

MERRIWA Ringer

FREE

Issue 21
Thursday August 27, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE



Celebrating 60 years
in business




Pest Alert



Did you know that the recent rain
can cause higher Termite activity!
Have you had your House Inspected?

Congratulations on 60 years in business to Russell's Earthmoving

The staff of Merriwa IGA would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort of John and Elaine Russell for the 60 years of service. Their business has been an important part to the community and their support for all things "Merriwa" have been greatly appreciated by many community organisations.

A little bit about Russell's Earthmoving...

John started his business on August 29 1960 with one small seven tonne International TD9 bulldozer. John and Elaine married in 1965 having Andrew in 1971. They formed Russell's Earthmoving (REM) Pty Ltd on December 22 1972 as directors of their company.

Andrew joined the business in 1992 after finishing a Heavy Vehicle apprenticeship with Merriwa Shire Council. Andrew and Julie married in 1994 having Zoi in 1995 and Jacob in 1996.

In 2017 Jacob joined the business after finishing his apprenticeship at Valley Brake and Volvo. Russell's Earthmoving now has three generations working this small family business.

John celebrated 50 years of business in 2010 and has been working the business for over 58 years and is still driving his beloved bulldozers.

The business has gone from strength to strength with now twelve employees and over 15 pieces of plant and equipment.

Over the 58 years of business, REM has donated their time to many projects in Merriwa including:

- Helping construct the pool near the Merriwa River and also the Merriwa Memorial Pool in Vennacher Street
- Helping Rotary construct the helipad at the Merriwa District Hospital in memory of Peter Dobson

- Helping build the Merriwa sporting ovals as well as the netball courts
- Major sponsor of the Poultry section of the Merriwa Show over the past four years.
- Sponsoring the MRLFC and many sporting clubs over the years, to name a few.

John and Andrew have also donated many hours helping the victims of the Sir Ivan Fire in the recent bushfire disaster.

John, Elaine, Andrew, Julie, Zoi and Jacob had dedicated many years and hours to this ever growing small business and work with the utmost professionalism to their many customers in Merriwa and the surrounding district. - **Extract from Australia Day Awards**



Wendy, Keith, Andrew, staff and community members

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

MCSF&C
MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL P&C 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

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL

Telephone: 02 6547 4521 Fax: 02 6547 4450

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

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

Merriwa Pre-School
For children 2 - 5 years

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

Cassilis Public School

Principal:
Mrs Katie Burgess

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



Merriwa Central School

Deputy Principal's Report

SASS stands for School Administration and Support Staff. This week students, parents and staff at Merriwa Central would like to acknowledge the hard work done by our SAS Staff as part of SASS National Recognition Week. Each year, schools recognise and acknowledge the important work our School Administrative and Support Staff undertake in our schools.

All our wonderful School Administrative Support Staff do such a fabulous job supporting teaching and learning, students, teachers, head teachers and senior executive at our school!

These essential people are our:

- Administrative Managers
- Administrative Officers
- School Learning Support Officers
- Aboriginal Education Officers
- General Assistants.

Schools would not function without these critical people and our SASS staff are "Vital to Education".

National Recognition Week is a great time to thank all our SAS staff for their hard work and dedication to our school. Please give them all an extra big smile and thankyou this week



TELL THEM FROM ME

In 2020 Merriwa Central School students from Year 4 to Year 12 will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey Snapshot 2. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. More than 6,300 schools in Australia and around the world have used Tell Them From Me to survey 5.4 million students. Capturing the voices of our students will help improve how we do things at our school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between June 15 and July 3, 2020 (this has been moved as a result of COVID-19). Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey will be sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-forparents>.



Sharon Kenaly
Deputy Principal

Coming Events

SEPTEMBER	
Monday 14	Year 11 Exams

Primary

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded 'Student of the Week' in Week 5.

KINDERGARTEN

Blake Benson – Fantastic improvement in Fast Maths



YEAR 1

Jack Purcell – For excellent work in reading and always trying his best



YEAR 2/3

Joshua Orton – For improvement in reading and writing



YEAR 3/4

Olivia Purcell – For dedication in reading groups and extending her learning



YEAR 4/5

Darcy Clark – For excellent work in mathematics



YEAR 5/6

Katana Magnus – Being a mature and responsible student.



BRONZE AWARD WINNERS

Jack Purcell, Bailey Morgan, Abigail Goodear, Pavishna Uthayasangar and Blake Benson



SILVER AWARD Aubree Oldham



CLASS OF THE WEEK



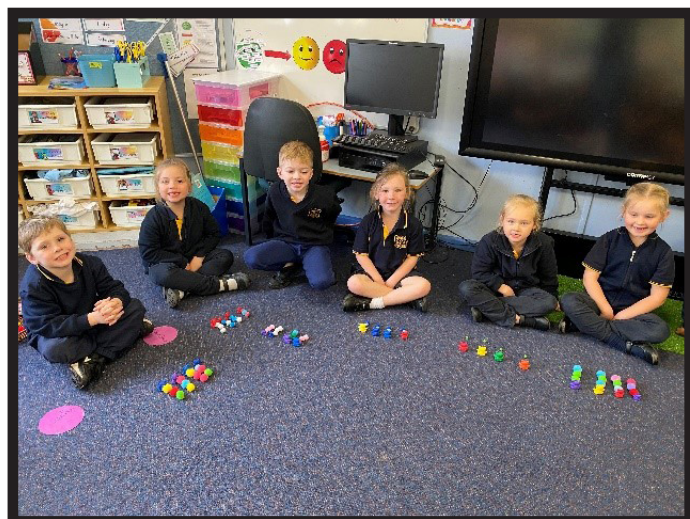
Congratulations to Kindergarten on receiving the 'Class of the Week' award. Our focus this week was on positive role models and Kindergarten showed a fantastic display of this when cleaning up our playground in their lunch breaks.

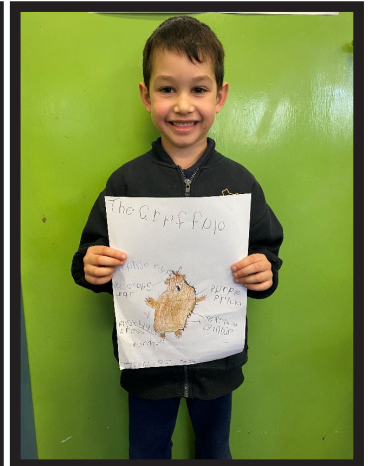
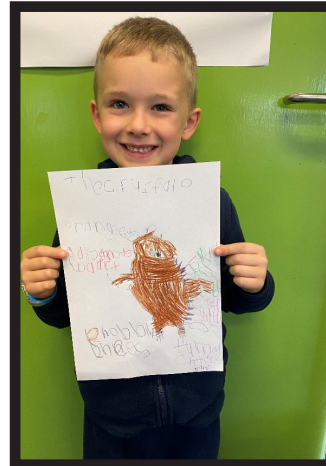
KINDERGARTEN CLASS REPORT

Kindergarten have been very busy little learners in the classroom this term!

Students have been reading an exciting variety of quality texts and have created their own artworks and writing inspired by these stories. The story of the Gruffalo was a class favourite. Students particularly enjoyed drawing and labelling their own Gruffalos before creating their own made-up creature to scare off predators.

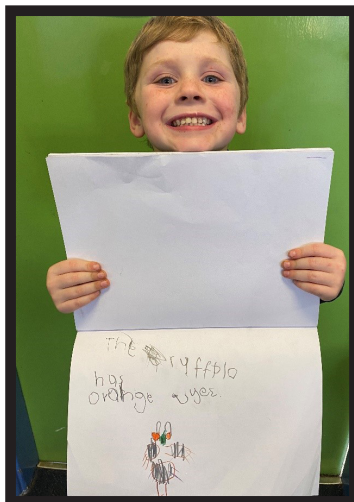
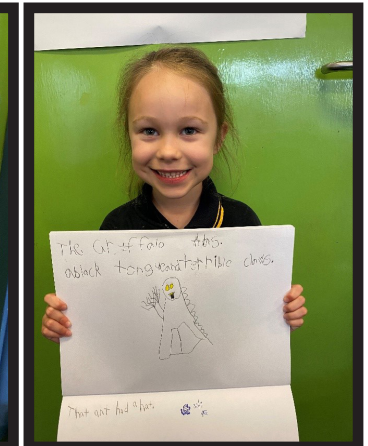
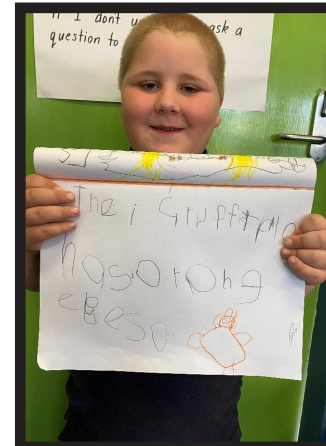
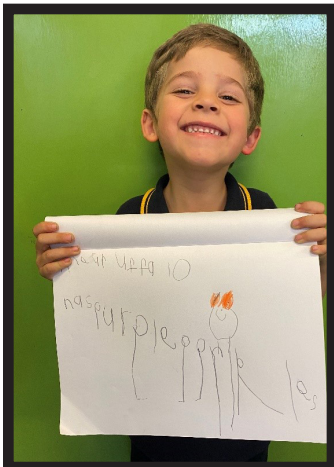
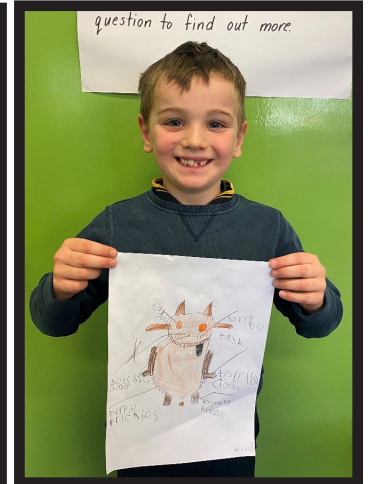
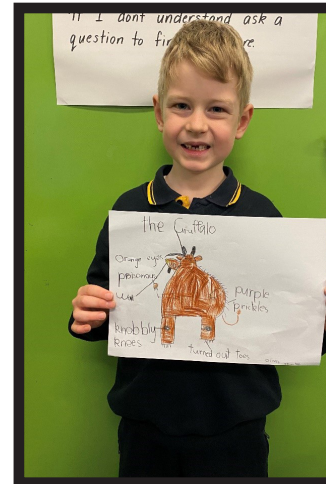
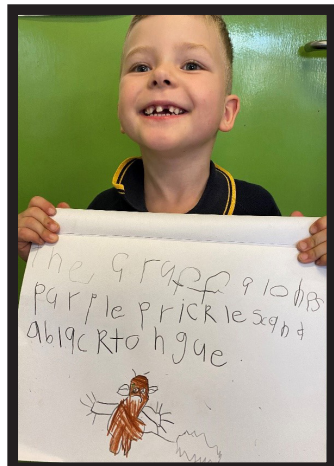
During maths, students have been focusing on teen numbers and the many ways they can represent these numbers using ten frames, tallies, counters and MAB blocks.





Kindergarten have also been learning how to share objects into groups equally. They have loved engaging in sharing activities and are very quick to notice when a group is not equal!

Another highlight for the term, has been learning about concepts of music and using instruments to experiment with making sounds of varying pitch and tempo.



Mrs Keirra Hourn
Kindergarten Class Teacher
Merriwa Ringer

Secondary

VET NEWS

On Thursday August 20 students at Merriwa Central School had the opportunity to complete their White Card. Nine students put their hand up to spend the day learning about Work Health and Safety in the construction industry with some very insightful examples of where potential accidents can occur. This provided the opportunity for students to understand how their own behaviour in a work environment can impact on the overall safety of others.

Students would like to thank the school for subsidising the cost of the course so that it was possible to attend.



Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

VACCINATIONS

The second round of immunisations will be held at Merriwa Central School on Friday September 4, 2020 (Week 7). This will be the second dose for Year 7 students, and a catch up dose for any Year 10 students who missed out on the first round in February.

NSW Health has implemented additional measures based on expert clinical advice to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in school clinics, including:

- health screening of nurses before clinics
- pre-vaccination screening of students
- physical distancing restrictions at the clinic entrance and observation area
- ensuring the number of students and nurses at the clinic does not exceed the maximum allowed
- enhanced hand hygiene by nurses and students
- enhanced environmental cleaning of all surfaces

The NSW Department of Health's information has been attached, see page 10.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/withdraw_consent.aspx.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic either as a physical card or a text message sent to the mobile number recorded on the consent form. Details about vaccinations given at school will also be uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to support complete vaccination histories.

Emma Piper
Girls Adviser

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

OLIVIA MCLEAN

FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Business Studies and Modern History because I like the content that is taught

BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Receiving School Captain for 2020

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Teaching/support work for youth

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Where There's a Will Summit in Adelaide 2019, state athletics and netball representation

YEAR ADVISOR COMMENT: Olivia is a hardworking and passionate student. She applies herself in all subjects and does so with a smile on her face. She has been a pleasure to have as part of my cohort and I wish her all the best for her exams and for what her future holds.

Anna Sansom - Year Advisor



CAREER NEWS

SAE Institute Scholarship Program - Animation, Sound, Film, Music, Graphic and Web Design

Closes October 30

Part of being a global leader in Creative Media education is about having a responsibility to support the next generation of creative professionals. SAE's Scholarship program is passionate about discovering and investing in individuals who will make a positive impact in the future of the creative industries. Applicants are considered on their creative skill, academic excellence and leadership. SAE Australia offers a range of domestic scholarships to assist students during their studies including full-tuition scholarships, grants and bursaries.

<https://sae.edu.au/admissions/sae-scholarships/>

AIT Virtual Open Day

September 9, 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Academy of Information Technology (AIT) will be holding their next Virtual Open Day. This is the ideal opportunity to explore your study options and career paths - whether that may be in Film, Animation, Games, Digital Design or Mobile App Development. Register now via

<https://hubs.ly/H0stkys0>

AFTRS Introduction to Screenwriting Online: November 2 to 17

Get a detailed introduction to the craft of screenwriting in this 100% online course with award winning writer/director Jonathan Ogilvie. You will learn hands-on methods for building the foundations of character, story and structure used by professional screenwriters, illustrated with key moments from a wide range of films.

Delivered by Zoom video in six evening sessions over three weeks.

<https://www.aftrs.edu.au/short-course/intro-to-screenwriting/>

Creative Kids - Introduction to Musical Improvisation

On Wednesday, August 26 Western Sydney University is a Creative Kids provider of short courses for students in Years 10-12. Introduction to Musical Improvisation will be launched and runs for five weeks online. Costs are fully covered when you register using your \$100.00 Creative Kids voucher. To register for the Creative Kids voucher and for the course:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1709827/Jess_Creative_Kids_IMI_26_August.pdf

Meet the Journalist – The Series – UTS – Top Australian Journalists Coming Together

Each semester, top UTS Journalism students are invited to research and interview a well-known journalist or media practitioner. Previous guests include the likes of Leigh Sales, Hamish Macdonald, Sandra Sully, Emma Alberici and Rick Morton.

The interviews have provided the opportunity for public debate on some of the biggest challenges facing the media industry today. They have also allowed an insight into the personal lives and careers of some of Australia's most prominent journalists and news media figures.

<https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-arts-and-social-sciences/partners-and-community/fass-industry-events/meet-journalist>

SBS Emerging Writers' Competition: Closes 15 September

Do you have a story about growing up in diverse Australia? Tell your story for the chance to win \$5000 to further your storytelling career. Entries open August 15, 2020. We strongly encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to enter.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/voices/emergingwriterscompetition>

UOW Global Sports Programs

The UOW Tottenham Hotspur Global Football Program and UOW Crusaders Global Rugby Program provide unique opportunities for your students to study a qualification of their choice at UOW's Wollongong campus, while receiving up to 20 hours a week of professional coaching.

Students will receive training from fully qualified coaches from English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur through the UOW Tottenham Hotspur Global Football Program, while the UOW Crusaders Global Rugby Program will deliver coaching from the most successful club in Super Rugby, the Crusaders. Apply now to Global Football or Global Rugby to start in February 2021.

CSIRO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeships

Developing the next generation of world-class scientists, engineers and staff to support them

is critical to building Australia's future science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and innovation capable workforce, and CSIRO is contributing to this by increasing our engagement in educating, training, and mentoring students. Our traineeship program offers diverse, multicultural work environments across CSIRO in all areas of science, research and support services, such as human resources, administration, finance, communication, information technology.

<https://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/Indigenous-careers/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Traineeships>

Job Hunting Tips for Becoming an Apprentice

Searching and applying for an Australian Apprenticeship is very much like hunting for any job. An employer has to create a vacancy and decide to use Australian Apprenticeships as a way to employ and train their staff. The following steps will explain the process to get an Australian Apprenticeship from the preparation stage, to the time you begin your training

<https://www.aapathways.com.au/job-hunting/tips>

WPC Group Apprenticeships

WPC Group is one of Australia's largest employers of apprentices and trainees, with offices in Victoria, NSW, WA, ACT and Queensland.

Apprenticeships/ traineeships are a fantastic way to kick start your career in an industry you

are passionate about.

Earn while you learn: a hands-on opportunity to gain experience and work towards a nationally-recognised qualification while getting paid!

<https://www.wpcgroup.org.au/careers/>

Future Mechanic Apprentices. Apply now to AHG Apprenticeships (Motoring Group)

An apprenticeship with AHG is run over 4 years on a full-time basis. It gives you the opportunity to get the formal technical training and the hands-on experience you need to become a fully qualified Service Technician. You will gain recognised job skills and qualifications, all whilst being paid.


We will also provide you with access to a fully qualified technician as a mentor over your apprenticeship so that you can receive advice and guidance every step of the way.

At the completion of your apprenticeship you will be presented with a nationally and industry recognised qualification, Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology. <http://www.ahg.com.au/national/apprenticeships/>

Find and ask a dealer for an apprenticeship here: <http://www.ahg.com.au/national/find-a-dealer/?location=>


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

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor



ROAR STUDENT OF THE WEEK

MAKAYLA MOBBERLEY



YEAR: Year 7

ROAR MEMBER SINCE: 2020

FAVOURITE THING ABOUT ROAR: The team spirit

FAVOURITE SPORTS TEAM: Manly Sea Eagles

GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT: Going to ABCRA finals twice

COORDINATOR COMMENT: Makayla is a new member of the ROAR squad, who tries her hardest in all sports sessions. She is a talented and committed athlete, who excels in horse sports. Makayla should be commended on her excellent sportsmanship, and willingness to try new things. We are excited to see her progress throughout the years.

Emma Piper - Coordinator

NSW Health is ensuring that students are safely vaccinated at school during COVID-19

- Information for parents/guardians

NSW Health has been working with education authorities to implement additional measures to ensure that students in Year 7 and 10 can be safely vaccinated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program background

In 2020 NSW Health is offering the following vaccines:

YEAR	VACCINE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	2 doses at least 6 months apart
	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (dTpa)	1 dose
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY	1 dose

While the school vaccination program has been disrupted due to low student attendance, students are progressively returning to school over the coming months.

Additional measures

NSW Health has implemented additional measures based on expert clinical advice to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in school clinics, including:

- health screening of nurses before clinics
- pre-vaccination screening of students
- physical distancing restrictions at the clinic entrance & observation area
- ensuring the number of students and nurses at the clinic does not exceed the maximum allowed
- enhanced hand hygiene by nurses and students
- enhanced environmental cleaning of all surfaces

What parents/guardians should do

Parents/guardians should ensure that students with influenza-like symptoms do not attend school and are tested as soon as possible (www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing). There is no need for parents/guardians who have given consent for their child to receive vaccinations at school to take any action. Parents/guardians who have not provided consent can contact their local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or their school for advice on how to provide consent for vaccination.

When students will be vaccinated

Public health units are arranging clinics with schools so that vaccinations can be given to students as soon as possible.

More information

Information about school vaccination during COVID-19 is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination

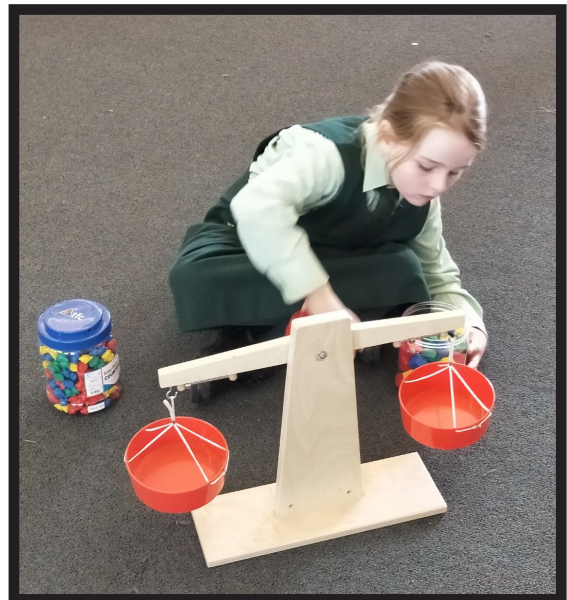


St Joseph's Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Week Six sees us towards the end of a wonderful Wellbeing Week. From storytelling, to mindfulness colouring and our Bingo game, much fun and relaxation was had by students during their break times. Thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm and fun-filled attitudes this week. A big thank you goes to all our teachers, who organise activities to be held during their own lunch breaks, so the students can enjoy theirs. We look forward to the soccer match with the students as well as the Supporter Day on Friday. We might see more photos in next week's Ringer.

National Science Week last week, presented some opportunities for students to participate in scientific activities. One such example was in our Infants classes, where students had to create the tallest free-standing tower. Great examples of teamwork, perseverance and getting along, all hallmarks of our Visible Wellbeing Agenda. The learning that comes through giving students to explore the world around them is very powerful.



We were also blessed last week to have former teacher, Richard Cootes with us as part of Catholic Mission Australia. Catholic Mission operates in over 160 countries to support initiatives in 1,100 dioceses, including remote Australia. Grassroots needs are identified by local Catholics, to give people the opportunity for a full, enriched life—physically and spiritually—regardless of race, stigma, religion or gender. We thank Mrs Peebles for organising for Richard to come to St Joseph's

and Richard for blessing us with his time and wisdom on how to help those in need.



Anna Kerrigan, as part of her work with our school play, which we aim to host in Term Four (we are looking into creative ways to do this) came to school on Monday this week and as usual, she was amazed at the skillset of our students, their confidence and their ability to work with the script she has written with them. We thank Anna for giving up her time and expertise to work with us. We have a great partnership and aim to keep it going for a long time to come.

BOOK FAIR

Mrs Gilbey and Mrs Collins have been busily preparing for the upcoming Book Fair! This year,

we will be doing things a little bit differently, with the COVID-19 restrictions, but we will still be able to sell books to everyone.

Stay tuned for further announcements on our Facebook / Compass pages.

NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

Last week, a letter was sent home outlining all of the guidelines relating to schools. These guidelines are from NSW Health and are there to ensure that the second wave of COVID-19 does not strike through our state, our communities and our schools.

Here are the main points from the guidelines:

- St Joseph's Merriwa students will remain within our own school hub. There will be no mixing of students from different schools or regions
- Learning will continue to remain as normal, however, students will remain as an Infants unit and a Primary (Years 3-6) unit
- All staff professional learning is completed either at school, with social distancing, or via Zoom
- School related social activities (eg school formals, dinners or dances; graduation ceremonies; or parent engagement functions) will cease
- School related overnight events (eg retreats, camps and excursions) will cease
- Vigilance must continue to ensure that staff and students DO NOT attend school or work if they are unwell.
 - Students absent or sent home due to flu like symptoms need to be tested
 - Students are unable to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result AND are symptom free
 - The negative COVID-19 test result MUST be produced to the school, in writing, prior to any student being allowed to return to school
- Only external providers essential to the delivery of the curriculum may continue
- Dance/drama activities will require risk assessments and a COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Regional Spelling and Maths Bees, as well as Public Speaking and Debating, have been cancelled for 2020. These will still occur within the classroom setting

- Interschool sporting events are not permitted
- Kindergarten Transition is no longer permitted until further notice
- Assemblies may continue in their current form; however, these are limited to 15 minutes.

COLOURFUL KINDIES

After the exciting news a fortnight ago that we could host our incoming Kindergarten class of 2021, we were devastated by the news that all Kindergarten Orientations were to be postponed until further notice.

We are working on a way to potentially have our Colourful Kindies transition with us. When we have received further clarification, we will pass this on.

In the meantime, we welcome all parents to contact us on 6548 2035 or ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au for further information on enrolling at St Joseph's for 2021.

ASPIRE AUDITIONS FOR 2021

The 2021 ASPIRE Audition process is now open until the last day of this term (Friday 25 September 2020). Click the link to access the ASPIRE website for the online Audition Form: <https://aspire.mn.catholic.edu.au/join-us/2021-auditions/>

Any questions, please phone Anne Atkins at the Catholic Schools Office on 4979 1331.

COVID-19 SUPPORT

As always, we are here to serve the needs of the community. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Have a great week ahead.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August 24 – August 28 – Wellbeing Week

September 1 – September 10 - Book Fair

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

Week Five – Character Strength: Teamwork

Kindergarten - Charlie Constable – for his enthusiasm, engagement and great comprehension during modelled reading sessions

Annabelle Marshall – for her ability to work

Merriwa Ringer

effectively in a team, with empathy and kindness

Stage 1 - Morgan Bates – for his interesting and captivating narrative, derived from an image of a frog

Tess Grocott – for her effective use of collaboration and communication skills during a STEM teamwork challenge

Stage 2 - Samuel Williams – for his recent display of great learning choices and effort in reading and spelling groups

Annabelle Hunt - for supporting others with kindness and a wonderful caring attitude, displaying the motto 'teamwork makes the dreamwork'

Stage 3 - Jeremy Hopkins – for always displaying teamwork in the classroom and playground, including others, listening and working together

Archie Constable - for his great work in becoming a reflective student who is proud of his achievements

Principal's Awards - Shyanne Beeney – for working extremely hard in writing

Eden Barry – for being a great friend to others

Liana Pearce – for outstanding work in Maths.



Ashley Borg
Principal



Cassilis Public School

STUDENT OF THE WEEK – SUMMER TURNER



Summer has been awarded the Student of the Week for showing patience, respectful listening and the ability to challenge her learning. She wasn't frightened to get her hands dirty during the gardening project which was also great to see and Summer listened while Wes and Carl taught the students about the garden.

On Thursday she participated in an aquarium coding lesson and not only quickly understood how to do it but was able to show Angus and the teachers. She was keen to choose her own activity from two options given to her. One included beginning an online student module of filming so she could learn how to produce a short movie to promote our wonderful school.

Summer is a safe and caring student who is a valuable member of our school. Congratulations Summer. You should feel very proud of yourself.

This week is School Administration Support Staff (SASS) recognition week. SAS staff play an essential role in the operation of our school and support student learning. Cassilis Public School is very lucky to have a wonderful team who support our school and students.



I wish that you could see the wonderful, caring and clever work they do with your child every day. The school could not operate without them! As Sue Larkey described they are truly the angels of our school.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for everything that Mrs Anne-Maree Nairne, Mrs Fiona Cornish and Mrs Leanne Hunt do for our students and families.

Many thanks also to Mrs Stacey Anderson and Mr Keith Blyton. Our school is the envy of many other schools. The grounds are perfect, clean and exciting. A very safe and clean place for our students and staff to be.

MAKING THE TEACHERS BETTER TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN

The teachers at Cassilis never stop learning. It is part of our professional teacher accreditation that teachers undertake and record hours of professional learning. It also makes our job ever changing and really interesting and makes your child have the best teacher possible standing in front of them in the classroom.



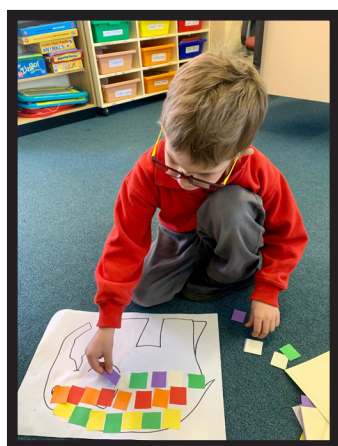
Yesterday, Jo Johnson visited Cassilis. This opportunity was incredible and left the teachers knowing they are doing a great job in some areas and where we could each improve to really get the best out of each student. So watch this space as there will be some changes beginning to happen over the next few weeks.

There is fabulous news that The Department of Education has extended the position of the Instructional leader for another twelve months which was planned to stop at the end of this year. This means that Cassilis gets to continue to benefit from having Mrs Helen Gray come once a week to support students and staff.

A huge thank you to Kings Langley Public School in Sydney for yet another very generous donation of books! There is no better gift than giving children books to take home and love. There are also some books at the Post Office for our community to enjoy.



LOTS OF PRACTISING MAKING AB AND ABC PATTERNS



There are many ways to practice patterns. Summer and Mrs Burgess played a couple of games of Mastermind where you need to guess the pattern. It was great fun and excellent learning.

As part of Science Week, Summer and Angus participated in a coding lesson using the program Tynker. Their task was to make their own aquarium. Summer showed her proficiency at using technology and kindly not only did her own learning but assisted others. Both Summer and Angus have begun to make great



aquariums featuring a shark and turtle who talks. All students will have more opportunities to use Tynker this week at school.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW ADDITION TO OUR CLASSROOM

Our old Smartboard has been updated with this great new machine! Thank you to the P and C who generously donated \$1500 towards the cost (\$5000 in total). We love using it to help engage our students and deepen their learning.



THANK YOU, KEITH

Our wonderful GA, Keith Blyton, is taking some leave from his temporary position at Cassilis. He has been a wonderfully friendly and hard-working member of our school family. We wish Keith the best in his upcoming operation

and can't wait to see him back around Cassilis soon.

The permanent position of General Assistant, previously held by Mike Maleki, will be advertised towards the end of term. More details will be advertised soon.

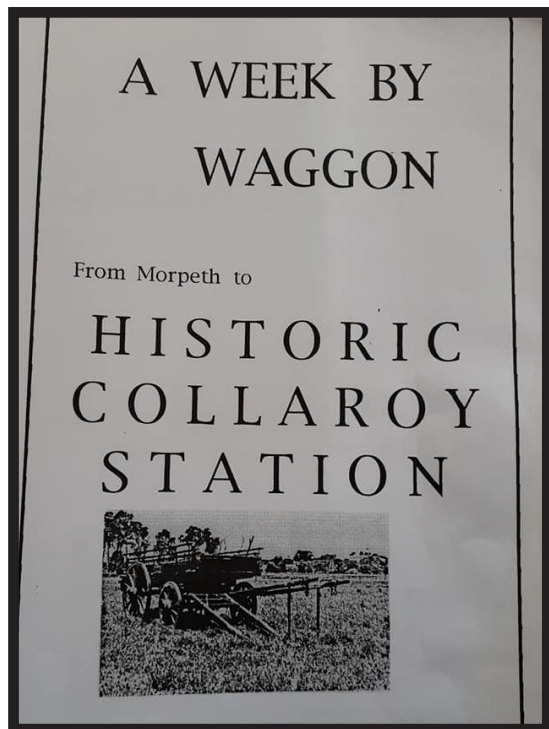


Thank you to Mr John Powell for his kind donation of healthy soil for our veggie garden. We really appreciate it and so do our plants!

**Katie Burgess
Principal**

A Walk Down Memory Lane

WITH JAMES CONSTABLE



After we had a town, merchants took on the job of hauling goods from far away, still with no roads, just unformed tracks which varied from year to year as floods washed out gullies and creeks that forced wagons to take different routes.

The Great Northern Railway began construction from Newcastle in 1855, reached Maitland in 1857. It reached Singleton in 1863. A major bridge had to be erected across the Hunter River and then the construction of the line continued, reaching Muswellbrook as it was spelt then in 1869.

Towns grew quickly after the railway line progressed on up the valley, it certainly helped the Merriwa and Cassilis area, with wagon travel distances greatly reduced.

In June 1912, the first sod was turned for the line extension from Muswellbrook (official spelling by the Railway Department after September 1 1890) to Merriwa.

On April 26, 1915, the first section of the extension was opened to Denman and finally Merriwa had its opening on October 29, 1917.

Photos 1 and 4 - from the book "A Week By Waggon" by Victor Dray as well as stores info.

Photos 2 and 4 - Wool Wagons from Brindley Park heading through Merriwa.

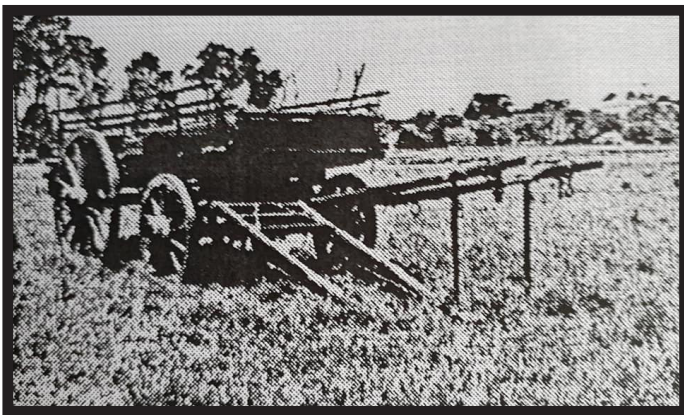
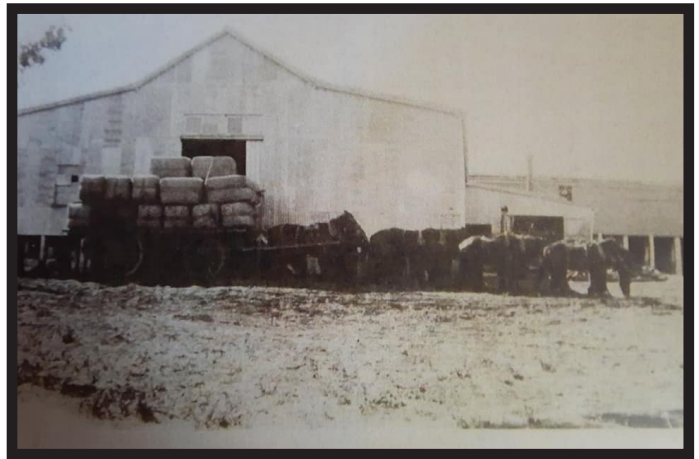
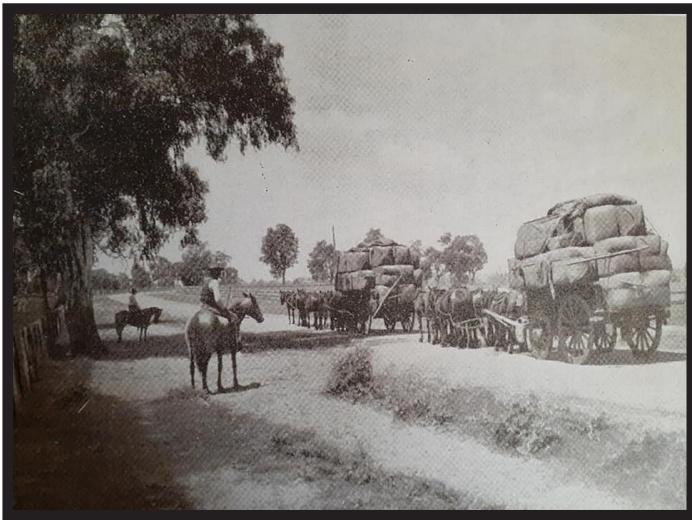
Photo 5 - Walmsley wool wagon being loaded from Collaroy wool shed.

Photo 6 - A load of wool hauled by Mr Fred Bates to the Muswellbrook goods shed from the Cassilis district. The photo was taken before the extension of the rail line from Muswellbrook to Merriwa. Photo and Great Northern Railway Line information from the booklet "A History of Muswellbrook - to 1969".

The early years in Merriwa's history wasn't easy for the property owners before the town of Merriwa was gazetted in 1840. Supplies had to be hauled long distances on non existent roads, generally the wool clip was hauled to Morpeth to be loaded onto ships for the trip to Sydney and then on to London. Wool was unloaded and the wagons loaded with supplies to probably last twelve months and included everything from bulk tea, sugar, flour, tobacco, to large tins of coffee, curry powder, spices through to blankets, trousers, shirts, socks, boots, epsom salts, ink powder, billy cans, shears, twine, castor oil and the list just goes on and on.



Add to that, plant such as ploughs, mowing machines, saws, pumps, saddles and harness, Cooper's dip etc etc etc. None of this was available before we had a town.



Missing from Issue 20, a vital part to the story, a picture of Miss Agnes McRae. We hope that this fills the gaps that were created in last week's walk down memory lane.

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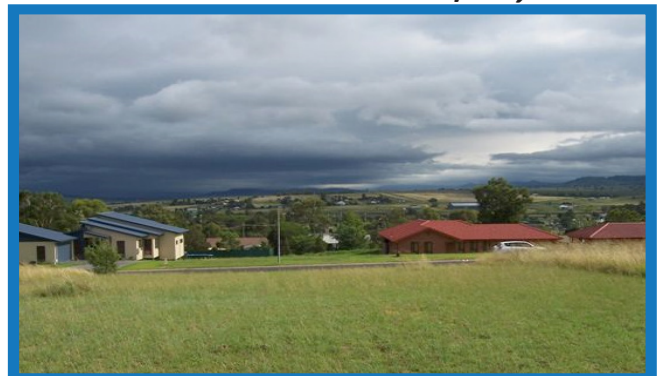


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Comfort Corner

CHICKEN, LEEK AND MUSHROOM PIE

Ingredients

- 6 chicken thighs, skin on, bone in
- Salt flakes
- Freshly ground pepper
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 litre chicken stock, hot
- 1 small (or ½ larger) brown onion, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 leeks, finely sliced
- 65g butter
- 450g large pine or field mushrooms, carefully cleaned, finely diced
- 3 sprigs thyme, leaves only
- 40g plain flour
- 2 tbsp double cream
- 2 tsp heaped dijon mustard
- 1 handful flatleaf parsley, chopped
- 2 handfuls frozen peas
- 1 thick piece (about 375g) puff pastry
- 1 egg, whisked

Method

1. Season the chicken thighs and brown in a little oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add the hot stock. Simmer gently for 25 minutes or until the thighs are cooked
2. Remove and strain the stock. Skim off most of the fat from the stock. Return the stock to the stove and reduce to about 400 millilitres
3. Filling: add oil to pan, cook the onion, garlic and leeks for about 10 minutes over a slow heat to caramelize and soften
4. Add 25 grams butter, mushrooms and the thyme and cook for a further 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper
5. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees fan-forced or 210 degrees conventional
6. Melt remaining butter until starts to sizzle, add the flour and stir to make a roux. Cook for 1 minute, stirring all the time, then add the strained stock. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes at a simmer, whisking constantly — it should be smooth and thick.
7. Take the sauce off the heat and leave to cool a little. Whisk in the cream and mustard, and add the mushroom mix, parsley and peas. Tear or chop the chicken and add to the mix. Combine thoroughly, and check and adjust the seasoning — the mix will be

quite thick but luscious.

8. Cut the pastry sheet three centimetres larger than your pie dish to make a pastry pie lid. Brush the edge of the dish with the egg, tip the filling in and drop the lid on, crimping to seal. Decorate with the pastry scraps. Make an incision in the top to release steam and brush with egg. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until golden and puffed.

<https://www.goodfood.com.au/recipes/chicken-leek-and-mushroom-pie-20130625-2ott7>



Position Vacant

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT GUMMUN PLACE HOSTEL

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Enquiries: Suzanne Duggan, Hostel Supervisor on 6521 7011.

Applications close 4pm Monday, 7 September 2020.

Please go to Council's website for further information and to apply for the position.



UPPERHUNTER.NSW.GOV.AU



Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

REFLECTION PENTECOST 13 - Matthew 16:21-27

Immediately after Peter's success story, where he accurately names Jesus as the Christ, comes his failure. The word Christ is Greek for the anointed one, or in Hebrew, the Messiah. The expectation was that the Messiah would be the son of David, and like king David would triumph over Israel's enemies and win their freedom.

This is not the type of Messiah that Jesus is. Jesus' way of being the Messiah is to struggle against the oppressive spiritual powers that enslave and corrupt. This struggle will eventually take Jesus to his death. When Jesus begins to explain this, Peter remonstrates with him for Peter's idea is of a glorious and victorious Messiah. In this Peter is acting as the Tempter, Satan, who tries to lead Jesus away from his true path.

Jesus' words to Peter put him in his right place. Peter is a disciple, and the place for disciples is behind Jesus so that they can be his followers. It is not Peter's role yet to lead. So Peter is told "Get behind me" – take up the place of a follower, and stop being an obstacle in front of me.

Sometimes I act like Peter. Sometimes I find myself telling God what to do, what would be the best course of action. Like Peter I forget my place. Not only can I tell God what is best, but I then can work very hard to see that this happens! It is not easy letting God be God and dealing with the anguish of being an ordinary human being struggling with life's mysteries. (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM).

DIARY DATES

We are having Eucharist at the hall on Sunday mornings at 9.00am. All are welcome to attend.

Don't forget Rev Anastasia's commissioning at Denman on Wednesday September 16. Seats will be limited because of social distancing.

Rev Pat Kirkby

Merriwa Rotary

100 % ATTENDANCE!

At our last meeting all of our regular members were present, as well as a couple of Senior Active Members. It was impressive that Frank Armstrong, probably our oldest member was able to ZOOM in and participate in the meeting as well as enjoying the same excellent meal as we were having at Eat at 153.

These are difficult times, worldwide, for Rotary International's 35,000 clubs. I suspect that 100% attendance puts our club amongst a very few.

PROGRESS AT THE ROTARY PLAYGROUND

Work is going on virtually from dawn till dark, regardless of the (at times) blizzard like weather that finds most of our community doing our best to stay indoors. The construction team is largely Victoria based. Maybe they have an extra layer of insulation!

Rotary is keeping a pictorial record of the progress.



Mark Smith



Community Notice Board Thank You

We would like to thank Craig Dury for the assistance you have given us. It was appreciated.

Congratulations to all of the students who have received awards in the last week.

Hylt Cronin

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

Business

Merriwa Newsagency

NEW IN STORE

There is just 1 week of our Prize Time Competition left! Come in and spend minimum \$10.00 to go into the weekly draw. Excludes Lotto, gift cards and recharge cards.

GARDENING AUSTRALIA

- How to create a cottage garden. A spectacular garden in North West Tasmania offers inspiration to gardeners everywhere to create this classic look
- Happy grow lucky; Dracaenas are people pleasers. Apart from being versatile, easy care and vigorous they are a sure bet for instant impact!
- Create a buzzzzzz! Thinking of keeping some bees? Here's what you need to know before adding a hive to your garden
- Pearls of goodness! Chefs love them and first Australians have long used them for food and medicine. If you are not familiar with this unique Australian citrus fruit, once you try it you will know what all the fuss is about!

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS

- Spring Bling; Floral fiesta at home, blossoms to dazzle your décor, blooms and looms to craft too!
- Delectable desserts; have a ring-a-ding fling with tangy flavours!
- 300+ fab ideas to make, build, grow and cook at home
- Romancing the stone; go big and bold when making rock art for your garden

HOOFBEATS

- Your foal has arrived...now what! Knowing what to expect and what a new born foal should be doing in the first days of life is crucial to its survival.
- Preventing, reducing and recognising the symptoms of colic
- Girls and horses; the fascination that can sometimes start in infancy often strengthens in the adolescent years and continues on into adulthood.

WELLBEING POSITIVE LIVING WITH DIABETES

- Foods to thrive on; weight loss tips and how to read food labels
- Healing sweethearts; sugar and sweeteners, all about fructose and herbs to lower blood sugar
- In depth guide to diabetes pharmaceuticals

WARTIME THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

- Victory in the Pacific; a long struggle preceded the apocalyptic end of the Second World War. Seventy-five years ago, on August 15 1945, Australian Prime Minister Ben Chifley addressed the country with the following; " Fellow citizens, the war is over." Spontaneous rejoicing broke out around Australia.

A TWIGSEEDS MOMENT

May you always have... lucky stars above you, sunshine on your way, many friends to love you, joy in work and play. Laughter to outweigh each care, in your heart a song. Gladness waiting everywhere, all your whole life long.

BEANIE BOO

My name is Percy.

For a barn owl, I am so cute. When I'm happy I say "Hoot hoot".

My birthday is May 24

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

Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress



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Direct Local Contacts for:

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

MERRIWA ROSTO

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
 Get involved in influencing decisions on matters that affect the whole local community
 Meets on Third Wednesday every month at 6.00pm Merriwa RSL
 merriwaprogress@gmail.com

Clubs/Sports

Merriwa RSL Club

With the raffles yet to restart all badge draws remain on hold, however we have reintroduced some of our happy hours with some variations;

Saturday's \$5.00 schooners and house spirits 6.00pm till close.

Sunday's \$4.00 schooners 11.30am – 12.30pm

Wednesday's \$6.00 pint night

Friday's 5.30pm – 7.30pm \$5.00 schooners and house spirits.

Our current hours of trade are;

Bar – Monday to Wednesday 11.30am – 9.00pm
 Thursday 11.30am – 10.00pm
 Friday 11.30am – 11.30pm
 Saturday 11.00am – 11.30pm
 Sunday 11.00am – 3.30pm

Bistro – Tuesday/Wednesday 5.30pm – 7.30pm
 Thursday/Friday/Saturday 12 noon – 2.00pm/5.30pm – 8.00pm
 Sunday 12 noon – 2.00pm


Every Sunday lunch we have pork and lamb roast on the menu.

As restrictions are lifted these time may vary a little.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding and support during these strange and unusual times.

Please note some restrictions have been re-imposed and we can now only take bookings of up to ten people, this not only relates to meals but also meetings.

Matt Morgan



32 Vennacher Street Merriwa NSW 2329
 Ph: 02 65498204
 Email: dg_merriwa@elders.com.au
Roger Saunders - Branch Manager
 0428842477
Dave Cronin – Farm Supplies / Agronomist 0428 612 447
 Experts to assist you with all aspects of your farm business including livestock, wool, grain, farm supplies, technical services, water and financial services. Servicing Merriwa & Surrounds.

MDHA Inc.
NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT SERVICE
 We will get you to your appointments on time with special care.
 
 Office hours are:
 9.30 to 2.30 weekdays
 Bottle Museum building or leave a message on the answering service for a call back.
 Te/Fax 6548 2653

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.

on hold atm

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/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 - No RAFFLES FOR THE TIME BEING

CLUBS OPENING HOURS

Mondays 3.30pm till 6.00pm

Tuesday 3.30pm till 8.30pm

Wednesday 3.30pm till 8.00pm

Thursday 3.30pm till 8.00pm

Fridays 3.30pm till 8.30pm

Saturdays 12.00pm till 8.30pm

Sundays 3.00pm till 8.00pm.

Just a reminder that everyone has to supply contact details when entering the club premises.

We would like to take them time to thank all our valued members and guest for your on going support during these strange times.

Des Snelgrove

MERRIWA WOMENS BOWLING CLUB

Merriwa Lady Bowlers have commenced playing Mixed Social Bowls on Wednesdays commencing at 11.00am. Bowlers and non bowlers are welcome to come and join in a fun day of bowls and friendship.

Casual Dress and flat soled shoes to be worn.

For further information contact Loretta Cooper on 0428 482 679, Beatrice Voysey on 6548 2065 or Philomena Constable on 6548 2320.

Loretta Cooper

Merriwa Pony Club

Merriwa hosted a Ribbon Day on Saturday with a few brave riders and parents venturing out in the Arctic conditions!

There was lots of competition in the hacking and rider classes in between the bitter rainy squalls. Fortunately our judges Tia Andrews of Singleton and Maddie Brown of Mount View took it all in their stride, donning their Drizabones and got on with the tough job of judging!

A former Merriwa Pony Club member judge Tia Andrews said she was 'glad she could give something back to the club that gave her so much. Merriwa was where my riding career all started. It's great to see so many young riders enjoying pony club like I did.' Lovely to hear feedback like this from our past members.

To the riders of the future, Ella Pryor had a fabulous weekend with barely enough room on her horses' neck to hold all her ribbons in the U7 taking out Champion as well as the prestigious Ray McRae Memorial Highest Point Scoring Local Girl rider trophy. Merriwa rider Ashleigh Keane was delighted to receive her very first broad ribbon as Reserve Champion U7. In the junior girls Maddie Maben took out Reserve while big sister Georgia was the Champion in the 9 and U11 with Kirra Green close on her heels for Reserve.

Ben Patterson delivered consistently throughout the day to take out Highest Point Score Local rider and Champion of his age group. Roy Lawler went head to head with Murrurundi's Harrison Baxter with Harrison just pipping Roy to the post for Champion overall.

Nikko Anderson is taking to pony club like a duck to water taking out Reserve Champion in his age group while little brother Roley had a blast in the leads.

Emily Ninness did a wonderful job on her new horse Melody taking out Champion Girl rider and reserve overall in her age group with Nicole Martin making her sporting classes all look easy to take home Champion overall. Anastasia Martin took out Champion as well as Highest Senior Point score of the day.

Our delightful leads were drenched in a deluge half way through all their sporting events – but that didn't seem to deter them. Well done Roley, Angus, Claire and Cameron for staying on!

As is Merriwa tradition, there were perpetual trophies awarded to the fastest sporting times of the day with Nicole Martin scoring two for the Mug and Sword race while Roy Lawler scored one for the Bottle Race – well done riders!

As is always the case, the day wouldn't be possible without lots of volunteers and work behind the scenes. Thanks to De Patterson, Pauline Lawler and Clare Martin for making the show run like clockwork and to Connie Gillis for working her magic in the canteen.





Tash Taaffe

Merriwa Swimming Club

Merriwa Swimming Club would like to invite the 2019-20 members to call into the park (opposite the Swimming Pool in Vennacher Street) between 10.30am and 11.30am on Sunday August 30, 2020 to collect their 19-20 Awards/ Prizes.

We are also seeking expressions of interest from any parents who may be interested in taking on a committee role in the 20-21 season. The current members will be standing down from the committee. We looking forward to seeing everyone.

Melissa Collins

SPIRITUAL HEALER
 PHONE: 0499 026 769
 LOCATED IN MERRIWA
 OPEN WEDNESDAYS

Hunter Local Land Services Travelling Stock Reserves: Management Agreement Permits

(formerly called long-term grazing permits)



Tender applications now open

Find out more: follow the links at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/tsr
 View a map of the available TSRs in the Hunter, submit a tender application online or get a hard copy application form.
Tender applications close: 5pm AEST Friday, 2 October, 2020.
Contact us: 1300 795 299 or admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au



H N I F K Q T E L S B R I T A N N I A Y R Z R Y C
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Merriwa Central School

Valuing individual potential -
achieving personal best



Kindergarten 2021 - Expression of Interest

We are now asking for expressions of interest for Kindergarten 2021 students.

Please contact the school to register your child.

Ph: 6548 2119 | www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au

MCS in touch with our community



The **Merriwa Ringer**
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ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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