

MERRIWA

FREE

Ringer

Issue 12
Thursday June 11, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

Farewell to a great teacher and friend




Pest Alert
Termite Solutions

Are Termites
eating your home?
(02) 6884 7557



Termites
Spiders
Rodents
Cockroaches
Ants

Community Notice Board

Merriwa Non-Emergency Transport

Merriwa Non-Emergency Transport is operational to all destinations providing drivers are available.

Joy Hancock

Thank You

This note is long overdue but we would like to say a special thank you to Dr Jawaad, Dr Jalal and all the staff at Merriwa Hospital for all your care and support for Norma Campbell during the months she made her home with you. We are very grateful thank you for everything.

Thelma Bush and families

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.



Create and Grow

Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

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

NEW COVID-19 HELPLINE AND ONLINE SERVICES LAUNCHED

(02) 6207 7244



For updates, visit
covid19.act.gov.au



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



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 Fax
02 6547 4521 02 6547 4450

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

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the

Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon



Merriwa Central School

Principal's Report

FAREWELL MR DAVIDSON

Staff, parents and students were sad to hear of the passing of a beloved teacher Peter 'Davo' Davidson over the weekend. Peter taught generations of Merriwa students science since 1985, with a combination of humour and passion for his subject. Many would have fond memories of him in full flight leading school dramatic productions in the School of Arts Hall. Peter was also an advocate for teachers and their working conditions, being a union representative of the NSW Teachers Federation for much of his working life. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult time.



Above:
Ready for the next science experiment

Right:
Davo's golden tonsils on the announcers microphone at the annual swimming carnival.

NEW AND IMPROVED SCHOOL APP - SKOOLBAG

Based on feedback from parents on our existing school app, we've signed up to a new platform SkoolBag to help improve communication between our school and the parent community. You will shortly receive an invitation to sign up for SkoolBag, our new communication app. This app will be used to send notifications and emails regarding important events and school announcement as well as being a reference point for key documentation. You will still be able to sign absentee notifications and submit change of details via the app. You can also see what's happening in our school by reading the Newsletter which is published weekly. You will also find a payment tab, which takes you through to the website portal to access the Parent online Payment. This app will in time have links to survey's so that we can be better informed on the opinions of our parents and school community.

We are excited to be using technology to help bring our community closer together. Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback on what you would like to see in Skoolbag. Otherwise, please follow the prompts when you receive your invitation to your email, or you could follow the download instructions.

Remember to download the new app, and delete the old app on your device.

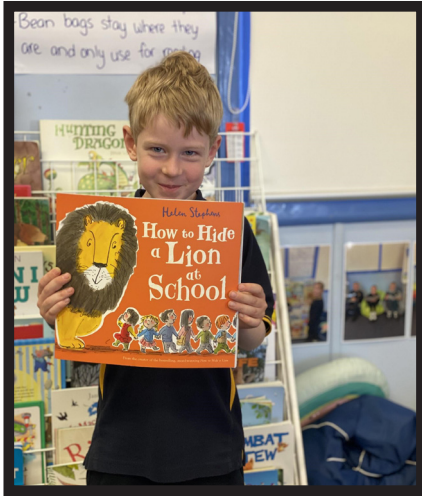
Darren Noonan
Principal



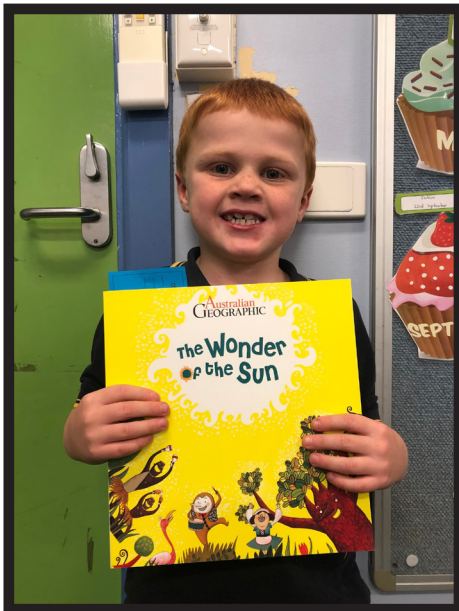
Primary

Student of the Week - WEEK 5

Kinder Oliver Strachan



YEAR 1 Connor Mead



STUDENT OF THE WEEK WEEK 6

Kindergarten Taniel Roberts
 Year 1 Ryleigh Anshaw
 Year 2/3 Riley Tudor
 Year 3/4 Arthur Llewelyn



Year 4/5
 Year 5/6
 Library Award

Ashton Marchese
 Amelia Clarke
 Nate Marchese



BRONZE AWARD WINNERS

Our Bronze Award winners for this week are: Braith Hunt, Zane Walker and Mia Wilkinson.



CLASS OF THE WEEK



Class of the Week are Year 1 for being happy, engaged learners.

While the long weekend was lovely, it was missing one iconic event. As we are all aware, due to the COVID-19 restrictions the Festival of the Fleeces was unable to be held. The primary students spent Friday afternoon sharing their stories and memories of the event with their teachers and peers. The students created artwork to commemorate the event and to create lovely window displays.



Teachers are busy writing reports for students for this semester. As our first semester has looked very different, so will our reports. We are not providing an academic grade A-E for any of our subjects (as the NSW DEC report guidelines have suggested) but we are providing an effort grade for all subjects. Each subject will also have a comment, as well as a general comment for all students.

Jenna North
Relieving Assistant
Principal

Secondary

Last Thursday morning 2 of our Year 12 SLR students put what they had been learning in class into practice and they were set up with a big challenge... Year 7 PDHPE. When Year 7 found out that Manon Zoehner and Jackson Keane (Year 12) would be running their practical lesson, they couldn't have been happier. Year 7 were told not to take it easy on them, but the pair delivered a highly engaging and fun lesson. The lesson started with some basic skill development games so they could understand the sports. They then started playing some small-sided (non-contact) games. Given the current COVID-19 restrictions, the students had to think of games that they may not have traditionally played. They were not able to rely on Touch Football or Basketball, instead they ran with games of kick tennis, dodgeball variation game and a football kicking battle.

There was praise aplenty, from both staff and students involved in the lesson, with some students even asking if the Year 12 students could do it again. It was good to see the sportsmanship and encouragement from all students that were participating.



Lachlan Vaughan
PDHPE Teacher



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CAREER NEWS

JMC School Holiday Workshops Sydney

Workshops and Short Courses are a great opportunity to check out the JMC Academy campus whilst getting an insight of what studying your passion with Australia's leading Creative Industries provider is like.

Please check back for new dates, times and tickets. To subscribe to our email notifications about upcoming workshops, fill in the form below.

Here's a look at some of our workshop and short course topics:

- Character and Life Drawing
- Digital Sculpture and Character
- Digital TV Studio
- Discover Visual Communication
- Electronic Music Production
- Filmmaking
- Perform, Record and Create Music
- Recording a Band
- The Exciting World of Event Management

<https://www.jmccademy.edu.au/events/workshops/upcoming-jmc-workshops>

Career in Games and Film, Info Evening at Academy of Interactive Entertainment

Thursday June 18

Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation and visual effects This exclusive ONLINE event will include

presentations on different areas of the industry to get into as well as information about AIE full-time and part-time courses and entry requirements. 6.30pm Start. FREE Rego: <https://aie.edu.au/infoevening>

UNSW Bragg Prize - The Big Ideas Saving the Planet

Closes August 28

What are the solutions that will help us to address global challenges such as catastrophic climate change, global pandemics, severe weather and sea level rise? From bushfire science using smart satellites and Indigenous knowhow, to vaccine development, citizen science apps tracking insect population decline, and science that literally creates water from air, in 800 words, describe some scientific research that has delivered a solution that you believe could change the future for our planet.

Your 800 words essay could consist of:

- Your own idea for a future solution to a global challenge
- An investigation into science and technology solutions to current global challenges
- An essay on an unsolved issue that is personally important to you.

<https://refractionmedia.submittable.com/submit>

Latitude Go global for your gap year

With over 20% of first year university students in Australia leaving their chosen course or dropping out all together, maybe it's a good

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

NAME WITHHELD

FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Modern History because I find it interesting

BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT: I have been working hard on my major projects in Industrial Tech and Visual Arts

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Equine Vet because I love horses and I've seen too many mistreated so I want to give them their best chance

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: None to mention

YEAR ADVISOR COMMENT: This student is a hard-working student and a delight to have as part of my Year 12 cohort. She has demonstrated persistence and commitment towards completing her major projects and I wish her all the best for the remainder of her final school year.

Annalyce Sansom - Year Advisor

idea to step off the academic treadmill and consider your goals before diving in. There are so many benefits to taking a gap year - our volunteers gain independence, confidence, career experience, and cultural awareness while abroad. Volunteering can really give you an edge before and after university by boosting your CV in the process.

Lattitude is one of the largest international volunteering organisations, supporting around 1000 young people globally every year. As a nonprofit organisation, we ensure we remain cost effective and are transparent about all costs involved, while providing comprehensive support throughout the process. After 45 years of global experience, we think we've got a pretty good thing going.

With placements available in 13 countries, lasting between two weeks and 12 months and departing throughout the year, there is a volunteer program that will fit into any young Australian's gap year!

<https://lattitudeaustralia.org/home>

University of New England Industry Placement Scholarships

Online applications close August 31

UNE Campus

Students in Years 11 and 12 studying science and interested in discovering the science-based careers that are feeding the world and saving the planet.

The UNE GRASS Industry Placement Scholarship showcases to tertiary bound Years 11 and 12 students the broad range of exciting science-based careers supporting primary industries. Full Industry Placement Scholarship offerings are made following an application and after working with students at the camp.

<https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-science-agriculture-business-and-law/school-of-environmental-and-rural-science/ers-news-and-events/une-grass/industry-placement-scholarship>

Application form here:

<http://askune.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/5/709/12/c57ffea9a07a8cfc055faa2b887a5549abff8023>

UOW College - Nursing - Online Info Session

Monday, June 22. 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Want to be a Nurse?

Have you been thinking about studying the Diploma of Nursing at UOW College or do you already have an application or offer and still need answers? Don't worry we've got you covered. Please join us for our upcoming online info session to find out more about how you could become an enrolled nurse in just 18 months. We will provide an overview of course structure, entry requirements, job outcomes, scholarships available, VET student loans and current remote online delivery mode for this course. Staff will be available on the night to answer any questions you may have!

<https://studentservice.uow.edu.au/Portal/Events/EventDetails?eventId=4ad50cc1-a27f-ea11-8173-005056812c00>

HIA Building Apprenticeships

Whether it's running your own business, taking over the family company or being the best tradie in the area, we can help you get there. Find out more

You will learn your trade on the job and attend trade school to gain additional knowledge and skills through accredited courses. Apply now

HIA Apprentices offer apprenticeships in

- bricklayer
- cabinetmaker
- carpenter
- painter and decorator
- solid plasterers and wall and ceiling fixers
- tiler

<https://hia.com.au/products-services/apprentices/why-choose-HIA-apprentices/how-do-i-apply>

Online Agricultural Careers Expo

Tuesday June 23. 11.00am -1.00pm

Online Ag Careers Expo - learn about education pathways, salary expectations, job and scholarship opportunities for a rewarding career in Agriculture. Speakers from Elders, Costa, AACo, Holmes Sacket, and more!

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/online-agricultural-careers-expo-2020-registration-102136123896>

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

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

Merriwa Ringer



St Joseph's Primary School

KLA LESSONS

In English lessons we have been reading texts that explore our feelings and emotions, such as Try a Little Kindness, Bear Feels Sad and The Way I Act. We have chosen these texts to support students in their adjustment back to full time school.

Along with our Stage One friends, our Kindergarten students are enjoying the real-life aspects of writing: corresponding to the residents of Gummun Hostel. The students have written letters to their new 'pen pals' and were ecstatic when they received a reply! We intend to keep writing, as it not only enhances our writing skills, but also helps us to feel connected to our local community.

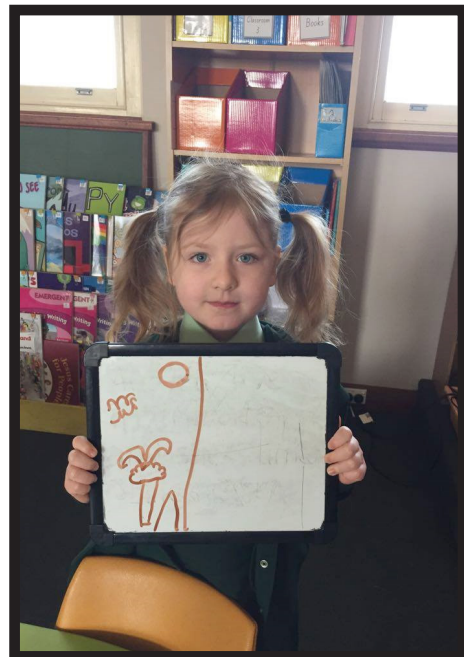
Religion has been enlightening, learning about Creation and the importance of prayer as talking to God.

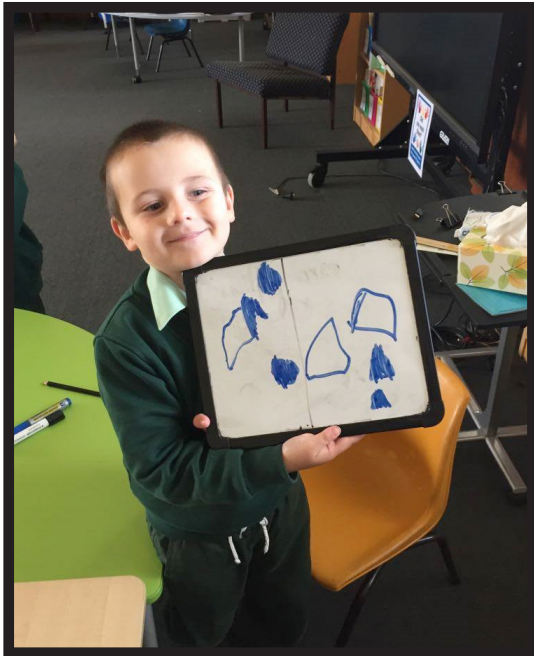
We are exploring the material world in Science. Would a paper raincoat be viable? Would you like to live in a house made of cotton wool? The importance of materials suiting the purpose has prompted some lively and amusing discussions!

We hope you enjoy looking at these photos of our wonderful students enjoying school life.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is having a very exciting term! We are so happy to have students back in our classrooms and we want to share all the wonderful things that our kindergartens are doing.





MATHS

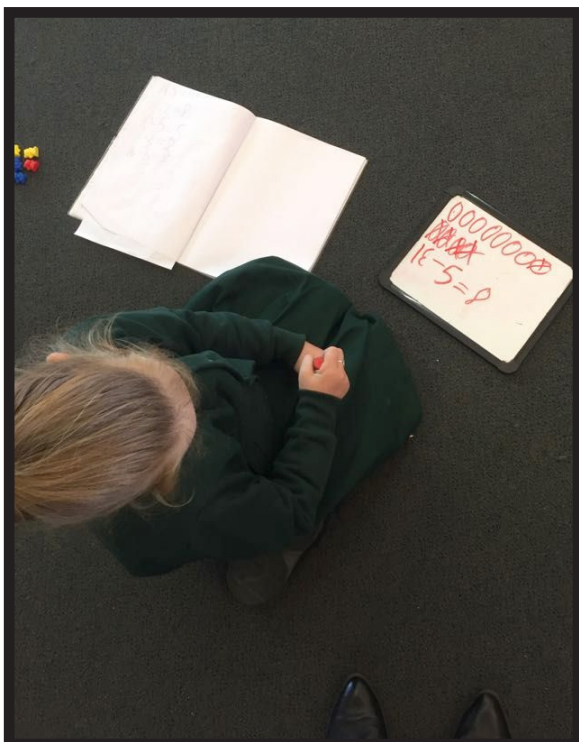
We have been doing lots of fantastic learning in maths! We are learning how to skip count, add and subtract, make equal groups and recognise 2D shapes by playing bingo, going on 'shape hunts' around the school and lots of other fun activities.

CREATIVE ARTS

We have a jammed packed schedule for creative arts this term! We have been using "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" as inspiration for an animal-themed dance program. "Inside Out" has been helping our students easily identify emotions and act them out in drama lessons. And for visual arts, we are having a blast making bird sculptures for the Aspire art competition. The bird sculptures will be submitted to the Catholic Schools Office at the end of term to be displayed in an art exhibition at the Civic Theatre during the showing of Aspire's production "The Pecking Order". What a very exciting opportunity!



Mr Ashley Borg
Principal



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Cassilis Public School

STUDENT OF THE WEEK -

COOPER ANDERSON-POWER

Cooper has earned the Student of the Week title because he did his very best last week and challenged his learning by working hard and completing activities well. His listening was outstanding and he followed instructions the first time he was asked.

Cooper worked well in his speech session, played great in outdoor play with other students, and has been really enjoying his writing. He tried hard last week to match his illustrations to his sentence.

In his IEP time with Mrs Nairne Cooper did a fantastic job with his counting and matching of numbers. He read very keenly and practiced writing his name trying hard to use correct letter formation. Cooper also did a great job with revision of his sounds.

He comes to school every day dressed in a clean and full school uniform with everything that he needs to support his learning.

Congratulations Cooper on earning this award. You should feel very proud of your achievements.

IN THIS TOGETHER

National Reconciliation Week is on from May 27 until June 3. Our students have been doing lots of great thinking and learning about why this week is so important to make our nation strong and respectful.

Cassilis students learnt and performed the sit-down dance song, "Taba Naba", which is a children's song originating in the Torres Strait Islands just north of the continent of Australia.

The beautiful quality texts of Once there was a boy, Marngrook, My Country and A home for bilby and Joshua and the two crabs were read aloud and discussed.

Gamilaraay elder and Aboriginal Cultural Officer, Renee Holsworth (from Quirindi) very kindly sent the school resources to celebrate Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi language where our students were taught some traditional names for parts of the body. They really enjoyed this!

Reconciliation Week is important because we hear stories of fun times that families share together. Mrs Cornish told our class stories about the mission. The mission is where her family lived.

Paul

Reconciliation Week is important because I want to know more about my Aboriginal history.

Johnathan

Reconciliation Week is important because we share the true history and stories. I will talk to my family about what I have learnt. Aboriginals lived here for over 40,000 years. Respect is very important and you can show this by learning more about their culture - **Ben**

Reconciliation Week is important because of the stories - **Cooper**

Reconciliation Week is important because everyone get together and share their knowledge of animals. They show respect by using all parts of the animal after they have killed it - **Gordie**

Reconciliation Week is important because people come together to acknowledge Aboriginal people and to share their stories. -**Dridan**

MY LIFE IN A SHOEBOX

Last week students shared an important part of their lives with each other. Sometimes we can feel that we really know each other because we are a small school and spend lots of time together. It was certainly lovely to discover what is really special to each of our students. They loved listening to each other and also listening to the teachers share their shoebox of items.

Let's get to know more about our students. These are the items that they shared:

Johnathan - A pot plant with seeds that mum helped him to plant, toy trucks that his family gave him, photos of himself cut out from the newsletter, a book of the ocean and different coloured rocks.

Summer - A Scooby Doo movie which she loved watching as a child, an old doll which belongs to her family, a special coloured rock that her dad gave her mum and photos of her grandparents which she didn't get to meet.

Paul - Baby photos of himself and his twin Skylah, a blue giraffe which dad gave him when he was born, photos of cows, photos of his family

Sklyah - a pink giraffe which her dad gave her

when she was born, a shell, baby photos of herself and her twin brother Paul, photos of her family

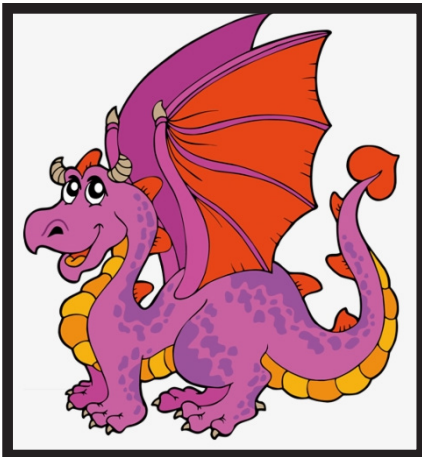
Dridan - A strawberry plant which mum bought, dinosaur toys, photos of himself cut out from the newsletter, a blue truck, a pine cone as he loves nature and it is bumpy.

Cooper - Photos of his family, photos of himself as a baby, a bear which he was given in hospital when he was a baby, and cuddle toys from when he was a baby.

Ben - One of the first LEGO toys he constructed, photos of the cruise he went on with his family, and coins which he collects with his mum.

WHAT PET WOULD I WANT AND WHY? DO YOU AGREE WITH SUMMER?

I want a pet dragon. Can you imagine how breathtaking it would be to own your own dragon! I really want a dragon as a new pet.



Firstly, a dragon would make a great pet because it would help start the bonfire out the back and the wood fire inside the lounge room. In winter, when we really need a fire because it's cold and frosty in the morning, the dragon could just blow on it and ignite the wood.

Secondly, a dragon would make a great pet because you could learn to fly with it. Being in the air would be faster than being in a car, train or bus. It would even be faster than flying in a plane. If you were late for work you could quickly get there in under five minutes by jumping onto your dragon.

Thirdly, a dragon would make a great pet because if it was large one people would be terrified of it and would run away. Our house would be the safest in town.

In conclusion, I believe a dragon would make the perfect new pet.

LEGO MATHS

Last Friday in maths students grabbed several bricks of the same type, then multiplied the number of studs by the number of bricks. This kind of LEGO math sneaks in some subtilizing

practice too. The activity was adapted so all students could do it at their own level and feel challenged and supported.

Our three amazing Busby Room boys! We love your new glasses, Jacob. They are super cool.

We sewed birds!

This lesson included:

- Problem solving by asking a friend first instead of the teacher. Teaching someone else something helps our students to deepen their understanding
- Using positive talk by saying 'You're working hard' to a classmate
- Great hand-eye coordination and lots of focusing
- Celebration of a job well done and a feeling of accomplishment.

Katie Burgess
Principal

The Power of One

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true.
One life can make the difference,
You see, it's up to **You!**



www.LearningStationMusic.com



Sandy Hollow Public School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It is lovely to see the students return to full time learning at school last week, and school finally seems to be getting back to 'normal'.

We still have to adhere to certain government restrictions, but all in all, SHPS is back in full swing.

The children have come back to school during a time of uncertainty, and most things (including staff) is slightly unfamiliar. They have coped well, and are settling back in to school routines. This week we will be revisiting the school rules, and will go over the behaviour expectations that have always been in place at SHPS. I will be asking the students for their contributions to the rules, as I familiarise myself with them, and we move into establishing a new reward/badge system across the school. Once this is finalised I will keep you informed in future newsletters.

Jane Fuiono
Relieving Principal

STRENGTH OF THE WEEK: LOVE OF LEARNING-I LOVE LEARNING NEW THINGS AND MAKE LOTS OF MOMENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT MY WORLD

This week's focus strength is 'Love of Learning'.

This week and over the next week we will be focusing on this strength. Students will be encouraged to look for it happening at school and staff will be looking for this strength in the way the children engage in their learning. Our Character Strength Super Hero this week is Lizabelle.

Lizabelle was chosen for this award because she is always keen to learn new things and tries hard to complete any task given to her in class.

Well done, Lizabelle!



REPORTING

Since the return to full time on campus learning, the advice to families from the Department of Education on assessment and reporting is:

Your child has been assessed during the learning from home period (via work samples and digital work submitted via Google Classroom) and will receive additional assessment on their return to school. You will receive your child's semester 1 report before the end of August (week 6, Term 3). This may be a simplified version of the report you normally receive.

Reports for students at SHPS will be distributed in Week 1 Term 3.

SCHOOL 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.

Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from home in line with regular procedures if they are able to. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are at home due to an underlying health condition, you should contact the school. Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing. If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school you will need to collect them immediately. If a student is absent without a medical reason for more than three days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence

and followed up by the school.

PIE DRIVE

The P and C are holding a pie drive, selling Thompson's pies and other delicious goodies. An order form is attached to this newsletter and the students have been given a paper copy. The drive will run from now until Wednesday July 15, and the delivery date is Friday July 24. All order forms are to be returned to Renee Roper by the July 15, or if you would prefer to drop them off to the school office please do so before the end of term.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

This week the students have been very excited to see that some changes have been made to the existing playground equipment area. Mr Parker worked hard over the weekend to remove the old edging, and new edging has been ordered. Thank you to James Cowan for the donation of equipment to level out the area ready for new soft fall, which will be purchased by the P and C. It won't be long before the playground equipment will be in use again!

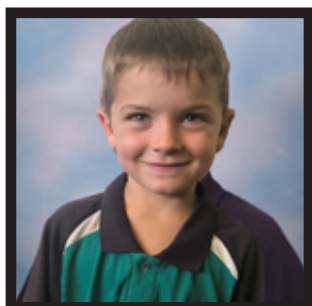


WEEKLY AWARDS

- Eli H - Fantastic writing!
- Harry-YCDI (Confidence) Telling great stories during news time
- Taylan - Excellent progress in Times Tables Challenge
- Charlie -YCDI (Persistence)- improved effort in completing classwork.

WORKERS OF THE WEEK

Nate



Chloe



5 W poem

**Unicorn
flying gracefully
at sunset
over the beach
she has freedom**



PREMIER'S SPORTING CHALLENGE

This year our school has registered to participate in the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge.

The purpose of the Challenge is to encourage students to participate in sport and physical activity to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Over a ten week period from Monday 1st June we will be monitoring physical activity levels during class time, at recess and lunch as well as during sport and PE lessons. Physical activity outside school hours will also count towards the challenge. The aim is to work towards an average at least 60 minutes of activity a day for ten weeks.

We would like to invite families to support us in encouraging students' healthy use of leisure time and to experience the joy of being active together.

Each student in Years 3-6 will be issued with a logbook to record their daily physical activity. Whilst Kinder-Year 2 students will work towards a Gold award.

Students completing the Challenge will receive a personalised certificate (Diamond, Gold, Silver or Bronze), signed by the Premier of New South Wales.

Physical activity is valued for its physical, social and emotional benefits. It also helps young people to develop communication skills, confidence and resilience.

**Jane Fuiono
Relieving Principal**



Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO

This term has seen the cancellation of many of our clinicians that were scheduled to visit our service including STEPS our state wide vision screening and our podiatry screening which examines children's hips, legs and feet. Science on the move has also been cancelled and our major excursion, which was to be a trip to the civic theatre in Newcastle to Bluey's big show has also been sadly cancelled as well.

This year we had a double session of bush kindy planned and although we have missed one we are hopeful that our next planned session will go ahead on August 20. We anticipate that Term 3 will see the rescheduling of many of our excursions and incursions and could possibly be a very busy term for staff and children.

We are also chugging along with our plan for Quality Improvement (QIP) for our service and part of that is our engagement with families. Which is one of the seven quality standards, as part of that we hope to educate and involve families in our service and the general provision of early childhood education and care through the Starting Blocks programme. At starting blocks .gov.au

Starting Blocks provides parents with information about early childhood education and care.

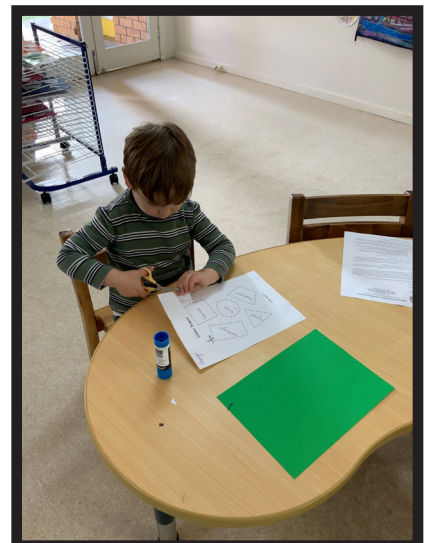
Starting blocks is a starting point to:

- learn about children's developmental milestones
- understand what to expect from an early childhood education and care service
- find services and learn about their quality ratings
- get tips on starting child care or preschool, and what can be done at home to encourage your child's learning and development.

Our aim is to provide you and your family with trusted information, all in

one place – welcome to Starting Blocks.

Starting Blocks is brought to you by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). ACECQA is the national body, overseeing the implementation of the National Quality Framework (NQF).



**Leah Folpp
Service Director**



REFLECTION PENTECOST 2 Matthew 7:21-27

Listen to these words and act on them.

I went to a school whose motto was, 'deeds not words'. This motto catches the sense of Jesus words. Prophecy and miracles are just outward show, seeking and doing what God desires is what really counts. The Gospel will later tell us what God desires quoting the Old Testament Scriptures. 'What I desire is mercy/compassion, not sacrifice,' (Matthew 9:16) Jesus will also say, 'Be compassionate as your God in heaven is compassionate.' You might say Jesus is in heaven making a contrast between Sunday Christians and daily Christians; between those who come along once a week for the rituals and those who live out the Gospel 24/7 – in the lounge room, the kitchen, the office, the neighbourhood. The parable that follows continues the contrast. One builder works from a firm foundation – no doubt laying this foundation was hard work and took time. The other builder tried the easy way; with no foundation his house collapsed.

There is no avoiding the reality that the words of Jesus make demands on us. The Gospel is not meant to be just a nice consoling message. Perhaps the most demanding things it asks of us is our time. In the daily busy-ness of work schedules and tasks to finish, to be a person of compassion means giving time to another. Sometimes, the first necessary step is take time-out, and to be compassionate towards ourselves. Dare I sit with myself for 10 minutes this week? No radio, no tv, just myself and the stirrings within my heart? In such moments of quiet we can really listen to the words of Jesus: then we will know how to act. (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

We are getting closer to the time when our church will open, but it could be at the end of July. Other churches are opening, but they still need to practice social distancing. HO HUM! It will all happen eventually.

Stay safe and well until I see you all again.

Love and blessings,

Rev Pat Kirkby



Business Merriwa Newsagency HUNTER AND COASTAL LIFESTYLE

- This is my happy place! Johanna Grigg's tells us about her rural sanctuary near Wollombi and her obsession with bees
- Let's get cookin'. A camp oven cook-off is connecting people all across the country, from sourdough starters, knitting needles and puzzles, all have made a comeback courtesy of self-isolation
- Pastoral paradise; 2011 was the year the Poke family became the seventh custodians of "Baroona" an historic property just outside of Singleton. With almost 100 glorious acres of grazing country and a magnificent mansion, the family feel it delivers more than they ever imagined.

WOMEN'S WEEKLY SLOW COOKER and PRESSURE COOKER RECIPE BOOK

- Inside are tips on using a slow cooker and a pressure cooker, best cuts, settings, tips for freezing, cooker do's and don'ts and stove-top v's bench-top. Perfect weekend and mid-week meals and also recipes for vegetarians. There is something delicious for everyone in this book and all perfect for warming up tummies on these chilly days!

FRANKIE

- Design-art-photography-fashion-travel-music-craft-home-life magazine!
- Full of great articles such as 'like last year's snow' which is a Yiddish expression meaning not relevant anymore, photographer Oded Wagenstein explores ageing, exclusion and memories. A vital lesson he has learned throughout his journey is that we should all feel that someone cares about us, that we have a place and importance in our family and community.
- Lovely extras included, DIY envelopes and fun conversation cards.

KIT

- The mountain issue; Big dreams and unbreakable resolve. How to climb anything, personal pinnacles and catching friends when they fall down in life. Edmund Hillary said "It's not the mountain we conquer but ourselves".

A TWIGSEEDS MOMENT

May you always have a moonbeam to guide you, starlight to charm you and a sheltering angel always beside you.

BEANIE BOO

My name is Benedict. Though my name is a bit over easy, scrambled eggs make me quite queasy.

My birthday is November 28.

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

Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress

Upper Hunter Shire Council

RE-OPENING OF COUNCIL SERVICES

Last week Upper Hunter Shire Council re-opened our Administration Offices, Libraries and VICs. These centres and libraries are operating under reduced hours for in-person visits and will progress to normal hours of operation.

Our residents should be aware that our services will look and feel a little different as we follow the government guidelines of operation.

- Our centres have customer limits in place. Customers with a partner/children will be counted as 1 customer. We ask all visitors to be mindful of this and wait outside should the facility be at capacity
- Signage, hand sanitiser and physical barriers are in place to support social distancing efforts. Additionally, we ask that you follow any directions or requests given by our staff
- Our centres and facilities only accept payments by EFTPOS/card
- There may be delays in service as we adjust to the new ways of working so please be patient.

ADMINISTRATION CENTRES

Our Administration Offices in Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone are open for in-person visits Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

We encourage you to continue to utilise our online services, and contact us by email council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au or by telephone 6540 1100, in the first instance, whenever this is possible.

Merriwa Ringer

If there are issues that cannot be resolved remotely and you are unable to visit in-person during the times above, please call Council to make other arrangements.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES (VIC'S)



Our VIC's in Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone are now open 7 days a week from 10.00am to 2.00pm. All visitors must provide their contact details on arrival.

OUR LIBRARIES

Aberdeen, Cassilis, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone Libraries are open.

Opening hours vary depending on the branch, please check our website for details.

Please note:

- All visitors must provide their contact details on arrival
- Visits are limited to 20 minutes. Longer periods are possible by appointment only
- There are a limited number of terminals available for customer use and must be booked in advance
- Electronic games are not available for use in libraries
- No gatherings or groups are permitted (e.g library reading groups).

We invite our members to continue to access our library collections using all of the options available at <https://uhrl.nsw.gov.au/> or call or email your local library to find out more.

CAMPGROUNDS AND CARAVAN PARKS

Our Campgrounds and Caravan Parks are open with restrictions. We are:

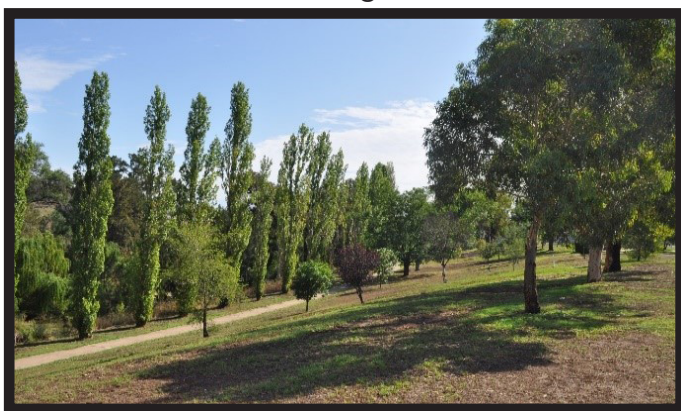
- Limiting the number of visitors to the campgrounds and caravan park in line with the restrictions
- Requiring all visitors to register on arrival, to

ensure we maintain the appropriate numbers

- Ensuring a regular cleaning schedule is undertaken, with particular attention to shared facilities
- Following the advice and guidelines of NSW Government, understanding these may change at any time
- If you are looking to escape to nature before you leave please visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws-covid-19.

Please visit our website www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/ourshire/coronavirus for the full details of the above changes. This information is current as at June 5, 2020.

Further information about restrictions in NSW can be found here www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.



VINNIE'S VIRTUAL SLEEPOUT

Did you know that 43% of the homeless are under 25? Upper Hunter Youth Council invite you to take part in the "Vinnie's Virtual Sleepout" on Thursday June 18 to raise awareness of homelessness in our shire.

Email youthevents@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au to register your participation.

Take part in the
Vinnie's Virtual Sleepout 18 June

Sleep in the backyard, on the lounge or in the car to help raise awareness of homelessness.

PANTRY ITEM DONATIONS WANTED

Please donate pantry items for local food charities. Read on to find out where.



If you can't take part in the sleepout you can also donate food items which will help local food charities with free meals for the disadvantaged in our community.

Deposit your food donation at Merriwa Pharmacy, Life of Pie at Murrurundi, or Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

#upperhuntervirtualsleepover

Steve McDonald
General Manager

Sponsor of the Week

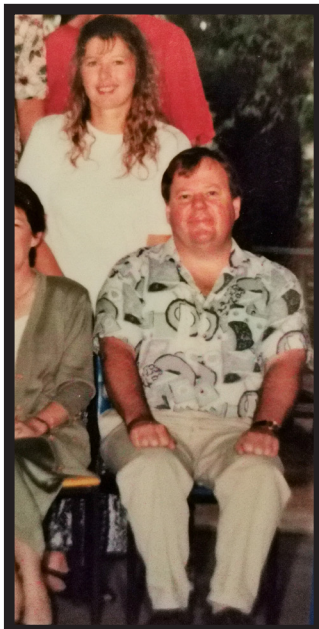
Merriwa IGA plus Liquor - a proud supporter of Merriwa Ringer and other organisations in our community.

Support the business that supports your community.



A Walk Down Memory Lane

Peter John Davidson
13/12/1955 to 07/06/2020



Mr. Davidson

If you weren't a teacher of science would you go all the way to being a full-time scientist?

Yes!

How many years have you been teaching at our school?

Just 23 years.

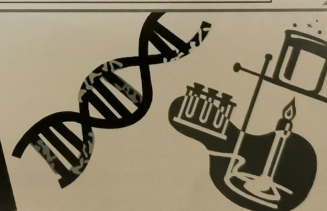
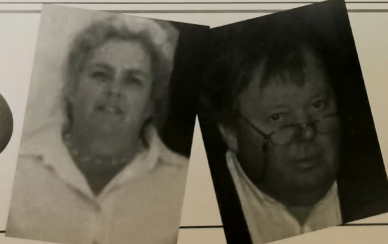
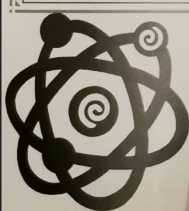
Has one of your students ever had a major accident?

Yes, it was a long time ago though.

Why is it that you still stand by the Sharks after so many years of failure?

I have to see them win before I die.

Interviews, Page Design by Dylan Hocking and Michael Francis



Community Notice Board

In Search Of...

Dear editor of the Merriwa Ringer,

I'm writing to ascertain if you can help me locate a copy of a 1984 publication on the history of Cassilis. When I visited Merriwa several years ago, I spent some time in the wonderful historical cottage museum. I ended up purchasing a book about William Braggett, which seemed to be the only publication on Cassilis that was available. Since then, I've become aware of another publication called "Cassilis: the frontier village" by FD Hayes, published in 1984. I'm keen to get hold of a copy (the only one I know of is in the Newcastle Library).

My family has a connection to Cassilis and surrounding areas so I'm interested in learning more about the local history. My grandmother (Vivian Hardcastle) was born in Bow, where her father was the school teacher. My great-grandmother (Theresa Parker) was born and raised in Cassilis and so was my great-great-grandmother (Mary Agnes McLaren). Mary was the post mistress in Cassilis for a time.

I am wondering if I was to put an ad in the 'Ringer' whether it might get a response from one of your readers who may have a copy I could purchase or photocopy/scan for my research.

If you are able to assist me with a copy please call Boyd Robinson on 0409 792 846. Thank you.

Boyd Robinson

Winter Warmer

SLOW COOKER BEEF BOURGIGNON

Prep Time - 20 minutes

Cook Time - 9 hours

Servings - 6

INGREDIENTS

- 5 slices bacon finely chopped
- 3 lbs. boneless beef chuck cut to 1 inch cubes
- 1 cup red cooking wine
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup flour
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 2 Tablespoons thyme finely chopped
- 5 medium Carrots sliced
- 1 pound baby potatoes I used tri color
- 8 ounce fresh mushrooms sliced
- fresh chopped parsley for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large skillet cook bacon over medium high heat until crisp. Put bacon in slow cooker. Salt and pepper the beef and add to the skillet and sear on each side for 2-3 minutes. Transfer beef to the slow cooker.

Add the red wine to the skillet scraping down the brown bits on the side. Allow it to simmer and reduce and slowly add chicken broth, and tomato sauce, and soy sauce. Slowly whisk in the flour. Add the sauce to the slow cooker.

Add garlic, thyme, carrots, potatoes, and mushrooms to the slow cooker. Give it a good stir and cook on low until beef is tender for 8-10 hours or high for 6-Garnish with fresh parley and serve with mashed potatoes if desired.

<https://therecipecritic.com/slow-cooker-beef-bourguignon/>



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

Merriwa District Progress Association

SPEED RADAR BOARD RESULTS RELEASED

The results of traffic monitoring equipment installed in Merriwa between December 2019 and March 2020 are now available, courtesy of the Upper Hunter Traffic Committee.

The equipment included a speed radar board near Witneys Creek, and two traffic counters (cables across the road) near the fire station (Bettington Street) and near Quigley Street (King George V Avenue). This placement was as a result of a request made by the Merriwa District Progress Association.

Around three thousand vehicles per day passed through Bettington Street, five hundred of which were trucks of some type. Table 1 (see below) lists the type of vehicle passing through each location during the period.

About one thousand vehicles per day exceeded the 50 kilometres per hour (kph) speed limit in Bettington Street, but generally only by around 10kph. The average speed in the 50kph zone was 53.2kph, and 65.3kph in the 60kph zone.

Surprisingly, the maximum speed in the 50 kph zone was 155kph, and 123kph in the 60 kph zone. Table 2 (see below) lists more information on speed data at each location.

The MDPA would like to thank the Upper Hunter Traffic Committee for running this project, and the Upper Hunter Shire Council for it's cooperation in getting the project underway.

If you have any comments about these traffic statistics or you have ideas on local issues, you can present them to the Merriwa District Progress Association at its meetings held every third Wednesday at 6.00pm at the Merriwa RSL Club, or email merriwaprogress@gmail.com.

Stephen Gowlland

Table 1 - Number of vehicles recorded per vehicle type					
Vehicle Type	Class	Bettington Street		King George V Avenue	
Cars	1	207,851	79 %	155,683	75 %
Car + trailer, boat or c'van	2	10,393	4 %	11,960	6 %
Truck / bus not articulated	3, 4, 5	29,764	11 %	21,461	11 %
Articulated truck	6, 7, 8, 9	8,717	3 %	8,910	4 %
B-double truck	10	7,390	3 %	8,738	4 %
Road train	11, 12	436	0 %	501	0 %
TOTAL		264,551	100 %	207,253	100 %

Table 2 - Vehicle speed statistics		
	Bettington Street	King George V Avenue
Posted speed limit	50 kph	60 kph
Average speed (85%)	53.2 kph	65.3 kph
Maximum speed	155 kph	123 kph
Average (85%) overspeed	60 - 62 kph	70 - 78 kph
Time speed highest	4:00 AM to 6:00 AM	10:00 PM to 5:00 AM
Cars (1 - 2) overspeed	65,354	66,688
Trucks (3 - 12) overspeed	12,411	15,028
Vehicles per day (Mon-Fri)	3082	2376
Vehicles per day (Sat-Sun)	2583	2120



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

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

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 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
merriwacamp-draft@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: mwarsclub@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

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 relation of regulations.

We look forward to see you all again.

Des Snelgrove

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the

Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

Merriwa Pony Club

Merriwa Pony Club members were delighted to be out in the sunshine down at the showground on Sunday for the first rally day since March.

In accordance with Covid restrictions, the club divided the riders into three small groups for tuition in flat work and sporting.

De Patterson took the leads with her super stars Olivia Parker, Isabelle Pryor and Myles Hvirf keen to show their instructor how much they have improved during lockdown, with all 'leads' off the lead!

Pauline Lawler took the junior riders through their paces with Ben Patterson and Roy Lawler keen to get their new mounts going. Maddie Maben and Wren Osbourne had a blast riding (and catching up - our little chatterboxes!) while Ella Pryor and Lola Holland were eager beavers to learn as much as they could in each session.

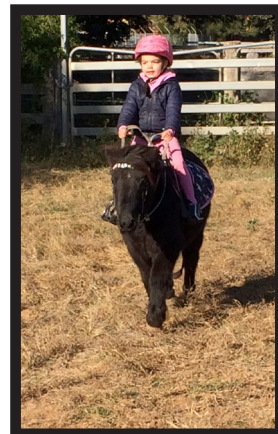
Clare Martin did a fabulous job with the senior group, with many of the riders on new, inexperienced or young horses. Great to see Keira Green and Georgia Maben back in action looking sassy and stylish as always! Jorji and Darcy Taaffe had a blast on their mares while Nicole Martin and Emily Ninness took the opportunity to fine tune some of their younger horses.

After a quick BYO morning tea, it was back in the saddle for some sporting - always a great way to end the day!

Many thanks to Clare, Pauline and De for instructing and completing all the extra paperwork required to enable the rally day to go ahead. Thanks to everyone who helped set up and pack up.

Next on the pony club calendar is the Regional Campdraft School on June 27 and 28 with Kendal Nielson. This event is for riders aged 10 years to

under 25 years. Riders must have attended at least 3 rally days and attained a 'D' Certificate or above. Get your entries into De by Monday 22 June as numbers are limited. NO CAMPING or canteen permitted this time due to Covid restrictions so families will need to commute to the showground and BYO both days.



Tash Taaffe





Check out all of our listings on
www.rmpropertyandlivestock.com
www.realestate.com.au
www.domain.com

Roger 0427 153 446
Megan 0400 653 446

Attention Landlords! Attention Landlords!

We're OPEN but doing things a little differently!

In keeping with best practice and to reduce the health risks to everyone we cannot do our routine inspections the usual way, we have been working hard to adapt to this situation. We have introduced a new system for our routine inspections

****TENANT ASSISTED INSPECTIONS****

With the assistance of our tenants, we are remaining proactive in taking good care of our Landlord's valued investments and also looking after the community.

Phone **Megan** on **0400 653 446** to learn more about us, our Tenant Assisted Inspections and our Professional Property Management.

WE continue to provide our clients with the very best service, support and advice to keep matters moving along smoothly.

#supportlocal

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Merriwa Rotary

EXPANSION OF THE ROTARY PLAYGROUND/SKATE PARK

As Council advised recently, plans for a major expansion of the facility have been announced and have been on display for community comment. The Park extends from the corner of Quigley Street and the Golden Highway, through to just above the tennis club.

The Skate Park, the first part of the Complex came into action in the Bicentenary year, 1988, when our club was led by John Vandine.

Warning. Those of us who were born in this century may well need a translation of some of the terms that are about to confront you!

The park will include a bowl hip, two spines, a roof top grind ledge, roll overs and roll in.

The selection of additions was made after consultation with a committee of young people. Another welcome addition to the park will be four unisex toilet cubicles, including an ambulant toilet and a larger accessible cubicle with baby change facilities.

The Driver Reviver annexe will have a hand washing basin, security roller shutters and a covered outside aluminium table with bench seats, to complement those Rotary has already put in place in both the playground areas.

Work will be carried out by the local Shire and will be paid for by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Merriwa will really have something to skate about, so to speak!

Mark Smith



Community Calendar

June

Don't forget to let us know important moments in your community events calendar

MCS in touch with our community



The Merriwa Ringer

is proudly published by

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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