

Building Futures

Building Futures

Vol 4 2016



What's On

Up-Coming Events

See Merici web page for full calendar and further details

Monday 30 January	First day for Year 7, 11 and 12 plus new students
Tuesday 31 January	First day for Years 8, 9 and 10
Tuesday 31 January	Opening Assembly (11.15am)
Monday 6 February	Academic Awards Ceremony Semester 2 2016
Wednesday 8 February	Swimming Carnival
Thursday 9 February – Friday 10 February	Year 11 Conference
Tuesday 14 February	Opening School Mass
Wednesday 15 February	Vinnies Doorknock
Thursday 16 February	Year 12 Qld Skills Testing (8.45am)
Friday 17 February- Sunday 19 February	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike
Tuesday 21 February	Tullow House Day
Thursday 23 February	Activities Expo (1.00pm)
Friday 24 February	Year 7 Immunisations
Monday 27 February	Year 7 Parent Transition Workshops (6.30pm)
Tuesday 28 February	Year 8-11 SRC Elections (12.10pm)
Wednesday 1 March	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 1 March	Donate Life Walk (6.30am)
Thursday 2 March	Year 7 IH National Museum Excursion
Friday 3 March	Schools Clean Up Day
Tuesday 7 March	Moderation Day #1
Thursday 9 March	International Women's Day Dinner (6.00pm)
Friday 10 March-Sunday 12 March	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Hike
Monday 13 March	Canberra Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 15 March-Friday 17 March	Year 7 Camp
Thursday 16 March	Year 8 History/Geography Excursion
Friday 17 March	National Ride to School Day
Monday 20 March	Year 7 SRC Elections (12.10pm)
Wednesday 22 March	Merici College Community BBQ (6.00pm)
Thursday 23 March	SRC Induction Day
Saturday 25 March	Earth Hour 8.30pm-9.30pm
Monday 27 March	Year 10 History/Geography Excursion
Tuesday 28 March	Blood Ambassador Training Day
Saturday 1 April	China Tour departs
Monday 3 April	Easter Liturgy (12.10pm)
Monday 3 April	Parent/Teacher/Student Night (4.00pm-6.30pm)
Wednesday 5 April	Parent/Teacher/Student Night (4.00pm-6.30pm)
Thursday 6 April	Athletics Carnival
Friday 7 April	Term 1 ends
Monday 24 April	Term 2 begins

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11 Merici students receive the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association Student Citizenship Award. See page 5.

"You have embarked on a path in life of service and selflessness - it is a great path. Australia is proud of you."

His Excellency General Peter Cosgrove

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 BUILDING FUTURES EDITORIAL TEAM
 Year 10 Technology Class
 Virginia McLeod & Tracey Kent

COVER IMAGE

2017 College Leaders

Principal's Report



In 2016 we celebrated the year of Love and Mercy. The Love came from our mission statement to “Love Life” and Mercy came from the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis – “the Year of Mercy”.

This term has seen a number of services and celebrations for the students in their different year groups. Year 12 students, their teachers, parents and family members attended a moving Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony at St. Christopher's Cathedral and we have also had a wonderful celebration with students and their families at the Formal held at the Arboretum on what was a magnificent night. We had a beautiful Advent Mass for Year 7 to 10 students and a special Award Ceremony the following day for our Year 10 students who had just completed a week of service in our community. The year ended, as it usually does with a great concert and disco.

The big areas of focus for 2016 have been the implementation and review of the Timetable and Reporting systems. We have also focused on improved Sustainability practices (which resulted in a \$30 000 saving in electricity). Mental Health issues have continued to be an area of concern for our students, staff and their families. The mindfulness minute and technology free Pastoral Care times were just a small step into building resilience along with our pastoral program. Next year we will have a ‘Calm Space’ in the school. All schools across the ACT have created a space like this in response to the ‘Schools for All’ recommendation. We will also introduce two new programs called MindMatters and Sources of Strength. These programs assist students to create a framework that creates hope and draws on the gifts we bring to our relationships with each other, God and of course, ourselves.

For 2017 the Improvement Plan focus points are outlined below:

Catholic Identity and Faith Formation

Aspiration: Demonstrate a strong identity as a Catholic community and invite all members to deepen their faith and service to others.

Focus: Signs and Symbols, Interfaith and Ecumenical opportunities, RE Accreditation of Staff, Fundraising and Charity Work

Teaching and Learning

Aspiration: Provide an engaging educational environment tailored for girls, which challenges them to take risks within, and beyond, the classroom to achieve individual academic excellence.

Focus: Teaching and Learning, International Baccalaureate, Digital and Design Technologies, STEAM, Student-Centred Learning, E-Portfolios, Department restructure

Pastoral Care and Well-being in our Community

Aspiration: Develop and strengthen a community where authentic relationships are nurtured and where dignity and integrity are affirmed.

Focus: Wellbeing of Staff and Students with MindMatters and Sources of Strength programs, Human Resource Management, Student Leadership Program

Leadership and Professional Practice

Aspiration: Inspire a reflective learning culture where staff are proactive in building their professional expertise within a changing world.

Focus: Aspiring Leaders Program, Workplace Health and Safety training, Registration

Strategic Resourcing

Aspiration: Provide physical resources that support teaching and learning, optimising utilisation, sustainability and compliance.

Focus: Sustainability, MasterPlan: Auditorium, Science Labs & Limestone Avenue, Compliance, Future Revenue sources

In 2016 we are farewelling a number of staff who will be leaving us. Each of these staff members have a special mention in the College Yearbook. I would like to thank them all and wish them every blessing in their new endeavours. I would especially like to note the work of two teachers who are retiring. John Cave who has been at Merici College since 1979 and Anne Thorne who has taught at Merici College since 1988. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate Trazel Scott, Deputy Principal Development, who is taking up her first Principal's position at Hennessey College in Young. Trazel has been instrumental in the area of Pastoral Care. I would also like to mention, Virginia McLeod, Maria Tolfree and Megan Keogh for their enthusiasm and inspiration. These staff members have been outstanding in their service to Merici College. We will miss them very much and wish them all the best in the future.

Next year our theme is United in Hope

This year would not have been a success without our leaders. Thank you to the 2016 Captains, Focus Captains, and House Captains. I have valued their generous spirit and the dedication they have given to their role and team.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Virginia McLeod and Ms Tracey Kent along with their team of students. You have done an amazing job, capturing the life of Merici College this year. I am proud and you should be too, of what you have created through Building Futures and the College Yearbook.

In the words of St. Angela Merici:

“Strive with all your might to remain as you are called by God and to seek and desire all the ways and means necessary to persevere and make progress to the very end..”

Loretta Wholley

Inspiring Presenters

Sarah Watson and Steve Biddulph

Merici College aims to ensure the well-being of each student – developing resilience, self-awareness, emotional maturity and self-control in a caring Christian community. Here at Merici we are aware that mental health issues are indeed real and people affected by them need love, compassion and understanding. We recognise the importance of sharing the responsibility of creating a culture of patience, compassion and support.



A significant number of students, in fact 12%, are from an Australian Defence Force (ADF) family. On average one out of every seven Merici Defence students has a parent absent due to ADF related commitments.

An unfortunate consequence of this deployment is that some of these service men and women will suffer a traumatic event that will threaten their life and/or safety, or that of others around them. By simply doing their job and allowing us to enjoy the freedoms, comfort and safety of life in Australia, a number of these dedicated individuals will return home with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

A fund raising event to highlight this issue was held on Wednesday 26 October with Sarah Watson kindly volunteering to be the guest speaker. Sarah is an ex-member of the Australian Defence Force who suffered PTSD mental health issues as a result of her military engagement in Afghanistan. Sarah was recently part of the Soldier On Trois Etapes team who cycled with a team of fellow fundraisers including Australian cycling hero Cadel Evans and radio personality Hamish Blake to raise awareness for Soldier On. Sarah also participated in the 2016 New York Marathon in November in aid of Soldier On.

Soldier On supports men and women around Australia who have been physically or psychologically wounded in the service of their country. Money raised in support of Soldier On is used to provide rehabilitation and opportunities to PTSD affected members of the ADF.

The evening was a wonderful success and we would like to thank all those who attended for supporting this event, and in particular Sarah for sharing her life story and experiences with our community.

Narelle Patrick
Defence Transition Mentor

Steve Biddulph is one of the world's best known parent educators. Late last term, Merici College was privileged to host Raising Girls – An Evening with Steve. A psychologist for 25 years, he is now retired but continues to write and teach. His books, including *The Secret of Happy Children*, *Raising Boys*, *The New Manhood* and *Raising Girls*, are in four million homes and 31 languages. Today, the exploitation and misuse of girls and young women globally are a major focus for Steve.

The presentation was well attended with over 600 guests. Steve presented valuable information on how girls are growing up too fast. He presented scenarios and strategies to help parents understand the pressures that young girls experience in today's society and spoke about the five stages of girlhood: security; exploring; people skills; finding one's soul; and preparing for adulthood. Steve spoke to the audience about the journey that girls take through these five stages,

“As your daughter completes each stage, she comes to decisions that are profound and life-altering. In a girlhood where all five stages go badly, she might conclude that life is uncertain, and nobody loves her; new ideas and things are frightening; people can't be trusted, they're impossible to get along with; she feels that she has nothing of value inside her, and she is a nobody, and growing up is just too hard and she doesn't want to be an adult”.

Steve went on to say that fortunately these decisions are made little by little and combine many experiences, so parents should not panic about always getting things right. The stages last for years and every girl is different, so the stages can vary widely in terms of what age they happen. In practice, the stages overlap.



Steve concluded his presentation by recognising the important role that parents play on the lives of their children and what matters is not giving up, “Loving your daughter and keeping on trying are what will get you through. And if your daughter has already passed some of the stages, and you feel she didn't really get the message, don't despair. Those decisions can be re-made later.”

Merici College would like to thank Steve for the opportunity of sharing in this wonderful experience with him and our community members. For more information on Steve, please follow.

Loretta Wholley
Principal

Order of Australia Association

Student citizenship awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the ACT Branch of the Order of Australia Association Student Citizenship Award for their participation in the Merici College Christian Service Program, having received their Gold Angels awards in September this year for completing over 150 hours of community service.

Year 12

Lily Sidorko
 Mercedes Bowers
 Maddison Bourke
 Rachel Webb
 Julia Angove
 Kaitlin Doving
 Madeleine Carden
 Danielle Bewick – over 200 hours
 Madaleine Cameron – over 230 hours
 Casey Bellicanta– over 240 hours

Year 11

Paige Campbell – over 210 hours

The award was presented by His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia at an award ceremony on Thursday 1 December 2016 (the same day as the Year 12 formal).

NOMINATION

Year 11 and 12 Students - The Gold Angel Award

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction to enrich the learning experience, teach responsibility and strengthen community ties. The Service program at Merici College involves three processes: Experience, Reflection and Action.

Our students are engaged in a Christian service program. We are striving to break down barriers of fear and prejudice, reduce the impact of stereotypical images and bring a human face to those in or community who might not normally be seen.

In a Christian context, the Christian Service Program provides the opportunity to put faith into action in the local and global community.

Students are provided with structured opportunities, as part of the RE curriculum, to critically reflect on their service experience. However, most of the service experience will be conducted off-campus out of school hours.

Students completed service hours in some of (but not all of) the following areas:

- Volunteering in a hospital kiosk
- Relay for Life
- Vinnies Sleep Out
- Catholic Schools Netball Carnival
- Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival
- Donate Life Walk
- Volunteering at various Elderly Care facilities
- St Vincent De Paul Door Knock
- Sales Assistant at St Vincent de Paul outlets
- Preparing Zonta Birthing Kits
- Collecting cans for the Can line – donating over 4000 cans to St Vincent de Paul and Ozharvest.
- 40 hour famine
- Heart Foundation Christmas wrapping
- Lifeline Book Sale
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Yellow Van
- Ozharvest
- Ronald McDonald Gala Ball
- Malkara cake stall
- Cerebral Palsy Fashion Show

The student's efforts are recognised through a three-tier award system; the Blue Angel (50 hours), the Red Angel (100 hours) and the ultimately the Gold Angel Award (150 hours).

We congratulate the students on their wonderful achievements and wish them well in all their future endeavours.

Loretta Wholley
Principal



Left - Right: Mercedes Bowers, Rachel Webb, Casey Bellicanta, Kaitlin Doving, Maria Tolfree
 Madaleine Cameron, Julia Angove, Paige Campbell, Maddison Bourke
 Inset: Top - Bottom: Danielle Bewick, Madeleine Carden, Lily Sidorko

It started by a game, sharing our friends,
That's all it took, to become who we are.
We learned 'ours' instead of 'mine'
And that's all it took, to become who we are.

When we played basketball, we shared the courts,
When we were in class, we shared our pencils.
When we went out, we shared our food,
And when we partied, we swapped clothes.

So we were fair, at least we say so to ourselves,
We believe that we share and therefore we care.
And yes, we share, we share with our friends and they share with us.
We are fair to our friends.

But our friends are those we move around with,
Our friends are like us;
They have a roof on their heads, food on their table,
And they have clothes to wear.

Our friends move in the same circles,
They are of our own class,
And with them we share,
With them we play.

We are kind, and we are fair,
We share and we play.
And we tell ourselves that we are good people,
We are well-mannered and behaved.

Yet we are the same people, who turn around on the streets.
We are the ones who ignore the look of hunger in someone else's eyes.
We share food with the well-fed, never with the hungry,
We swap clothes with the clothed, not with the naked,
We invite into our homes, those who come from their own,
The ones lying on the streets, are left there alone.

And no, it's not fair, and we need to change.
We are fair only if we are fair to all,
We are not fair when sharing with our friends,
We are fair when we share with the ones who need it.

The people we are, are not fair unless we don't discriminate,
We don't see their bank balance when we share.
And when we share we do not do favours,
When we share, we shall open our hearts without hope of return.

If we share our food with the underfed,
If we share our clothes with the naked,
If we share our homes with the homeless,
Then maybe, one day, we can tell ourselves; we play fair.



Japneet Kaur
Year 9 Prize Winning Poet

A Big Change for Year 9 Mathematics

In 2017, to best meet the individual needs of students, the Mathematics Department will offer two options for Year 9 Maths students.

9 Core – provides a thorough study of the Australian curriculum at the Year 9 level. All topics are covered at a pace that allows an opportunity for repetition and remedial assistance where required. There is an expectation of 30-60 mins of homework per week. Students who select this course will be expected to complete weekly homework as set by their class teacher. This course is designed for students who may have gaps in their knowledge and need to build their confidence as well as students who are comfortable working at the current Year 8 pace of learning. The 9 Core course in Mathematics aims to develop every student's potential to study at higher levels in the future.

9A – provides a thorough study of the Australian curriculum at the Year 9 level and an expectation of 1-2 hours homework/practice per week. The course will be delivered at a faster pace with less class time for remedial assistance. Students will encounter a greater volume of questions with higher degrees of complexity. Students will develop an understanding of the interlinking nature of Mathematics through challenging questions and Mathematical situations. This course is designed for the Mathematics student who is prepared to put in a little extra effort and who anticipates wanting to study a higher level of Mathematics in senior school.

Both 9A and 9 Core classes will encounter opportunities for enrichment and enquiry. Classes will regularly join together for collaborative learning and cross-pollination of ideas. Please note that 9A is not a prerequisite for 10A and doing the 9 Core course in 2017 does not preclude a student from studying 10A in 2018. During the year, transition between classes will be encouraged where a student may feel more comfortable with either a greater challenge or access to more support.

Students, parents and teachers have collaborated to choose which class type each girl will be included in to start the year.

It is our aim that all students will find that they are given an experience that helps them to grow in confidence, knowledge and ability.

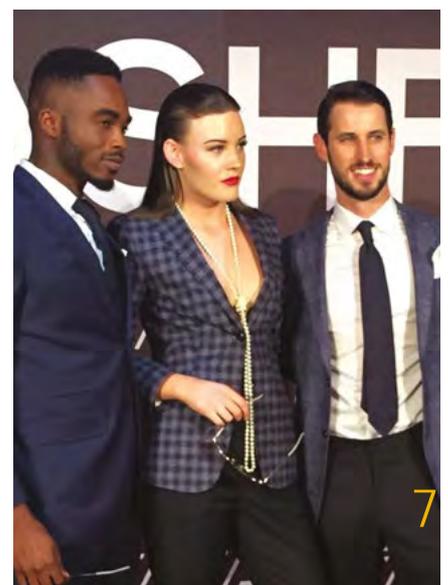
Huckleberry Walker
Mathematics Coordinator

FashFest More hidden talents



FASHFEST, which was held at the National Convention Centre from 29 September to 1 October, is the most glamorous, red-carpet fashion event on Canberra's annual social calendar. It is an amazing three-day fashion experience which presents new creative designs in clothing and accessories. This year it showcased the new collections of more than forty local, national and international designer labels on the catwalk in six distinct shows. FASHFEST featured a number of models some of which included Merici College students, Ashley Davis, Lauren Hawkins, Ally Howe and Katherine Wu who all looked very stylish on the catwalk with their professional hair and makeup. These girls demonstrated a serious commitment to Fashfest attending rehearsals every weekend for two months leading up to the show. FASHFEST would not be possible without a small group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, who devote hours of their time to making this show a memorable event. Merici College girls, Julia Page, Rebecca Brown, Julia Heather and Imogen McLean all dedicated their valuable time to assisting the models backstage.

Diana Davis
Merici Teacher and Proud mother



Award Season

BSSS, sports awards and scholarships announced

Congratulations to our Year 12 students on their graduation and academic achievements. We would like to thank the students for their valuable contribution to the life of Merici College and wish them success and happiness in all their future endeavours.

We would like to acknowledge the academic achievements of all our students and congratulate Avneet Bakshi awarded 2016 Merici College Dux and Cassandra Nguyen, Proxime Accessit.

We are pleased to announce the Zed Seselja awards for 2016. The Zed Seselja awards allows for Merici College to present an award for Community Service and for Academic Achievement. This year the Zed Seselja Community Service Award has been awarded to Danielle Bewick and the Academic Achievement award to Cassandra Nguyen. We congratulate both girls on these outstanding achievements.

We also congratulate the following students who will receive an award at the 2016 BSSS Recognition of Excellence Ceremony. The BSSS Recognition of Excellence Ceremony is a prestigious award ceremony held next week by the BSSS. Awards are given in five categories: Community Services, Vocational Studies, Performing/Visual Arts, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and Academic Achievement. These awards will be presented by the Minister for Education and the Chair of the Board of Senior Secondary Studies. We congratulate:

Vocational Studies

Ashleigh McClelland

Community Service

Casey Bellicanta

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award

Kiah Marshall

Performing/Visual Arts

Katerina Turrise

It is with great pleasure that we also announce the names of our ACU Teaching Scholarships recipients. We congratulate Rachel Webb, Kayla Murray and Alannah Hodge on winning their scholarships and wish them well in their future studies.

Congratulations to all our Year 12 students, we are very proud of each and every one of you!



Avneet Bakshi



Danielle Bewick



Cassandra Nguyen



Farewell to Year 12 and Year 10



Congratulations to our Year 10 students who celebrated their academic achievements today at a special ceremony. We would also like to congratulate the following students who received scholarships and special awards:

Merici College Board Scholarships 2017/2018 (pictured left to right)

- Lauren Paterson
- Imogen McLean
- Grace Unwin
- Reagan Minchin
- Kate Connolly
- Claire Molineux
- Elise Newham

Pentony Mathematics Scholarship 2016- Bronte Alexander

Melissa Van Poppel Scholarship 2016 - Erin Smart

Catherine Rey Scholarship 2016 - Clare Malony

Caltex All-Rounder Award - Zoe Lee-Archer.

ACU Angela Merici Award for School and Community Service - Imogen McLean

We wish all our students lots of success and happiness as they transition into Senior College next year.



Bronte Alexander, Erin Smart and Clare Malony

Far Right: Zoe Lee-Archer

Right: Imogen McLean



2016 Sports Awards

The sporting year at Merici College concluded with our annual Sports Awards evening on Thursday, November 17. The gym was packed with more than 400 athletes and family members in attendance.

Various medallions and trophies were presented for each of the co-curricular sporting activities that students participate in at Merici. Congratulations to all recipients of medallions for most valuable player, best and fairest, coach awards and most improved as well as those who received age champion, Australian representative, Merici Marlin and Merici Flash medals.

The major awards of the year were presented to the following:

- Merici Netball Clubperson of the Year – Liz Rebetzke
- Merici Volleyball Turner Award – Gary Molineux
- Contribution to Merici Sport Award – Sally Haseler
- Team of the Year – 9/10 ACT Netball Champions
- Junior Athlete of the Year – Isabelle Hoytink
- Senior Athlete of the Year – Zoe Haseler

Thanks to all who have been involved with Merici Sport in 2016.



Isabelle Hoytink and family



Zoe Haseler and family

During the school holidays most teenagers like to sleep in, watch TV and think about doing their assignments, but there are a select few of us, who some might deem insane, which like to travel to a remote property in rural north western New South Wales and partake in an annual camp known as Long Trip.

This year was our 46th trip and was given the motto “The Journey Drives the Dream”. It certainly was a journey, after 12 hours in a bus spread over two days we arrived at Noona, our home for the next ten days.

On trip we do many unique things. Wide Games for instance, where we play capture the flag and other games in a paddock which is a kilometre squared. We go swimming in dams, create outback architecture during bush huts and hold our annual Olympics featuring everyone’s favourite events; mud tossing, six legged races and of course hide and seek.

However, this year’s trip was extra special, due mostly to the amazingly hospitable property owners; Rob and Rhonda. They would regale us with wonderful tales of sheep, floods, tornadoes and baby emus. We also had the chance to do things which most of us city slickers had never done. We went lambing which involved

catching sheep, ear marking, tagging, castrating and docking tails. We also tried our hands at fencing and even if we weren’t the best, it was the least we could do to thank them. If nothing else, it made the job quicker to have an extra 22 enthusiastic pairs of hands.

As well as our wonderful adventures we also got a chance to reflect on ourselves and take stock of our luck and experiences. There wasn’t a single one of us who didn’t come back a better person or at very least a changed person.

New friendships were formed, old ones strengthened, and extraordinary memories made. As soon as we left we were all missing the red dirt, wanting to go back, forced to rely on our recollections. We truly learnt that “The Journey Drives the Dream”.

Morgan Arnould
Quartermaster, Cobar XLVI





Mentors Celebrate

Who is teaching who?



Year 10 Mentors celebrate a year of generosity, inspiration, friendship and spiritual development. The mentor program, coordinated this year by Ann Blakey and Tracey Kent, empowers our girls to find their better selves. The audience of teachers, parents, carers and participants of the Black Mountain Mentor Program were moved by the creative responses of the mentors. The responses, as part of the Religious Education Program, celebrated God's work in action. Special mention was made of Black Mountain teacher, Sarah Fell, who is farewelling us this year. She was moved to tears by the success of the program, and the impact it has had on all. The celebration was a fitting end to a wonderful year.

Virginia McLeod



Vinnies Night Out

Helping Canberra's homeless

Canberra's cold temperatures did not favour Year 10, 11 and 12 students and teachers who rose to the challenge on Thursday 13 October for the annual Student Representative Council Vinnies Sleepout. The group slept outdoors in the New Quad to raise funds for Canberra's homeless. With the temperature low, students and teachers prepared themselves for a cold night out. The aim of the night is to promote awareness within our Merici community of the issue of homelessness and for the students to experience a small part of the reality of homelessness. Staff and students participated in "sleeping rough" in 1-degree temperatures on cardboard but with luxury of sleeping bags and warm clothes. This highlighted some of the challenges the homeless deal with every day such as lack of showers and nourishing food.

The night was a bonding experience that helped promote empathy for the cause with a donation going to the St Vincent De Paul Society. Cassandra Raco of Year 11 noted that "sleeping outside in freezing temperatures is a reality for some. Through the Sleepout we were able to understand and empathise with their situation by physically putting ourselves in their shoes. Overall, the Sleepout was a really rewarding experience."

Ms Sonia Conte, Teacher and SRC and Social Justice Facilitator congratulated the students for participating in this event. "Once again the Vinnies Sleepout was a team effort. 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 them. The uncomfortable conditions were felt by all the students with only cardboard to sleep on. I was really impressed with their maturity and their eagerness to participate."

Tayla Papisidero, 2017 SRC Captain, noted that in the ACT 29% of people are 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 Ms Papisidero.

The night began with setting up our sleeping areas ensuring we would be as warm as possible. Before night struck we ate a meal of vegetable soup and bread. As a group, we reflected on the harsh realities of not having guaranteed food every day. Following dinner there were group activities and as the weather got colder it meant getting as comfortable as possible and heading to sleep. At 7am we were woken to our Principal, Mrs Wholley telling us to "pack up our belongings and move on", a common phrase for homeless people to hear throughout today's society with the majority of public areas being banned for overnight stay.

The SRC would like to thank all members of the community, including Bakers Delight Jerrabomberra, IGA Lynham and the canteen staff who donated supplies and their time to the cause. As 2016 SRC Captain, I encourage all students to consider getting out of their comfort zone and supporting the cause in the future.

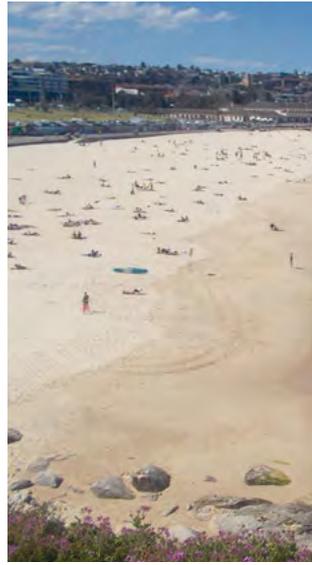
We would also like to thank all students and staff for supporting this most worthwhile initiative and would like to express heartfelt gratitude to St Vincent de Paul for the invaluable contribution they make to our community.

Julia Angove
SRC Captain 2016



Year 9 Urban Challenge Camp

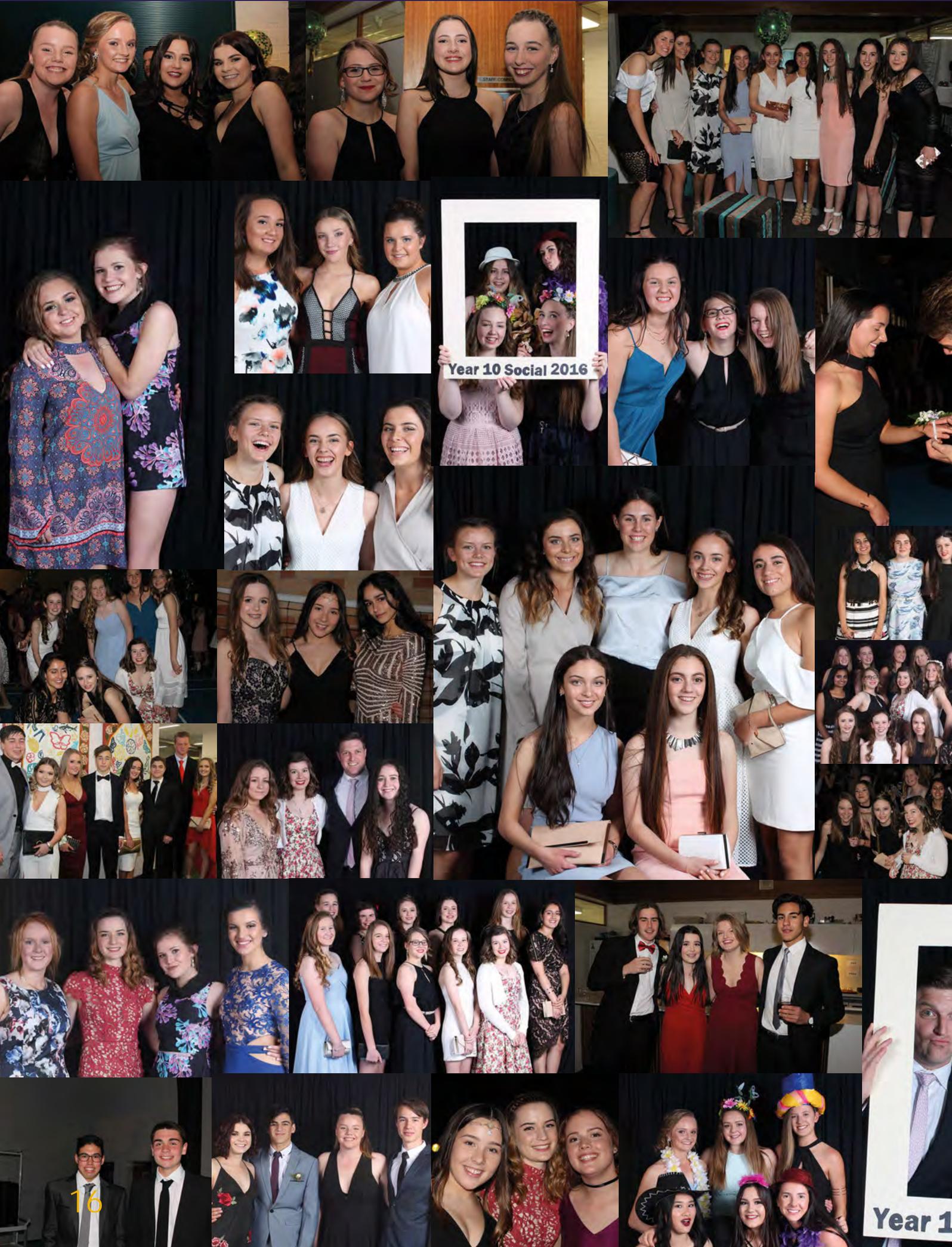
A picture is worth a thousand words





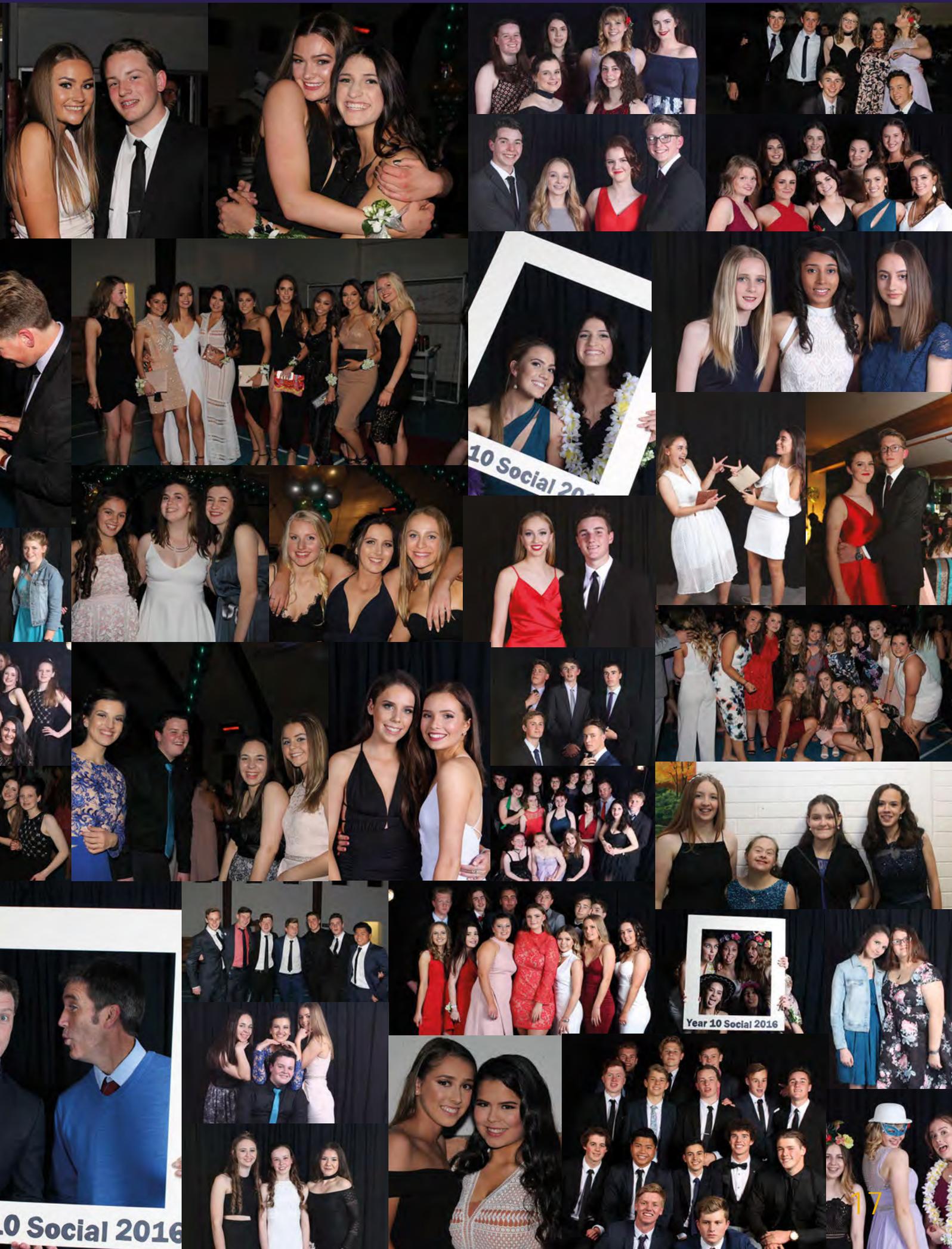
Year 10 Social

In the night garden



Year 10 Social 2016

Year 1



Year 10 Social 2016

Year 10 Social 2016

Commissioning Liturgy

Reflecting on the responsibility of leadership

Merici College's elected leaders for 2017 were recently commissioned by all members of the College. The ceremony 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 positions of leadership.

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.

As a school community, we encourage and support our students who have answered the call to leadership. These young women have been chosen and now must represent the College and the student body in a mature and positive manner. This is an opportunity to develop the skills, gifts and talents that have been bestowed on them by God. St. Angela Merici saw women as significant agents of change in a world longing for love, unity and harmony. 2017 will be the year for our leaders to gain a greater understanding of the essential part they play in our society and our world.

Each House asked their leaders a series of questions, relating to the ethos of their House. 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, Spiritual and Sustainability), Narragunnawali Captain and Transition Captains 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 which symbolised faith and God's unconditional love.
- A heart as a symbol of love and a reminder that the community of Merici College is together as one.
- A small tree as 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 2017 concluded the ceremony in a joyous, uplifting manner.

We congratulate all 2017 school leaders on their appointments and wish them every blessing in their roles.

Loretta Wholley
Principal



Balgo



Brescia



Ningil



Penola



Seiwa



Tullow





Specialist Portfolios L-R

- Sport Captain - Ashleigh Lawrence
- Narragunnawali Captain - Lily Coleman
- Social Justice Captain - Sophie Coulter
- Expressive Arts/Culture Captain - Shirani Mudaliar
- Sustainability Captain - Julia Heather
- SRC Captain - Tayla Papisidero
- Spirituality Captain - Alyssa Coulston

Facing Page

College Captains with Loretta Wholley

- Vice Captain – Dana Ryan
- Captain – Roisin Moore

House Vice Captains & Captains

Balgo

- Vice Captain – Isabella Mioc
- House Captain – Ashleigh Howell

Brescia

- Vice Captain – Jessica Lauc
- House Captain – Eleanor Rhodes

Ningil

- Vice Captain – Heather Brayshaw
- House Captain – Jasmine Cunningham

Penola

- House Captain – Ellen Court
- Vice Captain – Ruby Lange

Seiwa

- Vice Captain – Ally Hocking Howe
- House Captain – Danielle Hardgrave

Tullov

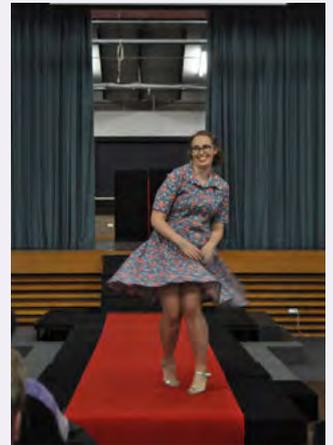
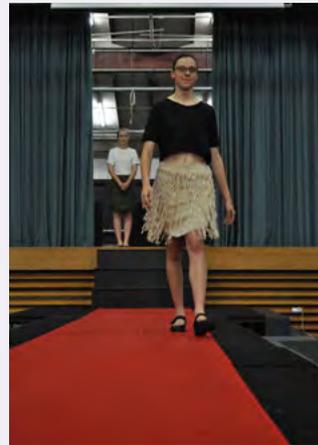
- Vice Captain – Ally Van Bodegom
- House Captain – Eva Farrell-Glover



Transition Captains – L- R

- Isobel O’Meara, Ovin Miina Wuvuai
- Maddison Berry, Olivia Hall
- Absent - Shona McNicol & Isabella Sant

SHOW MY GAZE



Media | Photography | Visual Arts | Music | Fashion | Dance | IT | Design & Graphics | Drama



18 August 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam. The event was featured on the news both in Australia and overseas when at almost the last-minute, the Vietnamese government cancelled commemoration events due to take place at the memorial site and to which thousands of Australian veterans and their families had travelled.

I was very fortunate to be part of a military history tour of Vietnam in September this year and unfortunately our tour group, which included Vietnam veterans, was impacted by the decision to, in the end, limit commemoration of the historically significant battle. During the tour I was privileged to learn much about Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, first hand from Australian and Vietnamese veterans. The Vietnamese people were so friendly and shared many stories from what they call "The American War". There were many highlights of the tour including visiting the once extensive network of tunnels at Cu Chi, exploring the historic city of Hue, site of a major battle during the Tet Offensive in 1968 and listening to veterans reminisce about their experiences during the war and in the years thereafter.

The Vietnam War is part of the Year 10 History curriculum and while I was enjoying my time in Vietnam, Year 10 Merici students were privileged to attend a performance by artist Brett Hunt, who shares his father's experience in Vietnam through song and storytelling. Students and staff who attended the performance were impressed, entertained and moved and we plan to make this event an annual one for Year 10 students. To further enrich their learning Year 10 students also attend the Australian War Memorial each year, focussing on Australia's involvement in WW2 and conflicts since that time.

My tour was without doubt, memorable and I certainly encourage staff, students and families to consider travel to Vietnam.

Liza Laird
History Teacher



During our Showcase week all music co-curricular ensembles and private instrumental students were able to demonstrate their achievements for 2016. Year 7s were presented their music badges and all other musicians received their contribution certificates. Awards were given out from the ACT School Bands Festival where the adjudicator chose an individual from each group to receive an award of encouragement. In the Year 7 Beginner Band, two awards were given and Mika Halloran and Mia Jagers were congratulated on the night. From the Jazz Band, vocalist Imogene Blake was congratulated. Year 12 leavers were presented with their trophies and awards for 6 years contribution to the program and we farewelled Genevieve Bunnnett, Sakeena Shireen Hafesjee, Darcy Graham, Danielle Bewick, Anna Magassy and Michelle Boulter. The 2016 Expressive Arts Captain Nicola Ellis was thanked for her contribution to the Arts faculty throughout the year.

Shirahni Mudaliar, our Expressive Arts Captain for 2017 hosted the evening and did a brilliant job. Year 7 Beginner Band played 'Mama Mia', Junior Band played 'Transylvanian dances', Choir sang 'Fields of Gold', Jazz Band played 'Don't Know Why' featuring vocalist Odette Austin, Chamber Group performed 'Pomp and Circumstance', Strings group performed by memory the song 'Home', and our Senior Band performing for the very last time as a group played 2 pieces 'Bohemian

Rhapsody' and 'Disney Film Favourites'. Soloist and duets also stunned our audience with musicians Jessica Manclark performing an original composition, Abigail Dunn, Odette Austin and Sinead Ahern singing musical theatre pieces, Catherine Hinton and Jessica Manclark presenting a duet, Ally Howe and Caitlin Manning playing 'a piano duet' from Tim Burton's film, The Corpse Bride and Catherine Hinton performing 'Two Rondeaux' on the flute. All soloist were accompanied by Jake Kane. The audience was also wowed by the performance of Ally Howe, studying Tertiary Music, who played her own arrangement of the piece 'Habits' on electric violin, performing live various loops into her loop pedal and then combining them over her performance. This has the audience standing up applauding in awe.

The night concluded with all musicians and singers performing in mass three items. These were; 'Roar', made famous by Katy Perry, 'All About the Bass', made famous by Meghan Trainor and for the big finale 'Disco Lives' with the hits from 'Stayin Alive', 'I will survive', and 'YMCA'.

I would like to thank our Directors and instrumental tutors for their continued work to support our music program at Merici College.

Beth Way
Music Teacher

Continuing Sustainability

Tasty Tomatoes and Clever Composting

On the last Saturday in November the Sustainability class had their Tasty Tomato sale at the College. There were 21 varieties of tomato plants for sale all raised from seed by the Year 9 Sustainability class. Year 10s had raised eggplants, capsicums and chillies. There were about 1200 plants for sale in total. The sale started at 8am, however, early birds were there from 7.30 ready to buy. By 8.20 over half the plants had been sold and by 9.25 we were sold out! The sale raised over \$3000 for the kitchen garden. In addition to immense satisfaction for the students at having sold plants that they had raised themselves, they explained new mental maths skills that they developed during the sale!

Big news is that the Swedish Jora compost tumbler that arrived for the beginning of Term 4 has been working extremely well. Merici Mentors and Black Mountain volunteers were shown the new system and have been filling it with kitchen scraps then adding a scoop of wood shavings each day. The tumbler is sealed so rats cannot access the food scraps. On many mornings it can be seen steaming and when it is opened and you place your hand inside you can really feel the heat. In addition to faster breakdown hot composting is beneficial because the heat kills any harmful bacteria and weed seeds. We look forward to using the finished compost in the garden at the start of Term 1 next year.



SPRING EQUINOX

THE RITES OF SPRING

21 SEPTEMBER, 6PM | \$90

Most of us don't grow our own food; we opt for convenience, buying summer fruit in the middle of winter, winter squash in May, and milk that comes from cartons rather than cows or goats. We rarely think about the significance of the seasons, whether plants are lying dormant or growing, whether animals are resting or bearing their young. In short, we have lost our intimate connection with the earth. Fiona Buining, Merici College's sustainability teacher, joins us for a celebration of Spring.

TIME: 6pm for 6:30pm
 WHERE: The Conservatory Restaurant at the National Arboretum Canberra
 COST: \$90 per person
 Tickets available at www.gingercatering.com.au

THE KITCHEN CABINET

THE CONSERVATORY RESTAURANT, NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA
 Telephone (02) 6273 4366



Above: Fiona Buining with Janet Jeffs at the Spring Equinox Dinner. Fiona spoke passionately about growing your own food and the impact this has had on the staff and students of Merici College.

French Study Tour

A trip to remember

On 18 September, 15 students from Years 9 to 11 made the challenging 25-hour journey to France. We landed in Paris at 7am and then continued on to our youth hostel, which would then be our home for the next few days. Whilst in Paris, we visited many of the world-class monuments including La Tour Eiffel, L'Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, and La Sainte Chappelle. After Paris, we travelled by train to the city of Geneva in Switzerland where we stayed for a total of 15 minutes. We then continued our journey by bus to Chamonix, which is a stunning small town in the French Alps that houses Europe's highest point, Mont Blanc (4807m).

Whilst in Chamonix we were able to experience a range of activities that included shopping and many hikes, which Mr Boone referred to as 'strolls', as well as an amazing cable car trip up to Aiguille de midi (3842m). The weather was fantastic and the view was stupendous! We got the chance to indulge in many of the French delicacies on offer such as 10 scoop ice creams and macrons of every flavour. After Chamonix, we made our way to the picturesque city of Montpellier. It was here that our host families who we would be staying with for the next week greeted us. During our time in Montpellier, we attended a French language school for 4 days, and there we learned a great deal about the French language and culture. We also travelled by bus to Nimes, a city outside of Montpellier where we saw Les Arenes de Nimes (an ancient amphitheatre). We also travelled to a medieval village called Saint Guilhem le Desert and enjoyed time exploring. We spent the weekend with our homestay families, which for many of us included trips to the beach and ice-skating. Our time in Montpellier was incredible.

We made our way back to Paris and visited other monumental sites, such as the Chateau de Versailles, Les Galeries Lafayette and an enjoyable dinner at Restaurant Julien to conclude our trip. Overall it was a fantastic experience that we would recommend to anyone who has the opportunity.

Tracey Reagen Minchin, Tahlia Rajic & Sarah Drew
Year 10 French Tour Participants



Floriade Performance

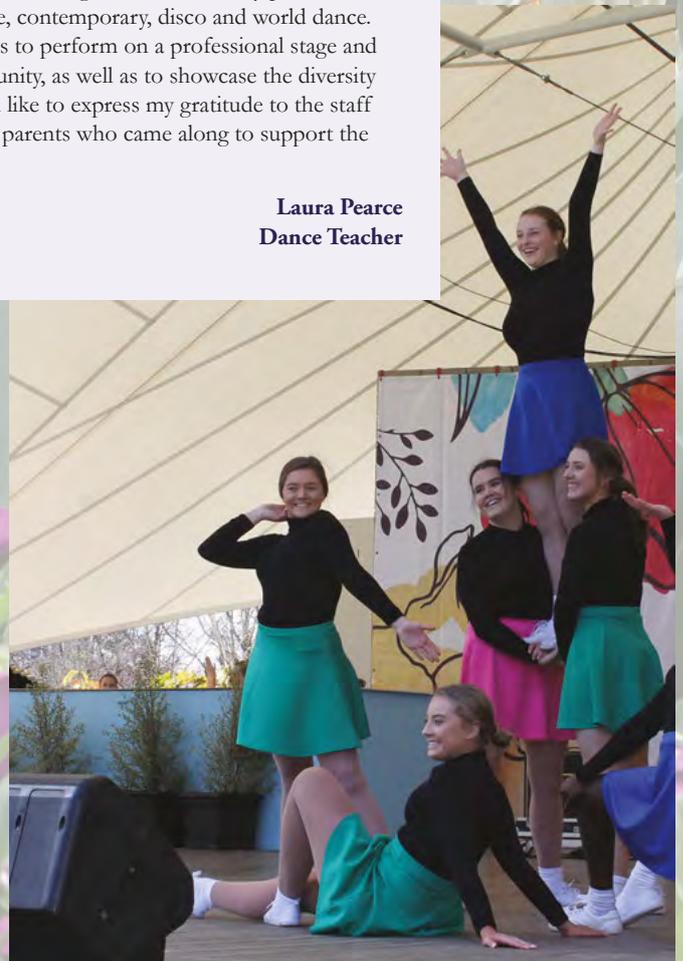
Flowers, dance and music



Dance

In the opening week of Floriade the Merici College Dance Troupe and Senior Dance classes were invited to perform on Stage 88 in Commonwealth Park. Luckily the weather was kind to us, the sun shone and we had a large and enthusiastic audience, many of whom were keen to join in the fun! There were a total of 35 students participating in the Dance concert, from Year 7 through to Year 12. They performed a variety of routines including musical theatre, contemporary, disco and world dance. It was a fabulous opportunity for the students to perform on a professional stage and to share their talents with the broader community, as well as to showcase the diversity of Dance available at Merici College. I would like to express my gratitude to the staff who accompanied the students and to all the parents who came along to support the dancers. It was a wonderful afternoon!

Laura Pearce
Dance Teacher





Music

Term 4 kicked off with a lovely Spring day at the annual Floriade festival. Merici took out a number of ensembles including; the Junior Band, Choir, String Ensemble, Chamber Group and the Senior Band. The girls were able to watch our Brother school, Marist College before taking to the stage for an hour and a half of music. This was a debut performance at Floriade for our Chamber group and our combined band with Juniors and Seniors performing together was sounding better than ever. The groups played a variety of music which ranged from classical, jazz, rock and pop, with one of the crowd favourites being 'YMCA' performed by our combined band. The girls would like to thank parents and friends for stopping in and showing their support. This is a major performance event in the Music co-curricular calendar and we look forward to performing again next year.

**Beth Way
Music Teacher**



Athletics School Knockout

A team event



Each year Athletics Australia runs a team event for schools known as the School Knockout. Each state holds their own competition and then there is a national final. Teams are made up of a minimum of seven athletes, each of whom must compete in at least one individual event.

Following a passionate plea from Caitlin Hanna in Year 10, Merici College entered a team for the 2016 ACT School Knockout held at Woden Athletics Park. The team consisted of:

- 100m Caitlin Hanna and Anna Carstens
- 200m Alexandra Pryor and Grace Unwin
- 800m Isabelle Hoitink and Elizabeth Henderson
- Shot Put Andrea Forshaw
- Javelin Caitlin Hanna
- High Jump Chloe Davis
- Long Jump Caitlin Hanna
- Relay Caitlin Hanna, Alexandra Pryor, Grace Unwin and Isabelle Hoitink



The girls performed brilliantly as a team and special mention to Chloe, Alexandra and Isabelle who won their individual events.

Following this event, we were contacted by Athletics Australia and offered a wildcard into the National Finals. The pinnacle of Australia's Athletics development pathway, the Australian All Schools Championships welcomes the best school-aged track and field starters to duel for the title of national champion. This three-day event of athletics features events for students aged under 14, under 16 and under 18, with performance results combined to award an Australian state or territory as the best in our country.

The Australian All Schools Championships provide athletes with a vital opportunity to qualify for the IAAF World Junior Championships, while the additional experiences on offer introduce students to the rigours of an international standard of competition.

Merici College is proud to have a team of eight talented girls who have made the ACT Team. The Australian All Schools Championships took place at the AIS in Canberra from Friday 2 - Sunday 4 December. Congratulations to the following girls who were selected:

- Chloe Davis – High Jump
- Andrea Forshaw – Shot Put
- Caitlin Hanna – High Jump / Long Jump / Triple Jump / Javelin
- Elizabeth Henderson – 3000m walk
- Isabelle Hoitink – 3000m
- Alexandra Pryor – 100m hurdles / High Jump / Discus
- Rori Pryor – 80m Hurdles
- Grace Unwin – Triple Jump (Grace broke the record at ACT Schools Athletics jumping an impressive 10.70m)

This is the second time Merici College has competed at the national level in this event and the team finished in 14th position.

Andrew Blakey
Sports Facilitator



Expressive Arts Excursion

That's show bizz!

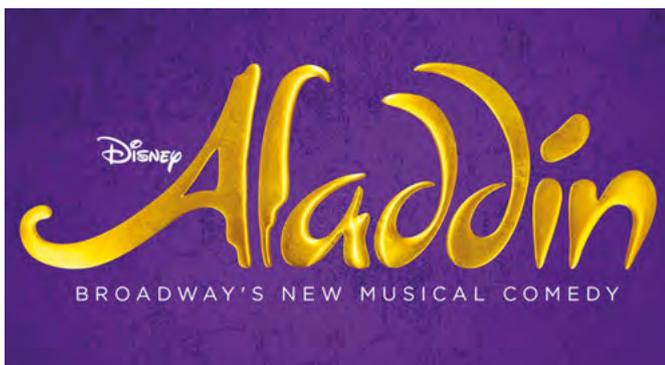
The Performing Arts girls from Music, Dance and Drama were delighted to watch the Disney musical Aladdin at the Capitol Theatre in Sydney on 2 November.

The first stop was to Paddy's markets in the Haymarket area where we were met with a plentiful array of cheap clothes, tacky souvenirs and of course plenty of photo opportunities. This was where the girls could capture their favourite moments from the trip and compete in a scavenger hunt around the building collecting memories and points as they went. We had a group photo on the steps before proceeding to the show where our group was met with some men in uniform from the military who joined in for a selfie.

The girls were in awe as they stepped into the Capitol Theatre and gasped as they read the wonderful program of highlights to come. Aladdin opened with 'Arabian Nights' which of course all of the girls knew, and had them on the edge of their seats the entire show. We voted that the Genie was by far the most favourable character and also Aladdin had captured the hearts of many. 'A whole new world' was also a favourite to those romantic Disney fans.

Miss Way and Mrs Pearce accompanied the girls to Sydney and had the bus singing and dancing to 'High School Musical' on the way home. We look forward to more trips where Performing Arts students can celebrate the amazing things that the arts have to offer.

Beth Way
Music Teacher



House Farewells

BALGO

It is a bittersweet day when we bid farewell to our current Year 12 students in Balgo House. Whilst we are glad to be sending them out into the big wide world to experience many new and exciting adventures, we are also sad to see them leave our close knit Balgo family. Every Pastoral Care teacher shared their memories of the students in their class and then fellow students provided a further insight into their unique personality traits and humour. It was very entertaining to see photos of the Year 12s when they first arrived at Merici in Year 7 as young girls, and very rewarding to see how they have grown into confident young women six years later. The theme for our assembly was taken from Matthew's Gospel 5:14-16

'You are like light for the whole world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead, it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.'

Catherine McCauley (founder of the Sisters of Mercy) also stressed that *"We should be like shining lamps, giving light to all around us"*.

Our Year 12 students have achieved many great things whilst at Merici College and have developed and nurtured their talents and special gifts. As they leave Merici College they are encouraged to nourish their light, not to hide it under a bushel, in order that they enrich the lives of everyone they meet. Balgo's final farewell words of advice to our departing Year 12 students is to:

'Love life, have hope, be faithful, and build futures more wondrous than you dare to dream.'

Laura Pearce
Balgo Coordinator



TULLOW

Tullow House farewelled our graduating Year 12s with kind words, fond memories and best wishes for the future. Our theme for the farewell was 'United as Family' as we believe in Tullow that we are a family and we support every single one of our Tullow sisters.

Messages of thanks and good luck for the future were presented to each Year 12 by a younger member of their Pastoral Care class and their Pastoral Care teacher. We shared some photos of our Year 12s as babies, Year 7 students and then as they are now.

My wish for the Year 12s was to go out and experience life, make mistakes, learn from them and use the experience to become the people they wish to be.

"Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is a delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing."

Denis Waitley

Laura Withers
Tullow Coordinator

NINGIL

Ningil House met together to farewell the Graduating class of 2016, filled with feelings of sadness and also a sense of joy and great excitement. It was lovely to share all the great achievements these students have made as each student was farewelled by their PC sisters with words of love, respect and fond memories. Our readings and prayers reflected this year's theme "Life's Journey", in particular the Ningil House Prayer:

*May your journey in peace,
In strength and courage through love,
Believing in God who is life,
Owning Christ's cross and its freedom,
Loving our neighbour as family,
Not counting the cost of the glory,
Sensing the spirit whose presence,
Sheds light on your journey to peace,
In strength and courage through love,
Amen*

We shared lots of laughs while looking at photos representing the journey this beautiful group of young women have made during their school life. We wish them every success for their future lives and pray that they will always remember their Ningil family with warm-hearted recollections.

"If you define your life by what you learn only, you will never leave a great footprint on earth. Your life must not only be defined by what you do with what you learn, but also the great distinctive exploitations you make with the least things you learn." Ernest Agyemang Yeboah

Corinne Preston
Acting Ningil Coordinator



PENOLA

*"I would rather walk in the dark with a friend,
than alone in the light."* Helen Keller

Friendship was the theme of this year's Penola House Year 12 farewell assembly. Our cohort was large in number, 28 girls in fact and equally large in spirit. Our girls leave Merici intent on pursuing many and varied experiences and the assembly allowed us to celebrate their achievements and have a laugh with the girls who have been an essential part of our lives in Penola House. Students from all year levels and PC groups participated in the celebration and special thanks was made to our impressive House Captain Emily Kalthofen and Vice-Captain Chelsea Maxwell. We also farewelled long time Penolan, Virginia McLeod who is leaving Merici at the end of the year. The assembly ended with a pictorial tribute to the girls and they exited the space under our guard of honour. Penola House wishes all the graduands of 2016 a bright and happy future.

Liza Laird
Penola Coordinator



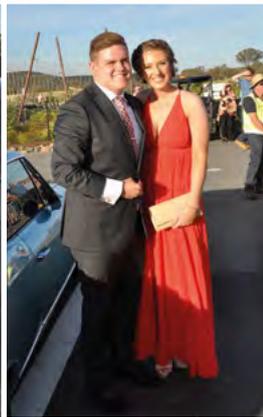
Year 12 Formal





Year 12 Formal





Alumni

Over 100 ex-students enjoy Merici's hospitality

Recently the College community welcomed over 100 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. As they walked down the school corridors, the ex-students reminisced about their classrooms, their teachers and their friends. All had one thing in common, they were all proud Merici students who have 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. "We are pleased to have so many of our ex-students here today. Our Alumni provides a link to the College for you, our past students, and also provides a sense of community. Over the last 57 years we have welcomed many faces through the College doors and we would like to renew our connection with you", said Mrs Wholley.

The restaurant was buzzing with excitement as old friends reconnected. For some, many years had passed since their last contact, for others their visit to the College was the first after their graduation. There were students from all year groups, ranging from 1964 through to 2015. Mrs Wholley went on to say, "It is very pleasing to hear that many year groups have remained in touch. A couple of weeks ago we had the privilege of conducting school tours as part of Class of 1996 reunion.

The ex-students were amazed at how the College has changed, but all noted, 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. Today we celebrate with the students from the Class of 1976 and Class of 1986 who began their reunion today with school tours".

This event was a time for all the students to reflect on their school days, to celebrate their achievements and to be a part of a very special community. A prayer was offered which included Louise McMullen (nee O'Callaghan, 1976 School Captain, Helen Beasley (ex-student and currently has a daughter enrolled at Merici), Corinne Preston (representing the staff group, also an ex-student) and Madeleine Carden (current Year 12 Merici student). This symbolised the coming together of all spectrums of Merici's life, its history, past, present and future.

The present College Board, staff, parents and students of Merici College welcome all ex-students and their families to visit the College. We would also welcome updates on ex-students achievements and accomplishments so that we can share your experiences with our school community.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer



ALUMNI – Building Connections

Seeking "Friends of Merici" to join College Alumni.

Stay connected with Merici College through our Alumni. Merici College is expanding its membership and we would like new members to join our "Friends of Merici" Alumni.

Please email your contact details to alumni@merici.act.edu.au or contact Ros Parisi, Public Relations Officer on telephone 6243 4178.



MERICI CONTINUES TO CONNECT WITH SNEDDON HALL AND GALLOP
 Pictured left to right Alisha Nagle, John Cave and Caitlin Meers.

Congratulations to Alisha Nagle for her success in the competition organised by the law firm Sneddon Hall and Gallop (SHG). She has won a scholarship to study Law, whilst working at the firm. Caitlin Meers, a former student of Merici College and past winner of the scholarship is now employed by SHG. One of the judges, Suzanne Sharwood, also an ex-Merici student is an Associate in the firm.

Merici Moments

Year 9 Gingerbread Houses

