Merriwa
Birthplace of the Pony Club
Part of the Upper Hunter

Welcome to
Merriwa
& surrounding districts
MERRIWA FAST FACTS

District: Merriwa, Cassilis, Gungal, Borambil
First Founded: 1824; Merriwa township - 1839
Major Industry: Sheep, Cattle, Pigs, Poultry, Cropping
Known for: Birthplace of the Pony Club & the Merriwa Festival of the Fleece
Local Govt: Upper Hunter Shire Council
Size: 3508 sq km
Population: 2337 and growing!

For tourist information contact:
Merriwa Visitor Information Centre
Email: merriwavic@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Vennacher Street, Merriwa
Phone: (02) 6521 7046
Merriwa is the birth place of one of Australia's most iconic rural institutions - the pony club.

As the children get their ponies ready for action, parents pitch in to make sure the rally day runs smoothly.

It's a family atmosphere where the sport is good and there are lots of good sports.

Merriwa is ideally situated on the Golden Highway and is in the middle of three regional centres - Tamworth, Dubbo and Newcastle all just 2 hours drive away while Sydney is a leisurely 3.5 hour trip south.

More than a 1000 people call Merriwa ‘home’, with another 1500 people residing in the surrounding districts of Cassilis, Borambil and Gungal.

Merriwa has a mild climate ranging from -2 to 30 °C with 550-750mm of rain that falls mostly in late spring and summer.

The name ‘Merriwa’ was originally from a Koori word meaning ‘plentiful with grass seeds and flour.’

And plentiful it is, consistently producing some of Australia's finest agricultural crops and livestock.

It's great for growing crops, beef, lamb and wool and is considered one of NSW's premier agricultural districts.

It is also famous for it's production of world class free range eggs, quail and herbs and boasts a wide range of agricultural support services.

With cafe's, a pub or two, a sports club, RSL, supermarket, pharmacy, aged care hostel, doctor and a hospital, the range of services and amenities make living in Merriwa easy.

When the weekend comes around, there is always plenty of sporting action to take in.

League, soccer, rugby, bowls, golf, cricket, squash, athletics, campdrafting, team penning and tennis clubs will keep you fit - as will the new gymnasium, skate park and play equipment.

Stay for an hour, a week or the rest of your life – it might just be the best ‘pit stop’ you’ve ever made.
Cassilis is a heritage listed village 42 kilometres west of Merriwa on the banks of the Munmurra River.

Stunning (circa 1800’s) sandstone buildings feature throughout the townships of both Cassilis and Merriwa which include:

The Parsonage left after highway turn off, Cassilis
St Columba of Iona Anglican Church (c1864) left hand side of the park, Cassilis
Police Residence and Courthouse (c1860) Branksome St, Cassilis
Haynes Store Branksome St, Cassilis
Chinese Emporium (c1892) Branksome St, Cassilis
The Doctors House Buccleugh St, Cassilis
The Royal Hotel (c1856) Buccleugh St, Cassilis

Merriwa also has a fine array of circa 1800’s sandstone buildings for you to admire...

Anglican Church Bow St, Merriwa
Courthouse & Police Station Vennacher St, Merriwa
The Royal Hotel (c1914) in Bettington St
Police Station and Court House (c1885 & 1908)
Merriwa Post Office (c1888)
National School Building (c1878) & principal’s residence
Merriwa Supermarket
The Fitzroy Hotel (c1892)
Goulburn River National Park

Located south of Merriwa, Goulburn River National Park spans 70,000 hectares of mostly sandstone country.

Access is via Ringwood Road, 9km west of Merriwa or from Ulan Road, Ulan. (Note: these are mostly unsealed ‘dry weather’ access roads.)

The park is rich in flora and fauna making it ideal for bushwalking, taking photos canoeing, swimming, or just enjoying and observing nature.

Free camp sites abound including: Big River, Spring Gully and White Box with basic facilities provided including toilets, BBQ’s and tables.

For the more adventurous take a hike up Mount Danga (access permission required*).

Battery Rock is one of Australia’s most accessible and unusual displays of basalt rock cuttings with striking columnar jointing believed to have formed more than 35 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. Located just 15km east of Merriwa on the Golden Highway before Sandy Hollow.

For a bit of history, take a trip out to Hands on the Rock, an ancient Koori site of Aboriginal significance. Call in to The Drip picnic area or Lee’s Pinch Lookout to take in some of the region’s spectacular views.

*To find out more contact the NPWS Mudgee office on (02) 6370 9000 or visit the website www.npws.nsw.gov.au
Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre and Men’s Shed

It is hard to miss the historic Slab Hut on Merriwa’s main street, which stands proudly at the entry to the Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre. ‘The Hut’ as it is affectionately known, provides an authentic insight into the way Merriwa’s early settlers would have lived more than a century ago.

Today the Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre is where local artisans and producers display and sell their arts, crafts, gifts and fresh produce. For the history buffs, drop in to see some of the impressive fully restored agricultural machinery.

The centre is also home to the Merriwa Men’s Shed, a community based, non-profit men’s group designed to promote well-being, good health and a positive social outlet for men. New members are always welcome!

Merriwa Bottle Museum

With over 5,000 bottles from the early 1800’s through to today, the Bottle Museum has an outstanding collection of rare and vintage vessels. It is located on Vennacher Street next to the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre.
Merriwa Historical Museum

One of the oldest homes in Merriwa is the Old Colonial Cottage built in 1857. Today it is Merriwa Historical Society’s headquarters and Museum packed with local memorabilia and interesting artefacts.

Take a trip down memory lane with the Merriwa Town Walk and retrace the steps of the early settlers. Drop into the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre on Vennacher Street to grab a map and find out more.

Merriwa Railway Station

Merriwa had its first train service in 1917. By July 1973, passenger services had ceased and by February 1988, so had all the freight train services.

Thanks to a band of dedicated volunteers, the Merriwa Railway Station has undergone a massive ‘facelift’. Railway memorabilia now adorns the recently restored station house with plans underway to wheel in one of the original carriages and engines that serviced the region.

Merriwa Caravan Park

A fabulous place to stop on the leafy banks of the Merriwa River. Caravan and tent sites available; toilet and shower facilities; caravan dump point. Caretaker on site daily from 4pm; Cnr Golden Highway & Dutton St, Merriwa NSW 2329 Mob: 0418 668 402

FREE CAMPING areas

* Battery Rock Picnic Area (15km east of Merriwa)
* Gungal Rest Area (21km east of Merriwa)
* Stone Crusher Truck Stop (15km west of Merriwa)
* Cassilis Rest Area (51km west of Merriwa or 11km west of Cassilis on Golden Hwy)
* Bunnan Picnic Area (30km north of Merriwa) on the Scone Road
* Westwood Road Truck Stop (17km east of Merriwa)
Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces

Few festivals feature sheep decked out in red socks flying down the main street of town, but that’s exactly what visitors see on the June long weekend in Merriwa each year.

The Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces started in 1990 as a tribute to the vital part sheep have played in establishing the region as a premium agricultural district.

Today, the festival also celebrates the Merriwa community in all its glory - from the Lighthorse Brigade and local rugby league team to each of the schools, rural fire service volunteers and pony club - it’s a grand parade like no other.

Shearing displays, the huff and puff of vintage farm machinery, brass bands and a swathe of stalls line the street and complete the ‘back to country’ experience.

To find out more call the Merriwa Visitor Information Centre on (02) 6521 7046 or email: merriwavic@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au
Merriwa Springtime Show

Founded in 1908, the Merriwa Springtime Show is held on the third weekend of September.

With two days of horses, cattle, sheep, produce, arts, crafts, yard dogs, a ute muster, young farmer competition, side show alley, rodeo and live music there is plenty for the whole family to see and do.

The show is the only one of its kind in the Upper Hunter Shire giving thousands of visitors an unforgettable country show experience every year.

Merriwa Races

Held only once a year (in April), Merriwa's quaint country race track comes alive with the thunder of hooves, chatter of punters and clatter of champagne glasses. Merriwa Races attracts fillies in their finery - and plenty of fine fillies. Don’t miss it!

Cassilis Rodeo

Held on the 5th Saturday of each year (end of January or beginning of February) the Cassilis Rodeo is a showcase of speed, skill and agility.

Saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, breakaway roping and rope and tie for the ‘cowboys’ barrel racing and more for the girls with steer riding, poddy calves for the juniors - there is an event for everyone, if you’re game. Get your boots on and come on down for a great show.
In an EMERGENCY (Police, Fire, Ambulance) DIAL – 000

GP/Medical Practitioners:

Merriwa Surgery – Dr Ramses Salama
111 Bettington Street
(PO Box 66)
MERRIWA NSW 2329
P: (02) 6548 2305
F: (02) 6548 2480
rmsalama@hotmail.com

Merriwa Multi Purpose Service (HOSPITAL)
Cnr Brisbane & MacKenzie St
(PO Box 79)
MERRIWA NSW 2329
P: (02) 6532 5000
F: (02) 6532 5005

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Liverpool Range Zone
PO Box 46
Willow Tree NSW 2339
T: 1800 081 166
M: 0409 247 756
F: (02) 6747 1489
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Fire & Rescue NSW Merriwa Station
140 Bettington Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329
P: (02) 6548 2005 (local station)
P: (02) 9265 2999 (head office)
info@fire.nsw.gov.au
www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au

NSW Police Force
P: (02) 6548 2203
Police Assistance Line (Minor Matters)
P: 131 444

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Merriwa
Bettoning Street
(PO Box 28)
MERRIWA NSW 2329
P: (02) 6548 2538 (emergencies)
P: (02) 6548 2114 (general)
www.rescue.org.au

Rocky Creek Wildlife Refuge & Rescue
C/- Post Office
SANDY HOLLOW NSW 2333
P: (02) 6547 6199
M: 0417 457 863 or 0428 261 731
rockycreek@hotkey.net.au

Merriwa Pharmacy
For all your health & beauty needs
Open: 9am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday
         9am -12pm Saturday
Where: 106 Bettington Street, Merriwa
Phone: (02) 6548 2213
Fax: (02) 6548 2630
Merriwa Pre-school and Activity Centre
provides quality education and care for children aged 2-5 years in a secure environment. We develop your child in readiness for formal schooling. We also provide after school and vacation care for students children aged K to 12 years.
T: (02) 6548 2083

St Joseph’s School Merriwa
provides quality education empowering students from K to year 6 to become lifelong learners. Community values, understanding and respect characterise this Catholic School. All enquires welcome.

Mrs Helen Whale
Principal
St Joseph’s Primary School
Merriwa NSW 2329
P: (02) 65482035
helen.whale@mn.catholic.edu.au

Cassilis Public School
has provided a unique learning environment for students since 1876. We encourage all our students (from K to year 6) to ‘strive to learn’.

Coolah Road
CASSILIS NSW 2329
P: (02) 6376 1009
F: (02)6376 1005
cassilis-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.cassilis-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Merriwa Central School
is a dynamic and creative multi-campus school for K to year 12. Students have access to a broad range of high quality educational opportunities and a strong community support base.

Bow Street
MERRIWA NSW 2329
Secondary
P: (02) 6548 2119
F: (02) 6548 2543
Primary
P: (02) 6548 2101
F: (02) 6548 2797
merriwa-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.merriwa-c.schools.nsw.edu.au

Merriwa Ringer
Merriwa’s very own community newspaper is proudly produced each school week (during term) at the Merriwa Central School. To place an ad or find out more contact:
merriwa2-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au
P: (02) 6548 2119

Accommodation

B&B on Bettington
Cnr of Bettington & Vennacher St
Merriwa 2329
ph.65 482 777

Best Location in Merriwa ~ Located in the Merriwa Town Centre
Best Accommodation in Merriwa
Totally New Refurbished Rooms & Interior
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e-mail: info@bbonbettingtonmerriwa.com.au
web: www.bbaccommodationmerriwa.com.au

Merriwa Serviced Apartments & Shearers’ Quarters B&B
68 Vennacher Street MERRIWA NSW 2329
& 74 Flags Road MERRIWA NSW 2329
P: 02 6548 2509

Caravan Park

Cassills Caravan Park
Mudgee Road, Cassills
NSW 2329
(Next to the Bowling Club)
Powered sites, camping, good facilities, hot showers
$10 per night
Phone/Fax: 63761002
www.cassillsbowlingclub.com.au
“a little bit of peace and quiet”

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Merriwa NSW 2329
Phone/Fax 67
05482417
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This ‘n That

Visit us for all your gift needs
139 Bettington Street, Merriwa
(02) 6548 2889

Hardware

Merriwa Home Timber & Hardware
The proper hardware store
139 Bettington Street
Merriwa NSW 2329
(02) 6548 2077

Clothing

Di’s Clothing Patch

Tel/Fax: (02) 6548 3023
Mob: 0428 385 137
E-mail: disclothingpatch@bigpond.com

Trinity Markets
118 Bettington Street, Merriwa 2329

Working Dogs

Peter Pearce
‘Backwood’
PO Box 112
MERRIWA NSW 2329
E: peterpearce5@bigpond.com
P/F: 6548 8552

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- Garden Supplies & Washing Agents
- Special Orders

19 Vennacher Street
MERRIWA, NSW, 2329

Phone (02) 6548 2071

After hours:
Greg Llewelyn 0417 227 204
Wayne Meyer 0429 474 512
Fax (02) 6548 2553
Email: crtmerrlia@bigpond.com

GM Llewelyn & Co
Real Estate, Stock & Station Agents

Specialising in rural & residential property sales, clearing sales & property management

Local Agent for over 30 years
Merriwa Office
19 Vennacher St
Merriwa, NSW, 2329

Office: (02) 6548 2008
Greg Llewelyn: 0417 227 204
Megan Constable: 0428 482 663

Denman Office
21 Ogilvie Street
Denman NSW 2328

Office: (02) 6547 1117
Huw Llewelyn: 0429 482 291
Email: llewelyn@merriwa.com
www.gmllewelynandco.com

Tomimbil Seeds
288 Summerhill Road, TURILL 2850
P: 02 6376 1029

JTS REALTY

A Family Business

Jay Shepherdson
Phone: 6541 5331
Fax: 6541 0330

Email: jtsrealty@rslcom.net.au
Website: www.jtsrealty.com.au

JTS Realty services Merriwa and surrounding areas.
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**Automotive Repairs**

Merriwa Auto Electrical
30 Bow Street, MERRIWA 2329
P: 02 6548 2114  F: 02 6548 2668  E: merrae@bigpond.com

**Earthmoving**

Russell's Earthmoving
141 Bettington Street, Merriwa, NSW 2329
PHONE: 02 6548 2078

**Veterinary Services**

Anthea Wright Vet Services - for all creatures great and small!
84 Bettington Street  MERRIWA NSW 2329
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm  P: 02 6548 2452  F: 02 6548 2286  E: admin_merriwavet@maxnet.net.au

**Beauty**

Good Looks Nail & Beauty
27 Collins Street, MERRIWA NSW  P: 0408 175 028
ROYAL HOTEL MERRIWA
94 Bettington Street, Merriwa, 2329.
Ph- 02 65482235
Fax- 02 65482828
Email- jacmon58@hotmail.com

Restaurant opens for lunch and dinner 7 days
10 lunches for $10 each daily
Specials every night
Coldest beer in town
Newly refurbished accommodation

Merriwa Sports Club Ltd
46 King George V Avenue, MERRIWA 2329   P: 02 6548 2028
W: merriwasportsclub.org   E: mersport@bigpond.net.au

Communications
design & copywriting: brochures, ads, invites, reports & tenders
photography: commercial, real estate, livestock, farm & family

Tel: (02) 6548 5002
www.tashholden.com.au
Locked Bag 1001, Merriwa, NSW, 2329

Surveyors

Olive Oil

‘Award Winning Oils’

ROSTO is a family owned & run company bringing you fresh first cold pressed Australian extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) at a ‘splosh it around’ price.

‘Terragong’
Willow Tree Road
MERRIWA, NSW, 2329

Thanks to all 2012 brochure image contributors:
Tina Taylor, Candice O’Neil & Tash Holden
WHERE IS MERRIWA?

Merriwa is centrally located on the Golden Highway just two hours drive between the three regional centres of Dubbo (194 km), Newcastle (189 km) and Tamworth (203 km).
February
* Cassilis Rodeo
* Merriwa Campdraft

April
* Pony Club Presidents Cup Day
* ANZAC Day

March
* Polocrosse Carnival

June
* Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces

August
* Merriwa Little Sprouts

September
* Merriwa Springtime Show

December
* Combined Christmas Carols
* Community Christmas Party (Biennial)

**HOW TO GET HERE**

From Sydney, it is an easy 297 km - or 3.5 hour drive - along the F3 freeway. For fine wines and the perfect dining experience, take in the Hunter Valley or Mudgee wine districts along the way, both just one hour from Merriwa.
Visit our diverse & beautiful shire
the welcome mat is out for you!

call or drop in to one of our three accredited
Visitor Information Centre’s

Scone           Merriwa           Murrurundi
(02) 6540 1300   (02) 6521 7046   (02) 6546 6446
Kelly & Susan Sts Vennacher St      Mayne St

www.upperhuntertourism.com.au

MAJOR EVENTS
King of the Ranges
Murrurundi - May
Scone & Upper
Hunter Horse
Festival - May
Merriwa Festival of
the Fleeces - June
Aberdeen Highland
Games - July

Merriwa ~ Home of
Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces
~ Legendary Sheep in Red Socks ~

Held annually ~June long weekend!
For more information contact Merriwa Visitor
Information Centre on 02 6521 7046

Merriwa Visitor Information Centre
Vennacher Street, Merriwa
Phone: (02) 6521 7046   Fax: (02) 6521 7086
Email: merriwavic@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Economic development enquiries to:
Upper Hunter Shire Council
Manager Economic Development & Tourism
PO Box 208, Scone NSW 2337
Phone: (02) 6540 1135
Email: council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au