

# Captains' Newsletter Issue #1





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NarragunnawaliSocial JusticeSpirituality

SustainabilityTransitions

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## Introduction

Welcome all to the very first issue of the Captain's Newsletter!

When the 2025 Leadership Team came together to discuss our visions for the year, we were united in our desire to get more of our Merici sisters involved in our initiatives. We knew this year, and this team, had the potential to drive and create opportunities, promote collaboration, and foster joy at Merici College. However, we knew that countless emails, Instagram posts and daily announcements were no longer the most effective way to advertise our groups and goals.

Hence, the Captains' Newsletter was founded.

A central space for issuing updates, celebrating achievements, advertising extracurricular opportunities, and setting goals, we hope the Captain's Newsletter becomes a valuable resource for the Leadership Team and the wider community. This newsletter allows us to keep you in the loop about our workings and, most importantly, show you how you can get involved. 2025 is our year of joy, and we aspire for this newsletter to reflect the joy we both experience and create.

Issue #1 of the Captains' Newsletter will introduce you to our 2025 Captains and their leadership visions. Throughout the year, all will be welcome to join in bringing these visions to life. We strongly encourage you to get involved with these groups and initiatives, and we wish every one of you a very joyful and successful year.

Thank you, Your 2025 Leadership Team

# **School Captains**

Hello everyone! We are Laura and Zoe, your College Captains for 2025.

#### Welcome

This year, we strive to include our theme of joy in all that we do. Supported by our incredible leadership team, we look forward to introducing and upholding some amazing initiatives to interest every member of the Merici College community. We hope to inspire students at Merici to get involved and take advantage of all the opportunities presented to them. Our recent Activities Expo was a huge hit! We hope to see this level of engagement in all that we implement and introduce. Through our initiatives we aim to empower Merici girls to seek joy and success. Together with our leadership team we are working hard to bring you an incredible 2025.



#### Last First Day

On February 4<sup>th</sup> the Year 12s celebrated their 'Last First Day'. We were thrilled to see the jerseys arrive in time for our return to school, and grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the beginning of our final year at Merici College with our peers. Complete with childhood pictures, pink ribbons, and a delicious breakfast, the Last First Day was a resounding success. We hope the Last First Day becomes a cherished tradition at Merici for all cohorts to celebrate their achievements and begin their final year with gratitude and joy.

For those who experienced their very first day, we were so thrilled to meet you all and hope to get to know you more throughout the year!

#### Get Involved

We are incredibly proud of the community here are Merici, and even more proud to be granted the opportunity to lead it. We look forward to creating another wonderful school year for you all. To follow along with our work, you can follow the official @mericileadership page on Instagram.

Throughout the year we will value and take on your suggestions and feedback on past, upcoming, and potential events and initiatives. We are always available at our emails, <a href="mailto:davidsl@merici.act.edu.au">davidsl@merici.act.edu.au</a> and <a href="mailto:crickz01@merici.act.edu.au">crickz01@merici.act.edu.au</a>, and we welcome your contributions.

We wish you all a very joyful and successful 2025. Laura Davidson and Zoe Crick



# **Balgo House**



### Hello, Balgo House 💛

Welcome to 2025! We are excited to be your Balgo House Captains this year. We, Annie and Cory, are honoured to lead this amazing yellow house, and are looking forward to all the fun we will have this year. We aim to foster and build on a more supportive, energetic, and welcoming environment for everyone in Balgo, and we can't wait to dive into what's ahead.

This year we have some big goals in mind for Balgo house and make the house shine even brighter! Our fucus will be in peer involvement, teamwork, and making sure everyone feels the Balgo spirit. We also want to encourage creativity and leadership among all members. We aim to organise more interhouse competitions and team-building challenges to boost a sense of unity and pride. We hope to facilitate a Merici/Marist activity among the grades, but this is still to be determined!

#### Le How You Can Get Involved

We would love to see all our Balgo girls getting involved this year, and encourage you to join the House Executive! Whether you want to help organise events or participate in our upcoming challenges, there's a spot for you. We are especially looking for enthusiastic students who want to contribute their ideas and energy. Being in House Exec you get to be part of the team and contribute ideas you have for the year ahead. We traditionally meet Monday lunch time in the CRLC, but keep an eye out for updates and confirmation soon!

Everyone is welcome! To join, send an email to Mrs. Porcheddu at <u>bianca.porcheddu@merici.act.edu.au</u> and cc: Annie and Cory. Our first big event, the swimming carnival is just around the corner! Get ready to represent Balgo with pride like the boss girls you are! Our theme: Balgo Bosses.

#### Stay Connected

Want to stay in the loop and follow everything Balgo House? You can keep up with all our activities and announcements on social media at @balgohousemerici. We are also happy to hear from you – share your ideas, ask questions, or just say hello! You can email us at <a href="kingsa01@merici.act.edu.au">kingsa01@merici.act.edu.au</a> and <a href="marchac@merici.act.edu.au">marchac@merici.act.edu.au</a>.

Thank you all for being such a great part of Balgo House! We are looking forward to working with all of you and making this school year unforgettable. Let's make 2025 our best year yet! Here's to fun, achievements, and team spirit!



See you around,

Annie & Cory V



## Brescia House

Hello, our names are Eliza Kelly and Rachel Hofmeier, and we are the Brescia Captains for 2025! We are so excited for the year to come, especially as Brescia leaders and we can't wait to see our house shine. We have such high expectations of what Brescia girls can achieve this year and we look forward to leading the house to victories along the way. Our goal is to encourage participation, celebrate every achievement, and ensure that every Brescia student feels proud to be part of Brescia.



This year, Brescia is aiming to bring our house spirit to new heights! Our goals include increasing participation in all house events, fostering a strong sense of community, and making every competition one to remember. We want to see more students getting involved, whether it's in sports, academics, or creative challenges. Key events include the swimming carnival, athletics carnival, and the Merici Olympics, alongside new initiatives to boost engagement and teamwork. With enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork, we're determined to make 2025 Brescia's best year yet!

Getting involved with Brescia is a great way to contribute to our house spirit and leadership. As a member of our team, you'll help organize events, encourage participation, and support house initiatives throughout the year. Whether it's planning upcoming events, boosting involvement in competitions, or coming up with new ideas to strengthen our community, there's a place for everyone to contribute. We are holding Brescia Executive meetings fortnightly on Thursday at lunch, so be sure to check your emails for updates. These meetings are a great opportunity to share ideas, collaborate with Brescia girls, and help the house. If you're interested in joining, keep an eye out for more details, we'd love to have you on board!

The swimming carnival is just around the corner, and Brescia is ready to make a splash with our theme, Bula! Bula is Fijian for "hello", hence the girls will be dressing up in Fijian and Hawaiian inspired outfits. We hope to have high attendance with all the girls dressing up in purple outfits showing our wonderful house pride. The day will be filled with cheering loudly from the sidelines, diving into every race with confidence and supporting each other. With Brescia's enthusiasm and determination, we are aiming to bring home the win this year!

You can follow along for updates about Brescia at @bresciahousemc.

Thank you all,

Eliza and Rachel 💙



# Ningil House

#### Captain Introduction

Hey everyone, and welcome back! We hope you all had a great break and are ready for another big year. We're Tara (House Captain and Evie (Vice Captain), and we're looking forward to leading Ningil in 2025. Whether you are new to the House or have been here for years, we're excited to see what we can achieve together.





#### 2025 House Goal

As Ningil House Captains, our main goal is to unite the students through teamwork, collaboration, and shared purpose. We will encourage active participation in house events and carnivals, while also leading efforts to raise funds and awareness for meaningful causes. To us, leadership is about the strength of a group working in unity to achieve common goals, not just the efforts of one individual.

#### How to Get Involved

Athletics Carnival Working Bee: Dates will be released soon, and we encourage all students to help with painting signs and banners to support Ningil House.

Ningil House Executive: The House Executive plays a vital leadership role in planning and organizing Ningil House activities. To apply, please email your Expression of Interest (ONE paragraph) to Mrs. Casey no later than next Tuesday the 18th at 9am. In your application, please address the following:

- Why you are keen to be part of the Ningil House Executive
- Give examples of how you can contribute positively as a member of the House Executive team
- What improvements you want to see in Ningil this year and how you think these can be achieved
- Use formal and polite language in your response

#### **Upcoming Events**

Swimming Carnival – 17th of February: The theme is Ningil Neverland. Come dressed as pirates or fairies to support our house!

Athletics Carnival – Week 7: The theme is Ningil Nashville. Wear cowboy-themed outfits and take part in the events!

#### Social Media

To stay up to date with everything we're working on, follow us on Instagram at @ningilhousemerici. We'll be sharing event details, updates, and opportunities to help, such as the Working Bee, for you to get involved in throughout the year.

Thank you for your support—we are looking forward to making 2025 an incredible year together! Tara and Evie ♥

## Penola House

#### Welcome to Penola House

Hey everyone! We're Carmela and Lucy, your Penola House Captains for 2025, and we are absolutely thrilled to kick off what promises to be an amazing year with all of you. We're so excited to get to know each and every one of you, and we are eager to collaborate not just within Penola, but with all the houses!



#### Our Goal

Our goal this year is to create lasting memories for all the girls in Penola. We want everyone to feel involved, active, and a part of the Penola spirit. Together, we can strive towards our ultimate goal: winning the House Cup!

#### Penola Executive

This term, we're starting Penola Executive meetings again. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute your ideas and help shape Penola's activities throughout the year. Keep an eye out for an email with an application form to join. We encourage all Penola girls to apply!



#### **Upcoming Events**

Swimming Carnival: Week 3 is fast approaching, and that means it's time for the Swimming Carnival on Monday, February 17th! This year, our theme is Penola Princesses! Make sure to wear your tiaras and tutus! We can't wait to see all of your creativity and house spirit on display.

House Meetings: Don't forget that we have Penola House meetings every Friday morning during PC. This is a great opportunity to connect with your fellow Penola members and hear important announcements.

#### Instagram

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @PenolaHouse to stay up-to-date on all the latest news, announcements, and exciting events happening in Penola.

We're looking forward to a fantastic year filled with fun, collaboration, and Penola pride!

Carmela and Lucy!



## Seiwa House

What a start to the new school year! Now, coming to the end of the second week of school, the early mornings and getting back into routines have become less wearisome. In the first week back, we had a welcome assembly where the whole school got together and welcomed all the new students and teachers.

Welcoming all the new year sevens have been great for Mia and me; interacting with all these amazing girls who are about to start their own journey and trying to spot out some future Seiwa captains in the crowd. Seiwa also had their first house meeting of the year, looking at the school theme of Joy and what brings us Joy and our goals for 2025. As this is Mia's and my last year at school, we want to make this year count and one of our big goals this year is winning the college cup for Seiwa!

Seiwa Exec also had their first meeting of the year where we discussed all things swimming carnival. Mia and I were also able to attend a mass at Saint Christopher's cathedral in Forrest, where we got to meet some of the sisters of the good Samaritan. This was a great opportunity for us as they were able to tell us more about what they did and ways we can contribute their morals and value to the Seiwa community.





Seiwa girls in the stands, let me hear you clap your hands!

The swimming carnival is coming closer, and Seiwa is prepared to take on the waters with the power of sparkles and glimmer. Seiwa's theme for the 2025 swimming carnival is Seiwa Shimmer and Shine. This idea was a way to display every Seiwa girl's shiny personality in and out of the water. The girls are covering all their outfits with something shiny to help stand out in the crowd!

At the carnival, there will be lots of opportunities to get the girls to gain points for the house through chants, relay races and much more! Preparing for the swimming carnival, Seiwa had a working bee where girls were able to come together and work on making posters and jazzing up their costumes for the carnival. There was a great turnout, with lots of girls willing to help out and plenty of snacks.

Well that's all from us for now!

Mia & Jess 🛡



## **Tullow House**

We're thrilled to welcome you all to 2025! We are Claire, your Tullow House Captain, and Ava, your Vice Captain. It's an honour to lead such a passionate, vibrant group of girls, and we can't wait to see what we'll achieve together this year. We're here to support, inspire, and work alongside you to make Tullow stronger than ever.

Our aspirations for this year are all about unity, spirit, and participation. We aim to build upon the Tullow executive team and provide leadership opportunities for younger students, encouraging growth and confidence in everyone. We're excited to expand PC vs PC competitions, introduce tutoring groups to support academic success, and create more activities that involve each year group, fostering stronger connections across all years. Our goal is to continue creating a supportive, inclusive community while proudly maintaining our reputation as the loveliest girls in the school. And, of course, we're determined to claim victory at major events such as the swimming and athletics carnivals.





We are ready to make a splash at our 2025 Swimming Carnival with our theme, "Tullow Take Down!". This year, we are stepping into the ring with the determination, resilience, and fighting spirit of champions, channelling our inner boxers to dominate both in and out of the pool. Whether you're diving into races, cheering from the sidelines, or representing Tullow with unmatched enthusiasm, every bit of support counts.

The Swimming Carnival takes place on Monday the 17th February. Please note that students are responsible for organising their own transport to and from the venue, so plan ahead to ensure you arrive on time and ready to represent Tullow with pride. This is our chance to showcase not just our athletic abilities but also the incredible spirit that makes Tullow House so special. Let's make waves and prove that when it comes to heart, hustle, and house pride, Tullow always comes out on top. Let's take down the competition and show everyone what we're made of!





Our aspirations for this year have already

been demonstrated effectively since starting the school term. In Week 2 our house celebrated Tullow House Week, filled with activities that showcased our community values. On Monday, we kicked off with "Wear It Green Day", where students proudly wore green to represent Tullow's vibrant energy and unity. We were honoured to welcome Sister Jane Keogh, who shared her inspiring journey and valuable insights, connecting deeply with our house values of justice, courage, and compassion. Tullow house also embraced a PC vs PC quiz and sport competition later in the week. It was a huge success because of all the involvement from every year group, involvement that we would love to keep going all year. A huge thank you to everyone that participated and assisted in making this week memorable and enjoyable!

Want to get more involved? We're looking for enthusiastic students to join us as part of the Tullow executive. Members help plan events, support house activities and assist in leading house assemblies. Meetings will be held once a fortnight. To join, please email Mrs Kennedy or either of the captains.

You can follow along with our journey and stay updated on events through our Tullow House social media page: @tullowhousemc. We'll be sharing highlights, upcoming activities, and ways to get involved.

We thank you for being the heart and soul of Tullow. Let's make 2025 a year to remember, filled with spirit, success, and unforgettable memories. We can't wait to lead this incredible house with you all by our side!

#TullowThrive2025

Claire & Ava ♥
Tullow House Captain and Vice-Captain

## Arts

"Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start!"



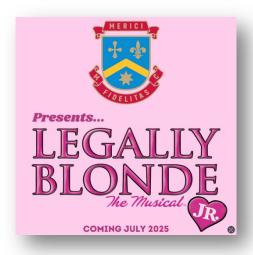
Hey, I'm Belle and I am your 2025 Arts Captain for Merici College. I'm beyond excited for the year ahead and can't wait to bring creativity, passion, and hopefully some amazing opportunities to our school community. Here a little bit about me and my interests:

- Favourite Movie: Kingsman: The Secret Service
- Favourite book: Daisy Jones & The Six
- Favourite Music Artist: The Driver Era
- Favourite Song: I'm Still Standing (Sing Version)
- Favourite Musical: West Side Story Dear Evan Hansen
- Favourite Show: Bodyguard
- Favourite food: Dumplings

#### Our Goal

My goal for the Arts this year is to continuously integrate and celebrate the arts throughout the school year, ensuring that creativity and artistic expression remain a vibrant and consistent part of our school community regardless of skill level. There are so many artistic avenues open to you at Merici and strongly encourage you to explore them all!





#### Upcoming

Exciting things are coming up in the arts! Legally Blonde Jr. rehearsals are in full swing, and we can't wait to see it come to life. Our music clubs are thriving—join String Ensemble (, Concert Band (Mondays after school), Rock Band (Wednesdays at lunch), and Vocal Group (Mondays at lunch) to get involved. Plus, keep an eye out for Balcony Sessions every Friday and our Pop-Up Performances once a term—audition notices coming soon! Whether you're a musician, singer, or performer, there's something for everyone, so don't miss out on these incredible opportunities!



#### Stay Connected

Hallway Chat – If you see me in the hallway, feel free to stop me and ask questions, have a chat, talk about your interests, and more. I am always happy to listen!

Email – Don't hesitate to send me an email regarding anything in the Arts department. If you're wanting to get involved and aren't sure what to do, I am happy to help you out and find some ways to get you started. You can also join the Arts Notices to get frequent updates regarding showcases, events, workshops and possibilities. Email me at <a href="mailto:ryanis@merici.act.edu.au">ryanis@merici.act.edu.au</a>.

Arts Boards – Pop up to the Arts noticeboard at the end of Balgo and see what's happening in Canberra, the Billboard Top Ten songs of that week, a movie of the week and some work/performances done by our very own Merici sisters.

Arts Council – The Arts Council is a great way to get involved in shaping the creative side of our school! Members will help organise arts events, assist with marketing and promotion, and support various artistic activities throughout the year. Meetings will be scheduled fortnightly, with an estimated start in the coming weeks (TBD). A form will be coming out soon to submit interest and be considered for a position on the council. I'd love to see people with all different passions there!

Social Media – You can follow along with everything going on at @merici\_arts on Instagram with frequent updates and spotlights.



Let's make this year one to remember, and that starts with you! Get involved, give everything a go and I look forward to hearing your ideas!

"So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye!"

## Culture

Hello everyone! My name is Sesadi Giragama, and I'm your 2025 Culture Captain here at Merici College. I'm thrilled to promote and organize the diverse range of cultural events and initiatives at our school.

#### Goals for 2025

My primary goal as Culture Captain is to celebrate the cultures represented within our school and the wider community. I believe that by raising awareness of our cultural diversity, we can foster a more inclusive and harmonious environment for everyone.

Throughout the year, we will be celebrating a variety of cultural festivities, each offering a unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate different traditions and customs.

Some of the exciting events that are celebrated here at the college include:

- Harmony Week
- Vesak
- Bastille Day / Italian Day
- Holi
- Hispanic Day
- Lunar New year

These events are just the beginning, and I encourage everyone to get involved and share your cultural traditions and ideas!



#### Get Involved!

As a member of the Culture Council, you'll have the chance to brainstorm and contribute ideas that promote and celebrate culture within the school. It's a collaborative environment where creativity and enthusiasm are highly appreciated. You'll work alongside fellow students to plan events, initiatives, and activities that foster a vibrant and inclusive cultural atmosphere at Merici. Whether it's organizing cultural festivals, and heritage days, or creating posters to raise awareness, your input can make a significant impact on the school's cultural atmosphere.



To become a member of the Council, send an expression of interest to <a href="mailto:giragss@merici.act.edu.au">giragss@merici.act.edu.au</a> or come join us during one of our Culture Council meetings on Wednesday lunch time week A in the CRLC!

To keep up to date with all things culture, follow our Instagram page @Mericicollege.culture!

I look forward to seeing everyone getting involved and celebrating the gorgeous girls within our community.

Thank you, Sesadi Giragama.



# Narragunnawali

#### Welcome

I'm Lauren Cullen the Narragunnawali captain and cannot wait to start my role in 2025, as a proud Wiradjuri woman aiming to bring more attention within the school community to the Narragunnawali mob.





This year I plan to bring reconciliation to the school by integrating and introducing new and fun activities. Starting by introducing smoking ceremonies and welcome to country to major school events, such as the Merici Opening Mass and more, throughout the year. I aim to introduce more activities for non-Indigenous students that want to get involved and to learn. With the aim to have multiple activities during NAIDOC week, such as a movie night, weaving and painting, and hopefully bring in guest speakers. While nothing has been confirmed just yet, I am eager to see what I can do and looking forward to organising and implementing these new initiatives and opportunities.

#### Service and Charity

I also want to bring attention to Indigenous charities to contribute to the wider community, I want to do this by raising money and collecting donations to help those in need. My family and I have been frequent contributors to local organisations, so I have seen the impact that simple contributions have made to the people that they help, and I would love to make Merici a part of that. I strive to create a positive impact on the community and uphold the pride Merici has in serving others.



#### Community

Even though Narragunnawali is a support system for

Indigenous students, we also hold the role of bringing about reconciliation within the school. To achieve this, we will be hosting future activities with everyone welcome to join. I strongly encourage you to come along and get involved. We hold meetings once a week for students that identify as Indigenous. I cannot wait to see you there. You can follow along with our work at @mericinarragunnawali, and email me at <a href="mailto:cullel01@merici.act.edu.au">cullel01@merici.act.edu.au</a>.

Thank you and looking forward to a wonderful school year.

## Social Justice

Hello everyone, my name is Lucy Jerga, and I am very excited to be the Social Justice Captain for 2025.

#### Who we are

The Social Justice Team is a group of girls from Year 7-12 who are interested in social justice issues, wanting to be involved in the school, have leadership opportunities as well as build up their Angel Hours! We work on projects such as the annual Can line, fundraising for our schools' foundational charities and various external and inter-school volunteering opportunities.



#### What you will be doing

As a member of the social justice team, you will help with creating posters and advertising upcoming events and fundraisers, including speaking at house assemblies. You will also assist at inter-school and external events and at other volunteering opportunities where you can earn angel hours towards your angel wing badges as well as earning your own Social Justice Team badge!

#### Goals for this year

- Get more junior students involved in the Social Justice Group
- Provide all students with opportunities to undertake service and leadership
- Bring new guest speakers and develop partnerships with other schools
- Continue to foster existing relationships with foundational charities and other key existing partners

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Activities Expo- Thu 13 Feb
- World Day of Social Justice- Thu 20 Feb
- Gift of Life Walk (Lake Burley Griffin)- Tue 25
- Caritas Appeal Launch (including can line)- Tue
   11 Mar
- Gift of Life Walk (Merici)- Tue 18 Mar
- Harmony Day- Fri 21 Mar
- Emily REACH Siem Reap Visit- Thu 27 Mar

#### How to get involved

- Come to our stand at the Activities Expo (Thu 13 Feb, Week 2 Term 1) and sign up to be part of the Social Justice Team!
- Email me (jergalc@merici.act.edu.au) with any questions or to sign up! We meet on Tuesdays every fortnight (Week A) in the CRLC, Room 204
- First meeting: Tue 18 Feb all are welcome

For volunteering opportunities refer to the SEQTA notices. I look forward to a wonderful year!



# **Spirituality**

#### Introduction

On behalf of all of us in the Spirituality space, welcome to 2025! I hope the holidays were restful, and that the school year ahead is an amazing one. My name is Zoe Pearson, and I am the Spirituality Captain for 2025. I'm a representative for the spiritual life of the school, whether it be reading prayers at assemblies and Masses, advocating for charitable causes, leading the Angela's Angels, and more. I'm really excited to continue serving in this position, and I hope that I'll see many of you get involved!

#### Aspirations and Recent Events

Term 1 is a very important part of the spirituality year, with lots of Masses to attend and opportunities to take on.
Recently, myself and a few other year 12 students went to the Pilgrims of Hope Mass at the Cathedral in honour of those serving in a religious vocation, which was a lovely experience, including getting to speak to nuns in the founding orders of Merici! We've had amazing turnouts with sign-ups for the Angela's Angels group, which is wonderful to see.



#### Angela's Angels

My main aspiration as Spirituality Captain this year is to revive the Angela's Angels group. I'm planning on hosting lots of fundraisers and sharing lots of volunteering opportunities, including setting up a fundraiser for Project Compassion when Lent starts!



#### How You Can Get Involved

Come to Angela's Angels! Meetings are on every Wednesday lunchtime in the CRLC. If you want to be a more integrated part of the Merici College community, joining is an amazing way to do just that. We're all about volunteering, fundraising, and just generally helping where we're needed around the community!

Looking forward to an amazing year with all of you!

Zoe Pearson

Spirituality Captain 2025

# Sport and Wellbeing

#### Welcome To 2025!

Hello Merici College community,

I'm Eva Spoljaric, your 2025 Sport and Wellbeing Captain, and I am incredibly excited to kick off another fantastic year of sport at Merici! Alongside the amazing members of our Sports Council and PE Staff, Mrs Anderson and the cocurricular program. I look forward to creating an engaging, inclusive, and energetic sporting environment for all students.



#### Goals

This year, I aim to advance sport and wellbeing at Merici by:

- Organising sporting events and competitions throughout the year.
- Interhouse and Interschool events
- Encouraging healthy eating and active lifestyles through various initiatives.
- Fostering a culture of teamwork, participation, and school spirit across all year levels.
- Before school and Lunchtime activities

We welcome any ideas or feedback to make this an incredible year!

#### **Upcoming Events**





#### Swimming Carnival

Get ready to dive into the school year with our first big event—the Swimming Carnival! House Captains will be announcing themes and ways to get involved, so stay tuned. It's the perfect chance to show your team spirit and enjoy a fun-filled, high-energy day. This year, we're introducing new events to make the carnival more inclusive for everyone, including house spirit activities like "Fashion at the Pool," width relays with friends, and a "Bring Your Own Inflatable" relay.

#### Working bee

To prepare, there will be a working bee this Friday to create posters and decorations. Join us to help bring the school spirit to life!

#### Athletics Carnival

Looking ahead, we also have the Athletics Carnival coming up in Week 7, so start getting excited for another chance to compete, cheer, and celebrate school spirit!

#### Get Involved

Notes and notifications for all sporting events will be sent through Compass, so be sure to check regularly for updates and important details! Gala days and School teams Merici offers are listed below:

#### Gala Days:

- Touch
- Water Polo
- Swimming
- Futsal
- Soccer
- Cross-Country.
- Netball
- Track and Field
- Basketball
- Golf

#### School Teams:

- Netball
- Basketball
- Oz Tag
- Equestrian
- Snow Sports



#### Looking Ahead

Meet your 2025 Sports Council

I am excited to introduce this year's Sports Council, a passionate group of students dedicated to promoting sport and wellbeing in our school community. Congratulations to the following members!

- Aminda Byrne
- Coco Thomas
- Evie Youden
- Hannah Costigan
- Lily Martin
- Francesca Warhurst
- Sienna Freestone
- Sienna Ramirez
- Edith McKerracher
- Jorja Langi
- Elly Persson
- Abigail Senese
- Jaidah Thomas
- Chloe Palfreyman



I'm excited to be leading sport at Merici this year and can't wait to see everyone getting involved, having fun, and achieving great things in 2025! Your support means so much, and I look forward to an incredible year of sport and wellbeing. I'd love to hear your ideas—whether it's new events, ways to boost participation, or fresh initiatives to promote health and wellbeing.

Eva Spoljaric 2025 Sport and Wellbeing Captain

## SRC

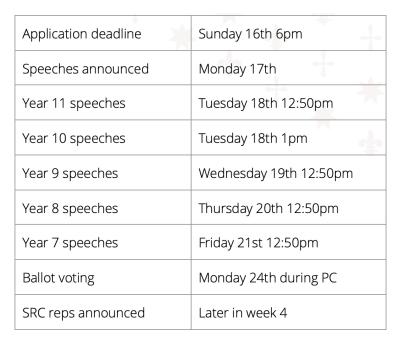
My name is Prue Harlock, and I am thrilled to be your 2025 Student Representative Council Captain. This year is the year of the SRC; I plan to continue the amazing work of the 2024 SRC Captain Gabrielle Shoebridge and her council.

#### How to Apply

The SRC is a selective council with only two students per year across Years 7-11. It starts with applications, open to students. From there, four students from each year group are selected to perform speeches in front of their year group based on their application. From there, students vote for their top choices, which will then create our council!

#### Perks of the SRC

Being an SRC rep allows you to be an advocate for your year group; you are seen as the 'go-to' person if a student has any problems, ideas or suggestions. A great perk of being a part of the SRC is that you'll get exclusive leadership opportunities that no other students get and be an advocate for not only your year group but for the school.





#### Goals

My goals for the 2025 year are to improve the council's reputation and allow great leadership opportunities for the council members. In 2025 we strive to make positive changes around the school by being determined to make a difference. For the 2025 school year, I want to work towards more collaboration and engagement from other schools around ACT to allow students the opportunity to make new friends, allow the student body to have a voice and overall achieve lots!

Please view the schedule for this year's applications! It is super important that even if you didn't apply or get shortlisted, you attend your year group's candidate speeches, so you know who you are voting for!

Follow our SRC Instagram page, @merici.src to get exclusive updates on our council! I cannot wait to see what this year's council can achieve ©

Prue Harlock

2025 Student Representative Council



# Sustainability

My name is Rebecca Price, and I am the Sustainability Captain for Merici College in 2025. Sustainability at Merici (SAM) is a co-curricular group at the college that aims to help make Merici a more sustainable school and to be a way for students to tangibly help take climate action within our community.

#### What do we do at SAM?

At SAM we work in the garden and on our biodiversity project: planting, maintaining, and watering it; make ecofriendly products, e.g. face scrubs; have guest speakers come and talk to us about the environment and ways to help; run a yearly clothes swop (the SWOP-Shop); have exciting opportunities to attend different events e.g. the ACT Smart Sustainable Schools Conference; and help the school become more sustainable and work towards getting accreditations for sustainability.







#### Goals for SAM this year

This year in sustainability is going to be action packed and extremely exciting! The goals this year for SAM is to increase attendance, use of SAM notice board, and use of Instagram and following. Have a monthly plan of SAM activities on SAM Instagram, daily notices and on the SAM board. Increase number of activities and outside activities that will encourage people to come (e.g. making lip balm, beeswax wraps, etc.). Having more guest speakers come to meetings.

Make sure to give us a follow on Instagram @merici.sustainability

#### How can you get involved in SAM?

Come see us to sign up at the 2025 activities expo or send me an email (pricerc@merici.act.edu.au) to be added to our email list. Our meetings are held each Friday lunch time (the location and what we are doing will be emailed out and can be found on the SAM notice board, SAM Instagram and on the daily notices). So, make sure to check out our SAM notice board (opposite the Ningil Bathrooms), SAM Instagram and the daily notices to see what's on in SAM that week and to stay up to date with sustainability news!

Thank you for taking the time to read about SAM, I hope you have an amazing year and I'm looking forward to seeing you at one of our events!

## **Transitions**

Hi everyone, my name is Georgia Ween, and I am your 2025 Transitions Captain! I would like to welcome you all to a new school year.

#### The Transitions Team

The Transitions Team is a group of students from years 7-12 who are passionate about supporting new students and working together to boost school morale. The team works together for events such as Open Days, Talk and Tours and Be a Merici Girl Days.



#### Goals for 2025

- We aim to create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all new students.
   Through better integrating new students into the community we hope that their transition to a new school is easier. Projects are currently underway to set up this system.
- Run more frequent events that will encourage students to meet new people and bond with their peers. The transitions team hopes to bring back 'Feel Good Fridays' to foster friendships and community spirit.



#### Get Involved

Get involved with the transitions team by attending our fortnightly meetings. We meet every Week B Tuesday in the CRLC to discuss upcoming events. As a member of the transitions team, you are also expected to help at Open Days, Talk and Tours and Be a Merici Girl Days.



#### **Upcoming Events**

Talk and Tours: 15th of Feb

Year 7 Camp: 18-20th of March

• Be a Merici Girl Day: 1-2nd of May

• Be a Merici Girl Day: 5th of May

Open Day: 7th of May

• Talk and Tours: 10th of May