

borrowing. Library classes are as follows:

Kindergarten:	Thursday
Year 1:	Tuesday
Year 2/3:	Monday
Year 3/4:	Tuesday
Year 4/5:	Wednesday
Year 5/6:	Wednesday

If you have a school laptop or internet dongle from our blended learning phase, please return it to the Primary front office this week.

Jenna North
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary



Secondary

CAREER NEWS

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP

JMC Canvas Art Award Competition

JMC Academy is excited to launch the 2020 Canvas Award Art Competition, showcasing the incredible work of young artists and designers who are taking creativity to the next level. JMC invites students with a knack for either drawing, painting or using creative digital mediums to creatively interpret this year's theme. Go to:

<https://www.jmccademy.edu.au/news/canvas-art-award-submissions-are-open>

Interior Design Industry Insights – Great Advice

Nina Starkey our commercial and residential interior design lecturer at our Brisbane campus gives us some insight into what's really exciting about the interior design industry at the moment and some other great tips.

<http://www.billyblue.edu.au/news-events/blog/entry/nina-starkey-our-commercial-and-residential-interior-design-lecturer-at-our-brisbane-campus-gives-us-some-insight-into-what-s-really-exciting-about-the-interior-design-industry-at-the-moment-and-some-other-great-tips>

International Poetry Writing Competition School Entries

Closes July 31, 2020

An annual poetry writing competition widely promoted to schools, libraries and the general community, this competition attracts local, interstate and global entries.

<https://www.ipswichpoetryfeast.com.au/2019-school-age-form/>

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

Closes June 30

The Competition is an opportunity for all young Commonwealth citizens and residents, regardless of region, education or background, to share ideas, celebrate their story and have their voice heard - all whilst developing key skills. For 2020, we want to hear from more young people across the Commonwealth, all stories and voices are important.

<https://competitions.thercs.org/home>

Liverpool FC Football Excellence Program – Southern Cross University

Learn to play and coach the Liverpool Way – unique in Australia to Southern Cross University Football Centre in Lismore, New South Wales. The Liverpool FC Football Excellence Program offers participants up to 15 hours a week of an authentic Liverpool Football Club experience for 30 weeks of the year while they study at Southern Cross University. See:

<https://bit.ly/SCULiverpool>

AIQS Quantity Surveyors Yr12 Scholarships - Up to \$5000.00

Closes October 31

Value \$4,000.00. Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS) offers a number of scholarships each year for Year 12 students who qualify for entry into a Quantity Surveying, Construction Economics, Construction Management (Economics) or other appropriate course at an AIQS accredited university in Australia. Applications are now open for 2020. More Information:

<https://bit.ly/2Lz1YIb>

Taronga Zoo Podcast Talks

The deep connections our staff develop with wildlife and the natural world affects the lives of others, near and far. From Sydney to Dubbo, Taronga's people all have amazing untold Zoo stories that will touch your heart and open your eyes.

Hayden Turner invites you to listen in each week and join our family with 'Taronga Talks'.

<https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/taronga-talks/season-1>

National Youth Science Forum: Apply by June 14

Do you love science, or technology, or have a drive to find solutions to problems and fix things? Are you constantly asking Why? How? Why not? Do you see yourself working in a science-related field and would like to know more about science related study and career paths?

The NYSF Year 12 Program is a 10-day residential program designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage continued studies in these fields. At the NYSF Year 12 Program run in January each

year, participants will:

- visit science and technology related laboratories and facilities,
- go on site tours,
- take part in workshops,
- go to social events, and

<https://www.nysf.edu.au/programs/year-12-program/>

Apply here:

<https://www.nysf.edu.au/what-we-do/how-to-apply/>

National History Challenge

Closes August 28

The theme for 2020 'CONTESTED HISTORIES'.

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives students a chance to be an historian, researching world history, examining Australia's past, investigating their community or exploring their own roots. It emphasises and rewards quality research, the use of community resources and effective presentation

<http://www.historychallenge.org.au/>

National Computer Science Challenge 2020

Begins July 27

The NCSS Challenge is unlike any other programming competition. We'll teach you how to program as we go along, rather than expecting you to be an expert already. If you're a seasoned coder, we have something for you too – the problems range from relatively simple to mind-bendingly hard.

Running for about 5 weeks, we will release notes and problems containing the information you will need to complete the week's programming challenges.

<https://groklearning.com/challenge/>

Hospitality SBATs - Bert Evans Apprenticeship Scholarship

Closes July 3

The Scholarships are worth \$5,000 each year for up to three years.

Scholarships are open to NSW registered apprentices in both metropolitan and country areas, including school based apprentices.

The Bert Evans Apprentice Scholarships assist apprentices in NSW who have demonstrated:

- hardship in their personal circumstances
- aptitude for vocational education and training to lead to successful completion of their trade training
- a positive attitude and application in the workplace and in off-the-job training

https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/apprenticeships_traineeships/students/bert_evans_scholarships.html

Guide to Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships and traineeships combine practical work with a course of structured training. This allows apprentices and trainees to acquire theoretical knowledge and gain a nationally recognised VET qualification, while working part-time in the industry.

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/education-blogs/tertiary-study/pathways-your-guide-to-apprenticeships-and-traineeships>

Careers With Horses - Early Applications

Thoroughbred Industry Careers will be taking early applications for the 2021 Explorer Cadetship - a 12-month stable & stud horsemanship program in the thoroughbred industry. It kicks off with a 12-week residential component of practical and theoretical training, followed by two paid work-experience placements at a leading racing stable and stud farm. Lindy@tbindustry careers.com.au for details.

If you have any further career enquiries please contact me at school.

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor



St Joseph's Primary School

STAGE THREE – BACK WITH A BANG!

Wow its week 5! We have all had a unique start to Term 2 but I am pleased to report Stage 3 have done an awesome job and we have had lots of great learning occurring during this time, both at home and school. We certainly have all enjoyed being back together over the last week.

Learning about the techniques used in persuasive texts has allowed for some great discussions and learning. These persuasive techniques have been very useful during Mr Borg's debating lessons. Some of the books which students are reading during reading groups include 'Playing Beatie Bow' and 'The Cay'. Both books have allowed for an in-depth study of the author's themes and messages. Students have been able to identify with the main characters in both texts. Special thank you to Mrs Collins, who is just as excited as the students to find out what is going to happen next in the books.

During our Maths sessions we have enjoyed completing work in our Maths groups with Stage 2 before moving back into class groups. Last week the students consolidated skills to solve 2, 3- and 4-digit multiplication problems. The students had to demonstrate the algorithm method, plus two other methods called the area model and the lattice method. These may seem complicated to people but find a Stage 3 student to explain them to you. It is adding skills to their toolbox and helping them solve real life maths problems without a calculator!

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote an encyclical called Laudato Si ('Praise be to you') - On the Care for Our Common Home. This is the Church's most profound and comprehensive statement yet on caring for creation and the poorest. Stage 3 have been discussing aspects of this paper and are currently organising a "Nude Food" day as a way for them to stop and reflect on how they can care for creation and the world we live in. This will occur during our Wellbeing Week activities- not only looking after our own wellbeing but the wellbeing of the world in which we live.

The ASPIRE Creative arts organisation- part of the Catholic School Office has created a competition for the students to create a sculpture of a bird which will be placed in the foyer for the upcoming Aspire performance- rescheduled for

January. The students are collecting recyclable material, researching types of birds and designing. We are all look forward to getting started on building our creations.

Thanks to the wonderful technology we have become very familiar with, we held a Zoom meeting with Anna Kerrigan – Artistic Director of Aspire- to commence the planning for our school play to be held in September this year. Great ideas and themes came across. We look forward to again working with Anna. Stay tuned for updates.

Last Wednesday we ran an abridged version of our Cross Country. The event was held in our school grounds. Students ran well and it was wonderful to see the students encouraging each other and challenge each other. Below are the results of the age champions-

Congratulations to everyone!

	Girls	Boys
5's	Nevaeh Peters	
6's	Charlie Barry	Myles Hvirf
7's		Eddison Raines
8's	Eden Barry	Morgan Bates
9's	Shyanne Beeney	Jeremiah Raines
10's	Annabelle Hunt	Jye Bates
11's	Lula Peebles	Ben Patterson
12's	Grace Booth	Aidan Hunt





Year 6 were very excited to receive their Year 6 shirts. They look great! A special thank you to Peta Luke for organising them.

WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

Kindergarten - Katie Williams – for her mature and enthusiastic approach in all learning activities

Stage 1 - Eddison Raines - for his inquisitive nature and love of learning which is present throughout all learning activities

Hudson Wallace – for his continued perseverance and improvement in learning his weekly spelling words

Stage 2 - Sean Evans - for his hard work and efforts in writing independent sentences using his spelling words

Savannah Beeney – for her curiosity and engagement in her learning of multiplication and division

Stage 3 - Grace Booth - for outstanding results and application during all multiplication problems using the area model, algorithm and lattice methods.

Liana Pearce - for being curious and asking questions about the world in which we live

Principal's Awards - Bethany Wightman - for her excellent responses in debating

Charlie Barry – for her outstanding efforts in Cross Country.

Mr Ashley Borg
Principal



Cassilis Public School

It was absolutely wonderful to welcome back students this week who have been learning from home since before the holidays. We really missed their smiling faces and stories. The students also missed each other.



The Cassilis School community was saddened to hear of the loss of Mr Doug Cornish. For many years, Doug drove his ute up to the school to deliver the students lunches from the Post Office. He always brought a big smile with him and a friendly hello. Doug also encouraged important manners as the students needed to say thank you when he handed them their lunch. He will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with his family.



We hope that all of our wonderful Mums of Cassilis had a beautiful Mother's Day with your families. We hope that you enjoyed your cards with the special message from your child, your

hand-made beads present, purchased gift from the P and C stall and special donation from the Mayfield Lions Club.

SCHOOL LEADER REPORT WITH BENJAMIN BIBBY



Most students at Cassilis have been learning at home for the past five weeks. The teachers put together learning packs for each individual student to do their learning from home. I was excited to get my pack each week.

I really liked making characters with my playdough. I enjoyed making my Easter Hat with the help from my mum and sisters. I waited on the street with my family for the Easter Bunny. Some of them had hats on as well and it was a fun time! I loved completing my Maths activities and I think I have improved with my addition, doubling and multiplication.

The last two Fridays I had Zoom lessons with Mrs Burgess and Mrs Nairne. I could see and hear my teachers. We talked all about my lessons that I had done at home. They helped me with my writing where I decided that I liked winter better than summer because there are no bushfires in the winter.

I would like to thank my mum for helping me with my home learning. Even though she is also busy at the hospital, she still helps me. It was nice to return to school this week.



Thank you to Kellie Porter from Merriwa Central School for coming to Cassilis and passing on some great library skills to Mrs Nairne. We have a wonderful library at Cassilis and it will be great to use it more often and more efficiently.

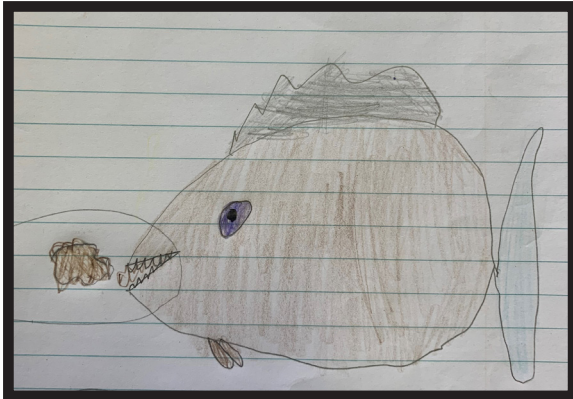
Thank you to Merriwa Central School for supporting our school.

WOULD YOU RATHER BE A FISH OR A BIRD?

Continuing our focus on persuasive writing, students read fish and bird books and then had a great discussion about both. They were then asked the question: Would you rather be a fish or a bird?

I would like to be a fish because you can eat other fish and they taste really good. I like to play in the ocean and hide under the reef. Paul

I would like to be a fish because I could smash oysters open with my mouth. Oysters taste good with barbeque and tomato sauce. I could hide in the seaweed so a bird couldn't get me. Gordie



I would like to be a fish in the ocean because I would eat all the tiny, tiny fish. Cooper

I would like to be a fish because when kids come and splash in the river I would have a splash as well. I could hide under the bank amongst the reeds and I would have fish friends. Skylah

I would like to be a flying fish so I could fly in the sky to get away from being eaten. Dridan

I would like to be a bird because it would be fun to sleep in a nest high in the tree. Johnathan



I would like to be a bird so I can fly in the air. Jacob

Have they convinced you one way or the other?

LEARNING AT SCHOOL...MAKING BIRD TRAPS, BIRD NEST, AND BUILDING IN THE SANDPIT, ADDING NUMBERS AND SPELLING.





Sandy Hollow Public School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I would like to thank all members of the school community for the very warm welcome I have been given over the last week. It is always a bit daunting starting out in a new community, but everyone has been very supportive and welcoming. I look forward to working with you all, and hope to meet you all in person very soon.

HOW AMAZING IS THE VIRTUAL WORLD!

There were lots of 'Oh my gosh' and 'Wow' as students started investigating the virtual reality equipment. Who would have thought that we would have dinosaurs invading our classroom! The equipment is on loan from the NSW Department of Education until the end of term. Where should we go for our virtual excursion next week....Antarctica or Taronga Zoo or Paris?

Ask your child about what they saw and how they felt.

Last week the staff spent two days engaging in professional learning, organising Learning from Home tasks and planning what life at SHPS will look like in the coming weeks. It was lovely to see some students return to school on Wednesday, and most students commenced their learning via our new Google classrooms. Well done to those of you who managed to log on and complete the learning tasks set.

We have planned a managed return to school for all students for one day per week beginning in week 3, and I look forward to meeting most of you then.

Jane Fuiono
Relieving Principal

CHARACTER STRENGTHS FOCUS – ZEST I TAKE ON EACH DAY WITH ENERGY AND EXCITEMENT

We will be continuing on with the Character Strengths focus, and this week's focus strength is 'Zest'.



Katie Burgess
Principal



Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on the strength of Zest. Students will be encouraged to look for it happening at school and staff will be looking for this strength in the way the children are engaging in their learning from home. I am sure all students exhibit this strength and we will be able to spot many students using it. Our Character Strength Super Hero this week is Henry.

Henry was chosen for this award because he has bounced through the school gate every day full of energy and ready to learn. Congratulations Henry!

WEEKLY AWARDS

- Logan - for excellent participation in Google classroom activities
- Eli H- for fantastic spelling
- Za'Kiah - YCDI - Persistence - logging in to Google Classroom every day
- Mikayla - for creating a fantastic timeline in reading
- Isabelle P - for great commitment to completing all set tasks
- Mya - YCDI - Organisation - always being ready to learn.

NEW SIGNS

During the holidays new signage was installed around the school. We now have an Acknowledgement of Country sign and also the 5 Keys to success and happiness which form part of our PD program, You Can Do It!

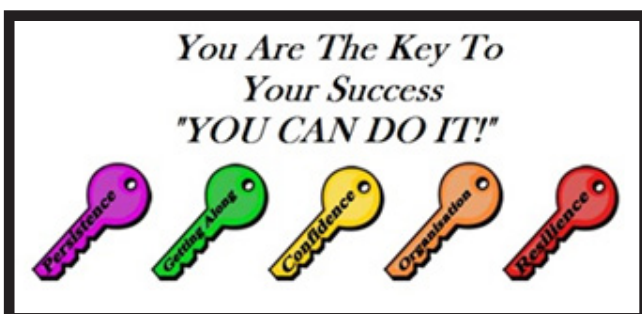


GENEROUS DONATION

At the end of last term Mr Gareth James made a donation of \$2500.00 to our school on behalf of the Denman Rotary Club and Mangoola Mine workers. This money was used to purchase digital devices to help students with their online learning. Thank you!



Jane Fuono
Relieving Principal





Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

THE WIDENING LENS OF COVID -19

Throughout the global Covid-19 pandemic, we have done everything possible to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff, students and their families locally. Of course, the first and most important hurdle is communication and regardless of the uncertainty, together we have been able to maintain the chain of information between families and staff so we are aware of who will be attending each day and what our staffing requirements are. This is so important as we manage the safe and staggered intake of children and staff over the term.

Health and hygiene is closely knitted to early childhood education at the best of times and now all children are having their temperatures taken and families are signing a disclosure statement on arrival. Our risk assessment is lengthy and comprehensive, with social distancing being promoted and limits on children permitted on play equipment and tabled activities. Small items, such as Lego are off the program for the term and so too is playdough and large group activities. As you know it is nearly impossible to restrict the movements and affection from children for each other and for their teachers, so despite all the processes and practices in place the best thing we can all do is to stay home if you are unwell or if your child becomes unwell, especially as the cooler weather approaches.

There is no doubt that Covid-19 has given us plenty of time for reflection, and this term the children will be examining their connection to the world through the lens of Covid -19. But it's not all bad news, despite the difficulties it has presented, it has also given us plenty to be thankful for, which we will be touching on as part of learning, Term 2.

We are grateful that:

- we are in a reasonably low risk area, with the figures that we hear everyday on the news, the benefits of being in a small community are valuable
- people stayed at home and are keeping our community safe in particular our aged population
- our children have families who are doing

everything possible to put them first with love, care, health and education

- the government acted quickly, providing support to our educators and staff through the job keeper payments and our operational funding
- we have a strong and resilient world, and that our pollution levels have lowered substantially during restrictions
- people are adaptive and can make impactful changes
- we have amazing health care workers and people who are working across all areas in health and science throughout this pandemic including those actively researching a vaccine for Covid -19.

What we hope that:

- a dynamic recovery plan is implemented
- the 1 million people in Australia who lost their jobs will have their employment rebuilt in manufacturing, recycling, agriculture and renewable energy
- businesses recover with 4 billion being lost from our economy each week due to trading restrictions
- the cost of these measures don't burden the next generations with enormous taxes.
- that we can learn from this event and have measures and reserves in place to combat future outbreaks
- that all countries can cooperate and ensure the ethical treatment of animals .

We hope this awful sickness and loss of life serves as motivation to make positive change in our world.

**Leah Folpp
Service Director**

Ringer Deadline!

*Please remember to place
your articles*

*and advertisements into the
Merriwa Ringer*

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon



Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

REFLECTION PENTECOST SUNDAY John 20:19-23

In the other Gospels there is a scene within the ministry of Jesus when he sends the disciples out to preach, heal and cast out demons. In this Johannine Gospel the missioning of disciples does not occur until after the Resurrection. Prior to the crucifixion Jesus is the only one on mission from his Father, but now as he returns to the Father that mission is to continue through his disciples. Just as Jesus' mission began with the coming of the Spirit to dwell with him, so also the mission of the disciples begins as Jesus breathes on them the gift of the Spirit.

Jesus' mission had been to reveal God's love for the world and to overcome the power of evil that held people back from believing and accepting this great gift of love. The disciples are similarly empowered. They are given authority from Jesus to announce the forgiveness of sin. No longer are people to be held back from God by fear and guilt.

In this Gospel the evangelist shows this power already operating in the extraordinary change that happens to the disciples. They are locked in on themselves, afraid, possibly reliving their failures over recent days. Then suddenly the Risen One is present. All fear and failure is immediately banished and replaced by joy and peace. May the power of God's Spirit inflame our hearts with the Easter gifts of peace and joy.

Come Bird of Paradise, hover anew over this time, this place.

Spread your brooding wings afar to gather all the lost.

Blaze with your incandescent light in hearts trapped by fear.

Dispel the clouds of despair

And breathe

Breathe into our dried up hopes your cosmic breath of life.

Come gracious breath of Love,

Play your subtle melodies in our heart.

Attune our ears to your vibrant stirrings to catch your rhythm and harmony pulsing in our lives.

Draw us from our solitary notes into the symphony of your Triune life

Speak in tongues that we may hear the Word reborn

And sing – sing through every fibre of our being.

Abba, Father. (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM).

Love and blessings,

Rev Pat Kirkby

Merriwa Rotary

IN OUR THOUGHTS

There are times when one event makes all other happenings of our club seem totally minor, by comparison.

On behalf of all Rotary Merriwa families, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to member (and past President of our club) Bill Reynolds and to Anne, as well as to all members of their family on the loss of their daughter Marian.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

RYAG SHEEP 2020 PROGRAM

Earlier this year I was given the opportunity by the Merriwa Rotary Club to go to Walcha and participate in the RYAG Sheep 2020 Program. While we were there we visited three sheep properties, Nerstane, Petali and Europambela. Each property owner ran workshops on their farms. I tried to pinpoint my favourite workshop, but they were all fantastic.

There were eight workshops at Nerstane, the workshops I found most interesting was the AI and ET demonstration, low stress stock handling and the ram selection. It's amazing how the calmer approach to handling stock really works.

At Petali we participated in five workshops, the workshops I felt were the most interesting were identifying and assessing pastures, sheep genetics, carcass fat and muscle scanning.

On Friday we were at the Walcha Showground for most the day and we did live sheep appraisal, wool classing and judging, carcass cutting at the local butcher and a shearing demonstration. After the showground we attending a workshop at Europambela which about dog training, another very interesting workshop. Friday evening we all had to participate in a fashion show at the dinner which our parents attended,

it was a crack up watching everyone get dressed up.

It was great getting to see another area of New South Wales that I haven't been to before and to meet lots of new people. I appreciate being given this valuable opportunity, thank you Merriwa Rotary Club for allowing us to go and represent Merriwa - Thomas Hunt

RYAG was an amazing opportunity as I met so many new friends and learnt so much about sheep and the sheep industry. I had a great time going to the properties; Nerstane, Petali and Europambela to participate in the different varieties of sessions they had prepared for us. Some of the sessions completed included: an AI and ET demonstration, a low stress stock handling talk, an aspects of stock freighting talk, sheep genetics, carcass fat and muscle scanning demonstration, sheering demonstration, dog training and more. Overall I had the best experience at RYAG and learnt so many new things - Tahli Gleeson

I would like to thank the Rotary for giving me the opportunity to go to RYAG. I learnt many things about the sheep industry including low stress stock handling, dog training, wool classing and the different cuts of meat.

Thanks also to the owners of the properties that we visited. I am grateful for this opportunity and would like to recommend it to anyone who is interested in the sheep industry - Jack Goodear.

Mark Smith

Hunter Local Lands Service

REMINDED TO BE AWARE OF HENDRA

Hunter Local Land Services is urging horse owners to be aware that winter 2020 may provide suitable climatic conditions and subsequently a period of heightened risk for Hendra Virus cases in horses.

The case in the Upper Hunter last year, suggests that we must not become complacent and that Hendra virus infections can occur in our area.

BatOneHealth (batonehealth.org) are a global team of experts who have been studying the complex interactions between climate, land use, flying fox ecology, Hendra virus dynamics and the concurrent risk to horses and humans.

District Veterinarian Kristi Arnot said this group has recently advised that Winter 2020 represents a period of heightened risk for Hendra Virus spill over into horse populations.

"There were similar climatic and ecological conditions leading up to Winter 2011 and winter 2017, which saw the largest numbers of equine cases, and the prediction is for similar climatic conditions this year," said Kristi.

"June through to October is considered a high-risk time for Hendra infection in horses, because flying foxes are under pressure to find food in winter.

"Actions now by vets and their clients can reduce this risk by ensuring horses are protected from infection, please be aware if there is sufficient close contact between an infected horse and a person then human infection becomes possible."

Hendra virus is a virus carried by flying foxes (who are unaffected by the virus) and can be deadly to both humans and horses. Hendra virus is transmitted from flying fox to horse, via the ingestion by the horse of flying fox bodily fluids most likely dropped from overhead trees contaminating pasture, feed, water troughs etc. Hendra virus can then be spread from horse to horse, horse to dog and horse to human via close contact with respiratory secretions, blood or any other bodily fluid from an infected horse.

"Since the disease was first recognised in 1994, 62 outbreaks have been recorded with 104 horse deaths and 7 human infections have resulted in 4 deaths," said Kristi.

"To protect both your horses and yourself, it is recommended to vaccinate your horse, as there is no human vaccine."

There is no specific treatment for infected horses, and euthanasia is often required on welfare grounds whilst awaiting test results.

"Your decision whether or not to vaccinate your horse should be made in consultation with your veterinarian.," said Kristi.

"This is an important discussion to have with your private veterinary practitioner so that they can safely attend and treat your horse in times of illness.

"Access to veterinary attention may not always be available for unvaccinated horses."

Further information is available from NSW DPI <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/horses/health-and-disease/hendra-virus> and NSW Health <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/hendra.aspx>, your Private Veterinarian or District Veterinarian.

**BIRDS CONNECT OUR WORLD - BIRD COMPETITION
(9 MAY-9 JUNE 2020)**

You can still join Hunter LLS "Birds Connect Our World" (May 9-June 9) Bird Competition any time up to June 5.

Register via this link: <https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/birds-connect-our-world-bird-watching-competition/>

When you register you will receive an e-bird watch support pack.

You don't need to be an expert, just have a go.

To enter the competition you just need to complete at least one 20 minute 2 hectare bird watch at your place.

List the birds you saw into the Birdata app, and then (closer to the competition closing date) we'll ask you to complete a fun quiz, and upload your sightings.

Its free, its fun, and you don't have to leave your place to join in!

The more surveys you do, the more chance you have to win one of 28 great cash and birdy related prize packs.

Thanks to the many landholders in the Hunter region who have joined in so far! Happy birding.

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's Landcare Program.

Contact Carolyn Jenkinson at carolyn.jenkinson@lls.nsw.gov.au or on 0408 162 174 for more information or assistance.

Carolyn Jenkinson



Ringer Deadline!

*Please remember to
place your articles
and advertisements
into the
Merriwa Ringer*

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

We just can't thank our wonderful Clients and Friends enough for accepting the changes that we have had to make in regards to Covid-19.

@ R M Property & Livestock – *Roger & Megan* are committed to helping keep our community as safe as possible throughout these challenging times.

We're OPEN but doing things a little differently!

In keeping with social distancing practices, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of coronavirus spreading within our community by working smartly. We have many innovative technical tricks that are enabling us to continue to provide our clients with the very best service, support and to keep matters moving along smoothly.

Please remember there are lots of ways to make contact:
Telephone - 0400 653 446 Megan & 0427 153 446 Roger
Email - megan@rmproperty.net & roger@rmproperty.net
Through a message on Facebook / Messenger & Instagram.

Through our website: <https://www.rmpropertyandlivestock.com>

***We also have a locked box at the office - if you need to drop something off.*

***We offer Eftpos, (we can process Eftpos over the phone), direct debit/deposit, Centrepay and deposits can also be done at the Regional Australia Bank here in town. Contact Megan if you are having any difficulties paying your rent.*

There is always a way to make it work, so please feel free to call us anytime, communication is so important for everyone anytime but especially now.

From our family to yours *'Stay Safe'...*



Community Notice Board

Raymond Edward Towler

(MICK)

SEPTEMBER 9, 1930 TO MAY 31, 2018

Today, tomorrow, our whole life through

I will always love you

You can't come back

I know that is true

But one day we will all

Come to you.

Always remembered

**Your loving wife Eva, Children David, Jayne,
Darren and families**

Congratulations and Commiserations

I would like to take a moment to catch up on a few congratulations for a few outstanding moments in past week.

This includes:

- Bella Campbell on your award in term 1
- The grader crew on the UHSC for the works completed on Forest Reserve Road, job well done
- Tori McNaught for all the achievements you have made in the past few months to get you to where you are today

I would also like to offer my commiserations to the Reynold's Family for their recent loss. My thoughts are with you all.

Hylt Cronin

MDPA MDPA STILL ON THE JOB

Despite the 'lockdown' and 'social distancing' imposed by the COVID-19 epidemic, the Merriwa District Progress Association has continued to operate in the interests of our local community.

Our monthly meetings are now held by video conference on 'Zoom' (thanks to Kim Fenley) where all members can participate safely. Meetings are open to all interested members of the public. Email your details to merriwaprogress@gmail.com to find out how you can join in.

The aims of the Progress Association are: To maintain, encourage and promote the social, economic, environmental, cultural and educational progress of Merriwa and district.

Therefore, we are committed to continue working towards a harmonious and prosperous township and district. The assistance of each and every member of the community will assist us in achieving our goals. So tell us about matters requiring attention, and support us when the opportunity arises.

Some of our more recent achievements include: unlocking the gates at the Merriwa cemetery; displaying a speed radar board on King George V Avenue; running the Clean-up Australia day; and producing the booklet "A Guide To Public Transport To and From Merriwa".

We wish to thank the Upper Hunter Shire Council for their cooperation and support in implementing many of these projects.

We are still working towards: having a reverse vending machine (that returns 10c deposit on drink containers) stationed in Merriwa; safety modifications to the doctors surgery; installing a public toilet on the Merriwa/Scone road; supporting the retention of the Visitors Information Centre in its current (pre COVID-19) format and location; and many more projects.

Stephen Gowlland

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

Business
Merriwa Newsagency
BLUEY MAGAZINE

This magazine for the kids is packed full of puzzles, stickers and activities to draw, colour, imagine and play. From the very popular TV show about Bluey the dog the kids will definitely love this magazine to keep them busy!

HELLO

- Historic photo special; The Queen's moving recollections of V.E. Day, "It was one of the most memorable nights of my life"
- The Royal family leads Remembrance, celebrations from a safe distance, emotion and reflection as the nation unites. Fly past, veterans, Dame Vera Lynn and much more
- New photos; Archie turns one! Meghan and Harry mark their little giggler's birthday.

FAMILY CIRCLE

Stay warm and well with this winter issue. It's packed with budget beating meal ideas, favourite biscuits, perfect pies and winter desserts! There's also plenty of craft to keep you creative, puzzles, book reviews plus a special guide to veggie gardening and keeping chooks. Staying home has never been so fun!

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

You will find fantastic old school ways to garden on a budget, beautiful flowering climbers and a whole bunch of veggie growing questions answered.

HOUSE AND GARDEN

The June issue is the perfect antidote for unpredictable times. It is warm and chic inside the latest mag and there is plenty of inspiration for refreshing, redecorating or renovating your home. The decorating pages focus on the bathroom as a sublime sanctuary with plenty of bespoke bathrooms to dream on. Also gorgeous lush gardens from a city rooftop to a country spread will have you heading out!

APC MAGAZINE (AUSTRALIA PERSONAL COMPUTER)

This top selling magazine turns 40! Ever since it's launch in 1980 this magazine has gone from strength to strength. This issue is a must have so be sure to check it out!

COUNTRY LIFE

Country Life's top 100; the definitive list of the Page 18

finest architects, interior designers, garden designers and craftspeople in the country. Also Labradoodles, do you have one or do you want one? The rise and rise of these very popular dogs.

HEARTLAND MAGAZINE

This magazine is full of interesting articles. There is the History of Australia, part 1 series, also a piece about the history of Tamworth, the history of Maclean as well as motorbike history from the Ducati Motorcycle Company. Lots of lovely recipes and some wise advice from a Farmer's Wife...always pat the chooks when you take the eggs and enjoy doing your children's laundry, someday they will be away.

If you are looking for gifts for men, look no further, we have wallets, pens, books, puzzles and games. Drop in and check them out.

A TWIGSEEDS MOMENT

Good friends are like stars, you don't always see them but you know they're always there.

BEANIE BOO

My name is Wasabi

My name in the jungle is spunky monkey & all my tricks are really funky

My birthday is May 18

PHONECARDS: All cards are now available including Telstra, Optus and Vodafone. Cash and Effpos only.

Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress

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Merriwa Pharmacy

“What interesting times we live in” seems to have been the most common sentiment both in our community and around the world since the arrival of COVID-19.

It is encouraging to see some aspects of life returning to “normal” however there is still a long way to go before we can be considered safe from the reaches of this virus.

With the easing of government enforced restrictions the onus of responsibility now falls on us as individuals and as a community to continue to protect the most vulnerable.

The isolation and disempowerment felt by many in our community during this time has been relieved a little by the diligent work of Merriwa Helping Hands with Rob Tindall, Tash Taaffe and Edith Shipway leading a band of volunteers to help advise the community what support is available and to identify any needs that are not being met. They have even secured some mulch hay which they have delivered around the community. It is great that we have people in our community that rise to meet a challenge.

You have probably noticed that at Merriwa Pharmacy we have implemented a number of changes to our operating procedures due to COVID-19. Currently our front door is locked during opening hours so that we can limit the number of customers in the store at any time. Before entering the pharmacy customers will be asked if they are experiencing any temperatures, cold and flu symptoms or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. We have also installed sneeze guards on our front counters and whilst we still accept cash we encourage the use of EFTPOS payment where possible. On the advice of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia we have temporarily ceased our blood pressure measuring service.

It is essential that we protect pharmacy staff from infection in order to avoid any disruption to pharmacy services.

COVID-19 has placed medication supply chains under some significant pressure leading to temporary limits on the amount of medication that we can supply to patients. It now looks like supply is returning to normal however we encourage patients to keep at least one weeks supply of medication in hand. Patients with seasonal respiratory conditions are advised to contact their doctor to obtain prescriptions for reliever and preventative medications.

Merriwa pharmacy would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for the patience, support and understanding that you have shown since the advent of COVID-19. There is a long way to go before we can consider ourselves not at risk so we must work together as a community and as individuals to minimise the risks of COVID-19 to our community.

Let's keep encouraging each other to innovate and find safe ways to work, play and socialise.

Robert Smith

Upper Hunter Shire Council

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to commend the residents in our Shire for the manner in which they have conducted themselves during these COVID-19 times. I have witnessed many acts of human kindness and have felt the ever increasing presence of our community spirit. It is important we continue in this manner and aim to keep everyone connected. Whether that be by a simple ‘hello’ over the fence or down the street, an offer of help between neighbours, or by continuing to shop local, supporting the local economy and protecting local jobs. Every action makes a difference.

On May 15, we commenced the stage one release of NSW Government restrictions.

The following is allowed:

- outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people
- cafes and restaurants can seat 10 patrons at any one time and continue to provide takeaway services
- up to 5 visitors may visit another household at any one time
- weddings can have up to 10 guests plus the celebrant and couple
- indoor funerals can have up to 20 mourners and outdoor funerals up to 30
- religious gatherings and places of worship can have up to 10 worshippers
- outdoor playground and exercise equipment can be used with caution
- outdoor pools will be open with restrictions

What does this mean for our Shire?

- All public toilets are now open

- Our playgrounds, barbecues and skate parks are open. Any gatherings must be with less than 10 people and social distancing must be observed
- All four golf courses are open to local residents with a game of golf able to be played with up to four people - observing the strict controls in place. Please see the relevant club for details
- Our public pools will remain closed as per normal winter closure

UHS libraries have commenced virtual story time on their Facebook page. Look them up and join in the fun!



Big wheels keep on turning

Our infrastructure projects have been humming along. Our outdoor crews have continued to maintain our roads, parks, gardens, toilets and water and sewer works.



Mowing Merriwa No. 2 Oval



A culvert extension and bus pull-over area being constructed on the Golden Hwy, 4km east of Merriwa.

This is a huge step forward for all of us in the fight against COVID-19, one in which we have earned by following public health orders and respecting and preserving our health and wellbeing as a community. I will remind you, we enter this new phase with caution. Now is not the time to become complacent, now more than ever we need to work together to protect the community from COVID-19 by:

- Washing your hands with soap often for at least 20 seconds
- Keeping a distance from others (at least 1.5 metres)
- Coughing and sneezing into your elbow
- Putting tissues in the bin right away
- Staying at home if you feel unwell and seek appropriate medical advice
- Being mindful of others to ensure everyone can safely access and use the public spaces

I am proud of what we have achieved as a community and have every confidence we will continue to work together and support each other through this crisis.

Wayne Bedggood
Mayor

STAY INFORMED

The situation is constantly changing. The information above is correct as of May 25, 2020. Council recommends individuals refer to NSW Health (www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) as a trusted source of information.

For Shire specific updates and information, please visit www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Facebook - Upper Hunter Shire Council

What has been happening?

Story time at the Library with Librarian Sharyn!



Works at Hacketts Ln (near the Merriwa Silos).

MERRIWA LIBRARY NEWS

With 2020 in full swing we have been very busy at the Library.

We had the amazing Murphy Puppets come and entertain us in the school holidays with lots of laughs from the children and adults.



**SUPPORT FOR UPPER HUNTER SHIRE BUSINESSES
WE LIVE HERE – WE SPEND HERE**



Upper Hunter Shire Council has launched a major initiative to support local businesses across our Shire with 'We LIVE Here – We SPEND Here' which includes a 'buy local' shopping website www.welivehereupperhunter.com.au

There is also a new Facebook page – We LIVE Here Upper Hunter Business Group - where business owners can communicate with, and get support from, other local businesses and Council's Business Services staff.

Mayor Wayne Bedggood said the initiative was an extension of the 'We Live Here' buy local campaign.



Library Lover's Day coincided with Valentine's Day and all visitors that day received a library lover's book mark and selected books from our display.

"Most people in the Shire are now familiar with the We LIVE Here card, the most successful buy local gift cards in NSW with over \$500,000.00 loaded onto the cards since the program started in December 2018. This promotes it further with the slogan 'We LIVE Here – We SPEND Here'," he said.

"The 'We LIVE Here Upper Hunter' web site is an ambitious project that Council were already talking to local businesses about, to gauge interest. The restrictions around COVID-19 made it urgent that we help businesses open their e-doors to online customers in and outside the shire," Cr Bedgood said.

"There is a need for contact-free shopping opportunities to increase sales and keep small businesses afloat. Not only will the virtual shopping precinct increase the profile of businesses but also provide goods to our communities without the need for people to leave their homes. Through the website it's easy to see who offers click and collect, home delivery or postage of goods and services."

A local radio advertising campaign started this week to ensure the 'buy local' message is delivered.

"At the end of this campaign we hope that every resident explores local purchases before heading out of town or buying online from businesses outside of our Shire," Cr Bedgood said.

"By keeping our local economy strong we attract business opportunities to our towns and ensure jobs for our kids. Our businesses have suffered through three years of drought, and now hit with a pandemic. At no time has the 'buy local' message been more important."

Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, commended Council on its efforts to support and grow local business in the region.

"Whether it's your local café, butcher or giftshop – right now every shop, on every corner, in every street across the Upper Hunter needs your business," Mr Joyce said.

"Drought, bushfire and now Coronavirus have put a serious dent in local trade but with our help and support, they will recover. This council-led initiative, which is backed by state and federal government funding, will go a long way to achieving that."

This initiative is funded with \$100,000 from the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic

Recovery Fund jointly funded under the Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Visit the website at www.welivehereupperhunter.com.au and start shopping. Local businesses who haven't listed can do so easily with the tab at the top right hand side of the screen. Anyone needing support can contact Council's Business Services Team on 6540 1100.

Daele Healy

Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis Gummun Place Hostel has continued to provide high quality care for 15 senior residents in Merriwa. Council has monitored information and directives in regard to COVID-19 from the Department of Health and will continue to work together with the residents and their families to implement and adhere to all of the recommendations from the Federal Government.



Council has eased visitation restrictions at Gummun Place Hostel in accordance with the recently released "Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes During COVID-19".

The new code and Government requirements, restricts onsite visitors to a maximum of one visit for each resident per day, with a maximum of two people. Visitors must also comply with further requirements, including providing evidence of current influenza vaccination. Any people requesting a visit, must ring and book in a time on 6521 7011.

The Coronavirus pandemic is not over, and older people are still at risk, so the Hostel will be maintaining high standards of infection control to protect its residents, and thanks the community for its ongoing support and understanding.

Merriwa Ringer

Our residents and families have been individually consulted to ensure the needs of each person are supported and continue to be supported throughout the crisis. Our staff are receiving ongoing support, training and resources to provide the highest quality care to our residents.

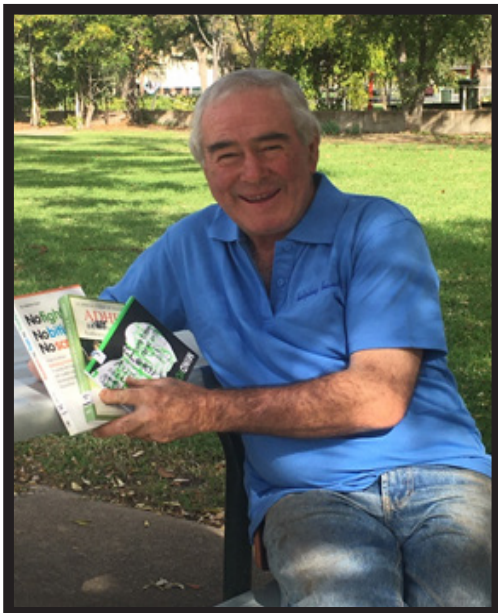
There has been lots of innovation from our Activity Officer and staff to provide other types of activities, and maintain contact with families. Like the rest of us, many residents have acquired new skills with skype and messenger to enable ongoing contact with friends and family. Recently, residents had a delivery of letters from the students of St Joseph's School to keep them in contact with everyone.

GUMMUNPLACE ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Residents and staff went to the end of the drive with candles to watch the sunrise. They listened to the reveille and observed a minute's silence then they laid their wreath at the flag pole.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

In Merriwa, Council has been supporting through Community Services, the establishment of a volunteer support group called Helping Hands. The group look for ways to assist the aged or vulnerable through provision of information, connection as well as financial support.



Rob Tindall, the driver behind Helping Hands with Library books to be distributed to Shire residents.

SHINING A LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On May 6 Hunter Valley Police, Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre, Upper Hunter Homeless Support and Council held candlelight vigils in memory of victims of domestic and family violence.

UHSC Community Services Officer Tash Taaffe, Cr Ron Campbell and Penelope Fenley, a Director of Upper Hunter Homeless Support.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or family violence or feels unsafe, help is available. The NSW Domestic Violence Line offers 24/7 free advice and counselling on 1800 656 463. Please call 000 in an emergency.



Merriwa District Progress Association

RETAINING THE MERRIWA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

(A letter to the Upper Hunter Shire Council)

It is with great concern that the Merriwa District Progress Association (MDPA) writes to you regarding the future existence and effectiveness of the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

Please be advised that the community of Merriwa and district overwhelmingly opposes any plans to terminate or downgrade the Visitor Information Centre in Bettington Street Merriwa.

You may not be aware that the MDPA strongly opposed a proposal by Council in 2016 to privatise and relocate the VIC, then located in Vennacher Street Merriwa. Our position on any such proposal remains unchanged. The Merriwa VIC should remain in its current location and be owned and operated by Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) staff.

The VIC provides an important service to the local community and to the travelling public. Not only does it provide tourism information promoting local businesses and attractions, but it also provides a service to the local community assisting with private administrative actions.

Those services include:

- assisting with on-line access to MyGov services such as: Centrelink, Medicare and the Australian Taxation Office;
- computer access for setting up email accounts, checking emails, and browsing the internet, etc;
- performing scanning, printing, photocopying and binding of documents for residents who lack these facilities;
- securing bookings and selling tickets for NSW Trainlink and Sid Fogg's Coach Service; and
- hosting a community noticeboard displaying information on local events and notices.

The staff at the VIC provide friendly advice and assistance to local residents to access the services provided. Many elderly residents have not embraced computer technology and do not have their own computer, thereby rendering the VIC as a critical element in their need to access essential administrative services.

Many Government agencies are closing their shopfronts and downgrading their telephone services, encouraging the public to conduct business 'on-line'. This is most difficult for the aged as they have traditionally conducted business on a face-to-face manner or by telephone, and can often avoid technology-based service delivery. This can lead to them suffering financial and social hardships by not availing themselves of vital Government assistance. Due to the aging demography of the residents in Merriwa and district (In 2016 seniors accounted for 27.9% of the Merriwa population), it is essential that the assistance provided by the VIC staff in these matters is maintained.

The Merriwa VIC traditionally offers a valuable service for the travelling public, displaying a collection of booklets, brochures and leaflets promoting local accommodation, attractions and businesses, as well as tourism information on neighbouring regions (including all parts of the Upper Hunter Shire). It is currently ideally located in a prominent position on the junction of roads leading from Denman/Muswellbrook (also Sydney and Newcastle), Scone, Willow Tree/Tamworth and Mudgee/Dunedoo/Dubbo. In its current livery, it is instantly recognised by the travelling public as the traditional repository of information about tourism in the area.

It may not be immediately recognised, but the Merriwa VIC is playing an increasing role in

supporting local businesses and improving the long-term economic and social viability of the township and surrounding district.

Whilst many businesses in Merriwa deliver essential support services for local agricultural enterprises, there has been a growth in the number of local businesses taking advantage of the increasing demand to service the travelling public. This trend appears to have developed since the dedication of the Golden Highway, the opening of the Hunter Expressway, and the ever-increasing number of 'baby-boomers' and families travelling within Australia.

There has been a discernible increase in the number of cafes and accommodation venues in Merriwa. The need for more fuel retailers in town has also been identified. This ever-increasing trend for business diversification is essential for the long-term viability of Merriwa. The MDPA recognises the VIC as an essential component in the delivery of tourism support services.

Staff at the Merriwa VIC report a high level of visitation by the travelling public seeking tourist information, and local residents seeking assistance with access to administrative services. This facility is vital to delivering such services to the public and is demonstrably in high demand.

It is understood that the staffing and operation of this facility incurs a cost to Council in its annual budget. However, the continued provision of this important service is an expense that ratepayers are willing to embrace. The MDPA identifies the Merriwa VIC as a genuine investment in the long-term economic and social viability of our wonderful town.

Any changes to the current arrangement of the VIC in Merriwa that remove or downgrade the services available would be violently opposed by this Association. Therefore, the MDPA implores the UHSC to acknowledge the value of the Merriwa VIC, and to retain its ownership and operation in its current location.

Yours sincerely,

Col Bates
President, Merriwa District Progress Association

Stephen Gowlland

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Scone 6540 2400 (Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm)

Singleton 6572 2944 (Mon - Fri 10.00am - 3.00pm)

Direct Local Contacts for:

DISTRICT VET 0427 322311

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- Litigation & Court Appearances
- Compensation Matters
- Business Law & Leases
- Wills & Estates
- Family Law
- Powers of Attorney
- General Legal Work

59 BROOK STREET
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333
Phone: 6543 2433
Fax: 6542 5297

100 BETTINGTON STREET
MERRIWA NSW 2329
BY APPOINTMENT
Phone: 6543 2433

Email: office@cgbllaw.com.au Web: www.cgbllaw.com.au

MERRIWA SURGERY
DR EMAD JASEM

OPENING HOURS
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturday by arrangement

For appointments
6548 2305

Payment is required at time of consultation

MERRIWA TYRE & SERVICE CENTRE
141 BETTINGTON ST
MERRIWA NSW 2329
PHONE: 65482078 FAX: 65482063

CAN-AM *HUSQVARNA OUTDOOR PRODUCTS
*COOPER TYRES *MICKEY THOMPSON
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FULL MECHANICAL WORKSHOP

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AUSTRALIA POST
MORE THAN JUST A
POST OFFICE

Stamps and packaging
Bill Pay@Post
Banking deposits/withdrawals
Money orders
Western Union transactions
Passports (including photos)
Work cover documents
Post Office box rental
Gifts, Antiques/old wares

Open Monday - Friday 9.00am-5.00pm
Closed for lunch 2-2.30pm
Merriwa PO, 82 Bettington Street
6548 2042

Merriwa Pharmacy

Opening Hours

Monday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12.00pm

Phone 6548 2213

Gummun Place Hostel
16 Room Aged Care Facility

A place for ageing community members to enjoy life and receive the care that they need. A relaxing, rural lifestyle provided with care.

Ph: **6521 7011**
14-16 Marquet Street, Merriwa



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scottwittonbuilding@bigpond.com



Merriwa Touch Football
Wednesday Nights
Junior and Senior Comp

Senior Vice President: Kellie Porter on 0432 109 760
Treasurer: Leanne Hunt on 0487 761 253
Secretary: Larissa Hockings on 0429 412 772



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Mob: **0427 901 397**
29 Blaxland Street, Merriwa 2329
Email: justin@welderup.com.au
sales@welderup.com.au

MCSP&C
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL P&F ASSOCIATION

President: Julie Llewelyn
Vice Presidents: Hollie Hunt and Keirra Hourn
Secretary: Talitha Sawley
Treasurer: Emma Douglas
Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm at Merriwa RSL Club



Merriwa Anglican Parish Services
Holy Trinity Merriwa

9.00am Sundays
10.00am Fridays
Short Bible Study

Contact: **0429 996 769**

Rev'd Pat Kirkby - Local Priest



St Davids Uniting Church
Vennacher Street Merriwa

Service Times
1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 11.00am
3rd Sunday at 6.00pm

Peter Campbell - 6548 5126



Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis

WEEKEND MASSES
St Anne's Merriwa
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am
St Joseph's Cassilis
2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am
Parish Priest - **6548 2086**
St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092



Churches

St Joseph's Primary School Merriwa

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners

All enquiries welcome

Principal - Ashley Borg
Ph **6548 2035**

P&F President - Andrew Luke
Ph 6548 2993



Merriwa Central School

Phone: 6548 2119

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



SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone 02 6547 4521 Fax 02 6547 4450

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



Cassilis Public School

Principal: Mrs Katie Burgess

Coolah Road Ph: 63761009
Cassilis NSW 2329 Fax: 63761005
cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.cassilis-p.school.nsw.edu.au



Schools

Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre
(PO Box 96) 43 Bow St, Merriwa NSW 2329
Ph: 0265 482 083
merriwapreschool@tpg.com.au

Merriwa Pre-School
For children 2 - 5 years

Activity Centre
For children attending Kindergarten to Year 6
After School Care and Vacation Care



MERRIWA TOURIST WELCOMING CENTRE & MEN'S SHED
Arts, Crafts, Farm Produce!
Clean toilets!
CENTRE:
Open every day 9.30am-2.30pm
MEN'S SHED:
Every Thursday 10.00am onwards


President: E Shipway
Telephone: 6548 3201



CWA
Meets Second Monday of the month 10.00am
CWA Rooms
159 Bettington Street

Visitors and new members are always welcome

Enquiries to:
President: Penelope Fenley
Phone: 6548 3060
Email: penelopecwa@inet.net.au
Secretary: Kim Clydsdale
Phone: 6548 2558
Email: kmclydsdale@gmail.com




Dress For Less

Trinity Markets

Accessories, Books, Nick-Nacks
Clothing for all the family
DONATIONS WELCOME!

Tues-Fri
9.00am - 12.30pm
Sat
9.00am - 12.00pm
118 Bettington St. Merriwa



Groups

Hunter Medical Practice
Merriwa and Denman
 Monday – Friday 8.00am – 6.00pm
Merriwa
 Cnr Brisbane and MacKenzie Streets
Denman
 51 – 53 Ogilvie Street
 For appointments please phone 6532 5013

MERRIWA & DISTRICT
LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE
2018/19 starts Oct 15!
 Tots (3 & 4 yrs) to u/17 yrs
Mondays 5.30 to 7.00pm
 at Merriwa No. 2 Oval
 (season ends 25 February)
New Members Welcome
 ph: Tash Taaffe 0458 574 015
 e: tashholden@bigpond.com

MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB Ltd 6548 2028
Golf, Bowls, Squash, Putt Putt, Darts, Pool, ATM and Club Keno
Opening Times:
***Monday & Tuesday - 4pm *Wednesday - Sunday - 12pm**
 Thursday Night 7:00pm Bingo
 Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Two Hours and Free raffles
 Saturday - **7.45pm** Monster raffles and members' badge draw
 Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members' badge draw.
The Sporties Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228
 Dine in or Take Away. Banquets and Function catering available.
 Lunch Specials
 Lunch: Wednesday to Sunday.
 Dinner: Tuesday to Sunday

Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc
ROTARY SERVICE Above Self
Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club
7.00pm for 7.30pm
 4 x 4m Marquee for Hire
 0429 482 389

Merriwa Magpies

 Rugby League Football Club
Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
 President: Ben Robins
 Vice President: David Martin
 Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder
 Treasurer/Publicity Officer: Jessyca Morgan

MERRIWA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
 Find us on Facebook
President: Jason Bear
 Day - Night Competitions Junior Competitors Court Hire


2019 Merriwa Springtime Show
 Established 1908
 20, 21 & 22nd September!

www.merriwashow.com.au
 Rob Tindall - President
 Marie Scott - Secretary
Tel: 0498 378 500

PONY CLUB MERRIWA
Clare Martin President 6548 2201
De Patterson Secretary 0416 194 501
Fiona Morgan Treasurer
 Rally days every 2nd Sunday of month from February to October


Merriwa R.S.L Club Ltd
 Bistro/Snack Bar
 Take Away
 Lunch & Dinner 7 days
 Parties & Weddings a specialty
ATM, SKY CHANNEL CLUB TAB, CLUB KENO DARTS, SNOOKER, POOL

MERRIWA SSAA AND APA
 Range facilities and Fire arm testing available
 President: Nathan Telfer
 Secretary: Phil Martyn
Contact 6547 6031 for information
Shooting weekends 2nd and 4th weekend of the month

Merriwa Petroleum & Ag Supplies
 Offering a large range of rural merchandise including animal health, feed and produce, water pipe and fittings, fuels and lubricants, agricultural chemicals, hardware and much more!
 Delivering bulk fuel to Merriwa, Cassilis, Scone, Sandy Hollow, Denman and surrounding areas
Find us at 19 Vennacher Street Merriwa
 Open Monday - Friday 7.30am - 5pm
 Saturday 9am - 12pm
 Phone: (02) 6548 2071

Merriwa Swimming Club
For swimmers of all abilities
 Season begins in Term 4
 President: Melissa Collins
 Registrar: Bronwyn Redgate
 Secretary: Sandy Wallings
merriwa.swimming.org.au

BBQ area and Kids Play area
Friday Raffles and 3 Members Badge Draws
Sunday Raffles
 Members Badge Draw between 11.30am & 1.30pm
Club: 6548 2157
Bistro: 6548 2295
 For the information of members and their guests.

MERRIWA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

President Andrew Constable
Secretary Fiona Morgan
Treasurer Kellie Porter
 All enquires to the secretary 0418417186
 fionamorgan6@bigpond.com

MERRIWA RACES
April 24, 2021
Race Club President - Paul Frampton
Contact - 0428 485 182
 Visit www.merriwaraceclub.com.au

MERRIWA BUSHMAN'S CAMPDRAFT EST. 1947
 President: Jamie Edmonds 0428 308 010
 Secretary: Kellie Porter 0432 109 760
 Treasurer: Kelly Curtis
 October Long weekend 2020
merriwacampdraft@gmail.com

MERRIWA

FESTIVAL of the FLEECES

Merriwa Cricket Club
 President: Jon Osmond 0428 714 648
 Vice President: Mark Fieldsend
 Secretary: James Armstrong 0412 926 525
 Treasurer: Mick Curteis - 0475 980 254

MERRIWA DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
 Have your voice heard on matters that affect the whole local community
 Meets on 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 PM Merriwa RSL
merriwaprogress@gmail.com



Clubs Merriwa RSL Club

Yes its back 'BEER ON TAP' dine in on Friday or Saturday nights and you can get that liquid gold flowing back in your system, give that stubby taste a good flush out.

Bookings are essential as we can only have 10 in this weekend and up to 20 next weekend until further notice.

Please don't forget we are open six nights a week in the bar for takeaway sales of beer, spirits, soft drink and pizza's, closed Sunday's and five nights in the bistro closed Sunday/Monday. And remember to use our home delivery service no need to venture out into the cold, just ring and place an order pay over the phone by card or cash on delivery.

Remember to keep an eye on our Facebook page and Merriwa Connect for daily menu updates.

Footy tipping competition resumes again this Thursday so please get your tips in before 7.30pm by calling 6548 2157, email: mwarslclub@bigpond.com or pop in during opening hours 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

Thank you to all our loyal supporters who have stayed with us through these trying times.

Matt Morgan

Merriwa Sports Club

Mondays - Happy Two Hours - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Tuesdays - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Wednesdays - 6.00pm Bingo - prizes of club and meat vouchers. Raffle and Super 39 special prize

Fridays - Happy Two Hours - 6.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffle.

Saturdays - Monster Raffle. Tickets on sale at 6.45pm drawn 7.30pm, winners jackpot, dinner draw and Saturday Badge Draw.

Sundays - Members badge draw plus three raffles choice of \$25.00 meat or fuel vouchers.

BINGO

No bingo for the time being.

BOWLS

Casual bowls available.

GOLF

Casual Golf available. Donations in honesty box.

CHINESE SMORGASBORD RESTAURANT

NO SMORGASBORD FOR THE TIME BEING.

Smorgasbord all you can eat Chinese entrée, mains and desserts.

Chinese will be open for takeaways.

For bookings and take away – 6548 3228.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle - No RAFFLES FOR THE TIME BEING CLUB IS OPENING MONDAY JUNE 1

Restricted hours due to COVID 19 are as follows

Mondays 3.30pm till 6.00pm

Tuesday 3.30pm till 6.00pm

Wednesday 3.30pm till 6.00pm

Thursday 3.30pm till 6.00pm

Fridays 3.30pm till 8.00pm

Saturdays 12.00pm till 8.00pm

Sundays 3.30pm till 6.00pm.

Hours will be revised with regulations as they change.

We look forward to see you all again.

Des Snelgrove



Sports Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

As most of you are aware, Merriwa Magpies have had to cancel all training sessions until further notice due to the coronavirus.

The season has also been moved back and like most things at the moment, we will find out more information in due time.

Jessyca Morgan

Merriwa Swim Club

A huge congratulation goes to all the swimmers of The Merriwa Swim Club. We had a terrific 2019/20 season with coaching, time trials, training and competitive swimming. The club was well represented at Muswellbrook, Singleton, Denman, Greta/Branxton and Scone carnivals.

Hopefully in the near future we will be able to have presentations for the year, watch this space!

The Merriwa Swim Club committee and members would like to extend their gratitude to Noah and the Lifeguarding Services Australia team for continuing to do an excellent job all summer long.

Our AGM date will be advised in The Ringer. All current committee positions will be declared vacant and elections held to fill positions for the 2020/21 season. To register your interest please contact Melissa Collins (president) on 0455 208 603.

The committee would like to extend a special thank you to all the parents who volunteer their time and make the season a success. The

Club is a great team and we always welcome new members. Our program caters for novice through to senior swimmers. This coming season (beginning Term 4) we will have regular coaching for all members.

If you're into swimming, fitness, fun and a friendly team atmosphere then we are the club for you!

Melissa Collins

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

JTS REALTY

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www.jtsrealty.com.au

Ph: 6541 5331
Fax: 6541 0330

2245 Pembroke Road, Cassilis

\$199,000.00



Located 4 hours from Sydney, this 40 acre property is a perfect escape. The property fronts Jilly's Creek and ranges from creek flats to slightly undulating open hills. There is a 6 bay shed set up as a weekender. One bay is sleeping quarters. Another a lockable workshop, with the 4 bays in the middle open. There is 52,000 litres of water storage for the bathroom and drinking water. There is a solar system to run the lights and fridge. Offering beautiful views over the property to the mountains beyond it is ideally situated.

2359 Pembroke Road, Cassilis

\$320,000.00

Located 3.5 hours from Sydney and only 40 minutes to Merriwa, this 265 acre property offers plenty of options. It has a dwelling entitlement so you can build a home. Power and phone both run past the block. There is a timber cabin which is an ideal weekender. It is very private and has beautiful views. The land ranges from creek flats to timbered ranges. There are tracks through the property and it is all fenced. There is an abundance of wildlife with pigs, deer and rabbits. This block is the perfect getaway to escape the city.



VIEW AT www.jtsrealty.com.au

Your Community is working with you during COVID 19

Di's Clothing Patch

Although from the outside, Di's Clothing Patch seems to have had no change at all, a walk past the front door and up to her counter shows that Di is indeed adhering to the requirements.

As soon as information was released Di made necessary changes, which included the change of hours that business was open, restricted the number of customers within the shop and maintained surface hygiene throughout the store after every customer to maintain the safety for her customers.

During this time Di's Clothing has witnessed a great amount of resilience and respect for the changes made and the inconvenience this has caused her customers. Most of her customers, both local and visiting, have continued to look for what they need without touching unnecessarily throughout the store. She has also noticed a decrease in the amount of children coming in

Due to the changes yet again in the requirements from the government Di's Clothing Patch are yet again considering changes in the near future and wish to thank all their customers for their continued assistance and understanding.



Merriwa Cakes and Pastries

While the Merriwa Cakes and Pastries have continued to stay open for its customers, it has not been without a challenge. In the early stages of the Covid 19 outbreak, the staff of the Merriwa Bakery were seriously considering closing its doors as it is a high traffic business that encounters many people traveling through. Lein, Kim and Marianne Nguyen held high concerns of contracting and spreading Covid to the greater community. With this in mind, they were constantly listening to the government's messages and making changes as best as possible to the requirements released. Currently serving from the front door and ensuring customers stay the required distance apart, they also have changed the shop front to allow customers to still be able to see what they are after. They have implemented strict hygiene rules right down to the sterilising of all incoming coinage/notes so that no cross contamination can occur. The constant use of gloves and hand sanitisers made available to staff and customers alike are now a norm for all customers safety.

All of the staff have found most customers were accepting and encouraging of the changes that have been made allowing the shop to continue to stay open. They would like to thank everyone for their support.

The Merriwa Bakery will continue to operate in this way until further notice and appreciate those that are still frequenting the bakery for their pies, cakes, bread and drink supplies. The dining room will return to normal one day but until then we hope that you do not have to wait in the cold too long and thank you for your patience as the staff aim to serve you as soon as they can as they need to adhere to the distancing rule as best as possible inside also.

Your Community is working with you during COVID 19

Merriwa Post Office

The Merriwa Post Office has been working hard to keep the community safe in the recent Covid 19 outbreak. Being that the post office is a small and cosy area to complete its dealings, it is grateful that majority of its customers have helped the change in transitions to go along smoothly. Like many of the businesses, they have limited the number of people within the store at any given time. This currently sits at 2. With such a small entry area the staff would like to ask the community to consider the necessity of visiting the store and ask customers to return when the waiting lines are smaller. Your business is important to us but also is your health and safety.

A few handy hints to remember when heading to the Merriwa Post Office:

- Please bring your own pen
- Please do not lean on the counter tops, especially the main desk, cleaning after contact is important but can also be difficult to complete in such a busy atmosphere
- Please consider visiting the post office when necessary (please consider not "popping in" to see if a parcel has arrived)



Merriwa IGA

Merriwa IGA continues to maintain high standards to continue to keep the community safe while remaining open. Being a necessity in the community they have seen it necessary to convert the counters not only for their staff but also for the safety of those they serve.

Regular cleaning of surfaces are carried out numerous times a day and signage is displayed for the customers benefit.

During this time they have found supply of some items difficult but wish to thank their customers for being both patient and understanding during this time.



Merriwa Newsagency

Small but significant changes have been made at the Merriwa Newsagency. With the erection of a protection barrier at the counter and the reduction in numbers allowed in the store at any one time, the Newsagency also offered the community assistance with offering to select cards, write inside and post them with the guidance of the purchaser. They have also restricted their hours through the week to 8.00am opening and closing at 5.00pm.



Merriwa Anglican Church

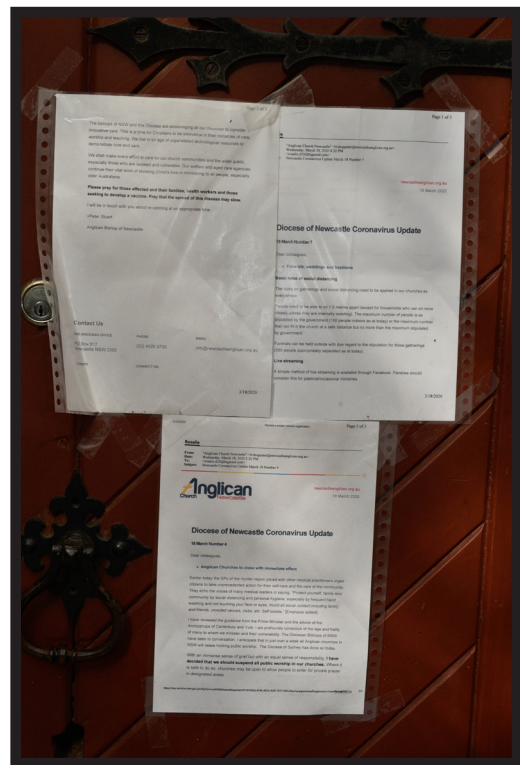
The Anglican Church are currently following COVID – 19 protocols and with this comes the closure of the services carried out in both the Merriwa and Cassilis Anglican Churches. The congregation is that of the aging generation, with little to none of the younger generation attending, so following procedure is paramount for their safety. With COVID 19 occurring over the Easter/Lent periods, mass could not be celebrated.



Rev Pat has continued her care for her parishioners by calling to ensure that they are keeping safe through this period. In recent days a change towards the countries recover has allowed for those wishing to received Pastoral care and take home Communion (bread only) with Rev Pat follow strict protocol in the cleaning process prior to her entry on visits. This will continue until the opening of the churches for which no date has been set.

There has also been no change to the regulations regarding funerals, weddings and special functions. The locum John Marsh has also finished his time in Merriwa, finishing at the end of April, currently there is no news on when a new locum will attend at Merriwa Anglican Church.

The local community have faced the changes with renowned resilience and understanding and have adapted to the isolation well, but for those finding the situation a little tough, feel free to contact Rev Pat.



MCS in touch with our community



The **Merriwa Ringer**
is proudly published by

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Address: Bow Street, Merriwa, NSW, 2329

Tel: (02) 6548 2119

Fax: (02) 6548 2534

Email: merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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