<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>First Day for Years 7, 11, 12 and new students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>First day for Years 8, 9 and 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Year 11 Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>Year 11 Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>Academic Awards Ceremony Semester 2 2015 (10:05am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>QCS Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>Opening School Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combined Catholic Colleges Concert Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>QCS Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 February</td>
<td>St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal (4.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>QCS Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 February</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 February</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>Balgo/Brescia House Soirees (5.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Sport and Recreation Camp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Donate Life Walk (6.30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 February</td>
<td>Selwyn/Tullow House Soirees (5.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>Activities Expo (1.00pm, New Quad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>Year 7 2016 Transition Evening (6.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Moderation Day #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>National Ride to School Day</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Around School (1.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Bell Shakespeare – Years 9, 11 and 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Combined Catholic College Concert – Rehearsals (Merici College)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>International Women's Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Combined Catholic College Concert – Rehearsals (Canberra Theatre)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ASC Rowing</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Combined Catholic College Concert – Rehearsal &amp; Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Canberra Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>15 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp and Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp and Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Earth Hour (8.30pm-9.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>North Gungahlin 12&amp;U Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>ACU Lunchtime Senior Information Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Easter Reflection (1.40pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Easter Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>ANU Lunchtime Senior Information Session</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bamboo Theatre (OVC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Poetry in Action Years 8 and 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Term 1 ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Term 2 begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before I commence this editorial for the final edition of Building Futures for 2015 I must take the time to thank the Year 10 Technology class and their two amazing teachers, Ms McLeod and Ms Kent for the hard work and dedication they have put into creating Building Futures this year. Their commitment, energy, passion and ideas are commendable and capture in a magazine the many elements that make Merici College what it is today. This final issue has it all! Academic awards and achievements, social events, excursions and tours, links with our community, the Alumni, community service, Christian Service Learning, fundraising, social action, leadership, the Athletics Carnival and more. It truly representative of a term in the life of Merici College.

This year’s focus on the theme of Serviam has been about raising awareness to the needs of others and thinking of those less fortunate. Students have responded to this challenge by assisting in any way they could to improve the life, wellbeing and plight of people and the environment. To say I am proud of the way every student in this college has accepted this challenge is an understatement. Our students have given selflessly. They have volunteered hours, and cared for and hugged each other through tears, pain and heart break. They have participated in walks, cooked cupcakes and slept through a chilly night, all to donate their time and raise money for the sick, cold, hungry, suffering, dying, confused and tired. The way they have embraced this theme has reminded me about why I love working with young people, the hard work and dedication they have put into creating Building Futures this year. Their commitment, energy, passion and ideas are commendable and capture in a magazine the many elements that make Merici College what it is today. This final issue has it all! Academic awards and achievements, social events, excursions and tours, links with our community, the Alumni, community service, Christian Service Learning, fundraising, social action, leadership, the Athletics Carnival and more. It truly representative of a term in the life of Merici College.

Term 4 is a time of celebration and reflection. Year 10, 11 and 12 completed their exams. Year 12 students attended a moving Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony and we have also had a wonderful celebration with Year 12 students and their families at the Formal held at the Arboretum, on what was a magnificent night with an amazing view. Year 10 students gathered for their Celebration Mass and Awards Ceremony after having completed a week of service in our community. In the last week, the remaining students gathered for a prayerful Advent Mass plus an entertaining concert and disco. We witnessed some talented students, and not so talented staff, share their musical and dancing talents with the community. It is opportunities like these that allow us to spend time in thanksgiving to our Creator God for the many joys we have each been blessed with at Merici College.

Two big areas of focus for 2015 have been the creation of the Master Plan and Strategic Plan 2016-2018. For 2016 the Strategic Plan focus points are outlined below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and Learning Aspiration:</td>
<td>FOCUS: Principles of Powerful Learning, Literacy and Numeracy, Australian Curriculum, Reports, Rubrics, Data Analysis, Timetable Review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care and Well-being in our Community Aspiration:</td>
<td>FOCUS: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Staff and Students, Positive Workplace Relations, Developing Feedback, School Partnerships, Develop New Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Resourcing Aspiration:</td>
<td>FOCUS: Sustainability, MasterPlan, Compliance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For the Masterplan, the focus for 2016 will be the car park and drop-off area on Wise Street and the refurbishment of the Science area. All very exciting. We will commence the year with design and documentation, liaising with all parties involved with the two very different projects.

Next year we commence our theme of Love and Mercy. We will continue to challenge our girls to “Love Life” whilst responding to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. During the year, students will learn more about the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy and how they apply in our lives in 2016. Thank you all, once again, for being a part of our Merici College Community. Together we build futures for our exceptional young women.

“My last word to you is that you live in harmony, united together, all of one heart and one will. Be bound to one another by the bond of charity, esteeming one another, helping one another, bearing with one another, in Jesus Christ.”

St Angela Merici: Company of Ursulines, Last Counsel, 1-2

Loretta Wholley
Principal
Merici College warmly congratulates the following Year 12 students for showing exemplary dedication to their studies over a full course (4 semesters in a subject). The Course Award is presented to the highest ranked student. These students have also exceeded the minimum course requirement (Tertiary course score of 70 or Accredited GPA of 4.0).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English T</td>
<td>Meh-Ara Taseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English A</td>
<td>Faith Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing French T</td>
<td>Grace Stafford-Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Chinese T</td>
<td>Pavana Suwanmuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holistic Music T</td>
<td>Jennifer Lange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama T</td>
<td>Holly Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance T</td>
<td>Grace Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Mathematics T</td>
<td>Sabine Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Methods T</td>
<td>Catherine Moggach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Applications T</td>
<td>Brielle Jancevski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mathematics A</td>
<td>Faith Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry T</td>
<td>Meh-Ara Taseer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics T</td>
<td>Sabine Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Science T</td>
<td>Rebecca Symonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology T</td>
<td>Isobel D’Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History T</td>
<td>Catherine Moggach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business T</td>
<td>Jacklyn Ersan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business A</td>
<td>Ashlee Maszaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies T</td>
<td>Elizabeth Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography T</td>
<td>Elaine Herman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology T</td>
<td>Ceara McGown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology T</td>
<td>Pavana Suwanmuk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies T</td>
<td>Isobel D’Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Studies A</td>
<td>Faith Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media T</td>
<td>Ashleigh Harrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Art T</td>
<td>Laura Ting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography T</td>
<td>Natalie Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles and Fashion T</td>
<td>Anna Sergi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Graphics T</td>
<td>Erin Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology T</td>
<td>Alanah O’Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality T</td>
<td>Madeleine Handley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise Science T</td>
<td>Grace Hoitink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above:
Dux of the College
Jacklyn Ersan

Below L-R:
Proxime Accasit Award
Sabine Hamilton
BSSS Performing Arts Award
Holly Ross
BSSS Community Service Award
Isobel D’Cruz
BSSS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award
Elyse Lenehan
BSSS Vocational Education and Training Award
Faith Cooper
On Friday 16 October 2015, Merici College’s elected leaders for 2016 were commissioned by all members of the College. The service was led by Father Bernie Patterson. Father Bernie blessed the new leaders and the words of Luke’s Gospel invited them to reflect upon their position.

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Each House asked their leaders a series of questions, relating to the ethos of their House and the leaders responded by agreeing to fulfil their duties to the best of their ability. The offices of Specialist Captains (Expressive Arts and Culture, Student Representative Council, Sport, Social Justice, Spirituality and Sustainability), Narragunnawali Captain and Transition Captains’ positions were also conferred upon their incumbents. The Transition Captains accepted the responsibilities of their positions, to remain faithful to the ethos and spirit of Merici College, to welcome new members to the Merici family, to network and communicate effectively with all members of the College and to assist in the organisation of school events.

Symbols and ritual were used to illustrate to the staff, students and parents the significance and traditions of our Catholic faith and all were reminded that leadership is heart centred, based on the Gospel values.

- A lighted candle was presented to signify hope and the spirit of Merici College.
- A cross symbolised faith and God’s unconditional love.
- A heart was a symbol of love and a reminder that the community of Merici College is together as one.
- A small tree was a symbol of growth and renewal. The tree was a reminder that without nourishment and love the community will not flourish.

The final blessing and commissioning of the College Captain and College Vice-Captain for 2016 concluded the ceremony in a joyous, uplifting manner. Afterwards the leaders and their parents enjoyed refreshments in our Bridge Restaurant.

We congratulate all 2016 school leaders on their appointments and wish them every blessing in their roles.

Loretta Wholley
Principal
At Merici College, our community seeks to live according to the Christian ideals of St Angela Merici. The Year 10 cohort undertook a Christian Service placement during Week 7, Term 4 in various locations within and beyond Canberra to serve others, particularly those most in need. The girls were hosted by charity organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army Stores, SIDS and Kids and The Australian Red Cross. Some students chose to volunteer at schools which cater for students with special needs, Ronald McDonald House, community run centres, aged care facilities, preschools, childcare centres and primary schools. A few of the Year 10 students also assisted their elderly grandparents who certainly appreciated their assistance. Upon their return to school, the girls participated in a reflection about their experience and shared their experiences, learning, challenges and future opportunities. Many described their placements as: exhausting, rewarding, unique, eye opening, fun, different and challenging.

The students were visited at some point during their placement by a Merici College Coordinator and the girls reported this to also be rewarding for them. Many girls have also indicated they would have liked to stay at their placement longer as they really gained a lot from their experience and some students are continuing their voluntary work with their host in some capacity in the future.

The Year 10 students on the whole were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and Merici College. Upon completion of the placement, Merici College received many emails of thanks to the Year 10 girls and said they could not have achieved what they did without the assistance of the girls. Thank you to the Year 10 parents for their support and to Year 10 for being willing to step out of their comfort zone to support others in need.

Amy Connellan
Acting Head of Mission and Community

‘...have made a wonderful addition to the Centre in the last four days. They have all worked extremely well and are a credit to their families and school environment.’

Paul Quinn
Area Manager
St Vincent de Paul Society
Canberra/Goulburn

‘I learnt how open I am to doing jobs no matter what they are. I learnt that it is very rewarding meeting new people and paying attention to their behaviour. I realised with the help of my supervisor how many people rely on Vinnies, not just for buying things but all of the services that the donations support. I learnt that there are some people who don’t have as much support and freedom as I have. I learnt that many people have to rely on others.’

Alyssa Coulston
Year 10 Student
Placement: St Vincent de Paul

‘I’m writing to complement the wonderful attitude of some of your students. Today I met students from your school at Ronald McDonald House, Canberra Hospital where we were staying. They were volunteering and putting up Christmas decorations. They were very well behaved and polite, and did their job wonderfully with enthusiasm. A group of girls took the time to play with my 3 year old daughter who was starting to go a little stir crazy from being stuck inside a hospital for days while her baby brother was there. My daughter was thrilled to have their attention, you could hear her giggles through the whole house, and I was grateful for the break it gave me. My daughter had so much fun that she started crying when the girls had to leave, so I got a photo of them together so my daughter would have something to remember her new “best friends” by.’

Kind Regards
Teja Roberts
‘...the girls at all times displayed initiative and enthusiasm in working with the students. They communicated with the students very well and followed directions from the supervising staff at all times. They were friendly and positive and were an absolute pleasure to have. They also conducted themselves in a professional manner at all times. It was so lovely to see their genuine enthusiasm in working with children with special needs. It was a pleasure having them here at Cranleigh and I do wish them all the best with their future studies...are a credit to Merici College and Cranleigh would welcome any student from Merici in the future.’

Shannon Homes
Assistant Principal, Cranleigh School

‘... I found it so much fun. I got to teach young children and help develop their cognitive learning helping provide them with the crucial skills they need to continue learning. It felt really good to give back to the community and even just to be a happy smiling face for all the kids. They really loved having me there and I miss them a lot. I am so glad I got to experience this and give young kids some inspiration on what they can become when they grow up.

Ashleigh Lawrence
Year 10 Student
Placement: Primary School
The Ausdance Youth Dance Festival is an annual event which began in 1985. It is organised by Ausdance ACT and is aimed at secondary schools and colleges in the Canberra region. This year 35 schools and 1,400 dancers participated in this celebration of dance over three fun-filled nights at the Canberra Theatre. The theme this year was ‘Explorations’ and each school devised a five minute routine relating to that theme. The students are responsible for the choreography, music selection, lighting and costume design and the overall rehearsal of their dance.

At Merici College our Year 10, 11 and 12 Dance students are given the opportunity to perform at Dance Fest and their routine is used as part of their dance assessment. The Year 10 class explored the concept of emotions and were inspired by the Disney movie ‘Inside Out’. Their dance consisted of three major sections: joy, sadness and anger and concluded with a finale. The dance styles incorporated were jazz, contemporary and street. The Year 11 Dance class have been studying theatrical dance styles this semester and they explored how high schools are represented in musical theatre films and the cultural stereotypes portrayed. The students selected songs Bring It On, Hairspray and High School Musical. The Year 12 Dance class explored the impact of popular music on their lives and they selected iconic songs from female artists such as Beyoncé and the Spice Girls. They produced a very lively and entertaining dance number to conclude their study of Dance at Merici College.

Dance Fest is a great opportunity for the students to perform on a professional stage in a large theatre. This event is eagerly anticipated by the Dance students and has become a highlight of the Dance calendar.

Laura Pearce
Dance Teacher
Penola students recently volunteered their time to work on stalls at the Marymead fete. Marymead, Penola’s House Charity, provides a vast array of services to local families and the annual fete is their main fundraiser of the year. The girls worked on several stalls selling food, toys and second-hand items. The Marymead workers were really impressed with the girls and we hope to build on this involvement each year. The students who generously assisted were Emily Kalthofen, Lulu Issa, Amy Weatherby, Ellen Paterson and Brooke Semmler.

Also enjoying themselves at the Marymead fete were members of the Merici Dance Troupe, led by Artistic Director of the group, Mrs Laura Pearce. Mrs Pearce has praised the girls for not only dancing beautifully and entertaining the audience, but for being great ambassadors for the College and being part of what has been a very busy year of appearances for the troupe. The girls performed at the recent Murrumbateman Field Day, attracting huge crowds at their two performances. The country air certainly agreed with the girls and once again the troupe is getting Merici’s name out in the community and the dancers are continuing to refine their performance skills. The year is not over yet though for the dancers and there are several more appearances planned. Any student who would like to join Dance Troupe is welcome to come along to any rehearsal on Thursday after school on the stage.

Liza Laird
Penola House Coordinator
Age Champions
12yrs – Anita Manning
13yrs – Erin Mayfield
14yrs – Caitlin Hanna
15yrs – Alexandra Pryor
16yrs – Alice Austin
Open – Sabine Hamilton

New Merici Records
Brianna Farrell - 13 Yrs
1500m
Caitlin Hanna - 14 Yrs
Long Jump, Triple Jump
Karly Roestbakken - 14 Yrs
400m
Alexandra Pryor - 15 Yrs
High Jump, Triple Jump
Jasmine Genovesi - 15 Yrs
200m
Elizabeth Drew - 20 Yrs
400m

Merici Flash Winner
Jasmine Genovesi
Spirit Cup
1 – Tullow
2 – Brescia
3 – Penola

Championship Trophy
1 – Seiwa
2 – Ningil
3 – Tullow
In Week 4 this term, Merici brought the words Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to life as everyone got involved in National Recycling Week. SAM (Sustainability At Merici) organised two awesome events to celebrate the week, with Nude Food Day on Wednesday and Merici Sw(op) Shop the following day. Nude Food Day was a huge success, with 76% of students bringing in food with no disposable packaging. Ningil won the House competition with an enormous 89% of students having Nude Food lunches. Tullow 6 won the PC group competition and will receive a Nude Food lunch from the canteen as a prize. There were some excellent ideas about how Merici could encourage Nude Food, including

‘make a catchy song: a jingle complete with ukulele solo, barbershop quartet and cool dance music video with moves’

Penola 3

‘picnic kit for birthdays or groups wanting to share food’

Seiwa 6

And some very inventive Nude Food ideas, such as a carrot carved into a flower, a chia pudding in a jar, and a cake in a banana leaf! It was so great seeing how enthusiastic the students were about the event, so thanks everyone for getting involved!

On Thursday, Merici Sw(op) Shop saw students and staff bring in unwanted clothes, books and accessories and trade them for other items contributed by other staff and students. Just one pair of jeans takes roughly 9,842 litres of water to make, so recycling pre-used clothing is a great way of reducing our impact on the environment. Lots of items were traded and the small number of leftover items will be donated to charity to be recycled for a good cause!

Rebecca DeCourcy
Sustainability Officer

Nude Food can be anything that involves minimal packaging and that creates minimal waste. A meal from the canteen or a lunch from home in a washable lunchbox are both examples of nude food.

If you send your child to school with a lunch that needs a fork, please provide it. The canteen loses hundreds of forks each year and does not give them to students for their own lunches.
Mr Stripey joined 13 other heritage tomato varieties at our Tasty Tomato sale on Saturday 26 October. Altogether we sold over 800 tomato plants which were raised from seed in our glasshouse by the Year 9 Sustainability class. We also sold chillies, capsicum and Lebanese eggplant seedlings that were raised by the Year 10 Sustainability class. Ten keen students enjoyed selling their plants to members of the wider community, and the Merici community, who came from 7.30am armed with lists, boxes and baskets. We are most thankful to all those growers out there who love growing tomatoes and come to support us by buying their plants from Merici. We raised over $2800 for the kitchen garden program.

Fiona Buining
Sustainability Teacher
As a College, we have now spent about 2 years reviewing alternate timetables and developing our preferred model with a view to providing enough versatility to meet the priority areas identified by the College, to allow full implementation of the Australian Curriculum over the next two years and to better meet the requirements of the senior curriculum.

Two timetables are provided in this article and these show typical schedules for a student in Year 8 and a student in Year 11. As reported in a previous Building Futures, the day will begin and end at the established times: 8:45 am - 3:25 pm. There are six 50 minute lessons each day, three pairs of lessons separated by recess and lunch. Our priority was to retain our Pastoral Care session at the start of each day and the long PC lesson on Period 3 on Tuesday. We are excited by having a scheduled Flex lesson on Period 3 on Mondays. This lesson will be used for whole school assemblies, which have ‘taken away’ from scheduled teaching time in the past, as well as being used for whole year group pastoral or curriculum-focused activities, including guest speakers.

Part of the consultation with Studies Coordinators and the College Board in 2015 was around how to allocate 28 lessons slots to the various curriculum areas. The number of indicative hours used to design the Australian Curriculum was a key factor.

In Year 7, Integrated Maths and Science and Integrated Humanities (English, History, Geography) will have 7 lessons/week. Religious Education, Physical Education and Health, Language (French, Italian, Chinese), and the elective - Arts and Technology are each allocated 3 lessons / week.

English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences are allocated 4 lessons / week in Years 8 – 10. Humanities and Social Sciences currently incorporates History and Geography, but in the future will also include Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business. While History is a compulsory element, it is envisaged that the other three areas will be offered as electives within this teaching strand. In these year groups, Religious Education and Physical Education and Health are allocated 3 lessons / week. The elective structure (Four term units in Year 7; two semester units in Year 8 and two year units in Years 9 and 10) remains unchanged. They are also allocated 3 lessons / week.

Students in the senior College continue to undertake study in six subjects in Year 11 and typically reduce to five subjects in Year 12. Each subject has 4 lessons / week. Students will have scheduled study lessons. Due to the compulsory nature of both the Flex and PC lessons, senior students will not be permitted to sign out of the College before the end of Period 3 (12:05 pm) on Monday and Tuesday. Students without scheduled classes will be permitted to sign out of the College at recess from Wednesday to Friday. All seniors are encouraged to remain on site and engage in individual or group study in any non-scheduled class times.

All senior classes, junior electives and PE have a double lesson at some point during the week to allow more in depth study and facilitate extended practical lessons. All students and staff have a full lunch break, allowing time for social interactions, sporting, cultural and student lead group activities.

We engaged the services of a Geelong-based timetabling company to work with us to staff a timetable that met all the above parameters. The resultant grid is a complex three-dimensional puzzle. What students see is just what they need to know for their daily routine, as illustrated here. In the background, there are changes to the way teachers are allocated to classes and we are very appreciative of the input and support of teaching staff in this process. Some classes, predominantly in the junior school will have two teachers, typically one teacher for 2-3 lessons a week and their second teacher for one lesson a week. Teachers involved in these arrangements are already planning their strategies for ensuring continuity in the delivery of effective teaching and learning.

We are currently reviewing assessment rubrics and the Assessment Calendars and we will provide information about our initiatives at the beginning of the new school year. The changes in the allocation of lesson time to different subjects will impact assessment and reporting, and these important areas will be reviewed, with feedback sought from parents, during Term 1, 2016.

Ann Cleary
Deputy Principal Learning
## SAMPLE 2016 TIMETABLE FOR YEAR 8 STUDENT

**Student Name (Y08 – PC Class)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>Con Ed</td>
<td>Phys Ed</td>
<td>Con Ed</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Phys Ed</td>
<td>Con Ed</td>
<td>Rel Ed</td>
<td>Phys Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Flex</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Geog</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Geog</td>
<td>Rel Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>Rel Ed</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 6</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Geog</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>Geog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SAMPLE 2016 TIMETABLE FOR YEAR 11 STUDENT

**Student Name (Y11 – PC Class)**

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<th>Period</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>Psych</td>
<td>Rel St T</td>
<td>English T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>Biology T</td>
<td>Psych T</td>
<td>Rel St T</td>
<td>English T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>Flex</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Photo T</td>
<td>Biology T</td>
<td>Mth Meth T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>Rel St T</td>
<td>Mth Meth T</td>
<td>Photo T</td>
<td>Biology T</td>
<td>Mth Meth T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>Photo T</td>
<td>Rel St T</td>
<td>English T</td>
<td>Photo T</td>
<td>Psych T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 6</td>
<td>English T</td>
<td>Biology T</td>
<td>Mth Meth T</td>
<td>Psych T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Behind the Scenes at Merici

What do you like about Merici College?
At Merici College I like the people I get to talk to and doing technology related work that is not focused on one area. Every day provides new technology related problems for me to deal with.

Where have you worked before Merici College?
Before Merici College I worked in a telecommunications software development company located in Malaysia.

What are you passionate about?
At home I love computer games and dancing. Dancing links me to the College, for example, once my dance group came to Merici College for the Year 8 History Day. I love the opportunities to use the latest technology at Merici and the food at the canteen, although I wish the servings were a little bigger.

Nesa David
IT Officer

What is your role at the College?
I am the Technical Support Officer. This means that I am responsible for everything except the network.

How long have you been working at Merici College?
I have been working at Merici for six and a half years.

What are you passionate about?
At Merici College I am passionate about making sure technology is working so the staff can continue their lessons as planned and use technology. In a way it is like solving a Rubik's Cube. Outside Merici College I enjoy spending time with my family.

Darron Marks
Technical Support Officer

What is your role at Merici College?
As a Laboratory Technician. I am in charge of setting up for science experiments, making sure they are safe and maintaining the laboratory equipment and chemicals.

What is your favourite part of your job?
I love the variety that my job provides no day is ever the same. I enjoy seeing the experiments that I have set up work successfully and learning from the experiments that fail.

What are you passionate about?
Merici College has a lovely community and a supportive environment that provides a link for me between work and home. At home I spend my time with family and friends. I love taking my boys to the Rugby League especially when the Bulldogs are playing.

Kathryn Osborn
Laboratory Technician

What is your Role at the College?
I am a Laboratory Technician. This means that I am in charge of setting up for science experiments, maintaining the laboratory equipment and chemicals. I also make sure that the experiments are safe.

How long have you been working at Merici College?
I have been working at Merici College for 9 years.

What are you passionate about?
Merici College provides me a link between family and work. At the College I love the supportive community environment and the faith. At home I am passionate about spending time with my family and friends. I like to read, do puzzles and go on bushwalks in my spare time.

Cathryn Lambert
Laboratory Technician
How long have you been working at Merici College?
I have been working at Merici College for 5 years.

Where have you worked before Merici College?
I am a part of a defence family and have done a variety of things. I was a hairdressing apprentice and owned my own salon later. I have worked at spotlight in Perth and Melbourne. I worked at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Singapore in receptions and passports. I have worked in night fill at Big W and now I am at Merici.

What are you passionate about?
At the College I am very passionate about the welfare of the girls and the communication around the College. However, outside Merici family comes first. I am passionate about my dog who I am currently training. Rowing and hockey are also important to me.

Gillian Dingley
Student Services

What is your Role at the College?
I am the Sustainability Officer at Merici. This involves running the Sustainability group and improving sustainability at the College.

What is your favourite part of your job?
I enjoy working with the students and seeing the students excited about sustainability.

What are you passionate about?
I am passionate about bike riding, spending time outside and making sure people understand how they are impacting nature.

Rebecca DeCourcy
Sustainability Officer

What is your Role at the College?
I am a Library Assistant in the iC. I process all the new resources and ensure they are ready for students and staff to borrow.

What is your favourite part of your job?
I love getting to hang out with teenagers everyday.

What are you passionate about?
I am passionate about books, reading and family. I love being surrounded by books everyday.

Christina Tregea
Library Assistant

What is your Role at the College?
I am in charge of clickview programming, cataloging and management, assisting to set up for school events, library supervision and other library requests.

Where have you worked before Merici College?
Before Merici College I worked for Southern Cross 10 in the on-air production area for the technical audio and visual.

What are you passionate about?
At Merici I am passionate about doing my job properly and consistently. Outside the College I am passionate about family and sports including cricket and NRL.

Paul Crowley
Audio Visual Technician
Merici College students and staff rose to the challenge on Friday 16 October and slept outdoors as part of the Community Sleepout 2015. The sleepout was organised by St Vincent de Paul Society and Communities@Work and was held at the Australian Institute of Sport. 85 Merici students and 5 staff members commenced their sleepout at 6.00pm on the Friday and finished at 7.00am the following morning.

Homelessness is a problem often overlooked and misunderstood by the wider community. The community sleepout has allowed students to experience homelessness for themselves through one night of ‘sleeping rough’. This hands-on approach has developed students’ understanding of the debilitating effects of homelessness, as well as creating a sense of community responsibility.

The College’s SRC and Social Justice Captains, Tahlia Low, Meh-Ara Taseer and Julia Angove noted that this year’s sleepout event has highlighted family violence and the correlation to homelessness. “Within the ACT, 29% of people experiencing homelessness are escaping family violence. Every night in Canberra over 1,700 people are homeless. The sleepout is a great way to raise awareness of the violence, poverty and homelessness that many Canberrans face each night. I think that the best way for us to understand the severity of this issue is to give up a warm night at home and instead experience the harshness of life that these people face each day”, said Miss Angove.

Ms Sonia Conte, Teacher and SRC and Social Justice Facilitator at Merici congratulated the students and staff for participating in this event. “The initiative the students showed in organising this event has been outstanding. The students were very keen to get a feel of homelessness so that they can relate more personally to those people who are less fortunate than themselves. The uncomfortable conditions were felt by all the students and staff, sleeping on damp grass, with no shelter. I was really impressed with the students’ maturity and their eagerness to participate. We raised a total of $3,165 for St Vincent de Paul and Communities@Work - a fantastic effort! I would like to personally thank the staff members that participated in this event, particularly Mrs Loretta Wholley, our Principal who raised $745.00 from sponsorship. Congratulations also to Ally Hocking Howe (Year 10 student) who raised the second-most sponsorship amounted to $415.00.”

Merici College would like to thank all members of the community who sponsored students and staff. We would also like to thank all students and staff for supporting this most worthwhile initiative and would like to express heartfelt gratitude to St Vincent de Paul and Communities@Work for the invaluable contribution they make to our community.

Loretta Wholley
Principal
Christian Service - Red Wig Fun Run

Students from Merici College volunteered at the Red Wig Fun Run and Walk raising funds and awareness of Ronald McDonald House Canberra. The students were exceptional in their willingness to assist wherever possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Merici College parents who volunteered on the day. Congratulations to the following girls who achieved 5 hours of Christian Service: Caitlin Treble, Chelsea McClelland, Georgia Hahn, Olivia McCormack and Zayaan Jadwat.

Amy Connellan
Acting Head of Mission and Community

“On Sunday 25 November Zayaan Jadwat, Caitlin Treble, Georgia Hahn, Olivia McCormack, Ms Connellan and I woke up early to volunteer at the Red Wig Run and Walk. This fundraiser was to support the local Ronald McDonald House. We helped set up the track, sold merchandise, helped with last minute registrations and much more. The proceeds and money raised went to families with ill children. Throughout this experience I have learnt a lot about raising awareness and helping others. It was an enjoyable experience and I can’t wait to do it again next year.”

Chelsea McClelland
Year 8 Student

Meet with the Champions

On Thursday 29 October Merici College was lucky enough to have Olympian guest speakers Tristan Thomas and Caroline Buchannan talk to a group of students about their Olympic experience. As both of these elite athletes completed in the 2012 London Olympics, they had a lot of insightful and personal experiences to share. Tristan is a 400m hurdler and shared his story of how he got into athletics and is now currently working towards Rio. Through battling injuries and facing the hardships of being a professional athlete, Tristan’s journey was inspiring, motivational and very interesting to listen to. Caroline previously attended Merici, and is now a world champion in her sport of BMX. All of her achievements through her sport and media publicity showed us as an audience how she has become a successful female athlete. She talked about the skills she gained from studying at Merici, particularly how her time management has helped her in the future. To hear Caroline talk about her time at Merici, and then to preparing for the Rio Olympics was an exciting experience for everyone. The success she has achieved throughout her career in BMX and Mountain Biking is something that many Merici girls dream of.

After the talk, both athletes took time to answer questions from the students, and sat down with the Year 11 Exercise Science class to talk about nutrition in their sport. All the girls who attended learnt a lot about the lives of these athletes: about their successes, their struggles, their sweat their hard work and their sacrifices.

Laura Withers
Acting PHABS Coordinator
As part of the Year 12 Religious Studies curriculum, Year 12 students have been studying units: ‘Religion through the Arts’ and ‘World Religions’. The students have presented inspirational visual responses of their understanding of these units. Some of these creative artworks were displayed in our iC and are pictured on this page. We would like to congratulate the students on their efforts and enthusiasm in completing this task.

Louise Henderson, Laura Pearce, Trazel Scott, Maria Tolfree
Religious Education Teachers
When you think of an Italian class going on excursion to Melbourne to experience Italy in Australia, you’d think it almost impossible, but you are wrong. Australia is one of the most multicultural and diverse countries in the world. To experience the culture of another country in Australia you don’t actually have to go very far at all. Our Year 10 and Senior Italian excursion to Melbourne opened our eyes to the diverse Italian culture prevalent in Australia today and the influences that Italy has had on the production and development of our rich and vibrant food culture. Carlton is the ‘Little Italy’ of Melbourne and our trip provided us with an amazing food tour where we experienced traditional sweet, savoury and flavoursome Italian delicacies such as bread, gelato, coffee, pastries, cheese, cannoli, freshly-made mozzarella and much more. This food tour provided students with an insight into the rich food culture of Italy and how many of the foods we eat today have been influenced by the waves of Italian migration many years ago.

Students also visited the Victorian Immigration Museum where they learnt about not only Italian Immigration to Australia and Melbourne in particular, but the many waves of migration from people all over the world which combine to make up Australia. Particular emphasis was made of the waves of refugee migration across two centuries that have contributed to the making of the culturally diverse country we enjoy today.

Highlights of the excursion were: catching the train at 1.20am from Yass Station, the Carlton Food Tour, experiencing the award-winning pizza restaurant 400 Gradi, the Immigration Museum and participating in the viewing of an Italian film as part of the Lavazza Italian Film Festival 2015. All in all, there could not have been a more Italian experience to be had outside of Italy. The educational experiences of these days away from school taught us so much about our own culture, the Italians and the other cultural groups that all contribute to make Australia great.

Ashleigh Lawrence and Antonietta Martiniello
Year 10 Student and Languages Facilitator
In the long tradition of working with the whole Merici College community which began last year, the Art Department at Merici decided to offer a Family Art workshop to enable families to get together and make artwork that would be a future family heirloom and remembrance of their connections to Merici College.

Mrs Ros Parisi was instrumental in the organisation of the evening which followed on from highly successful workshops with 3 of our feeder Primary schools and their Year 5/6 students, which happened earlier in the year. The evening was well catered for by Ms Tookie Capezio and the Merici Hospitality team and garnered high praise for the beautiful fruit drinks and cheese platters!

The families chose to make small ceramic works, painted canvases and drew images that were important to them and completed over two separate evenings. We really hope that when this kind of event is offered again many more of our families will take up the offer of making something that will provide them with a physical memento of their time at Merici College.

Sue Birch-Marston
Expressive Arts Teacher

A Sci-ku is a short three-line poem about sciences. These Sci-ku reflect the National Science Week theme ‘Making waves – the science of light’, which ties into the UNESCO International Year of Light and Light Technologies. Below are some competition entries.

Photons illuminate
The inventions of the past
And light our future

Anna Carstens

Scorched the earth
Degree by degree, seared
We caused this

Meaghan Kitzelmann

Pigments shade dark walls
Pixels light our human intrigue
Revisit the stories of our past

Samara Carroll

Skydiving

Do I open it or not?
Anticipation attacks my heart
Too late, a boom of a door, a flurry of winds, a potent push and flight
A childhood dream is relived, as the touch of a cloud passes me
Like a mother in wait, the warm wind embraces me brushing past my arms and legs, stealing from me the deepest fears
Ecstasy moulds my mouth to a grin, as I continue my endless fall
Feelings of joy and distress, I am a youthful bird on its first flight
The breath of angels encompasses me
Away from the pain, away from the game of life, is the pure flavour of freedom
I can just taste the remaining rain of this heaven ready to burst, like the confidence inside me first
Falling as we go, among the clouds the scent of fright is left far behind, replaced by a recently born life
I can hear my own silent screams infused with laughter
Also the high-pitched cries of my fellow fliers - the birds
There is the sound of welcoming winds buffeting against me
A gentle whoosh, and my colourful wings are released, the end is near
Earth’s land meets eye to eye with me
Enticed by her beauty, her patches of greens, her freckled houses and small unfathomable eyes
The tough mountains, the deep blue sea, even the giants of this world now do not scare me
Praying for no end, all I see of this magnificence is infinity

Ramneek Cheema
Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards
The 2015 Expressive Arts and Technology Exhibition showcased a variety of exceptional talent from our students in the subjects of Media, Information Technology, Visual Art, Graphic Design, Photography and Textiles & Fashion. This year's student work was predominantly from our senior students and the quality of the items on display were both detailed and highly expressive.

Our exhibition was opened by the College Bursar, Mr Adrian Heim, who noted in his official speech, that “the gift of creativity that has been given to these girls is truly spectacular. It allows them to share with us a glimpse of themselves.”

The highlight of the evening for many was the Fashion Parade which provided the chance to witness firsthand the outstanding efforts of our girls in the creation of their garments. Of particular note was the display of the senior students’ dresses which showed their creative prowess through a variety of fabric dye, embellishments and construction techniques. This was interspersed with vibrant and enthusiastic performances by the Merici College Dance Troupe.

Following the opening, guests were invited to attend the 2015 Music Extravaganza. The evening included a variety of performances from all students studying Music in a co-curricular capacity. Students and their tutors all performed alongside various ensembles, including the Orchestra, Jazz Band, Beginner Band, Junior Band, Senior Band, String Ensemble and of course, the beautiful voices of the Merici Choir who serenaded us all into the night.

The climax of the evening was the combined orchestra. All students and tutors gathered together to present a variety of pieces and the atmosphere was filled with happiness and a cacophony of spectacular sounds to truly demonstrate the immense musical talent of our students.

The evening would not have been the success it was without the generosity of all staff and tutors who assisted in the preparations to give our students the opportunity to truly shine.

MJ Logan
Expressive Arts Coordinator
The images on these two pages tell the story of the tremendous love and respect people had for Mark.

Catherine and Pierre Rey, Keith and Pina Vardanega return to the Bridge Restaurant to celebrate Mark’s life.

Many parents, staff and students were also guests.

The Hospitality girls at work, the briefing, the mise en place, the process, and the amazing fruits of their efforts. Finally the coming together to celebrate a job well done.

Most especially Mark Wagland’s family Nicholas, James, James’ partner Stephanie and Mark’s beloved wife Christine.
The Inaugural Bridge Benefit Dinner, held in September, was an event instigated by Tookie Capezio and Trish Young. They saw the need to broaden the experience of Year 11 Hospitality students to help them prepare for the Bridge Restaurant. A second objective was to raise funds for those members of our community who are most in need.

This year the dinner was held in memory of our colleague and friend, Mark Wagland, who died in May. At the request of his family the proceeds from the evening were given to Prostate Cancer Research.

The Hospitality girls spent a week preparing a nine course degustation menu under the supervision of Trish Young. Much of the produce was grown in the garden and the results were exceptional. Guests raved about the dinner saying that it was arguable one of the best dining experiences to be had in Canberra.

We would like to acknowledge the following for their generosity in donating goods and services to sell at a silent auction.

- Athletes Foot
- Foot and Thai Traditional Massage
- Le Tres Bon Restaurant
- Maggie Watson Jewelery
- Merici College Social Club
- The National Museum
- Liga Lukss
- JJ Interiors
- Virginia McLeod

The outstanding success of this evening was in part due to the generosity of many staff and students. Their time and talents were given as a sign of the love and appreciation they all had for Mark. $5000 was raised.

Virginia McLeod
Assistant Global Studies Coordinator
Fifteen Formal
Friends, fabulous frocks, fun and fake tans
During recent months, the College has enjoyed many different interactions with our Alumni. We have conducted school tours for groups celebrating reunions, welcomed ex-students as guest speakers and facilitators for various College events, and have held an Alumni Soiree.

Alumni Soiree

On Saturday 24 October November, the College community welcomed ex-students to an Alumni Soiree. School tours were conducted which presented ex-students with an opportunity to see first-hand how the College has changed since their graduation. Many reminisced about their classrooms, their teachers and their friends. All had one thing in common; they had all contributed to the growth of the College and its history.

Mrs Loretta Wholley, Principal, extended her thanks to the ex-students for coming along to the Soiree. “Our Alumni provides a link to the College for you, our past students, and also provides a sense of community”, said Mrs Wholley. During the year the College has been privileged to welcome many ex-students to help out with specific College events. “Our connection with our ex-students is growing, helping us with our Awards Ceremonies, Year 10 Transition Forum, Language Assembly, Grandparents’ Day, Year 11 Conference, and creative workshops for senior art students, to name a few, and we thank them for their participation”, noted Mrs Wholley. We have also conducted school tours for reunions and have enjoyed listening to the ex-students talking about the changes in the College, all noting that there are certain elements that have remained the same, the positive vibe they got from walking down the corridors and the general feeling of well-being, community and College spirit, all part of our ethos.

A prayer of thanks and reflection was offered at the Soiree and was presented by Kaye Hogan, pictured below, graduate from the Class of 1965. Ms Hogan reflected on shared histories and strong friendships that were forged during students’ time at Merici College.

Merici welcome all ex-students and their families to visit the College. Please contact us if you are celebrating a reunion as we are most happy to conduct school tours. We would also welcome updates on ex-students’ achievements and accomplishments so that we can share your experiences with our school community. Please do not hesitate to contact Ros Parisi, Public Relations Officer on email or telephone 02-6243 4178.

Class of 1965 – 50 Year Reunion

Many of you proudly achieved the Year 12 Certificate, many others completed the HSC, but how many people recall the Leaving Certificate? The class of 1965 were the last cohort for whom five years of secondary education were deemed sufficient, the last group to be awarded the Intermediate Certificate at the end of Form 3, (Year 9) and the Leaving Certificate at the completion of Fifth year (Year 11), then be sent off to the wide world to make their mark.

On October 11 some of the students who began at Canberra Catholic Girls High School in 1961 and finished in 1965 or before, gathered in Yarralumla to mark 50 years since they completed the final Leaving Certificate. The Class of 65 had approximately 50 members and we were delighted that 38 students and one wonderful teacher were able (and willing) to come together on that day. Many still reside in Canberra but others came from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria,
and New South Wales and one remarkable classmate came from Nepal where she has been working in an orphanage.

There were many tales to tell and not enough time to hear them all. But among the class were many happy mothers and grandmothers (one has 23 grandchildren). We had a number of high level public servants, nurses (one became the Director of Nursing at Canberra Hospital and now runs her own consultancy), many teachers (one spent many happy years teaching at Merici College), two psychiatrists, at least three who help run family farms and many others following wonderful career paths.

The highlight for many was the presence of Mother Anita, (now known as Sister Anita from the Brigidine Convent at Randwick). She came to us in 1965 to teach us French and coordinate our group, and we all remember her as a breath of fresh air at the time. Remarkably, she remembered most of us by name. Indeed we were all surprised that though name tags were provided, we did not need them and recognised each other, mostly as soon as we began to talk. And it seemed as if we picked up where we had left off, 50 years ago.

Some comments from classmates included

“so many memories”
“what fun to be with such a vibrant, vital and interesting group of women”
“nothing but good will and pleasure in seeing old friends”
“I loved every minute of the gathering”

So much fun was had by all that we are planning to do it again in six months time.

Catherine Downie (formerly Lynch)

Class of 1975 – 40 Year Reunion

The Graduates of 1975 left Merici College (then C.G.H.S. Braddon) at a tumultuous time in 1975. We were the last year to sit the HSC examinations, with 100% based upon exam results and no assessment allowance. Then in the middle of our examinations we had ‘The Dismissal’ of the Government of Gough Whitlam – made interpretation of Government Policy for 3 Unit Economics quite tricky.

Our Headmistress was Sister Mary Mackintosh, or Sister Mac as she was affectionately known. She was a tremendous inspiration to all of us and was in essence an early feminist, encouraging us to create fulfilling lives for ourselves through study and travel.

Over 50 of us celebrated our 40 Year Reunion on 12 September at the Hotel Mercure Ainslie. We held the celebration jointly with our contemporaries from 1975 Daramalan. The pupils from both schools shared common history through our primary schools, YCS (Young Christian students), and shared religion and economics classes in Year 12.

The event was a time to reflect upon our school days, to celebrate our achievements and be part of a very special community. Many of us graduated from University, gained PhDs, ran for Parliament, became teachers, nurses, established businesses and created happy families. Our paths have varied and some of us have had challenges that would test the best of us. Sadly, a number of us have passed away at an age with still more to enjoy.

The common thread throughout the evening was gratitude - for the start we had in life and the common values we share, and the fact we have more years to enjoy.

This was our 4th 10 Year Reunion and we look forward to many more.

Michelene Collopy, School Captain, 1975

Graduates from the Class of 1975
Class of 1985 – 30 Year Reunion

The Year 10 Class of 1983/Year 12 Class of 1985 had our 30th reunion on the long weekend in October. It was something of a festival with casual drinks on Friday night, a school tour on Saturday afternoon, formal dinner on Saturday night and family barbecue on Sunday. During the lead up to the reunion, over 70 students from the class group were contacted and about 30 were able to make it to the festivities over the course of the weekend, some travelling from as far away as Perth and Cairns. We were especially pleased that girls who had left Merici prior to 1985 also came along.

The school tour was a highlight given the significant changes in the last 30 years: the new gym and fitness centre, combined learning spaces and very impressive commercial-style kitchen/canteen to name a few. We didn’t just walk down the corridors of the school though. It was also a walk down memory lane; with stories of silly incidents and our favourite (and not-so-favourite) teachers shared. Our thanks to Ros Parisi for taking time out of her holidays to act as guide.

We had a wonderful weekend. It was amazing how quickly the years melted away and we re-established the friendships of our youth. I would urge everyone to attend their school reunion when it falls due.

Bernadette Mihaljevic

CLASS OF 1995 - 20 Year Reunion

Spring had sprung, Floriade was in full swing and it was time to catch up with old friends at the Class of ’95 (pictured below) school reunion on the weekend of 9-11 October. Determined to make the reunion a success (after a failed attempt at a 10 year reunion), a Facebook group was established and 94 ex-students joined and reconnected with old friends. Many old stories and memories from our time at Merici were shared over the lead-up to the reunion, with a whopping 184 photos posted on Facebook amongst the group!

The highlight of the reunion weekend was a trip down memory lane with a tour of the College. It was incredible to see how much the school had progressed over the years and how the College had turned into a real forward-thinking and innovative education hub. To top this off was an amazing dinner at the Ottoman restaurant with 30 of the Class of ’95 students attending. A total of 50 students caught up across the three events over the weekend. A lot of laughs, stories and reconnections were made and we are all looking forward to keeping in touch and meeting up again at our next reunion.

Teale Moyers

What are you up to now? We would love to print your story! Email your story to alumni@merici.act.edu.au.

Do you have a network of old school friends? We are always looking for new members! Email details to alumni@merici.act.edu.au.
NEW MEMBER
Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

Dr Woodruff is the new Greens Member for Franklin in the Tasmanian House of Assembly and a former student of Merici College (then Catholic Girls High).

Excerpts from Dr Woodruff’s Inaugural Speech.

‘At the outset, I want to state my belief that what unites us, both as Tasmanians and as fellow travellers on this life journey, is much greater than anything that divides us. I commit to listening to my community and considering their perspectives, including those in this House.

The history of the Greens in Tasmania was born from the fight for the forests. My entry into politics is from a different background. My parents grew up in country Victoria. My father’s first training was in forestry, but we moved to Canberra for his work at CSIRO.

I am the eldest of five girls, and was raised in an environment of security and love. I have learnt that a person cannot take this for granted at birth, and I’ve seen first-hand the stunting effects on children who are raised without love….

I was schooled in the Irish Catholic tradition, fortunately during a period of the church’s history when the New Testament’s teachings were dominant. I absorbed a strong sense of social obligation, the importance of a fair distribution of resources, and a healthy disrespect for hypocrisy among the wealthy and powerful. I was lucky enough as a girl in the 1970s to attend a high school (Catholic Girl’s High in Braddon) that encouraged me to consider a role in life other than a traditional female role. My core personal values of social justice, sharing and equity, and a belief in the strength of community, inspired me to look with inquiry at the world around me…. I was occupied, then, with another of the great issues of our era—the threat of nuclear war and the danger of uranium contamination of ecological systems. In 1986, I participated in an awareness raising campaign at the Pine Gap base in central Australia, to draw attention to our role in spying on neighbouring countries through satellite-tracking and signals intelligence, and to its links with nuclear weapons systems. I was arrested during that campaign and spent two weeks in an Alice Springs gaol. The 70th anniversary of Hiroshima recently reminded me that global peace is far from achieved, and that nuclear weapons are proliferating again.

My training as an epidemiologist has taught me the benefits of looking for the most upstream issues that influence the problems we need to solve…. As I stand here today, the extent of human interference on planetary systems is truly awesome. In his 2015 Encyclical, Pope Francis calls global warming a major threat to life on the planet, and states that it is mostly due to human activity. He embraces the science that shows humanity and the natural environment are in great peril. We must have air and water free from pollution, the biodiversity of our foreshores, sea and forests, and land to cultivate food. I have an optimistic outlook. I see the seeds of a sustainable and happy future in the actions of people today….

I would not be here without the love and kindness of my parents, Brian and Patricia Woodruff, and their acceptance of whatever path I have chosen to follow in life. I thank my partner, Paul Gibson, and our daughters, Mac and Tilda. They inspire and support me, and are the testing ground for all my ideas.

Rosalie Woodruff

Four Way Test Speech Competition

Overall Champion from Merici College

On Saturday 24 October, a talented student from Merici College, Avneet Bakshi, was awarded the Overall Champion of the Four Way Test Speech Competition held in Jindabyne. Avneet represented the students at Merici College and was sponsored by The Rotary Club of Canberra North. Avneet initially competed against students from the Canberra Region, then progressed to the semifinals against 6 students from Rotary District 9710, from Wollongong to Bega and as far west as Tumbarumba, Goulburn and Bowral.

This competition originated in America and was introduced to Australia by Past District Governor, Fred Marsh during his term as District Governor in 1988/1989. Each participant may choose their own topic, but the four principles of the Rotary Four Way Test must be explored in the speech:

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Points were awarded on the following basis:

Impact on the intellect
40 points
Impact on the emotions
40 points
Discussion of the ideas of the “4 Way Test”
20 points

Avneet captivated the audience with her highly intelligent, engaging and entertaining speech on her chosen topic of E Waste. This topic is relevant to Avneet as Merici College is renowned for its efforts and innovations in sustainability initiatives.

Congratulations to a well deserving recipient!

Loretta Wholley
Principal
Merici Moments Movember