

# Captains' Newsletter

## Issue #2



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## Introduction

Hello all!

Welcome back to the Captains' Newsletter!

It's been an incredible year so far and we have accomplished a lot. From school carnivals to fundraisers, from movie nights to lake walks, we've truly done it all. This term, however, is shaping up to be even better!

We are very proud to recap some of our amazing events so far and remind you of all the astonishing things you have experienced and accomplished at Merici this year. We are working hard to make sure we continue to outdo ourselves and make this a spectacular year to never forget! As you read through the following articles we have put together for you all, we hope you look back at Term 1 with pride, and look forward to the rest of Term 2 with excitement.

We could not have done any of this without the support of our incredible staff and all you amazing girls, and we are so very grateful for the energy and enthusiasm you bring to each and every one of our events and initiatives. It truly means the world to us, and we hope you have had just as much fun as we have.

Make sure to take note of all the awesome things we have coming up! This year is all about the joy we can create together, so please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with your ideas, suggestions, and feedback. As always, we encourage you to get involved with our respective groups, teams, and committees, and to make the absolute most of the rest of 2025.

Thank you,

Your 2025 Leadership Team



# School Captains

Hi there Merici!

Welcome back to another amazing term of 2025! We are so proud of everything we've done in Term 1 and can't wait to make this term even bigger and better.

We've got plenty coming up, plenty to look back on, and heaps to look forward to already in the works for Term 3. From Book Week to Merici Olympics, we've truly got it all. We cannot wait to see how every single one of you gets involved and we hope you enjoy.



## Term 1

Term 1 was full of carnivals, celebrations, new traditions, and fun activities. Our Last First was a smashing success, and we went on to have an incredible start to the year. We attended the Opening Masses of other Catholic schools and got the chance to meet their leadership teams, but nothing could compare to the Opening Mass at Merici which surpassed all others by far. Our Carnival energy was unmatched and everyone was on theme. The enthusiasm everyone brought to the table was amazing to see!

We have had great fun at the Gift of Life Walks, the International Women's Week events, a wonderful conference for young women in leadership, and spent the term putting into place some truly awesome events for you all.



## Marist-Merici Events

Your wish is our command! Marist-Merici events are on the horizon, and we cannot wait.

On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, our leadership team will be going head to head with the captains Marist on the netball court in a match of skill and prowess. Winner earns bragging rights which, as we all know, are priceless. Come along to the gym at lunch time to see all the action and cheer on Merici. Make sure to bring your game faces and best chants!

Furthermore, we have a Year 7 Sports Day in the works for Wednesday of Week 9 – more information to come. This will be an opportunity for our Year 7s to get to know the Marist Year 7s and have a bit of fun at the end of the term!



## St Angela Merici Day

St Angela Merici Day is fast approaching. Our captains are hard at work to bring you an eventful and delicious day, with all kinds of stalls, foods, and activities. Be sure to check out all the inflatables and fun games set up on the oval!

Additionally, we will be running our very first Merici Olympics event during the day. We can't wait to see you all get involved and compete for those coveted points. We know our House Captains are ready to go – are you?

## Merici Olympics

The 2025 Merici Olympics are something we have thought long and hard over, and are pretty (see also: incredibly) excited for. We're shaking things up and planning a whole array of events, some old and some new, to keep everyone enthusiastic and entertained. Our theme of 'joy' is always our top priority, and we think this year's Olympics will bring just that.

However, what we specifically have in store for you all is a mystery – a *clue hunt*, if you will. Every few weeks, exactly one week before the next event, we will place clues around the school. First student to decode the clues and email us with the correct solution for the next event wins bonus points for their House. And, as we've seen in the past, every point counts!



Keep an eye on the official @mericileadership Instagram page to keep up with the 2025 Leadership team, all our events, and every announcement to come. As always, we treasure your input and ideas – so be sure to email us at [davidslr@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:davidslr@merici.act.edu.au) and [crickz01@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:crickz01@merici.act.edu.au) with anything at all.

Thank you everyone and looking forward to another exciting term!

Laura and Zoe

## Balgo House

Hello everyone! 🙌

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope you had a refreshing break and are ready for another term of excitement, energy, and Balgo spirit. It's your 2025 Balgo House Captains, Annie and Cory, here and we are absolutely thrilled to continue this journey with you. Whether you're a returning student or new to Balgo this year, we're here to support, uplift, and help you shine!



### Recap of Term 1 💖

Term 1 was a good start to the year! From cheering and costumes at the Swimming/Athletics Carnival to our participation in many other events, Balgo House showed up with passion and teamwork. While we didn't walk away with the top trophy, the Balgo was unmatched, and we came 3rd place in both the Spirit Cup and House Cup which is a highly commendable effort made by everyone.

### House Executive ★

We are thrilled to introduce the amazing students who make up our 2025 Balgo House Executive!

This passionate and committed group is responsible for leading house meetings, planning exciting events, encouraging participation across all year levels, and building a strong sense of community and pride within Balgo.

Every member of this team has stepped up to represent their peers, bring forward fresh ideas, and ensure everyone feels included and heard. We're proud of each and every one of them for taking on this role and showing true leadership.







### What's coming up 🎉

There is a lot to look forward to, so let's get ready for some exciting events:

**St. Angela Merici Day (May 30th):** As you all know it starts with a mass then fun activities in the afternoon. Everyone in your PC's will have been assigned a time to help during the day, you must turn up to your allocated time in order to help out Balgo.

**Interhouse Competition: The Push Up Challenge (June 4th):** The goal is to do 3,214 push ups (other exercises like squats and sit ups work too) in the month of June. You can sign up here in your PC with the following link:

<https://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/fundraisers/MericiCollege>.

This challenge is about spreading mental health awareness and includes a pizza party for the winning PC.

**Vinnies Can Line (June 11th):** We're hoping to break our donation record from last year. Start bringing in cans and non-perishables now! There is a small prize for the PC with the most cans.

**Marist/Merici Collaboration (TBC):** We're working on something for you guys – more info coming soon 👁️

We have some more events on the horizon, and we will be keeping you updated on all the details soon.

### Stay Connected! 📱

Want to stay in the loop and follow everything Balgo House? You can keep up with all our activities and announcements on our Instagram at @balgohousemerici.

We would be more than happy to hear from you – share your ideas, ask questions, or just say hello! If you would like to contact us, email us on:

Annabelle Kingston: [kingsa01@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kingsa01@merici.act.edu.au)

Cory Marchant: [marchac@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:marchac@merici.act.edu.au)

Thank you all for being such a great part of Balgo House! We are looking forward to working with each of you and making the rest of the school year unforgettable. Here's to a full year of fun, achievements, and team spirit!

See you around,

Annie & Cory 💛





# Brescia House

Hi Brescia House!

Welcome to Term 2! We are so excited to begin another term leading this wonderful house with enthusiasm and pride, and cannot wait to see what Brescia can bring to Term 2! 😊

## Term One Recap ✨💜

As a reminder of just how amazing Brescia was in Term 1, here's a little recap of the year so far!

We started the year off with a bang at the Swimming Carnival in Week 3. Our theme was Brescia Bula – meaning “hello” in Fijian – and the energy on the day was unmatched. From the vibrant costumes to the booming chants, Brescia showed up and showed out! Thank you to everyone who gave it their all, and for bringing that unbeatable house spirit!



The fun didn't stop there — in Week 9, we stepped onto the track for the Athletics Carnival with our Brescia Billionaires theme. We were proud to see everyone embracing the theme and giving their best. A massive congratulations to our very own Lily Martin, crowned the 2025 Merici Flash winner – we are so proud of you!

Throughout this term so far, we also saw incredible involvement in our house meetings, lunchtime activities, and events like the Year 7 Multisport. We would love to give a special big shoutout to our Year 7 Multisport champions for making it all the way to the semi-finals — a fantastic achievement for the whole House!! Thank you to everyone who participated and brought their House spirit. We couldn't have done it without you.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to our Caritas Project Compassion initiatives and helped us to raise so much money for such a great cause!

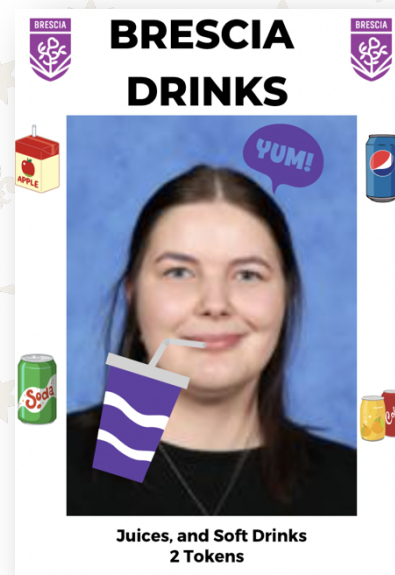
## What's Coming Up This Term

### St Angela Merici Day – 30th May 🥳

Join us for a celebration with drinks and a lolly bag stall, a photo booth, and Just Dance fun during lunchtime! A perfect way to connect, celebrate our patron saint, and show house spirit. Talk to us for more information on events and the day! OR if you want to be a part of the organisation and planning, attend the house exec!

### Can Line – 11th June 🥤

Get ready to show generosity and teamwork by bringing in cans to help create the biggest and best Can Line Brescia has ever built! All cans will be donated towards the vulnerable people in our community so it's a great event to get involved in.



## Weekly Highlights and Opportunities:

Keep an eye out for upcoming house competitions and fun lunchtime games — more details coming soon!

Stay involved and connected with all things Brescia through the House Executive. Meetings are held every second Thursday in Room 110. Reminder: you must attend consistently to receive your Brescia House Executive badge!

## Stay in the Loop on Socials



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram at @bresciahousemc for updates, photos, and to keep up with all our upcoming events.

We are incredibly proud of what we achieved last term and are looking forward to an even bigger and better term with more energy, joy, and connection. Let's keep lifting each other up, and making Brescia such a special house to be a part of!

Thank you for an amazing start to the year, Brescia!

Your Brescia Leaders,

Eliza and Rachel 💜



## Ningil House

Hi everyone!

As we head into Term 2, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements Ningil has accomplished so far in Term 1.

Alongside our awesome accomplishments in the Swimming Carnival, one of the most significant highlights has been the Athletics Carnival. Ningil demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and determination, participating in track and field events, scavenger hunts, and cheering in the stands. Every single person contributed to the strongest performance Ningil has seen in years. Through an incredible collective effort, Ningil secured first place overall! We could not be prouder of you girls.



Additionally, our team spirit and participation were recognised as we were awarded the Spirit Cup – a testament to the pride and positivity that every Ningil student contributed on the day. Our theme, 'Ningil Nashville', was a massive success with our cowboy hats and bandanas filling the stands, showing just how unified and vibrant our house is.

Another proud moment was our performance in the Year 7 Multisports. Despite a tough first round where we were unfortunately knocked out, our team played with great sportsmanship. Our strong house spirit and encouragement on the day, won us the wildcard spot, and from there, our Year 7s came back to win the multisport competition!

We are incredibly proud of the way Ningil has started the year. Our house is already achieving so much, and we know this is just the beginning. Let's keep showing up, and getting involved and let's work together to make Term 2 even better.

We have the Can Line and St. Angela Merici Day coming up and can't wait to see you all at our stalls and contributing to the longest can line Ningil has ever seen! To keep up with all our events, updates, and achievements, make sure to follow Ningil House on Instagram at @ningilhousemerici.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and enthusiasm!

Evie and Tara ❤️





## Penola House

Hey Merici! Carmela and Lucy here. We are so excited for term 2 and can't wait for the amazing things ahead!

### Term 1

Last term, we had many exciting and successful events. We'd like to give a huge thanks to all the girls that came to the working bees as well as the carnivals. Your amazing costumes and contributions to the day were incredible, and we like to give a big congratulations to Kendra Gordon on winning the Merici Marlon! Thank you to all our awesome bakers for your delicious treats at our bake sales, without your hard work we wouldn't have raised so much money for Caritas' Project Compassion!



### Upcoming Events



- **St Angela Merici Day:** The most exciting day in our calendar, St Angela Merici Day is approaching fast. On the **30<sup>th</sup> of May in Week 5**, our whole school gathers to celebrate St. Angela Merici. Throughout the day Penola will have many exciting stalls for you all to come and visit, that includes, donuts, karaoke and henna stalls. So make sure you purchase your tickets!
- **Vinnies Can Line:** Having commenced at the start of Term 2, all girls are encouraged to bring in canned foods to support the vulnerable in our community. **On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, Week 7**, all donations will be lined in the gym and the house with the longest line wins! To promote this, Penola is holding a **Cans 4 Cakes** bake sale where all girls can come and trade cans for some delicious, sweet treats. This will be held in the new quad and cash donations will be accepted!
- **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.

Finally, we would like to remind you that our amazing exec team meets every **Thursday in week B at lunch**. If there is anything you would like to discuss, or any ideas you would like to share, please come along! And don't forget to follow us on Instagram to stay up-to-date on all the latest news, announcements, and exciting events happening in **@PenolaHouse**.

We're looking forward to another amazing term, filled with fun, collaboration, and Penola pride!

Carmela and Lucy! ♥

## Seiwa House

Term 2, here we come! Term 1 was a very exciting start to the school year. In late March, we had the Caritas Project Compassionate donation competition, and we are so grateful to all those who donated. We originally had a goal of \$500 and exceeded that by \$2000, and we wouldn't have been able to do that without our girls and their parents' help.

In April, Seiwa celebrated Easter with the Seiwa Easter Egg Jar. We had a large jar full of easter eggs donated by the girls, and the challenge was to guess how many eggs were in the jar, and the person who guessed the closest won the whole jar of chocolatey goodness! Our lucky winner was Miss Olsthoorn from SE1! We also had some jars of chocolate for our runner-up champions. We hope everyone enjoyed their Easter break.



Seiwa left term 1 with an exciting buzz in the air after the Athletics Carnival. Lots of running, lots of cheering, and lots of Seiwa spirit! This year's Athletics Carnival theme was "Seiwa Spice Girls"; a theme loved not only by students, but teachers as well. It was great to see all the girls compete in races and novelties, and it was amazing also to see the relay races, where Seiwa placed in the top three for all year levels.

In Term 2 Week 2, Seiwa took on the exciting Year 7 multi-sport. We played Balgo in an exhilarating game, where everyone was out of their seats. We were so proud of the girls who played and got involved. It was fantastic to see the Seiwa spirit on court and on the sidelines. We had all of Seiwa house watching and supporting, dressed in blue accessories with blue zinc on their faces. A massive thank you to all the senior girls who got involved with the chants and supporting the younger girls.

Another exciting day that's coming up is St Angela Merici Day. Different PC's will be running the following stalls: SE 1, 2, 3 will be running the Goodberry's and Zooper Dooper stalls, SE 4 and 5 will be running the noodle stall, and SE 6 and 7 will be running a disco and selling glow-in-the-dark sticks. The day is going to be super exciting, and the whole school can get involved and have some fun.

Finally, a fun place to be is Seiwa Exec! We meet every second week to talk about all things Seiwa! Over the last three weeks, Seiwa Exec has been planning and preparing for the upcoming St Angela Merici Day stalls and how we can get all of Seiwa involved. We are also preparing for the Can line in June, which is rolling in fast, so PLEASE BRING YOUR CANS IN GIRLS! Additionally, we have been planning all kinds of posters and prizes. Please don't hesitate to bring us your energy and big ideas!

That's all from us for now!

Mia & Jess 💙





# Tullov House

Hi Merici!

We are excited to welcome everyone back for Term 2! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and are ready for another vibrant and successful term ahead. Term 1 set the tone for what promises to be an incredible year, and we cannot wait to continue building on that momentum. It's wonderful to see students returning with such energy and enthusiasm, ready to embrace new opportunities, connect with each other, and continue to bring our Tullov spirit to life.

As always, we look forward to working together as a community, celebrating achievements, and creating lasting memories. Term 2 is packed with exciting events, and we encourage all students to get involved, support one another, and make the most of everything on offer. Here's to another fantastic term at Merici — let's continue to lead with heart, pride, and Tullov spirit!

Term 1 was nothing short of amazing for Tullov House! We had an incredible start to the year, filled with achievements, community spirit, and memorable moments.



One of our proudest accomplishments was raising over \$3700 for Caritas Australia through our **Project Compassion** efforts. It was inspiring to see our students come together with such generosity and heart to support communities in need. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped out at the fundraisers, we appreciate you all!

We also made history at the **Swimming Carnival**, winning both the Spirit Cup and the Sports Cup! Tullov's energy, determination, and sportsmanship truly shone through, and it was wonderful to see so many students cheering each other on and giving their best in the pool. Students have told us that this was one of their favourite days of the year so far — the green Tullov pride was impossible to miss!



With so much to celebrate already, we are feeling more motivated than ever to keep building on this incredible foundation as we dive into Term 2.

The **Athletics Carnival** was an incredible day filled with energy, team spirit, and fierce competition across all events. A huge thank you to everyone who participated, cheered from the sidelines, and helped make the day such a success. Your enthusiasm and support truly brought the carnival to life—well done to all!

There's plenty to look forward to this term for Tullow students! The **Can Line** is coming up soon, which is our chance to support local charities by bringing in canned goods and non-perishable donations. It's a wonderful opportunity to continue living out our values of compassion and service. More information regarding the can line will be emailed out soon so stay tuned!

**Angela Merici Day** is also right around the corner, which will be a great day for the whole school community – filled with laughs, dancing and prizes!

If you'd like to be even more involved, students can still join the Tullow Executive Team, which meets every second Tuesday at lunch. It's a great way to have a say in upcoming events, lead house initiatives, and be part of something special. Thank you to those girls who have already joined and attended the meetings!

You can follow along with our journey and stay updated on events through our Tullow House social media page: [@tullowhousemc](https://www.instagram.com/tullowhousemc). We'll be sharing highlights, upcoming activities, and ways to get involved.

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

Ava & Claire 💚



## Arts

*Omigod you guys!*

It's Term 2 already?!



### What's Been Happening...

From musical mayhem to fairytale chaos, from live performances to art-filled adventures, the Arts at Merici are thriving. So whether you're backstage, on stage, in the audience, or sketching in the margins of your maths book, there's something for everyone to get excited about. Let's dive into the fabulous world of creativity at Merici!

Let's start with the fabulousness that is *Legally Blonde Jr.* Our cast and crew have been hard at work, and I can tell you; this is going to be one of the best musicals Merici has ever done. The singing? Amazing. The dancing? Snatched. The acting? So good I'm sure the cast is heading to Broadway.



And the best part? Mr. Spencer isn't even on the brink of a meltdown! Although, I haven't checked in with him this week, so who knows. To translate: that basically means things are going really well.

Now let's talk Balcony Sessions. These have been happening every week on Friday, and the talent we've seen: unmatched. Students with original songs, surprise instruments, smooth vocals, and Mr Spencer popping in for Sax solos. It's been such a great time just vibing in the fresh air and soaking up some creativity.

Our Year 9s have been busy donning masks and channelling chaos in their Commedia dell'Arte performances—think big characters, wild gestures, and a few too many dramatic Italian accents. Meanwhile, the Year 7s have taken classic fairytales and turned them upside down in their Fractured Fairytales recordings. With bold twists, wild creativity, and a sprinkle of mayhem, even Humpty Dumpty would be like, “uh... maybe talk to someone?” Huge congrats to both groups for bringing the drama and the laughs!

Now if you were at the Colour Run, you know how incredible it was. Between the energy, the colours, and the music, we were living our best, rainbow-splattered lives. Big shoutout to our performers: Thirru and Ryley from Year 7, Ivy from Year 11, Litia, and Jess from Year 12. You all lit up the stage and did an incredible job!





The Year 9 dance classes recently saw Annie in Sydney as part of their musical theatre unit. The powerful performances and classic songs brought their studies to life and reminded us all how inspiring live theatre can be. It was the perfect way to wrap up the unit and fuel future performances!

### What's On Now...

This term is absolutely stacked with exciting events:

This week has been Arts Education Week (19th of May – 23rd of May). Arts Education Week is all about celebrating the power of the arts in our lives and in our learning! From music and drama to visual art and dance, it was an amazing chance to express ourselves, try something new, and connect through creativity. We had a bunch of fun activities throughout the week to celebrate the arts with:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Instrument Petting Zoo	Drawing 'What Art Means to Me'	Music throughout the school	Just Dance	Photo Booth

🌟 Additionally, rehearsals for Legally Blonde Jr. are in full swing. Legally Bonde Jr. is coming to the stage Thursday 24th July to Sunday 27th July! Don't forget to get your tickets, you do NOT want to miss it! Tickets are available here: <https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-presents-legally-blonde-jr>.

### Follow Along...

Make sure to follow @Merici\_arts on Instagram to get the latest updates and information about each activity!

We've also got some competitions under way... so get you colouring pencils or singing voices ready!



### Don't Forget...

Remember to check out Rock Band (Tuesday lunch), Vocal group (Monday lunch), and concert band (Monday afternoon). Email [ryanis01@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ryanis01@merici.act.edu.au) or [byron.luck@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:byron.luck@merici.act.edu.au) for more information. Thanks for reading and for being part of Merici's vibrant arts community. Whether you're performing, painting, dancing, designing, or just cheering from the sidelines, you're helping to make the arts come alive at our school.

Until next time!

Belle Ryan



## Culture

Hi everyone and welcome back! I hope everyone has had a restful holidays and are ready for term 2!

Here's a quick recap on what we've been up to so far...

### Culture council is up and running!

This year, we proudly launched the Culture Council as one of the exciting new clubs offered at our school. I'm thrilled to share that over 40 students signed up during the Activities Expo and have been actively working alongside me to ensure that culture is celebrated and embraced across our campus.



The Culture Council provides a fantastic opportunity for students to share their heritage, highlight meaningful cultural days, and raise awareness about the rich diversity within our community. At our school, we strive to be globally minded and culturally inclusive—and this council is a vital part of that journey.

If you're passionate about celebrating your culture and learning about others, we'd love for you to get involved! Send an email through to me at [giragss@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:giragss@merici.act.edu.au) if you are interested.



### Festival Days

So far this year, we've had the pleasure of celebrating Chinese New Year, Holi, Harmony Day, and Vesak. Some of these occasions have been marked with special events and vibrant community gatherings with loads of fun. Even when there hasn't been an event, we've shared informative and beautifully designed posters on our Instagram to raise awareness and celebrate each cultural day.

## Holi Colour Run Fundraiser

As part of our efforts to support Project Compassion, with the enthusiastic support of the Culture Council and leadership team, we organised a vibrant **Holi Colour Run** that brought the school community together in a celebration of colour and the Hindu culture. The event was a huge success—we had a fantastic time running, getting covered in colour, and celebrating Holi, all while raising awareness for a great cause. I'm proud to share that we raised **\$925** for Project Compassion, and I'm so grateful to everyone who participated and contributed to making it such a memorable and meaningful day.



## What Now?

We have so many exciting cultural days coming up, but we can't do it alone! Whether you're part of the Culture Council or just passionate about sharing your culture, we'd love your input. If there's a special day you'd like to see celebrated, please reach out. It's about inclusivity and we can't do it without the input from the student body!

To keep up to date and learn more about our upcoming cultural events, be sure to follow us on Instagram at [@mericcollege.culture](https://www.instagram.com/mericcollege.culture).

Thank you!

Sesadi Giragama





# Narragunnawali

## Welcome to Term 2!

In Term 1, we had a great start to the year, and I thank everyone that has been getting involved so far. The Narragunnawali Mob recently had a very fun cultural day with Soward Consultancy and a few girls from Daramalan College.

This day was about creating art and having a yarn, and this was a great opportunity for the girls to listen to Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri aunties share stories and encourage community with the girls. The event was a great way to end our first term together and we are looking forward to more days like this, with Patrice Soward in later this year and hopefully again next year. This day brought the girls closer together and brought back the idea of community and the need to take care of each other; something meaningful for us to carry with us throughout the year.



This term we have some exciting events coming up with Reconciliation Week in Week 5, and I hope that you all come along to participate. In Week 5 we have a few events running throughout the week, but most excitingly we have a movie showing in the Auditorium. Entry is a gold coin donation, and all donations will go towards Yeddung Mura, a local Aboriginal corporation. Your involvement in this event is greatly appreciated and I look forward to seeing you there.

Most importantly, don't forget to come by our St Angela Merici Day stall and get your popcorn for only 2 tokens!



To keep track of what we are up to, follow along on our Instagram @mericinarragunnawali.

Thank you all, and I can't wait for the rest of this exciting term!

Lauren Cullen



## Social Justice

Welcome to Term 2! The Social Justice Team have been working very hard so far this year, and we have a lot of events coming up this Term that we are excited to share with you all!

### To Recap Term 1...

**World Day of Social Justice:** To commemorate the World Day of Social Justice, members of the Merici College Community placed their handprints on a banner in honour of this year's theme presented by the United Nations: "Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future."



**Gift of Life Walks:** As a school we successfully participated in the Gift of Life Walk at Lake Burley Griffin and also hosted our annual Merici Gift of Life Event with Rod and Gabi from Mix 106.3 and Hit 104.7! Thank you so much to everyone who participated and assisted with both events. It was fantastic to see Merici represented so well for such a good cause.

**International Women's Week:** This year, the Social Justice Team, in conjunction with the School Captains, ran International Women's Week at Merici. We raised awareness for a different women's related issues each day of the week by wearing pink, white and purple coloured ribbons. We concluded the week with a bake sale fundraiser on Friday, where we raised over \$500 for both the National Breast Cancer Foundation and White Ribbon Foundation in the prevention of violence against women. We also proudly held our annual International Women's Day Soiree at the Bridge Restaurant where Merici alumnus Gabi Elgood spoke about her journey as a woman in the world of radio and broadcasting.



**Caritas:** This year for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, Merici raised over \$9,000 during the season of Lent from a range of House-run events including bake sales, sausage sizzles, Easter raffles, lolly salads, Transitions Team Movie Night, and the Holi Colour Run! We more than exceeded our fundraising goal for this year, so thank you very much to everyone who fundraised, donated, and participated!



We were also fortunate to have Emily Williamson and the Head teacher, Song Sokun from **REACH Siem Reap** in Cambodia come and visit our school this year, with the girls who participated in the Side by Side Ride fundraiser sharing lunch in the Bridge Restaurant with her.

Finally, we supported the **Palm Sunday rally** for refugees when a group of girls marched in the Canberra City with a banner in support of this cause.

Thank you to all the girls who represented Merici at the many external volunteering and service events and opportunities including the Canberra Show, Pedal Power ACT, Epilepsy ACT, Hands Across Canberra Day Fun Run, and Vinnies Shopfronts in Dickson and Braddon.

## Upcoming Events

### Term 2:

- World Refugee Day: Thursday 5 June
- Vinnies Can Line: Wednesday 11 June
- Vinnies Sleepout (Years 10-12): Thursday 26 June
- Push Up Challenge: Ongoing for the month of June



## Get Involved

You can always email me at [jergalc@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jergalc@merici.act.edu.au) with any questions and ideas or to sign up for upcoming social justice events! Additionally, the Social Justice Team meets on **Tuesdays every fortnight (Week A) in the CRLC, Room 204**. Our next meeting is Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May – all are welcome to come along and join! :)

For volunteering opportunities, please refer to SEQTA notices.

Thank you all, and I look forward to a busy and rewarding Term 2!

Lucy Jega



## Spirituality

Welcome back to term 2! Term 1 is probably the busiest term in the spirituality calendar, and I'm exceptionally proud of everything that we've managed to pull off. Thank you so much to everyone who's helped out with everything we've accomplished; none of this would have been possible without your support! I look forward to a fruitful term 2!

### Recent Events and New Goals

#### Angela's Angels

It's been amazing to see such an amazing turnout for Angela's Angels this year. We have so many girls who are committed serving our community, and we've managed to accomplish a lot together last term! We held a very successful bake sale to raise money for Project Compassion, in which we raised several hundred dollars, making a tangible difference to the lives of many people all over the world. We also had lots of girls participate in our Easter Liturgy, which really contributed to making it such a special event.

This term, our main focus is on the Vinnie's Winter Appeal, we'll be sure to keep raising funds and collecting cans for the Can Line. Also, keep your eye out for the Angela's Angels Youth Group, pioneered by our amazing youth minister Zoa!

#### Easter Liturgy

Our Merici Easter Liturgy was a massive success this year, and I think a significant part of what made it so special was the student involvement. We had a moving dance performance from our junior dance students, Angela's Angels volunteers reading, and the spectacular artworks of some of our students featured in the PowerPoint!

#### How You Can Get Involved

If you're interested in getting involved in the Merici community and the spirituality space, you're welcome to join Angela's Angels! Meetings are on every Wednesday lunchtime in the CRLC; send me an email if you're interested. We're all about volunteering, fundraising, and just generally helping out where we're needed around the community! Also, keep your eyes peeled for more information regarding the new Angela's Angels Youth Group from our youth minister Zoa, Mrs Harrold-Carter, or myself!

Looking forward to another amazing term with all of you!

Zoe Pearson





# Sport and Wellbeing

## Welcome Back to Term 2!

Hello everyone and welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a refreshing break and are ready for another exciting term filled with opportunities to be active, try new things, and support each other through sport and wellbeing.

## Looking Back on Term 1

### Swimming Carnival

Our first big event of the year was the Swimming Carnival, and what a splash it made! From freestyle sprints to novelty relays, the atmosphere was buzzing.

A huge congratulations to Tullow, who were the overall winners and also took home the Spirit Cup – an incredible double victory!

A special shoutout to Kendra Gordon, who was crowned the Merici Marlin as the fastest swimmer in the school – what a fantastic achievement!

To all the age champions and runners-up, we are so proud of your outstanding performances and effort in the pool. Well done!

### Athletics Carnival

Later in the term, the Athletics Carnival brought the oval to life with colour, energy, and impressive displays of talent. Ningil dominated the day, winning both the Carnival Championship and the Spirit Award – an epic result!



	Runners up
12 and under	Maddison Cunningham
13 year old	Sofia Lazarow Lucy Manwaring
14 year old	Emily Males
15 year old	Amelia Smith
16 year old	Milana Sadler-Pather
Open	Jorja Langi Kendra Gordon

	CHAMPIONS
12 and under	Katherine Holmes
13 year old	Isabella Clark
14 year old	Layla Bryers
15 year old	Ada Ciaccia
16 year old	Tara Holmes
Open	Chloe Palfreyman



Congratulations again to Lily Martin, our Merici Flash winner, for being the fastest runner in the school. To every one of our age group champions and runners-up – your determination and enthusiasm were amazing to see.

	Runners up
12 and under	Alyssa Drew
13 year old	Baaba Antwi-Tuffour
14 year old	Sophie Corvisy
15 year old	Ruby Kenny
16 year old	Tara Holmes
Open	Daisy Craig

	Champions
12 and under	Katherine Holmes
13 year old	Imogen Maidment-Ponton
14 year old	Lily Martin
15 year old	Phoebe Sheehan
16 year old	Phoebe Gordon
Open	Laura Davidson

## A Huge Start for Term 2

We've hit the ground running in Term 2 with the return of the Multisport Competition, where Ningil went head-to-head with Penola. It was a fun, energetic showdown between houses, and Ningil came away with another win – congratulations!

As always, while winning is worth celebrating, we also want to remind everyone that sportsmanship matters most. Respect, encouragement, and positivity go a long way in building the kind of culture we want at Merici.



A huge well done to all Merici teams who competed in Gala Days across different sports. Thank you for representing the school with pride, teamwork, and great sportsmanship – you continue to set a wonderful example.



## Stay Connected

Follow us on Instagram! Keep up with all the action, announcements and highlights at @mericisportandwellbeing

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who got involved last term and to those already making Term 2 a great one. Let's keep showing up with pride, energy and support for each other. Here's to more wins, more wellness, and more Merici spirit!

Eva Spoljaric

## SRC

### Welcome back to Term 2!

Firstly, I would like to re-congratulate the following girls who were elected to the 2025 SRC.

**Year 7:** Holly Hanlon, Isabel Pham

**Year 8:** Sierra Thomas, Chloe Heycox

**Year 9:** Edie Roff, Lola Reardon

**Year 10:** Gemma McClory, Sara Venkat

**Year 11:** Dakota Robinson, Makeila Tapelu



Term 1 was full of planning what initiatives the council wanted to achieve for the year!

**Period Poverty Initiative:** Period Poverty is on the rise in Australia. Women who earn \$50,000 or less find it hard to afford period products. Merici fortunately supplies the students with sustainable and free products however over the past few years, students are misusing the products. The SRC want to raise more initiative around the school to not waste the products and spread awareness on period poverty. Stay tuned for fun activities that will happen throughout the term.

**Old Quad Refurbishment:** The Old Quad has been the centre of our school for many years. Students, teachers and guest walk through it every day and the SRC have gotten some feedback that the quad is looking for run down. It is our goal to make the old quad looking fresher and more inclusive for all students at Merici College, collaborating with other portfolio captains and their teams.

### Future Tasks

**Planter boxes in the Old Quad:** These planter boxes will surround each tree in the old quad. To represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Australian native plants will be planted inside each box and artwork created by the MOB will be on the boxes. In the later months we plan to add more creative artwork throughout the school grounds.

**Hot Potato Shop:** The Hot Potato Shop is our way to bring in more inspiration guest speakers for the students. Alongside the school captains, it is our goal to inspire the students of Merici College by bringing in empowering speakers from all different backgrounds.

As always, if you have anything you or your friends want changed or implemented into the school, reach out to your SRC members!

Prue Harlock



# Sustainability

## SAM Events in Term 1

Term 1 was a very busy and successful term of Sustainability at Merici, as we continue to work towards receiving our first Sustainable Schools Star Accreditation! This term saw many great events including: Ride to School Day, Earth Hour, and Clean up Australia Day – where the amazing SAM girls cleaned up spaces in our local area. We also completed a heat map of our Biodiversity Restoration Patch in order to see the impact of our plantings on the environment and measure the heat in the garden.



At our weekly SAM meetings, we did a range of activities in Term 1 including: setting up our SAM wall; our Introduction to SAM walk; poster making; creating insect hotels and making sustainable lip balm. A group of SAM girls also attended the Sustainable Schools Climate Action Conference, which was an amazing opportunity to come up future initiatives, like the book swap (see details below).

## SAM Events Term 2

SAM is on every Friday at lunch! You can send me an email at [pricer@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:pricer@merici.act.edu.au) if you would like to be added to our mailing list and come along to all of our amazing upcoming events, including the following:

**Week 1** – Poster making

**Week 2** – Biodiversity Audit: Meet on the oval at the garden

**Week 3** – Leaf collection: Meet on the oval at the garden

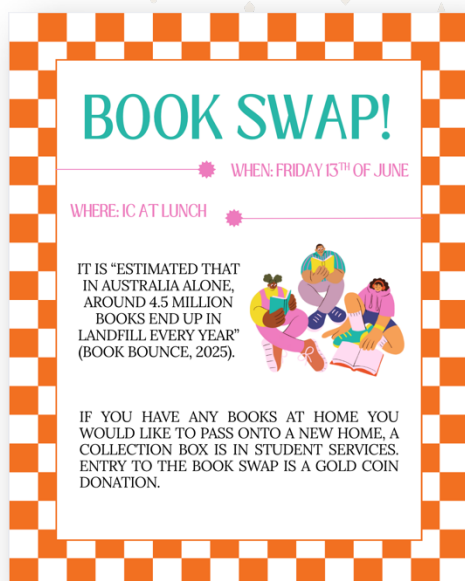
**Week 4** – Icon Water Guest Speaker: Meet in the CRLC

**Week 5** – Making beeswax wraps: Meet in the greenhouse

**Week 6** – Litter Audit with Sustainable Schools: Meet in the CRLC

**Week 7** – Book Swap in the IC (13th of June)





## General Sustainability Reminders

Please remember to keep the heating below 22oC in order to maximise efficiency and not waste energy. Also make sure to switch the heating and lights off if you are the last one to leave the classroom.

Please recycle! See the following chart below if you are unsure what bin your rubbish goes in (this is to use both at school and at home): We also have an e-waste recycling bin in IT for all of your e-waste, so please drop it off here as e-waste cannot go in the landfill bin.



Waste Sorted Quick bin guide			
This is a quick guide for your landfill, recycling and green waste bins. Some things don't belong in household bins. Visit <a href="http://www.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia">www.act.gov.au/recyclopaedia</a> for other options.			
<b>Recycling</b> (Items loose and empty)	<b>Green waste</b> (or FOGO #1)	<b>Landfill</b> Drop off at Resource Management Centre (RMC) in Hurst or Mitchell. Disposal is free for many (but not all) items.	
<b>Other options</b>	<b>Bulky Waste</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>
Aerosol cans (empty)	Envelopes	Magazines	Sanitary products
Aluminium cans	E-waste (computers, printers, TVs)	Mattresses	Shredded paper
Aluminium foil trays	F	Meat trays (plastic film removed)	Steel tins and cans
Animal waste	Flowers	Mesh and netting	Straws
	Food scraps	Mobile phones	String and twine
<b>B</b>	Furniture	<b>N</b>	<b>T</b>
Baking paper		Nappies (disposable)	Tes bags
Batteries		Newspapers	Tetra packs (large) eg. 1L UHT milk
Berry punnets		<b>O</b>	Tetra packs (small) eg. juice boxes
Blister packs (all aluminium)	Garden hose	Oils (up to 20L)	Textiles
Blister packs (with plastic)	Garden vegetation	<b>P</b>	Toothbrush (batteries removed)
Bread tags	Gas bottles	Paint and paint tins (up to 100L)	Toothpaste tubes
Bubble wrap	Glass bottles	Paper (larger than a credit card)	Toys (broken)
Building materials	Glass jars	<b>I</b>	<b>V</b>
	Glass, mirrors, Pyrex (broken)	Ice cream containers	Vapes
<b>C</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>W</b>
Cables, cords	Junk mail (paper)	Kitty litter	Weeds
Cardboard boxes and rolls		<b>L</b>	White goods
Carton milk and juice		Laminated paper	Wipes
Chip and snack packets		Lids (larger than a credit card)	Wrapping paper
Chemicals		Lids (smaller than a credit card)	<b>Y</b>
Clear plastic takeaway containers		Light bulbs and tubes	Yoghurt and puree pouches
Cling wrap		Lighters	
Clothing/shoes (poor condition)			
Coffee cups			
Coffee pods			
Compostable cutlery			
Crockery and ceramics (broken)			

\*The FOGO pilot is currently in the suburbs of Belconnen, Bruce, Cook and Macquarie and in selected apartments and townhouses in Tuggeranong. FOGO helps to keep food scraps out of landfill.

**Why not reuse!** Don't forget you can always rehome preloved items. Check out your local [Goodies Junction](#), Buy Nothing Group, Gumtree, Marketplace or second-hand shop.

ACT Government For more information visit [act.gov.au/wastesorted](http://act.gov.au/wastesorted)

Everyday climate choices

Follow Along with Sustainability at Merici

Keep up with all things Sustainability at Merici by following us on Instagram at @merici.sustainability.

Thank you everyone!

Becca Price



# Transitions

## Term 1

Term 1 was filled with lots of events, excitement, and opportunities to bring our community together, and I'm thrilled to reflect on the fantastic experiences the transitions team hosted last term.

We started with Year 7 camp, an incredible opportunity for students to meet new people and bond with their year group. Later, we held our Year 7 and Seniors Movie Night, which was not only a great chance for students to connect but also raised funds for Caritas—thank you to everyone who contributed!

Through the new buddy program members of the Transitions Team have been working closely with new students and we hope to see this program further integrated into Merici. Additionally, the Transitions Team worked together to welcome and support future Merici girls through our multiple Talk and Tours, Open Night, and Be a Merici Girl days, giving them a glimpse into our amazing school community.



I would love to say a huge thank you to all the staff and students who helped make these events a success—your support and dedication means so much.

Over the past term, the transitions team has been doing an incredible job, and we're excited to continue creating meaningful experiences for both current and future Merici students. We've introduced new traditions that strengthen our school spirit, and we look forward to growing them even further. We cannot wait to see what the rest of the years looks like!



## Upcoming Events

Next term is shaping up to be an exciting one, with plenty of opportunities to come together as a school community.

Feel Good Fridays will hopefully be starting up again soon! Feel Good Fridays will help to boost school spirit at the end of each week with a variety of events that aim to lift spirits and build connections. Later in the term is World Friendship Day. This will be a chance to celebrate friendships and an opportunity to meet new people and friends. We also hope to see more school events such as another Movie Night, so that every year group can experience these activities and build new connections. We also have more Talk and Tours coming up and other opportunities for you to volunteer.



## Join the Transitions Team

It's not too late to get involved! The Transitions Team is always looking for enthusiastic students who want to help create a welcoming and supportive environment at Merici. We meet every second Tuesday at lunch in the CRLC, where we brainstorm ideas, plan events, and work together to make a positive impact on our school community. If you would like to join the Transitions Team please email me at: [weengl@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:weengl@merici.act.edu.au)

Thank you very much and wishing you all a lovely Term 2!

Georgia Ween

2025 Transitions Captain

