

Primary entry #36: St Joseph's Primary School, Merriwa



Merriwa Mag



REPLACED: The new fence and canteen at Merriwa Showground.
Picture: Hannah Riley

Out with the old and in with the new

By HANNAH RILEY and
APRIL LAWLER

LIKE most facilities, things get run down. According to Merriwa Show president Rob Tindall, the showground was deteriorating rapidly.

"The old showground arena fence was dangerous. It had been there for many years and some of the posts were broken," Mr Tindall said.

"A lot of the fence was too low, it was dangerous for people sitting on the outside.

"If there were horses or stock on the inside, they could jump over. It also looked extremely untidy."

Thanks to government grants, advertising money and council funds, the old showground arena has been replaced. The new arena is now secure and safer.

The Showground Management Committee is launching a program called Sponsor a Panel. This concept allows a person or organisation to sponsor a panel within the showground, whether it is a ring fence or a yard panel. The sponsored panel would then have a plaque placed on it saying "Proudly sponsored by (your name)".

The funds raised, along with possible grants and existing funds, will continue to contribute to further improvements being undertaken.

Merriwa residents are extremely grateful for the great help and support of all the organisations that help Merriwa achieve new goals to help the community.

By CLANCY MOORE and
CLANCY MARTIN

HENDRA virus is deadly.

Fruit bats and flying foxes transmit Hendra virus mainly to horses who can pass it on to humans.

Hendra is now starting to come down from Queensland into NSW. Hendra was first found in Brisbane in 1994.

When Hendra virus infects horses, they can get really sick and in the end usually die.

On July 5, 2013, there was another case of Hendra virus reported, at Kempsey.

This recent case is worrying for the many horse owners in and around the Hunter Valley who have concerns that Hendra is spreading quickly.

Merriwa veterinarian Anthea Wright says there are many symptoms relating to the virus.

"The horse will usually walk around in circles and not know where they are going," she said. "They will have a high temperature and will go off eating their food."

The Hendra virus can go from horse to horse, can be passed from an infected horse to a human but cannot be transferred from person to person. This type of illness is called a zoonotic disease.

Bats and flying foxes don't have to land in a tree or in the paddock. They can drop fruit, faeces or any



STAY SAFE: Darcy Moore leading a Hendra-free horse.

Picture:
Clancy Moore

fluid where the horse is grazing.

Hendra information sessions have recently been held throughout the state. As a result, people are making informed decisions regarding vaccination. People choosing to vaccinate are doing so due to the risk of human infections, as well as the monetary and senti-

mental value of the horse.

Researchers conducting trials of a vaccine against the deadly Hendra virus have run into problems during lab testing throwing their latest test results into question and putting the program back months.

The scientists have already shown that their vaccine gives

horses immunity to Hendra for six months, but they were hoping to prove that the vaccine could protect horses for a year.

Further investigation into Hendra and the vaccine are continuing.

At the moment it is a personal decision to vaccinate or not to vaccinate.



FOCUSED: Emily Ninness competes in the cutout event at St Joseph's Campdraft.

Fete day success for St Joseph's

By HANNAH RILEY and
ELIZA PEEBLES

STORMY clouds and a little misty rain greeted competitors and spectators as St Joseph's Primary School Merriwa ran their second annual Junior Campdraft and Fete day on June 29.

The weather did not dampen the spirits of the 130 riders and their families, who travelled from as far

away as Inverell, Camden, Bulahdelah, Bathurst and everywhere in between.

Junior competitors took part in campdrafting, cutout, stock rider and sporting events throughout the day.

The highlight was the family cutout and draft which gave parents and children the opportunity to compete together.

There were also fete activities and market stalls, with

many non-competitors and competitors taking part in hobby horse races, and craft and treasure hunt activities. A raffle, prize wheel, silent stallion auction, coffee and canteen kept adults busy.

The students of St Joseph's were very thankful to the sponsors, donors, and everyone who helped on the day.

Money raised will go towards new resources for the school.

Smash your rate!

With our super low one year fixed rate home loan

One year fixed rate

Comparison rate*

4.39%_{p.a.} **5.47%_{p.a.}**

Talk to The Home Loan Experts and see how much you could save when you switch to Newcastle Permanent

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au/winner



110 YEARS  NEWCASTLE
PERMANENT

Here's some more information for you: Rate current as at 12/08/13. Rates are subject to change without notice. *Comparison Rate calculated on a loan amount of \$150,000 for a term of 25 years based on monthly repayments. Warning: This Comparison Rate applies only to the example or examples given. Different amounts and terms will result in different Comparison Rates. Costs such as redraw fees or early repayment fees, and costs savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the Comparison Rate but may influence the cost of the loan. Terms and Conditions are available from Newcastle Permanent Building Society Limited ACN 087 651 992. Australian Financial Services Licence/Australian Credit Licence 238273. e NPB2247 T24