



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 26 October – Sunday 8 November)

IMPORTANT NEWS



PART 2 OF 5

Understanding Our Approach to Bullying Behaviour

What will change for families?

Last time, we explained why schools are strengthening their approach to bullying behaviour. This article looks at what families can expect from Term 1, 2027.

Schools will follow the CACGEL Anti-Bullying Policy. Each school will also publish its own Anti-Bullying Statement of Practice on its website. This will explain the school's procedures, including how to report a concern.

Schools will use a process to assess concerns, respond to safety needs, record actions and follow up. When bullying behaviour is reported or observed, schools are expected to make reasonable efforts to begin a response within two school days. Please be mindful that this does not mean every review will be completed in that time. Some concerns require further conversations and careful consideration of the information available.

Next time, we'll explain how schools distinguish bullying behaviour from other harmful behaviour.

We're Moving to Compass!

Last term we announced that our school will be transitioning to Compass in Term 1, 2027. Compass will provide families with a single place to access important school information.

Through Compass, parents and carers will be able to:

- View attendance information
- Submit absence notifications
- Receive school communications
- Complete permission forms
- View timetables and upcoming events

SEQTA, the current school Learning Management System, will continue to be used for:

- Information related to class content,
- Unit outlines
- Student results and reports.

Over the coming weeks, we will share information and resources to help students, families, and staff prepare for the change. We look forward to working together to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Early in the new year, we will offer support sessions for families who would like assistance navigating Compass. These sessions will provide an opportunity to work through the platform with a staff member and ask any questions you may have.

In the meantime, we will be sharing a series of helpful "How-To" guides. We encourage you to save these resources, as they may be useful to refer back to when you begin using Compass or whenever you need assistance with a particular feature.

Notification of Leaving Students

If your daughter will be leaving Merici College at the end of the year, please ensure you notify her House Coordinator and Pastoral Care teacher as soon as possible. Providing early notification assists the College with planning and enables us to offer places at Merici College to students currently on our waitlist.

Please note that at least two weeks' notice is required to avoid incurring additional fees.

Uniform Shop

The new Uniform Shop in Dickson is now open for business at Unit 2, 16 Woolley Street (opposite Vinnies Dickson).

Shop operating hours:

- Tuesday: 7:00am - 12:30pm
- Wednesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 2:00pm
- Friday: 1:00pm - 6:00pm
- Saturday: 9:00am - 2:00pm

For more information on uniform requirements, please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/resources/uniforms/>.



School Student Travel Information for Parents and Students

Applications for 2027 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel are now open.

Students must re-apply or update their details as soon as possible if they:

- are changing schools or campus location
- are changing home address
- are repeating a year
- have received an expiry notification for their school travel entitlement.

Students who meet the distance eligibility requirements will have their entitlement updated automatically. Students who no longer meet the distance requirements will receive an expiry notification. Please note that minimum distance requirements vary depending on the year/grade the student is enrolling in.

School Travel Passes

Students living in rural and regional areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home.

Note: Some rural and regional operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of use

Students must show their school travel pass when travelling within the approved times between 6.30am and 7.00pm from Monday to Friday on school days only. Cards are personal and cannot be shared.

All students are required to comply with the Student code of conduct. The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Auslan Learning Club



The SRC is excited to announce that, in partnership with the Inclusive Education Department, we will be running Merici College's first- ever Auslan Learning Club.

Ever wanted to learn sign language?

Wanted to become a more inclusive communicator?

And have fun?

The Auslan Learning Club is for you!

When: Friday lunchtimes

Starting on the Friday 16 October 2026

Where: Room 201 (CRLC)

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIPS SchoolTV NEWS

Depression and Young People

Depression is a serious mental health condition that can affect how children and young people think, feel and engage with the world around them. While emotional ups and downs are a normal part of growing up, persistent changes in mood, behaviour or social connections may signal something more concerning. Recognising the early warning signs, maintaining open communication and providing a supportive environment are essential. With compassion, understanding and early intervention, parents and caregivers can play...read more [here](#).

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



Counsellors Corner

To ensure that we can effectively wrap up existing support and action external referrals for students currently engaged in counselling, we will not be taking any new referrals as of **Week 7 (i.e., from 23 November)**. After this point, any new referrals will be directed back to the student's House Coordinator for further guidance and support. We will continue to liaise with the pastoral care team regarding any urgent matters for students during this period; however, please be aware that we will be unable to commence 1:1 school counselling sessions with new students after this cut-off date.

Additionally, all counselling cases for 2026 will be closed on Friday 11 December (a reminder this is also our last day of seeing students). As the new year approaches, please be aware that any request for counselling in 2027 will be considered a new referral, as a new year can often bring new challenges, stressors, and concerns. This includes students who have previously accessed counselling in 2026 or previous years.

The referral process remains the same, referrals can be made by speaking with your child's PC teacher, House Co-ordinator or by emailing us at counsellors@merici.act.edu.au. Students under 14 years old will require parent/guardian consent to participate in school counselling. For additional information regarding school counselling, please see: [Counsellor's Corner – Merici College](#)

Additionally, be aware that the school counsellors will be out of office over the summer break from 21 December 2026 and returning on 1 February 2027.

Additional support avenues over the school holidays:

It is natural to feel overwhelmed or anxious during the holidays. If you notice that you are struggling, make sure that you reach out to friends and family so that they can support you. In addition, we would encourage you reach out to the following services for professional support:

- Kids Helpline (24/7): 1800 55 1800 or WebChat ([About WebChat Counselling | Kids Helpline](#))
- Lifeline (24/7): 13 11 14 (call) or 0477 13 11 14 (text)
- Beyond Blue (24/7): 1300 22 4636 or Webchat ([Beyond Blue Webchat Support Service - Beyond Blue](#))
- MindMap mental health portal for young people - <https://www.mindmap.act.gov.au/>
- Access Mental Health Line ACT (24/7): 1800 629 354
- NSW Mental Health Line (24/7): 1800 011 511

All the best, *Chelsea & Xian, Merici School Counsellors*

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN Testing dates have been confirmed for 2027

At Merici NAPLAN testing will run in Week 6 and 7, with initial testing 10-16 March followed by catch up days.

Further information for families who will have a student in Year 9 next year is available [here](#).

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 Exams 10 - 11 November

Semester 2 exams for Year 10 will be held on Tuesday, 10 November and Wednesday, 11 November. The exams will be held in the College Auditorium, with some students in alternate spaces based on the assessment provisions in their Personal Plans.

Please see below for the exam schedule, noting that students will need to attend PC briefly each morning to have their attendance recorded.

Wednesday 10 June:

PC	Attend PC
Periods 1 and 2	English exam
Recess	As normal
Periods 3 and 4	Classes as per the normal timetable
Lunch	Students sitting in C1/C2 or the Hub start at 1:10 pm
Periods 5 and 6	Mathematics exam

Thursday 11 June:

PC	Attend PC
Periods 1 and 2	Science exam
Recess	As normal
Periods 3 and 4	Classes as per the normal timetable
Lunch	As normal
Periods 5 and 6	Classes as per the normal timetable

Importantly, as a formal assessment period, please email Mrs Stephanie Spiller, Senior Studies Coordinator (stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au) if your daughter is unwell on either day. They will need a medical certificate to cover the absence and have the exam rescheduled. Select pharmacies can provide these, as it is often difficult to get a GP appointment on short notice. A [Statutory Declaration](#) can be used if it is not possible to secure a medical certificate.

Please let Mrs Spiller know if you have any questions about the upcoming exam period.

BSSS Exams Thursday 12 November - Thursday 19 November

Semester 2 exams for BSSS Students will be held between Thursday, 12 November and Thursday, 19 November. The exams will be held in the College Auditorium, except for students with alternate assessment provisions in their Personal Plans.

Students will be emailed individual exam timetables, which will list the date, time, and location of each exam. Students are expected to attend all exams. They are not required to be at school outside of their exams, and no BSSS classes will run during this week. Please note that there has been an update to our College exam processes, and BSSS students are now required to wear full school uniform during exam week.

Importantly, as a formal assessment period, your daughter will need to email Mrs Stephanie Spiller, Senior Studies Coordinator (stephanie.spiller@merici.act.edu.au) if they are unwell on the day of any scheduled exam. They will need a medical certificate to cover the absence and have the exam rescheduled, if possible. Select pharmacies can provide these, as it is often difficult to get a GP appointment on short notice. A [Statutory Declaration](#) can be used if it is not possible to secure a medical certificate.

The last official day of term for Year 11 BSSS students is Checking Day, Monday, 23 November. Attendance is compulsory, and the day will run on an adjusted timetable to ensure students can confirm individual assessment results with all teachers.

Exam protocol reminders for Year 10 and BSSS students

- Students sitting exams in the Auditorium or C1/C2 need to be assembled in the New Quad 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of their exam.
- Students must arrive with any specified equipment or resources, e.g., flagged novel, calculator, dictionary (AST)
- Students are not permitted to bring bags, mobile phones, or smartwatches into the exam rooms.
- Students arriving within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time may sit the paper; however, no extra time will be given.
- Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the exam will need to provide supporting documentation to have their exam rescheduled.
- Students must be in full school uniform during the exam block

Senior Psychology Excursion - Escape Rooms (Tuesday 27 October)

Senior Psychology students have been studying the unit Cognition and Emotions. As part of this unit, students have the opportunity to participate in an immersive, interactive escape room experience at Escape Rooms Canberra during their double lesson on Tuesday 27 October. This experience will allow students to better understand and apply cognitive psychological concepts related to thinking, decision-making, group problem-solving, heuristics and biases, selective attention/perception, and memory (e.g., working memory).

Senior Studies Reminders

BSSS Students: What to do when you are absent on the day of a scheduled assessment

1. Parent notification to Student Services as per the usual process
2. If possible, you need to email your teacher and let them know.
3. A medical certificate is required if you miss a scheduled assessment - please send this through to Student Services and Mrs Spiller as soon as possible. If you cannot book an appointment with your GP, a Pharmacy certificate is acceptable for school-based assessment.
4. Complete the [formal application for an extension](#) to book your catch-up assessment.

Please note that if you do not provide a medical certificate, the missed assessment will not be rescheduled and will be treated as a non-attempt.

BSSS Students: What to do when you know in advance that you will miss a scheduled in-class assessment

1. Leave needs to be approved in advance. Parent notification to Student Services, outlining the dates, reason for leave, and documentary evidence. Please note, leave can only be approved for the reasons outlined in the [Merici College Attendance Processes](#).

Please note, there is no need to apply for leave if you already have approval for an ongoing arrangement, e.g., a school event, excursion or tour, ASBA, CIT External Study, UC Connect.

2. Complete the [formal application for an extension](#). Please note that you may be required to complete some assessment tasks early.

Reminder: BSSS Attendance Processes

BSSS students are reminded that the BSSS mandates a minimum of 90% attendance for a unit to be awarded. Absences can only be approved if the College attendance processes are followed. Key reminders are listed below, and further information can be found on the College [website](#).

- All absences need to be explained within 5 days of returning to school
- All absences of 3 consecutive days or more require supporting documentation
- A medical certificate must be supplied if a student misses a scheduled assessment task

- If students leave the College without signing out, part-day absences cannot be retrospectively explained and will remain unapproved.

Key dates for BSSS Students in Term 4

- Thursday 12 - Thursday 19 November: Semester Two exam block
- Monday 23 November: BSSS Checking Day. Attendance is compulsory for all BSSS students.
- Tuesday 24 November: last day of attendance for Year 11 students
- Wednesday 25 November: Final House Assemblies
- Wednesday 16 December: Senior Secondary Certificate collection from Merici Reception

Year 12 Graduation Day (Wednesday 25 November)

We are excited to announce the following details for the Year 12 Graduation Day to be held on Wednesday 25 November. Please find below the program of events:

- Year 12 Final House Farewells – 9:30am (students only, to be held at the College)
- Year 12 Graduation Mass – 3:00pm (students and family members to be held at St Christopher's Cathedral, cnr. Canberra Avenue/Furneaux St, Forrest). No bookings are required for your attendance at the Mass.
- Year 12 Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony– 6:30pm at the Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon (Cost covered by College for one Year 12 student and two parents – no additional tickets available)

Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony – Confirmation of Attendance

Please note that the cost of dinner for two parents and one Year 12 student has been covered by the school, so no payment is required. Due to limited seating space, no additional tickets are available to families.

Students are required to wear full school uniform (including their blazer) to all events listed above.

Please confirm your attendance here, **as well as your daughter**, <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-graduation-day-2026> so that we are able to finalise catering numbers. Please indicate special dietary requirements. RSVP required by **Monday 2 November**.

Please contact Ros Parisi on email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au for any further information.

Year 12 Formal (Friday 27 November)

The Year 12 Formal will be held on Friday 27 November at the National Museum of Australia in the Gandel Atrium (invitation attached). Students and parents are encouraged to attend this event (partners welcome to attend).

The cost of the ticket is \$200 per person and includes a three-course meal, non-alcoholic beverages. Music entertainment, together with a photo booth and professional roving photography, will add to what will be a very special celebration.

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://events.humanitix.com/year-12-formal-2026-2ej5vlnk>

Students will be required to present their ID for alcohol purchases.

Arrivals: 6pm-6.30pm

Professional Group Photo: 7pm-7.15pm

All students and guests will be required to be seated 7.30pm. House Coordinators will be organising table seating. Bookings close: Monday 9 November

Collection of BSSS Year 12 Certificates (Wednesday 16 December)

Official BSSS Year 12 Certificates and results can be collected from Reception between 10 am and 12 pm on Wednesday, 16 December.

If students are unable to come in for collection, they can authorise a parent or sibling to collect on their behalf by emailing Mrs Taylor from their school account with the following details:

- Name of the person collecting
- Relationship of the person to you

Please note that the school is required to provide the BSSS with these records to justify the provision of the certificate to a third party.

Alternatively, students can pick up their certificates in person from Wednesday, 27 January, 2027.

IB NEWS

IB DP Key Dates



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

Event	Date	Information
Final Exam Period	26 October – 14 November	The final exam period for the official IB DP exams is. Exams will be held in M5 and M6

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

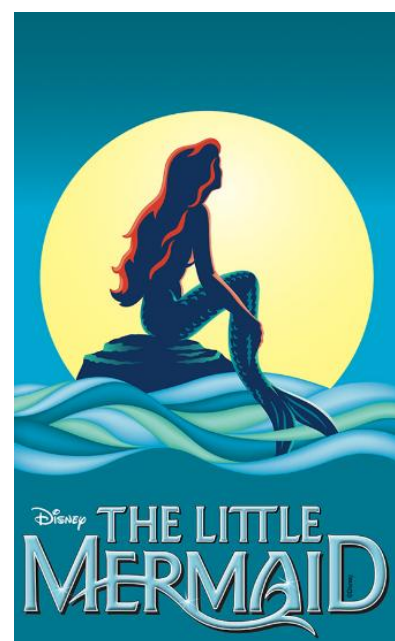
We're making a splash in 2027!

Merici College is thrilled to announce that our 2027 School Musical will be Disney's *The Little Mermaid*! 🎨 🎭 🎵

Get ready to dive under the sea and join Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, and friends on an unforgettable adventure filled with music, magic, and fun!

🎤 Audition information will be emailed to students and we encourage all students to get involved. Whether you love singing, dancing, acting, or want to be part of the incredible team behind the scenes, there's a place for everyone in this amazing production.

Don't miss the chance to be part of the magic and create memories that will last a lifetime! ❤️



Year 9 and 10 Come Alive Festival (Thursday 12 November)

We are delighted to announce that our Year 9 and 10 Drama students will be performing at the COME ALIVE Theatre Festival on Thursday 12 November 2026 at 7:00 pm, at ACT HUB, Causeway Hall in Kingston.

Our students have been working collaboratively to devise an original piece of Australian Gothic Museum Theatre, drawing inspiration from historical stories and artefacts discovered through *Trove*, the National Library of Australia's digital collection. Their performance explores themes of mystery, memory and Australia's past through creative storytelling, characterisation and physical theatre.

The COME ALIVE Theatre Festival, driven by the vision and dedication of Artistic Director Peter Wilkins, challenges schools to raise expectations of young performers and recognise the importance of theatre within Australia's cultural landscape. The festival encourages students to create authentic and meaningful theatre inspired by significant historical and cultural events, artefacts and experiences preserved in our national institutions.

We are thrilled to announce that tickets for the performance have SOLD OUT! This is a wonderful reflection of the enthusiasm and support for youth theatre in Canberra.

We congratulate our talented Drama students on their creativity, commitment and hard work and look forward to seeing their original Australian Gothic work brought to life on stage.

Performance Details

Date: Thursday 12 November 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: ACT HUB – Causeway Hall

Address: 14 Spinifex Street, Kingston ACT 2604

Tickets: SOLD OUT!

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION NEWS

Inclusive Education Staff Update

We are very pleased to welcome Laura Wales into her role as Inclusive Education Coordinator for Years 7–9. Laura is looking forward to working closely with our students and families, getting to know their individual needs and supporting them throughout their learning journey at Merici College. For any Inclusive Education Years 7–9 questions or concerns, families are encouraged to contact Laura at laura.wales@merici.act.edu.au. For Inclusive Education Years 10–12 questions or concerns, please contact Emma Bishop at emma.bishop@merici.act.edu.au. We are excited to have Laura in this role and know she is looking forward to connecting with families.

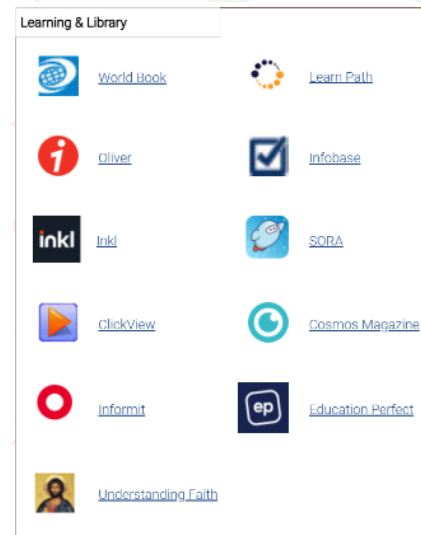
TLC NEWS

Students growing up in the technical age have a strong reliance on the free web, “to Google”. This often leads to use of poor-quality sources. Some students have struggled in their organisation, not leaving themselves enough time to research, note take and draft; good assignments take time.

We are continuously working with classes, on the skills of note taking, paraphrasing, academic integrity, and the use of quality resources. Plagiarism can take many forms, and we want students to research widely and well, use their own words, to quote when necessary, and use evidence that supports their own ideas and writing.

One of the best things you can do as parents is to talk to your daughters about their research and tasks. This helps to solidify their ideas and ensures they understand their reading, enabling them to put the information into their own words, to paraphrase. As a school we use Turnitin as a similarity tool. Students are able to submit a draft before the submission date to check the assignment similarity, it will pick up if the writing is too similar to another source this then gives the student an opportunity to redraft the task before it is too late. The use of *Grammarly* and other refining tools will flag the work as AI generated. Instead of using a program, read the work out loud to identify errors and refine the writing.

Using quality resources is a must for high school and college research, the TLC provides many quality databases (as above in the image from SEQTA) for all students to access and are always happy to assist in research tasks.



It is getting to that time of the year where we will start chasing textbooks and overdue books, please return them or if not finished to be renewed. Occasionally items do go missing, rather than ignoring overdue emails, please ask your daughter to come and talk to us about the missing item.

Yours in research,
TLC Staff

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Sports Awards 2026

The Annual Merici College Sports Award Night is scheduled to take place on Monday 9 November 2026 in the Merici College Auditorium from 5:00pm (refreshments) until approximately 7.30pm. The evening recognises the achievements and success of those who have participated in sport, as well as those students who have excelled at sport and represented in both State and National teams

Students who are receiving an award have been notified via email in recognition of their sporting achievements in 2026. The College warmly invites all award recipients and their families to join us in celebrating these wonderful achievements.

All students who have participated in a sport are encouraged to attend, even if they are not receiving an award, to show their support for their fellow students and coaches and to celebrate the dedication, teamwork and sporting spirit that make Merici such a special community.

The evening will commence at 5.00pm with canapés and drinks in the Auditorium foyer, followed by the formal presentation of awards in the Auditorium at 5.30pm. **RSVP essential for catering purposes at the following link by Monday 2 November:** <https://events.humanitix.com/2026-sports-awards-2f5l5xs9>.

OTHER NEWS

Catholic Voice Christmas Cover Competition

Calling all young artists!

Catholic school students of all ages across the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn are invited to create an artwork for the Christmas cover of Catholic Voice.

This year, we're asking students to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through the theme: "Everyone is Invited". Christmas reminds us that Jesus came for everyone. His birth brings people together and shows us that there is a place for everyone.

We want to see what this means to you.

Your artwork might show people gathering around the manger, families and different generations celebrating together, people from different cultures, someone reaching out to another person, or a parish or community sharing the joy of Christmas.

The theme draws on some of the ideas emerging across our Archdiocese during our 2026 "Get Up! Listen! Go!" pastoral year and Archdiocesan Assembly, including From Welcome to Invitation, Family Accompaniment and becoming a Community of Communities.

The prize: The winning artwork will feature on the cover of the December 2026 Christmas edition of Catholic Voice.

Important Dates:

Competition opens: Wednesday 14 October 2026

Competition closes: Friday 13 November 2026

Judging begins: Tuesday 17 November

Winner announced: Late November 2026

For more information, please visit <https://cgcatholic.org.au/catholic-voice/christmas-cover-art-competition-2026/>.



Rodney's Christmas Markets at Dusk (Thursday 19 November)

Rodney's Christmas Markets at Dusk - food, wine & stalls, supporting The Marist Association, Education in the Solomon Islands!

Celebrate the festive season at Rodney's Plants Plus as the gardens are transformed into a magical twilight marketplace. Enjoy a glass of champagne on arrival, as you browse unique market stalls and discover exclusive shopping opportunities.

The evening will feature food and wine tastings, a raffle with fantastic prizes, entertainment, and a thank-you gift bag to take home. It's the perfect way to kick off the holidays with friends, family, or colleagues. Also joining the event will be Melissa King from *Better Homes and Gardens*, who will lead a free masterclass on indoor plants.



Rodney's VIP Christmas Markets at Dusk
eventbrite.com.au

All tickets are just \$20, with proceeds going to The Marist Association Canberra and Merici College in support of education in the Solomon Islands. A wonderful initiative focused on strengthening educational partnerships, sharing resources and exploring new approaches to teaching and learning.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday 19 November
- Time: From 6.00 PM
- Location: Rodney's Plants Plus
- Tickets: \$20 (includes champagne on arrival, gift bag, and entertainment)

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rodneys-vip-christmas-markets-at-dusk-tickets-2002266586259>

Tickets are limited. Don't miss out - come for the shopping, stay for the atmosphere, and leave knowing you've supported a great cause.

We've got an exciting offer from the UC Capitals!

As a part of our participation in their School Hoops Program this year, we've scored a school-wide \$5 ticket offer to one of their home games this season! Tickets are extremely limited though, so be sure to grab yours fast if you don't want to miss out. Go Caps!



Uni-Norths Owls Junior Rugby Union Club

For more information and registration to join the Uni-Norths Owls Junior Rugby Union Club, please visit <https://owlsrugbyjuniors.com.au/>.

The club is centrally located in the North Canberra community, and have teams for all genders and age groups from Under 7s all the way to Under 18's. Training sessions and all home games are located at Southwell Park, Lyneham. Age group teams play in the ACT Junior Rugby Union competition which is in association with the ACT Brumbies.