



# College Director's News

Wednesday 4 March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the year it's been at Meridan in 2026. As you can see from this newsletter, our students have begun engaging in the huge array of learning opportunities at the College. We continue to live and breathe our school's Vision through **igniting the minds and empowering the futures** of our students. As you will see in the following articles, we are implementing a range of innovative programs that allow our students to excel academically, socially, in sport, and in the arts.

## Meridan Launches New Health Services Program

This year, Meridan has begun implementing our **new medical pathways program**. Towards the end of last year, the College created a purpose-built facility replicating a hospital room, giving students the chance to engage in real-world learning. The program already has 70 students enrolled in Stage 1, a Certificate II in Health Services.

Our Year 11 Certificate II in Health Services students recently attended the UniSC Health Immersion Day, gaining valuable insight into future study and career pathways in the health sector. Throughout the day, students explored the wide range of health-related courses available at the University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) and learned about alternative pathways that can help boost their ATAR and support their tertiary goals. Highlights of the day included visiting the Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics lab to learn how to use and adjust prosthetic limbs, conducting blood type identification experiments in the Pathology lab, and exploring the hospital simulation facilities. Students experienced "a day in the life of a uni student," providing an authentic glimpse into university study and campus life—an inspiring and hands-on experience that has further ignited their passion for health careers!

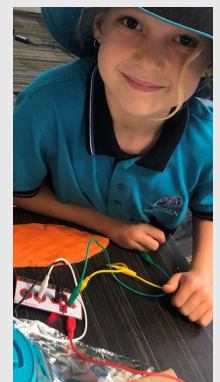


## Meridan's New Primary Spark Enrichment and Extension Program

This year, Meridan has introduced our new Spark Enrichment and Extension program. Designed by Ms Elder and Mrs Kopelke, the program provides students with a range of innovative extension activities that challenge their thinking. So far, our Year 1 & 2 students and Year 3 & 4 Spark students have engaged with the program.

Our young Year 3 & 4 innovators spent the day designing, building, testing, and refining their ideas—thinking like real engineers and problem-solvers. From creating awesome squishy circuits with conductive dough to inventing and coding wild and wonderful creations from a range of components, the room was buzzing with curiosity and collaboration. Students experimented, iterated, overcame challenges, and proudly showcased their inventions.

Along the way, students discovered inspiring inventors such as Australia's Fiona Wood, who developed spray-on skin to transform burns treatment, and Thomas Edison, whose invention of the light bulb reminds us that sometimes one bright idea can illuminate the world—and our Spark Inventor's Lair program too!



*This year, we proudly celebrate 20 years of igniting minds and empowering futures.*

## Parent Meet and Greet and Dr Justin Coulson Parenting Session

Last week, we held our combined staff and parent meet and greet, followed by a parent information session with Dr Justin Coulson. It was a great evening, with approximately 250 people in attendance. Dr Coulson's seminar was titled **Resilience – Developing Strength, Calm and Kindness in Our Kids**.

During the presentation, Dr Coulson provided insights and practical strategies on how we can nurture resilience in our children helping them develop inner strength, emotional calm, and genuine kindness in an increasingly complex world.

This event was a collaboration between the Meridan State College P&C and the Talara Primary College P&C. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Talara Primary College Principal, Lisa Cutter; Talara P&C President, Beth; and our Meridan P&C representatives, Jo, Sam, and Donna, for their willingness to collaborate so openly. Their leadership and shared commitment to supporting families across our communities is truly appreciated.

I would also like to sincerely thank our major sponsor, **Helping Hands**, for their generous support of this event, and acknowledge the support of Headspace Caloundra and Gotcha4Life. We appreciate the important work you do in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people and families in our region.

A sincere thank you as well to our raffle sponsors for their generosity: Happy Families, Aussie World, The Ginger Factory, Bunnings Warehouse, and Woolworths. Your support helps strengthen events like this and enrich our school communities.

Finally, a very big thank you to our organising committee—Ms Burnett, Ms Kobos, and Ms Craig—for the huge amount of work that went into making this event a success!



### RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st PRIZE Ticket Number: #208
- 2nd PRIZE Ticket Number: #286
- 3rd PRIZE Ticket Number: #182
- 4th PRIZE Ticket Number: #90
- 5th PRIZE Ticket Number: #156
- 6th PRIZE Ticket Number: #202
- 7th PRIZE Ticket Number: #275
- 8th PRIZE Ticket Number: #134
- 9th PRIZE Ticket Number: #252
- 10th PRIZE Ticket Number: #350
- 11th PRIZE Ticket Number: #193
- 12th PRIZE Ticket Number: #396

## Investiture Ceremony

Congratulations to all our Primary and Secondary Leaders on their appointments. We are incredibly proud of you and wish you every success as you step into your leadership journey in 2026. Thank you to David Tensen, P&C President, and Josephine, our 2025 College Captain, for joining us this morning and sharing such inspiring words. We also extend our sincere thanks to the many parents and carers who attended our Leadership Investiture and stayed to enjoy morning tea with us. Your support is truly appreciated and means a lot to our College community.

 <p>2026 COLLEGE CAPTAINS</p>   <p>Machiko Peter</p>	 <p>2026 COLLEGE VICE CAPTAINS</p>   <p>Elizabeth Jeneeta</p>
 <p>2026 PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPTAINS</p>   <p>Quinn Jai</p>	 <p>2026 PRIMARY SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAINS</p>   <p>Evana Johan</p>
<p>DEADLY LEADERS</p>   <p>Ayla Year 6 Mya Year 12</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE TEAM</p>      <p>Aaron Community Committee Chair Elinor Environment Committee Chair Daisy Fundraising Committee Chair Kenya Wellbeing Committee Chair Jordan Inclusion Committee Chair</p>

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERS  
Inclusion Committee



SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERS  
Environment Committee



SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERS  
Community Committee



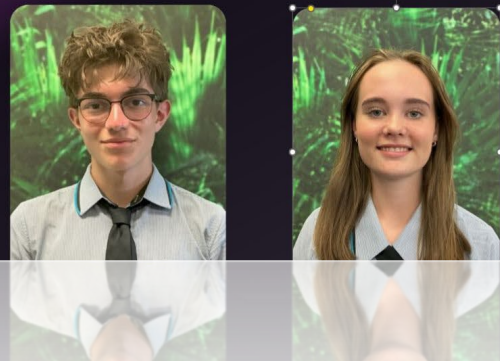
SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERS  
Wellbeing Committee



SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERS  
Fundraising Committee



INTERNATIONAL LEADERS



Primary Community Leaders



Indie Luke



Azalea Reuben



Yvette Edwin



Ella Julian

## Officiating Day

Over 80 students from our five Sports Excellence classes in Years 9 and 10 participated in Officiating Day. Thanks to the assistance of experts from various sporting organisations, students learned the art of umpiring and refereeing. They learned how to officiate with confidence, take decisive action, and communicate clearly. More importantly, they developed a greater appreciation for the vital role officials play in every game.

Some students will go on to assist at local venues and in club sport, now able to seek paid work. All will help with refereeing interschool sport for our younger students throughout the year.

We extend our thanks to Olly and Chris from Oztag Queensland, Mitchell, High Performance Development Officer from the NRL, and Liam from Basketball Queensland for their support with our program today. We also thank Volleyball Queensland and Netball Queensland for providing resources to begin our students on their journey to accreditation.

## Lions Club Youth of the Year 2025

Last week, I attended the Lions Club Youth of the Year Awards at the Kawana Surf Club. I witnessed an absolutely outstanding performance by our two Meridan students, Elizabeth and Owen. They did themselves and our College proud!

A huge congratulations to Elizabeth, the overall winner of this round of the competition. What an incredible achievement!

Thank you to Ms Ernst, Ms Lehmann, and Ms Moyles for their support of both students!



## First Nations Bushtucker Gardens

Our First Nations students proudly planted a diverse range of bush food plants around our Yarning Circle and Hospitality Garden, creating a meaningful connection between culture, learning, and sustainability. This P-12 event brought students together in the sunshine to dig, plant, and water, with everyone leaving proud of their contribution—and with a little dirt under their nails.

Students planted a beautiful selection of native species sourced through Josie @ The Bush Nursery. These included Lemon Myrtle, Cinnamon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle, Davidson Plum, Finger Lime, Pigface, River Mint, Old Man Saltbush, and Warrigal Greens.

These culturally significant plants will be incorporated into our Hospitality classes, allowing students to explore Indigenous ingredients while deepening their understanding of sustainable food practices.

Our Year 11/12 CCE class, through their Community, Citizenship and Environment studies, played an important leadership role by preparing the site and assisting with planting. Their teamwork, respect, and genuine care for Country were evident throughout the day.

**A very big thank you to Ms Wolski for organising this event for our students!**



## Rugby League Team Success

Congratulations to our Intermediate Boys Rugby League team, who have kicked off their season in the Bush to Beach competition with two wins. In Round One, they had a hard-fought victory over Nambour, 22-20. In Round Two, they played well, with some strong structure and combinations developing. This saw them chalk up a 42-0 win over Beerwah.

With four more rounds to go before finals, we have started strongly, with their commitment to training showing in their on field performance. These boys also have the Justin Hodges 9s coming up, so Term 1 is a big term of league for this group.

In addition, most of this team work together in our 9-10 Rugby League class, and last week many upskilled to gain officiating qualifications as part of their Certificate II in Coaching.

**Many thanks to Mr Darren Geiger for his dedication and commitment to our Rugby League program.**



## A Celebration of Language & Connection: Italian International Students in Our Year 8 Italian Class

What an exciting lesson in our Year 8 Italian class last week! Our International students brought authentic language and culture straight into the classroom, introducing themselves entirely in Italian and sharing insights about their favourite celebrations and traditional celebratory foods.

They then worked side-by-side with our Year 8 students, leading pronunciation drills and supporting sentence building to help them confidently prepare for their Italian speaking assessment on celebrations. The room was buzzing with enthusiasm as students practised real conversations, asked questions, and made meaningful connections beyond the classroom.

For our Year 8 Italian cohort, it was a powerful moment—hearing native speakers, interacting with international peers, and seeing the real-world purpose of the language they are learning. Experiences like this bring language to life and inspire our students to aim high.

Bravissimi to everyone involved for making Italian vibrant, authentic, and unforgettable!

## Digital Technologies Excursion

Last week, our Year 9/10 Digital Technologies students visited local business HeliMods Pty Ltd for a tour of their facilities. Students gained an up-close look at how HeliMods designs and manufactures innovative solutions for special mission aircraft. We arrived just as their latest helicopter landed, ready for its fit-out—a fantastic real-world insight into advanced engineering and technology in action! **Thank you to Mr Reid for his work in making this great learning experience happen for our students!**



## Year 3 Pyjama Day

Last week, our Year 3 students proudly wore their pyjamas to support The Pyjama Foundation as part of their HASS unit on Community Connections. Throughout this term, students have been exploring how community groups and volunteers improve the lives of others.

Welcoming Renee from The Pyjama Foundation gave students an authentic opportunity to see this in action—learning how volunteer “Pyjama Angels” support children in foster care through mentoring, literacy, and life skills.

After an inspiring talk, our Year 3 students put their learning into action. They visited our Prep classes to read picture books to their buddies and shared a joyful “Sprinkle Kindness” fairy bread picnic—modelling care, connection, and community spirit.

Thank you to our families for supporting the day with gold coin donations.

You can learn more about The Pyjama Foundation, including how you can host your own fundraiser or become a “Pyjama Angel” volunteer, at <https://www.thepyjamafoundation.com>



## Year 7, 2027 Scholarships Applications are now open!

We are happy to announce that our P&C are proud sponsors of 20 scholarships for Year 7, 2027. In 2027, the following scholarships are offered:

- ❖ **Year 7 Excellence Scholarship (Academic)** – This scholarship aims to recognise and support students who embody our College vision, values, and Junior Secondary philosophy. Applicants should demonstrate their passion for learning, their potential to succeed, and their commitment to building a positive future for themselves and others.
- ❖ **Year 7 Signature Pathways Scholarship (STEM, Sports, Dance, or Music)** – This scholarship aims to recognise and support students with a passion in one of the following areas: STEM, Sports, Dance, or Music. Applicants should demonstrate their passion for learning, their potential to succeed, and their commitment to building a positive future for themselves and others within their chosen pathway.
- ❖ **Year 7 Inclusion Scholarship** – This scholarship aims to recognise and support students who have overcome challenges in their learning to be successful in their own individual way. Applicants should demonstrate their passion for learning, their potential to improve, and their commitment to building a positive future for themselves.

Please download the application form from our website, or pop into the Executive Office to collect a form in person. We invite all students to apply for one of these scholarships. **Link:** <https://meridansc.eq.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships>


 <p>Year 7 Excellence Scholarship Application</p>	 <p>YEAR 7 INCLUSION SCHOLARSHIP</p>	 <p>Year 7 Signature Pathways Scholarship</p> <p>SPORTS DANCE MUSIC STEM</p>
Year 7 Excellence Scholarship	Year 7 Inclusion Scholarship	Year 7 Signature Pathways Scholarship

Kind regards



Tony Roberts  
College Director

<https://teeth.org.au/child-dental-benefits-schedule>



**\$1158 of dental care every 2 years.**

Check your eligibility



**Sexuality, relationships and reproductive health for disability.**

**PARENT SESSION.**

- **18<sup>th</sup> March 6-7pm**
- **Parent only information session**
- **RSVP [admin@meridansc.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@meridansc.eq.edu.au)**