



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 2 Week 6, 2022

Principals Report

Our school is committed to providing a range of exciting learning opportunities for students. In the past few weeks students have participated in a range of activities including, the Red Hill Biology Camp, Horse Riding excursions, Athletics carnival, a Bell Shakespeare drama performance, walk safely to school activity, visit to Merriwa colonial museum, a Super Science Show, student feedback surveys, and Life Ready workshops for seniors. The cost of many of these activities has been heavily subsidised by the school (some in full) to ensure all students enjoy the range of experiences.

It is important that students return excursion permission notes on time to participate in these events, otherwise they may miss out on the opportunities on offer.

Student Behaviour

Our school is committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for safe and respectful learners.

Respect

We expect students to demonstrate respect in the school environment towards each other, teachers, support staff and school visitors.

Examples of respectful behaviour include:

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Behaviour is unacceptable when it interferes with the learning of others. Students who breach these behaviour standards will be supported and counselled to modify their behaviour. Students who continue to breach school rules will be managed in line with the Departments behaviour and suspension policies.



If students must bring mobile phones to school they need to be handed into the office and collected in the afternoon. Any student found in breach of school rules will be directed to hand the phone in at the office and will receive a warning of suspension. Parents can always leave messages for students at the office and they will be passed on by the office staff.



Parents are advised wearable blankets are not part of the school uniform, and not to be worn at school. The new school jerseys have been added to the winter uniform and are available for purchase from the office.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

Super Science Circus Show

On Monday, 30 May, The Super Science Circus Show performed for our K-6 students. The performance was incredibly inventive, interactive, and educational, demonstrating some excellent circus, comedy and magic. The performance also inspired scientific inquiry into the natural, physical and material world, which all students thoroughly enjoyed.



Primary Excursion

Primary students 3-6 will be going on their excursion next week, Thursday 9 June, to Maitland. We will be going on a guided tour of Maitland Gaol and then exert all our energy at Inflatable World, before returning to school.

By now all student notes should have been returned, along with payment.

Students will assemble under the COLA at 7.45am for a departure time of 8.00am.

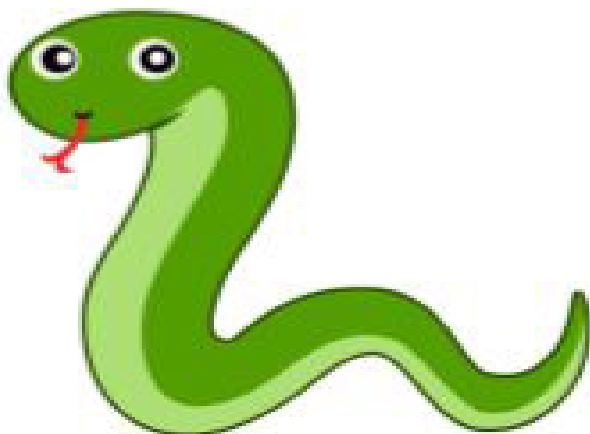
Students will need to wear full school uniform. We suggest that girls wear shorts or skorts on the day. Students need to have enclosed footwear and ensure they are wearing socks to be able to go on the equipment at inflatable world. Recess and lunch will need to be packed and we suggest plenty of water for the busy day.

K-6 Assembly

Thank you to all our parents who joined us last Friday, for our first, formal K-6 Assembly. It was fantastic to share with you all, the amazing work, and achievements our students have made thus far this term. Congratulations also to our wonderful leaders, who ran the assembly and showcased their fantastic public speaking skills. We look forward to welcoming parents back to our Week 9 Assembly, Friday 24 June at 2.15pm.

Snake Tails

Snake Tails are returning Wednesday, 22 June. Snake Tails is a multi-award winning, interactive learning experience, featuring Australian reptiles. The interactive and fun performance will create a greater understanding of the role of our reptiles in the environment today and how to protect our Australian reptiles.



Wildlife Park Excursion

Written by Year Two

A few weeks ago, our class went on an excursion to the Hunter Valley Wildlife Park. We had the best time!

First, we caught a bus really early in the morning. It was a cold and rainy morning. It took over two hours to get there.

Next, we arrived at the park and we all ate our recess. When we finished, Kristen the zookeeper came and showed us some animals. The animals were a shingleback lizard, a leopard tortoise and a long, skinny python.

Then, our class got to touch the amazing creatures. We were not allowed to pat their faces and we had to be very gentle. Mrs Hourn was holding the tortoise and it did a poo on her! She said it was disgusting.

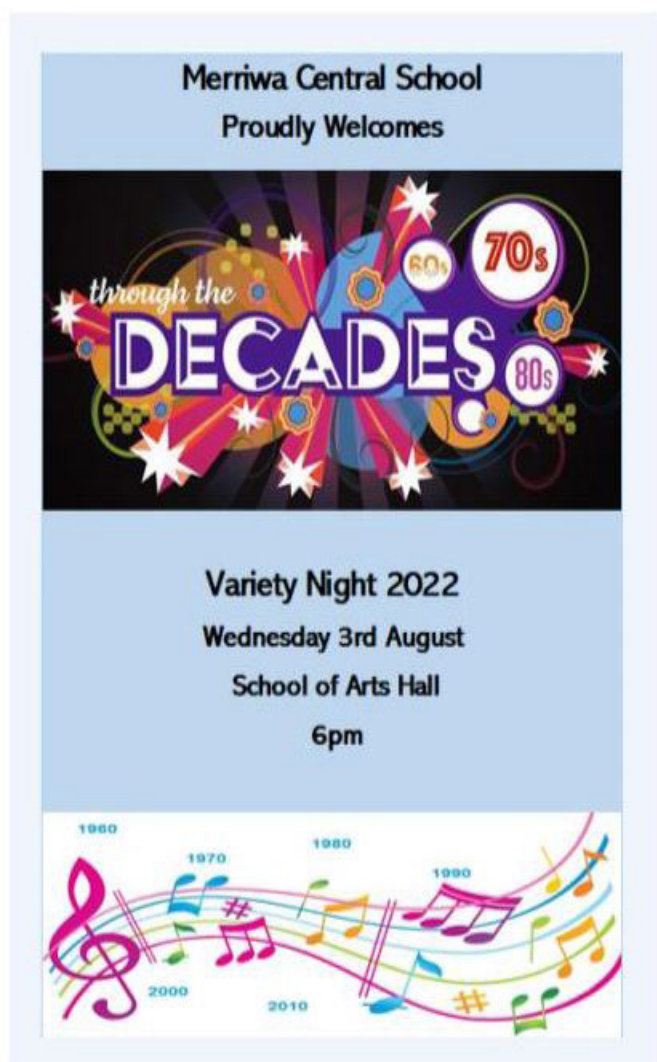
Finally, we got to go and explore the zoo. We went in groups of ten and saw all of the animals. We also got to feed some of them and give them a pat. When we went into the goat enclosure, they went crazy! The goats were trying to climb all over us and to steal our cones of food!

Soon after that, we got to see some magnificent creatures, such as lions, giraffes and alligators. Then, we ate our lunch and went back home.

Our adventure to the park was an incredible day. It was so special to share this as a class!



Variety Night



Talia Morgan
Relieving Assistant Principal - Primary



Stage One- Billy Caban, Jace Hourn, William Sparrow, Caileb Duthie, Oliver Strachan and Ella Pryor.



Stage Two- Lily Douglas, Braith Hunt, Brayson Coles, Max Hourn, Mia Wilkinson and Beau Hall.



Stage Three- Xzavier Sait, Olivia Purcell, Hazel Chin, Ashton Marchese, Charlotte Oldham and Aubree Oldham.



Keirra Hourn
Relieving Assistant Principal - Infants

NSW Premier's Spelling Bee

On Tuesday 14 June, select students from years 1 to 6 will be competing in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee will be held from 9.30am in the primary library and parents of finalists are invited to attend.

There have been six students selected to represent their class in each stage. There will be one winner and a runner-up chosen from each stage. The winner from Stage 2 and the winner from Stage 3 will go on to represent our school at the regional finals.

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen to compete.

Athletics Carnival

What a fantastic day infants had at the Athletics Carnival! Infants really enjoyed taking part in some of the activities on the day. It is a great way for students to learn new skills and to get ready for when they can compete and aim for the next stages. Infants students had so much fun running in egg and spoon races, showing off their jumping skills at long jump and using their strong arm muscles when throwing at shot put. Then they all raced in their age races and all proudly had ribbons pinned to their shirts.

We would like to thank all the staff that supported us during the day, it made for a smooth carnival. And a special thank you to our wonderful canteen helpers who made our delicious lunches.



Lisen Olsson
Primary Sports Coordinator



Festival of the Fleeces

We are so excited that the Festival of the Fleeces will be back on again this year and invite all students to join us to walk in the parade on Saturday of the long weekend. We have some exciting things planned and would love a huge turnout on the day! A note will be sent out with details of the meeting place and time, closer to the date. In the meanwhile, keep an eye out in Max's Country Cuts and Sarah Bidner's Hair Boutique for our students' amazing festival displays. Thank you very much to these wonderful businesses for supporting our school.

Sarah Fleming/Courtney Martin



Merriwa Historical Museum Visit

On Thursday the 26 May Year 1 and Year 2 had the amazing opportunity to visit the Merriwa Historical Museum to consolidate their learning in class for history, when exploring the past and present. Students were delighted to see all of the amazing historical artefacts, furniture, clothing and tools from the past. A big thankyou to Michael and Cheree for your guided tour and sharing your wealth of historical knowledge with our students. We thoroughly enjoyed it.



Rewards Day Term 2



This term, rewards day will take place on Thursday 23 June, Week 9.

Primary students will be participating in a 'games' session. They will be able to bring in their favourite board games, card games or any other fun family games from home. The students will then be given the opportunity to play these games with their friends and learn how to play other games during the session.

Students are able to wear comfortable out of uniform clothes and they will also be watching a movie in the afternoon.

Erin Strachan



Horse Riding Excursion

This term, some students from our support classes have been participating in a horse riding program in Muswellbrook. The students who attend have absolutely loved learning how to mount and dismount a horse, as well as learning to use their voice and body when commanding their horse. This program is exceptional and the progress the students have made in their horse riding skills is incredible!



Courtney Martin





Kylie O'Connor
Bronze Classroom Teacher

Secondary News

Indigenous Program "Australia's Living Indigenous History"



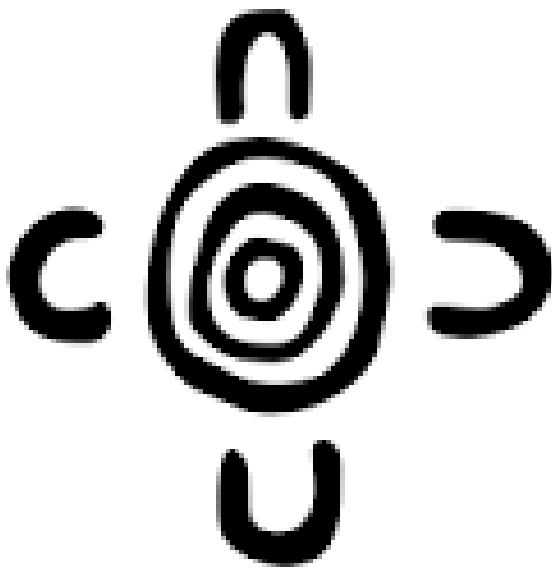
In Term 3 all students from Kindergarten to Year 12 will participate in an Indigenous Program "Australia's Living Indigenous History" at Red Hill Environmental Education Centre.

Students need to return their permission note back to the school ASAP.

Please note that this is the organised program for that day and normal school will not occur as expectation is that all students will be in attendance. Students will be required to bring their recess and lunch. There is no cost associated.

- 2 August - Years 7,11,12
- 3 August - Years 8,9,10
- 4 August - Years 3,4,5,6
- 5 August Kindy, 1, 2

Please contact Narelle Smith if you require any further information.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Merriwa Central School's

PBL Secondary Information Session

- Students will be participating in a variety of information sessions to build student understanding of MCS Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL).
- Students are encouraged to dress in the PBL colours (pink, blue and/or yellow) as part of their engagement with these sessions.
- There will be a prize for the best dressed on the day.
- Lunch will be provided.



SCAN ME

Wednesday 8 June 2022

Check out our PBL video!



ALL SETTINGS

- Use equipment for its intended purpose
- Return equipment
- Hands and feet to yourself
- Right place, right time
- Wear correct uniform
- Walk

BUS

- Line up in designated area



ALL SETTINGS

- Try your best
- Actively participate in learning
- Take pride in your school, your work and achievements
- Bring your equipment

BUS

- Know your bus
- Apply road safety rules



ALL SETTINGS

- Use appropriate language, tone and volume
- Place rubbish in the bins
- Care for self, others and property
- Listen to and follow instructions
- Wait your turn
- Use manners
- Phone to the office at the beginning of the day

QUAD PASSIVE

- Respect others property
- Keep area clean and tidy



Some examples of
PBL at Merriwa
Central School

Preliminary Biology Excursion to Red Hill Environmental Education Centre, Gulgong

On Tuesday May 10, Preliminary Biology students travelled to Goulburn National Park to participate in a two day practical under the guidance of staff from the Red Hill Environmental Education Centre (RHEEC).

Our first stop was Honeyeater Flats in the Munghorn Nature Reserve. Honeyeater Flat is so named for the bird species Regent Honeyeater that once populated the area, now critically endangered with 250 left in the wild. Rebecca and special guest David, who has been monitoring the Regent Honeyeater population since the 1980's tutored the students in the skills they would need to conduct their investigations.

The students' task was to investigate the suitability to two sites for the Honeyeater to dwell.

They determined the temperature, type of cover from the trees (exposed or not exposed), evidence of fires, types of rocks, rainfall and rainfall patterns, soil type and colouring, amount of light, elevation, compass aspect and soil moisture where the abiotic features investigated.

The biotic features investigated included tree types and how many of each species were present as well as the overall health of trees.

The students used investigative techniques such as using transects and quadrates to investigate sample areas for their suitability for Regent Honeyeaters.

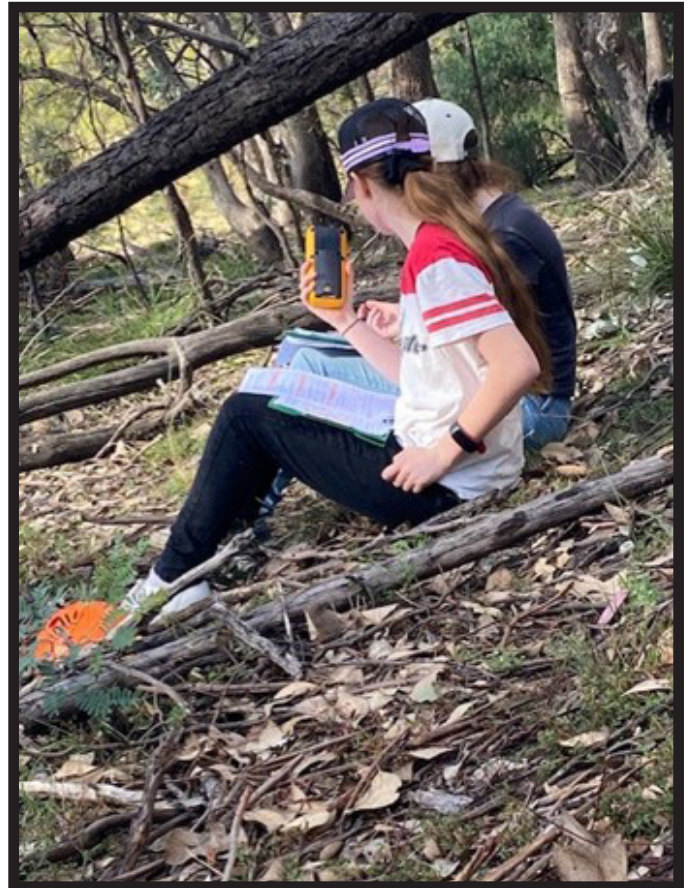
Site one was in a covered area near a gully and creek. Students investigated the biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) features of the area to determine if it would be a suitable habitat for the Regent Honeyeater.

Site 2 was located under the ridge line under the sandstone pagodas that Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve is surrounded by.

Using their investigating techniques, they were able to determine that the habitat that would best suit the Regent Honeyeater was at Site 2, as it was more open, contained more nectar producing eucalyptus, more nesting options as

they prefer to nest in the forks of branches on trees, however Site 2 did not contain as much Mistletoe as Site 1, which is a main source of food for the Regent Honeyeater.

Accommodation and meals were provided by RHEEC and was very comfortable and the meals were also excellent. The staff were polite and knowledgeable.



Using a multimeter to determine temperature and light intensity.



Using a transect to create a 10m x 10m quadrat to sample tree populations and determine their health.



Working collaboratively to determine tree health and their viability as a habitat for the Regent Honeyeater.

Day 2 – The Drip

Wednesday 11 May saw us leave the RHEEC and make our way to The Drip, which is also part of the Goulburn River National Park.

The day was overcast and threatened rain it was decided to complete the water quality and visual assessment of the area first before the rain set in.

Karen was our guide for this set of activities.

We collected water quality testing equipment such as thermometer, pH tester, conductivity tester, nets, bucket, handheld microscopes. We made our way to a section of the Goulburn River with a rocky/sandy bank to conduct our investigations.

The students used a GPS to determine latitude and longitude location as well as elevation of the area.

The western bank was heavily impacted by human activity were as the eastern bank was untouched by human activity.

Under the guidance of Karen, the students evaluated the percentage of native tree canopy cover, understory cover, ground cover, regeneration of native trees as well as types and percentages of debris on both the western bank and the eastern bank. After careful consideration it was determined that the visual health of the area was good.

Quantitative data gather was the next step, provided through the assessment of water health. Students used a thermometer to determine the temperature of the water 15 oC, pH strips to determine the pH of the water pH of 7 (neutral), a turbidity to tube to determine the clarity of the river water, which was very clear, salinity was also measured.

The course of the Goulburn River has changed due to mining in the area and the mines remove water, use and then return it to the river as long as the salinity level is below 800 parts, the students recorded a level of 720.

Students then used small nets to try and capture invertebrate water bugs to determine the overall health of the water. A whirligig water bug was identified and there was large population found in the shallows close to shore, students also observed some guppies, though they were hard to catch.

It was concluded that the section of Goulburn River investigated was not suitable to sustain a diverse population of invertebrate water bugs due to its high salinity which means the whirligig water bug are a salt tolerant water bug.

After some morning tea we took a walk towards the Drip itself, with a stop at an area where ground water emerged. Along the way we observed the weathering of sandstone rocks and discussed the significance of the banded iron formations to who the level iron present at the time they were made, red means lots of iron reacting with oxygen to form iron oxide, light orange colours mean low iron levels.

Karen, our guide tested the ground water where it emerged and the salinity was determined to be 290, significantly lower than the river itself, suggesting that the ground water was not affected by the mines returning water to the river and the

pH was a 6, which is a low acidic level.

The rain started to make itself known so we were not able to make it to the Dripping rock on this occasion.

Over all the students enjoyed themselves and gained new skills to be able to use as they continue in their biology studies.



Water temperature



Determine water salinity

Tarnika Wood
Science-Biology Teacher
Year 7 Advisor

Athletics Carnival

On Wednesday 18 May, Merriwa Central School held its annual athletics carnival in what were fantastic weather conditions. The day started off wonderfully and all students had an excellent attitude heading into each event. Team spirit was seen in all of the houses, and all students were encouraging one another to participate in as many events as they could. As the day went on we saw lots of old records broken in a variety of different events.

Overall, the students participated fantastically on the day and should all be proud of their efforts.

The overall results for the day were:

4th Place Lawson (751 points), 3rd Place Blaxland (758 points), 2nd Place Oxley (794 points) and 1st Place Wentworth (810 points).

Age Champions are:

Boys	Girls
Junior: Logan Reid	Junior: Aubree Oldham
11yrs: Charlie Cook	11yrs: Olivia Purcell/ Paige Walker
Senior: Rylan Neale	Senior: Grace Collits
12yrs: Riley McConnell	12yrs: Mya Haataja
13yrs: Riley Bristow/ Rylan Coles/Jacob Gee	13yrs: Tianah Cousins
14yrs: Toby Fairhall	14yrs: Katana Magnus
15yrs: Harry Cook	15yrs: Lily Swan
16yrs: Dylan Keane	16yrs: Brooklyn Blackadder
17yrs+: William Whitby	17yrs+: Brodie McMillan

I want to personally thank all staff, students and volunteers on the day who were able to come and assist on the day. A special mention to the

Merriwa Little Athletics for allowing us to use some of their athletics equipment on the day as well.

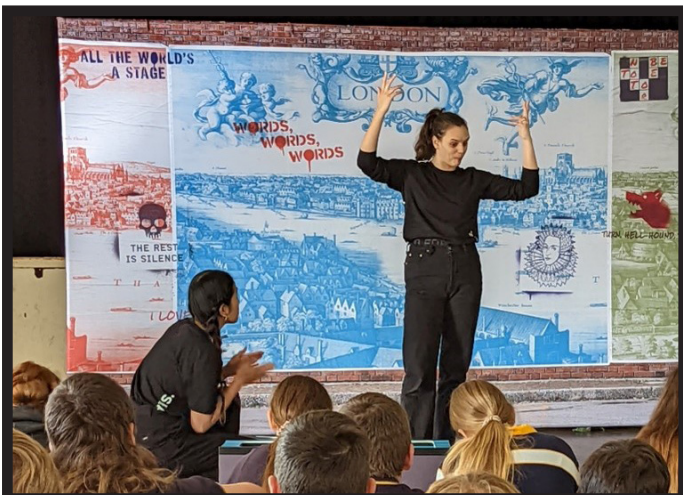
Lachlan Vaughan
PDHPE Teacher

Year 12 Advisor | Sports Coordinator | ROAR Coordinator

Bell Shakespeare Performance

Thank you to the players from the Bell Shakespeare Company who visited Merriwa in Week 5 to perform their show "Shakespeare is Dead" for the Year 7-10 students of Merriwa Central School. The performance introduced students to a host of Shakespeare's characters and explored some of his most iconic scenes, key plot devices and language techniques. Some students and teachers were even selected to act alongside the players, try on props and immerse themselves in Shakespeare's world. Overall, it was an excellent afternoon and a great opportunity for our students to supplement their learning of Shakespeare with live theatre.

Merriwa Central School continues to have an ongoing relationship with the Bell Shakespeare Company through my participation in the Regional Teacher Mentorship last year.



ROAR

The ROAR Program is an illustrious program which has been running at Merriwa Central School since 2010.

This program was developed to support students to achieve their best both in and outside the classroom, and uses sport as a means to teach the core values of respect, ownership, awareness and rewards.

ROAR will be re-commencing for Term 3. A meeting will be organised for a lunch time during Week 7 to discuss the program with any students who are interested, and to distribute nomination forms.

Any student who is interested, whether they have been in ROAR previously or not, needs to complete a new nomination form. It is important that students and parents/carers read the nomination form carefully to ensure they meet the selection criteria. Only students who have successfully filled out the form and who meet the selection criteria listed will be eligible for selection in the program. Students will need a parent/carer and a teacher to support their nomination.

Any questions about ROAR should be directed to Miss Piper or Mr Vaughan.

Emma Piper
Head Teacher (Mentor) | English Teacher
Girls Adviser | ROAR Coordinator

Rewards Day



Eligible students in secondary will be going on an excursion to Inflatable World at Maitland, for Rewards Day on Thursday of Week 10 - 23 June. Students will need to wear uniform, bring socks and their own lunch and drinks. The bus will leave at 9.00am from the secondary campus and return by 4.30pm. Notes will be going out this week and all money is due by Friday 10 June, 2022. Please see organisers Miss Wood or Miss Golden if you have any further questions.

Ashleigh Golden
MC Gold Class Teacher
Year 11 Adviser

Careers News

White Card Training – 2 May 2022

Students from Years 9 and 10 completed an 'Induction to Construction' on the 2 May. Students have received their white card which enables them to enter construction sites and extend their work opportunities. This has supported many of our Year 10 students in organising their upcoming Work Experience in Week 6.



NSW Training Awards 2022

Two of our Year 12 students are finalists for the 2022 NSW Training Awards. Students are currently undertaking a School-Based Traineeship and have made a significant impact in their respective industries to have reached this finalist stage. Tahli Gleeson is undergoing a Certificate II in Agriculture with a traineeship at Merriwa Local Land Services. Sharni Johnston is completing her Certificate II in Health Services at the Merriwa Multi Purpose Service. Both students will travel to Newcastle for the awards ceremony on Friday 10 June. Staff will accompany the students on the night of the ceremony to support their commendable efforts and commitment to their traineeship. They have made it through two previous rounds – a written application and an interview process – and will be recognised during the finalist awards in Newcastle. We congratulate both students on this great achievement on top of all their other school commitments.

NSW Rural Youth Ambassador 2022

Josie Porter is to be congratulated on her successful nomination as Rural Youth Ambassador as part of the NSW Rural Youth Ambassador's Program 2022. Josie attended the first forum in Sydney from the 15 – 18 May and will continue to represent Merriwa by providing a rural voice throughout the year. Josie was a successful candidate of only 20 chosen in NSW from more than 60 applicants. Josie is to be highly commended on her contributions to the local community and school that have led to her nomination for this program. We will continue to update on Josie's achievements and contributions throughout the year as she participates in this program.

Year 10 Work Experience – commences Week 6, Term 2 2022

We are looking forward to seeing many of our Year 10 students in and around the local community as they complete a week of experience to support their future pathways. Our students have placements ranging from the NRL, Eat@153, Merriwa Multi Purpose Centre, Merriwa Veterinary Surgery, St Joseph's Primary School, WelderUp, Merriwa Preschool & Activity Centre, Nutrien Ag Solutions Merriwa and many more.

Students are reminded to take their work experience diaries throughout this week to document the skills and practices they are exposed to during this period. Students will be using these diaries as a resource for their Careers lessons upon their return.

The main contact for any work experience related enquires is Miss Waters – 6548 2119.

Hannah Waters
Careers Advisor

ANZAC Day

Several of our staff and students from both the primary and secondary campuses attended this year's ANZAC Day march and ceremony. We marched together in solidarity to honour the sacrifices of those who have fought and died for our freedoms. The students were keen to demonstrate their respect and pride, which they did by attending in school uniform, wearing rosemary, and displaying their families'

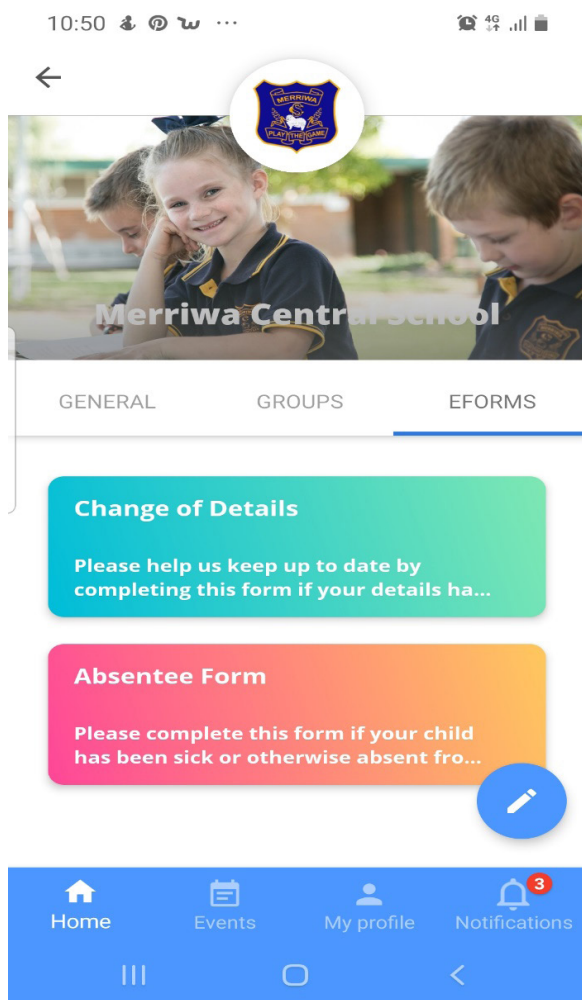
armed forces medals. Members of our Student Representative Council read poetry and laid wreaths at the cenotaph. Our students were a reflection of our community; compassionate, supportive and proud.



Dee De-Almeida
SRC Coordinator

Skoolbag App

How to submit an Absentee Form or Change of Details Form - Click on the School Badge in the App - Click on the EFORMS tab.



**MCS P&C kindly invites you to attend
our 2022 AGM**

on

Tuesday 7 June 6:30pm

**at
Merriwa RSL**

**All positions will be declared vacant
All welcome**

How to Make a Payment Online -

A new **online
payment page**
is now live on our
school website!

Access from a mobile,
tablet or PC and in a
language of your
choice.



Go to Merriwa Central School Website
<https://merriwa-c.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Select *make a payment*

MAKE A PAYMENT



Term Two	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
May/June	6	Super Science Circus Show Primary Work Experience Year 10	Work Experience Year 10 Tell them from Me Survey Years 4-12	Work Experience Year 10	Homework Club Secondary 3.30pm to 4.30pm Work Experience Year 10 Life Ready – Liquor Accord Excursion Years 11-12 at Muswellbrook Riding for Support Class Excursion at Muswellbrook	Work Experience Year 10	
		30	31	1	2	3	4/5
June	7	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm to 4.15pm	P & C AGM RSL Club 6.30pm	TAFE Hair and Beauty at Scone TAFE	Maitland Goal Excursion 3-6 Homework Club Secondary 3.30pm to 4.30pm Riding for Support Class Excursion at Muswellbrook	Girls Rugby League Excursion at Muswellbrook Defence Force Recruiting at Great Hall	
		6	7	8	9	10	11/12
June	8	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm to 4.15pm	Premier's Spelling Bee at MCS		Homework Club Secondary 3.30pm to 4.30pm Riding for Support Class Excursion at Muswellbrook		
		13	14	15	16	17	18/19
June	9	Homework Club Primary 3.15pm to 4.15pm		Snake Tails K-6 1.30pm - 2.30pm Year 7 & 8 , Gold and Silver 2.30pm-3.30pm	K-12 Rewards Day Homework Club Secondary 3.30pm to 4.30pm Riding for Support Class Excursion at Muswellbrook	Formal Assembly K-6	
		20	21	2	23	24	25/26