

MERRIWA Ringer

FREE

Issue 1
Thursday February 4, 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE

Farewell Frank Armstrong

PASSED AWAY DECEMBER 24, 2020

AGED 83 YEARS

Merriwa Central School and the Merriwa Ringer wish to say farewell to a beloved and devoted Merriwa Ringer Volunteer. Frank, a true gentleman offered his time on a weekly basis to assist in the delivery and collation of the Merriwa Ringer.

Frank arrived in Merriwa to make it his home 17 years ago (approximately), arriving from Whangarei New Zealand to live with his sister Deidre Peebles. Frank soon found his place in the community by becoming a devoted Rotarian, joining the

Continued page 2




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

Farewell Frank Armstrong

Merriwa Squash Club and later joining the Merriwa Men's Shed.

was a resident of the Gummun Place Hostel and a proud member of the Merriwa Community.

Frank was a man full of knowledge and could carry a variety of conversations on numerous topics. Frank would always be happy to offer a helping hand at any fundraising event. Frank

Frank will be missed by many and will remain in our hearts.

Tina Taylor

A Walk Down Memory Lane

WITH JAMES CONSTABLE

GREEN HILLS HOTEL



Senior Sergeant Lucas Armstrong was appointed to Cassilis Police Station at the end of 1862. He was a very capable police officer and was well liked in the village of Cassilis. Lucas was born in Ireland in 1837 (preferred to be called Luke), and arrived in Melbourne in 1857. After being transferred to Cassilis for some time, romanced blossomed between Luke, 27 and Mary Braggett 20, daughter of William Braggett and were married on the 6th January 1865.

Luke left the Police force and applied for a hotel licence as innkeeper at Curry Curryal(sic) creek and commenced life as an innkeeper in mid 1867.

In the mid 1870's Luke acquired a flock of sheep and with a pastoral interest, led to Luke's decision to become a full time grazier after 1881. I made the mistake of assuming Cam Armstrong was a descendant but a conversation with Cam I found this is not the case and is not related.

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: Nyma Cahlan and Sarah Ridner
Secretary: Talitha Sawley
Treasurer: Emma Douglas
Fundraising Officer: Libby Gear
Minds the first Thursday 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@tpz.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

Welcome back to the new school year! We are excited to welcome back students and staff, and in particular our new Kindergarten students and parents.

Starting school is always an anxious time for new students and parents. Rest assured that staff are always ready to help and provide advice and support.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The school aims to provide clear easy to read communicate with parents about coming events, school procedures and student achievements. Our formal methods of communication are our school newsletter "The Merriwa Ringer", produced each week by Merriwa Central School. We also use social media such as our Facebook page and school app Skoolbag. Parents find our app really useful send return sick notes directly to our school office. Parent can also find detailed information about school policies, student assessment, and an archive of parent letters on our school webpage. However when in doubt, don't hesitate to talk to a member of staff.

As usual I am always available to meet with parents. I move between our primary and secondary sites. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday I am based in secondary, and on Tuesday and Thursdays on the primary campus.

PRIMARY STAFF AND CLASS ORGANISATION

Primary class organisation may change over the next few weeks once student numbers are confirmed. We are running six classes K-6, Kindergarten (Miss Garbellini/Miss Higgins), Year 1 (Ms Barham), Year 2/3 (Mrs Hourn/Mrs Strachan), Year 3/4 (Miss Fleming) Year 4/5 (Miss Ticehurst). Year 5/6 (Mrs Morgan). We welcome back Mrs Sevil Instructional Leader support our infants students and teachers. New staff in the Library Miss Dunn and Mr McGrath in a full-time teacher relief role.

Primary Executive staff include Miss Narelle Smith Deputy Principal (Student Wellbeing), Mrs Megan Sevil Instructional Leader, Mrs Talia Morgan Assistant Principal (3-6), and Miss Emma Garbellini Assistant Principal (K-2).



Mr Jacob McGrath and Ms Julia Barham



Miss Isabelle Ticehurst and Miss Madeline Dunn

SECONDARY STAFF

We welcome Mr Shane Hall in the role of Head Teacher Secondary Studies. Mr Hall joins us with a wealth of executive experience from Dunedoo Central School. Miss Tara Jane takes on the Agriculture role and Ms Kristen Skewes Maths/ Science. Miss Ashleigh Golden will support students in our newly established secondary support class.



Coming Events

FEBRUARY	
Friday 5	Swimming Carnival - Year 3 to Year 12
MARCH	
Monday 8	Year 7 Peer Support Camp

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Congratulations to our students recognised for their achievements at the recent Australia Day ceremony. Harrison Amidy Awarded Young Citizen of the Year is an outstanding achievement by our student leader, and Abby Cooper awarded the Young Achiever of the Year. Student awards to the value of \$1000 were awarded to Olivia Maclean School Achievement Award and Liana Byfield the Creative Arts Excellence Award. Congratulations all students recognised for their success.



Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary

WELCOME

We are thrilled to welcome back all students, both new and existing, for another exciting and fun-filled year of learning! We can't wait to see what the year brings, with new teachers and new friends!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Kindergarten students have had a fabulous first week of school and are settling in beautifully to class and school routines. This week we have enjoyed reading books, counting, colouring, making friends and much more! Students are also looking wonderful and so grown up in their new school uniform. We would like to thank Mr Noonan for providing all Kindergarten students with hats on behalf of the school, and to our P and C for donating a school shirt to each student.





SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We are excited to be holding our 2021 school swimming carnival on Friday. Students will arrive at school in the morning and will then walk to the pool with teachers at 9.00am. Food will be available for purchase at the pool canteen throughout the day.



LABELLING BELONGINGS

As we begin the new school year, we ask that you please ensure your child's school belongings are clearly labelled with their name and surname. It is not uncommon for our Lost Property basket to quickly fill up with new school items at the beginning of the year.

Emma Garbellini
Relieving Infants Assistant Principal

Secondary

NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2021 the following vaccines will be offered:

YEARS	VACCINE
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV9) vaccine
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine
Years 10	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

Parent Information Kits that include an information sheet, consent form and privacy statement will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive

- return the completed consent form to their child's school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

To improve vaccination completion, students who return a signed vaccination consent form while in Year 7 and who miss vaccine doses at any clinic, will be opportunistically offered these vaccines at each clinic visit throughout 2021 (Year 7) and 2022 (Year 8).

Students who have a dose of HPV at their GP can complete the course in the school program if a signed consent form has been returned to school.

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

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic as a physical card. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

**Emma Piper
Girls Advisor**

CAREERS NEWS

Welcome back for another school year. This year careers will look a little different from previous years. There will not be face to face career classes but the career opportunities like work experience, mock interviews and short courses at TAFE, career related excursions and school-based traineeship opportunities will still be available for interested students so please contact me if you require any further information.

Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre are running a number of short courses. If you are interested in completing any of them please phone 02 6545 2562 or email reception@snrc.com.au

Courses available are:

- Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA), Monday March 15, 2021, 9.00am – 4.00pm - \$160
- Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG), Tuesday March 16 - 2021, 9.00am – 4.00pm

- \$115.00

- NSW Food Safety Supervisor, Tuesday March 2 - 9.00am – 5.00pm - \$165.00
- Barista, Friday March 5 - 9.00am – 5.00pm - \$120
- Forklift Training, TBA 9.00am – 5.00pm - \$825.00
- General Construction Induction (WHITE CARD), Friday February 12 - 9.00am – 4.00pm - \$130.00 Combined Traffic Controller and Implement TCP'S TBA 9.00am – 5.00pm (Both days) - \$350.00
- Work Safely at Heights TBA 9.00am – 5.00pm - \$172.00
- Working in Confined Spaces TBA 9.00am – 5.00pm (Both days) - \$292.00
- Traffic Management Plan (Developer) TBA 9.00am – 5.00pm (All 3 days) - \$625.00
- Cheese Making Workshop TBA 9.30am – 3.30pm - \$185.00

Automotive mechanical apprenticeship:

Ideally would suit a 2020 Year 12 student who has completed Cert II Automotive or a current Year 12 student who has completed 1 year of Automotive at TAFE. Position is at Gateshead but also operates as a mobile mechanic. If you are interested please send your resume to catherine.boukaseff@det.nsw.edu.au who will pass them onto the business concerned.

DEFENCE FORCE RECRUITING

This year the defence force will be focusing on opportunities that Army has presented to recruiting. These consist of:

- Administration Assistant
- Driver
- Warehouse Co-ordinator
- Information Systems Technician
- Communications Systems Operator
- Telecommunications Technician
- Military Police

These 7 roles have an entry education standard of passes in Year 10 Maths and English. The defence force can be called on 131 901.

If you require any further information then please contact me at school.

**Jane Hegarty
Careers Advisor**



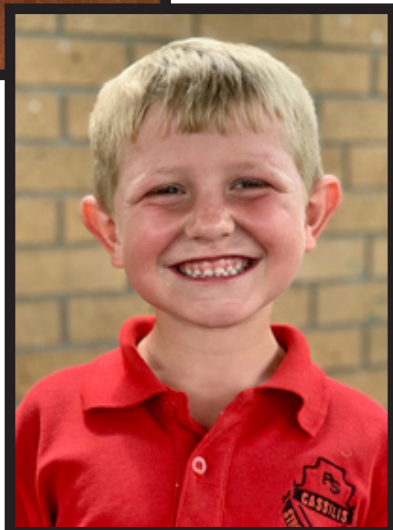
Cassilis Public School

WELCOME TO 2021!



It was absolutely wonderful to welcome both our returning students and our new students last Friday. They are a champion group and have settled back into the routine of school very well.

A special welcome to Levi, Digby and Tarsha who had their first day of 'big school' last week. We loved having your smiling faces join us.



DIDN'T THESE MAKE FABULOUS AND UNIQUE REPORT CARD COVERS!

Congratulations to our Cassilis students for their hard work and enthusiasm for learning in 2020. Thanks to the staff who supported the students by doing a couple of stitches to help get these masterpieces finished. The designs were the students own as well. The school looks forwards to continuing learning, focusing on the 'where to' for each student this year.





avoid something?) and the ABC's of Behaviour:

- A Antecedent (the trigger)
- B Behaviour (teach replacement behaviour)
- C Consequence (reinforce the desired behaviour)

Staff found the learning experience excellence and provided affirmation into the high-quality work that we already do in knowing, caring about and valuing each student and their needs already, building strong and positive relationships and also gave important information on how we can improve at Cassilis Public School.

WHAT WE DID IN OUR HOLIDAYS

Since returning to school, the students having been busy looking at photos, discussing and writing about their holidays. There seemed to be lots of valuable family time and time spent outdoors.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR STAFF

As an important part of your child's education, learning for the staff never stops. We are always reflecting and improving our knowledge and practices. On the last Thursday of Term 4, the school was fortunate to have Jenny Miles, Assistant Principal Learning and Support, conduct a full-day session on 'Classroom Management Fundamentals- Module: Responding to student behaviour.'

This module is the first of five that the staff will work through and focused on ensuring that the school meets the needs of all students. Staff learnt more about the Wellbeing Framework, Disability Standards, Behaviour Strategy, functions of behaviour (is to obtain something or



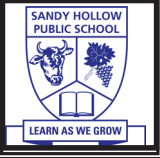
Katie Burgess
Principal

Merriwa Ringer



Digby told Mrs Cornish that daddy works on the tractor at home and collects the eggs.





Sandy Hollow Public School

2021 – WELCOME BACK



Welcome back to Sandy Hollow Public School for 2021. I hope you have all had a wonderful restful holiday break and have enjoyed time with your children and families over the summer.

This year we have some slight changes to staffing, and it is anticipated that these will stay in place for the remainder of the year.

Mrs Parker will be teaching 3/4/5/6, and is due to return to full duties 4 days per week this term. Ms Borg will teach the class on Wednesdays until Mrs Parker returns to 5 days per week. We are excited to welcome Mrs Parker back for this amount of time, and hope she is able to return to full time teaching in the near future.

Miss Cooper joins us again for 3 days per week on the infants class, and I will be teaching K/1/2 for three days as well (Wednesdays the class will have both Miss Cooper and myself until lunch time).

Ms Borg joins us in a Learning Support role each Friday, and Mrs Smith, as well as her normal School Administration Manager role, will be doing some Learning Support in the classrooms as well.

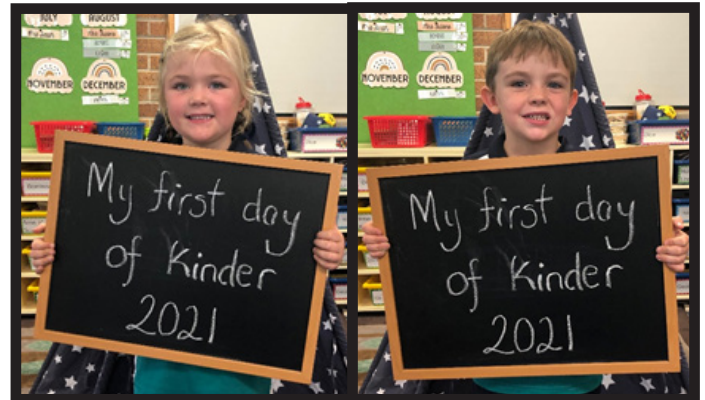
We welcome Mrs Tracy Main as an SLSO in the infants classroom 3 days per week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays) and Mrs Liz Smith will return on Fridays. These ladies are an invaluable help in the classroom, and their presence enables us to give more individualised support to the children in their early years of learning.

I look forward to a productive year with your children,

Mrs Jane Fuiono

KINDERGARTEN START SCHOOL

Our Kindergarten students started school on Monday, February 1, and we were excited to welcome Aubree, Bohdee, Knox, Lucas and Leo. We would also like to welcome their families into our school community. Please make these new parents feel welcome, as it can be a stressful time for them as well as their children, starting 'big school' for the first time. I am sure the students and their families will have a wonderful time at Sandy Hollow Public School.



Jane Fuiono
Relieving Principal



St Joseph's Primary School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

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

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

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

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

We welcomed our new Kindergarten students to St Joseph's: Paddy, Darcy, Mia, Ahana, Arman, Bradley, Claire, Jayden and Ruby. The smiles on your faces this week have brought a new sense of joy to our school!

It is noteworthy that Kindergarten is the largest class and group since last year's Year 6 cohort. This is hopefully a pleasing sign for St Joseph's.

We also welcome Charlotte, who joins us this year in Year Four. We sincerely hope you enjoy your time with us.

SUCCESSFUL FOUNDATIONS

This year, for the first time, students in Kindergarten will be given the opportunity to expand their creative thinking, social and emotional skills via play-based learning with the Successful Foundations program, set up by the Catholic Schools Office. Last Friday, Mrs Jackson and Miss

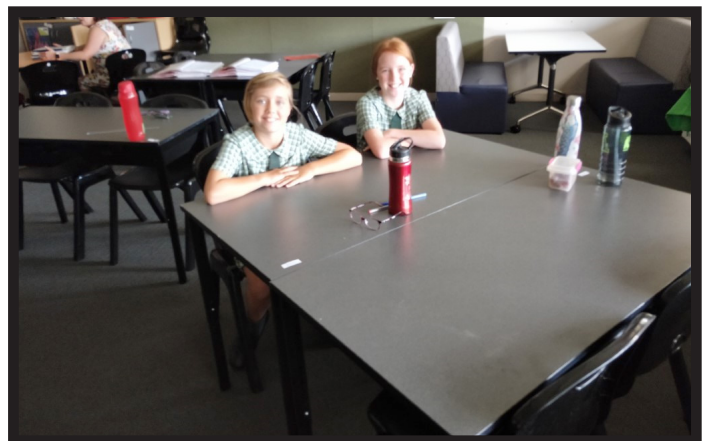
Brazier attended a seminar in Newcastle about "provocations for learning", something which will be a major feature of the program.

If you are able to walk into a Kindergarten classroom in the first hour of each day, you will see that our children are happily engaging in play, which is a fantastic way to engage students in team work, creative and critical thinking, conversation and dialogue with the classmates and it is an excellent method of assessment for our teachers.

I am personally looking forward to the great gains which our Kindergarten students will make because of this project.

NEW FURNITURE

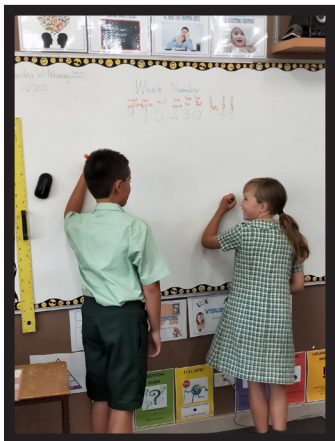
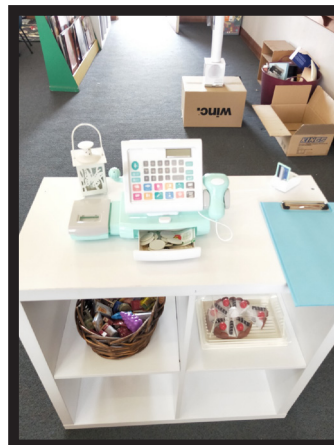
We were able to purchase two classrooms worth of furniture over the holidays to give the classrooms a fresh look going into the new school year. The new furniture has been very welcomed by all staff and students. The "Happy Days" Booths have been a huge drawcard!



OLD FURNITURE

We are currently trying to sell some of our old furniture to the Merriwa community. Anyone who wishes to come and purchase any of the old desks, tables and chairs, please contact Mr Borg at the Office.

- Large Table - \$15.00
- Small Desk - \$10.00
- Cushioned Chair - \$10.00
- Chairs - \$5.00



PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE

We have also been fortunate enough over the holidays to have Welderup construct our new playground structure. It is almost completed and it is hoped that it will be completed by the end of Week Three. We cannot wait to have students play under the shade and utilise the new structure.

STAFFING

We welcome Mrs Mellissa Jackson to the school as our Kindergarten Teacher (0.3), Lead Teacher (0.5) and Pedagogical Mentor (0.2). We also welcome back, with open arms, Mrs Bianca Bradshaw, who is back on our Library class.

Our staff for the year is as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs Mellissa Jackson / Miss Georgia Brazier

Stage One: Miss Sammie Love

Stage Two: Miss Naomi Rodwell

Stage Three: Mrs Anne Marie Peebles / Mr Ashley Borg

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Tanya Ninness

Library: Mrs Bianca Bradshaw (Tuesdays)

Pedagogical Mentor / Lead Teacher: Mrs Mellissa Jackson (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Fortnightly Thursdays)

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

Librarian Assistant and Pastoral Care Worker: Mrs Melissa Collins

Groundsperson: Mrs Karin Brazier

Cleaner: Ms Rebecca Wardman

COMMUNICATION

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

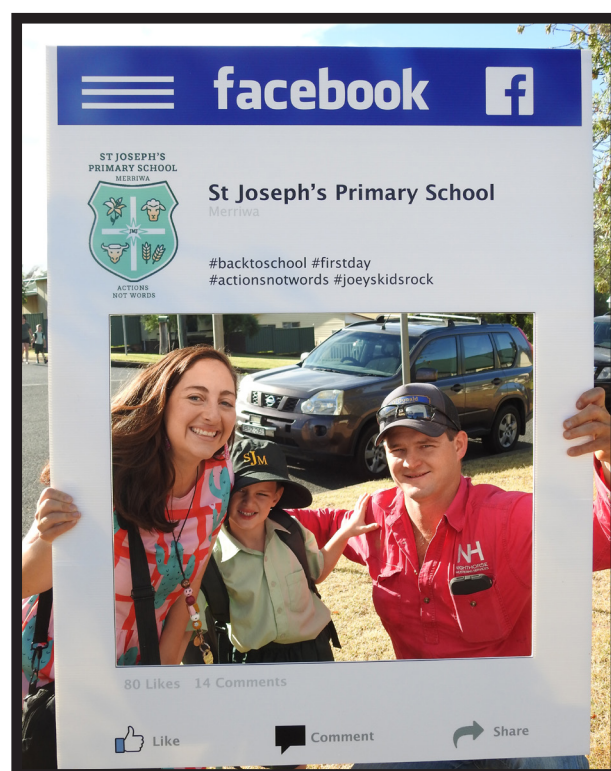
<https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsmerriwa/>

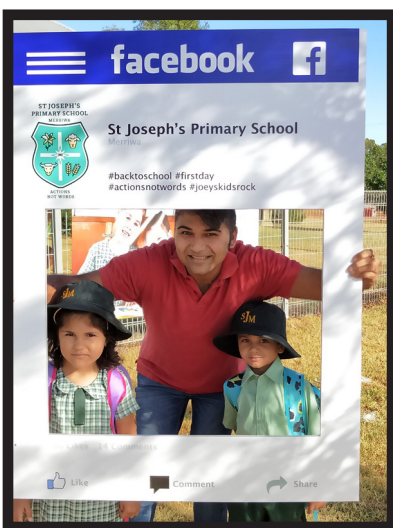
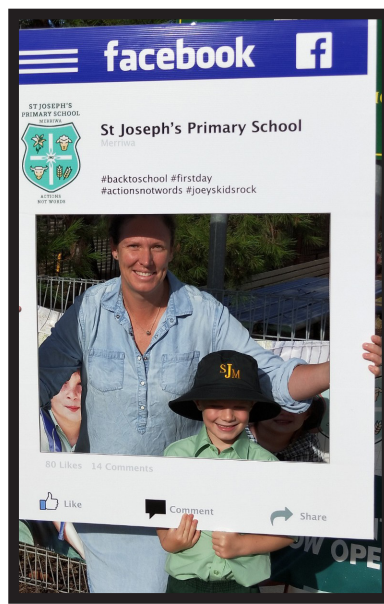
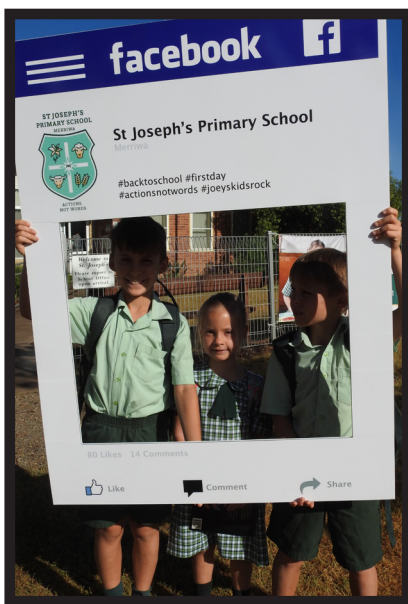
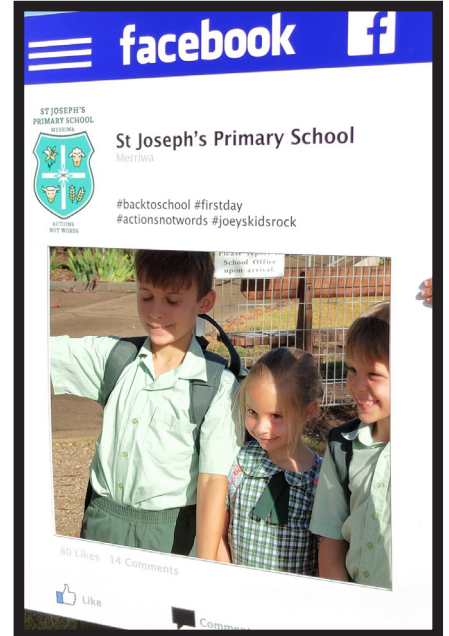
Our newsletters remain the primary source of communication. These will continue on a fortnightly basis via email and the Compass app. Please take the time to read each newsletter to avoid missing key information.

KINDERGARTEN START THEIR JOURNEY

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

It was fantastic to welcome our new Kindergarten families to the school on Tuesday February 2 with a wonderful morning tea, organised by the teachers and parents of Year One students. I would like to personally thank all the staff and parents who organised morning tea for our Kindergarten parents and generously gave up their time to clean up afterwards.





COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

Mrs Hunt is working on enabling access to COMPASS, our online management tool, to families who are unable to currently access. You should receive a note home about this shortly. All of our notes, communication and calendars are on Compass, so it is imperative that everyone accesses it as soon as possible.

OFFICE ENTRANCE

At St Joseph's we understand and appreciate that parents from time to time have very important messages to personally deliver to their children and sometimes this can be during class time.

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

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

COVID SAFE PRACTICES

We will continue to ensure that COVID Safe Practices continue within the school, as per the note placed on Compass and emailed to Kindergarten families last week.

The school will be regularly cleaned and disinfected, sanitiser will be made available in each classroom and we ask that any student that presents with flu-like symptoms stay home and get tested as per the NSW Health guidelines.

If you have any questions, please see Mr Borg.

ENROLMENTS



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

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

February 8 – Opening School Mass / Commissioning of Staff and Student Leaders (9:15am)

February 15 – Upper Hunter Swimming Carnival (Selected students) – Denman Swimming Pool School

February 21 – Working Bee 9am – 11am

February 23 – Parent Information Night

February 26 – PUPIL FREE DAY – Visible Wellbeing

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

God Bless.

Mr Ashley Borg
Principal

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





Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

REFLECTION - EPIPHANY 6 – Mark 1:29-39

Like most Jewish men Simon (Peter) was married although his wife is never mentioned. His mother-in-law lives in his home. Since Jewish women married young, in their early teens, this woman need not be very old, perhaps in her thirties or forties.

The Gospel makes a contrast between the religious institutions of the synagogue and later the Temple, and the more domestic scene of the house.

Jesus' ministry frequently happens within the house. Jesus breaks through a number of religious taboos in touching a woman and in touching a person who was sick. These actions would immediately make him ritually unclean. But Jesus shows such taboos have no place in the new household that he is forming around him.

Following a very busy evening of healing and exorcisms Jesus leaves Simon's house to pray. Simon goes in search of him. Perhaps he liked the idea of the healer residing in his home. Who knows what enterprise this could lead to. But Jesus is not to be confined to one home, to one village. He has a mission that is bigger than Simon's current perception. Poor Simon! He wants a domesticated Jesus within his grasp, but Jesus refuses to be so limited.

Religious institutions can try to domesticate Jesus; sometimes I can even try to do this, to have a Jesus I can understand and be comfortable with. What about you? Do you still cling to 'good old plastic Jesus' or has Jesus pushed your boundaries? (From "Sundays Under the Southern Cross" by Mary Coloe PBVM)

Love and blessings, from Rev Pat (who has now retired).

DIARY DATES

9.00am - Sundays church – Eucharist second and fourth Sundays, Morning Prayer first and third Sundays

10.00am - Friday Eucharist from Friday February 5 - second and fourth Fridays.

11.00am Extended Eucharist at Hostel and MPS.

Rev Pat Kirkby

Merriwa Rotary

NSW VRA

This past weekend, Rotary Merriwa has assisted the Merriwa Volunteer Rescue Association by being on hand to provide barbecued food for the participants in the Scone to Merriwa fundraiser.

THE ANGUS PEEBLES SCHOLARSHIP

We await the result of this award. This year it is being, once again, run in conjunction with the Merriwa District Education Foundation. Rotary Merriwa established our bursary thirty years ago, with the aim of assisting students going on to further studies.

We hope to be able to reveal the name of this year's awardee in next week's Ringer and would be delighted to welcome the awardee, as a guest, to our club, when this is possible.

Rotary Merriwa funds the scholar with a donation of \$2,000.00 towards their expenses.

MHERV - EARLY NOTICE

The Men's' Health Education Rotary Van will be in MERRIWA on MAY 24th.

FREE health checks will be given by a registered nurse, Robert Woolley, who provides blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar tests.

Since MHERV commenced testing in 2017, over 300 participants have been referred on for URGENT medical attention, no doubt saving many lives.

More information will be given as the day draws closer.

More exciting and valuable projects involving Rotary Merriwa are yet to be revealed.

Keep watching!

Mark Smith

Ringer Deadline!

Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the

Merriwa Ringer

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

Upper Hunter Shire Council

ROAD CLOSURE – MERRIWA TO WILLOW TREE ROAD

The MR358 Merriwa to Willow Tree road (also known as Coulson's Creek Road) has been closed to all vehicles due to the current risk of landslip in some sections, with signs of movement including cracking observed in both lanes.

The closure has been undertaken to ensure the safety of road users, based on geo-technical advice.

The alternative route for motorists travelling between Merriwa and Willow Tree is via the New England Highway and Scone/Bunnan Road with expected additional travel time being approximately 30 minutes (44 kilometres).

It is not known how long the road will be closed for.

BACKGROUND AND PLANNING

Council has apologised that the road construction undertaken in 2019 has not met specifications, requiring the road to be redesigned and reconstructed.

Upper Hunter Shire Council staff have been undertaking daily visual inspection, with more detailed inspections by engineers weekly and geotechnical specialists on site monthly.

Council has invited specialist road design consultants to tender for the design and specifications to rebuild 3km of MR358 to B-double capacity. Council will invite tenders early to mid 2021 for the reconstruction of the road. A two year construction period is anticipated following the award of contract.

The process to reconstruct the road is being managed by a Project Control Group which includes Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) staff, Public Works Advisory, Infrastructure New South Wales (INSW) and Council staff.

WARBIRDS ON THE WAY

Here's the opportunity to experience aviation from a bygone era, a historic jet fighter plane arrives at Scone Regional Airport on Saturday February 20, to be restored by volunteers and become part of the Warbird Visitor Attraction.

The entire fighter plane – the Mirage - will be a sight to see as it heads up the New England Highway on the back of a truck escorted by police and due to arrive at 6.00am.

Come along to see the plane arrive, get an up close look at it, take some photos and make some memories. From 8.00am another warbird will be taking to the skies for a spectacular aerial display. There will also be a barbecue breakfast and drinks available to purchase at the Scone Aero Club as well as Joy Flights for purchase. The event is FREE to attend but bookings are essential.

We have some exciting news waiting in the wings, for now though, it's time to gain an appreciation for the breathtaking Warbirds, the skills of their pilots especially during wartime conditions and the incredible history and connection to this era our region has.

Tickets are FREE but limited, please book early to avoid disappointment: <https://www.trybooking.com/BOJNG>

POSITIONS VACANT FIELD OFFICER - WATER AND SEWER

Permanent Full Time (9 Day Fortnight), Scone

Salary: \$937.70 - \$1050.20 (plus allowances) per 38 hr week

The Field Officer – Water & Sewer will undertake general labouring and other duties as directed in the Water and Sewer area, ensuring that all works are carried out in a safe, timely, efficient and effective manner within budget, whilst projecting and promoting the image of Council as both efficient and courteous.

Applications close 4.00pm on Monday February 15, 2021

Enquiries: Andrew Brown, Engineer - Water and Sewer Distribution on 02 6540 1326.

ADMINISTRATION TRAINEE INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Full Time - 2 year fixed term contract, Scone

Salary: \$338.60 - \$688.80 per 35 hour week

The Administration Trainee – Scone will assist the Infrastructure Support Officer to provide quality customer service and administration support whilst developing knowledge, skills and abilities through the completion of Certificate III in Business Administration.

Applications close 4.00pm on Monday February 15, 2021.

Enquiries: Peyton Wilks, HR Trainee on 02 6540 1120

Apply online: upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

UPPER HUNTER SHIRE AUSTRALIA DAY 2021 AWARDS

Music, barbecues, citizenship oaths, stories, and splashing around at the pools marked Australia Day 2021 in the Upper Hunter Shire.

Congratulations to all the outstanding residents recognised with Upper Hunter Shire Australia Day awards.

The Aberdeen and Scone Australia Day Ceremony – which includes the presentation of the overall Citizen and Young Citizen awards, as well as the citizenship ceremony can be viewed [HERE](#) (as it was invitation-only due to COVID-19 restrictions).

Australia Day Ambassador in Merriwa was country music star Gina Jeffries, patron of the Australian Leukaemia Foundation and founder of the charity event Walk of Life, shared her inspiring story.

Upper Hunter Shire Citizen of the Year 2021 – Desmond (Uncle Des) Earle Collison

Upper Hunter Shire Young Citizen of the Year 2021 – Connor Sullivan

MERRIWA DISTRICT AWARDS

- **Citizen of the Year** - Patricia Kirkby
- **Young Citizen of the Year** - Harrison Amidy
- **Achiever of the Year** - Chris Mitchell
- **Young Achiever of the Year** - Abby Cooper
- **Sustainability in Business** - Sutton's Livestock
- **Environmental Achievement** - John and Carol Richard
- **Community Group of the Year** - Merriwa Rural Fire Service

STUDENT AWARDS

Winners of the School Achievement and Creative Arts Excellence Awards each receive a \$1,000 cheque from Council to go towards tertiary study in their chosen category.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- Olivia McLean Merriwa Central School
- Ruby Wong Scone Grammar School

CREATIVE ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- Liana Byfield Merriwa Central School
- Kira Dixon St Joseph's High School

Daele Healy



Australia Day Awards

The Merriwa Ringer would like to congratulate all winners and nominees of the Australia Day Awards for 2021.



Australia Day Awards



Australia Day Awards



Community Notice Board

Fund Raising for Miranda Boland

**SPECIAL RAFFLE - FEBRUARY 13
SAVE THE DATE**

A fundraiser "Raffle" has been organised in aid of Miranda Boland. It will be held at the Merriwa Sports Club on February 13. Tickets on sale from 4.00pm with a 7.00pm draw.

This fundraiser has come together on its own merit. The support of businesses and locals is outstanding.

Come along to the raffles to see just what this community spirit can do.

Miranda Boland, you are indeed a productive and loved member of this community. We all wish you well on your recovery Miranda.



Marlene Rogers

Cassilis DDG AGM



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is to be held:

When: Monday March 1

Where: Cassilis Public School

Time: 7.00 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend.

RSVP Sarah Witton on 0408 322 470 or via email on cassilisdistrictdevelopment@gmail.com

Jane Hegarty

Merriwa Hospital Auxiliary

Welcome to a new year. Wishing our community a healthy 2021. Our Auxiliary would welcome members and the community to attend our first meeting of the year on Friday February 19, 2021 at the Merriwa RSL Club at 2.00pm.

On the agenda will be fundraising ideas for the year and up to date information on Auxiliaries and our Merriwa MPS.

Come and join us for the meeting. Membership is \$5.00 if you wish to be a part of keeping our MPS and staff abreast of new and modern equipment for the benefit of our community. We have a wonderful hospital which WE have to keep open, one day it could be one of us that needs that bed. See you on Friday February 19 at 2.00pm.

Elaine Sparrow

Merriwa Senior Citizens Association

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 23 commencing at 11.30am in the Squatter's room of the club.

Mary O'Neill

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch

Merriwa RSL Sub Branch will have their AGM on Sunday February commencing at 11.30am.

All members cordily invited to attend.

Mary O'Neill

Congratulations

I would like to take a moment to congratulate all that worked together on the Australia Day Awards held at the Merriwa Sports Club. You did a wonderful job yet again.

Hylt Cronin

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

Community Notice Board

To all my friends in the community of Merriwa

Thank you to all for your vote in the Australia Day function held at Merriwa Sports Club. The Upper Hunter Shire and Australia Day committee had everything organised and in hand including lunch for everyone (a sausage sandwich and a lamington). It was a truly wonderful day, and enjoyed by us all.

Gina Jeffrys was a wonderful ambassador, and didn't she and her husband harmonise well when they sang together? It was lovely listening to them.

I made a very poor speech, but I want you all to know that I was honoured and humbled by your selection. I was sure Rob Tindall would win. He has done so much to contribute to this community, but as someone said, his time will come. I have done my best to avoid nomination over the years, but Julia Hardy made it very hard for me to refuse this year. She was like a terrier on my trail. Thank you for all voting for me. What a marvellous honour!

Pat Kirkby

**MUSWELLBROOK
PHYSIE FUN DAY..**
Denman: Sunday 31st Jan 2021
Anglican Church Hall
Muswellbrook: Saturday 6th Feb 2021
St James Primary School Hall
Registration opens at 9:30am activities
from 10am-12pm

FREE ACTIVITIES..
Displays, Dancing, Fitness,
Craft, Cookie Decorating and
more

Congratulations



Congratulations to Lachlan Vaughan on his recent graduation from Newcastle University with a Bachelor in Teaching (HPE) with honours on December 16, 2020.

Marcus Vaughan

TOY BOX TERM 1 CALENDAR 2021
Children's Mobile Playgroup 0-5 years of age

February 2021

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	1st McCullys Gap	2nd Wybong	3rd Gundy	4th Hebden	5th Cassilis
2	8th Jerrys Plains	9th Ellerston	10th Bunnan	11th Settlement	12th Wingen
3	15th McCullys Gap	16th Wybong	17th Gundy	18th Hebden	19th Cassilis
4	22nd Jerrys Plains	23rd Ellerston	24th Bunnan	25th Settlement	26th Wingen

March 2021

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5	1st McCullys Gap	2nd Wybong	3rd Gundy	4th Hebden	5th Cassilis
6	8th Jerrys Plains	9th Ellerston	10th Bunnan	11th Settlement	12th Wingen
7	15th McCullys Gap	16th Wybong	17th Gundy	18th Hebden	19th Cassilis
8	22nd Jerrys Plains	23rd Ellerston	24th Bunnan	25th Settlement	26th Wingen
9	29th McCullys Gap	30th Wybong	31st Gundy	1st Hebden	PUBLIC HOLIDAY

DON'T COMPARE your child to others.
There's no comparison between the sun and the moon. They shine when it's their time.

9.30 am- 12 noon
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facebook- Toybox Uhcs

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Phone: 02 542 3555 • www.uhcs.org.au



WEEKLY SOCIAL & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



MERRIWA, MURRURUNDI & SCONE

Local youth are welcome to participate in weekly supervised social and recreational activities run by Upper Hunter Shire Council Youth Services.

\$5 MEMBERSHIP FEE

**\$1 PER VISIT
(INCLUDES SNACK)**

FOLLOW YOUR LOCAL YOUTH CENTRE FOR THE LATEST EVENTS AND INFORMATION

-  **Instagram**
@uhsc_youth
-  **Facebook**
@MerriwaYouth
@MurrurundiYouthCentre
@sconejuvencentre
@upperhunter.shirecouncil

MERRIWA
33 Bow St, Merriwa
For 12-17 year olds
Ph: 0428 971 208
Fri: 4:00pm-7:30pm

MURRURUNDI
4 Little St, Murrurundi
For 10-17 year olds.
Ph: 0438 437 082
Tue: Ages 10-11: 5.00pm - 7.30pm
Fri: Ages 12-17: 5.00pm - 7.30pm

SCONE
105 Susan St, Scone
For 12-17 year olds
Ph: 0417 287 540
Tue: 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Fri: 3.30pm - 7.30pm

For further information or to download permission notes, visit:
upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

General enquiries
Mary Spora, Youth Services Supervisor
Ph: 6540 1169 • Mob: 0439 090 891





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Businesses



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Hunter

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AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK ADVICE
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

UPPER HUNTER offices

Merriwa 6548 2175 (Mon & Tues 9 - 4pm, Wed 9 - 3pm)

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

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

Direct Local Contacts for:

DISTRICT VET 0427 322311

BIOSECURITY - PEST ANIMALS 0429 722944

For more information on our range of services visit our website

hunter.ils.nsw.gov.au



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🌐 www.newsxpress.com.au

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Secretary/Treasurer:
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Servicing the Merriwa community since 1977

CEF Merriwa

President Ivan Gant
Secretary Hannah Waters
Treasurer Jane Hegarty

Email
cefmerriwa@gmail.com

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Fax: 6542 5297

100 BETTINGTON STREET
MERRIWA NSW 2329
BY APPOINTMENT
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Email: office@cgbllaw.com.au Web: www.cgbllaw.com.au

MERRIWA SURGERY
DR EMAD JASEM

OPENING HOURS
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturday by arrangement

For appointments
6548 2305

Payment is required at time of consultation


Can Assist
CANCER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Merriwa Can Assist

Financial support to locals facing hardship due to a Cancer diagnosis.

Phone Marlene Rogers
1300 226 277

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Merriwa PO, 82 Bettington Street
6548 2042


Merriwa Pharmacy

Opening Hours

Monday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12.00pm

Phone 6548 2213


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UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

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Treasurer: Leanne Hunt on 0487 761 253
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Short Bible Study

Contact: **0429 996 769**

Rev'd Pat Kirkby - Local Priest


St Davids Uniting Church
Vennacher Street Merriwa

Service Times
1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 11.00am
3rd Sunday at 6.00pm

Peter Campbell - 6548 5126


Catholic Parish Merriwa & Cassilis

WEEKEND MASSES
St Anne's Merriwa
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am
St Joseph's Cassilis
2nd & 4th Sunday - 10.00am

Parish Priest - **6548 2086**
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Churches


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Principal - Ashley Borg
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Cassilis Public School



Principal: Mrs Katie Burgess

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

Schools


Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre
Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre


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For children 2 - 5 years

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159 Bettington Street

Visitors and new members are always welcome

Enquiries to:
President: Penelope Fenley
Phone: 6548 3060
Email: penelopecwa@inet.net.au
Secretary: Kim Clydsdale
Phone: 6548 2558
Email: kmclydsdale@gmail.com

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Merriwa
 Cnr Brisbane and MacKenzie Streets
Denman
 51 – 53 Ogilvie Street
 For appointments please phone 6532 5013

MERRIWA & DISTRICT
LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE
2020/21 starts Oct 12!
 Tots (3 & 4 yrs) to u/17 yrs
Mondays 5.30 to 6.30ish
 at Merriwa No. 2 Oval
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New Members Welcome
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 Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Two Hours and Free raffles
 Saturday - **7.45pm** Monster raffles and members' badge draw
 Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members' badge draw.
The Sporties Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228
 Dine in or Take Away. Banquets and Function catering available.
 Lunch Specials
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 Dinner: Tuesday to Sunday

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7.00pm for 7.30pm
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Merriwa Magpies

 Rugby League Football Club
Merriwa Rugby League Football Club
 President: Ben Robins
 Vice President: David Martin
 Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder
 Treasurer/Publicity Officer: Jessyca Morgan

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 Find us on Facebook
President: Jason Bear
 Day - Night Competitions
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2021 Merriwa Springtime Show
 Established 1908
 17 to 19th September!
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 Tyler Austin - President
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Clare Martin President 6548 2201
De Patterson Secretary 0416 194 501
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 Rally days every 2nd Sunday of month from February to October



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Season starts Term 4
Make a SPLASH!
Merriwa Swimming Club
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
Magpies
President Andrew Constable
Secretary Fiona Morgan
Treasurer Kellie Porter
 All enquires to the secretary 0418417186
 fionamorgan6@bigpond.com



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



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



MERRIWA

FESTIVAL of the FLEECES

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



MERRIWA DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
 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

Merriwa Sports Club

HONKI HAUS
RESTAURANT

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

Honki Haus now doing lunch time specials on a weekend. Come on in for a delicious meal, whether it's for lunch or dinner.

Honki Haus Restaurant closed Mondays and Tuesday. Open for dinner Wednesday to Saturday 4.30pm to 8.00pm. Sunday dinners 4.30pm to 7.00pm. Open for lunch Saturday and Sunday 12noon to 2.00pm.

For bookings and take away – 0460 817 606

SATURDAY NIGHT RAFFLES

February 6, tickets on sale from 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start.

15 meat and veg trays, supporting local business, Merriwa IGA and Liquor and Max's Country Cuts.

Members' Badge Draw begins this week, starting at \$250.00! Must be there to win it.

CLUBS OPENING HOURS

Mondays 3.30pm till 6.00pm
Tuesday 3.30pm till 8.30pm
Wednesday 3.30pm till 8.00pm
Thursday 3.30pm till 8.00pm
Fridays 3.30pm till 8.30pm
Saturdays 12.00pm till 8.30pm
Sundays 3.00pm till 8.00pm.

MIRANDA BOLAND FUNDRAISER

In conjunction with CanAssist, the Merriwa Sports Club will be hosting the fundraiser for Miranda Boland on Saturday February 13. Come along to support local girl, Miranda, on her road to recovery. Lots of amazing prizes up for grabs.

BOWLS AND GOLF GROUNDS

Our bowling and golfing areas are looking

Elders
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STUDIO-STYLE ACCOMODATION
self contained in central location
1 bedroom with queen bed, double sofa-bed separate (on request), full kitchen and facilities, bathroom with laundry facilities, living room, smart tv, wi-fi, air conditioning

BOOK THROUGH **AIRBNB** Megan 0400 653446
megan@rmproperty.net

 @thetownhousemerriwa   Find us on Facebook

absolutely amazing, why not come in for a social game of lawn bowls or golf? Contact the Sports Club on 6548 2028 or Brendan Cowell on 0427 027 891 for more information or bookings.

COVID 19 UPDATE

As everyone is aware, COVID restrictions apply

when in the club. Everyone is required to sign in upon entry using the Services NSW site. Please do not be offended if you are asked to sit down inside while drinking alcohol or when we reach our capacity and may be required to move to another area of the club.

Brendan Cowell



Ringer Deadline!
Please remember to place your articles and advertisements into the Merriwa Ringer
 by Mondays, at 12.00 noon

JTS REALTY
A Family Business

Shop 1/17 Bridge Street
 Muswellbrook NSW 2333 Ph: 6541 5331
 jtsrealty@rslcom.net.au Fax: 6541 0330
 www.jtsrealty.com.au

1087 Cullingral Road, Merriwa

\$185,000.00



Fronting the Merriwa River and only 10 minutes to town, this is an ideal spot to build your dream home. The block is 12 acres with a dwelling entitlement. Power and phone are both available at the boundary. The property is fully fenced and is quality soil, perfect for growing vegies and planting some fruit trees. Swim and fish in the river, have a pony, this block offers a fantastic lifestyle.

Lot 18 Cullingral Road, Merriwa

\$240,000.00

Sealed road to access only 10kms from Merriwa, then 650m to boundary, this rare find of 32 acres so close to town has stock proof fencing with two new boundary fences. It is in 1 paddock with a large dam and over 300m of frontage to the Merriwa River. Some beautiful areas of trees and glorious views of surrounding mountains, a beautiful piece of land with a mix of deep mulching soils to lighter country, ready for someone to create their own special property. There are beautiful areas to build a weekend cabin and fantastic water holes for fishing, swimming or rowing a canoe. There is mobile service with power on the neighbouring property, approx. 200m to boundary and landline phone also 200m to boundary.



NOTE: There is NO dwelling entitlement.

VIEW AT www.jtsrealty.com.au

Little Athletics

Little Athletics is back for the new year, but we are unfortunately winding down our season with only four training sessions to go. So make sure you don't miss out on the fun, don't miss any of our remaining Monday nights.

GOOD LUCK AUBREE

This weekend we have Aubree Oldham traveling to Maitland to represent Merriwa Little Athletics Club at the Regional Championships. She will be competing in the Girls U/9 100mtr sprint, 60mtr hurdles, long jump and discus. She has been training hard through the holidays and I am excited to see how she goes. Good luck and have fun Aubree.

AWARDS FOR 14/12/20

- Emily Purcell for her positive attitude and enthusiasm for Long jump
- Ashleigh Keane for her brilliant shotput throws
- Joy Magnus for her positive energy and power in sprints
- Lilly Cowan for great effort in shotput and sprints
- William Sparrow for nailing his "take offs" and "landings" in long jump
- Brayson Coles for outstanding effort in sprints and sensational 200m
- Delcie Sparrow for being the cutest BBQ assistant ever.

See you all Monday night 5.30pm.



Belinda Keane

Business

RM Property & Livestock



The long anticipated relaunch of the Hunter Branch Sale come to fruition

this year, in a new format. The challenges of COVID-19 and the unpredictability of ever-changing restrictions brought about an opportunity to hold the sale in a different manner than before. It was decided that the sale be conducted online, using the Auctions Plus platform. Hunter Branch decided to entrust the agents of RM Property and Livestock to run this event, beginning on Wednesday January 13 and running until midday Saturday January 16, when the timer was turned on. The sale ran for a further 27 minutes before it timed out and the hammer fell.

Taking the Horse Sale to an online platform meant that vendors could offer horses from all parts of Australia. 40 final lots went under the hammer when the sale commenced, with 25 selling online and 2 selling after the sale's end. Over 750 registered bidders connected with the sale, hailing from every state and territory in Australia. In the lead up to the sale and including the days over which the sale was run, the number of views made to the catalogue through Auctions Plus alone surpassed 6,500. Throughout the sale, there were 68 active bidders.

The highest priced horse was Shadygum Sway, a 3-year-old ridden filly, which sold for \$11,500 on account of Jade Kelly (Cundumbul, NSW). She found her new home with Nicole Neale in Portland, NSW. The highest priced ridden gelding was Bobadil Versace, a 14-year-old Acres Destiny son selling for \$11,000 on account of RM Moore (Merriwa, NSW), to Paul Ryan (Mitchell's Flat, NSW). The highest price for a led horse was a gelding, Rosebrook Intrigue, a son of Bonlac Jigaloo for \$5,250 on account of Brandon Parkinson (Muswellbrook, NSW) to Saul & Son (Quirindi, NSW). The highest priced colt or stallion was a yearling colt by Con Man, selling for \$8,000 on account of AW & CJ Smith (Tamworth, NSW), to Hurley Grazing in QLD.

The sale grossed \$148,000 with the average being \$5,480.

Megan Moore

Merriwa Ringer

Country Education Foundation of Merriwa in conjunction with Merriwa Rotary, Merriwa Welcoming Centre and the Men's Shed present the 2021 grant recipients

George Rogers

George is in his final year at the University of New England in Armidale. With a Bachelor of Agriculture and Diploma of Business, George is looking forward to implementing his knowledge within our local farming community. He recognises the importance of shifting how agriculture can better serve and respond to the land, and how he can be more attune in responding to its changing climate. George is looking forward to completing his bachelor's degree and continuing to adapt and explore the potential of agricultural practices in Merriwa.



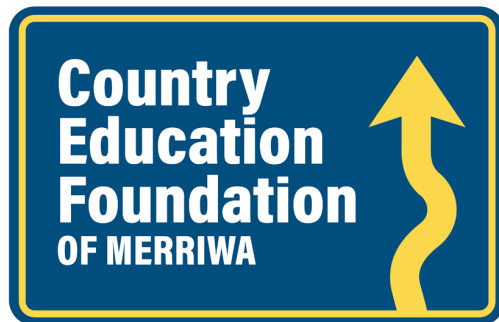
Libbie Towell

Libbie graduated high school in 2020 and is looking forward to commencing her first year of primary teaching at the University of New England in Armidale. From her time in high school, Libbie witnessed the value of working with children during work experience. This has inspired her to pursue a career that could affect and enable the development of our younger minds. Libbie has also expressed interest in returning to a rural area after she has completed her degree - perhaps even working as remotely as Bourke. As a driven and hardworking individual, Libbie is motivated by the sense of community rural towns foster and can be seen in her contribution to the Merriwa community as she continues to work locally before leaving for her first trimester.



Jake Barry

Jake is in his third year of a Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) working at Max's Country Cuts. Jake envisions that he will one day own his own butcher's shop. He is hoping to continue further study at TAFE in business, to work towards his goal. Jake recognises the significance a range of other industries and skills provide for his role as a butcher and hopes to continue to build and develop these industry connections and knowledge for the benefit of his future business.



Jackson Keane

Jackson is eager to begin a Bachelor of Education (Technology and Applied Studies) at the University of Newcastle. As a recent high school graduate, Jackson has observed the capacity teachers have to ensure all learners are included and supported in the classroom – giving a voice to all. This inclusive focus is a testament to Jackson's determination for his chosen career pathway, as well as his time spent coaching Little Athletics and as captain of ROAR. Jackson's vision for how he as a teacher can contribute to the lives of students is evidence of his sense of community and care for a diversity of people and their experiences.



Chloe English

From careers workshops in Year 11, Chloe has seen the value of working with people and facilitating their social and physical development. This has led her to Occupational Therapy as her choice for further education so as she too can contribute to the success of others. She has communicated that her pursuit of further education is essential for her personal development and is indicative of how hardworking and dedicated Chloe is to this next stage of her life. Chloe is looking forward to commencing her Occupational Therapy at Charles Sturt University in Port Macquarie, and potentially specialising in speech pathology and later working in larger city centres.



Country Education Foundation of Merriwa

Contact Information

Email: cefmerriwa@gmail.com

Facebook: [@CEFMerriwa](https://www.facebook.com/CEFMerriwa)

FUNDRAISER FOR
**MIRANDA
BOLAND**

MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB
FEBRUARY 13TH, 7PM DRAW
TICKETS ON SALE FROM 4PM



FEBRUARY
13TH
7PM

MCS in touch with our community



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ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS

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