



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 3 Week 2, 2024

Primary News

Little Sprouts 2024



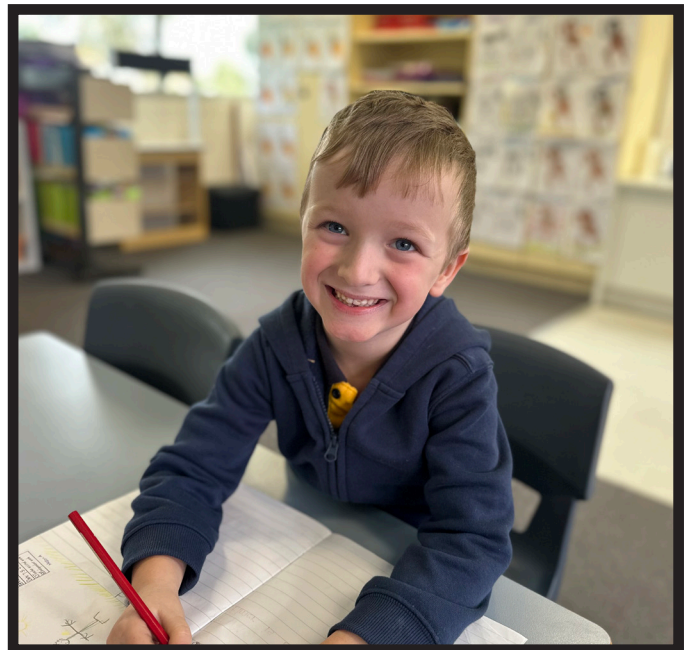
Our Community Reading Day Little Sprouts will be on Friday 23 August and all students from primary will be attending. This year's theme is Reading is Magic and students are encouraged to dress up as a magical character or their favourite book character. There will be prizes for Best Dressed and it is sure to be a magical day! Recess and lunch will be provided on the day.

Infants Excursion to Mary Poppins



K-2 students will have the opportunity to see Mary Poppins live on stage at Newcastle Civic theatre on Thursday 17 October 2024. Notes must be returned by Thursday 22 August.

Kindergarten Transition 2025



We are now asking for expressions of interest for Kindergarten 2025 students. If you are interested in sending your child to Merriwa Central School for Kindergarten, please contact the school on 6548 2119, or visit the Primary office to pick up an information pack.

We will be holding a parent information session at 10am on Tuesday 10 September at the primary library, all carers are invited to attend. Please ensure completed enrolment forms and birth certificates are provided to the primary office prior to the information session.

Our Kindergarten Transition program will commence in Term 4.

Keirra Hourn
Year 2/3 Teacher
Assistant Principal Infants

Merriwa Central School

Now enrolling Kindergarten students for 2025



Parent Information Session on Tuesday 10th September at 10am
Please contact the school on **6548 2119** or visit the Primary office
to pick up an information pack.



Merriwa Central School

presents

Little Sprouts 2024

Community Reading Day

Friday 23 August

Merriwa School of Arts from 10am



*Our theme this year is
"Reading is Magic!"*

Join us for a fun day to
celebrate the joy of reading!

Come dressed as a magical
character or your favourite
book character.

Children and their carers
are invited to attend. School
aged students will attend
with their school.

- +Readings at Local
Businesses
- +Book Fair
- +Character Parade
- +Craft Activities

Little Sprouts is a community literacy initiative of

Merriwa Central School

For further enquiries please ring 6548 2119

100 days of Kindergarten

On Friday July 26, our Kindergarten students hit a major milestone by celebrating their 100th day of school! To show just how much the past 100 days have “aged” us all, the students dressed up as adorable 100-year-olds, complete with canes, wigs, and glasses! Their creativity shone as they wrote imaginative stories about what they might look like as centenarians. We finished off the day with a lively class party full of games, laughter and fun to celebrate all the amazing things we’ve accomplished over the last 100 days. Each student received a special award and a sweet treat to remember this fantastic milestone!



Nicole Johnston
Kindergarten Teacher



Parent Teacher Interviews

Secondary

Thursday 1 August 2024

5pm to 7pm

Performance Studio

Primary

Tuesday 10 September 2024

3.30pm to 6pm

Primary Library



Our August P&C meeting due to be held on Tuesday, 6 August has been **CANCELLED.**

Our next meeting will now be held on Tuesday, 3 September.

K-6 Term 3 Performance

Week 3, Friday 9 August students from K-6 have the opportunity to enjoy the performance 'What's the Joke'. A children's author with an electric guitar and one heck of a voice, Andy Jones has been entertaining and educating students for over 20 years. In this completely interactive performance, the entire audience gets to not only create an original 24 line rap song, but also perform and record it.



Term 3 K-6 Formal Assemblies

This Term our K-6 formal assemblies will be held in weeks 3, 6 and 9 under the Primary COLA. Due to the cooler weather our assemblies will remain in the afternoon this term.

- Week 3 – Friday 9 August 2.15pm
- Week 6 – Friday 30 August 2.15pm
- Week 9 – Thursday 20 September 2.15pm

In addition to our formal assemblies parents are invited to attend our informal assemblies that occur most Friday afternoons from 2.45pm, where Student of the week, Class of the week and Sheldon Snaps are announced.

Sarah Roberts
Assistant Principal Primary

**Merriwa Central School
P&C
Father's Day Stall
held at primary
on
Friday, 30 August**

**Gifts will range from \$1.00-\$10.00
9.00am - 11.00am**

Parents volunteers would be greatly appreciated.
Please message us via Facebook page if you
are able to help. Must have current working with
children's check.

Variety Night 2024 - Musicals

Entry Fee:

**\$5 Per Person or
\$10 Per Family**

Thank you



Wednesday 7 August

6pm

School of Arts Hall

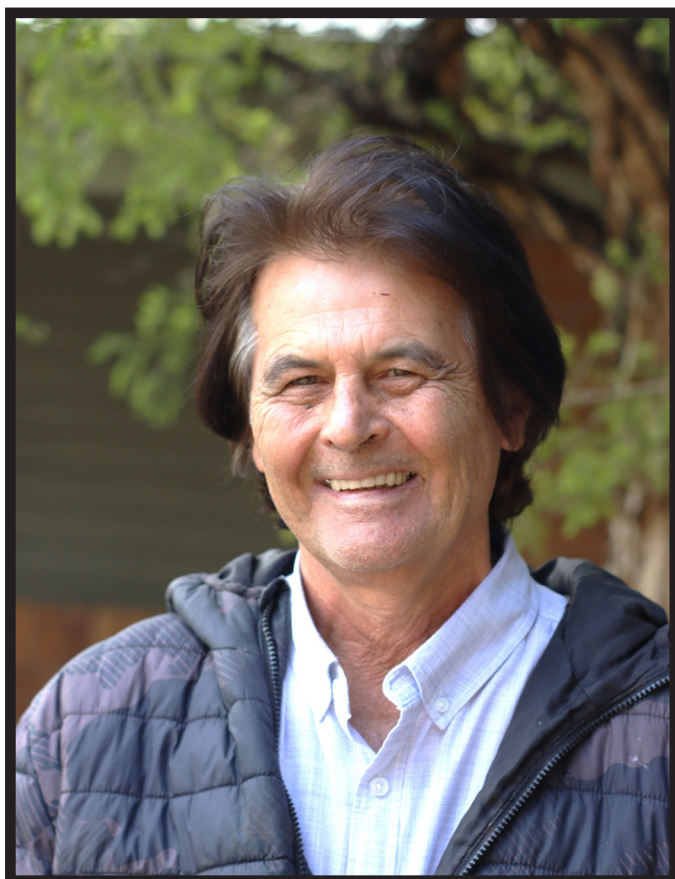
Variety Night 2024

Secondary News

Welcome to our New Staff



Kylie Rose McLean
Visual Arts Teacher



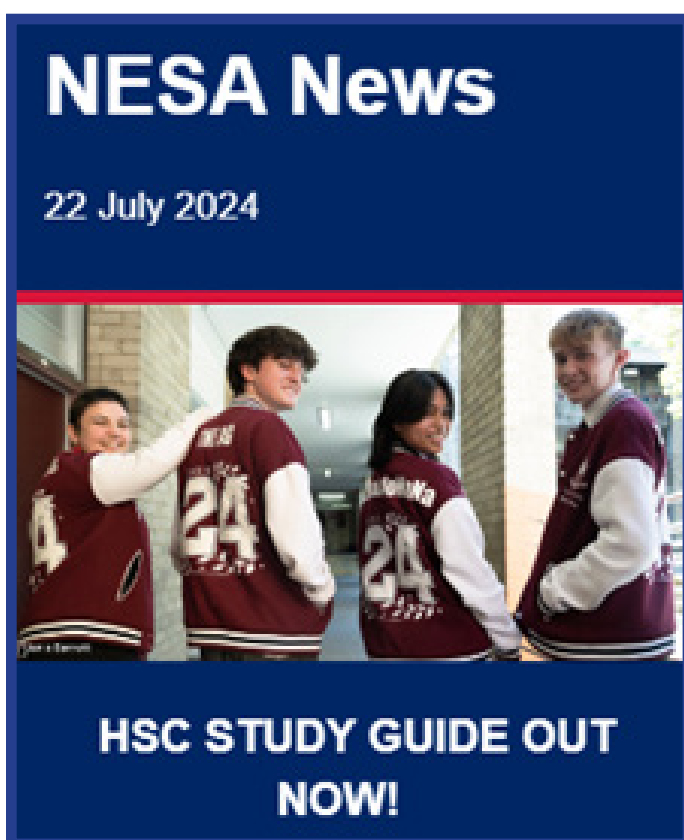
Barry Farrell
HSIE Teacher

Welcome back to Term 3

Term 3 is always a big term for Year 12 students. In Week 5 the HSC Trial Examinations will occur. There will be more information to come from Ms Piper and Mr Cleary as we get closer to week 5. In the meantime, Year 12 should be knuckling down and completing the last of their assessment tasks and creating a solid study timetable in readiness for the up and coming exams.

NESA has released information that maybe helpful to both students and their parents. It can be accessed through the following web address:

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/hsc-study-guide-2024-20240709-p5js85.html>



The HSC Study Guide is online now, packed with everything HSC students need to kick their exam goals!

Students can:

- find exam advice from teachers and past students
- learn how to nail their study routine
- test their knowledge with the ultimate HSC quiz
- learn the facts with HSC myth-busters
- hear from some familiar faces, who share their expertise across a range of HSC subjects.

There's also practical mental health and wellbeing advice from the experts at ReachOut - with tailored tips for parents and carers on supporting their children in the lead up to exams.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews for secondary will be held tonight Thursday, 1 August in the Performance Studio. Please contact the office or your child's Year Adviser if you were unable to attend tonight and would like to organise an appointment.

There are many other wonderful activities and events happening this term. Don't forget to check the Audiri app and our Newsletter for our up and coming events.

Excursions

Term 3 is going to be busy with plenty of excursions and extra curricula activities organised. Students who are on monitoring, Head Teacher (orange card) or Deputy Principal (purple monitoring card) will not be eligible for excursions.

Lisa Zielinski
Deputy Principal



Secondary Canteen

CLOSED

Friday 2 August

We apologise for any inconvenience

FORMALLY YOURS IN THE UPPER HUNTER

This is a community initiative where local people donate high quality Formal outfits to support young people attending their Year 6, 10 or 12 Formal.

WHAT WE OFFER:

- FREE Formal Dresses
- FREE Formal Suits
- FREE Accessories
- FREE Men's and Women's shoes



Location for 2024
Brook Street plaza
Shop 7, 34 Brook Street
Muswellbrook

Contact us on facebook at:
Formally Yours in the Upper Hunter

OPEN:
AUGUST 5-18

MON-FRI
4-6:30PM
SAT-SUN
10-2

Year 10 Careers Expo

Year 10 will be attending a Careers Expo at Muswellbrook Basketball Stadium on 16 August. Please return notes ASAP so that we can inform the organisers of our numbers.

Year 10 Subject Selection Information Night

Our Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Selection Information Night will be held on 20 August in the Performance Studio. Students are invited to bring their parents/carers along to hear information that is required when selecting subjects that align with career aspirations. Please return your notes so that we can plan the night.

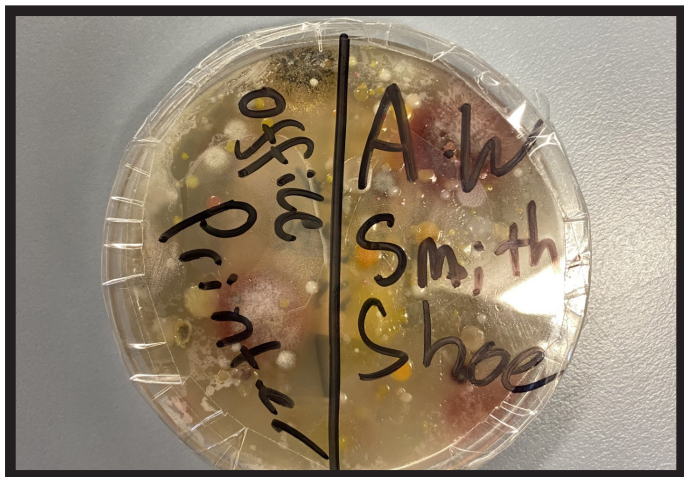
Even if your child has the opportunity to undertake a job please come along as a plan B if that unfortunately does not work out. Enrolment with the NSW Department of Education is until the age of 17 or with 25 hours employment which is validated by an employee letter.

On Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September, students and their parents will meet one on one with DP's Miss Smith and Miss Zielinski to discuss further career goal setting and ensure subject selection allows for opportunities such as University and TAFE studies. Miss Smith will be in contact to make these bookings or feel free to phone the office and get in early and book your meeting.

Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Year 8 Agar Plates

Year 8 Science have been learning about Ecosystems and at the end of last term they explored microorganisms. Students enjoyed taking samples (especially from teachers shoes) to test if they could grow bacteria. Their agar plates worked very well and it was interesting to observe which surfaces had the most bacteria.



Grayson Tilse
Science Teacher
Year 7 Adviser

Check In Assessments

Check In is an annual assessment for students in Years 3 to 9 in NSW Public Schools. Year 6 also undertake an additional writing assessment. There are 2 tests, each approximately 50 questions:

- reading
- numeracy.

These assessments support the identification of students' performance in literacy and numeracy and informs next steps in teaching and learning.

Assessment window

The Check-in assessment is held in Term 3 each year for all students in Years 3 to 9.

- Term 3 – Weeks 2 to 5 (29 July to 23 August

2024) Years 7, 8 and 9 complete reading and numeracy assessments.

- Term 3 – Weeks 6 to 9 (26 August to 20 September 2024) Years 3, 4 and 5 complete reading and numeracy assessments. Year 6 completes reading, numeracy and writing assessments.

Students will complete these tests online at school. It is not necessary for them to bring any equipment. If you have any questions about your child completing these assessments or wish to withdraw your child, please contact Miss Piper (Secondary campus) or Mrs Roberts (Primary campus).

Emma Piper
Head Teacher Secondary Studies
English/HSIE Teacher
Girls Adviser

Positive Behaviours for Learning

The secondary campus has been working towards revamping their merit system to ensure we are recognising students who are demonstrating the schools PBL values of safe, respect and learner. The new token system is well underway with a few teething problems being ironed out, students are starting to get the rhythm of collecting tokens for demonstrating the expected behaviours, placing them in their year tubs and bringing them to Monday assembly to work together to reach the next reward. Year 8 are leading the way, reaching the second reward of a movie and popcorn afternoon.

The next phase was to update the merits for those students who go above and beyond. Teachers will recognise this behaviour and record a 'positive incident' on their SENTRAL computer system, when a student receives five, they will be awarded a merit, the merit will outline the 5 reasons they were given a 'positive incident'. This will then feed into our traditional system in line with primary, five merits equals a bronze certificate, ten merits equals a silver certificate and fifteen merits equals a gold certificate. Keep an eye out on Audiri for all the amazing students who have received merits this term.

- Our week 2 focus is using equipment for its intended purpose
- Our week 3 focus is use appropriate language, tone and volume

Student Representative Council

On Wednesday 12 June, secondary SRC hosted a Beanies for Brain cancer day and a cake stall. With the sale of beanies at school, donations and cake sales, we managed to donate \$153.20 to support the Mark Hughes Foundation research and help fight Brain Cancer.

Term 3 is a big term for the SRC with many events and preparing for a changeover to the 2025 SRC. In week 3 we will host the formal assembly, the first in the new Performance Studio. In week 5 we will head down to primary to help out at Little Sprouts (the highlight of our year!). In week 8, all students in secondary will have the opportunity to respond to the 'SRC Student Voice Survey' to help guide the SRCs decisions as they start planning for 2025.

In week 6 we will call for nominations for the 2025 SRC. In week 6 we will host, with the support of Year 9 and 10 PASS class, a footy colours day where students can wear their favourite teams footy colours, join in some activities and challenges and the PASS class will visit primary to run some football sessions for year 5 and 6. All funds raised from the day will go to the Fight Cancer Foundation. Feel free to make a donation on the Fight Cancer Foundation website, just search for Merriwa Central School.

**NOW CALLING FOR
2025
NOMINATIONS**



Nomination forms can be collected and
returned to Mrs La Trobe until
Friday 30th August

Week 6 - Term 3 - Nominations

Week 8 - Term 3 - Voting by students and staff

Week 10, Term 3 - SRC (secondary) announced

Week 4, Term 4 - GRIP - Leadership Day Dubbo

Week 6, Term 4 - Planning Day

Support Faculty

Year 11 students enrolled in the MC support class will this term participate in work experience

at IGA Merriwa, we wish them well as they start the next phase of their schooling and thank IGA for their support with our work experience program. Year 10 students will start their work experience in the school canteen to build their skills outside the classroom, thank you Donna for your support.

School Bytes

We have had a great response to the implementation of the online School Bytes payment portal, with many families registering and using the online system. The School Bytes system allows you to make part or full payments, request refunds, and to see information about upcoming activities for your children. You can also allocate any available fees from your account to pay for events and activities, or 'bank' money into your family account to save towards higher cost excursions and events.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to register and set up your parent portal. On the information poster in this newsletter, you will find a QR code that will open the login or create new account page. You can also go directly to <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>

When you register, be sure to use the same email address you provided the school in your contact details. You will then be able to attach your children to your parent portal to ensure you have access to all currently available functions. If you have any problems with the registration process, please come to the office or give us a call, and we will be happy to help you create your School Bytes account.

School Uniforms

Due to the closure of Di's Clothing Patch, school uniform polo shirts are now available for purchase from the Secondary campus administration office. Families can pay for shirts by ordering on the School Bytes app, where shirt sizes are listed individually. Alternatively, payment can be made by eftpos or cash at either the Primary or Secondary office.

Senior blouses and secondary jerseys are also available to purchase. Navy pants/shorts etc can be purchased from your store of choice, and are not available to purchase at school.

Lynsey Mills
School Administrative Manager



Merriwa Central School

Price List

Please note: Navy trousers, shorts and skorts are not available from the school and can be sourced externally.



K - 10 Uniform

- Navy/Gold Polo's **\$30.00**



Sports Uniform:

- Gold Polo **\$20.00**

Please note: This uniform will be phased out over the next few years



Senior Uniform

- Lemon Shirts..... **\$26.40**
- Tartan Skirt **\$42.90**
- Navy/Sky Polo **\$26.40**
- Snr Boys trousers **\$35.20**



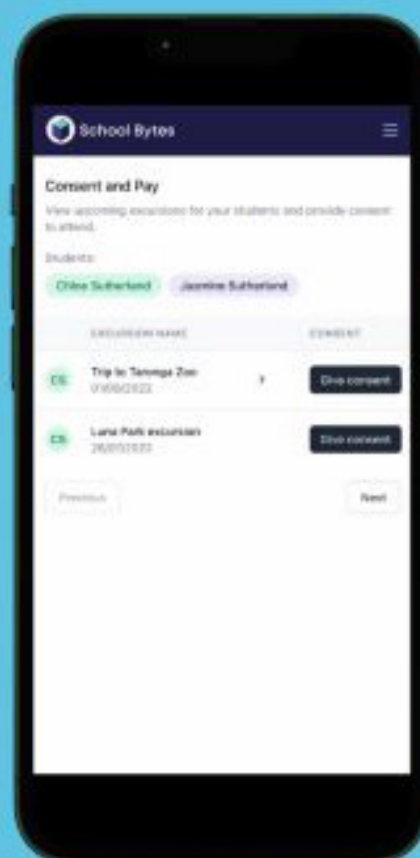
Additional:

- Secondary Jersey**\$68.00**
- Caps **\$10.00**
- Wide Brim Hat **\$15.00**
- Beanie **\$12.00**
- Bucket Hat **\$12.00**

Payment can be made online using School Bytes or by contacting the office on 6548 2119

AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school offers a flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments



The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund



School Bytes

Register for the Parent Portal via the
QR Code or visit

<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



Available & Upcoming Apprenticeships in Wilpinjong



Skillset have a number of exciting apprenticeship and traineeship roles available now and upcoming in the future! Gaining nationally accredited training can set up your career for life!

Roles available and upcoming

APPRENTICESHIP

Skillset & Peabody Wilpinjong Mine

Mobile Plant

Based in Mudgee | Full Time | 4 Years

Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology

All applicants are encouraged to apply immediately



APPRENTICESHIP

Skillset & Peabody Wilpinjong Mine

Engineering - Fabrication

Based in Mudgee | Full Time | 4 Years

Certificate III in Engineering - Fabrication Trade

All applicants are encouraged to apply immediately



APPRENTICESHIP

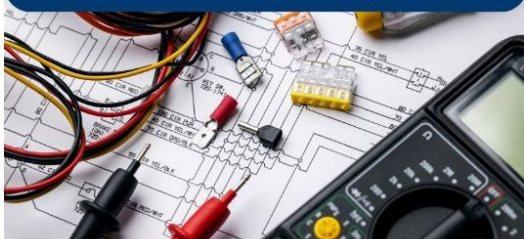
Skillset & Peabody Wilpinjong Mine

Automotive Electrical

Based in Mudgee | Full Time | 4 Years

Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology

All applicants are encouraged to apply immediately



APPRENTICESHIP

Skillset & Peabody Wilpinjong Mine

High Voltage Electrical

Based in Mudgee | Full Time | 4 Years

Certificate III in Electrotechnology-Electrical Trade

All applicants are encouraged to apply immediately



- To apply or for more information, go to:
<https://skillset.com.au/employment-career-development/job-vacancies/>
- Upload your updated cover letter and resume

Get in touch below to learn more about Skillset and the services we offer.

MUSWELLBROOK

COACH 2 COPE: PARENTS & CARERS

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 5.30PM - 7PM

PCYC MUSWELLBROOK



Presented by Dr Stephen Spencer:

- ✓ A 5 step evidence-based psychological first aid framework (TAR3) for you to follow when responding 'in the moment' to episodes of distress and behavioural challenges.
- ✓ Guidance on simple ways you can help young people build coping, resilience and positive help seeking behaviour and the vital role you play in promoting this.
- ✓ Context on why child & adolescent mental health occurs and what you can do to improve mental health outcomes for the young people you support.
- ✓ Coaching in the use of scripts and engagements strategies to adopt when responding to distress using the TAR3 Psychological First Aid Method.

Free: funded by HNECCPHN

Register Now:

<https://events.humanitix.com/copy-of-coach-2-cope-tar3-parents-and-carers>



INVITATION

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Welcome Ceremony On Wonnarua/ Wanaruah Country MUSWELLBROOK



Come join the community in celebrating National
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's
Day ' Baby Welcome Ceremony'

Opening Ceremony, Baby Welcome,
Smoking Ceremony & Light Refreshments

Date: Friday 2nd August

Time: 10:30am

Location: Simpson Park Muswellbrook

All Welcome!

BHP



Parent Teacher Interviews

Secondary

Thursday 1 August 2024

5pm to 7pm

Performance Studio

Primary

Tuesday 10 September 2024

3.30pm to 6pm

Primary Library



Our August P&C meeting due to be held on
Tuesday, 6 August has been
CANCELLED.

Our next meeting will now be held on
Tuesday, 3 September.

Term Three	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/ Sunday
July/August	2	Sydney Excursion Secondary 7.30am 29	Sydney Excursion Secondary Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition Primary 30	Sydney Excursion Secondary Heart to Heart Program Bronze community support group 31	Driving Lessons Parent Teacher Interviews Secondary 5pm to 7pm Love Bites Program Year 10 K-6 Scripture 1	Love Bites Program Year 11 2	3/4
August	3	Secondary Formal Assembly 9am 7-9 Check-in Assessments Aboriginal Culture Schools Program 5	7-9 Check-in Assessments Community Support – Merriwa Create and Grow Playgroup 6	Variety Night Concert 6pm 7-9 Check-in Assessments 7	7-9 Check-in Assessments Heart to Heart Program Year 6 Girls Free to be 8	What's the Joke? Performance K-6 9.15am K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 7-9 Check-in Assessments 9	10/11
August	4	7-9 Check-in Assessments Regional Spelling Bee 12	7-9 Check-in Assessments 13	7-9 Check-in Assessments Bronze Community Support Group 14	Driving Lessons K-6 Scripture 7-9 Check-in Assessments Heart to Heart Program 15	7-9 Check-in Assessments Year 10 Careers Expo 16	17/18
August	5	Trial HSC Exams Cultural Schools Program 19	Trial HSC Exams Year 10 into Year 11 Parent Information Night Community Support – Create and Grow Playgroup 20	Trial HSC Exams Bronze Community Support Group 21	Trial HSC Exams Heart to Heart Program Year 6 girls Free to be 22	Trial HSC Exams Little Sprouts Day 23	24/25
August/September	6	3-6 Check-in Assessments 26	3-6 Check-in Assessments 27	3-6 Check-in Assessments Community Support Bronze Community Support Group 28	Driving Lessons K-6 Scripture Heart to Heart Program 29	She Shines Program Years 7-12 girls K-6 Assembly 2.15pm 3-6 Check-in Assessments Fathers Day Stall Primary 30	31/1