

MERRIWA Ringer

FREE

Issue 2
Thursday February 6, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE

ST JOSEPH'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
MERRIWA



ACTIONS
NOT WORDS

St Joseph's Primary School
Merriwa

#backtoschool #firstday
#actionsnotwords #joeyskidsrock



80 Likes 14 Comments



Like

First Day at → Share

Kindergarten for St
Joseph's students




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Termite Solutions

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Termites
Spiders
Rodents
Cockroaches
Ants



Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

Time & Date: 5.30pm - 7.30pm,
Thursday 20 February 2020.

Venue: Merriwa Library, 34-40
Vennacher Street Merriwa

Contact 0429 664 036 - bookings
are essential.

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

POSITION VACANT

Casual Farm Assistant/General Assistant

Expressions of interest are sought for casual work which include:

- fencing
- working with stock
- general grounds maintenance (mowing etc)
- work health and safety procedures

Applicants must have current working with children check.

For further information contact Julie Byrne
6548 2119.



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



MERRIWA P.A.H.&I. SHOW SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 25th | 7 PM | MERRIWA RSL CLUB

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL



Telephone Fax
02 6547 4521 02 6547 4450

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



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 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

Deputy Principal's Report

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an educational process that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. Merriwa Central School will be implementing Positive Behaviour for Learning in 2020. The PBL framework assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people.

A consultation process was undertaken in term 4 to determine the whole school expectations. As a result of the consultation process Merriwa Central School whole school expectations are –

1. Safe
2. Respectful
3. Learner

The PBL framework will be used to strengthen the existing systems, structures and processes within the school. The school based committee will continue to develop PBL within Merriwa Central School and communicate any changes to all stakeholders.



Secondary SRC Leaders



Primary School Leaders

Sharon Kenaly
Deputy Principal

Primary

Welcome back to all of our wonderful families! Also a huge welcome to our new students, especially our Kindergarten students and their families who join us. We have an exciting and busy school year planned for our students and we look forward to seeing our students' achievements in 2020.



NEW STAFFING



Welcome to our new staff members, Jenna North (Relieving Primary AP) and Emma Simmons.

CLASSES FOR 2019

Kindergarten	Mrs Keirra Hourn
Year 1	Miss Emma Simmons
Year 2/3	Mrs Talia Morgan (Relieving Infants AP)
Year 3/4	Mrs Sarah Fleming
Year 4/5	Miss Bonnie Etchells
Year 5/6	Mrs Jenna North (Relieving Primary AP)

CLASS INFORMATION

Students will be receiving a class note today, detailing their class timetable, as well as information about their library day, homework and lots more. If at any time you wish to contact your child's classroom teacher with regards to your child's progress or how they are settling into their class, please do not hesitate to ring the school to make an appointment.

ALLERGIES

Please contact the school office immediately if your child has any allergies that require individual support and management. We do have children at our school who have severe allergies to a range of items, and request that no items containing nuts or nut products are sent in your child's lunchbox.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our first major school event for the year is being held tomorrow. All students turning 8 and older who are able to swim 25 metres (half a lap of the pool) will be spending tomorrow at the Merriwa Pool. Notes were sent home last Friday with all information and permission notes attached. If for any reason your child has not returned their note, please send it in before school tomorrow morning. Please encourage your child to "have a go" – we encourage participation as well as competition!

ASSEMBLY

Our first Kinder-Year 6 Assembly will be in Week 3 – Friday February 14. Our wonderful Year 5/6 class will be presenting an item and our Sport Captains for 2020 will be presented with their badges.

**Mrs Talia Morgan
Relieving Infants AP**



Secondary

AGRICULTURE

Students have been testing out the new Personal Protective Equipment required when spraying the weeds throughout the Ag farm.

**Charlie James
Agriculture Teacher**

CAREER NEWS

Welcome back for a busy year in the careers area.

Year 12

Students who are in Year 12 and have not completed their 70 hours of mandatory work placement for their Vocational Education subject need to speak to their teacher to organise the paperwork for Week 5.

Local Jobs Local Industries Forum

Connect with employers, find out about jobs, and bring your resume along and meet the influencers in the Hunter region to hear where the jobs are and what industries and employers have to offer and how to get these opportunities. Save the date – March 17, 2020, 6.00pm at NEX Newcastle (King Street near McDonalds). To attend at register here www.trybooking.com/BHKZC

2020 Training Awards

Nominations can be made for students as well as schools. If you know someone who is completing a vocational course at TAFE or through their school then access the following site and nominate them for an award. Entries for awards close March 13, 2020. Access information about awards at https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/training_awards/index.html

RDA Hunter's 2020 Regional Development Summit will draw on the knowledge of well-credentialed commentators, industry experts, government and business representatives to examine the Hunter's industrial landscape. We'll have a keynote on macro trends that will impact economic growth. We'll hear about the Australian approach to industry growth and Hunter industry will help us understand how our sectors of competitive strength are transitioning

for the future.

Date: Thursday March 26, 2020

Location and Time: Noahs on the Beach
10.00am – 3.30pm

To register go to: <https://rdahunter.org.au/2020-regional-development-summit/>

University of Newcastle:

If you are interested in attending Newcastle University in 2021 then their Open Day for the Callaghan Campus will be held on Saturday August 29, 2020

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

**Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor**

Coming Events	
FEBRUARY	
Friday 7	Swimming Carnival - Years 3 to 12
Tuesday 18	Primary Zone Swimming Carnival - Scone
Monday 24	Peer Support Camp - Year 7 and 11 Year 12 Work Experience
Tuesday 25	Peer Support Camp - Year 7 and 11 Year 12 Work Experience
Wednesday 26	Peer Support Camp - Year 7 and 11 Year 12 Work Experience
Thursday 27	Year 12 Work Experience
Friday 28	Year 12 Work Experience

Primary and Secondary Swimming Carnival

CANTEEN AVAILABLE

Merriwa Central School will be holding a canteen at the swimming carnival held February 7. This is an “order on the day” canteen and NO orders will be accepted prior to the day.

CANTEEN OPTIONS

LUNCH AND MORNING TEA



Party Pies - 3 for \$2.00

Hotdog - \$3.00

Sausage Sandwich - \$3.00

Salad Rolls - \$3.00

DRINKS AVAILABLE

Water - \$1.00

Poppers - \$2.00



A variety of snacks will also be available for purchase on the day.

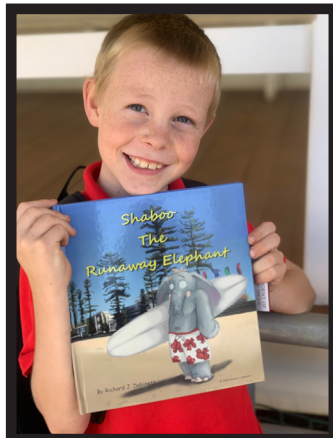


Cassilis Public School

SMALL SCHOOL...BIG DIFFERENCE AT CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL!



Our two awesome Kindergarten students, Jacob and Cooper, have settled into school life beautifully and bring lots of smiles to our school.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK DRIDAN STANLEY

Dridan has been awarded the student of the week for his safe, respectful and do your best behaviour. He carefully planned his drawing and writing about his holidays and included some interesting details. Dridan was kind to all

students and bounce backed from when he was upset at library.

He was a great listener, was in the right place at the right time and consistently tried every activity.

A great start to the school. Congratulations, Dridan! You should feel very proud of yourself.

THE BEST SNACK FOR THE BEACH IS A SAND- WHICH

Last Friday, students learnt more about healthier choices and increasing their variety during cooking lessons with Mrs Nairne. Our students need to continually develop their skills in independency and their ability to make their own healthier choices.

Students would love lots of opportunities to help cook at home as well!



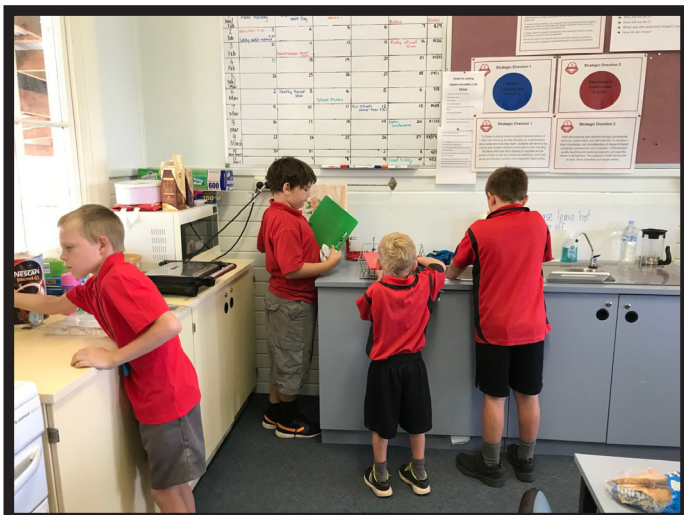
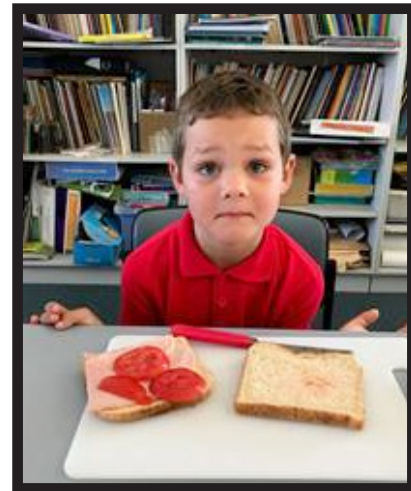
Skylah - I made tomato and ham sandwich. I ate half and it was good

Johnathan - I put cheese on first then ham and tomato. I would like to eat it at school

Summer - I'm pretty good at making sandwiches. The wholemeal bread was a nice change

Paul - The sandwich was good. The tomato was juicy. Pop grows tomatoes

Jacob - On my sandwich was cheese, tomato and ham.



**Katie Burgess
Principal**



St Joseph's Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

It was terrific to see everyone so bright, bubbly and cheerful in the first week back at school! We hope that you have all had a wonderful break with each other and were able to spend quality time together.

Thank you to the parents/caregivers, for entrusting us to deliver high quality, Catholic Education for your precious children. A high standard of education with a Christ centred focus, wellbeing of students, teachers and families and a strong presence in the Merriwa community are important to us and I would hope, important to you as well. Together, we can make St Joseph's an even better place to be.

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP), was submitted to the Catholic Schools Office towards the end of last year, as mandated each year. As a staff, we are committed to reaching our goals set for the year. They are very aspirational, but we are ready for the challenge. We know that with your valuable support, we will get there! Our key themes for the year are:

- Religious Education/Formation
- Literacy and Numeracy (Reading, Writing and Mathematics)
- Wellbeing
- Parent Engagement

Thank you to all our parents who completed the Parent Survey sent through the holidays. The results indicated that things are tracking in the right direction, but it was also noticed that we need to continue to develop our consistency of language with students and parents related to the management of student behaviours. To this end, we are engaging with Mr Craig Moore, Behavioural specialist at the Catholic Schools Office and hope to implement the Positive Behaviours For Learning (PB4L) program later this year.

We welcomed our new Kindergarten students to St Joseph's: Katie, Annabelle, Charlie, Myles, Callum and Nevaeh. The smiles on your faces this week have brought a new sense of joy to our school! We hope

I wish Kindergarten students and their families all many blessings for your time here and hope you

get the best experience from us.



ST JOSEPH'S SPREADS THE GIFT OF JOY OVER CHRISTMAS

We were the recipients of some very thoughtful cards and letters from St Patrick's Wallsend and St James' Kotara South towards the end of last year, giving us strength and support to our families and the wider Merriwa community during the drought.

We thought we would "pay it forward" and sent some cards and letters of support to the town of Guyra, in particular, to St Mary of the Angels School, Guyra.

We received many emails and letters of thanks from the school. Here is an excerpt from one of the grateful families:

Dear St Josephs Merriwa (Rachael and Levi)

I would like to thank you for the lovely card that my family received before Christmas. It brought joy to our hearts to read your card that was written in such a caring way. It really did help lift our spirits and helped us to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas.

The New Year has been wonderful as we have received some lovely rain. Dams are filling up and the grass has greened and now its even starting to grow.

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas as well and I wish you all the best for a bright and wonderful future ahead.

Thank you again

(Names withheld)

We also were a part of the wonderful Christmas Carols, which were sung in the town prior to the Christmas break. It was a memorable experience, personally, to see students and teachers singing together and entertaining the

Merriwa Ringer

local community. In the Merriwa Diary recently, a "Letter to the Editor" was received from a Parkes resident, here is the excerpt:

Dear Editor,

To the Merriwa Community,

My wife and I stopped in Merriwa again this morning for our morning tea.

It has always been a very pleasant experience.

That morning (18/12/2019) was special. We saw school students and their teachers, stopping and singing Christmas Carols outside businesses along the main street.

Congratulations to all involved. A small town with a big heart.

Two wonderful examples of what the Catholic Ethos means to us at St Joseph's.

STAFFING

We welcome three new teachers this year to the fold and they are all graduates! We are very excited to watch them develop and grow as educators and professionals throughout the year.

Welcome to Miss Naomi Rodwell, Miss Sammie Love, who were identified through the Catholic Schools Office Talented Graduate Teacher Program and Miss Georgia Brazier, who was the successful applicant for our 0.5 FTE position in Kindergarten.

We will learn more about our new staff in the coming weeks and we sincerely wish them all the very best in their careers.



Our staff for the year is as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs Sally Hagley/Miss Georgia Brazier
Stage One: Miss Sammie Love

Merriwa Ringer

Stage Two: Miss Naomi Rodwell

Stage Three: Mrs Anne Marie Peebles/
Mr Ashley Borg

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Tanya Ninness

Library: Mrs Laura Smede (Tuesdays)

Pedagogical Mentor/Lead Teacher: Mrs Sally Hagley (Monday, Tuesday, Fortnightly Wednesday)

Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Cassandra McLaren, Mrs Georgina Fairfull, Mrs Melissa Collins

Groundsperson: Mrs Karin Brazier

Cleaner: Ms Rebecca Wardman

COMMUNICATION

It would like to make communication a key feature of ensuring parents are fully informed of anything which happens at St Joseph's. To this end, we suggest you 'like' our Facebook Page, which can be found at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsmerriwa/>

Our newsletters remain the primary source of communication. These will continue on a fortnightly basis via email and the Compass app. Please take the time to read each newsletter to avoid missing key information.

KINDERGARTEN START THEIR JOURNEY

It was terrific to welcome our new Kindergarten students to St Joseph's! We hope that their learning and spiritual journey is one that we can support for many years to come.

It was fantastic to welcome our new Kindergarten families to the school on Monday February 3 with a wonderful morning tea, organised by the teachers and parents of Year One students. I would like to personally thank all the staff and parents who organised morning tea for our Kindergarten parents and generously gave up their time to clean up afterwards.

COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

To our new parents, please see Mrs Gilbey for access to the system, if it hasn't already been organised. During the course of the year, Compass will continue to evolve into a fully operational system, where bills / fees can be paid and notes can be "signed". At the current time, we only have the ability to mark attendance and create calendar and news stories.

OFFICE ENTRANCE

At St Joseph's we understand and appreciate that parents from time to time have very important messages to personally deliver to

their children and sometimes this can be during class time.

We strongly value our commitment to delivering the best quality Catholic Education that we can. This means that we ask that no interruptions to class occur during the times of 9.00am – 2.50pm. If parents need to speak to their children during these hours, it would be greatly appreciated if parents report to the office and Mrs Gilbey will contact children directly and ask them to come to the office if necessary. This will reduce interruptions to class learning as well as ensure that important messages get to children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Of course, we always welcome and greatly appreciate parent and community volunteers for reading, canteen, library etc. We simply ask that you remember to report to the office and sign in on our 'kiosk' before proceeding to the appropriate area.



ENROLMENTS

If you know of any family who wishes to see the great work we do at St Joseph's, please promote us as much as you can. Your positive words in the community will be extremely beneficial.

For enquiries, email admin@merriwa.catholic.edu.au or Ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 10 – Opening School Mass/ Commissioning of Staff and Student Leaders (9.15am)

February 16 – School Working Bee 9.00am – 11.00am

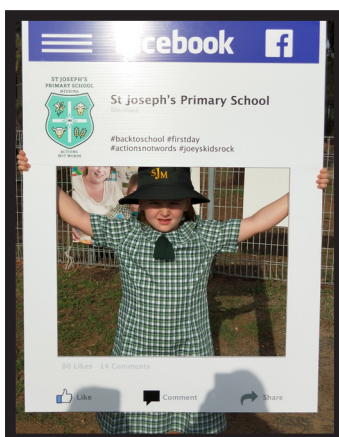
February 19 – Upper Hunter Swimming Carnival (Selected students) – Scone Swimming Pool

I hope you all have a terrific fortnight ahead. If you have any queries, questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me, contact me by phone or email me.

God Bless.

Mr Ashley Borg
Principal

ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au
6548 2035





Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre

SETTLING SUCCESS

Starting or resuming Pre-school can be an emotional experience for both you and your child. Children especially can often experience some difficulty settling into a new environment, particularly if they find it hard to separate from family or familiar caregivers. This is part of an information sheet from startingblocks.com.au that offers some suggestions that can help you support your child during the settling in period. You will of course need to be patient because they may cry, be grumpy or throw tantrums for an initial time as they get used to the new environment.

PREPARE THEM FOR SEPARATION

- Talk about Pre-school with your child and let them know that you are happy and confident that they will have a good time and will be cared for
- If possible, start with shorter or fewer days then gradually increase their time spent at school. Once they develop a settling routine, they should be more comfortable
- Don't let your emotions or anxieties affect your child. Try and hold back your tears when you drop them off
- Say 'goodbye' confidently and reassure them when you leave that you (or someone else) will be back later to collect them
- Give your child sufficient time to say their goodbyes in the morning. Reach the Pre-School centre early so you have time to prepare your child for a good day.

COMFORT THEM

- Ask your child if they would like to take their favourite toy or colour book to the centre
- Find a preferred staff member that your child can be left with when you drop them off for the day
- Spend some time settling your child into a favourite activity before you leave
- Inform the service about what comforts your child and discuss how you manage activities or times of the day they find unsettling. For

example, does your child have a toy or blanket that helps them to settle?

- Show empathy – in the morning when you see your child upset on your way to Pre-School, talk to them. It is advised not to share your own worries but tell your child that they'll be okay. Ask them to share their feelings with you. Listen to them and tell them what they are feeling is normal and it's a big step for them as they are growing up
- Where possible, organise play dates outside of Pre-School. This will help your child be more comfortable with the other children at the centre.

ENCOURAGE THEM

- Every time you go to pick up your child from their centre, tell them they did great that day
- Encourage your little one to pack their bag with essentials they will need for the day. If they are too young to pack their bag themselves, ask them if they would like to take a toy/book with them. Pack a comforter – a toy or blanket that is something familiar from home for them
- Take the time to have a nice conversation at the breakfast table. Tell them the time at what you'll be picking them up
- Talking with children and encouraging them to voice any concerns or anxieties they may have is a helpful strategy
- For your peace of mind, it can be helpful to call the service later to see how your child settled. Children who become very upset when they are left often settle very quickly and happily once the actual separation is over. The service should enable you to contact them throughout the day
- You may also want to speak to the educators at Pre-School about how you can better support your child's transition.

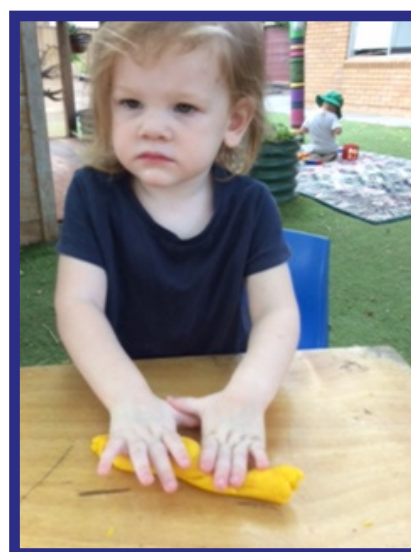
How you can reconnect with your child after a day in Pre-school:

It's not only a new experience for your child, it's also important for you to know how they feel about going to their early childhood education and care service. This will help you connect and build a strong relationship with your child. After you pick them up from their centre, give them your undivided attention. They might be grumpy because they haven't seen you the whole day, so shower them with all the love you can. Create

a meaningful conversation with them after their day at a service.

Here are some suggestions:

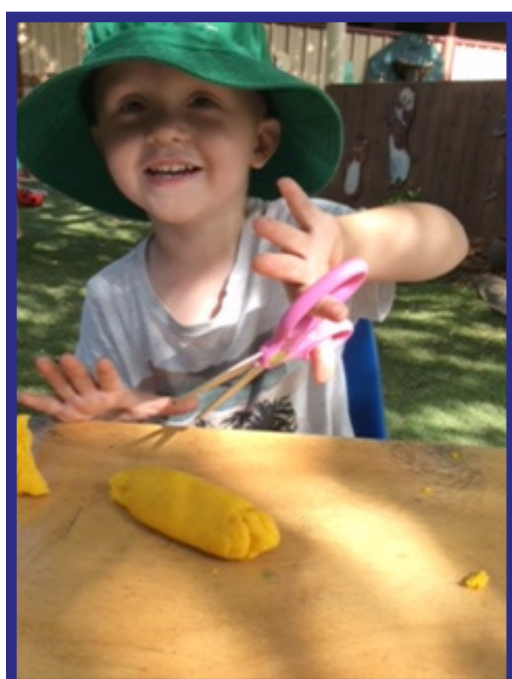
- Ask them about their favourite activities of the day
- Talk to them about the friends they have made. Ask them to name a few children who you know your child is friendly with or spends time playing with
- Talk to them about their favourite educator at Pre-School and what they like about them
- Ask them if their educator read them any story, which one was it, and what they liked about it
- Mention some items that your child would see or play with at the service, as this helps them recall situations. For instance, ask them what they and their friends made with the blocks
- Ask them if they learned anything new
- Use images or notes from the educators at the centre for



Leah Folpp

conversation. For example, "Look at this lovely photo of you at the sandpit. What did sand feel like in your toes?"

Starting Blocks (2020, January 15).



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Sunday Eucharist** at Holy Trinity 9.00am
- **Friday Eucharist** at Holy Trinity 10.00am
- **Friday Extended Communion at MPS and Gummun Place alternately** - 11.00am.

Rev'd Pat Kirkby

REFLECTION EPIPHANY 5 MATTHEW 5:13-20

The fifth of the Ten Commandments commands us to honour our parents. The Bible teaches that a child can do this by accepting their parental authority and paying attention to their wisdom. That way the child begins to espouse their family's values. When it works well, this process can ensure that godly values are passed from generation to generation and that children enter adulthood well equipped to meet life's challenges.

God refers to his chosen people as 'his Son' and they considered him their Heavenly Father. Therefore the same process through which God intended people to assimilate the wisdom of this process, he also envisaged as the mechanism for mankind to assimilate divine wisdom. Hence, some Rabbis would later decide that honouring your parent was the greatest commandment, while Jesus himself spoke of the need for adults to become like children in their attitude to this divine parent.

It is through its relationship to God's words had his wisdom that this passage is tied into the fifth commandment. The priesthood were supposed to act as an embodiment of their Heavenly Father's values. Their sanctuary in Jerusalem was supposed to be a shining beacon of God's wisdom, continuously available to all who sought it. The nation's leaders, priests and teachers were therefore charged (through a 'covenant of salt') to ensuring that Israel understood their Father's decrees (the Law). The bracketing of these verses between two highly structured sections, The Beatitudes and the Antitheses, see us designed to highlight this passage. Seven blessings on those who have obeyed their Heavenly Father, balanced by six corrections for those whose behavior has failed to take account of their Heavenly Father's nature. Between which lies the Law. The six/seven division itself is significant, for six and seven were

symbolic numbers associated with perfection and imperfection accordingly. (From "Text For the Week")

Love and blessings, Rev Pat

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fr. John Marsh and his wife, Faith, are with us as our current locum priest and we are delighted that they are back with us again. Our Eucharist is held at 9 a.m. on Sundays at Holy Trinity and 10 a.m. on Fridays at Holy Trinity. We have Extended Eucharist at MPS at 11.00am on first and third Fridays, and at the Hostel on second and fourth Fridays.

St Columba's at Cassilis have become a Festival Church and have six annual events annually. They have a Harvest Festival coming up and all are invited to attend.

Rev Pat Kirkby

Merriwa Rotary

THE ANGUS PEBBLES SCHOLARSHIP

Established decades ago, by our club, the Angus Pebbles Scholarship is an annual award given to commemorate Angus who represented Merriwa Rotary during his year-long exchange in the USA.

The winner of this year's award is TORI McNAUGHT will use the funds received to assist her as she settles into studying to become a Bachelor of Psychological Science at the University of Newcastle.

Tori is the daughter of Tony McNaught. She did her Year 12 studies at Merriwa Central School, where she joined in extra activities such as the agricultural Steer program and has also been a member of the Student Council.

Also....you might have seen Tori working as part of the staff at Bits and Pizzas.

By the time this Ringer is published, Tori will have received her presentation at a gathering at the Mens' Shed. We are looking forward to Tori attending a Rotary Merriwa meeting before she goes off to her University adventure.

Congratulations Tori! We wish you well. We hope you will be able to come back to Rotary Merriwa from time to time and tell us how it is all going.

**Mark Smith
Rotary Club of Merriwa**

Community Notice Board

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

Congratulations and Commiserations

The Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary will be having a General Meeting on Friday February 21, 2020. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room inside our Merriwa MPS at 2.00pm. We invite all our members to attend as well as any community members who want to see what we are all about and perhaps join our ranks as a member. We only have four meetings a year and all money raised goes directly to our Merriwa MPS for the purchase of equipment for the betterment of our patients and staff.

See you on Friday February 21 at 2.00pm.

Elaine Sparrow

VALE

Allan Frederick Harms

SEPTEMBER 12, 1941 TO
DECEMBER 23, 2019



The family of belated Allan Frederick Harms would like to notify the community, especially Cassilis, of his passing December 23, 2019.

Allan was a member of the Cassilis community for a number of years prior to his move to the Central Coast and Hebel QLD.

The families would also like to thank the communities for all their support over the loss of their father/pop/father inlaw.

Tina Taylor and family



CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Tash and Jackson for their great effort in receiving their Australia Day Awards. You have made your family and community proud. Well deserved!

COMMISERATIONS

I wish to offer my condolences to the families of Cam Leggett. A great man who will be missed by all.

I would also like to offer my condolences to Betty Campbell and families on the loss of her father.

Hylt Cronin

Merriwa District Progress Association

MERRIWA CEMETERY GATES NOW UNLOCKED

Elderly and disabled visitors with limited mobility can once again enter the Merriwa cemetery with their mobility aids to pay tribute to their dearly departed loved ones.

The Merriwa District Progress Association successfully negotiated with the Upper Hunter Shire Council to remove the padlocks on three gates at the cemetery.

Council had locked these gates during 2019 due to unauthorised 'works' being carried out at the cemetery. Many people may not be aware that they require Council approval prior to carrying out any 'works' at the cemetery. Enquiries should be directed to the Merriwa Council office.

The Progress Association would like to applaud Council for its cooperation in this matter. It urges all visitors to respect those memorials dedicated to the deceased, and to comply with Council's rules regarding conduct of 'works'.

Residents can present their opinions and ideas on local issues 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

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.

Ringer's Craft Corner

TWINE AND LEATHER FREE CROCHET BASKET PATTERN

- Approx 2,000' total yarn (8ply)
- 3 Zip-Loc bags (to keep the twine from tangling while you work)
- Size K hook or 6.5mm hook
- thrifted leather belt

ABBREVIATIONS – US TERMS

sc – single crochet, **sl st** – slip stitch

NOTES

- This project is worked in the round, so you won't be joining the rounds, but rather crocheting in a spiral
 - The entire basket pattern is worked with three strands of twine held together
 - Place each roll of twine in a separate Zip Loc bag and seal it almost completely. Leave just enough room for the strand to be pulled out and your rolls won't tangle while you work!
1. Begin with a magic loop. Make 7 sc in it and join with a sl st. Place marker at beginning of round.
 2. 2 sc in each sc (14)
 3. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next sc* repeat 7 times (21)
 4. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 2 sc* repeat 7 times (28)
 5. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 3 sc* repeat 7 times (35)
 6. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 4 sc* repeat 7 times (42)
 7. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 5 sc* repeat 7 times (49)
 8. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 6 sc* repeat 7 times (56)
 9. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 7 sc* repeat 7 times (63)
 10. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 8 sc* repeat 7 times (70)
 11. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 9 sc* repeat 7 times (77)
 12. *2 sc in the first sc, 1 sc in the next 10 sc* repeat 7 times (84)
 13. 13 – 38: work in sc around. (84)
 14. 39: (To end the basket) sl st in next 2 sc and fasten off. (2)

To create the handles

1. Cut two 10" pieces of leather from an old belt, rounding the corners slightly.

<https://makeanddocrew.com/twine-leather-free-crochet-basket-pattern/>



Business Merriwa Surgery

**DR EMAD JASEM
FOR ALL YOUR MEDICAL NEEDS**

OPENING HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
8.30am -5.30pm**

Wednesday 8.30am- 2.00pm

Closed for lunch 2.00pm to 3.00pm daily

For bookings please call the surgery on 02 6548 2305

Just a reminder to the community that Dr Plaskitt attends the surgery three days a month. Dr Plaskitt is a GP and is qualified to deliver cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), Psychoeducation and behavioural therapy and other focussed psychological strategies, as well as having training in clinical hypnosis.

These strategies are useful for Anxiety/Emotional disorders and Depression and Grief to name a few.

The techniques are also very helpful in conditions such as smoking, weight and lifestyle habits. For more information please contact the surgery.

For the ladies in the community, Merriwa Surgery runs nurse led clinics for Women's Health. Sharee is a trained and qualified Women's Health nurse and is available for your women's health needs including cervical smears previously known as pap smears. Due to the lack of local female GP's, you don't have to be a current registered patient to book. Phone Merriwa Surgery for more information and bookings.

For those that are worried, Dr Jasem has no intention and is not leaving the Merriwa community. Dr Jasem is settled in Merriwa and will continue to provide medical attention as a GP to the community.

REMINDER with booking appointments please SELECT OPTION 1 on your telephone to be put through to reception.

Dr Emad Jasem

Upper Hunter Shire Council

SERVICE NSW

Merriwa Council Administration Office is an agency for Service NSW providing access and information to a range of licences and registrations. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, Council staff are able to assist with the following:

- new vehicle registrations, renewals and transfers including conditional registrations and unregistered vehicle permits
- driver log/work diary books
- driver testing
- change of address
- licences, photo ID cards, mobility parking
- number plates - issuing and ordering
- NSW Housing: applications, rentstart and general information
- Office of Fair Trading: business/association name registration, REVS certificates, building contractor and owner/builder licences, consumer complaints/tribunals
- NSW Maritime: vessel registration renewals, boat licence renewals, private mooring renewals, general and PWC licence tests
- Births, Deaths and Marriages: applications, change of name
- Seniors Card: member applications

To speak with a Service NSW Customer Service Officer, or for more information, please contact Council on 02 6521 7000 and they will be able to transfer your call.

DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE

Upper Hunter Shire Council is reminding residents that green waste is accepted for a fee at waste management facilities and should not be illegally dumped.

Residents are also asked to be on the look out and report all dumped rubbish.

The cost to Upper Hunter Shire ratepayers for the clean-up of illegal dumping runs into tens of thousands of dollars a year (without including the cost of investigations, staff wages and vehicle costs).

Illegal dumping impacts on residents and

ratepayers, the Upper Hunter's clean, green image and creates additional threats from bushfire.

Fines for littering from vehicles can also be issued based on reports from the public. These fines range from \$250.00 for an individual, \$500 for a corporation, to \$900.00 for aggravated littering such as lit cigarette butts during extreme conditions.

Illegal dumping has not been a major problem in the Upper Hunter Shire previously, however in 2019 there were 32 reported illegal dumping incidents.

Upper Hunter Shire Council's Director Environmental and Community Services Mat Pringle is urging anyone who has information about dumping to report incidents online at <https://ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au> or phone Council on 6540 1100.

"In most instances where Council can locate the offender, cost recovery can generally occur. However, the time and resources in conducting the investigation carry costs that vary with the scale and severity of the incident," Mr Pringle said.

Reports need to be made within 14 days of the incident and must include a range of information including car registration and description, date, time, location and the type of littered item where possible.

For more information visit <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/litter-and-illegal-dumping>

Green waste is accepted at Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone Waste Management Facilities.

Opening hours are available on Council's website <http://upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/our-facilities/waste-management-facilities.aspx>

Ringer Deadline!

*Please remember to place
your articles*

and advertisements into the

Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

47 Marquet Street, Merriwa

\$169,000.00



Situated on a large 912sqm block, this home is an excellent investment. There are 3 big bedrooms with the main having built in robes and 2 with ceiling fans. The third bedroom is a large sleepout at the rear. The lounge features R/C air. The kitchen is in excellent condition with a new benchtop and has an electric stove and a combustion oven. The yard is big and flat with a single garage and attached carport. In close proximity to the schools and main street, this home is an ideal rental or for the home owner. Currently let to excellent long term tenants for \$240.00 per week.

2 Brisbane Street, Merriwa

\$215,000.00

Situated on a huge 1948sqm block with a solid weatherboard home currently tenanted and the property can be sub-divided. The vendor has had the surveying and plans drawn and they will be passed onto the purchaser ready to lodge with council. The home has 3 large bedrooms the main with a built in robe. There are two living areas, both with air conditioners and the kitchen is in good condition. At the rear of the home is a 3 bay shed with power. This is an ideal investment with an excellent long term tenant and the option to further develop.



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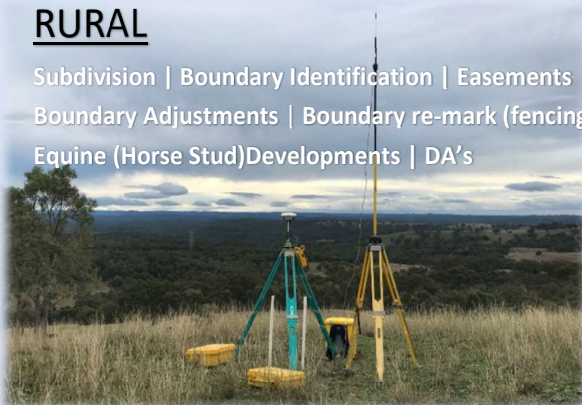
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Businesses



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UPPER HUNTER offices

Merriwa 6548 2175 (Mon & Tues 9 - 4pm, Wed 9 - 3pm)
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
BIOSECURITY - PEST ANIMALS 0429 722944
For more information on our range of services visit our website
hunter.ils.nsw.gov.au



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- 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
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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.

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Merriwa Touch Football
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Treasurer: Leanne Hunt on 0487 761 253
Secretary: Larissa Hockings on 0429 412 772



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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

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Ph **6548 2035**

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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

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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@tgs.com.au

Merriwa Pre-School
For children 2 - 5 years

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For children attending Kindergarten to Year 6
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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





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Groups

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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 Taafe 0458 574 015
 e: tashholden@bigpond.com

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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: Marc Previati
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer/Publicity Officer: Jessyca Morgan

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 Day - Night Competitions Junior Competitors Court Hire


2019 Merriwa Springtime Show
 Established 1908
 20, 21 & 22nd September!
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 Rob Tindall - President
 Marie Scott - Secretary
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 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


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 Lunch & Dinner 7 days
 Parties & Weddings a speciality
ATM, SKY CHANNEL CLUB TAB, CLUB KENO DARTS, SNOOKER, POOL

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 Secretary: Phil Martyn
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MERRIWA OLD BOY'S CLUB
 President - Patrick Williams 0417 462 767
 V/President - Trent Cooper
 Secretary - Lee Cronin
 Treasurer - Matt Morgan 0417 791 628

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 18, 2020
 Race Club President - Paul Frampton
 Contact - 0428 485 182
 Visit www.merriwaraceclub.com.au

MERRIWA OLD BOY'S CLUB
 President
Bruce Blackadder
 0428 219 340
 V/President/Publicity Officer- Trent Cooper
 Secretary/Treasurer - Matt Morgan

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

NEW MEMBERS LUNCH SPECIAL MENU

\$12.50

Crumbed calamari and chips
Gourmet salada and garlic aioli
Caesar salad
Burger of the day and chips
Beer battered fish, chips and salad

Available Monday to Friday

The Thursday Members Badge Draw for \$200.00 was not won the number was 07, this week it jackpots to \$220.00 and will be drawn between 6.00 – 7.00pm.

The Friday night Members Lucky Badge, 7.00pm draw for \$340.00 was won the number was 606, this week it commences at \$100.00.

The 8.30pm Members Badge draw worth \$750.00 was won the number was 655, this week it commences at \$800.00.

The 9.00pm Members Badge draw for \$100.00 was not won the number was 636, this week it jackpots to \$120.00. **LTPS/19/36118**

The Sunday Morning Members Badge Draw for \$500.00 was not won last week the number was 555, this week it jackpots to \$550.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. **LTPS/19/36118**

Members must be present to claim any of the draws and present their current membership card upon request. It is an offence to NOT have your membership card on your person when on the premises.

Birthday vouchers each month are also available at the bar at the beginning of the month.

Wednesday Nights from 6.00pm - \$11.00 Pizzas and \$6.00 Pints

Thursday Nights – Chicken Schnitzel Night - \$12.50 – Members only

Saturday Nights – Steak Night - \$12.50 OR order any meal off the A la carte menu and get one kids meal for free – Members only

HAPPY HOUR

Thursday 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Friday 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Sunday 11.00am to 12 noon

Member's prices

\$3.50 schooners and \$2.50 middies

BISTRO HOURS

Lunch 12noon – 2.00pm
Evening 6.00pm to 8.00pm/8.30pm

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 - 5.00pm 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

Wednesday Night 6.30pm. Tickets on sale from 6.00pm. Lots of great prizes to be won. All welcome.

BOWLS

Casual bowls available. Twilight Bowls every Friday night. 5.30pm roll.

GOLF

Casual Golf available. Donations in honesty box.

CHINESE SMORGASBORD

February 23

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

RESTAURANT

Chinese/Australian Restaurant closed Mondays.

Open for dinner Tuesday to Sunday 5.00pm to 8.30pm. Open for lunch Wednesday to Sunday 12noon to 2.00pm.

For bookings and take away - **6548 3228**

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle - February 1

Saturday Members draw, No 344, was not won – next week \$200.00.

Dinner:	Ken Bevan
Free Ticket:	Des Snelgrove
Bowls Raffle:	Aaron Byfield

Members draw - Sunday February 2

Members draw, No 267 was not won – next week \$600.00.

Des Snelgrove

WOMENS BOWLS

Hi to all our local bowlers, hope you have had a nice break.

Lady bowlers' first meeting for the year will be held on Monday February 10, 2020 at 3.00pm.

Dunedoo Friendship Day mixed bowls will be held on Wednesday February 19, 2020. Names are to be placed on the board at the Merriwa Sports Club or given to Loretta Cooper via mobile 0428 482 679 by February 16, 2020.

Loretta Cooper



Sporting Merriwa Cricket Club

MERRIWA UNDEFEATED SEASON COMES TO AN END

After making it to round 16 of the season undefeated, Merriwa finally succumbed to a loss against a strong Belmore Bulls team. More on that game later.

Firstly, two Saturdays ago, we hosted the Bushrangers. Merriwa won the toss and batted first on what looked to be another high quality wicket, albeit a little wet from a storm Friday night. The openers didn't last long, with Pete Ashford and Brad falling cheaply, at which time the decision to bat by the stand in skipper John Maben looked iffy. It certainly wasn't easy early on but Greg Sheehan and Doug Munro managed to work their way into a rhythm that would set the home side up for a respectable total given the conditions. Greg posted 61 and Doug 45 before a middle order collapse put pressure again on the ever dependable Ben Nebeaur and Neville Blackadder. Neville ended up with 36, including four sixes, one of which should have flown further according to Nev who wasn't satisfied with only just clearing the boundary; Ben made a handy 18. Tim Smith bowled with good speed and proved extremely dangerous, picking up five wickets for 27 runs in

a standout performance for the Bushrangers. Merriwa posted 8/201 after the 40 overs.

In the second innings, Merriwa's accurate opening bowlers and energetic field made it all but impossible to score, with Brad picking up the first wicket in the sixth over to make it one for five. The first and second change bowlers did the bulk of the work in terms of wickets, Greg taking 3/18, and Doug 3/17, with Neville also taking two wickets for 13. The talented all rounder Jake Teague top scored for the visitors with 24 but it wasn't nearly enough as the Bushrangers fell for 74.

Last Saturday, Merriwa travelled to the Bill Rose Sports Ground to attempt to keep their undefeated season hopes. Jon Osmond won the toss and elected to bat first in searing heat. A first ball boundary to Jon would provide false confidence to the batsmen waiting on the sideline. Top scorer was Neville batting 8th with 15, Chris Knight and Ben Crackett (the current top wicket taker in the competition) shared the bulk of the wickets with three each for 29 and 17 respectively. Merriwa reached 95, but it could have been worse. A quiet confidence could be felt facing the defence of the low total, however it certainly wouldn't be easy to escape a loss.

Charlie Stokes started with three maidens in a row and a nick of the stumps so light that the bail dislodged from the groove but remained sitting on the crest of the stump; Brad trapped Ben Crackett LBW for 12 in the tenth over. It remained difficult to score but the Bulls seemed comfortable cruising at a snail's pace, precisely what was needed to run the total down. Greg had Chris Knight out caught in the 17th over to make it 2/27.

The Bulls kept at it, chipping away doggedly; the score reached 48 before the next wicket of Mick Davidson, bowled by Charlie in the 24th over. Another two quick wickets gave the away side hope but it was short lived. Will King had a defining innings for the Bulls, coming in the tenth over, and remained stubbornly put until Merriwa were run down with only three overs to spare, scoring 35 not out. Charlie took three for ten from eight, and Brad, Doug, Neville and Greg took a wicket apiece.

Merriwa remains on the top of the table; Belltrees, close behind, also had a loss on the weekend and therefore failed to move to top place. Next week is a home game, facing rivals Murrurundi starting at 1.00pm.

Charlie Stokes

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

Welcome back for 2020, the season is starting a little late this year, in May but that doesn't stop us training. Reserve Grade have been training twice a week since January. This week, training will be on Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30pm and Tuesday and Friday every second week, same time.

League Tag and tackle training began this week, training each week will be Tuesday and Thursday's, starting at 6.00pm sharp. If you need a rub down or strapping make sure you get there early to ensure you are ready to train with the rest of the group.

So, if you are keen to join the reserve grade, league tag or tackle teams this season, please come on down to the Number 1 oval and talk to the coaches. Nathan Barry is Reserve Grade coach, Gaynor Blackadder is League Tag coach and Matt Morgan is Ladies Tackle coach.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page, 'Merriwa Magpies Reserve Grade and Ladies League Tag' for information in regards to the purchasing of merchandise.

Congratulations to the Merriwa Magpies ladies who got selected for the Greater Northern Tigers/Bulldogs side for 2020. They are Gaynor Blackadder, Shai Blackadder and Lucy Prudden. All the best ladies.

Again, a big thank you to our 2020 sponsors, we appreciate your support each and every year. We welcome new sponsors to get in contact with one of the committee members for any information.

Jessyca Morgan

Merriwa Little A's



Little Athletics

REGIONAL CARNIVAL

Little A's season returned with a bang on Monday 27th January as 20 athletes geared up for a 'master class' clinic in Merriwa with Peter and Charlie Gentz of Tiger Fitness and Training of Newcastle.

Peter is one of Australia's best hurdles and sprint coaches, with several athletes under his wing

already competing nationally and internationally with great success. The coaches broke the athletes into senior and junior teams, going through drills and skills to improve speed, agility and technique in starts, hurdles and jumps. They were extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and skills demonstrated by each of our athletes.

"They are such a pleasure to coach, they are all so keen! You've got some really good athletes here, with a lot of potential," Peter commented at the end of the clinic.

With a little bit more fund raising, we look forward to getting Peter and Charlie back for a pre- Zones clinic in October.

The clinic was just the lift our team needed to prepare themselves for the 2020 Regional Athletics Championships in Glendale over the weekend.

Alas the hot weather had most of the events cancelled or postponed to this coming weekend, a



huge disappointment to our 14 strong team - but the 'die hards' will no doubt be there fighting for their place at State next weekend I'm sure. We will do a wrap up of all the results next week.

As the track has copped an absolute hammering over summer, sprints and low impact training will be done on No. 1 oval, with throws, long and triple jump on No. 2 oval. Training resumes on Monday nights from 5.30pm through to February 24.

More pictures on page 23...

Belinda Keane

MCS in touch with our community



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ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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