



# THE YEAR IN GLOBAL STUDIES

## Overview

The Global Studies Department at Merici is unique in that it houses a wide variety of subjects across the Humanities and Technologies learning areas. As an IB school, our students enjoy rich inquiry-based learning across both curriculum areas, grounded in real world contexts and supported by our work in Catalyst High Impact Teaching Practices.

2022 was another busy year for the Global Studies department. Aside from lingering covid-restrictions limiting some of our usual trips and activities, students and staff still enjoyed a range of enriching learning experiences. We are grateful for our talented students and teachers who continue to bring fresh ideas and new perspectives to our cache of subjects that explore the interactions of people, technology, and the environment.

## MYP INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES & BSSS HUMANITIES AND COMMERCE

### Year 7 Integrated Humanities

An interdisciplinary subject spanning MYP Language and Literature, and Individuals and Societies, Integrated Humanities is the cornerstone of Merici's supportive entry to high school for Year 7 students. Students in Year 7 spend approximately one-third of their week with their IH teachers, developing foundational skills in both English and Humanities and forming deep disciplinary knowledge within an accessible integrated context. In 2022, the highly-experienced Year 7 IH team included Mr. Greg Baines, Ms. Tegan Bew, Ms. Sally Borrmann, Miss. Nicole Cabello, Miss. Michelle Dempsey, Mrs. Karen Evans, Mrs. Kyla Firman, Mrs. Karen Mahony and Miss. Jess Tillack.

In preparation for the record number of Ancient Civilisation Museum displays, Year 7 students were treated to a visit from Dr. Laina Hall, Curator at the National Museum of Australia and proud parent of Edith (Balgo 5). Dr. Hall shared with Year 7 the role of a curator in a Museum and the importance of understanding the significance of different sources when designing exhibitions. Year 7 students keenly applied this new understanding as they began developing their skills as Historians and applying our Origin, Purpose, Value and Limitations source analysis tool. Students were also introduced to the dedicated reading lesson each week in the iC, supported by our talented team of library staff led by Mrs Ann Blakey. In this dedicated reading lesson, Year 7 students are encouraged to read for pleasure, a habit critical for the development of imagination and empathy.

In Semester 2, we left History, Civics and Citizenship for the bright lights of Geography, Economics and Business, beginning with an intensive novel study, exploring livability in India, Afghanistan, and our own suburbs! Further developing the research and communication skills needed for secondary school, students undertook fieldwork in their own suburbs and prepared live presentations to share their research findings with their peers. Writing an analytical essay under timed conditions was also a new experience for Year 7 students, forming valuable skills transferable across all year levels and all disciplines.

## Year 8 History, Civics and Citizenship

Year 8 has had an exciting year in History studying the Medieval Period through the analysis of both primary and secondary sources. From Viking Raids on monasteries, the Battle of Hastings, the Rise of Feudalism and the ever-popular Bubonic plague! The girls have delved into key historical events that led to the formation of the Modern World.

Our Merici historians have also enjoyed getting creative, developing individual Coats of Arms, News bulletins from the front of the Battle of Hastings and they even created their own Viking Gods!

The year ended with the exciting Medieval Day where dancing around the maypole, bread making, Illumination drawing and archery were enjoyed by all.

2022 Year 8 History, Civics and Citizenship teaching team: Mrs. Louisa Barnsley, Ms. Nicola Bartasek, Ms. Sally Borrman and Dr. Stephen Powell.

Ms. Nicola Bartasek, History Teacher

## Year 8 Geography, Economics and Business

Year 8 students enjoyed learning about different types of markets and the impact of changing economic environments on businesses and consumers. In the Geography unit, students explored landscapes and landforms with a special focus on how these were created over time according to a range of cultural and scientific perspectives. At the end of the year, students learned more about the landforms and landscapes in our local region from traditional owners during a field trip to Tidbinbilla.

2022 Year 8 Geography, Economics and Business team: Mr. Greg Baines, Mrs. Louisa Barsley, Mr. Damian Borgia, Miss. Michelle Dempsey, Mrs. Simone Fox and Ms. Kate Wiseman-Taylor.

## Year 9 History

Extending their knowledge of Australian and global History from the Industrial Revolution to WWI, students in Year 9 History explored the consequences of scientific and technical innovation and global interactions which led to conflict, revolution and other societal changes. All students prepared WWI research essays for the Simpson Prize, with three essays selected for the competition.

2022 Year 9 History team: Mrs. Nicola Bartasek, Ms. Sally Borrman, Mrs. Jaime McDevitt, Dr. Stephen Powell and Miss. Jess Tillack.

## Year 9 Geography

Students in the Year 9 Geography elective explored inequalities through the lens of resources and consumption and examined the impacts of fast fashion and tourism on liveability. Students explored what it means for a place to be considered inclusive, and conducted local fieldwork. The unit ended with a deep dive into biomes and food security.

2022 Year 9 Geography: Mrs. Natalie Fairfax

## Year 9 and 10 Economics and Business

Students in the Year 9 and 10 Economics and Business elective examined the way the Australian economy functions and the impacts of international trade on domestic markets. Addressing the “why didn’t we learn that in school?” question, students also learned about personal finance and superannuation.

2022 Year 9/10 Economics and Business team: Mr. Phil Coe, Mrs. Natalie Fairfax and Miss. Jess Tillack.

## Year 9 and 10 Civics and Citizenship

Centred on the concept of global citizenship, students in the Year 9 and 10 Civics and Citizenship elective explored the influences on individual political choices, analysed the role of the High Court in our democracy, and our international obligations as a nation. Students also had the opportunity to chat to our very own candidate for the Federal seat of Hume to learn about the processes for pre-selection and running for Parliament.

2022 Year 9/10 Civics and Citizenship team: Mrs. Nicola Bartasek, Ms. Sally Borrman, Dr. Stephen Powell and Miss. Jess Tillack.

## Year 10 History

Students in Year 10 History examined significant events from the interwar period to the present day, focusing on political turmoil, conflict including WWII, the Civil Rights movement and the impact of globalisation. At the end of Term 3, students experienced an immersive and thought-provoking insight into rights and freedoms of Aboriginal ex-serviceman and segregation through the music of Brett Hunt. The one-man performance captivated the audience as Brett used his guitar to transport students to the battlefield. Reflecting on the performance, students noted that events such as Mabo day and the upcoming referendum of the Voice to Parliament took on more significance.

2022 Year 10 History team: Mrs. Louisa Barnsley, Ms. Sally Borrman, Mrs. Jaime McDevitt, Dr. Stephen Powell and Miss. Tillack.

## Year 10 Geography

Exploring the impact of erosion on coastal landforms and beach preservation, students in Year 10 Geography explored mitigation and rehabilitation strategies employed in coastal regions. A study on disparity in wellbeing indicators across countries with developing economies allowed students to make connections between a range of data and the lived experience for many people. Semester 1 students also had the opportunity to test their knowledge and understanding of Geographical concepts in the Australian Geography Competition.

2022 Year 10 Geography team: Miss. Nicole Cabello and Mrs. Natalie Fairfax

## Spotlight on BSSS Business Studies

### Why Study Business?

The world of business has changed and today, globalization is the new normal. Whether you are planning to enter fashion or finance, or something in-between, here are some great reasons why you should study business and how it can open a world of possibilities for you.

- Develop crucial communication skills
- Marketing 101: Know your audience
- Accounting and budgeting: don't fall short
- Unlock the entrepreneur inside you: Leave your mark on the world

Our students have studied a wide range of curriculum, including The Business Plan, Marketing, Finance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Human Resource Management. These units give the students a taste of what a Business or Commerce degree would be like at university. Many of the students currently in Year 12 are considering undertaking university study in the Business field.

With the skills they learn in Business, the future certainly looks bright.

2022 BSSS Business Studies team: Mr. Damian Borgia, Mrs. Kerry McDonnell

2022 BSSS Legal Studies: Mr. Daman Borgia

2022 BSSS/ IB HL Modern History: Dr. Stephen Powell

2022 BSSS Ancient History: Miss. Nikki Passchier

Mrs. Kerry McDonnell, Careers and VET Coordinator and teacher of Business Studies.

## Competition Success

Led by Dr. Stephen Powell, Merici students had the opportunity to participate in a range of local and national competitions testing our finest thinkers.

### Ethics Olympiads

Merici's "E-thletes" performed really well in this year's local and international editions of the Ethics Olympiad. The Olympiad is a fun and challenging debating competition based on ethical case studies. Merici teams were coached by Dr. Powell.

Middle School: Our Year 9 and 10 team qualified in late 2021 for the Australasian Final of the Middle School Ethics Olympiad, which was held via Zoom in February this year. They represented the college with distinction, on topics ranging from the ethics of donating to charity, to public nudity. Judges commended them for their critical thinking.

Senior: Our Year 11 and 12 team won the silver medal in the ACT Ethics Olympiad competition in May, and went on to compete creditably against schools from across NSW and Singapore in the international finals in July, via Zoom. A Canadian school was the overall winner. Merici's team was well prepared on topics ranging from the rules that govern university admission, to the morality of works of art. Judges commended them for their open-mindedness and team work, and the way that they shared responsibilities during the debates.

### Senior Ethics Olympiad team

#### *Philosothon*

Students from Years 8 to 12 represented Merici in the Australasian Philosothon, in August. This was a fun and challenging 2-day event involving 17 schools from Australia and New Zealand. The Philosothon is a special opportunity that is more like a round-table discussion than a team debate. This year's topics included the merits of artificial coral reefs and whether to change the date or format of Australia Day. The team finished in the top half of the competition, and special congratulations to Ishita Gupta of Year 9, who placed equal second in her year level.

#### *Australian History Competition*

Congratulations to those Year 7-10 students who competed in the Australian History Competition in May. Seven students won High Distinction awards, which is most impressive, and 21 students achieved a Credit level or above. Special congratulations to Sofia Szymanski of Year 9, who was crowned ACT Champion for her year level!

#### *Australian Geography Competition*

In Term 1, eight students participated in the Australian Geography Competition and achieved pleasing results. One student achieved a Distinction Award and two others received Credit Awards. This competition was particularly challenging and we commend all those who took part, and to Mrs. Natalie Fairfax for her coordination.

## MYP DESIGN (PRODUCT DESIGN IN FOOD AND TEXTILES)

### Year 7 Food Technology

Students in Year 7 Food Technology explored superfoods and used the design process to design nutritious and tasty salads for their families. In class, students learned a variety of cooking techniques and production processes for cooking successfully at school and home.

2022 Year 7 Food Technology team: Mr. Fabrice Boone, Miss. Jenna Fisher, Mrs. Sue Paton, Mrs. Stephanie Spiller and Ms. Trish Young.

### Year 8 Food Technology

What does it mean to eat ethically? This was the guiding question for Year 8 students who explored sustainability in our personal eating patterns. Surveying their peers, students designed sustainable packed lunch options for our Merici community and worked within teams to create and present their real food products.

Looking at the environmental impact of food production, students designed ethical evening meals for their families aiming to meet the nutritional needs and preferences of their families and minimise the carbon footprint of the evening meal.

2022 Year 8 Food Technology team: Miss. Jenna Fisher and Mrs. Stephanie Spiller

## Year 9 Food Technology

Students in the Year 9 Food Technology elective explored sustainability in menu planning and designing food for events. Focusing on effective production processes, budgeting, portioning, and food styling students designed and created sweet and savoury canapes. A highlight at the end of Term 3 was the Masterchef Challenge where students had 24 hours notice of available ingredients and 90 minutes to prepare and plate a recipe of their own design. Judged by our very own expert panel, winners were selected based on the presentation, flavour, and complexity of their creations.

2022 Year 9 Food Technology team: Miss. Jenna Fisher and Ms. Trish Young

## Year 7 Textiles

Exploring the application of Shibori dyeing techniques and machine sewing, Year 7 students designed and created individual handy pouches. While the pouches shared similar techniques, the application was determined by individual design choices. With increasing confidence, students applied their own artistic flair to the creation of mixed media fashion illustrations and swing tags for their handy pouches.

2022 Year 7 Textiles team: Ms. Diana Davis, Mrs. Sue Paton and Ms. Kate Wiseman-Taylor.

## Year 8 Textiles

Students in Year 8 Textiles applied their knowledge of the MYP design process, drawing on the elements and principles of design to create their own masquerade mask. Extending the technical skills learned in Year 7, students designed and created their own lined shoulder bags, complete with a personalised applique motif. Examining the properties and performance of wool fibres, students experimented with knitting and other fabric creation techniques.

2022 Year 8 Textiles team: Ms. Diana Davis, Mrs. Sue Paton and Ms. Kate Wiseman-Taylor.

## Year 9 and 10 Textiles

In Semester 1, students explored designing for sustainability in the mass market. Exploring production processes utilised in fast fashion and the impact on garment workers, our student designers worked collaboratively to produce pyjama packs for vulnerable teens. Exploring the key concept of communication, student designers examined the way current market trends mirror popular subcultures before designing marketing material for their own sustainable fashion brand. Students continued to develop their technical skills, applying advanced techniques such as pattern modification, piping and buttonholes to create their own high-quality sustainable sleepwear. The principles of circular design informed the design focus in Semester 2, where students utilised a variety of reclaimed fabrics and fibres to create a bespoke product for a chosen client. Employing traditional patchwork and quilting techniques, some students created lap quilts and cushion covers, while others worked on upcycling and remodelling existing garments.

## STAFF NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Our experienced team in the Global Studies department continued to develop their professional knowledge and skills, engaging in the Catholic Education Catalyst initiative focusing on High Impact Teaching Practices, as well as a range of subject-specific conferences and training programs. Notably, Dr. Stephen Powell was published in the Term 1 2022 issue of 'Teaching History', the Journal of the NSW History Teachers Association. His article on the legacies of William Cooper, an Aboriginal activist during the interwar period (and beyond), was also the subject of his presentation to ACT History teachers. Mr. Greg Baines was also pre-selected for the Federal seat of Hume in the May election. While he was not successful this year, Mr. Baines shared his first-hand knowledge of the political process with Civics and Citizenship classes.

In 2022, we welcomed new teachers into all subject areas;

- Miss. Nicole Cabello (IH, Geography)
- Miss. Michelle Dempsey (IH, Geography, Economics and Business)
- Miss. Jess Tillack (IH, History, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship)
- Miss. Jenna Fisher (Food Technology)

We also farewelled much-loved members of our Global Studies family:

- Mr. Greg Baines (IH, Year 8 Geography, Economics and Business)
- Ms. Sally Borrman (IH, History)
- Mrs. Sue Paton (Textiles and Food technology)
- Ms. Kate Wiseman-Taylor (Textiles, Geography, Economics and Business, Hospitality)
- Ms. Trish Young (Food Technology, Hospitality)

## A special note of thanks

I have been fortunate to work with an experienced and highly professional team of educators in my first year as Coordinator of the Global Studies department. I am grateful for the supportive welcome and collective wisdom of my colleagues. I have been blown away by the dedication of our teachers, and the deep investment in the growth of each and every student. As we begin planning for another exciting year, I would like to thank our wonderful team: Mr. Greg Baines, Ms. Nicola Baratsek, Mrs. Louisa Barnsley, Ms. Tegan Bew, Mr. Fabrice Boone, Mr. Damian Borgia, Ms. Sally Borrman, Miss. Nicole Cabello, Mr. Phil Coe, Ms. Diana Davies, Miss. Michelle Dempsey, Mrs. Karen Evans, Mrs. Kyla Firman, Miss. Jenna Fisher, Mrs. Simone Fox, Mrs. Sharon Henderson, Mrs. Karen Mahony, Mr. Jaime McDevitt, Mrs. Kerry McDonnell, Ms. Nikki Passchier, Mrs. Sue Paton, Dr. Stephen Powell, Miss. Jess Tillack, Ms. Kate Wiseman-Taylor and Ms. Trish Young.

Mrs. Stephanie Spiller

Global Studies Coordinator