MEDIA RELEASE
MERICI COLLEGE’S TRADE TRAINING CENTRE, THE BRIDGE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

On Wednesday 2 May 2012 the Merici College school community welcomed Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Member for Fraser and Mrs Moira Najdecki, Director, Catholic Education Office who officially opened the Canberra Region Trade Training Centre The Bridge. The opening was the College’s gala event for Catholic Schools Week, which ran from Sunday 29 April to Saturday 5 May 2012.

Merici also welcomed guest speaker Mr Callum Hann to the opening. Mr Hann was the 2010 runner-up in the TV program Masterchef. Since 2010 he has become the Australian Ambassador for Jamie Oliver’s Home Cooking Skills Program. Mr Hann has launched his own cooking school in Adelaide, Sprout Cooking and toured Australian universities teaching students how to cook and eat well. In addition he has also published his first cookbook: The Starter Kitchen. Mr Hann had an early start on Wednesday morning in the commercial kitchen where he assisted senior hospitality students to prepare celebratory food to be served at the conclusion of the opening.

Mr Costa Georgiadis, host of the ABC TV program Gardening Australia also attended the opening. Mr Georgiadis officially opened the College’s sustainable kitchen garden in 2011 and has maintained a close relationship with the staff and students. Sustainability students and teachers at Merici College were thrilled to have Mr Georgiadis spend the day with them at the College. They visited the kitchen garden and Mr Georgiadis spoke to the students about compost. He also visited the College's recently completed state-of-the-art glasshouse where he and the students planted various vegetable seedlings into propagation trays, such as lettuce, spinach, coriander, silver beets and spring onions. After lunch with staff and students in The Bridge, Mr Georgiadis shared inspiring stories with the students and showed photographs of his "Greening the Verge" project in Bondi which will be featured on Gardening Australia on the ABC.

The Canberra Region Pathways Trade Training Centre was built as part of the Australian Government’s $2.5 billion Trade Training Centres in Schools program and will provide students with access to quality vocational training facilities in the hospitality and construction industries at school.

A key partner in the Canberra Region Pathways Trade Training Centre is the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT). This partnership will significantly improve the learning opportunities, career prospects and training pathways for students, through guaranteed pathways to Certificate III qualifications in industries of high demand.

Merici continues to encourage students interested in pursuing a career pathway into the Hospitality industry by giving them the best possible real life experience in the hospitality field. Through funding from the Australian Government Merici College is now equipped to provide students with access to vocational training facilities of exceptional quality. Furthermore the incorporation of the College canteen into the same facility allows the Merici team of staff and students to provide home-cooked meals made from locally sourced fresh produce every day in a professional and exceedingly pleasant environment.

Catherine Rey
Principal, Merici College
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