

# MERRIWA Ringer

FREE

Issue 2  
Thursday February 11, 2021

WHAT'S INSIDE

## Aubree set for State Athletics

Abig congratulations to Aubree for her amazing effort at Regional Championships on the weekend. Aubree and her family travelled down to Maitland to complete against the best of our region.

*Continues page 27*



**Pest Alert**  
Termite Solutions



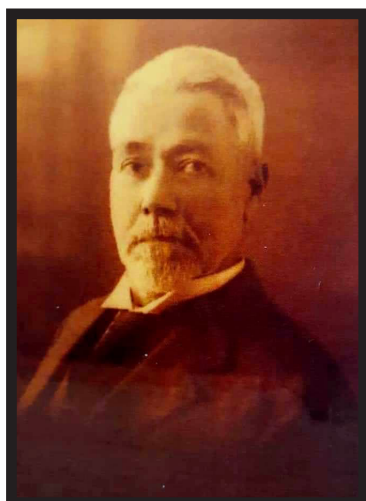
Did you know that the recent rain can cause higher Termite activity! Have you had your House Inspected?

☎ 0439 464 966

# A Walk Down Memory Lane

WITH JAMES CONSTABLE

JOHN WATT HUMPHRIES



Mr John Humphries joined the staff of M Campbell in 1864, then a lad of 17, when the store was in Sydney street Muswellbrook, on the site where the BP Subway Service station now stands. He worked his way into positions of trust and responsibility. It was identified early that the site was flood prone and a site was purchased in 1869, a building erected and the business opened there in 1871. Mr Humphries was put in charge of the grocery section and in 1877, when Mr Campbell went to England, Humphries was put in charge of affairs as manager.

It was around this time that Mr Malcolm Campbell is thought to have taken a lesser interest in the active management of the business. John Watt Humphries married Jessica Crockett, younger sister of Malcolm Campbell's wife Isabella in May 1879.

In 1888, a new home "Atherstone" was built high on the hill in Sowerby street (The property was auctioned in 1975 'to wind up a family estate').

In 1903, the business was incorporated and Mr J W Humphries was appointed managing director and Mr Malcolm Campbell was chairman of directors. Since 1903, the business continued to

expand and during Mr J W Humphries regime, stores were acquired at Merriwa (in 1903, M Campbell & Co purchased the store from George Pearson formerly known as the Beehive store.) Aberdeen, Denman and Rouchel. (later also a store at Moonan Flat). A garage was acquired at Murrurundi. Mr Humphries died at his home 'Atherstone' in November 1929, at the age of 81 years. His illness was of a short duration, commencing from about a fortnight prior to his death when he took a serious turn while engaged at the office.

Information courtesy of the book "Campbell's Corner" a Muswellbrook Landmark and published by Muswellbrook Shire Council. The photo of Mr John Humphries also from this book.

The photo of Campbell's store courtesy of Paul Houlahan.



Continues page 20

## Merriwa Central School



Phone: 6548 2119

[merriwa-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merriwa-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
[www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au)



## St Joseph's Primary School Merriwa

Empowering and challenging students to become lifelong learners

All enquiries welcome

Principal - Ashley Borg  
Ph 6548 2035

P&F President - Andrew Luke  
Ph 6548 2993



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

## SANDY HOLLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL



Telephone Fax  
02 6547 4521 02 6547 4450

Email:  
[sandyhollo-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
[www.cassilis-p.school.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cassilis-p.school.nsw.edu.au)





# Merriwa Central School

## Deputy Principal's Report

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The swimming carnival was a great event. There was excellent participation and house spirit displayed by all. Recently elected house captains inspired and led their houses in a highly successful War Cry competition. Community support was evident throughout the day. Thanks to Mr Vaughan for organising the 2021 swimming carnival.



### POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an educational process that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. Merriwa Central School whole school expectations are –

1. Safe
2. Respectful
3. Learner

**Sharon Kenaly**  
Deputy Principal

**every learner every day** ✓

**ABSENCES ADD UP!**

FEBRUARY 2 DAYS A MONTH = NOVEMBER 4 WEEKS A YEAR = MISSING MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF LEARNING IN 12 YEARS

**DID YOU KNOW**

1 IN 4 SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

**WHAT PARENTS CAN DO**

- ✓ **BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they are sick
- ✓ Develop good sleep and morning routines
- ✓ Schedule appointments after school
- ✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time

**EACH DAY MISSED:**

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE**

- Going to school more often can make a difference.
- Attendance habits will follow your child into work and life

**SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP**

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

## Coming Events

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>Monday 15</b>	Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival - Singleton
<b>Tuesday 16</b>	Primary Zone Swimming Carnival - Scone
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>Monday 8</b>	Year 7 Peer Support Camp



# Primary

## SPORTS CAPTAINS 2021

Congratulations to the following students who received their Sports Captain badges for their houses.

- **Oxley:** Amelia Wright and Toby Mead
- **Blaxland:** Rylan Coles and Caitlin Harrison
- **Lawson:** Cadence Tudor and Jacob Gee
- **Wentworth:** Lachlan Munn and Tianah Cousins



## MATHS FUN IN YEAR 3/4

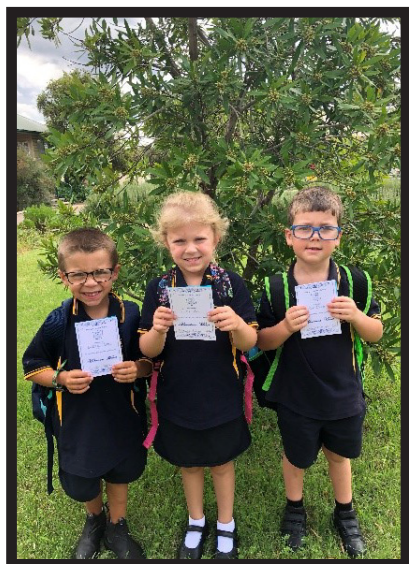
Year 3/4 have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Students have been enjoying completing a range of hands-on learning activities to deepen their understanding of place value.

## HOME READERS

Home Reading will be commencing in the next few weeks. Home Readers will be sent home on a Monday and must be returned to school on Friday in order for students to receive a new book the following week. A huge thank you to Mrs Vidler for the time she puts into organising home readers for all Kinder-Year 6 students each week.

## KINDERGARTEN ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Clancy Caban, Emmy Hunt and Jace Hourn for receiving their first Merit Awards last week.



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Student of the Week awards.

**Kindergarten** - Clancy Caban for beautiful behaviour in class and following instructions quickly

**Year 1** - CJ Coles for being a positive role model and participating in class discussions

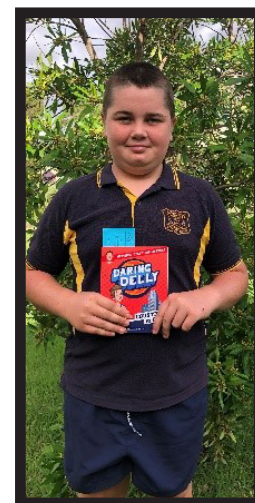
**Year 2/3** - Maggie Clark for settling back into class and always being ready to learn

**Year 3/4** - Tiarnee Denning for helping others settle into class and being a positive class member

**Year 4/5** - Hunter Copland for being a welcoming class member who is always asking how his teacher is

**Year 5/6** - Riley Bristow for being a responsible role model and working productively in class

**Library** - Mikayla Vero for beautiful behaviour in the library





# Secondary

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

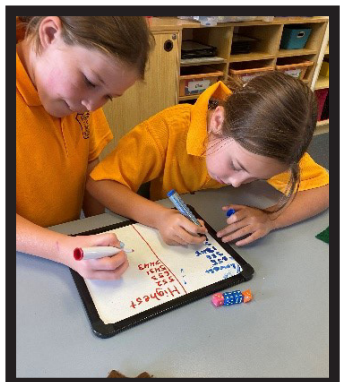
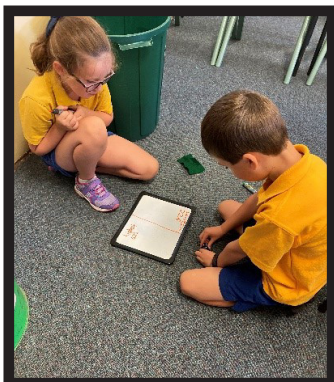
Last Friday we held our annual whole school swimming carnival on a sunny Summer's day. Students were all excited in the lead up to the event and house spirit was high around the whole school. House captains spent the entire week organising decorations and war cries during most lunch breaks.

From the start of the day there was a sense of competitiveness in the Merriwa air. Students were rushing to the marshalling area, and if they were not swimming, they were cheering their houses on from the side. This year Lawson were again too good, taking out the house champion award yet again. They were followed by Wentworth in second, Blaxland in third and in fourth place was Oxley.

This year saw the addition of three new events: Hot Laps, Merriwa Mash-Up and Staff vs Student relay. The hot laps involved all students who wanted to swim, getting into the pool, and seeing how many laps they could complete in 5 minutes. The Merriwa Mash-up took the fastest boy and girl from each age group and they had to race each other, however the starts were staggered. Finally, the staff vs student relay was a big hit, with all students gathering around the pool to cheer on the student team.

Congratulations to the following students for being age champions in 2021:

- **Junior Boys** – Zane Walker
- **11yrs Boys** – Rylan Neale
- **Senior Boys** – Jacob Gee
- **12yrs Boys** – Ty-John Marshall
- **13yrs Boys** – Eli Payne
- **14yrs Boys** – Mervyn Turner
- **15yrs Boys** – Dylan Keane
- **16yrs Boys** – Aaron Hamson
- **Open Boys** – Harrison Amidy
  
- **Junior Girls** – Paige Walker
- **11yrs Girls** – Olympia Magnus
- **Senior Girls** – Cadence Tudor
- **13yrs Girls** – Katana Magnus



**Emma Garbellini**  
Relieving Infants Assistant Principal



- **14yrs Girls** – Alyssa Carrall
- **15yrs Girls** – Mia Jacobs
- **16yrs Girl** – Tahli Gleeson
- **Open Girls** – Mackenzie Blackadder

This year also saw three new special awards for students on the day:

**Best dressed primary student** – Zac Walker

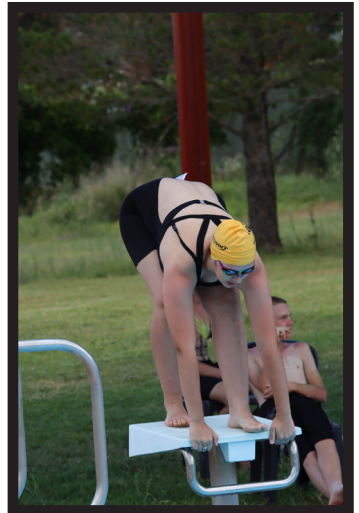
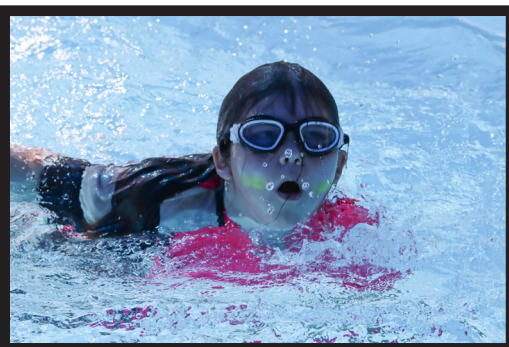
**Best dressed secondary student** – Jayden Birtles

**Swimmer of the day** – Paige Walker

A special thanks is also needed for all staff, students and volunteers who helped in running the day. It ran smoothly thanks to all the hands that were able to lend assistance on the day.











**Lachlan Vaughan  
Sports Coordinator**

### **BEST START YEAR 7 ASSESSMENT**

Dear parents and carers,

Year 7 students will participate in the Best Start Year 7 Assessment in Term 1, 2021.

Best Start Year 7 is an online literacy and numeracy assessment available to secondary schools that assesses key literacy and numeracy skills of Year 7 students. It is designed to assist teachers to identify students who may require additional support in developing their literacy and numeracy skills. The assessment is undertaken between 1 February to 5 March.

The purpose of the Best Start Year 7 assessment is to provide feedback to teachers to help identify student needs. Feedback will be provided to teachers who may choose to share this with students, parents and carers during teacher interview processes.

Best Start Year 7 is just one of a range of assessments the school uses to assess students.

Please inform the school if your child has special needs requiring support to complete an online assessment.

#### **Optional advice:**

Students will be asked to bring headphones or earbuds that plug into a computer to enable

them to hear audio during the assessment. Earbuds used for mobile phones or other portable devices may be suitable for use during the assessment. The type of computer connection needed is a jack or USB.

If your child needs earbuds provided by the school, or you have any concerns, please contact Miss Kelly Millevoi through the school office.

**Kelly Millevoi  
Head Teacher – Teaching and Learning**

### **HOMEWORK CLUB RETURNING IN 2021**

During 2020, Merriwa Central School introduced a new Homework Club program that focused on assisting students with their homework and assessment tasks. This program will be recommencing on Thursday, February 11 and will operate from 3.30pm to 4.30pm after school. A variety of teachers will be available to assist with tasks or developing study strategies to be used in preparations for these tasks. A note will be sent home with students that will be required to be completed and returned if you or your child is interested in attending this program.

**Harley Hannon  
Homework Club Coordinator**

### **CAREERS NEWS**

**Discover Western Webinar: Subject Selection and Future Career in Music, Creative Industries and Communications.**

Thursday February 25 at 5.00pm

**Audience:** Year 10 Focus (but open to all senior students) Parents, Teachers

Want to know more about Music, Creative Industries and Communication careers and degrees? Not sure what subjects to pick in Year 10? Let us support you make informed decisions and discover more about why you should study Music, Creative Industries or Communication at Western.

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/student-life/events/western-webinars.html>

Register here: [https://wsustudents.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bCtkdG6X1RafZai](https://wsustudents.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCtkdG6X1RafZai)

**Careers with STEM: Space webinar**

February 24. 12.00.

A job in the space sector may seem out of reach, or only available to a select few who want to be an astronaut. But the good news is, there



are many space jobs that draw on STEM skills and areas like software development, industrial design, and metal fabricating.

The Australian Space Agency aims to triple the size of the Australian space sector and create 20,000 more space jobs in Australia in the next 10 years.

### **The University of Sydney - Discover the Science Alliance**

Science events, high school outreach activities and resources. Explore the wide range of events and activities run by the Faculty of Science. We've got everything from public talks, HSC revision and school activities, to teaching resources. | Learn more: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/industry-and-community/community-engagement.html> or email [science.alliance@sydney.edu.au](mailto:science.alliance@sydney.edu.au)

### **ACBC and Job Trainer**

ACBC has funding for young people aged 17-24 who have left school, are unemployed or at risk of being unemployed. Two courses are starting in mid Feb are Cert III In Individual Support (Ageing) and Cert IV Ageing Support. These are great courses for anyone seeking to enter the community services sector. Delivered at the Liverpool Campus. Subsidised by NSW Government. Limited places. Contact Svet Kuzmar on 02 9824 0000 or [svet@acbc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:svet@acbc.nsw.edu.au).

### **Engineer Success Story**

As hundreds of year 12 students across Western Sydney focus on one of the most important periods of their lives, a Rouse Hill local has proved that an ATAR is not the only way to your dream career.

Cameron Gaul has always wanted to be an engineer since he was young but when he saw the ATAR to get into the course, he considered other pathways to university.

After hearing about the TAFE NSW Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation, an alternative pathway into higher education that does not require an ATAR, Cameron jumped at the opportunity.

He is now in his first year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at Macquarie University and said he is thriving at University.

### **Enrol now with TAFE NSW - Enrolments Close on Many Courses Soon**

TAFE NSW is taking enrolments now! Put yourself in the drivers' seat this year and upskill to create more career opportunities. Or perhaps you would like to further their education in an adult learning environment. With over 1,200 courses from degrees to diplomas and short courses, TAFE NSW has you covered: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/courses> Read more here:

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

**Jane Hegarty**  
Careers Advisor

## **STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

### **MERVYN CRANE-TURNER**

**FAVOURITE SUBJECT:** PD/H/PE because I love the practical lessons

**BEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT:** I came first place in mathematics in 2020

**CAREER ASPIRATIONS:** To work on a cattle station

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Mervyn has approached the start of the new school year with confidence and optimism. He has applied a positive attitude to his classwork and friendships. Mervyn is encouraged to apply himself consistently to all his learning activities.

**Harley Hannon - Year Advisor**







# Cassilis Public School

positive relationships with members of the school and create engaging lessons for our students. Ms Sanders will be working each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday teaching the McMaster Room (Years 3-6) in the morning and middle sessions and Kinder-Year 6 in the afternoons.

Please come and say hi to Ms Sanders when she starts next Wednesday February 18.

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING



Last week, students discussed the school's current system for teaching and encouraging positive behaviour. For ten years the school has had the school rules/ expectations of

## BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL AND DO YOUR BEST

After consultation with staff and students, the school decided to change on of the school rules to be a Learner instead of Do Your Best.

## WHY THE CHANGE?

Our new school sign will be completed this week and will be placed outside the office. The school will also be purchasing three metal steers with our school expectations to greet our students, staff, families and visitors each day as they walk into the school.

Each week the school focuses on one expectations and teaches students what that looks like. This week is:

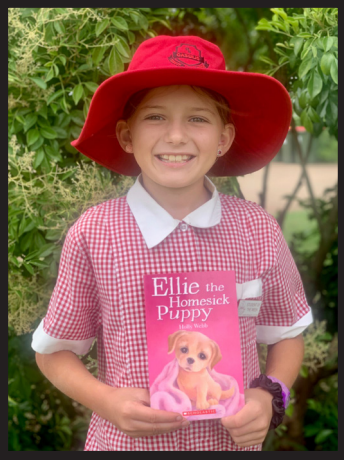
## BE RESPECTFUL - LISTEN ATTENTIVELY

Please discuss this with your child and praise them when they show it at home.

## WHO IS MRS GRAY?

Mrs Gray is our Instructional Leader (an expert teacher) who teaches at Cassilis each Friday. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Gray supporting both the teachers and students by offering

**Merriwa Ringer**



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK - SKYE

Congratulations to our first Student of the Week for 2021. Skye has received this award for her kind and welcoming attitude towards all students last week. Skye invited students to play games with

her and helped them to participate. She used kind words and had a lovely smile.

Skye stayed in task with her learning and completed and achieved success with each piece of work by following the 'success criteria' to keep her on track. She showed increased confidence to attempt unfamiliar work and carefully edited her writing. It was great to see Skye show her positive approach to all learning at school and encouraged. She regulated her engine well and was calm and focused.

She wore her school uniform each day and was prepared for learning.

Well done, Skye. You should feel very proud of yourself.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHER

After the Expression of Interest closed last Friday, Ms Bethany Sanders was the successful applicant. Cassilis has been fortunate enough to have had Ms Sanders teach for a couple of days already and she has shown her ability to build



advice and strategies on literacy and numeracy for our students, especially our younger ones. Last week Mrs Gray did guided reading with all students and was impressed with the increased fluency and self-correction.

### CAPTAIN'S REPORT- WITH BEN BIBBY

Since returning to school, we have been tidying up the gardens. It's nice to have the school looking good. If you have any plants to donate, please bring these to school.

### CHAMPION FOODS

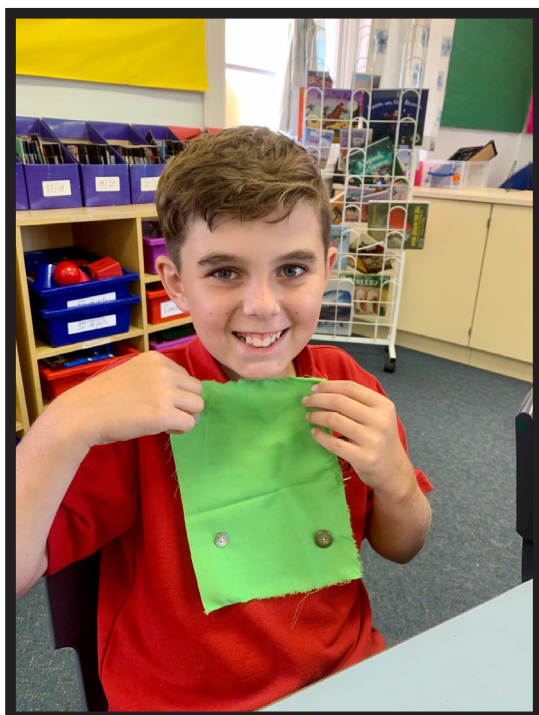
Our champion kids love champion food for their learning. It has been great to see more champion foods coming into school. Learning is exhausting and their bodies need champion foods to work well. Attached to this newsletter are some ideas for champion foods. Please pack two or more items every day. The more the better.

### DO YOU HAVE BUTTONS NEEDING TO BE SEWN ON?



If so, please ask your child about how to do this. Students really enjoyed learning the different techniques of button sewing, whether it's the criss-cross or sewing around in a square. How do you sew on a button? Sewing is a fabulous skill to build concentration, perseverance and fine-motor strength.

### MORE GREAT PAINTING OF THE STUDENTS' HOLIDAYS







### HOMework AT CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

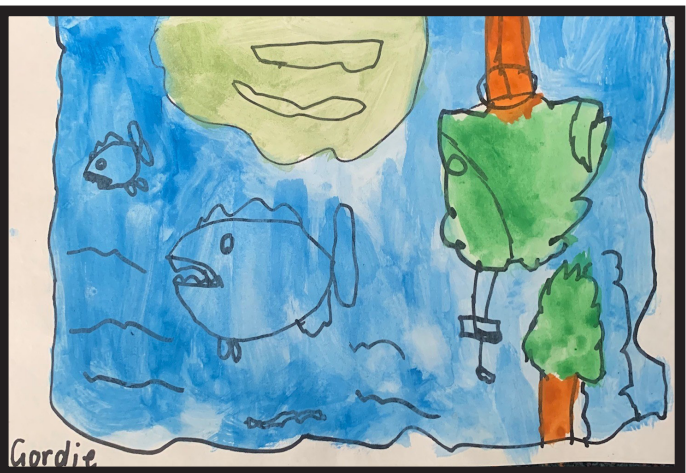
Commonly known as the 'queen of common sense', Maggie Dent has become one of Australia's favourite parenting authors and educators.

Maggie discusses homework in one of her blogs.

'I am the anti-homework queen. Even as a high-school teacher I never gave homework other than reading texts. Children's brains are tired after school and the last thing they need to be doing is mindless sheets of boring homework. Unless it is relevant, interesting and massively engaging it is largely a waste of time. There is no research to show that homework in primary school improves school performance. Children especially need to be playing with other children or their parents and relaxing getting ready for the next day's schooling!'

At Cassilis, the homework is reading. The benefits of doing this each night are HUGE as confidence and ability increases, kids will enjoy reading more.

Please support your child in their reading each night. Sometimes this means straight afterschool, sometimes it is just before sleep as part of their bedtime routine or sometimes reading happens





in the morning before school. Whatever the time, reading to and listening to your children read is a wonderful way to help their learning and a beautiful way to spend quality time together. All students, Kinder-Year 6, will benefit from reading and being read stories.

The staff love to hear about the students resting, creating, exploring, playing, swimming, drawing or helping around the house after school.

### JOLLY PHONICS

Students in Kindergarten follow the Jolly Phonics sequence of introducing letters and sounds. A booklet will go home so you know the action to match each sound. These really help your child to memorise them so feel free to practice them at home.

Last week students learnt the 's' sound with 'a' and 't' being taught this week.

Students practice making, hearing, writing these sounds and love making artwork to match. Along with the sounds, students will be learning to sight words featured on the Butterfly Chart. This chart will also be sent home for your information. These common words are used a lot in our early readers and in sentence writing.

### WELCOME BACK, ANGUS

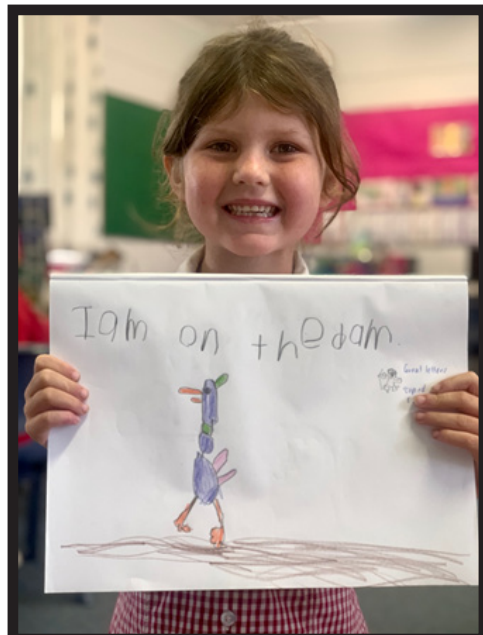
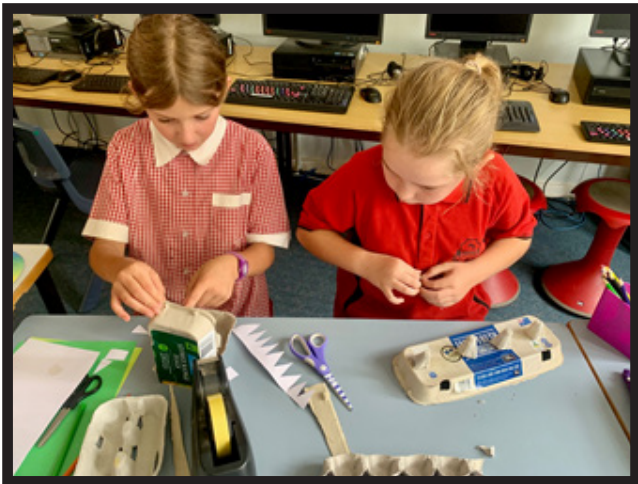
Cassilis is very lucky to have Angus Morton returning this year. Angus is in Year 12 at Coolah Central and completes a day a week, Wednesday, at our school. He is an excellent role model to our students as he is very respectful and shows effort in every part of learning.



WELCOME TO OUR FRIENDS FROM ULAN SCHOOL







Katie Burgess  
Principal

Merriwa Ringer





# St Joseph's Primary School

## SUCCESSFUL START FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AT ST JOSEPH'S

On Tuesday last week we welcomed our nine new kindergarten students to our school. The students are a part of the Successful Foundations action research project where students start each day through play and provocations. This project aims to assist students transition from preschool to big school. Miss Brazier and Mrs Jackson were so proud of the students and how well they shared, played and problem solved together.

We saw some wonderful creativity and personalities emerge as students became more comfortable with their new classroom. Below is a treehouse made of boxes, nuts and bolts and a few other odds and ends from our tinker table.

On Friday our buddies joined us for some play time. We don't know who had more fun, our Stage 3 buddies or Kinder.

What a special and exciting time to be apart of the St Joseph's community.











## WEEKLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

### **Week Two - Strength Award - Love**

**Kindergarten - Jayden Schmidt** – for always acting as a role model

**Claire Raines** - for always showing kindness to others

**Stage 1 - Lily Schmidt** – for her excellent dedication and participation in classroom activities

**Charlie Barry** – for displaying the strength of love by always helping those around her

**Stage 2 - Morgan Bates** – for his enthusiasm and drive towards his learning of Whole Number in Maths

**Shyanne Beeney** – for demonstrating the strength of love by welcoming and encouraging others around her

**Stage 3 - Archie Constable** - for his mature and reflective approach to beginning the year

**Emma McLaren** - for showing a gentle loving approach to all those she meets

**Principal's Awards - Chad Booth** – for his excellent persistence and attitude during class

**Ruby Urso** – for being an excellent listener and learner during her first week of school

**Charlie Barry** – for showing excellent leadership skills in class

**Charlotte Saunders** – for an excellent first week at St Joseph's.







# Anglican News

Phone: 0429 996 769

## REFLECTION - EPIPHANY 6 - Mark 1:40-45

This is one of my favourite Gospel passages. So often I come to prayer feeling like this leper in need of Jesus' healing touch. I hear the desperation in his voice as he pleads, 'If you want to you can cure me'. But deep down he wonders who would want to have anything to do with a leper. Lepers are outcasts, the disfigured cast-offs of a society that only wants perfection. What's more in those times lepers were obviously sinners and this was God's punishment. They deserved it. Who would want to respond to a leper? Note that any disfiguring skin disease was called leprosy.

Jesus does respond in a way far beyond the man's hopes. He touches him. He does not step back and cure from a distance with words, but actually reaches out and places his hand on the wretch's human body. In this touch more than physical healing is accomplished. He is no longer alienated but has been joined by another.

This encounter impacts also on Jesus. He now becomes the outcast as he is forced to stay outside the towns in places where no-one lives. The text doesn't tell us why this is and sometimes it is interpreted as if Jesus is so popular that he is besieged and so stays away from the villages. But it is also possible that people are afraid of Jesus since he has had physical contact with a leper and so he is not considered diseased and forced to live where lepers live.

Jesus takes to himself my 'leprosy' allowing me to go free. (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 with Anastacia. Morning Prayer first and third Sundays.

**Pat Kirkby**

# Merriwa Rotary

## THE ROTARY ANGUS PEEBLES BURSARY

The decision about the awarding of this annual Merriwa Rotary study award has been made. As this article is being written, the awardee/awardees have yet to be notified. Therefore, I must say....Watch the next Ringer for the news.

### THANKS TO THE REGIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK

The RAB runs a Community Partnership program whereby people can nominate a local organisation which they would like the bank to assist.

Merriwa Rotary has recently received \$2,274 as a result of members of the community nominating Rotary Merriwa as the recipient of funds being distributed through this program.

We do not know who you are, but we take this opportunity to thank you for the support shown to our club's many activities.

These Covid times result in many of the traditional fundraising activities of our club not being allowed eg. Our Melbourne Cup Calcutta/Sweep night could not be staged this year.

Thus, this unexpected credit will significantly help us continue our normal programs.

### LONG TERM EXCHANGE STUDENTS DEBRIEFING DAY

Once again, Merriwa, which is at the geographical centre of our Rotary District, hosted a day for students who have spent a year abroad under this Rotary program. Our club catered for the day. This Rotary program is currently suspended, not to resume until the Covid days are behind us.

**Mark Smith**

### **Ringer Deadline!**

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

### **Merriwa Ringer**

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon



# 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](mailto: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 Annual General Meeting on Sunday February 14 commencing at 11.30am.

All members cordily invited to attend.

Mary O'Neill

## Well Done

Merriwa Parks and Gardens need to be commended for the work they have completed in recent weeks. You are worth your weight in Tim Tams.

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.



# Upper Hunter Shire Council

## RECENT UPGRADES FOR MERRIWA

Two great recreation facility upgrades in Merriwa are complete:

- Merriwa Showground has a new toilet block, 100,000 litre water tank and arena irrigation (\$185,000)
- Merriwa Oval has an upgraded canteen, change rooms, toilets and lighting as well as work on the playing surface with top dress, level and seeding (\$261,00)

The projects were undertaken by Upper Hunter Shire Council and funded by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF) – round 2, that involved 12 projects across the Shire.

Mayor Maurice Collison said it was a great result through local clubs, Council and the NSW Government working together.

President of the Showground User Committee, Robert Tindall said,

"The Merriwa Showground User Committee would like to thank the funding committee for their contribution to the upgrading of facilities at the Merriwa Showground.

The addition of two new abolition blocks, arena irrigation system, huge storage tank and the planting of new trees has added a lot to the showground. The showground is the focal point of so many of Merriwa's major events throughout the year.

Our grounds are now more user friendly with wheel chair access toilets, safer with improved hygiene, Covid-19 safer plus the community appreciates our ability to control dust levels in dryer times.

Our pony club spokesperson Mrs Claire Martin ran the state final of the pony club here last year. From that event, the only short fall was the limited number of showers. Since then our two new abolition blocks have been completed, so Claire was able to go back to the state body with the news that we upgraded the facilities and win the right to run the state final again next year. A great success story for everyone.

Our campdraft committee are very grateful for the improvements because they can offer their competitors much better facilities and now believe they can hold a major event such as a state final, at the showground.

Our show committee who hold the only show in the Upper Hunter Shire, can run a much better event with the improved facilities. We can't get any bigger, only better because of our limited space.

Our User group made up of the above three committees plus the Upper Hunter Shire Council, are grateful because we are able to complete projects listed on our management plan.

Thank you for your continued support through applying for grants and managing the grounds." Rob Tindall President Showground User Committee.



**Daele Healy**

## Thank You

We as a family would like to express our thanks to all the people in our community who acknowledge the death of my brother, Frank Armstrong.

The years that he has lived here was a happy and fulfilling time for him and he enjoyed being involved as a valued community member.

In spite of my, at times, impatience, I had a great deal of respect for his gentlemanly demeanour, his kindness and his ever willingness "to have a go" at everything.

Please know we appreciate your thoughts and ask you to accept this as our personal thank you.



**Sincerely Deidre  
Peebles**

**Merriwa Ringer**



# Community Notice Board

## A Walk Down Memory Lane

WITH JAMES CONSTABLE

## Little Athletics

### AUBREE SET FOR STATE



The interior photo courtesy of Keith and Wendy Richards.

Early photo of Campbell's store with Campbell's horse and wagons out front courtesy of Carol Ray at the Aberdeen Library.

This is the second part of Campbell's stores in the Upper Hunter.

Once again our little pocket rocket showed the competition just how good she is by winning her 60m hurdles and Qualified for state, which will be held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre, March 20 and 21. What an incredible achievement for a small town athlete. Results for her four events are as follows.

- First in 60m hurdles and straight into the final with a photo finish, running an amazing time of 11.86.
- Second in her 100m heat in 16.78
- Sixth 100m final in 17.20
- Fifth in long jump, jumping 3.30m
- Sixth in discus throwing a huge 13.30m.

Well done Aubree. We are very proud of you. Let's get training for State!

Belinda Keane



**Quote for the Week**

**LIFE ISN'T ABOUT  
FINDING YOURSELF.  
LIFE IS ABOUT  
CREATING  
YOURSELF.**

George Bernard Shaw



# Business

## Merriwa Newsagency

WELCOME TO 2021!

Congratulations to the organisers and participants of the first Scone to Merriwa fun run. What a wonderful idea and supported not only by our local athletic community but the wider community as well. The generosity of those who supported, donated and volunteered was amazing. Well Done! Looking forward to the 2022 run.

Now we must get ready for the Le Tour de Merriwa.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aidan Hunt for Term 4 2020 winner of the Spirit of St Joseph's award. We hope you are enjoying Year 7 Aidan, at St Joseph's Aberdeen.

### NEWSXPRESS MERRIWA HAS WONDERFUL NEW PRODUCTS IN STORE

We have the Royal Australian Mint 6 Baby Uncirculated Set 2020, Firefighters Coin, also Super Car Holden and Ford 50 cent and Uncirculated Coin set of 6 2021 Coloured Aboriginal Flag.

We are also enjoying hearing the giggles coming from the customers who are purchasing a card from our very popular Spirit Humour Range. We hope that the recipients enjoy them just as much as you get from choosing one.

Bright Wonders have released a magnetic book range, we have the ABG and Animal Farms costumes in stock. These books are in the shape of a box and when opened, the lid is a magnetic surface for the children to put the pieces on., When they are finished playing the pieces pack back into the box with the lid closing back into the book. This would be wonderful for children who travel a lot.

We also have other magnetic toys - come in and check out the Helicopter, aeroplane, Garden and Magnetic Calendar.

We have a wide range of STEM products from

Johnco and the Australian Geographic Society.

These products would be ideal for primary school birthday presents.

### NEWS LIMITED IS RELEASE

The Great Australian Wildlife Collection launched Sunday February 7.

Bring Aussie animals to life with 15 photo books by Discovery with a 3D animal experience in each book. On Sunday, February 7 you will be able to start your collection with a BONUS first book and collector's case when you buy the Sunday Telegraph. A new book is available each day with the paper for just \$3.00. Do not miss out, ends February 21. Conditions apply. Contact us if you require copies.

**DON'T FORGET THE FUNDRAISER FOR MIRANDA IS ON THIS WEEK AT THE MERRIWA SPORTS CLUB.**

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



Leanne and Neville Hook and the newsXpress

### Ringer Deadline!

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

**Merriwa Ringer**

by Mondays, at 12.00 noon





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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](http://hunter.ils.nsw.gov.au)



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## Growing the best

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Aileen Hogan 0455 455 760

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**CEF Merriwa**  
**President Ivan Gant**  
**Secretary Hannah Waters**  
**Treasurer Jane Hegarty**

**Email**

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BY APPOINTMENT  
Phone: 6543 2433

Email: [office@cgbllaw.com.au](mailto:office@cgbllaw.com.au) Web: [www.cgbllaw.com.au](http://www.cgbllaw.com.au)



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**Merriwa Can Assist**

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**Service Times**  
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*Peter Campbell - 6548 5126*

  
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**WEEKEND MASSES**  
**St Anne's Merriwa**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - Sat 6.00pm  
2nd & 4th Sunday - Sun 8.30am  
**St Joseph's Cassilis**  
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St Vincent de Paul - 6548 3092

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Principal: Mrs Katie Burgess

Coolah Road Ph: 63761009  
Cassilis NSW 2329 Fax: 63761005  
[cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
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**Schools**

  
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Merriwa Pre-School and Activity Centre


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Phone: 6548 3060  
Email: [penelopecwa@inet.net.au](mailto:penelopecwa@inet.net.au)  
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**Groups**



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 For appointments please phone 6532 5013

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**2020/21 starts Oct 12!**  
 Tots (3 & 4 yrs) to u/17 yrs  
**Mondays 5.30 to 6.30ish**  
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 Thursday Night 7:00pm Bingo  
 Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Two Hours and Free raffles  
 Saturday - **7.45pm** Monster raffles and members' badge draw  
 Sunday: 5:00pm to 7:00pm meat voucher raffle and members' badge draw.  
**The Sporties Chinese/Australian Restaurant 6548 3228**  
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 Lunch Specials  
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**Rotary Club of Merriwa Inc**  
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**Meets each Tuesday at the Merriwa Sports Club**  
**7.00pm for 7.30pm**  
 4 x 4m Marquee for Hire  
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 Rugby League Football Club  
**Merriwa Rugby League Football Club**  
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 Vice President: David Martin  
 Secretary: Gaynor Blackadder  
 Treasurer/Publicity Officer: Jessyca Morgan

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**2021 Merriwa Springtime Show**  
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**Tel: 0498 378 500**



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**De Patterson** Secretary 0416 194 501  
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**Season starts Term 4**  
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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**  
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**President Bernard Constable**  
**Secretary/Treasurer Kacie Neale**  
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 westernbling@hotmail.com



**MERRIWA RACES**  
**April 24, 2021**  
**Race Club President - Paul Frampton**  
**Contact - 0428 485 182**  
 Visit [www.merriwaraceclub.com.au](http://www.merriwaraceclub.com.au)



**MERRIWA BUSHMAN'S CAMPDRAFT EST. 1947**  
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 Secretary: Kellie Porter 0432 109 760  
 Treasurer: Kelly Curtis  
**October Long weekend 2020**  
[merriwacamp-draft@gmail.com](mailto:merriwacamp-draft@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](mailto:merriwaprogress@gmail.com)





# Clubs/Sports

## Merriwa RSL Club

The Friday night Members Lucky Badge 7.00pm draw for \$320.00 was not won the number was 432, this week it jackpots to \$340.00.

The 8.30pm Members Badge draw worth \$950.00 was not won the number was 581, this week it jackpots to \$1000.00.

The 9.00pm Members Badge draw for \$340.00 was not won the number was 491, this week it jackpots to \$360.00. **LTPS/19/36118**

The Sunday Morning Members Badge Draw for \$500.00 was not won last week the number was 223, this week it jackpots to \$550.00 and will be drawn between 11.30am and 1.30pm and you must be present to win the money. **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.

**Wednesday Nights from 6.00pm - \$6.00 PINTS.**

**Saturday nights** – free juke box, pool comp \$100.00 first prize, \$5.00 schooners and House spirits. From 6.00pm till 10.00pm.

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

### HAPPY HOURS

Friday 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Saturday 6.00pm to 10pm

Sunday 11.30am to 12.30pm

Bistro hours – lunch Thursday – Sunday 12/2pm,

Dinner Monday – Saturday 6/8pm

**Matt Morgan**

# Merriwa Sports Club

**HONKI HAUS  
RESTAURANT**

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

On February 13, there will be no raffles due to the fundraiser being held for Miranda.

Members' Badge Draw will still be drawn this week, any time between 6.30-8.30pm. The members draw was amazingly won in the first week back, so this week it will be \$250.00 again! You 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. Merriwa Sports Club will be donating 10% of all takings over the bar on Saturday!

There will be a courtisy bus running from 4.00pm



32 Vennacher Street Merriwa NSW  
2329  
Ph: 02 6549 8204  
Email: dg\_merriwa@elders.com.au  
**Roger Saunders - Branch Manager**  
0428 842 477  
Experts to assist you with all aspects of your farm business including livestock, wool, grain, farm supplies, technical services, water and financial services. Servicing Merriwa and Surrounds.

MDHA Inc.  
**NON EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL TRANSPORT  
SERVICE**

We will get you to your appointments on time with special care.




Office hours are:  
9.30 to 2.30 weekdays  
Bottle Museum building or leave a message on the answering service for a call back.  
Te/Fax 6548 2653

**THE TOWNHOUSE & THE WORKSHOP**

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

**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



til close, kindly donated by Cowans Bus Services. Anyone requesting a ride can contact the Merriwa Sports Club or Kate on 0437 762 190.

### INTRODUCING HAPPY SATURDAY

All day every Saturday we will be hosting Happy Saturday! \$5.00 beers, \$5.00 house spirits, \$5.00 wine. ALL DAY.

Our bowling and golfing areas are looking 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.

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**



## JTS REALTY

*A Family Business*

Shop 1/17 Bridge Street  
Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
jtsrealty@rslcom.net.au  
www.jtsrealty.com.au

Ph: 6541 5331  
Fax: 6541 0330

### **1782 Wollara Road, Merriwa**

**\$499,000.00**

Situated 25 minutes from Merriwa and 3.5 hours from Sydney, this 110 acre property would make an ideal weekend retreat or permanent home. The country ranges from flat to slightly undulating with open paddocks and pockets of timber. There are three dams offering plenty of water for stock. The home has four big bedrooms, a large rumpus room and an open plan lounge with a combustion fire. The kitchen has plenty of cupboard space, a gas stove and a breakfast bar. There is also an attached dining area. There are verandahs front and rear taking in the beautiful views over the property. There is a two bay steel shed and a two bay garage. The home is on solar power and has 35,000L of fresh water storage. This property offers a lovely rural lifestyle at an affordable price.



VIEW AT [www.jtsrealty.com.au](http://www.jtsrealty.com.au)



FUNDRAISER FOR  
**MIRANDA  
BOLAND**

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



FEBRUARY  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
7PM

## MCS in touch with our community



The **Merriwa Ringer**  
is proudly published by

**MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL**

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**ALL MATERIAL DUE 12 noon MONDAYS**

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