



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 2 February – Sunday 22 February)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

School Photo Day (Monday 2 March) and Catchup Day (Friday 13 March)

School Photo Day will be held on Monday 2 March for all students. A catchup day will be held on Friday 13 March for any student who is absent on Monday 2 March.

*Year 12 students will be having their formal group photo on MONDAY 2 MARCH at 9:00am on the oval. Please ensure you are wearing your blazer (no jerseys).*

Please ensure that your daughter is dressed in full summer uniform. The following blazer requirements are in place:

1. Junior dress – does not require blazer to be worn
2. Junior white shirt and blue shorts – blazer to be worn
3. Senior students – blazer to be worn.

Please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms> to find all uniform requirements.

A reminder that:

- Students may wear a maximum of two pairs of small sleeper/studs in the lobe of the ear only. No other items or piercings are permitted and students will be asked to remove these.

Please order your photos **prior** to Photo day here, <https://store.theschoolphotographer.com.au/>. Please enter the First Code **JWWK8ZT5** where required on the portal to proceed to the ordering page. Alternatively, you can access the online ordering portal by scanning the QR code displayed in the attached flyer.

Ordering of Sibling Photos will be temporarily disabled **one working day prior** to Photo Day. This enables us to supply the school with an up to date list of siblings to be photographed so nobody misses out. It is best to pay for your Sibling Photos and other photos now to avoid a late payment processing fee.

## Student ICT Acceptable Use Agreement – Parent Consent Required

To access school digital devices, applications, and networks, all students are required to follow the **Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Education & Merici College Student Acceptable Use Agreement**. This agreement supports the safety and privacy of every student.



### Parent/carer consent for ICT is provided via COMPASS

Before providing consent, please take the time to read the *Student Acceptable Use Agreement* and *Parent Acknowledgement* with your child. These documents are available under the **Resources** tab in Compass.

Once you have reviewed all information, please go to the **Questions** tab to complete the required items and submit your consent for your child to access digital devices, applications, and the school network.

#### Please note:

Students will be unable to access the school network or internet **beyond Week 5** if the agreement is not signed.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe online.

## WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

### Opening School Mass (Wednesday 25 February)

A very special Opening School Mass will be held on Wednesday 25 February for all students and staff commencing at 10:00am. Parents and friends are invited to view the Mass via livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/@mericicollege>.

### Moderation Day #1 (Tuesday 3 March)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 3 March. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice (Tertiary students only) from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Year 11 and 12 BSSS Accredited students do not need to attend. Year 11 IB Diploma students do not need to attend.

Year 12 IB Diploma students are required to attend school at 8.45am to 3.25pm for mock exams for World Religions and Italian. Diploma students may wear non-uniform.

### International Women's Day Soiree (Friday 6 March 5-7pm)

Don't miss out on our UN International Women's Day Celebration to be held in the Bridge Restaurant on Friday 6 March, 5-7pm.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Balance the Scales". This year, IWD 2026 focuses on dismantling structural barriers and achieving justice, safety and equality for all women and girls. Balance the Scales is a promise for every woman and girl to be safe, heard, and free to shape her own future. In 2026, unjust laws, policies, and ingrained barriers still stand in the way of fair and inclusive communities. This International Women's Day, we are calling on Australians to join a movement for real action – to transform our justice systems, amplify marginalised voices, and ensure equality is not the exception, but the rule. "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article*



We are thrilled to welcome our guest speakers **Vanessa Brettell and Hannah Costello, Co-founders of Cafe Stepping Stone and named 2025 Australian of the Year Local Heroes.**

Vanessa Brettell and Hannah Costello are harnessing the power of hospitality to lift and empower those most vulnerable in their community. Their business, Cafe Stepping Stone, operates as a social enterprise, employing women mostly from migrant and refugee backgrounds and others who experience significant

barriers to employment. The sustainable vegetarian café has two locations which offer culturally and linguistically diverse women employment pathways, on-the-job training and qualifications through partnerships with registered training organisations.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-soiree-f4gdzclv> and will close on Monday 2 March.

Cost:

Adults \$20

Students \$10

(includes canapes and drinks)

We look forward to celebrating this special event with you.



## PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

### School Survival Series



Students today have very busy schedules all-year round and it's a very different experience for the current generation. The digital revolution has changed the way kids learn and study, with information available to them 24 hours a day.

There are many strategies that students can implement to help them get through the school years but it is also important for parents understand how to support their child. This is essential during times of transition and exam time,

not only emotionally, but also practically. This series aims to offer parents, and students, advice on how to minimise stress levels and the overall impact on family life.

Every year, the media exposes us to the hype and pressure relating to school related stresses. However, putting things into perspective for students and parents alike, can help prevent everyone getting overwhelmed. Read more [here](#).

A reminder to parents to access SchoolTV, please click here, <https://merici.act.schooltv.me/>.

## COUNSELLORS CORNER

Seasons for Growth - Learning to live with change and loss.  
Expressions of Interest - Term 2



We are inviting Expressions of Interest from parents and carers of students in **Years 7-8** to participate in our *Seasons for Growth* program, commencing in Term 2.

**Seasons for Growth** is a small group program that aims to support young people who have experienced significant change or loss - such as family separation, death, or other major life transitions. The program helps participants understand and manage the impacts of change, build resilience, and strengthen their emotional wellbeing in a safe and supportive environment.

The program uses a wide range of age-appropriate activities to explore feelings, develop coping strategies, and foster connection with others who may have had similar experiences. It is important to note that this program is an educational program and not a counselling/therapeutic small group program.

If you believe your child would benefit from this opportunity, please complete the Expression of Interest form or scan the QR code below:



*Please note: completing this EOI does not guarantee placement, but it allows us to gauge interest and plan appropriately. Families of selected students will be contacted closer to the end of the Term with further details.*

If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss further, please contact us at [counsellors@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellors@merici.act.edu.au)

Xian & Chelsea, Merici School Counsellors

## School Counselling Referrals 2026

A very warm welcome back to all students and families - we hope everyone had a restful break and is looking forward to a positive and engaging year ahead in 2026.

For new students and families, we have two dedicated College Counsellors at Merici – Xian and Chelsea. School counselling at Merici is a **short-term support service** designed to assist students experiencing socioemotional challenges that may be impacting their wellbeing, learning, or engagement at school. More information about school counselling is available via the [Counsellor's Corner](#).

School counselling is not a drop-in service, and all students require a referral before sessions can be scheduled. If there are concerns about a student's wellbeing, we encourage students and families to first connect with their **PC teacher and/or House Coordinator**, who can help determine the next steps. If further support is needed, a referral can then be submitted via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ER9DpqM3Ww>

Please note that students **under 14 years of age require parent/guardian consent** to access school counselling. As we begin a new school year, **all students will need a new referral**, even if they accessed counselling support in 2025 or in previous years.

## YEARS 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

### Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students will be attending a camp in Week 7 of this Term at The AGH Camps. The details are as follows:

**Date:** Wednesday 18 March to Friday 20 March.

**Venue:** AGH Camps

**Depart:** 8.00am for 8.30am departure. Students are to meet in the AUD when they arrive at the College.

**Return:** Approximately 3.00 pm

The Year 7 Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop relationships with their peers and enjoy diverse experiences outside of the formal school setting. It is expected that all students will attend the Camp. Students will be involved in various activities at the Camp for which all equipment will be provided. The cost of the Camp is included in Term One school fees and covers all expenses including activities, accommodation, meals, and transport.

### Dietary requirements and food for the trip

All meals and delicious snacks will be provided. Students are asked to bring morning tea for the first day. Students will need to have access to these in a day pack. Please detail any dietary requirements when completing permission via Compass.

### Cabin Allocation and Activities Groups

Students will stay in cabin style accommodation. Each student will share cabin and activity groups with students from their own PC and House group. The aim is to make every student feel comfortable and to have the opportunity to make new friends. Students will be participating in various activities including, bush hike, low ropes, high ropes, orienteering, team building challenges and initiatives. Merici teachers and qualified instructors will supervise all activities.

*An external organisation involved in an event (AGH Camps) may request you or your child to sign a document as a condition of participation. Such documents contain provisions (such as waiver, release or indemnity provisions) that may remove or limit rights which your child or you have relating to personal injury, damage or loss of any kind suffered, whether arising from negligence or otherwise. Whether you sign is a matter for your decision.*

### Equipment/Packing List

A detailed packing list will be sent out to families closer to the date of departure and will also be available on SEQTA.

### Electronic Devices

It is recommended that students do not take electronic devices such as phones. If there is a need to contact your child or a member of staff, please contact (02) Students will also be permitted to use this phone to contact parents should the need arise.

### Medication

If your daughter requires medication to be dispensed whilst on Camp, please complete and return the relevant forms by **6 March 2026**.

Should your child require medication to be administered during camp (including Panadol and Nurofen), please package this in a sealed plastic bag and on the morning of camp and given to your Daughter's House Coordinator.

Epipens and Asthma sprays may be held by the student, but please provide the First Aid Officer with any extra instructions for usage. The bag should be clearly labelled with the student's name and dosage requirements. Please ensure that you have returned the appropriate medication consent forms prior to your child's departure for camp. In an anticipation of increased pollen levels, it is also recommended that if your daughter suffers from hay fever that they bring antihistamine medication.

To confirm your daughter's attendance at Camp, please give permission via Compass and complete the required dietary and medical information no later the **Monday 2 March 2026**.

We anticipate that the Year 7 Camp will be a positive and memorable experience for each student in the year group. Normal College conduct will be expected, and the AGH safety rules will also apply. Parents will be contacted and asked to collect their daughters if any serious misbehaviour occurs.

## YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

### Senior Study and Driving to School

To encourage responsibility and safeguarding of all members of the Merici community, the College has several protocols that apply to senior students when leaving the College during study periods and driving to and from school. The responsibilities of students and procedures are outlined below.

#### Year 11 Students

In Term One, Year 11 Students must attend the College from 9.00am each school day and Pastoral Class, long PC and all scheduled classes must be attended. They are permitted to sign out of the College after lunch if they have a Study period in 6.

From Term Two, Students must attend the College from 9.00am and attend Pastoral Class on the days they have a scheduled class in Period One. All scheduled classes, Long PC and Assemblies must be attended.

#### Year 12 Students

Students must attend the College from 9.00am and attend Pastoral Class on the days they have a scheduled class in Period One. All scheduled classes, Long PC and Assemblies must be attended.

#### Signing In/Out Procedures

All Senior Students are to sign out at Student Services when they leave the College grounds during their study periods. This is critical to the College in maintaining knowledge of each student's presence. If students return to the College during the same school day, they are required to sign back in. Failure to sign in and out may lead to a withdrawal of the privilege of leaving for study periods.

**If you do not give permission or consent to your daughter leaving the Campus during Studie periods – please indicate this via the Questions section on COMPASS.**

#### Driving Privileges

Senior students are granted the privilege of driving to school once they have obtained their driver's licence. We encourage students to register their vehicle so that we can monitor and contact them directly in case of emergencies, damages, or issues with parking in the Senior Car Park.

The conditions under which students are permitted to drive on College property and sign out apply to all student drivers. These privileges are conditional, and should a student breach any of the conditions outlined below, the privileges may be withdrawn.

#### **Students must:**

- Acknowledge and agree to the Merici College Driver's Agreement via Compass
- Always demonstrate safe driving behaviour.
- Park in the student car park only.
- Be in the car park only when arriving at or departing school and not during study periods or at recess and lunch.

#### Passengers in Cars

Passengers in cars on the journey to and from the College remain the responsibility of parents and student drivers. Please ensure that you have advised your daughter with whom they may or may not travel. Under the

CE guidelines, students should not transport other students on school-related activities including school organised events unless they have permission granted by the Principal.

## IB NEWS

### Moderation Day Tuesday 3 March – IB students

Year 11 IB Diploma students do not need to attend school on Tuesday 3 March.

Year 12 IB Diploma students are required to attend school at 8.45am to 3.25pm for mock exams for World Religions and Italian. Diploma Students may wear non-uniform.



### Personal Project

When students are registered for the Personal Project, details such as their nationality and language must be recorded. To ensure this information is accurate, please email [jodie.muldoon@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jodie.muldoon@merici.act.edu.au) if any of the following apply:

- The student's first nationality is not Australian (please identify their first nationality)
- The student's first language is not English (please identify their first language)
- The student has a second nationality and/or second language (please identify).

### IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)

At the centre of the MYP programme model (below) is the student. The first ring around this describes the *features* of the programme that help students develop *disciplinary (and interdisciplinary) understanding*.

Many of these features – namely, concepts, global contexts, and approaches to learning – appear on the MYP Unit Outlines for Years 7-10, and are used to guide the development, teaching and learning of each unit.



Unit Outlines are released for all subjects in Years 7-10 by the end of Week 3 each semester. They outline the key learning and assessment that will occur during the semester. Below you will find a sample Unit Outline with annotations describing each of these MYP programme model features in more depth, along with other important elements.



### Merici College Year 7 & 8 Outline MYP 3

Subject	Science	Year	2024
Unit Title	Working Scientifically and Chemical Science	Semester	1
Year Level	7	MYP Subject Group	Group 4: Science

Teachers	Jo Aboud, Vicki Goss, Kath Morris, Carolyn Stanhope, Sonia Johnson
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Middle Years Programme		
Key Concept	Related Concepts	Global Context
Logic	Evidence Quantity	Scientific and technical innovation  Exploration Systems models, methods, products, processes and solutions
Statement of Inquiry		
We use logic and evidence to describe and quantify relationships and to connect systems and solutions		

ATL
Research Skills

Description of Unit Learning
In this unit of work, students will describe techniques to separate pure substances from mixtures and situations where scientific knowledge from different science disciplines and diverse cultures has been used to solve a real-world problem. They will explain possible implications of the solution for different groups in society.
Students will identify questions that can be investigated scientifically, plan fair experimental methods and identify variables to be changed and measured. They will select equipment that improves fairness and accuracy and describe how they considered safety. Students will draw on evidence to support their conclusions. They will summarise data from different sources, describe trends and refer to the quality of their data when suggesting improvements to their methods. They will communicate their ideas, methods and findings using scientific language and appropriate representations.

There are **eight subject groups** in the MYP. One or more **subjects** may be delivered and assessed within a subject group.

Each subject group has a set of **criteria** which guide assessment tasks. These will be explored in a future What's On newsletter.

**Key & related concepts, global context & exploration, and ATL skills** are selected for our specific units from IB MYP guides.

**Key concepts** help students explore big ideas that matter, while **related concepts** linked with individual subjects provide subject-specific depth.

**Global contexts** provide a 'lens' through which to understand the relevance and importance of a unit, while **explorations** are used to provide more specific context.

These elements come together in our **Statement of Inquiry**, which guides the learning in the unit.

**ATL skills** are skills that are explicitly taught to help students become self-regulated learners.

The **Description of Unit Learning** outlines the content taken from Australian Curriculum and how we are covering it at Merici.

Event	Date	Information
MYP Assessment Workshop	26 February 6 :00pm - 7:15pm	This workshop is aimed at families with daughters in Year 7-10 who are <b>new to the College</b> . Parents are invited to attend with their daughters to gain some understanding into the way student work is assessed and how rubrics are used. Please see below information.

## Year 7 and New Year 8-10 Families – IB MYP Workshop (Thursday 26 February)

We warmly invite you and your daughter to attend our upcoming workshop designed for families of students in Years 7–10 who are **new** to Merici College.

The workshop will be held on Thursday 26 February at 6.00pm-7.15pm in the auditorium.

This session will introduce how assessment works within the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) framework. Families will gain insight into how student work is assessed, how criteria-based rubrics are used, and how these approaches support learning, progress, and wellbeing across the MYP years.

Please register your attendance at <https://events.humanitix.com/ib-myp-parent-workshop-for-year-7-and-new-families>. Registrations close Monday 2 March.



### Key Dates

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 11 students.

Event	Date	Information
CAS / Extended Essay Information Session	TBC  6:00 - 7:00pm	For Y11 students and parents. This online session will outline the DP requirements for two parts of the 'Core'.  Formal invitation to be sent out nearer the time.

This is a list of some key dates for IB Year 12 students.

Event	Date	Information
Exam information Session	1st April  6:00 - 7:00pm	For Y12 students and parents. This online session will outline the requirements of IB Diploma formal exams  Formal invitation to be sent out nearer the time.
World Religions Mock Exams	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	All DP Y12 students are to attend school on Moderation Day to sit a full run through of exam papers for practice. Any additional time available once exams are complete will be spent on working on the Extended Essay. Students to bring own lunch, but morning tea to be provided. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.
Italian Mock Exams	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y12 Italian students to attend school to complete Practice Exams for Italian. Students do not need to wear school uniform for this day and will not attend classes.

World Religion IA draft due	6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Religion IA Final submission due
Italian Final IB Exams	6-7 May	Italian Students will sit their official IB exams. The 5 <sup>th</sup> will be a study day.
World Religion Final IB Exams	13–14 May	All Y12 DP students to sit their official IB exams. The 12 <sup>th</sup> will be a study day

## MISSION AND COMMUNITIY NEWS

### Gift of Life Walk (Tuesday 17 March 7.15am)

On Tuesday, 17 March, Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>). The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation awareness. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more (see attached flyer). Thousands of Canberrans are expected to take part in their own walks, either individually or as a team, to show their support for this cause. Please refer to the Gift of Life Inc. website for further details (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).

The walk will take place on the Merici College Oval from 7:15 am – 8:30 am, students are encouraged to walk up to 5km. REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL for our walkers to enjoy a cooked breakfast at no cost after the walk. REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL for students to receive a free 'Gift of Life' t-shirt or hat. Students who have participated in previous years are encouraged to wear t-shirts and hats that they have already received.

Registered students will be permitted to wear Gift of Life or DonateLife Walk t-shirts and hats for the school day with their sports uniform shorts/tracksuit pants on Tuesday, 17 March. Please do not wear non-uniform items such as track pants and shorts (only school uniform allowed). If students wear the incorrect school uniform, they will NOT be allowed to participate in the walk.


Parents are required to complete the permission note on Compass to register before Friday 14 March.

On the day of the event, don't forget to sign in at one of our registration tables on the oval and collect your registration wristband, as well as confirm your Christian Service Hours allocation.

The DonateLife Walk is a good opportunity to discuss your thoughts on tissue and organ donation with your family and friends and to register your donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register at [www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au) or [www.donorregister.gov.au](http://www.donorregister.gov.au) (donations cannot go ahead without the consent of family).

## An evening of Dialogue with Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB

Parents and Carers are warmly invited to a special evening of dialogue hosted by Marist College Canberra featuring internationally respected spiritual teacher Fr Laurence Freeman OSB.

 Tuesday 10 March  
 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm  
 Marist College Canberra

Fr Laurence is a Benedictine monk and Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, a global and ecumenical contemplative community. With a background that includes work with the United Nations and extensive experience in education and spiritual formation, he brings deep wisdom and a gentle, thoughtful presence to conversations about faith and contemporary life.

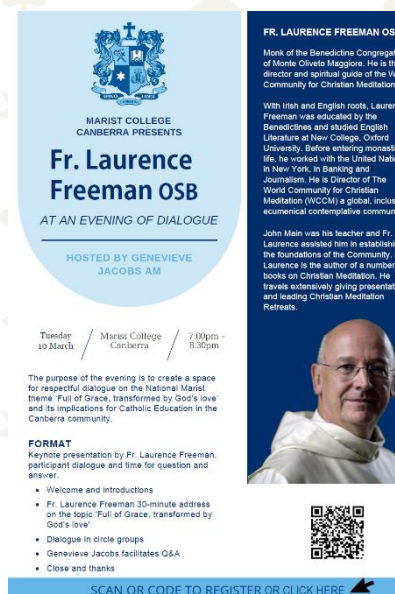
The purpose of the evening is to create a space for respectful dialogue around the National Marist theme: “Full of Grace, transformed by God’s love” and what this means for Catholic education within the Canberra community.

### Evening Format

The event will include:

- A 30-minute keynote address by Fr Laurence
- Small group dialogue
- A Q&A session facilitated by Genevieve Jacobs AM
- Time for reflection and shared conversation

This event promises to be a rich and engaging evening for parents, educators and members of our wider Catholic community. Registrations are essential. Please scan the QR code on the flyer or use the registration link provided to secure your place.



## HPE NEWS

### Canberra Day Appeal Fun Run (Monday 9 March)

Hands Across Canberra has launched the Canberra Day Appeal 2026, bringing together 86 local charities with a shared goal of raising \$750,000 to support vulnerable individuals and families across the ACT.

You are invited to be part of this important community-wide initiative, starting with the Canberra Day Appeal Fun Run— a fun, inclusive event suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Event details

- Date: Monday, 9 March 2026
- Location: Lake Burley Griffin / Lennox Gardens
- Courses: 5km or 10km
- Time: 7:30 am start



How can you get involved?

1. Join the Fun Run - Register to walk or run with friends and family. No fundraising is required upfront — simply pay the registration fee and take part in a positive community event. Register [HERE](#)

2. Support the Canberra Day Appeal - If running isn't your preference, there are other ways to contribute:

- Make a direct donation to the Canberra Day Appeal, helping Hands Across Canberra provide vital matched funding to local charities by visiting the fundraising site

or

- Donate to a participating charity that is meaningful to you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support our local community, promote wellbeing, and contribute to meaningful change across Canberra.

## TLC NEWS

### News from the TLC

The MASTERS Program (Merici After School Tutoring Enrichment Review and Study) has taken off! We are in the process of employing some new tutors to attend after school to assist students with their academic needs. Mrs Logan is also available to assist all students who attend.

Students have been encouraged to register their interest each week so we are able to assist them in providing support. The link for them to register is available in SEQTA in the daily notices as well as: [2026 MASTERS Booking Form – Fill out form](#)

This week we have also welcomed into the space, year 7 IHUM and year 8-10 English classes. Students have learned how to access Oliver and some of the services and opportunities we have available in the TLC.

A reminder that the TLC is a welcoming and student centred space where all students can access reading materials, research opportunities and resources to assist them with their studies. All students are encouraged to seek assistance from the staff in the TLC before school, at lunchtime and after school.

Did you know we are open from 8-5pm Monday-Thursday (8-4pm Friday)?

**MASTERS PROGRAM**  
Merici After School Tutoring Enrichment Review and Study

**When?**  
Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-5pm

**Where?**  
TLC (Teaching and Learning Centre)

**TUTORING**  
You can receive 1-1 assistance with one of our trained and qualified tutors!  
Need help? Just ask Mrs Logan!

**STUDY**  
How about getting started on your homework or assessment tasks?  
Need help? Just ask Mrs Logan!

**ORGANISE**  
Get yourself set up for success! not sure where to start or need some help organising your thoughts?  
Need Help? Just ask Mrs Logan!

**LET'S STUDY TOGETHER!**  
REGISTER BELOW OR ON SEQTA

QR Code

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

### CIT's EV Awareness Days – March 2026

CIT will be hosting a EV Awareness Day event this March for students, designed to give a hands-on, engaging introduction to electric vehicle technology, sustainability pathways, and future career options in the EV industry. These events are ideal for students with interests in STEM, sustainability, engineering, innovation, or hands-on learning.

#### EV Awareness Day – Women in EV

Date: Thursday 12 March 2026

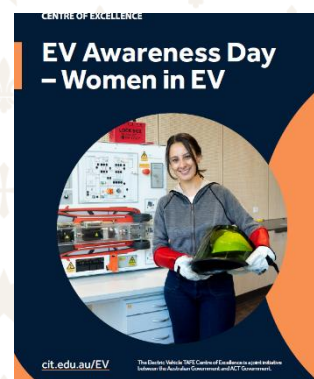
Location: CIT Woden EV Facility, Building A, Room AG08,  
36 Bradley Street, Phillip ACT 2606

This event supports young women interested in technology, sustainability and future careers in the EV sector. Students will meet women currently working and teaching in the industry and get a close-up look at EV technology and training pathways.

Free to attend, and registrations are essential. For more information, please visit <https://cit.edu.au/citevents/ev-awareness-day-women-in-ev>. Register by scanning the QR code.

**Register now**

Registration essential



## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Merici Netball – Try-out session (Saturday 21 February)

Merici Netball is holding a try-out session for new players on Saturday 21 February.

Who should attend? We are running the session specifically for students, in years 7 to 12, who want to play netball but didn't play netball for Merici in 2025. This includes students who have not played netball before.

When and where is it on? The session is on Saturday 21 February and will run from 9.00 am until 1.00pm. It will be held at the college outdoor multi-purpose courts. Sign-on is from 9.00 to 9.30am, with games commencing by 9.45am.

Why are we having a try-out session? Merici Netball's aim is to form balanced teams by placing each player into a team that best matches their skills and ability. The try-out session enables us to assess the skills of players who are new to Merici Netball.

All new players are encouraged to participate in the try-out session. Participating in the session enables the fairest assessment of a player's ability.

Players who are unable to attend the session will be assessed based on their most recent known netball history. Information about your netball history will be collected through the registration process.

What to expect? When you arrive, you will sign-on and provide information about your netball experience. You will have a player number written on your leg. You will play several short games of netball. You may be asked to play in positions that are different from your preferences. Parents won't be allowed inside the courts.

Tips for players

Arrive in plenty of time to sign-on and catch-up with your friends.

Come prepared:

- Wear comfortable clothes and sports shoes.
- Don't wear jewellery, including earrings, bracelets, anklets, rings, and necklaces.
- Apply sunscreen and bring a hat.
- Bring a full water bottle and a snack.

Tips for parents

Get your daughter to the courts in plenty of time to sign-on.

Players are expected to stay until the end of the session.

There is no need for you to stay, and you will not be allowed onto the courts once the games commence.

No filming or photography is allowed.

Be on time to pick up your daughter at the end of the session.

What is happening about registration? All northside netball clubs are waiting on advice from the North Canberra Netball Competition committee about when the registration system will be available. All Merici families and students will be notified as soon as we are able to open registration.

If you have questions

If you have questions about the try-out session, please email [mericinetball@gmail.com](mailto:mericinetball@gmail.com).

**Hockey ACT Come and Try Weekend (Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March)**

Hockey ACT's Come and Try Weekend is back in 2026 and we are excited for another fun year of hockey!

**What is Come and Try?** Come & Try Weekend is Hockey ACT's annual event which kicks off our outdoor junior registration drive. Designed to provide the Capital region community with a taster of what the sport of hockey can offer, and an easy introduction to our Club structure.

Location	Date	Time	
Northside	National Hockey Centre, Lyneham	Saturday 28th February 2026	9am - 12pm
Southside	Tuggeranong Hockey Park, Greenway	Sunday 1st March 2026	9am - 12pm

More information can be found at this link: <https://www.hockeyact.org.au/events/327902>

## OTHER NEWS

the brown collective

**ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP  
IN A CRAZY WORLD:  
A MASTER CLASS**

Bought to you by Dr Stephen Brown, Managing Director, The Brown Collective.


**WORKSHOP  
OVERVIEW**

The one day workshop will be a deep dive into the popular adaptive leadership framework as taught by Dean Williams and Ron Heifetz at Harvard Kennedy School. For groups or institutions to progress they must make critical adaptations in some aspects of their values, behaviour, or priorities. This is demanding and complex work as it is often accompanied by "work avoidance" and resistance. Leadership is needed to get attention, generate and sustain pressure or disequilibrium, to harness diversity of voice and perspective, and to ignite the creative process that ultimately can produce a breakthrough outcome or a critical adaptation that opens up new possibilities for change, action, or accomplishment.

Dean Williams will present the master class, and a comprehensive competency model for the exercise of adaptive leadership.

"The work of Dean Williams and Ronald Heifetz on Adaptive Leadership has been one of most significant influences on my formation as a leader."

—Dr Stephen Brown



**ABOUT DEAN WILLIAMS**

Dean taught at Harvard for 20 years and spent 6 years as a graduate student. He has written two best selling books, *Real Leadership*, and *Leadership for a Fractured World*. He has consulted with corporations and governments all around the world. He was the leadership coach to the President of Timor Leste in its transition to Independence. He also spent 6 years as the chief adviser to the President of Madagascar.

Dean is originally from Geelong, Victoria. While he has consulted all over the world, he has also done a considerable amount of work in Australia, and that has included leading the transformation process of Suncorp, and being the lead consultant in the late 1990s for the reform of Education Queensland. At Harvard, Dean also led a major initiative, funded by the Wallace-Woodward Digest Foundation, for the development of superintendents of education in large cities in the United States. He was also the creator and director of the Global Change Agent program at the Harvard Kennedy School, and was a founding member of the Center for Public Leadership.

### Dean Williams Adaptive Leadership in a Crazy World: A Master Class (Friday 15 May)

The one day workshop will be a deep dive into the popular adaptive leadership framework as taught by Dean Williams and Ron Heifetz at Harvard Kennedy School. For groups or institutions to progress they must make critical adaptations in some aspects of their values, behaviour, or priorities. This is demanding and complex work as it is often accompanied by "work avoidance" and resistance. Leadership is needed to get attention, generate and sustain pressure or disequilibrium, to harness diversity of voice and perspective, and to ignite the creative process that ultimately can produce a breakthrough outcome or a critical adaptation that opens up new possibilities for change, action, or accomplishment. Dean Williams will present the master class, and a comprehensive competency model for the exercise of adaptive leadership. Please click [here](#) for more information.

The Master Class will be held at Merici College on Friday 15 May, 9:00am-4:00pm. To register please contact [helen@thebrowncollective.com.au](mailto:helen@thebrowncollective.com.au) or phone 0427219664.

### A Little Mermaid – Student Achievement

We congratulate Ania Carloff (Year 10) who is performing as Ariel in the musical *The Little Mermaid Jr* at Canberra College Theatre in the April school holidays. Tickets are available here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1432820>. We wish Ania all the very best with her performance.

Disney's Little Mermaid



### School Sport ACT Bulletin Issue #1

Please click [here](#) to find important information on School Sport events.

## Black Dog Institute - Empowering Parents & Carers to support teen mental health

An invitation is extended to parents and carers interested in learning more about teen mental health to attend **upcoming free mental health webinars**, designed to provide practical tools, strategies, and insights to help them support the young people in their lives.

### Upcoming dates:

Tuesday 17th February @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)

Monday 23rd March @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)

Tuesday 28th April @ 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)

Tuesday 26th May @ 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)

Thursday 25th June @ 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)



**Who is this for?**  
Parents, Carers, and Guardians of teen-aged youth.

**What will parents learn?**

- Understanding mental health in adolescence, including insights from the Future Proofing Study
- What is mental health and when to be concerned
- Key strategies to support adolescents
- Having the conversation – what to say and how to create a supportive environment
- Getting help – health professionals, online and digital support for parents and adolescents
- Promoting healthy habits – including building connections, sleep, and screen use

**How long is the webinar?**  
90 minutes, including Q&A.

**Available dates**

- Tuesday 17th February, 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)
- Monday 23rd March, 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)
- Tuesday 28th April, 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)
- Tuesday 26th May, 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)
- Thursday 25th June, 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)

## A Practical, Government-Funded Financial Literacy Resource - Saver Plus

Saver Plus is a Government-funded financial literacy program that supports parents and carers with building stronger money skills for the year ahead. Joining now means families can prepare early for 2027 school costs and build confidence for future years.

### What is Saver Plus?

Saver Plus is a *free, government-funded* financial literacy and savings program for individuals and families on lower incomes. It helps participants strengthen their financial confidence, develop long-lasting savings habits, and reduce the pressure of school-related expenses. Since 2003, Saver Plus has supported more than **65,000 Australians**, helping families build financial skills that set them up for long-term success.

### Who is eligible?

Participants need to:

- Have not completed Saver Plus before
- Have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Receive an eligible [Centrelink payment](#)
- Be studying themselves **or** have a child in school (including children starting next year)
- Have regular income (themselves or their partner), including Carer Payment, Child Support, or cash-in-hand work, etc
- Be 18+ years old
- Take part in free online Money Minded workshops



**Saver Plus gives you down-to-earth money talk - and a \$500 incentive to build your savings!**

**If you save up to \$50 a month for 10 months (the length of the program), ANZ will double it.**

**What can the \$500 be spent on?**

- Laptops and tablets
- Vocational education
- Books and supplies
- Uniforms and shoes
- Lessons and activities
- Camps and excursions

**Get up to \$500 for education costs.**

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months and ANZ will match it up to \$500.

**saverplus**

[saverplus.org.au](https://saverplus.org.au)  
1300 610 355

**To join Saver Plus**

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a Health Care or Pensioner Card
- ✓ Be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

**Saver Plus supports people to develop life-long savings habits.** It's delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry St Yooralla. It's funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.

[saverplus.org.au](https://saverplus.org.au) 1300 610 355