Up-Coming Events
See Merici web page for full calendar and further details

Monday 20 July Term 3 Starts

Tuesday 21 July
Year 7 Study Skills Day 2 | Sustainability Assembly (P2)

Wednesday 22 July Year 12 Retreat

Thursday 23 July RACI Australian Chemistry Quiz Year 10-11

Thurs/Fri 23/24 July Year 12 Retreat

Monday 27 July Brescia Fundraising Week | Grandparent’s Day – Prayer and Morning Tea

Tuesday 28 July Swiss House Day

Wednesday 29 July ASC Netball | ACT Southern NSW Snow Sports

Thursday 30 July ACT Southern NSW Snow Sports | Australian Mathematics Competition

Friday 31 July ACT Southern NSW Snow Sports | Year 8 Bean Day

Year 9 – QL2 Dance Schools Marine (10.30am-12.30pm)

Monday 3 August Elite Composers Applications Due | Languages Week

RACI Triathlon Stakes Year 12 | DonateLife Week

Tuesday 4 August Autism Certificates of Language Competence – Years 8-12 | College Football Languages Assembly Year 7-10 and Senior Language (10.15am-11.15am)

Wednesday 5 August Autism Certificates of Language Competence – Years 8-12 | Autism Chemistry Olympiad Exam Year 10-11 Bridge Restaurant (12.30pm-1.30pm)

Thursday 6 August ACT 12Y&U Girls Tennis

Autism Certificates of Language Competence – Years 8-12 | Cultural Fair (12:30 - 1:30pm)

Friday 7 August Pendola House Day | Year 9 Textiles Excursion | College Girls Outing

Sat/Sun 8/9 August City/Scarf Excursion

Monday 10 August Autism Biology Olympiad Exam – Year 10-11 | ASC Girls Hockey

School and Specialist Captains Nominations Due

Tuesday 11 August Academic Awards Ceremony (10.15am-12.45pm)

Wednesday 12 August Autism Physics Olympiad Exam – Year 10-11 | Bridge Restaurant (12.30pm-1.30pm)

Thursday 13 August Moderation Day #2 | Year 11 Tertiary AST Practice

Thurs/Fri 13/14 August PSQ Swimming Trials AIS

Friday 14 August Big Sister Science Day | College Musical Bump-in

Fri/Sat/Sun 14-16 August D of E Bush Prac 2 Leaves (3.30pm)

Monday 17 August Big Sister Science Day

Tuesday 18 August Nsh Gangubilink TBF AIS | Year 7 and 8 Nsh Football

Wed/Thurs 19/20 August Senior Sociology Excursion

Friday 21 August School and Specialist Captains shortlist announced | Merici College Musical (6.00pm-9.00pm)

Saturday 22 August Merici College Musical (6.00pm-4.00pm and 6.00pm-9.00pm)

Sunday 23 August College Musical Bump-Out (9.00am-3.00pm)

Monday 24 August Balgo Fundraising Week | Year 9 Textiles Quilting incursion

Tuesday 25 August School Captain Elections (11.30am-12.30pm)

Wednesday 26 August Year 9&10 Nsh Football Bridge Restaurant (6.00pm-7.30pm)

Thursday 27 August Feeder School Art from the HeART Workshop

Friday 28 August 13Y&O Rock Climbing | Diffold Day | School and Specialist Captains Announced

Fri/Sat/Sun 28-30 August D of E Bush Pract 2 Leaves (3.30pm)

Monday 31 August House Captain Nominations Due | Year 10 Fashion Designer Visits | Year 12 Assessment Free Week

Mon/Tues 31 Aug/S 1 Sept Year 10 Sustainability Sydney Transport Experience

Tuesday 1 September AST First Sitting – Day 1 Edge Conference

Wednesday 2 September AST First Sitting – Day 2 | D of E Long Trip Meeting ACT 13Y&O Netball Finals

Thursday 3 September Senior Drama Camp Feeder School Art from the HeART Workshop

Friday 4 September House Captain Shortlist Announced Senior Drama Comp

Year 10 Father/ Daughter Mass and Dinner (6.00pm-8.30pm)

Monday 7 September Year 7 – IMS Botanic Gardens (Half year group, 9.15am-12.30pm)

Tuesday 8 September ACT 13Y&O Youth Italian Excursion – The Arlecchino Group

Year 7 – IMS Botanic Gardens (Half year group, 9.15am-12.30pm)

House Captain Elections (11.30am-12.30pm) | Year 7 2016 Information Evening (4.45pm-7.00pm)

Wednesday 9 September ACT 13Y&O Football Finals

Thursday 10 September Social Justice Trivia Night | Year 10 History/Geography Excursion

Friday 11 September House Captain Announced | Milo Cricket Umpiring – Sport and Rec.

Saturday 12 September ACT 13Y&O Orienteering

Monday 14 September ASC Girls Basketball

Tuesday 15 September ACT 12Y&U Archives | Florida – Merici Choir (12.45pm)

Wednesday 16 September Ausdance Youth Dance Festival | Bridge Restaurant (6.00pm-7.30pm) | Florida – Merici Band (10.40am)

Thursday 17 September Athletics Carnival

Friday 18 September Year 8 Geography/History Excursion | Year 10 Social

Saturday 19 September D of E Trip Prep

Sunday 20 September Japan Study Tour leaves (away till Oct 8)

Monday 21 September Florida – Merici Dance Trio (1.20pm) | Parent/Student/Teacher Night (4.00pm-7.00pm)

Tuesday 22 September Italian Excursion

Wednesday 23 September Italian Excursion | Expressive Arts Assembly (11.35am-12.35pm)

Thursday 24 September Balgo House Day | Music Extravaganza (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Friday 25 September Year 8 and 10 Bell Shakespeare | Term 3 ends (D of E long trip 28 pack up, 27 Sept-Oct Cobar XLIV)

Monday 12 October Term 4 Starts
This edition of Building Futures reminds me of a powerful Old Testament scripture piece found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It also happens to be the scripture used to create the The Byrds song (yes, I am showing my age here, although I wasn’t actually born when this song was released!) Turn, Turn, Turn.

It goes like this -

**Everything Has It’s Time**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- a time to rend, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- a time to love, and a time to hate;
- a time for war, and a time for peace.

Upon reflection our activities and life can be grouped into 3 categories and although they may appear as distinct they really do overlap and intersect at many points.

**A Time of Celebration**

One of the great joys in being in community as a school are the many ways we acknowledge achievement, share our togetherness and appreciate the gifts and talents that we all bring to make our community richer and stronger.

There have been many occasions over the past term where we showcased the range of abilities to our students and staff. Open Day, Be A Merici Girl for a Day, Art in the Heart, the Science Series, Da Vinici Decathlon, incursions for History and excursions for Science, Languages, Dance and Drama have extended the academic journey of all students from within the boundaries of the classroom to the world beyond Merici College. We have been at the centre of learning – inviting local government and feeder Catholic schools to participate in programs, lessons and activities that expand the mind and assist in the transition from primary to secondary school.

Our students have been great ambassadors and tour guides. Music and sport have ranked high in our areas of achievement. I have been proud of the girls under the guidance of their conductors and coaches as they have represented Merici College in high level performances and competitions.

Being part of a Catholic community allows us to pray together in celebration and St Angela Merici Day was a grand highlight. On this day we recall the great courage, strength and virtues of St Angela and reflect on how we are called to respond to them with great vigour in 2015.

**A Time of Action**

With Serviam as our theme for 2015 the spirit of generosity and volunteering has been at the heart of giving. Issues of social justice have continued to be a focus for Pastoral Care, focus groups, Houses and the entire school. We have collected over 4200 cans for OzHarvest and St Vincent de Paul. 42 winter jackets with pockets filled with personal items are now being distributed through the St Vincent de Paul, Night Van. The winter appeal continues all through this term with extra clothing for babies and food for the needy.

The College has joined with the nation in raising awareness on issues such as Reconciliation, Refugee and Migrants Week, Blood Donation, Cancer Council, SIDS for Kids, Street Swags and other ethical issues.

**A Time of Reflection**

Reflection is always a time for growth. Growth of heart and of mind. Beginning the term with a heart-moving ANZAC Day assembly will be a highlight for me this year. The way the College commemorated those who gave their lives in past wars and continue to serve our country will stay with me for many years to come.

Through grief and sadness we also said farewell to Mr Mark Wagland, a loved and devoted teacher here at Merici College. We were amazed by the attendance of ex-students at a liturgy we held in his honour and for the repose of his soul. He was definitely one-of-a-kind and we pray for his family as they continue on their journey without him near. As we said goodbye to one staff member, the child of another was born. Welcome to the world, Archie Cannell. We are fortunate to have you here on campus each day to remind us about the preciousness of life.

And so I return to the words above – For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Be kind to yourself.  

Mrs Loretta Wholley  
Principal
At the beginning of this term the community of Merici College gathered together at a special ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony to remember the 100th Anniversary of the ANZAC Landings at Gallipoli.

The students and staff welcomed the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial to the Assembly as the guest speaker. Other members of the community in attendance included Senator Zed Seselja, Mr Alistair Coe MLA, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Member for Molonglo, Mr Matthew Aileone, First Secretary of the New Zealand High Commission, Father Tony Percy, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, and Mr Peter Eveille, President of the Returned and Services League of Australia ACT Branch. Members of the Royal Military Band Duntroon also joined the Merici College Choir and Senior Band to perform the National Anthems of New Zealand and Australia. Merici College currently has 104 Defence students and 80 Defence families enrolled at the College who were also present.

The day of commemoration commenced early in the morning with Merici's Sustainability Teacher, Fiona Buining, and Defence students planting a Lone Pine from Gallipoli and wild rosemary. The students shared in a prayer reflection where they learnt that a Lone Pine seed from Gallipoli was planted on 24 October 1934 by His Royal Highness Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial. Prince Henry decorated it with a wreath of red poppies and at that time, only the Memorial's foundations had been built. The tree was surrounded by an almost empty paddock and came to be known as the Lone Pine. Students also placed poppies (one for each enrolled student) in the College's front garden beds as a dedication to all who have served our country during times of conflict and crisis.

The ceremony was opened by Mrs Catherine Amesbury, Merici College teacher and Defence Force wife, “ANZAC Day is in many ways a reflection of when we came of age as a nation and is especially significant to my family, for like the 104 Merici girls, my family too is a Defence Force family. As a Defence Force wife, I understand the pride and determination the men and women of our armed forces embrace in upholding the standards set by the ANZACs that come before them. Mrs Amesbury also spoke about the significance of Merici's theme this year, Serviam, “It is significant for Merici to be living the ideal of Serviam, meaning to serve, in the same year we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Landing at what is now known as ANZAC Cove, for our men and women of the defence forces, both past and present, display the ultimate level of service that could be offered, the willingness to lay down their life in the protection and service to others.”

In a very inspiring address, Dr Brendan Nelson reflected on the 100th Anniversary of the ANZAC Landings at Gallipoli, noting that “the lesson in all of this is that ultimately, a life of service is one spent in the service of others. It may have been in the context of war, but what is most inspiring is that is the story of friendship and love”. Dr Nelson, together with Mr Matthew Aileone, First Secretary of the New Zealand High Commission, were invited to lay a wreath to commemorate all Australians and New Zealanders who have given their lives in the service of our countries. Wreaths were also laid to commemorate the contribution of the Merici College community to the Australian Defence Forces, and all Australians and New Zealanders who currently serve.

Mrs Loretta Wholley, Merici's Principal thanked all members of the school community and guests for making the assembly so memorable. On behalf of the Honourable Tony Abbott, MP, Mrs Wholley conveyed his message to the Merici College community of the significance of Commemoration Assembly and the sacrifice made by so many Australian servicemen and women who have given so much, and continue, so generously to serve our nation. She concluded the assembly by quoting Jackie French, author and recipient of the Senior Australian of the Year 2015 award, who wrote in the final notes of her book – A Rose for the Anzac Boys: “War is perhaps humanities craziest invention. But it is also in war – that human sometimes show their greatest courage, loyalty and love. It is important, to understand the difference between glorifying war and celebrating the triumphs of the human spirit amid battles.” Ms French goes on to say: “We need to know the past to understand today. We need to listen to the past to learn that things can change and that we can change them. We need to hear the voices of our war veterans, no matter how terrible their stories. Today, ANZAC Day commemorates all those who fight or suffer in war, and the bravery and dedication of those who make the ultimate sacrifice - their lives.”

Loretta Wholley
Principal
Commemorating ANZAC Day

To commemorate Anzac day this year a group of students from families that work in the Australian Defence Force participated in a ceremony to plant a new Lone Pine tree and a Gallipoli rosemary at Merici.

Symbolism

The battle of Lone Pine was on August 6, 1915. The area was named Lone Pine due to the presence of a solitary pine on the ridge. It was the only pine remaining after the area had been cleared and the timber used to fortify trenches. The Turkish soldiers had covered their trenches with branches of pine trees imported from other parts of the Mediterranean. An Australian soldier, Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith, whose brother Mark had been killed in the Battle of Lone Pine collected some pine cones from the branches covering Turkish trenches. He sent them home to his mother in Inverell in NSW in memory of his brother. Mrs McMullen kept the pine cones in a drawer for 13 years. In 1928 she planted the seeds which produced 2 seedlings. One was planted in Inverell, the other was planted at the site of The Australian War Memorial in Canberra, by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934, to honour all those who died at Gallipoli. Since then, seedlings of this tree have been propagated in Canberra and planted all over the country. This tree became known as the Lone Pine although it is not from The Lone Pine on Lone Pine Ridge. It is called the Aleppo Pine and its botanical name is Pinus halepensis.

Interestingly, another soldier sent pine cones home to Australia from The Lone Pine on Lone Pine Ridge. This is the origin of the Lone Pine planted at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

Past Pine

An Aleppo Pine was planted in 1998 at Merici College but it had to be removed last year as it had developed a large crack at the base of the trunk. Gordon Smith, a joiner, from Hall salvaged the log, milled it into timber and is storing it for us. Once it is dry the school can have something made from the timber so that the tree will live on.

Fiona Buining
Sustainability Teacher
The Australian National Eisteddfod has occurred in Canberra since 1955. In recent years the annual Eisteddfod has attracted around 5,000 individual entries and groups - local and interstate- and has over 200 event categories for ages 6 years and under to open. There are at present six competitions, in Bands & Orchestras, Choirs, Instrumental and Contemporary Music, Piano, Singing and Speech and Drama. The eisteddfod was to be a vehicle to encourage and foster the national development of the performing arts.

A large amount of preparation goes into these performances, including weekly rehearsals before and after school, lunch time rehearsals, individual home practice and section rehearsals. All Band and String Ensemble students participated in the Bands & Orchestras section in May. This included the participation of girls in the Year 7 Beginner Concert Band- receiving a Gold award, Jazz Band- receiving a Silver award, Junior Band- receiving a Bronze award, Senior Band- receiving a Silver award and the String Ensemble- receiving a Gold award plus the Platinum award. A huge congratulations to all girls involved.

In particular, the Year 7 Beginner Band who was Merici’s first ever beginner band to enter an eisteddfod and to the String Ensemble who demonstrated outstanding musicianship and blew the socks off the adjudicator, earning them a well-deserved Platinum award.

We look forward to seeing the Choir develop throughout the year and participate in the Choirs section in August this year.

Keep up the hard work and remember-

TEAM
Together Everyone Achieves More

Beth Way
Music Teacher
On 11 May, Merici gathered together as a community for our annual Social Justice assembly, led by our Social Justice Captain, Meh-Ara Taseer.

It was brought to our attention that everyone has a different definition of social justice. However as a community we can settle on an idea that can benefit everyone within our homes, school and greater community.

Merici has run and attended multiple community and school-based Social Justice Events. Within the last term alone Merici was involved in 6 projects including the Donate Life Walk, the Vinnies Doorknock, the Canberra Blind Society Appeal and a school run car wash and BBQ to raise much needed funds for Vanuatu.

’Agents of Change’ was another point of focus for the assembly. The house captains (pictured bottom right) were featured in a video which involved each house promoting their charity. The message was that by donating time and not money, one can change and better the society starting by a simple act of justice.

The Service Captain and 2 blood donor ambassadors came from our brother school Marist. In conjunction with our blood donor ambassadors and Billy the Blood Drop, the ambassadors helped raise the awareness and importance of giving blood. They have also set us a challenge; ‘Marist verses Merici races to save lives’ A friendly competition which will benefit a society much larger than each school’s community.

Another special guest was Amanda Amodio, a representative from the St Vincent de Paul’s Society. She spoke highly of our involvement in their charity’s programs and introduced us to the upcoming winter appeal, Merici’s traditional Can Line and the Night Patrol Van’s visit.

The new members of both Social Justice and the SRC were recognised and the first ever Social Justice badges were awarded to all participants. The assembly concluded with our School Captains reading a pledge on behalf of the Merici community, promising to offer our service to others, be selfless in our actions and to continue to work towards a better world through actions of our school’s motto, Serviam.

Hayley Wilson, Year 12
Social Justice Group
Merici College staff and students welcomed over 220 students from Catholic primary feeder schools to the College on Tuesday 5 May 2014 to see what life is like in a busy college. Students participated in activities and toured the school through their two hour visit. This year the activities included experiments in Science, dance routines in Expressive Arts and cooking in Food Technology. The students rotated every 20 minutes, which gave them an opportunity to experience the exceptional facilities at the College and also ask questions of the Year 10 student guides about life at Merici. At the end of their visit students were welcomed in the restaurant for refreshments before returning back to their school. Merici College thanks the primary school students and accompanying staff for making time to visit.

The College was also on display on Wednesday 6 May and came alive for its Open Day. From 9.30am until 7.00pm visitors had the opportunity to try out Science experiments, visit senior Fashion students in workshops, talk to Integrated Humanities students about their assignments, visit Graphics classes and talk to students about their design work, enjoy band and individual student music performances, watch Drama and Dance students rehearse for their 2015 Musical Production ‘The Little Princess’, witness sport in action with students playing basketball, volleyball and netball games, visit the kitchen garden and glasshouse, move to the beat of dance routines, enjoy refreshments in the restaurant, and much more.

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by students which, in no small part, contributed to the success of our Open Day. Over 300 students participated in Open Day activities during the day and throughout the night. “You were all wonderful ambassadors for our school and we have received excellent feedback from all our visitors on your exceptional skills in conducting school tours, participating in classroom room activities, and presenting musical, dance and drama performances. In particular, our visitors commented on how you, our students, spoke about Merici life with such pride and enthusiasm”, noted Mrs Wholley.

We would like to extend our special thanks and appreciation to our Maintenance and Hospitality staff members who worked tirelessly to prepare for our Open Day. Our Hospitality students and staff prepared refreshments for all our visiting students on Tuesday (over 300) as well as their normal everyday service to the College. On Wednesday, they prepared a delicious menu for the Bridge Restaurant which was open for lunch and dinner. In addition, they prepared and served two different soups with fresh bread to all students and staff who participated in after-school activities (well over 400 people). Our sincere thanks is extended to you!

Merici College would like to thank the parent community for supporting its Open Day. The generosity and flexibility shown by parents supporting their daughters’ participation in after-school activities made the Open Day a resounding success. Special thanks are also extended to the College staff who coordinated and supervised activities, which were a small snapshot of the exceptional work they do every day. Their enthusiasm for teaching and learning and their dedication to the school is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Loretta Wholley
Principal
Merici College Dance students celebrated Australian Dance Week through a variety of exciting Dance activities. Fifty Dance students from Years 9-12 visited the Canberra Theatre to attend a special school’s matinee performance of Sydney Dance Company’s latest production entitled ‘Frame of Mind’. The artistic director, Rafael Bonachela, spoke about his inspiration for the choreography and provided a valuable insight into the creative process. After the performance there was a question and answer session which was very interesting. The students were also shown the technical aspects of scenery changes and lighting effects so it was a very worthwhile excursion. I was especially proud of one of the dancers in the company; a young man named Sam Young-Wright, who received his initial ballet training from me and who joined Sydney Dance Company earlier this year!

To continue our Dance week celebrations all the Dance students from Year 7-12 performed a Flash Mob routine in various venues around the school. This was very entertaining and very well received!

The Merici Dance Troupe also performed a short concert at Belconnen Fresh Food Markets. A number of the students were performing for the first time.

Finally, our senior Dance students participated in a 2-hour dance workshop with Tom Bradley from Sydney Dance Company. They were taught contemporary dance technique and repertoire from the recent production of Rafael Bonachela’s ‘Frame of Mind’. Then they were given a creative task and Tom provided them with some very useful tips on how to create a dance and make their movements unique and individual.

Laura Pearce
Dance Teacher
Last year the College introduced ‘Be a Merici Girl for a Day’ for Year 6 students from non-feeder schools, which was extremely successful. This year we invited Year 6 students to participate again, with an overwhelming response. To accommodate the number of registrations, three days were held: Tuesday 5 May, Monday 11 May and Friday 15 May. These days were well received with over 160 students attending a typical day at high school. Students attended classes in Sustainability, Science, Expressive Arts, Languages, Physical Health and Behavioural Sciences, and Global Studies. The students welcomed the opportunity to learn more about transitioning from primary school to high school and enjoyed ‘trying out’ a few of the subjects on offer at the College. They spent time in our Glasshouse where they planted rocket seedlings to take home. Students also spent time in the Kitchen Garden where they participated in a Garden Discovery exercise. They moved onto Science to make simple thermometers to fly tea-bag rockets and conduct dry ice experiments. In Dance lessons, students were taught the Merici ‘Flash Mob’ dance. Students enjoyed short lessons in Japanese, Italian, French and Chinese to give them the opportunity to learn more about the Languages program here at the College. They also enjoyed fast-paced team leadership activities in PE and cooked up an assortment of mini quiches in Food Technology, which were quickly consumed as they came out of the ovens!

We thank the students for coming along and spending a day at Merici and wish them well in their high school endeavours.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer
In the last week of Term 1, all band and stringed instrument students participated in a three-day rehearsal camp at The Pines, Tuross. The purpose of this camp was to allow students in all different groups to be able to rehearse intensely with a focus on sectional work and peer tutoring. Many of the senior students were able to work alongside with the beginning students to help them learn notes and how to play their instrument correctly. Which is always hard when the Beginner Band only has 45 minutes each week to rehearse. The camp also provided all girls the opportunity to get to know each other outside of normal school rehearsals and form friendships amongst all year groups. It was an opportunity for staff to work with individual players in a more intense setting as well and workshop each band as a whole in preparation for the Eisteddfod.

**National Eisteddfod Preparation**

A major focus for this camp was the preparation for the Australian National Eisteddfod. At the end of the three days each band performed their pieces in a concert for each other so that they could hear the amazing progress that occurred. At the camp the girls were able to test their musical knowledge in the Trivia night as well as play the largest known game of ‘Pass the beat around the room’. On the second night the girls could display their talents through the fashion parade, where Jessica Manclark in Year 7 provided background music. As well as have the opportunity to perform something different, other than band music, in the Talent Quest night. There was a variety of talent presented on this night including singing duos, guitar solos, comedic acts and dances.

Music Camp is a wonderful opportunity to start the year off with more focussed rehearsals and allowing the opportunity for everyone to get to know one another in a relaxed, fun and exciting environment.

*Beth Way*

*Music Teacher*
What has inspired you to take on your role?
I've always been interested in leadership roles so when I came to Merici, I instantly loved the school and knew I wanted to be on the leadership team in Year 12. I really wanted to challenge myself and get out of my comfort zone. I am very proud to be a Merici girl so when I had the opportunity to apply for Captain, I was very keen.

What do you do?
Mostly, we represent Merici and speak at community and school events. We act as role models for younger students and try and be there for our fellow Merici girls. We work with the leadership team, Mrs Tolfree and Mrs Wholley a lot. Although being a Captains can be a lot of work, it’s very rewarding and lots of fun!

What are your goals for the year?
My main goal as Captain is to be friendly and approachable and encourage students to give things a go. Rose and I want to incorporate this year's motto, Serviam, into our plans, and we have a few ideas for a ripper Angela Merici Day!

Grace Cooper
College Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?
I think seeing Harriet and Maddy and other past Captains in the role is what really encouraged me to apply, but I liked the idea of representing the school and helping to express the thoughts of our students!

What do you do?
A lot of the work that Gracie and I do is behind the scenes, may it be attending meetings, organizing the Year 12 jerseys, representing the school at various events or helping out at some of the other happenings you see around the school. We work quite a lot with Mrs Tolfree and the other Captains, so we also try and help them out as much as possible!

What are your goals for the year?
My main duty is to manage and promote the Student Representative Council. I aim to empower students to contribute towards a positive school culture, strengthen the school community by active participation of students in events and ensure student views are heard in decision-making processes. I also represent the SRC at a wide range of in-school, inter-school, community and fundraising events. I get to meet and work with girls from all year groups and build strong relationships with them.

The SRC receives ideas and suggestions from students and teachers and develops these proposals. It is then my duty to present the proposals to the School, Specialist and House Captains, Transition Specialists and School Executives for their comments, consideration and hopefully, approval.

What are your goals for the year?
The success of the SRC is dependent on all students, not just the SRC Representatives, taking an active interest and involvement in Merici College. My main goal for 2015 is to encourage more active involvement, communication and feedback between the girls in each year group and their SRC Representatives. I want to make it easier for everyone to come up with suggestions to improve school resources and at the same time allow them to build relationships with girls from all year groups and have fun with their peers.

Rose Mackay
College Vice-Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?
I have always been passionate about making an effort to involve myself in many school and Student Representative Council (SRC) activities. As a former SRC representative for three years, I was inspired by the work completed by previous SRC Captains and saw how much they enjoyed promoting improvements to the school and representing the College. The dedication and hard work of the SRC girls and Ms. Conte helped me realise that I could make a positive contribution to the school and younger students by becoming the SRC Captain.

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Rosen Mackay
College Vice-Captain
What has inspired you to take on your role?

When I was in Year 9 my sister, Jessica, was Merici college Sports Captain. Watching her as the Sports Captain for the school inspired me to also apply for the sports captain position.

What do you do?

As the Sports Captain, I assist the PE staff in any way that they need as well as organising sports events for the school. I also assist the rest of the Merici leadership team if they have any problems or they need help to carry out a task that needs doing. In doing this we have created a cohesive leadership team working together to represent the students of Merici College in any way possible. So far we have already organised a charity basketball match between the Merici house captains and the Marist leadership team that took place on March 18.

What are your goals for the year?

My goals for the year as Merici Sports Captain is to get as many students as possible involved in sports at Merici, whether it be a Saturday sport or during carnivals held throughout the year. Hopefully we can also organise some teachers vs. students games that will help to raise money for charities throughout the year, as well as involving Marist College to try and strengthen relationships with our brother school through sport.

Emily Hargreaves
Sports Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?

I have always grown up with a very strong sense for Social Justice, hence when I found out about this role at the College, I knew it was something I wanted to do! The opportunity to make a difference in our local and wider community was something I just couldn't pass up.

The previous Social Justice Captains at the College were also a great inspiration for me. Their dedication and work ethic inspired me to widen the College's Social Justice program and make it bigger and better than ever!

What do you do?

In my role, I am responsible for all of the charity events that the College participates in. Whether it is fundraising, or just spreading awareness for an issue, the Social Justice Group and I work towards fostering justice in our College community.

What are your goals for the year?

My goal for 2015 is to ensure everyone can make a difference in their own communities. By spreading the spirit of Serviam, we will be able to make a change in our world. There are lots of exciting Social Justice events being planned at the moment and everyone should keep an eye out for them!

Meh-Ara Taseer
Social Justice Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?

Ever since Year, 7 I have wanted to become the Expressive Arts and Cultural Captain at Merici. I have always felt so welcomed by the Merici community and the opportunities that the Arts and Languages have offered me. It only inspired me to provide the same inclusion and experiences to students when I entered senior school and take on the role of Expressive Arts and Cultural Captain.

What do you do?

I support the Arts and Languages at Merici. It is my role to assist in strengthening the cultural community, through college events and encouraging more students to get more involved in Arts or Languages.

What are your goals for the year?

My main goals are to inspire and provide more opportunities for girls to showcase their talent at Merici. So many girls have wonderful gifts at the college, either in Arts or Languages, and I believe that in providing chances for them to show that gift, it will both give them a chance to blossom and receive recognition for their work, as well as inspire others to become involved.

Holly Ross
Expressive Arts Captain
What has inspired you to take on your role?

I was inspired to take on this role as I wanted to be able to help serve others in the community, however that may be. I also wanted to be able to assist people who were going through tough times by giving them guidance and support through those times. When I was in Year 9, my dad died from a heart attack and I went through a pretty tough time. Afterwards I reflected on how I had changed and how I had been affected. During this time I also questioned my spirituality and God, as well as the ‘bigger picture’ and what our purpose was in life. This led me to want to help and assist others through these tough times as well as helping them to realise and reflect on who they are and who they want to be. I was also inspired by the previous leaders and captains that I have seen throughout my time at the college. Since first seeing them at work in Year 7 I was in awe of what they did and I wanted to be them someday, and to do what they were doing and helping to make a difference in the community.

What do you do?

In my role as Spirituality captain I assist Mrs Tolfree with the preparation and planning of events within the college. I also assist the other captains with their duties and represent the school at official events with other colleges, such as the launch of Project Compassion at SFX earlier this year. I aim to be here to support other students going through hard times. I’m also happy to just chat to people about anything if they just need a friendly face.

What are your goals for the year?

This year I aim to increase the profile of the school throughout the community by involvement in the SERVIAM community service project. I also aim to help anyone who needs it and to just be a friendly face that people can talk to about anything. I also have plans to re-start the Merici College Youth Group – MC Youth and encourage people to attend that.

Elyse Lenehan
Spirituality Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?

Ever since I started at Merici back in 2010 I have always noticed the schools’ willingness to make the school more sustainable. I started attending what was known as EST (Environmental Sustainability Team) meetings halfway through Year 8. I really enjoyed this, the atmosphere of the group was fantastic and the whole time we were continually improving the school. I always admired the previous Captains and look up to them as a role models. Since working with that group of girls I have often thought, ‘How awesome would it be to be the captain and work with a group of girls to create new initiatives to improve the school?’ Now I have that chance.

What do you do?

My role within the school is to create awareness of current sustainability programs and achievements, get as many girls involved with sustainability as I can and to continually create ongoing goals that CAN be achieved by Merici College to make this school as sustainable as it can be.

What are your goals for the year?

This years’ sustainability theme is the Orang-utan Project. My goal is to raise awareness about how destruction of their habitat, for palm oil, affects the Orang-utans and the environment. One of our constant projects for the school is Nude Food. This means bringing lunch and recess in a lunch box, Tupperware container, anything! As long as it can be recycled and reused instead of being thrown into landfill. We would like to make this happen all the time and not just in an allocated week. Most of my goals for the school are things that cannot be totally achieved in a year, it is an ongoing task. However, I will try my best to reduce the amount of waste we as a whole school produce and watch our electricity usage.

Brooke Barton
Sustainability Captain
Merici came 13th overall out of 32 school teams this year in the annual Year 12 Maths Day held May 29 at ANU. The girls competed in a combination of events, including Group Work head to head against other schools working out the pattern between sets of numbers, a Cross Number puzzle and a Problem Solving Relay.

Highlights were 4th in the Group and 14 in the Cross Number. The girls had done many hours of preparation and were rewarded with a good result.

A sample question from the Group Work is below.

A jigsaw has 2015 pieces, each approximately square apart from the interlocking tabs. The ratio of the sides of the completed puzzle is approximately 1:2. How many edge pieces does the puzzle have? Answer 188.

Gerard Ryan
Maths Teacher

On Wednesday 10 June, the Merici school community welcomed Sister Clara to the College, as well as Mrs Cathy Ransom, Diocesan Director, Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Catholic Mission. In her role as Diocesan Director, Mrs Ransom oversees Catholic Mission projects all over the world. Sister Clara belongs to the congregation of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), also known as the Salesian Sisters and lives in Chennai, India. Sister Clara and the Salesian Sisters run the Marialaya Children’s Home which is supported by the Catholic Mission (Australia). Marialaya, provides protection, shelter, food and education to Chennai’s most underprivileged and vulnerable girls, giving them new hope for the future.

Sister Clara is currently visiting schools in Australia to talk about the work of the Salesian Sisters at the Marialaya Children’s Home and to bring to light the appalling reality of child trafficking and child labour currently occurring in India. Sister Clara also expressed her appreciation and thanks to the Australian community for their financial support in raising money to construct several new homes for the girls, providing them with a real sense of family and togetherness.

Over the past 41 years of her religious and missionary life, Sister Clara has dedicated her life to working and sharing her faith with children at risk. “We help children who have been rescued from child traffickers, children living on the street, children who have been stolen from their families, children that have been sold by their families into child labour, prostitution or street begging. Many of these children are not only being rescued but we also give them a home, education, love and a future”, noted Sister Clara. Sister Clara went on to say, “We look after these children until they are 18 or 20, or until they are married. We provide an environment where girls experience God’s love. We pray with the children, they learn about Christian values, we always give them confidence that God loves them”. Sister Clara proudly mentioned to the students that she is a grandmother 8 times, of girls who she has helped to raise and are now married and have their own family.

Merici students listened attentively to Sister Clara as she spoke about a ten-year-old Vandoosha who was just five when her parents sold her to a neighbour as a domestic helper, who then, shortly after, sold her again to a businessman in Chennai. Not allowed to go to school, Vandoosha was forced to work long hours every day, without a break, preparing meals, washing clothes and cleaning the house. Sister Clara told the students that, “One day, exhausted by the day's work, Vandoosha fell asleep. As a result, the older son in the family cut her ear with a pair of scissors. She was in extreme pain, but thankfully one of the neighbours heard her cries and alerted the police who came and rescued Vandoosha into my care at Marialaya”.

Mrs Ransom reiterated the great importance of Sister Clara’s work and how she and the Salesian Sisters have helped thousands of children. Students were invited to ask Sister Clara questions in an open forum which provided them with the wonderful opportunity of learning more about social justice programs that occur in other countries.

We thank Sister Clara and Mrs Ransom for making time in their busy schedule to visit our students.

Loretta Wholley
Principal

Sr Clara Fights for Childrens’ Rights
Appalling reality of life for a child in India

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Gerard Ryan
Maths Teacher
The final email was sent, the last Facebook message was posted and the Careers Expo was ready to go. There are always feelings of trepidation when the day finally arrives. Will the girls come to the Career Expo?

Well, the Merici College Careers Expo proved to be another huge success. All students and parents from Year 9 through to Year 12 are invited to attend. The senior students in particular are actively encouraged to ask specific questions about tertiary courses they are thinking about when they leave school. For the Year 10 students and parents, it is an excellent opportunity to find out about course prerequisites, recommended study and the level of assumed knowledge required for entry into certain courses. This knowledge helps the students to decide on their senior subjects for Year 11.

The range of providers at the expo catered for all the student needs—degrees, vocational courses, traineeships, volunteering and workplace training.

The feedback received from the major institutions was extremely positive. Many of them stated that our girls came armed with relevant questions about their future, it wasn’t merely snatch and grab the brochures, pens, lollies etc.

I would like to thank all the providers that attended the career expo. To give up their time, after hours, to support our student community is commendable and it illustrates the commitment they have to support the students in the ACT.

Kerry McDonnell
Vet and Careers Coordinator

‘At the careers expo, I spoke to students from the Australian Business Academy about undertaking a course in Graphic Design. One of the students was doing Graphic Design, which was really helpful for me as she had experience and was able to explain what the course involved. I also learnt that if I wanted to do further study in design I can transfer to UC. Before going to the expo I had never heard of the Australian Business Academy, and now I feel like I have more of an idea of what I would like to do after I finish school.’

Courtney Cragg Year 12

‘At the careers expo, I spoke to Louise from ANU. She helped me understand the different topics covered in International Relations/International Security Studies degree. It also helped that she was nearing the end of the same degree and as such, could give me more insight. I now feel like I have more direction and know why I want to do that particular degree next year’

Elizabeth Drew Year 12
Themes of the day also included a sharing opportunity to further develop understanding and implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This was a follow up session after initial professional development by Janice Atkin (one of the lead writers of the new curriculum) late in 2014 in which staff were introduced to the aims and rationale behind the changes made.

The day finished with a ‘CardioTennis’ session with the assistance of Tennis ACT, where staff were subjected to a range of fitness and skill based activities based around the fundamental skills of tennis. It was a fun an interactive way to engage both young and old.

The day was a great way to promote the wonderful things already happening within Physical Education and Health not only at Merici College but in other schools within our Archdiocese.

Merici College is in the fortunate position to be well on the way to integrating the Australian Curriculum into its programs. With continued reflection on best practice and efforts to cater for all students, Merici College PE and Health department can ensure the options available to young women at Merici are empowering them to make healthy, safe and positive choices, now and into the future.

Robert Higginbotham
Physical Education Coordinator

**Physical Education and Health is on the Move!**

Friday May 15 saw Merici College host the PDHPE Coordinators (Canberra Goulbourn Archdiocese) meeting designed to share knowledge, ideas and new initiatives that are happening within the PE and Health curriculum. The morning started with a presentation from Sports Medicine Australia’s Trish Donoghue and Dr Jason Mazanov; (Senior Lecturer, Registered Psychologist, Editor-in-Chief of Performance Enhancement & Health at UNSW-Canberra) who have recently launched a new program called ‘Be the influence.’ This program has a strong message around the idea of:

Strong enough to say “Enough.”

This message is a very simple yet powerful message of standing up, either to or for your friends. It is about giving safe alternatives rather than standing and watching risky behaviours and not feeling empowered to make a difference.

“This program provides young adults with the skills to handling alcohol-related harms. It engages and promotes leadership, integrity and informed actions. The focus will be on student creating their own personal brand, having the ability to make good decisions and leadership, increasing the students Integrity in sport, providing them with skills to reduce harm in alcohol related situations and celebrating responsibility.” (Be the influence, SMA 2015)

**Stephanie and Jacinta Pang**
Represented the ACT in the Pizzey Cup Tennis Championships Hobart 2-10 May

Ex Merici student and Gerard Ryan’s daughter, Emily Ryan, wins at the 103rd NSW Novice Championships. The now Sydney University student seemed effortless in winning the women’s 7km championship with a time of 26:35, well ahead of her rivals. “It was a long way to go with no one around, but the course was interesting enough and the diverse terrain encouraged me to keep pushing hard,” said Emily. Emily is only the second Sydney University athlete to win since 1979

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Merici Sport
Sporting results and achievements

Back left: Alexandra Horvat, Tara Acton, Rebecca Parnell
Front left: Sara Flint, Karl Lees, Chara Reynolds
Absent: Naomi Moleneux

L-R: Elizabeth Brennan, Leah Serra, Zali Marshall, Emily Kalthofen, Casey Bellicanta, Sophie Jensen, Brooke Verri, Tandia Edwards
Front row: Lily Alexander, Jemima Mills, Samantha Swanson, Paris Earley

20
ASC Cross Country – Wednesday 20 May

Individual Results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17+ Girls</th>
<th>16 Year Girls</th>
<th>15 Year Girls</th>
<th>14 Year Girls</th>
<th>13 Year Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Elizabeth Drew</td>
<td>6th Naomi Molineux</td>
<td>2nd Elle Hointink</td>
<td>2nd Karly Roestbakken</td>
<td>12th Jakarta Faatamala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grace Hointink</td>
<td>28th Caitlin Manning</td>
<td>6th Jasmine Genovisi</td>
<td>4th Elizabeth Henderson</td>
<td>22nd Erin Mayfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Sabine Hamilton</td>
<td>33rd Eliza Baker</td>
<td>11th Olivia Straker</td>
<td>8th Claire Molineux</td>
<td>33rd Isabella Leckie</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Alice Carstens</td>
<td>34th Emilie Rous</td>
<td>14th Evie Gibbon</td>
<td>9th Sarah Callen</td>
<td>37th Alex Rushton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>32nd Anna Carstens</td>
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National Schools Sailing - Fleet

Sportmanship Award

In week ten of school last term I participated in the Combined High Schools (CHS) NSW and National Sailing Championships as part of the Marist/Merici Sailing Team. This competition was held at Lake Macquarie and there were over 120 boats competing. We were scheduled to race two races a day for five days straight but due to harsh weather conditions we ended up racing either two or three races each day for only three days.

It was fantastic to be part of such a great event. We all learned a lot from each other and on the days that I was not racing I went out and trained with the rest of the Canberra team which was made up of three boys from Marist and one boy from Alfred Deakin High.

One very important component of any sport including sailing is sportsmanship and at the awards ceremony at the end of the week I was awarded the Kevin Buxton Memorial trophy for sportsmanship. Saying thank you to the race committee and the volunteers and congratulating and supporting other competitors were just some of the things I did to earn this award. I was extremely happy and proud to receive this award not only for myself but for our school and Canberra as well.

Reagan Minchin
Year 9 Student

Australian Selection into U17 Team

During the National Netball Championships, against the best of the best around Australia, I held the honour of captaining the team for the week. Not ending up with the result we trained long and hard for was disappointing but we played many minutes of quality tough netball. At the end of the week, I was lucky enough to be selected in the U17 Australian Netball Squad. This came as a complete surprise leaving me very excited.

The selection meant I will be participating in the Australian Netball Camp held at the AIS from May 14 - 17. At the camp I will be training, playing and competing with elite netball athletes from all over Australia. Over the last four years I have worked extremely hard, collaborated and been supported by various coaches, been pushed to my absolute limits and all this hard work and dedication is now paying off. This amazing opportunity will allow me to seek new opportunities in netball and to take away a renewed look my own goals. I am excited for the week ahead to work with various state national coaches, make new lifelong friends and to have fun.

Jacoba Clough
Year 11 Student

Reagan Minchin
Year 9 Student

Zoë Haseler
Year 11 Student

Following the U17 Australian Netball Championships, I finished as the highest goal scorer combined with the second highest average for the tournament. As a result I was named on the Australian U17 Netball squad which is something I am extremely thrilled about. It is a big excitement for me as it finally means that all those cold nights training and all of those trips to Sydney are beginning to pay off. Being selected on this squad is extremely beneficial for my game as it means I will be now attend the Australian U17 Netball Squad training camp. This will be great as it provides me with the opportunity to work with a range of brilliant coaches as well as players of the same level from around the country. Overall I am so happy with this outcome and cant wait for what is still to come.

Zoë Haseler
Year 11 Student

Jacoba Clough
Year 11 Student
Young designers excel in light rail competition

Over 100 students from 14 schools participated in the Young Designers Light Rail Ideas Competition, held 7 – 8 April 2015. Congratulations to Amanda Huot from Merici College; and Brianna Secko, Tim Willington and Daniel Gaudiosi from Daramalan College, who entered as a joint team. Their entry, ‘Hexaplex’, took out second prize for the most innovative idea. Their entry was an environmentally responsive light rail station design, showcasing a collection of hexagonal pods forming a canopy inspired by Walter Burley Griffin’s original designs of Canberra.

The proposal was strong in the resolution of creative ideas and provided an architecturally vibrant, sustainable and community focused environment for light rail travellers.

Post competition a People’s Choice Award was held where 5,829 Canberrans voted online. 51% chose the team’s ‘Hexaplex’ design as their favourite from the five winning designs.

For further information about the contest and other winners go to:

What it is

The Da Vinci Decathlon originated at Knox Grammar as a competition for teams of eight students. Over the course of a day, teams compete in ten activities designed – in the spirit of the Renaissance – to test a wide range of intellectual skills. The ten challenges are English, Science, Engineering, Maths & Chess, Art & Poetry, Cartography, Philosophy, Creative Producers, Codebreaking and General Knowledge.

On the Day

Canberra Grammar hosts the local competition, and on May 27, sixteen Merici students competed among 23 Year 7 and 27 Year 8 teams from the ACT and regional NSW. This mass of students creates an exciting and energetic atmosphere in the Grammar gym.

Before the day

The girls put in a good deal of practice before the event, particularly to build up their skills in the less familiar areas of Codebreaking and Philosophy. This paid off, with the Year 8s winning the Philosophy challenge and coming second in Codebreaking. Also scoring a number of other top-10 results, they placed seventh overall in the Year 8 division. The Year 7s scored fifth place in Philosophy, and also achieved top-10 results in Maths, Science and English.

Congratulations

Canberra Grammar are to be congratulated on running a smoothly organised event which gives talented junior students a valuable chance to tackle some seriously difficult problem-solving and creative challenges and to develop effective teamwork and cooperation. Although there is no local version of the event for Year 9 and 10 students, we will investigate the possibility for 2016 of travelling to Sydney to compete in the NSW Da Vinci Decathlon, held at Knox Grammar.

Dr Kathryn White
Teacher and Numeracy Officer
Catering is a huge component of the work done in the canteen by the teachers and students in the hospitality department.

This term we hit the ground running.

Tuesday, the second day back after our holiday break, refreshments for 120 guests, after the Anzac Day ceremony. Savoury tarts and finger sandwiches all lovingly prepared and served by Year 11 hospitality students. Friday that same week Year 11, again pulled on their aprons and served lunch for Loretta Wholley and 12 other primary school principals. These senior girls skilfully prepared and plated a baby fennel, pear and goats cheese salad, followed by a deconstructed Nicoise salad, made using fresh yellow fin tuna. The meal was capped off with a lovely pear and frangipani tart served with vanilla ice cream.

On the Tuesday of the next week we hosted a morning tea/ little lunch for 170 girls from the Catholic feeder schools along with 25 others, experiencing ‘Being a Merici girl for a day.’ They enjoyed our delicious vegan brownie, muesli slice, open sandwiches, fruit platters and fresh cold pressed organic apple juice. Putting all this together required a massive group effort and generosity from both staff and students, for which we are constantly grateful.

The next day was Open Day. Our restaurant served cafe style food for lunch and early dinner. Pulled pork, hand cut chips and fresh flathead fillets were on order all day. We were constantly busy and full to capacity for both sittings. Our cafe served other guests a beverage and slice, to showcase the skills of our hospitality girls and the fine homemade fare, on offer every day to our students.

Following Open Day, The Bridge restaurant hosted ACT health for a conference promoting healthy choices for young people. The facilitators and the guest students from different schools in the ACT enjoyed a hearty breakfast and selected lunch from our canteen. They were all suitably impressed and well fed after hot chocolate and muffins for afternoon tea.

Friday morning was another early start, our Mother’s Day Mass followed by breakfast for 120 girls and their Mums and Grand Mums. We chose to keep it simple with berry compote, yoghurt and muesli, an egg and bacon pannini and mini croissants with smoked salmon with cream cheese and ham and gruyere, fresh squeezed orange juice and percolated coffee, all before the school day had begun.

And so began week 3, a light lunch for 81 young ladies ‘Being a Merici girl for a day’, on Monday and another 70 on Friday. Brain food ...fruit and healthy slice ....for all Year 7 and 9 students sitting their NAPLAN testing.

Wednesday the Year 12s ran their biggest restaurant to date, serving 64 patrons. Service went smoothly, with both the braised beef cheeks and snapper receiving complements.

Thursday afternoon we hosted our Careers Expo, with 50 visiting guests from universities, TAFE, industry and other tertiary institutions, enjoying a substantial and delicious afternoon tea. It was a very successful Expo and it was very well attended by both students and parents alike.

On Friday of last week we hosted a PHABS planning day. Our Year 11 Hospitality students prepared an exceptional two course lunch for 15 guests including chargrilled lamb with corn and asparagus, and a pan-fried Ling on pear, rocket and walnut salad.

As we write this we are placing orders for our first night restaurant of the year, planning lunch for the 160 Year 10 students for transitions forum in week 10…….

Tookie Capezio & Trish Young
During recess and lunch-time on Thursday 19 March 2015, the Narrungunnawali students (aka Merici Mob) gathered in the Indigenous Garden to celebrate National Close the Gap Day. Students sought the College community’s support to take up the 30 for 2030 challenge. The aim of the challenge is to show the College’s support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity by 2030. The Oxfam initiative, calls on people to gather at least 30 signatures each in a petition that calls on the Australian Government to:

- Commit to providing adequate and long-term financial resources to achieve Indigenous health equality;
- Implement a comprehensive National Action Plan;
- Invest in real partnerships, including increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation and control around health service delivery; and
- Address critical social issues of housing, education and self-determination that contribute to the health crisis affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The support the Merici Mob have received has been overwhelming with over 600 staff and students signing the petition.

At the Close The Gap Campaign On Wednesday 11 February 2015, Alicia Engelhardt, Year 11 student and Narragunnawali Captain, presented a speech to the Prime of Australia, Tony Abbott and Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten at the Parliament House. The speech was in aid of raising awareness of the Close the Gap Campaign. The campaign is run by Oxfam Australia and aims to bring equal access to health care and education for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Close the Gap brings to light the life expectancies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who can expect to live up to 10 — 17 years less than non-Indigenous Australians. Alicia noted in her speech the importance of raising awareness to the premature deaths of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. “Health equality is a human right and by closing the gap we are creating a better Australia for everyone, so it makes sense that we all need to work together, all political parties, together, to achieve this goal”, said Alicia. Alicia and her family were also involved in the production of the Close the Gap Campaign Video and advertising posters for 2015. The video illustrates the importance of all Australians working together to improve resources for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.


Ningil House Day 2015

Ningil House Day was celebrated on Wednesday May 19. We came together in the morning for an assembly where we began learning about our history and took a House pledge. The girls all received a red ribbon to wear on their uniforms to display their House pride. During period 3, the House met in the auditorium to hear from two Presentation sisters, who both taught at Merici College in the 1960s. Sister Ruth was one of the foundation members of Merici College in 1959, and she and Sister Alexis shared stories about their lives as Presentation Sisters and the history of their religious order. As the House Captains we gave a presentation to the girls about our House patron, Nano Nagle, and about the town of Ningil in Papau New Guinea, which was the focus of our charity fundraising during House Day. We ended the day as a House with a shared lunch and a huge Ningil cake.

Overall the day was of great success and highlighted the sense of community and pride Ningil girls show in their House.

Georgia Stephinson and Gabrielle Markulin
Ningil House Captains
Year 7 Camp this year was an event to remember! With road works scheduled on the main route to Tathra, Year 7 students enjoyed a VERY early start with students arriving to school on a rainy morning in March at 6am! Asked to say their goodbyes to their families from the Auditorium doors, students were then greeted by their team of Transition Leaders who organised them into their activity groups and distributed Camp Booklets with all their essential information for Camp. Group 1 travelled to Mogareeka and then to Gillards Beach, part of the beautiful Mimosa National Park to start the set-up of their group tents, while group 2 travelled to Kianinny Resort to settle into their cabins. The groups who spent the first night in cabins then spent the second night in tents and vice-versa, ensuring that all girls took part in both experiences during the Camp.

The majority of activities were led by Coastlife Adventure staff and involved a wide variety of challenges and experiences for our Year 7 Merici girls from surf safety sessions and beach competitions to raft building and team initiative games. This year, 12 senior Transition Leaders joined the Year 7 Camp team and worked to support and lead a variety of activities throughout the camp, in particular, the Year 7 SRC election process and their much anticipated Trivia Night. Their leadership was exceptional and greatly received by both staff and the Year 7 girls themselves.

Two key highlights from the 2015 camp experience were the lagoon crossing and the beach retreat activity at night. Year 7 girls challenged themselves hiking 6km through the bush and then swimming across a crystal clear lagoon while their daypacks were brought across by canoe. Merici students also took part in a Year 7 Retreat where they were led through a night time reflection by our Head of Mission and Community, Maria Tolfree. Students created a collage of their hands on a giant 5m canvas stretched out across the beach lit only by each of their individual candles and their one year group candle. The individual and group reflection that took place during the Retreat aspect of Camp was a powerful experience that helped bond the girls as a year group and promoted their importance as part of our College community.

Coastlife staff commented once again on the girl's enthusiasm, positive attitudes and the support they naturally offered each other during each of the activities. All attending staff felt extremely proud of our Year 7 students. It was wonderful to see the girls bond, new friendship groups being created and the feeling of achievement on the girl's faces when they succeeded in a challenge together. In particular the level of spirituality and respect demonstrated by the girls during their candle light retreat activity on the beach, was both impressive and beautiful. The girls have certainly embraced what it is to be a ‘Merici Girl’.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outstanding Senior Student Leaders and the Merici College Camp Staff, who worked extremely hard to ensure that each and every student gained a camp experience they will always remember.

Megan Keogh
Head of Junior School
Angela Merici Feast Day - A Time of Reflection on Serving Others

On Friday 22 May, Merici College staff and students celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Angela Merici. The celebratory activities commenced in Pastoral Care with gift sharing. Each student was given a Guardian Angel medal to exchange with another student. Students remembered St Angela as an educator of women from all classes of society. They reflected on St Angela’s love and sensitivity in serving others and her deep understanding of God’s love for all which continues to influence Merici students as they follow her vision.

A special Mass was also held, celebrated by Father Bony Abraham. Father Bony managed to combine ‘Mad Max’, Katy Perry and the love of God in his engaging Homily. As part of the offertory procession, ex-students who now work at the College presented the Gifts. A representative from each of the 42 Pastoral Care groups offered a new winter jacket as part of the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. The students responded enthusiastically and reverently throughout the Mass, commenting afterwards that they were so proud to be part of the Merici tradition.

At the conclusion of Mass, the first five recipients of the ‘Blue Angel’ Award were named and presented with their ‘wings’. All of these students have completed over 50 hours of service to the community.

Merici’s school captains, Grace Cooper and Rose Mackay, coordinated a whole school Trivia game with a twist! The students were challenged to learn more about the history of Merici College through the completion of quizzes and going to specific checkpoints to undertake team building activities in order to complete the challenge. The school community congratulates Pastoral Group Seiwa 3 on completing the Trivia with the highest score.

The celebrations continued with a special ‘Italian’ lunch served in the Canteen, a disco and fiesta-type activities to raise funds for the St Vinnies Winter Appeal. The students organised:

- A mini-fête run by the House Captains and Vice Captains and senior students. Some of the activities included face-painting, pie-throwing, photo booths, lip sync, pamper stalls and community canvas art.
- A ‘dance-off’ competition which challenged Executive staff members to dance against each other. The room roared with cheers and screams of encouragement as they displayed their rhythmic talents.
- A disco in conjunction with the mini-fête to provide students with additional entertainment and a festive feel to the afternoon.

The celebration of the life of St Angela Merici was very successful and students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day. The generous support displayed by students, staff and the parent community was outstanding with over $1,000 raised to support St Vinnie’s valuable work, in addition to 42 winter jackets donated, with pockets filled with toiletries and other personal hygiene products.

May we all continue to be inspired by the words and actions of St Angela Merici, to “challenge people to love life, have hope, be faithful and build futures more wondrous than you dare to dream”.

Loretta Wholley and Ros Parisi
Principal and Publicity Officer
Left: Face painting, pie throwing and henna art entertained the girls on Angela Merici day. Layla Phillips and Alicia Engelhardt prepare for the Acknowledgment of Country at the Mass.

Above: More pie in the face as St Angela watches over the community and L-R: Georgia Brennan, Danielle Bewick, Anna Tammaro, Michelle Boulter receiving their ‘Blue Angel’ wings for over 50 hours of service to the community.

Below: School Captains get pie in the face and Assistant Principal Trazel Scott enjoys ‘dance off’ with Principal Loretta Wholley. The school was #atwitter. Results have not yet been released to the community, though Mrs Scott has never been beaten.
Merici College Excursions
Learning outside the College

Year 10 Geography Excursion
On May 14 2015, the Year 10 Geography students attended a field trip where they identified significant features of Canberra and the catchment that we live in. We visited Black Mountain Tower, Scrivener Dam, the Dickson/Lyneham Wetlands and Yarralumla. During this field trip we were able to observe the changes that humans have made to the local environment. Our Geography field trip also helped us to consolidate our learning as it allowed us to get in the ‘field’ and see for ourselves features such as urban renewal, urban consolidation, gentrification, and management of Sullivans Creek. This helped us to appreciate Canberra and get out to see the real world. For many of us it was a chance to see things that we have never seen before and we were glad for the good weather following a few days of rain. The views from all locations were stunning and we learnt a lot about Lake Burley Griffin and how Canberra is the largest city within the Murray-Darling Drainage Basin. We also observed a section of Sullivans Creek catchment and now have a better understanding of the value of good water quality and the importance of wetlands.

Year 10 Geography Class

Psychology Excursion
This term, the Year 11 and 12 Psychology students are studying the development of infants and children. On Thursday 30 April, the Psychology students had a day long visit to the two childcare centres at the University of Canberra. The Kirinari childcare centre is responsible for the care and development of children from birth to 6 years and the Wiradjuri childcare centre focuses on children from 2 to 6 years.

We were able to spend time playing with the children at both centres and made observations about their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. By spending time with the children we were able to see the different stages of development that we had learnt about in class, in a naturalistic environment. Because there were a wide range of ages we were able to see the variations in the children’s language and social skills. The observations made at the childcare centre were later used as part of an assessment task, analysing the benefits of childcare vs stay at home care.

This was a fabulous opportunity to interact with the children, as many of us do not have much contact with young children. It was fascinating to see the different ways the children interacted with each other and how readily they engaged us in their play. We had fun!

Jenny Lange
Year 12 Psychology Student
Year 10 History Excursion

Did you know that 416,809 Australian men enlisted in the First World War? The youngest of these men was just 14 and 9 months old when he died for our country in Gallipoli. His name was James Charles (‘Jim’) Martin.

On May 14 2015, all Year 10 History students visited the Australian War Memorial. It was a very educational and interesting day, we learnt so much about many different past and present conflicts. One of the most interesting parts of our War Memorial visit was the First World War gallery, this is because it has many different types of dioramas. This helps give you a really good insight of what life at war would have been like. Throughout the gallery there was also many stories about different soldier’s personal experiences in the war, this gave us a very detailed view on the horrors of the major conflict.

One of our personal favourite parts of the War Memorial was the Anzac Hall. All the aircrafts and submarines in this gallery are real and were used in the war. We really liked watching the sound-and-light show on ‘Striking by night’, it was very cool. The show re-created a night operation over Berlin in 1943, it featured the famous Lancaster bomber ‘G for George’.

The World War II gallery was also really insightful, by walking through this area we were able to see many different aspects of the war. This really help us understand parts of the war that we didn’t before such as different battle fronts and what home life was like at the time. It was a sad but very interesting experience to be able to walk through the gallery and find out knew information on things such as the prisoners of war and the death marches. In this gallery we also found an extremely beautiful wedding dress, handmade out of things around the house because of the lack of materials and resources at the time due to the war.

Overall, we all had a great day at the War Memorial and really enjoyed learning about the war History of Australia.

Chantelle Pellegrini and Maddi O’Neil
Year 10 History Students
Perspectives on a co-educational school, that wasn't really co-educational.

It is hard to believe that 37 years ago I came to Braddon as one of 49 intrepid boys who would form the initial intake of males to the school community.

What struck me as incredible at the time, was the sheer size of the Year 12 girls they all seemed like Giant Amazonian Women to us scrawny 12-year-old boys, almost scary!

We didn't take long to make our mark on the place, a dedicated boys toilet was constructed next to the downstairs science labs, mucking up in class, we caused havoc around the Queen's Birthday with fireworks - at one stage we had an all in brawl involving the boys that went to St Joseph's and the boys that went to St Brigid's which was broken up and then mediated by the great Sister Mary Macintosh (Sr. Mack) hauling us all down to the front office.

Normally being summoned to the Principal's office would be a scary proposition (this was still a time for corporal punishment after all!) but Sister Mack was just marvellous.

She reminded us of the importance of self, but also the greater importance of community – and how futile it was to be so divisive when there were so few of boys to start with – it must have sunk in as we all got on pretty well thereafter. She finished up by giving us all a chomp chocolate bar!

At the end of that first year, a decision was made to return Braddon to a girls' only school. A letter was sent out to boys' parents suggesting that Daramalan, St Edmund's or Marist might be a better option but that if we wanted to complete their studies at Braddon, that was OK.

Our numbers dwindled – from 49 to 30, down to 15, then 7, then 4 for the last year of 1983. When I tell people about this experience, at first they don't believe it – until I produce the class photographs. See photo of Year 10 Green 1981 (that's me pictured opposite, front and centre)

I joined the Public Service soon after leaving Braddon and undertook study in Communications Engineering at CIT and then Policy Studies at ANU. After 10 years in the Service the opportunity to work for an IT firm in the private sector came up and I took it. I moved to Sydney in the 1990s but was back in Canberra by 2000. Having travelled to Europe, the USA, Mexico, China and Singapore, I still think Canberra is a great place to live.

If I were to boil down some of the lessons learned in my time at Braddon, I would have to say they are:

- Mutual respect - having more female friends than male taught me the importance of open, honest communication and to understand how others might view a situation.
- Emotional Intelligence. This has been developed into an industry recently but something that was picked up by osmosis at Braddon.
- Home Science – never underestimate the importance of being able to cook for yourself (I also like the quote “approach cooking and love with reckless abandon”)
- A belief in yourself – that no matter what you think others think of you it is how you think about yourself that counts.
- Mars and Venus? - Quite apart from the well-known book title, from my experience: Men are from earth – and so are women.

I must also acknowledge that we have lost two of the boys who were in Year 10 in 1981, Enrique Mimenza and Matthew Hannah. Both lives cut tragically short in car accidents - Matthew in 1984 and Enrique, in Mexico, in 1986.

If of boys into the school, and I quote “The 30 or so boys that went through Merici graduated from the school perfectly equipped for their future lives as model husbands”. Now, I am not sure my wife Mary would agree completely, but we have been married 29 years this year : )

John Volpato (Graduated 1983)

Our Alumni Connecting with the past
Roslyn Boreham (Graduated 1972)

After completing Year 10 at Merici College, Roslyn joined the Public Service and at the age of 24 studied to become a welfare worker. Over the years as a Case Manager, Roslyn has assisted people to get back on track with their life from drugs, alcohol, prison, etc. Roslyn is now enjoying well-deserved retirement and travelling around this beautiful world. We look forward to welcoming Roslyn to our College in the near future, to share her life experiences and career in welfare work with our students.

Anna Vincent (Graduated 1963)

My name is Anna Vincent. I was born in Canberra in 1947, the seventh child of Maud (nee Kelly) and Gerald Kilmartin. I was enrolled for school at St. Christopher's Church, Manuka by my uncle, Bishop Eddie Kelly, who was Bishop of Toowoomba. I worked with CTC, as Secretary to the Assistant Manager, Bill Rayner until our first child, Catherine, was born in 1972 when I had to retire as Maternity Leave did not exist in those days. David was born in 1973 and Lucy in 1976. After our marriage, we lived at Lyons in the Woden Valley which was part of the newly established Parish of Holy Trinity, Curtin. I chose to remain at home as mother to our children and then they attended Holy Trinity School staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

In 1985 or 86 Father Ron Flack, our PP, coerced me to join the Parish Pastoral Council. Soon after I was elected President of the PPC and wore that hat for a number of years which included the very interesting and soul searching time when the first amalgamation of two Parishes in Canberra was suggested. We discerned and prayed long and hard and finally after much angst, the process happened and St. Peter and Paul Parish, Garran and Holy Trinity Parish came to be the Parish of the Transfiguration, North Woden. I was the first President of the amalgamated two parishes and that was a most interesting and challenging job blending two very different groups into one that worked well.

John and I moved permanently to Bibbenluke in 1995, although we had bought the house and part of the property in 1976. We bought the remainder of the block soon after our move. Here we attend St. Mary's Church, Bombala. I was appointed to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, by Archbishop Carroll and spent a special 4 years of my life, where I learned so much and gained so much experience.

Bombala/Delegate parish was turned upside down when we received the news that Father Mick MacAndrew was to be transferred in January, 2011 and our Parish would no longer have a resident Priest and would be part of Cooma Parish in the Monaro Mission. Basically since then we have only had Mass once a month and we have Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion on the other 3 Sundays. I am the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council here too.

I have worked with our local General Practitioner as the permanent part-time employee. Since 1998 I have had a lot of orthopaedic surgery because of my arthritis and in the last year I have spent up to 8 months in various Canberra hospitals. Our three children are all happily married and we now have 8 grandchildren aged between 16 years and 1 year old. The families are a great delight to both John and I. However, I must say that when my time on earth is over, I will have achieved everything I wanted.

Seeking “Friends of Merici” to join College Alumni.
Stay connected with Merici College through our Alumni. Go to www.merici.act.edu.au/news/community/alumni or more information or email your contact details to alumni@merici.act.edu.au.

SAVE THE DATE
Alumni Soiree 2015
Saturday 24 October 2015
5-7pm
@Merici College
More info to follow
On Thursday 19 March Merici College students Danielle Bewick, Lillian Cossetto, Neala Jocumsen, Evelyn Rhodes and Mercedes Bowers undertook a day’s training as Youth Ambassadors for the Red Cross Blood Service along with other students from across Canberra. We listened to the personal stories of people whose lives had been saved from donated blood and the importance of having a constant supply of blood in hospitals. Every blood donation is split into three different parts which are used separately to effectively save three individual lives. Blood products are even used to make vaccinations, meaning most people in Australia have received a blood product at some point in their lives without even realising. The entire blood donation process takes approximately an hour. You save lives without even breaking a sweat. Inspired by the knowledge we gained, this year’s Youth Ambassadors are preparing for an amazing year to come with more Merici student and staff blood donations than ever before.

Mercedes Bowers
Year 11 SRC

Donating blood was a really rewarding experience. It was such a great feeling to know that a few minutes can make such a big difference to so many lives!

Jacklyn Ersan
Year 12

Donating blood with the Red Cross is nothing short of an enlightening experience. The staff at the centre are incredible and do everything to ensure you are as comfortable as possible. It is so comforting to know that a small contribution saves the lives of those in desperate need. The feeling of contributing to the lives of others overrides any fear that you may have in regards to donating.

Sarah Maloney
Year 12

It was a phenomenal experience to be able to save three lives in under ten minutes.

Mercedes Bowers
Year 11
**Jack Heath inspires**

Jack Heath shared his writing journey, which for him started at age 13, with Year 7. He gave engaging and funny presentations which the students found inspiring. He even took Shakespeare to task, saying that Romeo and Juliet was NOT a love story.

Jack read from his new novel *Cut Out* which many students are keen to read. During the writers’ workshop Jack gave the students many important tips for good writing, such as, “show the reader, don’t tell them”. “You can’t edit a blank page” and “All you need to be able to write is pen, paper and an idea”.

Jack’s passion and enthusiasm for books and reading was well received by the students which can be seen from their comments below.

Tracey Kent
Information Services Coordinator

I would love to become a writer myself and Jack Heath has definitely inspired me. I learnt some pretty handy tips and tricks about how to write a book, that is not only appealing to the public, but appealing to me.

Zahli Year 7

The author talk was very funny and entertaining, but also quite informative. Jack Heath did a great job of going into detail about building characters and storylines, but he did with humour and understandable language I enjoyed it immensely.

Sophie Year 7

I would definitely recommend him to all my friends.

Elizabeth Year 7

**Poetry in Action**

Poetry in Action visited Merici College on Wednesday 20 May and were enjoyed by all. Their first session with Year 10 featured war poetry. The students learnt all about the First World War, attitudes to war at the time and the life of Wilfred Owen. It was refreshing to see such serious poetry presented in a way that enhanced meaning and really clarified key ideas and themes within the poems. The students were engaged and inspired and it will really help them with their studies next semester when they will study a unit named ‘Texts of Social Criticism.’ Most were shocked at the horrific conditions soldiers were forced to endure both in the trenches and on the war front. The poems really conveyed Owen’s sense of desperation at the futility of war and how differently war was presented back home to the public compared to its grim reality.

The last session of the morning was Poetry from Around the World where students learnt about the origins of poetry, how poetry is used in different cultures and how it has been a valuable tool in passing down stories from generation to generation. The students were very interested in learning about poetry from different cultures and places and poetry from Japan, Europe, America and Australia were explored. There were powerful descriptions of Australia and poems from Indigenous poets were featured showing a love and respect of our great land.

All in all the students had a lovely time that really enriched their learning. A question and answer session with the actors after the show raised some very interesting questions as students learnt about the production and rehearsal process. We enjoyed very much our visit from Poetry in Action and look forward to their visit next year.

Louise Martingale
English Coordinator
On the morning of Friday 8 May, it was a wonderful opportunity for our mothers and grandmothers to come together as part of our community to celebrate the Eucharist in preparation for Mothers’ Day. Father Bernie Patterson celebrated this very special Mass where he spoke about the importance of love and referred to Mary’s devoted love for Jesus. Following the moving Mass, a delicious breakfast was served in our Restaurant. It was wonderful to see so many mothers and daughters sharing a hot meal together before starting their busy day.

Maria Tolfree
Head of Mission and Community

"What a wonderful way to start the day by sharing spiritual reflections in Mass with my daughter and then sharing a wonderful meal."

"It was very special to celebrate Mass with my daughter."

"Thank you for the lovely mass and breakfast this morning."

"We were very touched by the thoughtfulness that had gone in the preparation."

"A lovely way to celebrate Mothers’ Day."

"It was a really lovely experience to share with my gorgeous girl."

"We really enjoyed the experience, thank you!"

"My daughter’s grandmother and I thoroughly enjoyed this celebration."

"Thank you Merici for putting on these kinds of events."
It was with great sadness that our Merici community farewelled a dear friend and teacher, Mark Wagland on Thursday 4 June, who lost his battle with prostate cancer. A prayerful reflection was offered on Friday 5 June where the current school community, came together with ex-students and ex-staff, to celebrate the life of our beloved teacher. Mr Wagland's funeral was held at St Raphael's Catholic Church in Queanbeyan on Wednesday 10 June where over 1,000 people attended to pay their respects to such a dedicated teacher. We would like to thank the students, well over 300, current and past, who symbolically displayed their admiration for Mr Wagland by forming a guard of honour at the conclusion of the Mass.

Mr Wagland began teaching at Merici in 1998. Prior to this he gained a world of knowledge working at the National Archives. Initially teaching English he quickly gravitated to his main areas of passion, History and Religious Education. Mr Wagland showed such care and compassion for every student, he went above and beyond to ensure they all had a chance to experience success. Learning was his great passion and he will be remembered as a man of great charm. Mr Wagland was an exceptional Pastoral Care teacher to Ningil 4 and was exemplary in providing sincere care and guidance to all.

While at Merici, Mr Wagland was, for a time, the Assistant Coordinator of Global Studies. He helped to establish the Writers’ Group, coach the College Hockey team, the Chess Club and the Quidditch team! He embraced the school spirit on every occasion and impressed all with his theatrics at events.

Outside of school he was active with the St Gregory’s Catholic Parish where he gave generously of his time and talents. He passionately organised the Merici contingent at the Queanbeyan Anzac Day March each year. Mr Wagland was an author and he was published in anthologies and magazines. Two of his poignant poems are published here. He had a passion for sport, particularly cricket and AFL (Collingwood). He leaves behind his wife Christine and three outstanding sons, David, James and Nicholas.

Merici will indeed miss Mr Wagland as part of our community.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Mrs Loretta Wholley
Principal

Mark and Tookie discuss matters of faith

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Viaticum
For all that I have sought
and hoped to be
for all that I desired your eyes to see
mere dust will soon become.
So many loved
so many hearts to take
in hands and pockets
for remembrance sake
soul food
for a long journey.

Mark Wagland – Forty Poems 1992

My Journey
I have not travelled far away
Nor yearned to lose my way in foreign lands
The simple joys of home and family
Are things my spirit knows and understands.

And so I walk my quiet journey on
Habit and duty in my retinue
Yet joyful as my daily course is done
To know my destination will be you.

Mark Wagland 2015
Merici Moments
Highlights of Term Two