

MERRIWA

FREE

Ringer

Issue 6
Thursday March 5, 2020

WHAT'S INSIDE



Le Tour de Merriwa
This Weekend!




Pest Alert
Termite Solutions

Are Termites
eating your home?
(02) 6884 7557



Termites
Spiders
Rodents
Cockroaches
Ants



Notice of Public Exhibition

CASSILIS WASTE FACILITY FEES & CHARGES

Due to the large amounts of illegally dumped waste and the costs involved in removal of the waste, Upper Hunter Shire Council is proposing to introduce the following fees and charges for the Cassilis Waste Management Facility.

Proposed General Mixed Waste fees and charges:

- \$15.50 for car/station wagon
- \$58.50 for van/ute/trailer (6x4, single axle)
- \$77.00 for dual axle trailer
- \$15.50 for mobile garbage bin

Written submissions are invited.

Email council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au, or post to The General Manager, Upper Hunter Shire Council, PO Box 208, SCONE NSW 2337

Submissions close 4:30pm Wednesday, 1 April 2020.

P: 02 6540 1100 | E: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au



Positions Vacant

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS

- Gummun Place Hostel
- Permanent Part-Time & Casuals
- \$860.60 per 38 hour week (\$22.64 per hour plus 10% casual loading for those appointed as casuals)

Council is seeking empathetic and motivated individuals to undertake the above positions. Our caring and supportive Personal Care Assistants provide quality personal care to residents of Gummun Place Hostel and ensure a professional service is provided in a responsible manner whilst considering the safety of residents and staff.

The positions require individuals who are able and willing to work rostered shifts including weekends and nights.

Closing Date: 4:00pm Monday, 16 March 2020.

Enquiries: Sue Duggan, Hostel Supervisor, 6521 7011.

Apply online at upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

UPPERHUNTER.NSW.GOV.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

Merriwa Central School



Phone: 6548 2119

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



ISABROWN PULLETS

Hamilton's Pride, Formerly Galilee Poultry
Narromine,
will be delivering their ISABROWN Laying
Pullets to

**MERRIWA on THURSDAY
March 12, 2020.**

19wks @\$22.00ea.

To place orders please
phone Colin on

0427 890 549



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

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. 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 March 9 and May 8. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being 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-for-parents>.



Two of the many students receiving 100% attendance for the start of Term 1

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

It was fantastic to see a large number of secondary students attain a 100% attendance certificate for Weeks 1-5 in the formal assembly.

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of all students. Parents or carers of children of compulsory school age are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day.

Recent roll checks have been conducted at school and letters will be mailed out to families of students who have attendance patterns causing concern. If you receive a letter regarding the attendance of your child, please read it carefully along with the attached attendance brochure. If you require further information or support, please don't hesitate to contact the school and speak to our Deputy Principal, Miss Sharon Kenaly.

Students who have had consistent, regular attendance this term, meeting the Department of Education's requirements, will receive an attendance certificate acknowledging their efforts before the end of term.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

School must ensure:

- Early identification of students at risk of developing poor attendance patterns through strategies such as regular roll checks
- The school's Learning and Support Team, in partnership with parents, identify and implement strategies that address the learning and support needs of a student with attendance patterns of concern
- That if a range of school based interventions

Coming Events

MARCH

Thursday 5
Friday 6

National Leadership Summit
Primary Assembly Kinder - Year 6

Secondary Rewards Day -
Luna Park - 6.30am to 8.30pm

Saturday 7
Sunday 8
Thursday 12

National Leadership Summit
National Leadership Summit
National Leadership Summit
School Sports Netball - Bill Rose Complex Scone - 8.20am to 2.00pm

have been unsuccessful in resolving attendance difficulties, the principal can request support by making an application to the Home School Liaison Program and submitting the application to the local program manager for consideration.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents must ensure:

- Their children, who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for their instruction
- It is very important that your child arrives at school on time each morning so that they are ready to learn and receive the appropriate learning support
- They provide an explanation for absences by means such as a telephone call, written note, through the school app or email to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on the student's record
- They work in partnership with the school to plan and implement strategies to support regular attendance at school, including communicating with the school if they are aware of issues impacting on their child's attendance or engagement with school.

Important points to remember:

- Families should try to arrange holidays in school vacations or seek application for extended leave travel at the school office
- A child must be at school every day unless he/she is too sick to attend school, has been injured and can't attend school, has a special religious ceremony to attend, has an infectious illness e.g. Chicken Pox, Measles etc. or seeks leave from the school for various reasons acceptable to the Principal
- Appointments with people like doctors or dentists should be made for before or after school wherever possible
- On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
 1. being sick or having an infectious disease
 2. having an unavoidable medical appointment

3. being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
4. exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral.

Sharon Kenaly
Deputy Principal

Primary

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to all our Students of the Week for Week 5.

Kindergarten	Madison Stapleton
Year 1	Claire Bidner
Year 2/3	Abby Bidner
Year 3/4	Olympia Magnus
Year 4/5	Thomas Kneeves
Year 5/6	Matilda Clark
Library	Zane Walker



CLASS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Year 1 for being the Class of the Week. This week's focus was on attendance and the award was accepted on behalf of Holly Martin and Layla Thompson.

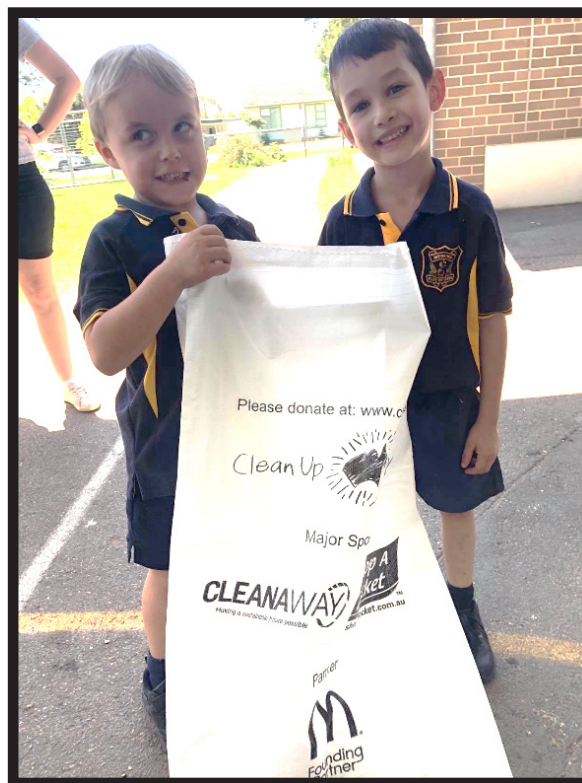


PRIMARY ASSEMBLY

Our next Kinder-Year 6 assembly will be held tomorrow, Friday March 6 at 2.15pm. Teachers will be presenting Merriwa Merits, Student of the Week awards and announcing our Class of the Week. Our Year 4/5 class will also be presenting us with a class item. All parents, friends and families are welcome to attend and join us in celebrating our students' achievements.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Last Friday, Kinder-Year 6 students completed some 'Clean up Australia' day activities. Students collected, sorted and analysed types of rubbish found around our school. We also implemented a recycle bin in all our classrooms to dispose of our rubbish more responsibly. We have had lovely gifts donated to our school and we awarded a student from each class, someone who is always working hard in keeping our school tidy.



SENIOR CITIZENS

Our Year 3/4 class will be performing at the senior citizens concert on Friday March 20. Students will be walking down to the Merriwa RSL at 11.30am, and will be performing at 11.45am.

Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants

Secondary

PEER SUPPORT CAMP

Last Monday, 24 Merriwa Central School students from Years 7 and 11 travelled to Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Camp in Gwandalan for the annual peer support excursion. This excursion is a fantastic opportunity for the Year 7 students to get to know each other, their new teachers, and the senior students, and gives the older students an opportunity to serve as role models for their younger peers.

After a three hour bus trip, we arrived at the camp just in time for lunch and a quick orientation with our camp instructor, Jade. We then made use of the camp's sporting facilities (tennis courts, playground, cricket pitch) before our first activity of the day – sailing. For many students, it was their first time in a sail boat (let alone manning it themselves), but all students tried their best and only a few came out wet and soggy in the end.

After drying off, we began our dinner duty, which consisted of setting tables, serving meals

for students from other schools and doing the washing up. Students from Merriwa Central School all worked together to make it a quick and easy job, and both the teachers and camp organisers were thoroughly impressed with their teamwork and initiative.

That night, students participated in an activity they were somewhat more familiar with; archery. Many students enjoyed the challenge of shooting at the targets, and there were a number of bullseyes before we headed back to the cabins, ravaged with mosquito bites!

The following day was jam packed – with high ropes in the morning, kayaking in the afternoon and the giant swing in the evening. For many students, tackling the high ropes and the giant swing was a nerve racking experience, but one they overcame with bravery and gusto. Kayaking across the serene and peaceful Lake Macquarie was an awesome experience for our country kids, but resulted in a few very sore arms and lots of tired students that night.

On our last day of camp, we divided into two groups and students either went bike riding or fishing. The fishing students were lucky enough to see lots of marine life, such as sea turtles, sting rays, and of course, fish, while the bike riders enjoyed the adrelaline rush of cruising through the bush track. After a fun filled three days, we then headed home to Merriwa Central School, with new memories, friendships, and lots of stories to tell.

Mr Hannon, Miss Smith and I would like to thank the students who attended for their excellent behaviour and willingness to have a go. We would also like to thank Point Wolstoncroft Camp for their excellent organisation and for accommodating us over the week.

Excursions such as the Peer Support Camp provide valuable opportunities for our students, and we highly encourage that all students attend such events when they arise.





**Emma Piper
Year 11 Adviser**

SOCIAL GATHERING

Parents are invited to meet the new and not so new teaching staff at an informal gathering at the Merriwa RSL Club (BBQ area) Thursday March 12 between 6.00-7.00pm. Finger food will be supplied and enjoyed at our gathering.

Drop by the say hello, before our more formal parent teacher interviews later in the term. Everyone welcome.

**Darren Noonan
Principal**

CAREER NEWS

MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP

Girls in Trades Excursion

This will be held on March 17 and girls interested in pursuing a trade are invited to attend this excursion to AGL's Bayswater Power station to meet with personnel there. Part of the program is aimed at offering work experience opportunities for girls interested in a trade area with the potential for future work

Skills and Thrills Workshop

A parent information night will be held on Tuesday March 24 at the Secondary Campus – Great Hall for all community members who are

STUDENT OF THE WEEK TAMIKA DRURY - YEAR 10

FAVOURITE SUBJECT: Photography because I think it is so fun taking photos of nature, people and a lot more

BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT: Being nominated for Young Citizen of the Year for 2020

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Photographer

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: SRC, Youth Council

YEAR ADVISOR COMMENT: Tamika has started this year off showing exemplary behaviour and pride in her work. She has shown she is able to balance her schoolwork with her SRC commitments and has been a great role model for all students at the school. Congratulations Tamika.

Lachlan Vaughan - Year Advisor



interested in learning more about Vocational Education and the different pathways to training. Everyone is welcome – see the advertisement in the Ringer

White Card Training

Merriwa Central School will be holding a white card training session on March 31 for students this term. Cost will be \$130.00 per student and they will require a Unique Student Identifier (USI) number before they can commence training. Students need to be over 14 years of age to participate. Interested students need to see Mrs Hegarty

Rotary Youth Exchange

Student spend 12 months in another country – living with host families, cooperating and working with Rotary Clubs, learning a new language and undertaking full time study for the scholastic year. Student who are in Years 9 and 10 (and perhaps Year 11) are welcome to apply, Students should be 15,16 and 17 years of age by January 2021. Students should consult the Rotary Youth Exchange Australia (RYEA) website www.ryea.org.au and complete an Expression of Interest Form or contact Peter Wellham on pwe12476@bigpond.net.au

Southern Cross University's Coomera Creative Campus is Here!

Students can now study Bachelor degrees in contemporary music, digital media and information technology at Southern Cross University's new Coomera Creative campus on

the Gold Coast. For more information, visit

<https://www.scu.edu.au/study-at-scu/why-scu/locations/coomera/>

ABC Heywire Winners

From fleeing a war-torn country and finding a home in Hobart, to dealing with the drought, the winners of this year's ABC Heywire competition paint a diverse picture of Australia.

ABC Heywire has announced 37 young regional winners in its 2020 storytelling competition.

Since 1998, Heywire has become a powerful place for regional and rural people, aged 16–22, to share their stories, and make a difference in their communities.

This year, hundreds of people entered from across Australia.

The winners were chosen for “telling it like it is” about life in their part of the country

<https://www.abc.net.au/heywire/heywire-2020-winners/11750540>

Challenges Abroad Australia International Volunteering

Overseas internship opportunities in education, business or health. We offer exceptional opportunities to further your life skills and to create incredible experiences, all while helping disadvantaged communities around the world. Our challenging treks and volunteer projects take you to some of the world's most extraordinary places: from the lost Inca city of Machu Picchu

STAFF PROFILE

EMMA SIMMONS

POSITION: Year 1 Teacher
QUALIFICATION: Bachelor Teaching (Primary) (Honours)
PREVIOUS SCHOOLS: Glendore Public School and Rutherford Public School
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Dance and Creative Arts
BEST EXPERIENCE SINCE JOINING MCS: Meeting the students of MCS
A MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR “LEARNING/TEACHING CAREER”: Seeing the look on students faces when they realise how far they have come.



in Peru, to the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

<http://www.challengesabroad.com.au/>

CSU Medicine Can't make it to an info night?

Make sure you sign up to stay informed about key dates and the latest course updates.

<https://engage.csu.edu.au/medicine-info-nights>

Overseas medicine internship opportunities for high school students

Projects Abroad are again running overseas medicine internship opportunities for students in Years 10 and 11 during the winter and summer school holidays. Ideal for students looking at a career in medicine, these two week programs are a valuable addition to a CV and bolster university applications. Visit

<https://www.projects-abroad.com.au/medical-work-experience-teenagers/> for more information.

UTS Bachelor of Accounting Scholarship - The closing dates for applications to the 2021

Round 1 Interviews Closing Date - Friday May 29

Round 2 Interviews Closing Date - Friday October 16

Entry to the Bachelor of Accounting is very competitive and is not based on ATAR score alone. Selection criteria are:

A genuine and informed interest in an accounting-based career

Personal attributes needed to succeed both as a student and in a business career - communication skills, inter-personal skills, team-working skills, problem-solving skills, enthusiasm and dedication

Involvement and achievement in a range of activities and interests

Demonstrated leadership qualities or potential

Academic ability (desirable ATAR: 95)

Info here:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/business/business-courses/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-accounting/scholarship>

Apply here:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/business/business-courses/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-accounting/application>

Hour of Code

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. Check out the tutorials and activities. Supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide.

<https://hourofcode.com/au>

Activities: <https://hourofcode.com/au/learn>

Maxima Indigenous Traineeships and Apprenticeships

An amazing and comprehensive site to support indigenous youth into employment, training, apprenticeships and traineeships. Call for more information to: 1300 669 859

<https://maxima.com.au/jobseekers/indigenous-employment/indigenous-careers/>

Careers Harvest

Great website on all career fields and pathways on the land, environment and agriculture. Explore career options, scholarships and internships on offer.

<http://www.careerharvest.com.au/>

UTS HSC Help

April, July and October

ATAR Notes aims to provide free and low-cost resources to HSC students, with the aim of making high school education more accessible. Taught by high academic university students, these free HSC lectures aim to give students a head start on their final years of high school.

<https://atarnotes.com/free-lectures/>

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

**Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor**



Cassilis Public School

STUDENT OF THE WEEK - JACOB HILLHOUSE

Jacob has earned Student of the Week for his effort and improvement in all areas of learning.

He is always willing to try and try activities and gets really excited when he achieves something. Jacob has shown improvement with his scissor skills and attempted to write his name with some success. He also has practiced and practised counting objects



up to 5. Jacob produced a great Kandinsky art on Thursday with Miss Eather and was very sensible in the library. Jacob also has beautiful manners and is kind to other students.

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

MOTOR SKILLS

With Mrs Nairne individually, Jacob and Cooper continued to work on their motor skills. Jacob was a detective and found the letters of his name (they were hidden around the room). He then reconstructed it correctly.



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Thank you to Tash Taaffe ad the Upper Hunter Shire Council for their donation of the book 'This Book Stinks' as well as the prizes for our clean up. The school is looking very spick and span now.

HEALTHY HAROLD

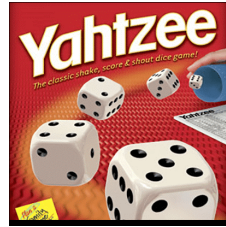


Students visited Ulan Public School today for Healthy Harold. Other activities included art, drama, robotics and a secret mysterious cryptic hunt. We are looking forward to sharing the stories of the learning in next week's newsletter.

COUNTING NUMBER SEQUENCE

For learning, you just need to teach the same thing lots of different ways. Some things will stick with students better than others. It's also great to combine physical movement with counting. Here, Jacob is practicing his forwards counting to 10 and backwards to 1 while throwing a basketball to the ground.

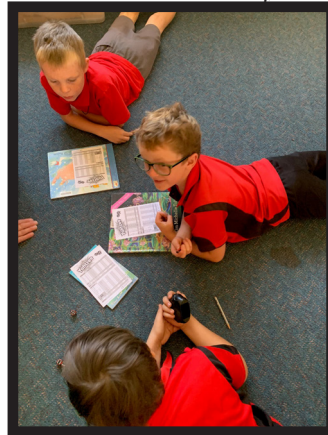
HOTDOG...THESE WERE YUMMY!



kids to problem solve, add numbers, take turns and communicate. It's a great family game to play at home.

KANDINSKY ART

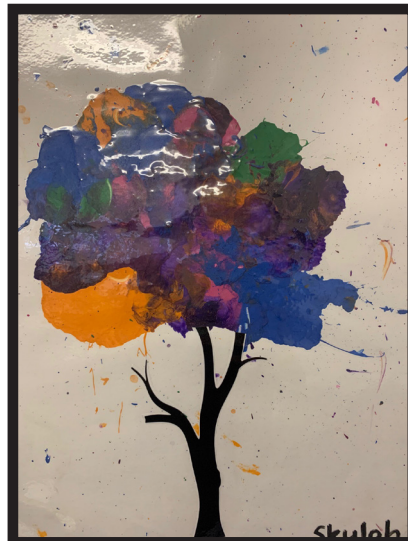
Kandinsky explores colour and



that engaged the sight, sound, and the emotions of viewers.

How do you feel when you see these painting?

Students in Years 3-6 played Yahtzee last Friday. The benefits of this game includes asking the



**Katie Burgess
Principal**



St Joseph's Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

A very special week in Catholic Schools with the launch of Catholic Schools Week March 2-6. It is a celebration of the positive and significant impact which Catholic Schools in many communities all around Australia, over many years. This year's theme is "Drawing From the Well, Invitation, Encounter, Witness".

We started the week on Monday with a successful Parish/School Dinner at the Merriwa RSL. Thank you to the parents, staff and parishioners who attended for a fun night of bingo and dinner. We are very appreciative of Ty and the staff at the Merriwa RSL for catering the event, as well as the many wonderful choices of dinner on the night.

A reminder to the community about our Catholic Schools Week Mass, celebrated by Father John at St Anne's Parish, commencing at 12pm (Noon) on Friday March 6. All members of the community are invited. After Mass, parents and friends are invited to attend open classrooms to witness the excellent learning happening within the school.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thank you to all of our Parents and Friends who attended the Annual General Meeting last Tuesday. This also coincided with a move night for the students, which is our way of showing our appreciation to the parents for their attendance and dedication.

Congratulations to all parents appointed to various roles and many thanks to our outgoing committee. Your contribution to the school over your time with us has been greatly appreciated.

ENROLMENTS

As well as celebrating the great work of Catholic Schools, Catholic Schools Week is the beginning of the enrolment phase for our school. If you know of any family who wishes to see the great work we do at St Joseph's, please promote us as much as you can. Your positive words in the community will be extremely beneficial.

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

WELLBEING WEEK

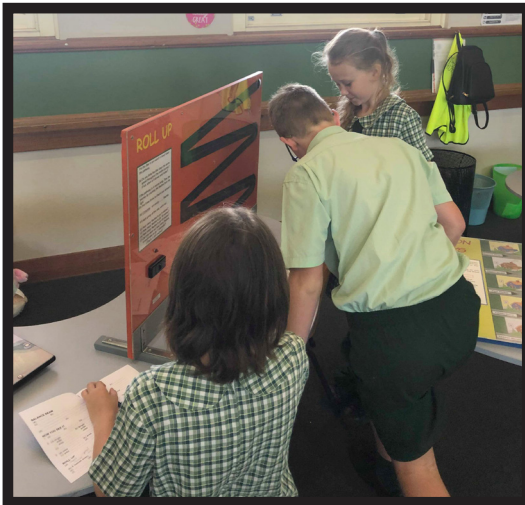
We also decided to embed Wellbeing Week into Catholic Schools Week, with a focus this time around on incorporating activities which gives students a chance to explore their more creative sides.

Some examples included, writing kindness and thankful cards for students to give them a boost, creative bookmarks and pebble decorations. Thank you to all the teachers for their input and enthusiasm in setting up and running activities for the week.

WORLD OF MATHS

Students were treated once again to the World of Maths exhibition, where problem solving and teamwork skills were put to the test. From all reports, students had a great experience and worked wonderfully well as a team.





LIFE EDUCATION VAN

We welcomed the Life Education Van on Monday – Wednesday. Healthy Harold has been a part of schools across the region for over 40 years and it still maintains its vision of “Empowering our children and young people to make safer and healthier choices through education.” We hope all students enjoyed the Healthy Harold experience and we thank all those involved in bringing the Life Education Van to Merriwa and the Upper Hunter.



PROJECT COMPASSION FEBUARY 25

Grace and Peter had their first official engagement as School Captain and Vice-Captain today, representing St Joseph's at the Project Compassion launch at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The liturgy focused around the theme “Go Further Together”.

We listened to stories from impoverished people from various communities around the world and how Caritas and Project Compassion assisted people and their communities to give them a better life.

Being Shrove Tuesday, the group were treated to pancakes and ice cream!



Thanks to Grace and Peter for their excellent representation.

Thank you Mrs Hagley for driving our captains.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Mass on Ash Wednesday was very well attended by the community and celebrated by Father John. The start of Lent, Ash Wednesday is a very important day in our Catholic Calendar because It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Students may speak about fasting (giving something up), almsgiving (giving to the poor) and prayer as a part of their commitment to their Lenten journey.

Staff will also be engaging in a Lenten prayer reflection as part of their commitment to ongoing faith development as teachers. All members of the community are invited to join the St Joseph's Staff in the staff room on Wednesdays during the Lenten period.



YEAR SIX FUNDRAISER

On Shrove Tuesday, our Year Six students held a pancake fundraiser, the funds of which go towards the purchase of the Year 6 2020 gift to the school, as per tradition.

Children enjoyed both serving the students pancakes as much as they did making them for their fellow students.

I am certain that the Kinder-Year 5 students enjoyed eating the pancakes!

Thank you Year 6 for your initiative.

DIOCESAN SWIMMING

Grace represented our school at the Diocesan Swimming Championships in Lambton last week. She was the first representative from the school in swimming in three years.

She swam in the 12-13 years 50m Girls Breaststroke and whilst she did not finish in the placings, improved two seconds on her swim from the Regional Championships, which is a very good achievement.

CLEAN UP ST JOSEPH'S DAY

On Friday last week, students and staff in the Infants classroom engaged in the Annual "Clean Up Australia Day" celebrations.

Thank you to our Infants students, Mrs Hagley, Miss Love and Miss Brazier for organising and running the event on Friday.

NO PEN THURSDAY

Staff have been working diligently with our School Improvement Plan in the area of Reading. Incorporating reading skills is the very important aspect of Vocabulary and how they relate to Oral (spoken) language.

As part of this commitment to increasing skills in oral (spoken) language, St Joseph's will be participating in "NO PEN THURSDAY" this week, in order to look at different ways of educating children without pens and looking at increasing the capabilities of students to engage in speaking and listening.

DID YOU KNOW?

Young children whose parents read them 5 books a day enter kindergarten having heard approx. 1.4million more words than children who were never read to. This is from a 2019 study in Ohio, USA.

This million-word gap could be one key in

explaining differences in vocabulary and reading development.

Even children who are read only one book a day will hear approx. 290, 000 MORE words by age 5 than those who don't regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.

Kids who hear more vocabulary are going to be better prepared to see those words in print when they enter school.

CONGRATULATIONS

It isn't everyday that you get to be involved in a National Sporting Championships, but our own Mrs Gilbey has been away in Canberra doing just that!

Mrs Gilbey, as well all know, has a love of all things cricket and has been scoring matches for various organisations, for many years.

During the last two weeks, Mrs Gilbey has been one of the official scorers at the Australian Under 15 Girl's Cricket Championships in Canberra.

She even took some time out to watch a couple of T20 Women's World Cup matches as well!

Well done Mrs Gilbey, we hope you had a great time!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March 18 – PUPIL FREE DAY – Staff Development in Writing in Muswellbrook

March 20 – Senior Citizens Home Visit

March 20 – Willow Tree Horse Sports

I hope you all have a terrific fortnight ahead. If you have any queries, questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and contact the school.

God Bless.

Mr Ashley Borg
Principal

ashley.borg@mn.catholic.edu.au



Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

REFLECTION LENT 2 MATTHEW 17:1-9

This episode in the Gospel records a major change in the direction of Jesus' life. It is a second vocation story. Up until now Jesus has been involved in a ministry in Galilee, where he has generally been accepted. But there comes a time when he leaves Galilee and sets out for Jerusalem. The Transfiguration comes at this time.

Moses and Elijah are two of Israel's great prophets who experienced the close presence of God at a time in their lives when they were called to take a difficult path. Moses was to lead the children of Israel through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. Elijah was called to denounce the current King and anoint another and this will cause great turmoil. Both were afraid and wanted to escape from their tasks but both received strength from God to continue.

In its symbols of the high mountain, clouds, light, Moses and Elijah, the evangelists presents a time when Jesus seeks and receives assurance from God. The journey south to Jerusalem will lead into conflict with the Jewish and Roman authorities. If he had stayed in Galilee he may have lived much longer. To go to Jerusalem means certain death. Common sense tells him this. On the Mount of Transfiguration he prays for strength and guidance to take this journey.

When we struggle with our decisions, when we feel afraid and weak, may we too seek and know the comforting presence of God. (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM)

Love and blessings, Rev Pat

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday March 7 at 6.00pm - World Day of Prayer at Anglican Church

9.00am - each Sunday - Eucharist at Holy Trinity

10.00am - each Friday - Eucharist at Holy Trinity

11.00am - alternately - Extended Eucharist at Gummun Place and MPS

Those interested in Bible Reading for Lent please phone Rev Pat 0407 132 436

Friday March 7 - 2.30pm - Bible Study at Holy Trinity.

Rev Pat Kirkby

Over the past months during spring and summer most of us have shed tears, and known the pain of heartache as we watched a tragedy unfold before our eyes; scorching bushfires, devastation of communities all over our land, sadness and despair of those people who have lost their homes and loved ones and everything that is dear to them, including the tragic loss of domestic animals and wildlife.

We've also witnessed the courage, kindness and determination of the amazing 'firies' who were ever present at the frontline of the fires.

Wendell Berry activist, writer and thinker has written dozens of stories, poems, essays and novels. He also is a farmer and a Christian who has challenged the Church to take environmental issues seriously.

Here are some of Wendell Berry's most memorable quotes -

"The Peace of Wild Things"

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound...*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.*

*And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time*

I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

— Endorsement statement for The Dying of the Trees

*"Whether we and our politicians know it or not,
Nature is party to all our deals and decisions,*

and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do."

Link - <https://www.facebook.com/AngEcoCare/>



Ted Finnie

Merriwa Ringer

Merriwa Rotary

WELL INTO OUR SECOND \$100,000

Every so often we mention the RECYCLE FOR SIGHT program. It continues to be an outstanding success story for Rotary Merriwa.

The simple details again:

Our club collects spectacles which are no longer needed by their owners, because of changes in strength requirements, because of cataract operations radically altering the patient's sight as well as glasses donated by families of people who are now deceased. These glasses are sent off to the Recycle program, where they are graded by professionals and subsequently forwarded on to communities...usually in the Pacific...where people cannot afford to buy glasses.

It costs us nothing but it is a gift treasured by the people who receive them. The value of glasses donated by the Merriwa/Cassilis community so far is well over \$100,00.

Unwanted glasses can be left at MERRIWA PHARMACY for forwarding on to the program.

from our Merriwa Ambulance officers – don't miss this one!

To find out more or to receive a playgroup text reminder when it's on, text or call Community Services Officer Tash Taaffe on 0458 574 015.



Mark Smith

Merriwa Create and Grow Playgroup

Another gorgeous morning at playgroup last Thursday. Thanks to everyone who came along!

It was Clean Up Australia Day so we shaped out songs, craft and story along this theme. It was still a bit wet to play at the park but we had lots of fun inside with the blocks, puzzles and quoits.

Special thanks to Mrs Toni Gorlick for coming up with our clever craft, a wind chime made out of recycled bits and bobs. It was lovely to have you at playgroup and we very much enjoyed your craft!

Next Thursday March 12 we will be getting a visit

Tash Taaffe

Community Notice Board

Merriwa CWA

Le Tour De Merriwa

THIS SUNDAY - MARCH 5

COMING EVENTS

Physie is starting up again every Thursday afternoon.

Friday March 13: We welcome Scone Literary Festival to the CWA and Merriwa. The two Authors will be Richard Anderson and Nicole Alexander. Cost is \$35.00, this includes lunch.

So please book online at TryBooking, more information check out the Scone Literary Festival website.

Thursday March 19: We will be having our International Women's Day. Come along for an informative and fun day. Hope to see everyone there. More information will be available soon.

Thursday April 9: We will be having our street stall, just in time for Easter.

Wednesday April 22: Our Kids Cooking Day will be here, so definitely save this date.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday March 9 at the new time of 9.30am at the CWA rooms located at 159 Bettington Street Merriwa. New members are always welcome, so why not drop in and say hello.

Enquiries to Penelope Fenley on 6548 3060 or Kim Clydsdale on 6548 2558 or 0421 910 658.

The CWA rooms are available for hire at very reasonable rates by contacting Kim Clydsdale on 6548 2558.

Kim Clydsdale

Coulson's Creek Road is a quiet rural road with minimal traffic and a relatively good road surface. All riders will roll out of Merriwa at 8.00am from the Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre and will need to be back in Merriwa by 1.00pm.

There will be two courses; a long and short option. Long course is from Merriwa to the Gap (start of Merriwa Road) and return, a distance of 84km's and 600m of vertical climbing.

The short course will also start and finish in Merriwa, with a turn around point at the aid station approximately 21km's from Merriwa. This ride has 430m of vertical climbing.

There will be two support vehicles to assist in any minor incidences (punctures etc.)

There will be both food and drink refreshments at the turning points with toilet facilities at the far turn around point.

There will be some changed traffic conditions along the route. The Local VRA and RFS will be managing this.

The Le Tour De Merriwa Ride should be finished by approximately 1.00pm and traffic conditions should then return to normal. We appreciate everyones patience on this day as we hope that this will bring in more visitors to our small community.

As of Monday we have had a total of 110 registered riders that will participate in one of two courses.

For more information go to: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/le-tour-de-merriwa-tickets-85748330565?fbclid=IwAR3srmZ66LYMfCPjv_



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Community Notice Board

Federal Drought Communities Programme

Merriwa Senior Citizens

Please not the following events:

Friday March 20 - Merriwa RSI Auditorium - starting at 11.00am. Students arriving at 11.45am.

Lunch is 12.30pm with a cost of \$18.00pp

Hoi with many prizes, raffles, lucky doorprizes etc
Visitors from Scone, Denman and Cassilis.

Tuesday March 31 - Coach trip departing Merriwa at 8.00am for Quirindi, Gunnedah and Coolah

Cost is \$60.00 which includes morning tea in Quirindi

GAMES DAY

Tuesday May 19 - Singleton visiting - \$7.00 lunch

Tuesday August 11 - Visitors from Coolah, Cassilis and Denman

Tuesday October 13 - Visitors from Muswellbrook
Details later for these games days.

If your club or community organisation has a project requiring funding, get along to this session!

Grants officer, Jacqui Bakewell will be available Wednesday March 4, at Merriwa Library from 10.00am-12.00pm to discuss the submissions already received for community projects that may be funded through the Federal Drought Communities Programme which Council are eligible for an additional one million dollars.

A draft list of proposed projects received to date can be found on Council's website.

<http://upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/your-council/media/news/funds-available-from-the-drought-communities-programme.aspx>

To arrange a time to speak with Jacqui, please contact her on 6540 1172 or email jbakewell@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au.

Tash Taaffe

Mary O'Neill

St David's Uniting Church

PIE/LAMINGTON DRIVE

Order Sheets for our drive are scheduled to be out by the end of this week.

This is the ideal opportunity to get in goodies for the school holidays as delivery date is:

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8, 2020

Various business houses very kindly allow the sheets to be placed on their counters but if anyone is unable to locate an order sheet, please contact me on home phone 6548 5131 or mobile 0428 485131.

Barbara Campbell



**SPONSORSHIP RENEWALS
ARE NOW DUE FOR 2020.**

If you wish to continue to sponsor the Ringer for 2020, please contact Merriwa Central School with payment as soon as possible.

Thank you

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

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY

- There's something about Magda; how this funny lady learned to be truly happy!
- Dolly Parton; beyond compare! "Tumble outta bed and I stumble to kitchen, pour myself a cup of ambition " Today that fabulous anthem is the inspiration for the play 9 to 5 The Musical, Dolly is bringing to Australia
- Michael Rowland; dreams are made of this! We know him from ABC news breakfast, he says he has the best job in the world, he's head over heels in love with his wife and is a Dad to two children. Though he is living the dream now, when he was only 19 it all came crashing down when a freak accident threatened to change his plans
- Easy as pie! Get your pie maker out of the cupboard and cook up a storm with these delicious pie recipes, perfect for cooler days on the way!

REGIONAL LIFESTYLE AUTUMN

- Forbes and Parkes town features; towns making their marks. Parkes pay tribute to 'The King' and have just celebrated their 28th annual Elvis Festival in January. People come from all over the world to celebrate their shared love for Elvis. Fans are decked out in bejewelled jumpsuits and crazy hair have the time of their lives!
- Giddy up! The excitement of the North West Equestrian Expo continues to draw big numbers to Coonabarabran. This is where you will see some of the best emerging riders in the country and the camaraderie in the strong local community makes the Coona Expo a lot of fun
- Hugh Bowman has found international fame and acclaim as a top class jockey as well as his association with champion mare Winx. His character shaping upbringing in Dunedoo is integral to his story.

WOMEN'S DAY HOME HACKS

- If you love genius tips and tricks for your home, there are 301 of them here! From organising your pantry and cabinets, to cooking hacks, it's all here. Speed ripen your bananas, cook

meatloaf fast and whip up casseroles and pies. Tidy up your tech, sort your drawers, you won't know yourself when you're done

- Next generation kitchen cleaners. It's 2020 and we're still waiting for someone to invent a Jetsons style Rosie the Robot to pick up our mess. There are gizmos that can make cleaning faster in the kitchen and beyond but there's a drawback, they aren't cheap. Though can you really put a price on never having to mop the floor ever again...I don't think so!

A TWIGSEEDS MOMENT

On this beautiful day may everything you hope for come true.

BEANIE BOO

My name is Camilla. When you're in the mood and you want to doodle, I'll model for you, draw a pink poodle. My birthday is February 24.

Please note: On Sunday March 1 newsXpress will be closing at 10.00am

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

Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress Merriwa Team

Upper Hunter Shire Council

GUMMUN PLACE HOSTEL WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF

The Council is pleased to announce the appointment of two Registered Nurses to join the dedicated team at Gummun Place Hostel. Their appointments will support the exceptional work undertaken by the staff at Gummun as they prepare for the hostel's upcoming assessment for accreditation.

UPGRADES TO INFRASTRUCTURE IN MERRIWA

Merriwa continues to benefit from the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund round 2 with the Upper Hunter Shire Council completing or commencing work on a number of community projects.

- The upgrade to the Number 1 Oval change rooms - complete
- The upgrade to the Number 1 Oval canteen and bar area – commencing soon

- The installation of a new irrigation system for the No 1 Oval – commencing soon
- The accessibility upgrade on the showground amenities block - commenced

The Stronger Country Communities Fund was established by the NSW Government to help deliver local projects to regional communities.

COUNCIL CLOSED FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Upper Hunter Shire Council is in for yet another big year in 2020. To ensure our staff are providing the best possible service for the local community, a staff development day has been organised for Friday March 13, 2020.

All administration centres, libraries, Murrurundi VIC, Merriwa VIC and works depot sites will be closed for the UHSC staff Development Day.

All children and youth services, and waste management facilities, will remain open.

There will be on call staff available for roads, bridges, animal control, water and sewerage for all Upper Hunter Shire towns in which issues can be reported to the after hours number on 6540 1199.

MERRIWA VISITORS INFORMATION CENTRE

Upper Hunter Shire Council is always looking for better ways to provide services to the community and its visitors. As part of this process, Council is exploring options to find the best way to deliver tourist information services to those visiting the Merriwa area. The assessment is based on the following areas:

- the development and growth of tourism in the area,
- visibility of the service,
- the role of technology in providing this information, and
- the overall visitor experience.

There is no intention to reduce the services offered by the Merriwa VIC.

Currently, tourist information services in Merriwa are available in two locations, which can cause confusion for visitors. Council has identified a collaboration with the Welcome Centre as one possible option in which to enhance the delivery of this service. Initial discussions have been held with the Welcome Centre to consider the possibility of co-location, and we are in the early phases of considering all of the options

available. The community will be notified of any developments. So in the meantime, it's business as usual at the Visitor Information Centre, and we encourage you to continue to patronise this community resource.

SEEKING FAMILY DAY CARE EDUCATORS

We are pleased to advise that due to a high demand for the services of the Upper Hunter FDC, we are seeking more educators to serve the needs of the Merriwa community.

Are you passionate about working with children and looking for a flexible and rewarding career?

- Join our family of self-employed educators already in the Upper Hunter
- Operate a family day care service from your own home
- Work from home with small groups of children aged six weeks to 12 years
- Mentoring, networking and support provided through other educators and the Upper Hunter Family Day Care team.

Does this sound like you?

Start by contacting Upper Hunter Family Day Care.

Ph: 6540 1151

Em: uhfdc@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Upper Hunter FDC has been offering fun, learning and care for children in safe home environments for forty years.

Kirriily Anderson

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles

and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

Hunter Local Lands Services

WILD DOG ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Goulburn River Wild Dog Association invites landholders to it's Annual General Meeting on March 17.

Location: Merriwa RSL at 6.00pm for BBQ - 7.00pm Meeting

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1199 Cullingral Road, Merriwa

\$175,000.00

Fully fenced in new fencing, this is an ideal grazing block, while having some fun as a weekender. The country is mostly open with a slight rise. There is access to the river for fishing and swimming, and a new dam has been built. There is a cabin set on the block. Only 3 hours to Sydney this is an ideal weekend retreat.



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Ringer Deadline!

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by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

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

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

Direct Local Contacts for:

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Secretary: Talitha Sawley
Treasurer: Emma Douglas
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Principal: Mrs Katie Burgess

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

Merriwa Magpies

 Rugby League Football Club
Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
 President: Ben Robins
 Vice President: Marc Previati
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer/Publicity Officer: Jessyca Morgan

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



2019 Merriwa Springtime Show
 Established 1908
 20, 21 & 22nd September!
 www.merriwashow.com.au
 Rob Tindall - President
 Marie Scott - Secretary
Tel: 0498 378 500

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


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

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

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

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

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

MERRIWA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

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

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

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

MERRIWA

FESTIVAL of the FLEECES

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

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

Clubs Merriwa RSL Club

NEW MEMBERS LUNCH SPECIAL MENU

\$12.50

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

Available Monday to Friday

The Thursday Members Badge Draw for \$260.00 was won the number was 613, this week it commences at \$100.00 and will be drawn between 6.00 – 7.00pm.

The Friday night Members Lucky Badge, 7.00pm draw for \$140.00 was not won the number was 336, this week it ackpots to \$160.00.

The 8.30pm Members Badge draw worth \$500.00 was won the number was 682, this week jackpots to \$550.00.

The 9.00pm Members Badge draw for \$160.00 was not won the number was 814, this week it jackpots to \$180.00. **LTPS/19/36118**

The Sunday Morning Members Badge Draw for \$650.00 was not won last week the number was 121, this week it jackpots to \$700.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. **LTP/19/36118**

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

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

KIDS MOVIE NIGHT – this Saturday night will be the first of the Clubs Kids Movie Night; \$5.00 entry with each entry receiving popcorn, iceblock and a popper. First movie starts at – 6.30pm.

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

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

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

Courtesy Bus – the clubs courtesy bus if available for pickups on Friday's from 5.30pm (you must book by ringing the club), with drop offs at 9.15pm, 10.00pm and 11.30pm.

HAPPY HOUR

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

Member's prices

\$3.50 schooners and \$2.50 middies

BISTRO HOURS

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

LUNCH TIME SPECIALS

Moroccan Lamb salad with date yoghurt dressing

Crumbed calamari rings with chips and salad
Beer battered fish of the day with chips and salad

Beef burger and chip
Quiche of the day with salad and chips

Matt Morgan

Merriwa Sports Club

Mondays - Happy Two Hours - 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Tuesdays - Rotary meets - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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

Fridays - Happy Two Hours - 5.00pm to 7.00pm, free raffle.

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

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

BINGO

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

BOWLS

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

GOLF

Casual Golf available. Donations in honesty box.

CHINESE SMORGASBORD

March 29

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

RESTAURANT

Chinese/Australian Restaurant closed Mondays.

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

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

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday Raffle - February 29

Saturday Members draw, No189, was not won – next week \$280.00.

Dinner: Eva Towler
Free Ticket: Leo Bailey
Bowls Raffle: Barbara Cronin
Monthly Prize: Mary Richards

Members draw - Sunday March 1

Members draw, No 160 was not won – next week \$800.00.

Save the Date: Saturday April 18, 2020, Carrot Bowen and The Collective - 7.00pm till 11.00pm.

Des Snelgrove



Sports Merriwa Junior Rugby League Football Club

Congratulations to the coaches for 2020!

Under 6's Jason Bear
Under 7's Matt Mead
Under 8's Ben Wallace
Under 9's Pat Williams and Roy Morgan
Under 10's VACANT

GIRLS LEAGUE TAG

Under 12's VACANT
Under 14's Matt Morgan
Under 16's Phil Neale

If you are interested in the above vacant positions please contact club secretary Fiona ASAP on 0418 417 186 or fionamorgan6@bigpond.com. We need to fill these positions prior to training commencing. Upcoming courses for coaches, sport trainers and league first aid are to be held in Aberdeen March 21 and 22. Please register via www.learn.playnrl.com. We do need more FAO's and League First Aiders, so if you would like to help out this season please consider doing a course!

SEASON LAUNCH

We will be having our season launch on Tuesday March 24. From 3.30pm-4.00pm on No 2 Oval there will be help with registrations, at 4.00pm a meet and greet between players and coaches and a light training run followed by a BBQ, before finishing at 5.30pm. Please note all players must be registered before participating in training so you only have a couple of weeks to get that sorted. Training will then be every Tuesday and Thursday (starting March 26) from 4.30pm on No 2 Oval. Please speak to your child's coach as this could vary between teams.

The link to register is <https://profile.mysideline.com.au/>. If you are having difficulty please contact Registrar, Kacie 0419 850 043. All players will receive a training set with registration this year (shirt and short). Merchandise is once again available to order. The order form can be found on facebook or by contacting Fiona.

We look forward to seeing all our Junior Magpies on March 24!

Fiona Morgan

The poster features a stylized black road winding upwards from a bowl of spaghetti at the bottom. At the top of the road is a sun with the text 'de Tour Merriwa' written in a cursive font. A small cartoon bee is flying near the road. The text on the poster is as follows:

de Tour Merriwa

CHEESE AND PASTA NIGHT

MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB

Saturday 7th March 2020

From 6:30pm - 9:30pm

Pre-purchase tickets for \$30 in FEB

From 1st March or at door - Pay \$35

****LIMITED TICKETS****

Available NOW from

Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre

Catering by Eat @ 153

**EVERYONE WELCOME,
CYCLIST OR NOT!**

Merriwa Pony Club

Last weekend Merriwa Pony Club kicked off the new year with a tetrathlon. The weather was perfect for the challenging four phase event which consists of running, swimming, laser gun target shooting and cross country riding all done by the one competitor in the one day.

Thirty six competitors rolled in from as far afield as Sydney, Trangie, Stroud, Kootingal and Coonabarabran as well as lots of talented local riders.

There were four age categories - Pee Wees (6 and 7 years), Minis (8 and 9 years), Sub Juniors (10 to 12 years) and Juniors (13 to 16 years).

Stand out performers in the Juniors was Merriwa's own Nicole Martin who dominated each phase for a clear victory over Isabelle U'ren from Kootingal and Darcy Eyb from Cudal a close third, Olivia U'ren (Kootingal) fourth and Sophie Foster (Trangie) fifth.

In the sub-juniors, another Merriwa's Darcy Taaffe placing in all her events to scoot into first with Miriam U'ren (Kootingal), Bree Baker (Kurrajong) third, Minna Poole (Rawsonville) fourth and Jock Kater fifth after putting in a gutsy swim.

In the mini's Ethan Foster of Trangie was triumphant with Georgia Maben (Merriwa) a close second followed by Grace Roberts (Coonabarabran), Lara Kemp (Stroud) and Anna Toohey (Rawsonville).

Pocket rocket pee wee's didn't let age deter them, with Riley Mitchell of Aberdeen clear winner, Maddie Maben (Merriwa) second, Evie Kemp (Stroud) third and Merriwa riders Holly Martin and Ella Pryor fourth and fifth.

This was the second time the club has run the relatively new pony club event, and if the success of this tetrathlon is anything to go by, it won't be the last!

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on the day and a special shout out to Bryce Hockings for his invaluable assistance with the cross country course and Kelly Curteis for doing such a great job in the canteen.



Merriwa Pony Club held it's first rally day of the year on Saturday with a great turn out of 20 riders.

There was plenty to keep them all occupied with flatwork, sporting and jumping on the program as well as fun and games for the leads.

All the riders had a blast show jumping with guest instructor Marcia Williamson who has a knack for getting riders to want to go higher and try their best. There were lots of smiles and plenty of enthusiasm for jumping again after the long summer break.

Special thanks to our club instructors Clare Martin, Pauline Lawler and De Patterson for coordinating the day and to Kelly Cuteis for doing a stirling job in the canteen.

The rally day was also a wonderful opportunity to invite Merriwa IGA down to the showground to thank them personally for their fabulous Community Chest donation! David Martin kindly presented the cheque to president Clare Martin on Saturday. The money will be put towards the purchase of a new equipment trailer.

If you would like to join the Merriwa Pony Club its not too late! The season has just started and will go through to Jamboree in October. With our famous school holiday Pony Club Camp just around the corner in April, it's definitely a great time to get the kids back on the ponies!

To find out more about memberships contact De Patterson on 0416 194 501. Active Kid vouchers welcome.



Tash Taaffe

Merriwa Rugby League Football Club

Training this week, could again be at different locations due to potential rain forecast, please contact Gaynor or Nathan for location.

Training this week is Tuesday and Thursday for League Tag, starting at 6.00pm sharp. If you need a rub down or strapping make sure you get there early to ensure you are ready to train with the rest of the group.

Reserve grade training will be Tuesday and Thursday this week, at 6.30pm. Again contact Nathan Barry for more information.

Merchandise is now available to order, hoodies \$75.00, polos \$40.00, training shirts and singlets \$35.00, playing shorts and training shorts \$35.00. Please contact me via messenger, email: jessyca90m@hotmail.com or a text message on 0488 120 407. Payment should have been made for merchandise by Tuesday March 3, into our bank account.

Easter Raffle on Thursday April 2 at 7.30pm at Merriwa RSL Club. Tickets on sale on the night from 6.00pm.

Jessyca Morgan

Merriwa Cricket Club

TOP FOUR PLACE SECURED FOR MERRIWA, ONE ROUND TO GO

In the second last round of the regular season, Merriwa took on Brook Blue at Weeraman Oval, hoping to consolidate a top 4 position moving into finals.

Jon Osmond lost the toss, however it didn't matter as Brook chose to bat first, which would have been Merriwa's choice anyway. Dom Cooper opened the batting, and despite an early appeal for caught behind proved solid on the off side but belligerent on the leg side, hitting a well-timed six over mid-wicket in the 7th over. His partners were not quite as determined with only M Morrison reaching double figures with 10. Dom finished with 43 runs in a team total of all out for 77 in the 30th over. The Strachan brothers did the damage with the ball for Merriwa, taking 9 of the 10 wickets between them, Rob with an incredible 6 for 10 from 7 overs, and Brad with 3 for 14 from 7 overs.

Merriwa's openers started a little shaky, Pete

Ashford was the first to go with 11, followed by Jon a couple of overs later for 14. Greg Sheehan and Brad Strachan then steered the away side to victory, Brad looked in fine form making a quick 31 not out, which was not quite enough to supersede his older brother for man of match honours, and Greg 18 not out. Merriwa reached Brooks total within 16 overs in a dominant display.

Merriwa take on the Muswellbrook Silver Slugs this Saturday in the last regular season game. We hope to play at home however, there is a possibility the game will be moved to Scone as efforts continue to repair the outfield of Apex Oval after significant rain in the past weeks. The Silver Slugs are coming off a big win over Bushrangers on the weekend and will be no easy beats. If we can win next week, we will likely finish the season in second place behind either Belltrees or Belmore who play each other in a blockbuster this weekend.

Charlie Stokes

Ringer Deadline!

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

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

Blue Heliotrope Management Workshop & Pasture Tour

Hunter Local Land Services

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2020

MERRIWA

Blue Heliotrope Workshop – From 9.30am to 1pm

This invasive summer weed has left a purple haze across the district – Now's the time to get out in the paddock for a close-up look at ALL the available control options:

- Paddock inspection & discussion on Blue Heliotrope Herbicide DEMO - Dan Clydsdale
- Tropical grass establishment & management – HOW to enlist these summer active grasses to fight the battle against Blue Heliotrope
- Blue Heliotrope's IMPACT on animal health
- BIO-control option for Blue Heliotrope - state-of-play
- Drought and Fire Recovery Assistance Update

Merriwa Pasture Demonstration Site Drop-in Session – From 2pm to 3pm

Come and see the amazing response post summer rain and chat to industry reps

- See how the Tropical Grasses & Temperate Legumes have recovered from drought
- FIVE tropical legumes sown and established that could fit your pasture system

Date: Friday 20 March 2020
Time: Blue Heliotrope Workshop 9.30am – 1pm
Location: 'Kingslyn', 212 - 213 Depot Rd, Merriwa

Time: Pasture Tour 2pm to 3pm
Location: Merriwa Pasture Demo Site
'Alcheringa', Scone Rd, Merriwa

LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

For further information contact:
Sarah Giblin 0409 785172
sarah.giblin@lls.nsw.gov.au

To RSVP follow Wufoo email link
or Phone Scone LLS 6540 2400



GLENCORE

Supported by the Halls Creek Catchment Health Improvement Project



Local Land Services

We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

PARENTS SHOWCASE

HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHILD
MAKE INFORMED CAREER CHOICES!



THE SHOW COVERS A RANGE OF HELPFUL TOPICS

- Industry Trends
- Jobs of the Future
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) Options: School -delivered VET, SBATs and EVET
- Apprenticeships / Traineeships
- TAFE / Private Training Providers
- Funding Options Available (Smart and Skilled)
- Useful Resources
- Opportunities to speak to VET Ambassadors

A SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED!

DATE: Tuesday 24th March 2020

6:00-7:30PM

LOCATION: Merriwa Central School (hall)
Bow St, Merriwa NSW

COST: Free

BOOKING REQUIRED:

<https://skillsandthrills-merriwacs.eventbrite.com.au>



skillsone™

MCS in touch with our community



The **Merriwa Ringer**
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MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

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ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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