

FREE

MERRIWA

Ringer

Thursday December 3, 2020
Issue 33



Cassilis Public School
visit Red Hill


Pest Alert
Termite Solutions



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

☎ 0439 464 966

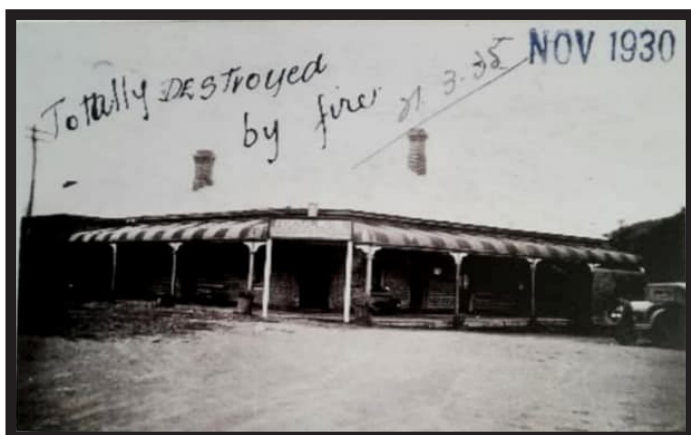
A Walk Down Memory Lane

WITH JAMES CONSTABLE

FEDERAL HOTEL GUNGAL



Susan Matthias opened the Federal Hotel on April 9 1901. For five years prior to this, she was licensee of the Mount Rest Hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1900. The Mount Rest Hotel was owned for twelve years prior by the Meyer family.



The Federal Hotel was built of brick and contained ten rooms with wooden ceilings, a seven foot verandah ran nearly all around the building. An underground tank with 11000 gallon capacity as well as roomy stables with an extensive loft. At the opening, Susan Matthias claimed a race course was being prepared opposite the hotel. Speaking to Clarice Judge, the race course was behind the school and church and ran along

under the hill. A lot of the course was hidden from view and there were some rough tactics employed.

There was a sawmill operating in the area and this provided patronage for the hotel, but once the timber cut out around Gungal and Giant's Creek, the sawmill was moved away towards Peberly's, closer to Sandy Hollow. An application was made to transfer the licence but this was rejected by the licencing bench.



On Thursday March 21, 1935, the hotel went up in flames, the cause of the fire was blamed on an AIRGAS lamp, but the old timers of the area said it was deliberately torched, as there was a strong smell of kerosene and the speed at which the flames engulfed the building.

Further attempts to transfer the licence was still held up but finally the licence was granted to Alfred James Spradbrow on Wednesday March

Continues page 20

Merriwa Central School



Phone: 6548 2119

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



St Joseph's Primary School Merriwa

'Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners'

All enquiries welcome

Principal - Ashley Borg
Ph 6548 2035

P&F President - Andrew Luke
Ph 6548 2993



President: Hollie Hunt
Vice Presidents: Nyssa Caban and Sarah Bidner
Secretary: Talitha Sawley
Treasurer: Emma Douglas
Fundraising Officer: Olivia Gear
Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm at Merriwa RSL Club

SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL



Telephone 02 6547 4521 Fax 02 6547 4450

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



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

Merriwa Pre-School
For children 2 - 5 years

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

Cassilis Public School



Principal:
Mrs Katie Burgess

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



Merriwa Central School

Principal's Report

The weather has certainly taken a turn in the past week, I trust families have managed to cope with the wind and heat. During these extreme temperatures it is important for children to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. We open the libraries during lunchtime, and depending on the temperatures primary students eat in the cool of the classrooms.

PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY

Due to COVID restrictions our end of year presentation assemblies will look a little different this year. At the moment we are planning to have scaled down class presentations in primary which will be short and sharp events (10-15min) with limited parent numbers. In secondary presentations will be modified with students and teachers only (30min), and prize winners published on our Facebook site.

REWARDS ACTIVITIES

Our end of term rewards activities will take place on Tuesday December 15 in primary and secondary. To add to the festive spirit the day will be an out of uniform day. Separate advice will be published around the organisation for students.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER

A graduation dinner will be held for Year 6 students at the RSL Club on Thursday December 10 between 6.00-7.30pm. This year the P and C have generously agreed to cover the cost of the dinner for students. Permission notes have been sent home in regard to this event.

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

The academic year to date has looked very different to what we are used to. Semester 2 reports will be issued based on modified assessments over the past six months. Reports will be issued to students on Friday December 11. Please take the opportunity to read the reports and discuss with your child.

UNIFORM UPDATE

Secondary Student Representative Council (SRC) students have been busy investigating options for a new secondary jersey. Students

have identified the need to have greater consistency of uniform options for older students during the winter months. Shortly they will be ready to present their ideas to parents and listen to feedback.

Darren Noonan
Principal



Coming Events

NOVEMBER	
Thursday 10	Presentation Assembly, Year 7-12 Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Friday 11	Semester 2 reports issued, Kinder-Year 6
Tuesday 15	Rewards Activities - Out of Uniform
Wednesday 16	Last Day of Term

Primary

This week we had our final Kindergarten Transition session. Although it was a very hot day, we had a great time together reading, counting and completing lots of fun activities with the Year 4/5 buddies. I have absolutely loved getting to know our Kindergarten Transition students and I can't wait to welcome them back to Merriwa Central School in 2021.

If you would like to book a post-transition meeting with myself on Tuesday December 8, please phone the primary office to schedule a time.

Emma Garbellini

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

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

KINDERGARTEN

Ruby Clarke - Amazing effort in all areas



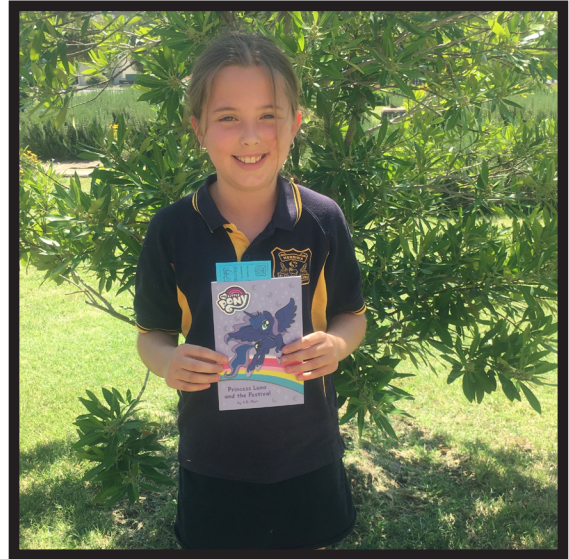
YEAR 1

Ruby Kneeves – Improvement in maths



YEAR 2/3

Abby Bidner – Helpful, well-mannered class member



YEAR 3/4

Oscar Swan – Outstanding skills in mathematics



YEAR 4/5

Robert Stanley – Improvement in mathematics



YEAR 5/6

Cadence Tudor – Improvement in Mathematics



GOLD AWARD

Deakin Milgate, Linsa Dahal

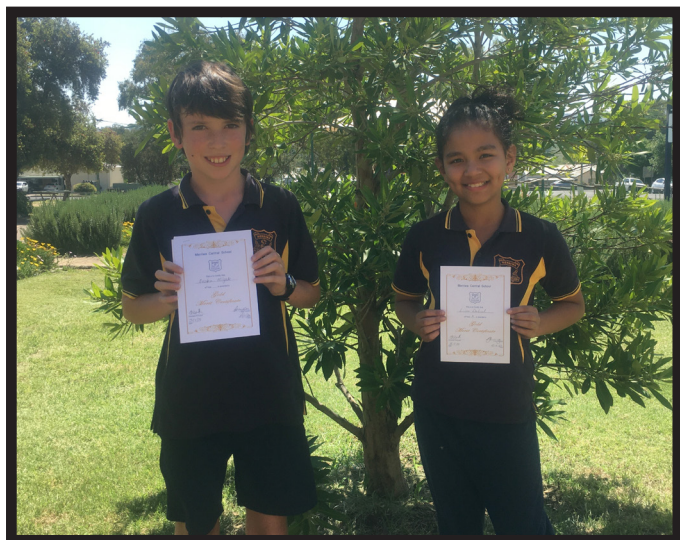
CLASS OF THE WEEK



Year 3/4 - Great enthusiasm in skipping

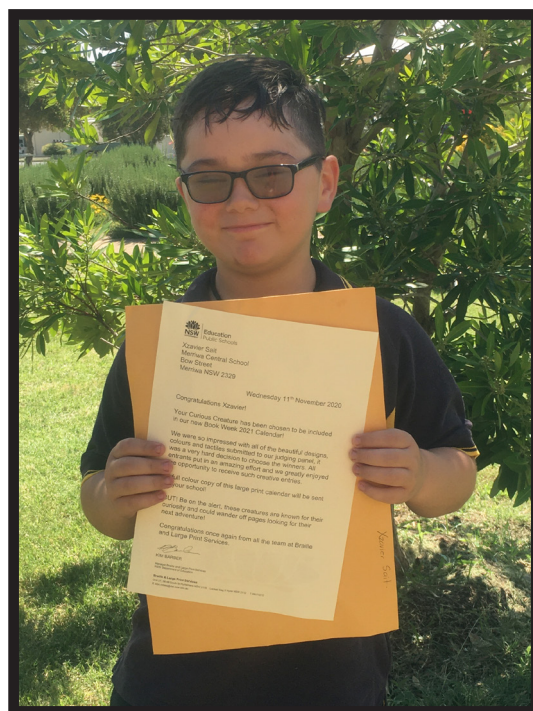
SPECIAL AWARD

Xzavier Sait entered an artwork of a "Curious Creature" in a competition run by the Braille and Large Print Services of the Department of Education. His artwork was one selected from tens of thousands to be included in a calendar for 2021. We are all very proud of Xzavier and his artistic talent!



SILVER AWARD

Jason Bristow, Xzavier Sait



PRIMARY REPORT

Lots of exciting things happening at MCS next week! In Week 9, we have Year 5 presenting their leadership speeches, Year 6 Graduation Dinner, Presentation Day assembly and announcement of the new student leadership team for 2021.

As you are aware, there are currently many COVID restrictions in place to help keep all students, staff and the wider community safe. Due to these restrictions, Presentation Day will not be following the traditional format. A note will be sent home providing more details.

On Tuesday December 15 there will be an out of uniform day for our rewards activities. Students are encouraged to wear Christmas clothes and have CRAZY HAIR for the day. Students will be participating in Christmas themed craft activities and watching a Christmas movie to get into the spirit. There will also be a special canteen day on December 15. Pre-orders for lunch only.

Jenna North
Relieving Assistant Principal

Secondary

YEAR 7 AND 8 TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY

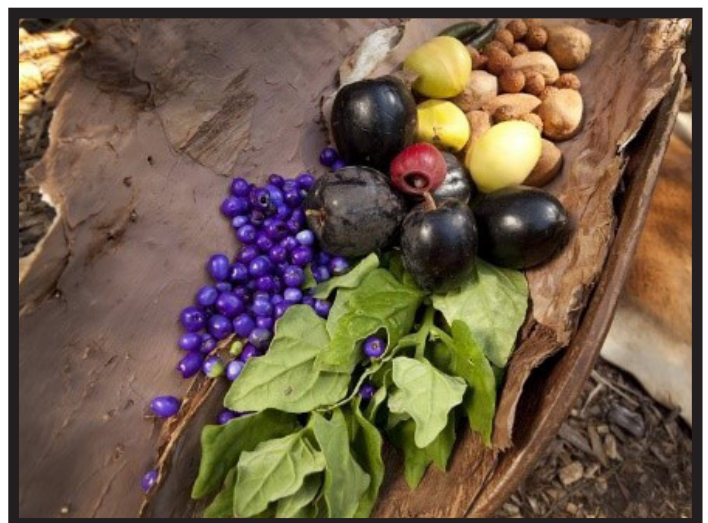
This term all students in Year 7 and 8 completed a paper 'Tower Design' challenge to assess their creativity and engineering skills. The students were limited to 5 pieces of paper and a metre of tape. The aim was to build a tower that was at least 1 metre tall, straight and looked aesthetically pleasing. While some students battled to create the tallest tower they could, some spent more time on the aesthetical component.

Over the remainder of the term, students in Technology Mandatory will be completing mini design or engineering challenges.



YEAR 9 AND 10 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This term students in Stage 5 Food Technology are completing a unit on Food in Australia. Students are learning about the timeline of food in Australia from Aboriginal culture, to First Farm, then numerous cultural groups who have settled here, to the reintroduction of indigenous ingredients into our cuisine to create 'bush foods'. Exploring the different types of traditional foods eaten by Aboriginal people; the methods of collection and processing and how the traditional diet was influenced by location, creating and modifying simple recipes that have been adapted to include native ingredients and finally taste recipes with 'bush food' additions.



Matt Dean
Head Teacher VET

REWARDS DAY TERM 4

On Tuesday December 15, Years 7-12 students will be participating in Rewards Day activities. The activities will run from period 4 to period 6 inclusive.

A Sausage sizzle BBQ and zooper doopers will be provided for lunch. As the canteen will be closed, students are encouraged to bring their normal recess food and plenty of water.

Students are encouraged to wear Christmas colours and crazy hair as long as clothing and footwear choices are school appropriate.

Staff look forward to celebrating the end of the year and positive behaviour with students participating in various activities.

Anna Sansom
Rewards Day Coordinator

CAREERS

'I Was Told I Could Never Sustain Myself With A Creative Career'

'In high school, I was warned about picking "too many creative subjects". I was told it wouldn't prepare me for work or that my career expectations were unrealistic. Yet 5 years out of school with a string of professional positions under my belt, I've learnt firsthand that almost every single job requires a creative mindset'.

<https://www.fya.org.au/2018/04/04/make-a-living-creative-career/>

Whitehouse - Design Graduate Exhibition 2020

Live on Tuesday December 1, 2020 at 18:00

Whitehouse Institute of Design, Australia invites you to join us in celebrating the design work of the graduating class of 2020.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qQWRsLmmRqSMYulrTpYung

RMIT - DSC end-of-year student showcases

To December 30

Each year RMIT comes to life in a unique way as graduating students across our creative schools showcase their amazing work. And this year it's all virtual! RMIT University and the Colleges of Design and Social Context, and Vocational Education, host a collection of End of Year Student Showcases that feature the work of our graduating students from across creative

disciplines, including art, architecture, design and fashion.

This year showcases make the jump to a virtual setting to celebrate the achievements of our graduating students, who display their work and all they've achieved across their studies to family, friends, the public and industry. It's a chance for students to rejoice, reflect and make new connections.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/events/2020/november/dsc-end-of-year-student-showcases>

Work at Summer Camp in the USA in 2021 with Camp America

December 17. 7.30pm

Summer Camps are looking for you! Teach your skills all summer, make a difference and meet great mates on your next adventure. Stop dreaming and start your next adventure from home.

We're dreaming of our next adventure! Join us for an ONLINE information session from the comfort of your home!

We've got heaps of tips and tricks to make your dreams reality and make application stand out. Get a full rundown of what your Camp America Experience could look like. Bring mum, dad and your best friend, all are welcome.

Summer 2021 is waiting for you!

<https://www.campamerica.com.au/events/camp-america-online-2>

Study Medicine – Medicine Offer Quiz

A Medicine Offer Quiz has been added to Study Medicine. Students can take the Quiz to determine their chance of receiving an offer for an Australian direct entry medicine place. Detailed information and references are also provided on applications, offers and acceptances. Access directly by scrolling to the bottom of the Quiz page.

<https://www.studymedicine.com.au/chance-of-acceptance-into-medicine>

Free UCAT Webinars for Year 11 and 10 Students

November 29, December 6, December 13

This free webinar will cover an 8-week plan to help students start and finish UCAT prep during summer break so they can focus on ATAR once school resumes. Register now:

<https://www.icanmed.com.au/webinars>

Get Set for InfoFest – Discover the Job You Want

December 7-11 and January 18-22

Discover the skills you need, for the job you want at TAFE NSW InfoFest.

Are you looking for a 2021 career change or perhaps a new skill-set to stand out from the crowd? Find out how at TAFE NSW InfoFest!

Whether you're joining us online or on campus, you'll have the opportunity to connect with industry-expert teachers, join interactive workshops, explore state-of-the-art facilities and get the help you need to finalise your enrolment.

Registrations are mandatory so get in quick to secure your seat at your nearest participating campus.

If you need further information, drop into your local TAFE NSW campus or call us on 131 601 to speak to one of our friendly staff.

Ensure you keep checking back as new sessions will be regularly added.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/infofest>

CSIRO Registration of Interest - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeships

CSIRO, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. We seek to have a profound and positive impact on the most significant challenges and opportunities facing Australia and humanity.

We believe that Indigenous Australians have extraordinary contributions to make across cultural, economic and scientific domains. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship Program is an initiative of the CSIRO Indigenous Engagement Strategy which seeks to increase the employment of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within our organisation. Through this strategy, CSIRO aims to enhance the educational, employment, training and career development opportunities for people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

CSIRO is actively seeking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are interested in working in a dynamic and supportive organisation. Our traineeships last approximately one to two years (depending on the course of study) and include paid, structured on the job training while you complete a Nationally Accredited Qualification

relevant to your position. The course fees are paid for by CSIRO, and you will be given time to attend courses to complete this qualification while working.

Locations: Various - CSIRO has sites located all around Australia

Salary: \$23,459 to \$26,001 plus up to 15.4% superannuation

Duration: 1 to 2 years (depending on the course of study)

<https://jobs.csiro.au/job/Various-Registration-of-Interest-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Traineeships/520725900/>

Defence Work Experience Program 2021

The Defence Work Experience Program (DWEP) is returning in 2021! DWEP provides opportunities for young Australians, aged 15-24, who have an interest in a Defence career to gain exposure to job roles that are available in the Australian Defence Force and Australian Public Service. Programs are run Australia-wide. For more info email :

nsw.workexperienceprogram@defence.gov.au

Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor

WANTED

HOUSE FOR RENT

3-4 Bedroom

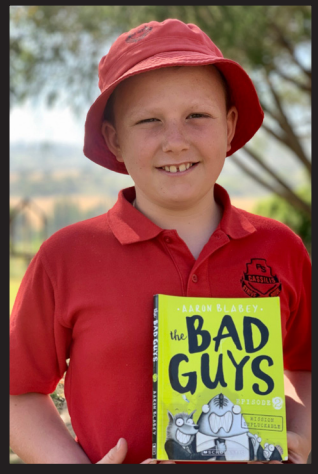
From January 2021

School teacher's residence

Leave contact details at Merriwa
Central School Office on 6548 2119.



Cassilis Public School



STUDENT OF THE WEEK- GORDIE

Gordie has been awarded our Student of the Week for his efforts to have a terrific week last week, helping other students and showing respect to his learning and others.

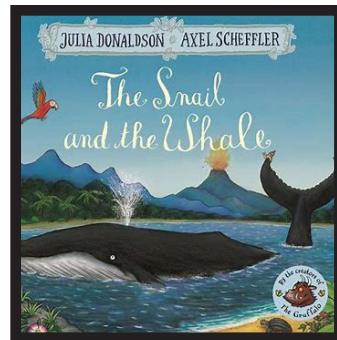
He tried really hard to regulate his engine and

return to calm. Gordie impressed the teachers with his efforts and work particularly in maths and how he was determined to work through activities without giving up.

Gordie loved playing the putt putt course and supported other students while they played by encouraging them and showing sensible behaviour.

He wears his school uniform each day with pride and is organised for school each day by bringing what he needs.

Congratulations on your achievements, Gordie. You should feel very proud of yourself.



Our early birds, and Cooper, enjoyed another great morning of learning including reading and doing activities related to the beautiful story, The Snail and the Whale. We even had some special friends come and visit.

Our Early Birds have their final session this Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm.



WE HAD FUN ON OUR PUTT PUTT COURSE



CASSILIS FINDS GOLD AT RED HILL!

What an amazing day of learning we had today stepping back in time to 1872 in Gulgong.

From learning about Tom Saunders (the first to find gold in Gulgong), to Commissioner Brown (the lucky man who got to give out the licenses to mine for gold), to looking down the 20m mine 'octopus' shaft drop, to dressing up, to creating shelters, to panning for our fortune amongst the rocks and water, to wandering through the Opera House in torch light and to exploring the incredible Holtermann Museum filled with photographs, the student had an absolute ball!!!



Many thanks to the wonderful people at Red Hill Environmental Education Centre and Gulgong Holtermann Museum and to

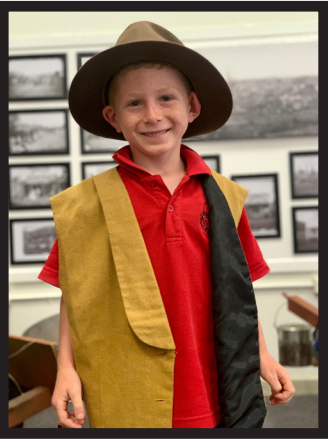
the Anderson family for their van.

Our favourite parts were:

- **Summer** - The museum was amazing
- **Paul** - Gold panning and I also didn't know that old cameras were so heavy
- **Gordie** - It was all fun
- **Olivia** - Seeing the Opera House in the dark
- **Skye** - Gold mining and finding a tiny speckle of gold
- **Eleyce** - The Opera House and museum where I learnt that you had to not smile and hold your pose for 8 seconds so a photo could be taken
- **Cooper** - Making the tent shelter
- **Ben** - Every single thing
- **Levi** - Everything was fun
- **Skylah** - Dressing up









be supporting the teachers and students as he learns more about working at a school.



Levi tried really hard to sit and not smile for the 8 seconds. This was how long you had to wait for a photograph in the olden days.



Thank you to Oz Harvest for another wonderful delivery of fruit to the school. The students loved having a second piece of 'champion food' to keep them going during the day.

STOCKTON BEACH EXCURSION

Only six more sleeps to go! Don't forget to keep looking at your 'What to Bring' list and making sure that you have anything. Please ask you child to help pack their bag so they know where everything is inside it.



SWIMMING LESSONS

All students Kinder-Year 6 will be participating in swimming lessons on Friday December 11, Monday December 14 and Tuesday December 15. These lessons will be led by accredited swimming coaches and supported by staff at the school. A permission note will be going home tomorrow. Swimming lessons will also occur in the first couple of weeks of Term 1, 2021 as swimming is such an important skill to learn for all our kids.

Katie Burgess
Principal

WELCOME TO THE FIRST DAY

A very warm welcome to James Bibby who is completing his Year 10 Work Experience this week at Cassilis. It's lovely to have James return to the school where he attended from Kinder to Year 6. James will





St Joseph's Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Week Eight of the Term sees prospective 2021 School Leaders standing up and persuading the students, teachers and wider parent community of the reasons for why they should be school leaders, swimming lessons commencing, and our 2021 Kindergarten class beginning to feel more settled into the life of the school.

We push hard until the end of the school year and we do not stop learning.

2021 STAFFING

By the time this is received by the Merriwa community, we hope to have found our final piece of the puzzle for staffing in 2021.

So far, the staff for 2021 are as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs Mellissa Jackson (0.3)/TBA (0.7)

Stage One: Miss Sammie Love

Stage Two: Miss Naomi Rodwell

Stage Three: Mrs Anne Marie Peebles/Mr Ashley Borg (0.2)

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Tanya Ninness

Library: Mrs Bianca Bradshaw

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

Finance/Office: Mrs Leanne Hunt

Librarian Assistant: Mrs Melissa Collins

Pastoral Care Worker: Mrs Melissa Collins

Aboriginal Education Officer: Mrs Cassandra McLaren

Groundsperson: Mrs Karin Brazier

Cleaner: Ms Rebecca Wardman

FAREWELL

We will bid farewell to Mrs Hagley at the end of the year as stated previously.

As well as Mrs Hagley, we will be farewelling Mrs Laura Smede at the conclusion of the school year.

Mrs Smede came to us in Term Two 2019 and worked diligently with Stage One.

In 2020, Mrs Smede expanded her skills and ventured into the foray of Teacher Librarian, which gave her the opportunity to work with students in a different capacity. She handled herself with aplomb and we wish her all the very best in her next venture.

COLOURFUL KINDIES



Another wonderful day for the 2021 Colourful Kinder crew!

Students wrote and drew many reasons as to why they love their experience with St Joseph's so far.

Parents in the previous week were taken through the new behaviour matrix, which has made significant inroads into streamlining and producing more consistent outcomes for student's exceptional and not-so-good behaviour. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, we weren't able to have a parent session this week.

De Patterson, our Uniform Shop coordinator, came in and showed the parents the uniforms their children will be wearing with pride next

year.

We only have one more date, which is MONDAY DECEMBER 7 at St Joseph's. We will have a short Parent session from 9.30am – 10.00am about the routines we have at the school for Kindergarten parents both new and old.

This session will commence at 9.30am and conclude at 12.00pm.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 guidelines, your child must be enrolled with the school PRIOR to starting transition days.

If you are not sure where to send your child next year or if you are looking for a fresh start, please contact Mr Borg on 6548 2035, or at admin@merriwa.catholic.edu.au to see where we can help you get the best out of your child's highly important education.

#joeyskidsrock

POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS FOR LEARNING

At St Joseph's, learning comes first and we aim to decrease the time lost in children's important learning due to disruptive behaviour.

St Joseph's chooses a "reward first" stance to behaviour. We are engaging with Positive Behaviours for Learning (PB4L) lessons and protocols and have been working closely with Mr Craig Moore, behavioural specialist at the Catholic Schools Office. Each fortnight, a behaviour focus is chosen and explicitly taught by staff. We can not expect students to conform to behaviours if they do not learn what we expect, just like all academic learning.

The behaviours we have been focusing on at St Joseph's in Term Four are:

1. Right Place, Right Time
2. Be Ready to Learn
3. Demonstrate Self-Control (safe hands, feet and words)
4. Be Responsible for My Choices
5. Be Respectful of Other's Space

When students are seen by a staff member demonstrating these behaviours, they are rewarded with a Gotcha, move up the Learning Ladder in class and a generally given verbal praise by the staff.

Each week, our jar, which is getting more full from the wonderful behaviours students are demonstrating, comes to assembly and a prize

winner is drawn.

We are also, taking a non-negotiable stance to circumstances where behaviour choices are not to the standards we set. A more consistent approach will ensure a safer and happier place for all.

We hope that all parents will support our increased stance, not only in rewarding our students who are consistently performing to high standards, but for those who require more assistance with their behavioural choices.



2021 SCHOOL CAPTAIN NOMINATIONS

Speeches for the school captain and vice-captain role for 2021 will be live streamed via ZOOM. This information will be made available for our parents and may be shared to other family and friends if required.

We have also been fortunate to have our parents of Year 5 2020 students allowed on site to view the speeches live.

SWIMMING LESSONS



Thanks to Mrs Peebles, for all of her hard work, diligence and determination to allow our students to be able to participate in swimming

lessons this year, in the COVID time.

Students have had a great time learning about water safety and learning about basic swimming skills.



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our swimming carnival will take place on December 11, at Merriwa Pool. This year, it will only be a “competitive swimmer only” event, with no novelty events, no parent spectators and a shortened program.

We thank all parents for nominating their time to help us on the day in advance.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY NOVEMBER 20

Students dressed in the colours of some of the countries flags as part of World Children's Day 2020. Some wonderful colours and clothes were selected, and students had a wonderful day.






DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **December 2** – Year 5 Captain's Speeches and Voting
- **December 7** – Year 6 Retreat
- **December 9** – Presentation Day at St Joseph's (see note for live stream times)
- **December 11** – Reports on Compass
- **December 14** – End of Year Liturgy and Year 6 Graduation (see note for times)
- **December 15** – Cleaning Day
- **December 16** – Reward Day and Secret Santa (LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS)

Once again, thank you all for your unwavering support of our wonderful school. I am so humbled to be Principal of such a supportive and nurturing environment.

Mr Ashley Borg
Principal





Christmas Child



by Mary E. Carpio

Turn your eyes this Christmas
To the Child who was born
He came into the world
Only to find sorrow and scorn

He knew we needed a Savior
To set us free from sin
No other way to redemption
But to open your heart to Him

Remember this Christmas season,
Material things cannot satisfy
They are but temporary
They disappear and die

But the love of our Savior
A gift that lives eternally
He is that brightest Star
Which shines upon the tree!

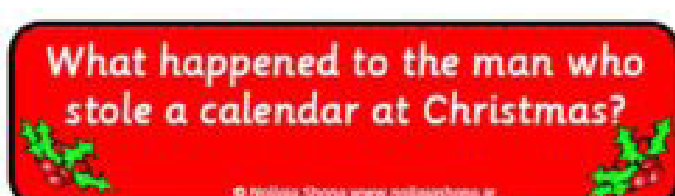
©christmas365greetings.com

Christmas Fun Page



How to Use the Joke Teller

1. Print and fold a joke teller. Gather players & pick one person to operate the joke teller & one to play.
2. Have the player choose one of the top four squares. The operator spells the object while opening and closing the joke teller for each letter.
3. Player selects a number. The operator counts out loud while opening and closing the joke teller for each count.
4. Player selects a number. The operator tells the joke under the number and then opens the flap for the answer.
4. The player then becomes the joke teller operator. Rotate play until each person has a turn.
5. You can also use the joke teller alone!





Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

REFLECTION - ADVENT 2 – Mark 1:108

Here we have the first written proclamation of the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. Mark wastes no time in his announcement with a long introduction but instead immediately introduces John. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls scholars now know that at this time there were some in Israel who had a strong sense that God's Kingdom was about to break into history. The community of Qumran by the Dead Sea lived with this expectation and they also practiced rituals of cleansing. While there is no evidence that John was part of this group, his message and the manner are similar. God's reign is coming. Prepare for it by seeking forgiveness.

Baptism, immersion in water, was a common Jewish practice as a way of purifying oneself before participating in major religious festivals. John applies this ritual to a desire for repentance as preparation for the coming Kingdom. John was remembered as a great and holy man of God. He too attracted disciples and even Jesus came to him seeking his baptism. These historical facts must have puzzled the early Christians, particularly if some of John's disciples were now part of the Jesus group. How were they to speak about John, recognizing his greatness while acknowledging that Jesus was even greater? In trying to understand John's role in Jesus' story, Mark looks back to the Jewish Scriptures and uses the prophets Malachi and Isaiah to clarify John's role is one of preparation for another greater figure who is on the way. (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM)

Love and blessings, from Rev Pat.

DIARY DATES

Christmas services at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Merriwa will be held:

Christmas Eve: 9.00pm

Christmas Day: 10.00am

Don't forget, Eucharist at Holy Trinity each Sunday at 9.00am.

Eucharist at Holy Trinity each Friday at 10.00am.

Rev Pat Kirkby

Merriwa Rotary

ROTARY MERRIWA/ ROTARY CHARLESTOWN

Links between our two clubs continue to strengthen with four members of the Charlestown club coming to Merriwa recently and meeting up with our president Col Bates and a couple of our members. No definite plans evolved but both clubs are looking for common ground on which they can assist each other.

A FAIRY TALE STORY.... WELL LET'S SAY PERHAPS, A FEATHERY TALE STORY

The new feature of the Rotary Playground, Merriwa, the Skate Bowl had a couple of unexpected visitors availing themselves of the facility last weekend..

A pair of very young kookaburras, made an unscheduled landing, having attempted to fly out from their nests very close to the Bowl, they landed on the road, when found were moved off the road to a fenced off area in which council workers had been doing some concreting. It was not long before they had a new idea.....which resulted in one of them landing in the bottom of the Skate Bowl. While a rescue was being planned, the other bird showed its solidarity with its sibling, by joining it in the Bowl.

Having been removed from the Bowl, both were given shelter from the heat in a nearby house before, on expert advice, being placed in a large Ice cream container, with access to water and left on a high, hopefully safe, flat surface in the playground.

Inspection next morning showed that one of the birds had been able to find its way back to the nest. Another inspection, an hour later, found that the other bird had also left.

A personal afterthought..... Merriwa has benefited greatly from the Skate Bowl addition to the Rotary Playground from State Government funds. Its use ..and healthy environment qualities...would be greatly enhanced by some protection from the sun, such as that which Rotary installed above the original playground area. Dare I suggest that the government might consider adding similar

protection to the new Bowl they have graciously given our town.



Mark Smith

A Walk Down Memory Lane

Continued from page 2

18 1936. The new hotel opened in Sandy Hollow as the Federal Hotel on Thursday March 17 1938. An application to change the name to the Tourist Hotel was granted the same year.

Information sourced on TROVE by Kim Clydsdale

Photos 1, 2 and 3 courtesy of Noel Butlin Archives Centre.

Photos 4 and 5 courtesy of Paul Houlahan.

Photo 6 is of the house down along Cowan's flat, the Mount Rest Hotel stood across the road from that house near the old pepper trees.



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NOTE: There is NO dwelling entitlement.

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Community Notice Board

Can Assist Merriwa

CHRISTMAS MEGA RAFFLE - DECEMBER 12

JUST UNDER TWO WEEKS TIL THE DRAW

With just under two weeks until the draw which will be held at Merriwa Sports Club. With up to 50+ prizes up for grabs including toys for the little people, alchole packages for the big kids and a variety of surprise packs for everyone else, with 20 half ham thrown in just because it is Christmas. MC for the night is Peter Holland all the way from 2nm/fm. Tickets on sale from 4.30pm with a 6.30pm draw.

Marlene Rogers

Merriwa CWA

We would love to thank everyone that supported our first street stall. It was so lovely to see so many people out and about. We had our 100 club and the winners were:

First Kay Taylor
Second Vic Ramsley
Third Keith Richard

Congratulations to everyone.

New members are always welcome. So why not drop in and say hello. All enquiries to: Barbara Campbell on 02 6548 5131 or 0428 485 131 and Kim Clydsdale on 02 6548 2558 or 0421 910 658.

The CWA rooms are available for hire (small groups, 15-20 people at the moment) at very reasonable rates by contacting Kim Clydsdale on 02 6548 2558 or 0421 910 658 also on email kmclydsdale@gmail.com.

Kim Clydsdale

Merriwa Senior Citizens

On Sunday December 20 we will be having a "Get Together" at the Merriwa RSL Club at 12 noon to welcome the members for lunch and "Christmas Cheer" is optional.

Covid restrictions will still apply.

Mary O'Neill

In Loving Memory

NATHAN ELLIS

27 years....

5.9.1986 -

5.12.2013



Remember that day in December

Time cannot heal the heartache or stop a silent tear

It won't take away the memories of the one we love so dear,

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Not valid for special events. Not available online.



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

The National Creative Writing Competition closes on December 11, 2020. There is still time to enter your story or poem. Two prizes of \$1000 each to the winning entries and also win \$100 to spend in store at newsXpress Merriwa to the local winner!

OUTBACK MAGAZINE

Unknown to many Australians, the Sandstone Belt also referred to as the Roof of Queensland, forms an isolated and often an inaccessible spur of the Great Dividing Range, with stunning ranges, deep gorges and a wild side. Much of it is covered by national parks and state forests with rock art telling the stories of the Indigenous heritage and early explorers. Change is happening, with cattle grazing alongside often controversial gas mining.

HOUSE AND GARDEN AUSTRALIA

- In this December issue readers are taken on a tour to stylist Steve Cordony's farm in Orange. It's a passion project on an epic scale, transforming and restoring 'Rosedale Farm' into an exquisite home and garden that works beautifully for it's owners. Having space for lots of plants and animals is a dream realised for the owners
- Presents of the mind; thoughtful gifts for everyone on your Christmas shopping list. Gifts for the gardener, the home chef, gifts for a little pampering and gifts for a bit of 'me' time, gifts for sleeping beauties and gifts for the family!
- 2020's trailblazers including Gladys Berejiklian, Ronni Kahn, Christine Anu, Louise Olsen and Stephen Ormandy.

QUILTERS COMPANION

- Make a gorgeous vibrant four patch and stars quilt that is relatively simple to make with some of the most loved and simple blocks, by designer Kim Hannon
- The 25th annual Road to California Quilt Show 2020 was held in America just before the world pandemic was announced, with hundreds of quilts on display and more than 225 vendors, many attended the event. Some of the winners works are within these pages or you can check them out on the website to see all the winning quilts.

BLUEY MAGAZINE

Bluey is getting summer ready in this latest issue. This is a bumper issue with so many things to do, such as puzzles, games, stories and lots of giggles too!

AVAILABLE NOW 'LEUNIG' CALENDAR 2021

Michael Leunig draws cartoons for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. He is not an emerging artist, in fact Mr Leunig is one of Australia's most ancient moth-eaten cartoonists! Fans of his work recognise his style straight away. Being as free as possible from the mania of the modern world, his work offers moments of reprieve for the humorous imagination, perhaps getting to the heart of things and to the heart itself. Pick up one today!

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Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress



Ringer Deadline!

*Please remember to place
your articles
and advertisements into
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by Mondays, at 12.00 noon*



*Some of our phone numbers
have changed...*

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Wingham

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Paterson

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Singleton

02 6571 7373

Merriwa

02 6549 8600

Scone

02 6540 2400



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

Direct Local Contacts for:

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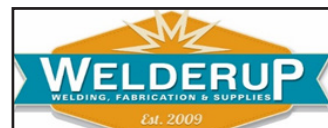
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Merriwa

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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**

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10.00am
CWA Rooms
159 Bettington Street

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Enquiries to:

President: Penelope Fenley

Phone: 6548 3060

Email: penelopecwa@iinet.net.au

Secretary: Kim Clydsdale

Phone: 6548 2558

Email: kmclydsdale@gmail.com

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Mondays 5.30 to 6.30ish
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 Vice President: David Martin
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 Secretary 0416 194 501
Fiona Morgan
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BBQ area and Kids Play area
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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

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

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

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 Secretary: Kellie Porter 0432 109 760
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October Long weekend 2020
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 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

This Sunday November 29, we will see the return of the Merriwa RSL Clubs Sunday raffle. Ticket sales will start from 11.45am and the raffle will commence at 12.30pm.

Saturday's \$5.00 schooners and house spirits 6.00pm till 10.00pm.

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 – 9.30pm

Thursday 11.30am – 10.00pm

Friday 11.00am – 11.30pm

Saturday 11.00am – 11.00pm

Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm

Bistro – Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Thursday/Friday/Saturday 12 noon – 2.00pm/6.00pm – 8.00pm

Sunday 12 noon – 2.00pm

The BBQ area is now open and the club can take bookings for up to 30 people.

Please remember to digitally sign in upon entry.

Matt Morgan

Merriwa Sports Club

BINGO

No bingo for the time being.

BOWLS

Casual Bowls available.

Twilight bowls started Friday October 23. Starting at 5.30pm, \$5.00 per person.

GOLF

Casual Golf available. Donations in honesty box.

HONKI HAUS RESTAURANT

Honki Haus Restaurant closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Open for dinner Wednesday to Saturday 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Sunday dinners 5.00pm to 7.00pm. Open for lunch Saturday and Sunday 12noon to 2.00pm.

For bookings and take away – 0460 817 606

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle - Saturday Raffles, tickets on sale from 6.30pm, draw starts at 7.30pm, limited prizes due to covid and social distancing.

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 12.00pm till 8.00pm.

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

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

Brendan Cowell

Elders
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Email: dg_merriwa@elders.com.au
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 @thetownhousemerriwa   Find us on Facebook

Merriwa Little A's

Finally we had some clear weather on a Monday night, after two weeks cancelled due to bad weather it was good to get back out on the track and field for some fun. I just love to see all our athletes enjoying their time, trying get better and competing against their friends.

Awards for the previous week are as follows

Archie Wallace for helping his fellow athletes during sprints with their parachutes and being a delight to coach.

Hudson Wallace for his amazing shotput skills, great listening and being a good team mate

Claire Bidner for her powerful shotput technique.

Rhianna Hunt for always putting in 100 percent in long jump.

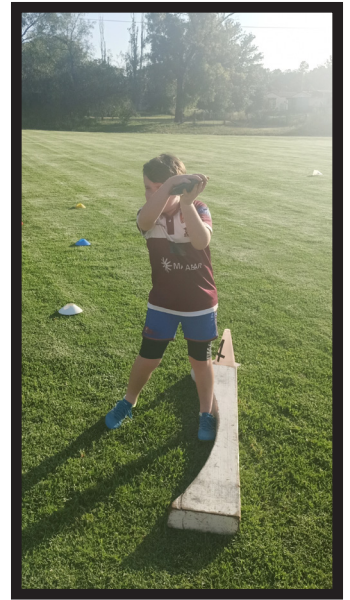
Tyson Borg for trying his hardest in long jump

Blake Hoadley for his magnificent natural long jump style

Lachlan Wilkinson for his keenness to participate and putting in a huge effort with each activity.

Emily Purcell for her bright and happy attitude and doing every activity with a smile.

A big congratulations to all those recipients. See you all this Monday night.



Belinda Keane

Merriwa Pony Club

22 riders travelled to Murrurundi to take part in the 'grand final' of the pony club season, the Zone 7 Jamboree.

All of the riders and steeds were immaculately presented and looked especially swish in their new browbands and saddle pads.

Saturday was the more formal program of show riding, hacking, team of fours and show jumping while Sunday riders got to let their horses plaits out and their own hair down in the fast and furious sporting events.

Merriwa riders dominated both days as the final tally of results reflected. In the U7 Holly Martin took out Champion Girl in grand style with buddy Ella Pryor Reserve. Holly went onto win the reserve champion girl under 17 years pointscore in the Alec Henderson Cup. In the 7-9s, Olivia Curteis was delighted to take out Reserve Champion while in the boys Mitch Maben was all smiles to win champion boy then later took out the Lionel Whitelaw Cup for boy Uner 17 highest point score and highest scoring junior in the sporting! In the 9 to 11's big sister Georgia Maben rode beautifully all weekend to clean up in her age group winning Champion Girl and the Alec Henderson Cup for highest point score girl under 17 and highest point score ASH. Kirra Green was hot on Georgias heels for Reserve. In the boys Nikko Anderson made his first jamboree look easy winning Reserve Champion boy in his age group.

Another highlight was the Utility classes which this year was won by our very own Maddie Maben in the Juniors with big sister Georgia reserve. Merriwa also dominated the show riding with the Junior champion going to Georgia and senior champion Nicole. Well done girls!

In the 11 to 13's Ben Patterson dominated the boys to win Champion of his age group and got the fastest sporting time of the day in the diamond flag. Darcy Taaffe also took out her age group 13-15's and went on to win fastest sporting time overall in the flag race and highest scoring senior sporting horse overall. In the 15-17 Nicole Martin rode off with Champion overall closely followed by Emily Ninness as Reserve. Nicole also took out the fastest sporting time for the bending overall meanwhile older sister Anastasia Martin rode off with Champion Associate rider.

In what was an extremely good effort, Merriwa entered a staggering five teams of four this year and they did not disappoint! Thanks to additional coaching from Clare Martin in the Seniors and Ainsley Maben in the Juniors, the extra 'homework' paid off with Merriwa taking out both the Junior and Senior events! Congratulations to the winning junior team of Ben Patterson, Georgia Maben, Mitchell Maben and Lilly Martin and our winning senior team riders Anastasia Martin, Nicole Martin, Jorji Taaffe and Emily Ninness.

To top it all off, Merriwa was crowned with the trifecta of end of year awards for the Zone – LA Whitelaw Cup for the Club with the highest point score at Jamboree, Miss Hollway Trophy for the Club with highest aggregate pointscore and the Presidents Cup for the Club with the highest pointscore at Presidents Cups throughout the year.

Sincere thanks to our incredible senior instructors Pauline Lawler, Clare Martin and De Patterson and our newly qualified instructors Ainsley Maben, Sandy Vicary and Anastasia Martin as well as all our guest instructors who have certainly had a hand in taking all of our riders to the next level this year.

Tash Taaffe





MERRIWA Ringer



The Grinch
with his Grinch-feet
ice cold in the snow,
stood puzzling and puzzling.
How could it be so?
It came without ribbons,
It came without tags.
It came without packages,
boxes or bags.
And he puzzled and puzzled
and puzzled.
'till his puzzle was over.
Then the Grinch
thought of something he
hadn't before.
"What if Christmas, he
thought, doesn't come
from a store.
What if Christmas perhaps
means a little bit more."

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