NORTH WEST TOUR
Principal - Mr Bernard Beatty

Parent Survey
Being sent to your home is the Parent Survey 2014 which has a number of questions relating to the overall running of the College as well as questions on each section of the College. I have conducted this survey every year since 2009 and have always received a great response from parents. The survey has been used to identify areas of the College where we need to work harder to deliver the best possible outcomes, but it has also given us the opportunity from your responses to give feedback to areas that are performing well which is so important for our staff. It does take some time to fill in as there are some 31 questions and some questions require a written comment but your responses are greatly appreciated. The survey needs to be returned by Open Day, 12 September, by post or dropping back into the front office.

Trade Training Centre
The Trade Training Centre is nearing completion, we are still waiting for some electrical controllers to come out of America and be installed for the climate control in the weaner shed. All buildings will be able to be viewed on Open Day.

Open Day
Please let anyone know that may be interested in attending the College that the Open Day is on Friday 12 September starting at 10.00am. It is a fantastic day that includes Machinery displays, Grand Parade, Shearing competitions, D&T displays, Class area displays as well as Farm tours. The students have already been working preparing areas for the day or on their own projects which are looking magnificent.

Fine Woodworking Association State “Out of the Woods” Fine furniture competition
Congratulations to both Mr Prangnell and Mr Elliott who yet again achieved outstanding success with their students’ wood projects at this competition. Lachlan Smith (Cranbrook) was the winner of the Year 12 Furniture category, Brayden Harris (Esperance) second and Jessie Currie (Perth) third with Jack Patterson and Zara Brooks receiving a highly commended. Jessica Hammond (Beverley) also received a Commendable for her Year 11 Furniture project.

Jessica Herzer and Jemma Read - Year 11 students
Congratulations to both Jessica and Jemma on making State and National teams respectfully. Jessica is a State representative in the Prince Phillip Games which will be held over three days at the Royal Show and includes 21 horse events such as flag, bending, stick pegging. Jessica will ride at least seven different horses in this event and we wish her the very best for the Games.
Jemma has just recently competed in the World Tetrathlon representing Australia against the UK, Ireland, America and New Zealand. The event requires each competitor to run for 3 kms, swim for 4 minutes, show jumping and air pistol shooting. Jemma is hoping to again be selected at a state level and compete nationally and hopefully internationally again soon. Well done to both girls!

Curious about Uni Life at Muresk?
See you at the Open Day on Saturday the 13th September from 10 am till 3 pm at Muresk. Come and check out the facilities on site, talk to staff and students and get more information on Charles Sturt University’s Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management degree delivered by C.Y. O’Connor Institute. It’s a great opportunity for parents, students and anyone else with an interest in the agriculture and food industries to learn more about the exciting new agribusiness degree being run at Muresk.
For more information email agribusiness@cyoc.wa.edu.au or call Daisy Bulloch on 9622 6789.
Business Manager - Mrs Laura McCart

The year is flowing fast - it will be over before we know it. I will be away from the College from the 5 September to 20 October, on an overseas vacation. Tanya Glover will be in my seat for that time, please make her time pleasant.

Thank you to parents for the prompt response to payment of accounts this year. Parents need to be aware of the College Fee Policy that states, “The third and final instalment of Residential fees and College charges must be cleared prior to the commencement of Term Four.” This is applicable to all parents unless prior arrangements have been discussed with the Business Manager. Please ensure that the balance is paid as soon as possible to alleviate any problems arising with students boarding in Term Four.

Can parents please ensure that they use their child’s Student Number as a reference.

All payments can be made the following ways:
In person: At the College

Internet:
Account: WA College of Agriculture Cunderdin
Bank: Westpac
BSB: 036107
Acc No: 129204
Ref: Student Number

By Mail:
PO Box 132
Cunderdin WA 6407

By Phone: The College has eftpos, making payment available by phone or also in person.

If you have any queries please contact me either by phone on 9635 2100 or email at Laura.McCart@education.wa.edu.au

Women in the Wheatbelt Conference - Cunderdin

On Friday 22 August, 9 students from the College attended the Inspiration for Women in the Wheatbelt seminar held in Cunderdin.

Guest speakers for the day were: Mia Davies MLA – Mia spoke on her experience as a Minister of the Barnett Government. Mia also took the time after the seminar to visit the College’s new farm workshop. Caroline Bradley from Tammin displayed her Intimo Ligerie and told us how she fits this in to her busy schedule. Mary Nenke from Cambinata Yabbies in Kukerin told us how her and husband Michael set up and run a successful business supplying yabbies locally, in the city and overseas. Each year they have a large function in their shearing shed. The 2011 Rural Woman of The Year – Caroline Robinson and son Charlie gave an informative motivational talk ‘You can do it’. Sal Marais from Merredin advised us how to set up our own small business, the biggest mistake we all make is lack of planning. Lastly Esme Bowen from the RAC shared her experience as a car crash victim. Esme was a former nurse in the spinal unit until she had her crash. Her knowledge saved her from a life in a wheelchair.
Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell

Building Extensions
The extensions to the Design and Technology building are all but complete apart from finalizing the setting up of the workshop spaces. The extra space is invaluable and students are utilizing it for their major projects.

Safety Glasses
Students have become a bit lax about bringing and wearing safety glasses in the workshops. Could parents please check that their son or daughter has their own glasses. This will be a focus for Design and Technology over the coming weeks. The policy is “no glasses, no work.”

Wood Show
The annual WA Wood Show was on at the Claremont Showgrounds over the 1 - 3 August. Student projects were entered into the "Out of the Woods" fine woodwork competition and were on display for the duration of the show. A great deal of work went into the preparation of projects for the competition and the students are to be congratulated on their success.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 11 Furniture</th>
<th>Jessica Hammond</th>
<th>Jarrah Coffee Table</th>
<th>Commended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Furniture</td>
<td>Lachlan Smith</td>
<td>Jarrah TV Unit</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brayden Harris</td>
<td>Marri TV Unit</td>
<td>2nd Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessie Currie</td>
<td>Jarrah Corner Cabinet</td>
<td>3rd Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Patterson</td>
<td>Jarrah Coffee Table</td>
<td>Commended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zara Brooks</td>
<td>Tassie Oak Coffee Table</td>
<td>Commended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Construction
The Trampoline area revamp is nearing completion. The whole area looks fantastic and is a credit to Mr Jones and the students working on this area. We are just waiting on new trampoline mats and lighting. Make sure you check it out on Open Day.

The End
The finish of school is rapidly approaching for the Year 12 students. Most are now frantically working on their major projects and completing competencies in each area. Year 12’s now have at best 3 full cycles left at the College and any absences may impact quite severely on some student results. Also the Engineering and Furnishing workshops have been open on a regular basis for the last two terms. Requests for extra time to complete projects will be considered if the student has made some effort to utilize the extra workshop time. For Year 11 students, take a look at how some Year 12’s are coping at the moment and ask yourself if you want to be in the same position as some of them next year.
Welcome back for Term 3, traditionally a busy term with many events to look forward to such as Dowerin Field Days, the College Ball, Perth Royal Show and of course tests and exams 😊.

Please be mindful that there is a lot of tasks and end of semester testing to complete in the next five weeks, so attendance is a very important factor in the successful completion of Year 12. Missing just one day or leaving early on a day can mean missing an important assessment or valuable course content. With exams and tests coming up it is very important that you are present for all the content and revision time. Please make sure you approach your teachers and catch up on any missed work!

All Year 12 students are reminded that for the last two weeks of term we will be conducting end of semester tests, exit testing and surveys.

Year 12 Stage 2 and 3 students are also reminded that they have an exam week in Week 9 and 10 (the last 2 weeks of Term 3). This is our own internal exam week. The WACE exam timetable has also been released and there is a schedule included in this newsletter as well as a copy being available on our website or the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website.

We will be once again be running our Year 12 ATAR Study Camp in Term 4. Please mark the dates of October 14-15 on your calendars. There will be more information to follow towards the end of term.

University Applications
Applications for 2015 university admission opened on Monday 11 August 2014 8:00am. Applications are made online through TISC.
If you would like your child to apply for university in 2015 they can make an appointment to see Mrs Beatty who will help them with the online application process. Students must come to this appointment prepared with their student number, course preferences and preferred university. There is a fee of $25.00 that will need to be paid by the student or parent after the application has been lodged. Please note that students who intend to defer for a year (take a gap year) also need to apply this year and then choose to defer when they are offered a place in a course. There are also numerous Early Offer and Principal Recommendation entry pathways available to students. These applications require the students to fill in a form and make a personal statement about their future ambitions and suitability for university study. They also require a reference from the Principal. It is advisable to start the process now if you are seeking this entry pathway.
If you have any questions regarding the process or about university courses and entry pathways please contact Jane Beatty.

Thinking about going to University?
There are several options for students who wish to apply for University.

• If you are doing ATAR you need to apply through TISC (Tertiary Institutions Service Centre). www.tisc.edu.au
• Edith Cowan University has a Portfolio Entry Pathway. Refer to their website www.ecu.edu.au
• Agribusiness at Curtin – this course comes under the portfolio entry option or alternatively you can apply to the enabling course directly through the university
• University of New England (UNE), Early Entry Pathway. Refer to their website www.une.edu.au
• All of the major universities have several options for applying and also offer bridging or Uni Enabling courses or portfolio entry pathways. Please visit their websites for information.
• University representatives will also be present at our Open Day on 12 September in the Library.
Scholarships for Year 12’s Leaving the College

There are a number of scholarships available to students entering further education. Many of the universities and training institutions offer their own scholarships but in addition to these there are also industry sponsored scholarships. Most universities have a link on their home page or a separate scholarship webpage with all the information listed. In some cases you only have to fill in one application form and by ticking the boxes it applies to multiple scholarships.

Whilst we make students aware of scholarships available through a careers and information board in the library and through looking up websites, the applications quite often ask for personal information that we do not have access to. We are unable to apply for individual scholarships on a student’s behalf but are happy to give assistance with the process.

Year 12 Information Handbook

Information for both students and parents for Year 12 can be found in the Year 12 Information Handbook at http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/files/eBooks/Year_12_Handbook_2014. The Handbook contains lots of information regarding Year 12 WACE. You must access and read this information.

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### Year 12 Internal EXAM WEEK 2014
TERM THREE - WEEK 9/10 (SEMESTER 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>TIME ALLOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>No AM Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY 8</td>
<td>Mathematics 2 A/B</td>
<td>2 HRS 45 MINS 1.05 – 3.50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/09/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>Animal Production Systems 3 A/B</td>
<td>3 HRS 10 MINS 8.00am – 11.10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Mathematics 2 C/D</td>
<td>2 HRS 45 MINS 1.05 – 3.50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/09/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>Plant Production Systems 3 A/B</td>
<td>3 HRS 10 MINS 8.00am – 11.10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>English 3 A/B</td>
<td>3 HRS 10 MINS 1.05 – 4.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/09/14</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>Mathematics 3 A/B</td>
<td>3 HRS 10 MINS 8.00am - 11.10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24/09/14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- EXAMS WILL HAVE A START TIME OF 8 AM or 1.05PM
- PLEASE REPORT FOR YOUR EXAM ON TIME
- LATE MORNING or AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE AVAILABLE
- IF YOU FINISH EARLY PLEASE REPORT TO THE LIBRARY FOR PRIVATE STUDY
- GOOD LUCK
Over the duration of the year, the Year Eleven students have been keeping very busy. In class the Stage 1 students have been looking at ‘Animal Husbandry’ and ‘Digestion and Nutrition’. This has involved a visit to the cattle yards to conduct some ear notching as well as a visit to the College abattoir in order to look at the chambers of the ruminant stomach and how they function. The Stage 2 students have been covering ‘Nutrition and Digestion’ as well as ‘Reproduction, Breeding and Genetics’. As a part of their studies, they have conducted pregnancy scanning with Mr Laird in the sheep shed as well as pregnancy palpation in cows with Mr Byrnes and the vet from Northam, Graeme Penno.

The latest topic for both Stage 1 and 2 will be a “Chicken Investigation”, we will be comparing three feed types with varying levels of protein and their effects on chicken growth. The students have three groups of Hy-line chickens that are being used for the investigation for which they are responsible for the next five weeks.
Animal Production Systems Year 12

The students in Stage 1 have been recapping ‘Digestion and Nutrition’, as well as ‘Economics, Budgeting and Marketing’ and an ‘Enterprise’ task based here at the College. Students have been conducting Farm staff interviews, as well as creating a marketing product made out of common animal products which will be displayed on Open Day. The Stage 3 students have been covering a ‘Prime Lamb Trial’ where they have been trialling two different feed types and their effects on weight gain. The students have been weighing and scanning the sheep within the trial and as lambing season has began, have begun conducting lamb post mortems as a part of ‘Animal Health’. This term the Stage 3 students will also be conducting worm egg counts as a part of their new topic and the Agricultural students will be attending an excursion to Linley Valley as well as conducting a ‘Whole Farm Plan’ for the College.

We will be continuing to conduct practical activities throughout the remainder of the year. In November the sheep enterprise will be conducting Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer which is a fantastic learning experience for the students. Until then, we will be displaying numerous areas of the Animal Production Systems course on Open Day which is a great opportunity for parents, visitors and future students to see what our students have been getting up to and creating here at the College.

Miss Bruce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WACE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGLISH

This semester, in English 1D, students have been preparing resumes and covering letters in preparation for next year. Students have been looking at the availability of jobs in the field of their choice and looking at websites that advertise apprenticeships and other relevant positions. As part of this unit of work students have also been preparing to attend mock interviews with staff members in the school. We looked at the dos and don’ts of interviews and watched some examples online. Students prepared by looking at how to present yourself and what to ask during an interview, although there were some nerves everyone made it through their interview in one piece. Feedback from the students has been mostly positive with comments like:

- I think the interview was a good experience, so that we can all make a good impression when we go for a job.
- The interview was good because it will help me improve for next time and has built my confidence.
- The interview helped me to prepare for when I go for a real interview.

Students have become familiar with where jobs are advertised and where you will find apprenticeships. Over the semester students have also had the opportunity to book an appointment with a Careers Advisor to get extra assistance with career related issues and have been shown how to organise job alerts online to let them know as soon as new jobs are advertised. At the end of this assessment task all students should have a resume, covering letter and interview experience. Hopefully this will help all students’ transition easily into the next stage of their lives - next year. Good luck.

Miss Hackford

Consequences of not sitting examinations in 2014

Final-year students enrolled in a Stage 2 or Stage 3 pair of course units that they are required to sit for, and make a genuine attempt at, the WACE examination in that pair of units (unless exempt for a Stage 3 WACE course examination or have opted out of sitting for a Stage 2 WACE course examination).

A student who is required to sit a WACE examination and chooses not to, or chooses not to make a genuine attempt in the examination, will not get a WACE course report in that course or a WACE course score for that course recorded on their statement of results. In addition, the grades for those units in the course will not be counted in the determination of the C grade average for the WACE.

As a consequence, a student may not meet the requirements to receive a WACE.
COUNTRY WEEK

This year the College sent down 52 students with around 15 accompanying staff including teachers, coaches, residential and kitchen staff. The main focus of this year's Country Week was participation and trying something “new”. With this in mind we sent down a Touch Rugby team for the first time in the history of the College.

Lucky for the College we have many rugby players on staff and their knowledge was invaluable this year at Autumn Carnival and now Country Week. Coach Vandenberg managed to get his team to place third overall in Division 2. This was a massive effort considering the teams that he managed to beat were from towns and in some cases small cities a lot larger than our College. His Touch Rugby team was made up of students that would normally slot into the starting line up in footy, hockey, netball, basketball quite easily and was one of the most pleasing aspects of the spirit shown during the event. Players that impressed were Daniel Larkman, Emma Fewster and Jackson Evans.

The basketball team was coached by Mr Elliott and Mr Richardson however was not overly successful on the scoreboard. They played well together and learnt invaluable lessons from a very experienced coaching team with no doubt in my mind that next year’s success will be directly linked to this year’s foundation work. Nathan Scapin, Cameron Jolly and Jayden Pollard all played with spirit and class during the week.

The netball team was also extremely successful having only one loss which unfortunately saw them miss out on finals by percentage. Miss Bruce and Miss Moore both put an extremely large amount of effort into coaching the girls and they were nearly rewarded with a finals appearance. This year the College decided to take one team down as we didn’t want to stretch our already injury-prone team too far during the long week. Had the cards fallen differently, I have no doubt the quality of the girls ability would have been rewarded with a division trophy, for our followers next year is looking very promising. Players that had a great week included Tekura Irvine, Ashlee Ducat and Kaya Bloodworth.

The footy team entered Division One for the first time since 2004 and battled well all week only missing out on the chance to play off for 3rd and 4th spot by 3 points. The boys had trained hard all year and had played many games at their home clubs in preparation for the week. As was the case in all our sports we had to come up against much larger Colleges, these included three Bunbury teams and two Albany teams. Myself and Mr Elliott attempted to coach the team however it must be said that there was many on-field leaders including David Smith, Braydan Curtin and Matthew Flint, all playing well themselves with the inclusion of Brandon...
In the last week of Term Two, 52 students and 15 staff members ventured off to Perth to battle against other country schools in sports. Cunderdin partook in four different sporting events this year; Football, Netball, Boys Basketball and Touch Rugby.

Great pride and effort was taken by all the students in every game that they tackled. Defeats and victories were felt by all however, sportsmanship was rarely lacking.

Amongst the numerous sports, students also had the opportunity to relax and enjoy what Perth had to offer. Sunday night lead the whole team to the bowling alley where all participants warmed up to the game quickly with some being their first time.

After our first round of games on Monday, we ventured into Bayswater Waves for lots of fun and relaxation. Tuesday night we lined up for our turn at Bounce! With our own stripy stocks students and staff were lead into a room full of trampolines. Some inner acrobats came out on display and some pretty impressive somersaults. A few even managed to double bounce themselves.

The movies were scheduled for Wednesday night with Transformers, 22 Jump Street and Maleficent being the most popular which was topped off with lots of popcorn and chocolates. Our last night was a shopping trip to the Carousel. With approximately FIVE other schools roaming around students were able to explore and shop without bringing the whole store back with them.

All staff and students had a stellar week with some good memories and injuries to talk about in Term Three.

Ward, Damon Manuel and Jessie White, the future is looking good for next year.

Many thanks to all those that helped with the preparation of Country Week including office staff for preparation put in before the event and all those that gave up their time to help out the students and the College.

Paul Jasper

Miss Moore
## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Events and Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CY O’Connor Institute (Incorporating Charles Sturt University – Bachelor of Agricultural Business)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyoc.wa.edu.au">www.cyoc.wa.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Campuses at Northam, Muresk, Narrogin, Merredin and Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Open Day - Sunday 3rd August 10.00am - 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith Cowan University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ecu.edu.au">www.ecu.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Joondalup Open Day - Sunday 20th July 10.00am - 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mt Lawley &amp; WAAPA Open Day - Sunday 10th August 10.00am - 3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murdoch University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.murdoch.edu.au">www.murdoch.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Open Night - Wednesday 17th September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Night - Wednesday 12th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nd.edu.au">www.nd.edu.au</a></td>
<td>A Day in the Life of a University Student – Friday 18th July 10.00am – 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Notre Dame Open Day Festival - Sunday 17th August 10.00am – 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Admissions Information Evening &amp; Expo - Wednesday 3rd September 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Western Australia</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uwa.edu.au">www.uwa.edu.au</a></td>
<td>UWA Open Day - Sunday 10th August 10.00am - 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FOR SALE

Weed Free Pelletised Sheep Manure

$5.00 per 25 kg bag

This product has been kindly donated by Westcoast Wools

Proceeds will go to a student based account for the purchase of various goods as required

Contact the office or farm to place an order:

Cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au

96352100
Farm Duty Roster – Term Three

Reminder – Students will NOT be granted Weekend Leave when rostered on Farm Duty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Year 11 Students</th>
<th>Year 12 Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 – 31 August</td>
<td>Closed Weekend</td>
<td>Closed Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 7 September</td>
<td>Jaxon O’Driscoll</td>
<td>Cassy Sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry Martin</td>
<td>Harris Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 – 14 September</td>
<td>Daniel Larkman</td>
<td>Callum O’Neill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joel Olsson</td>
<td>David Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 21 September</td>
<td>Jack Penny</td>
<td>Shane Willmott</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Wells</td>
<td>Joshua Newbery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Earlier this year I was selected into the Australian Team for the 2014 International Tetrathlon exchange which took place in Perth from July the 4th to the 20th. Tetrathlon is an event that consists of four phases, pistol shooting, swimming, horse riding and running. Ireland, UK, USA and New Zealand all came over for the tour which started on Friday and we toured and trained together for the two weeks before the competition. I made some incredible friends from Ireland, UK and New Zealand that I miss so much and hopefully going to see again soon. Competing with these other athletes was so much fun and training alongside past and future Olympians was an experience I will never forget. It was easily the best two weeks of my life and I hope that being the youngest on the Australian team I have the opportunity to do internationals again in two years.

The Australian girls’ team came 4th out of 6 teams, individually I came 15th out of 30 girls ages 16-23. I can’t thank my mum enough for all the support and opportunities that she provided for me, including driving to Perth every Wednesday to train and getting me to trainings and competitions every weekend, as well as keeping my horse fit while I was on tour. Also Jess, Emma and Jen who put up with me riding every afternoon and getting up at 5.30 every morning to run and fed my horse on a Wednesday night more times than I can remember. It was such a great experience and one that I will never forget.

Jemma Read
As soon as we knew that the **Department of Agriculture & Food** was coming to Mr Jasper’s Plant Production Systems class and we were allowed our phones, we knew it was going to be a good day. The lesson kicked off in the classroom where we entered the plants on the table, these plants all had some kind of defect. The employees of the **Department of Agriculture & Food** introduced themselves and spoke about the different things that can affect a plant at different growth stages with examples of some of the possible defects.

**Doug Sawkins** who was the think tank behind the Apple and Android App “**MyCrop**” thought we had it down-pat, we then took it up a level and started to diagnose the plants that were in front of us. The “App” runs you through the different steps of diagnosing a plant and what it has wrong with it. It starts by you selecting the type of plant, then the growth stage it is in, what you can see wrong with the plant and also the paddock conditions it came out of (this being of most importance). It is then able to narrow down the disease to very few which you then decide from and diagnose your plants.

Each group went about their business and then diagnosed the plant in front of them with what they thought it was, some were able to get it spot on where as others weren’t quite able to diagnose the problem however, with **Mr Sawkins** and **Kelly Ryan’s** assistance it was able to be done. Once we had learnt how to use the **My Crop** App and the basic ideas of diagnosing crops with diseases we headed out into the paddock to put our knowledge into practice.

Once there we were joined by the Year 11’s and the two grains teachers, **Mr Longmire** and **Mr Childs**. Some students looked around the paddock to find plants that had defects while others took advantage of **Mr Sawkins’** knowledge and followed him around the paddock looking at issues. He found himself a patch of crop that had the most easily diagnosed disease and set out utilising the functions of the new “App”. Once he had found a disease and walked the students through the App **Mr Sawkins** then asked **Mr Longmire** what he thought it was. Fortunately for the College and unfortunately for **Mr Sawkins**, **Mr Longmire** diagnosed the problem before the students could finish using the App.

Following the practical in the paddock the students then set out trying to find their own issues in other areas of the paddock.

The use of this new App will now enable farmers and students to better diagnose problems at the site of identification rather than trawling through books and literature or even calling the Agronomist. It will also better aid the students in studying for exams and learning nutrient deficiencies, diseases and growth problems.
Farm - Mr Brett Cox

**General**
It has finally happened – the final OK was given, the phones and computer lines switched and the move into the new farm office took place. This has highlighted how much unneeded stuff I had in my office! I’m sure it will take a week or two to work out where to put things and just exactly what I do need. This move has been a month or so longer happening than originally planned due to a hold up with official processes, and as yet we still haven’t taken delivery of the new piggery shed (also part of the Trade Training Centre project). There is a final installation that needs to happen along with some commissioning of the computer system - I’m told that it should be completed by early September – hopefully by Open Day. I’m pleased to see plenty of new piglets in the farrowing shed and acknowledge the work Mr Reynders is achieving – he more than anyone will be keen to get access to the new building.

I’m really pleased that Mrs Skinner has also relocated the VET office into our new area – this will enable far better access for students and staff alike to information and data for the training packages. Mr Ball continues to be busy in the old workshop area. He has purchased some new cupboard, shelving and bench space to use and is modifying the access areas to ensure better traffic flow within the building. When finished he will have a larger fabrication area and a couple of very handy general workshops areas.

I have also ordered new farrowing crates for the existing farrowing shed which when installed will give it a much needed improvement. The plan is to refurbish that building in a staged approach and to then continue on with the remaining buildings. I think it is fair to say that the existing piggery buildings are the area on farm that is most in need of some upgrades – the new building and the proposed changes to the farrowing shed will go a long way to addressing this situation.

Farm Skills, Led Steer and Dowerin Fencing training is continuing to happen with both students and staff showing great commitment. On Wednesday 20 August Mr Michael Sala Tenna from Waratah Fencing Products spent time showing the fencing team some finer points ahead of the competition next week.

I was also pleased to see that a number of the Led Steer students took it upon themselves to do their usual training despite Mr Byrnes being away that day.
Earlier this month we took delivery of a second hand Toyota Forklift purchased from LiftRite Forklift Hire & Sales to replace our old gas powered unit. Whilst students are not permitted to operate the forklift, it is a unit that provides a valuable service across the site and is a welcome upgrade.

We are planning to have surplus items for sale via tender at Open Day. Keep this in mind if you’re going to be here as it could be a great opportunity to pick up a bargain. Some items identified so far for the sale are quantities of second hand metal gates, various surplus tools, coils of deer netting, old pine posts, (probably) the old Komatsu forklift etc. We also have bags of sheep manure pellets for sale on the day (See the advert elsewhere in this report).

Livestock Information
The winter rains have been kind to us and this year and have provided some very handy pastures for both sheep and cattle. All stock are in extremely good order – the cattle are well into the calving period with 17 from 25 cows calved to date. Unfortunately we lost one calf that happened to be dropped during the storm associated with the cold front that came through last Sunday evening – I don’t believe there was anything that could have prevented this from happening; the timing of the storm and the calf being born being the deciding factors. The rye grass and serradella pasture for the cows in paddock 11 is by far the best feed on hand for this time of year that I’ve seen here – it is pleasing when the strategy put in place a few years ago is paying off. The challenge is to maintain this for the future and to replicate it in other areas.

Mr Laird has completed lamb marking duties with the students and reports that overall we averaged 106% from all ewes mated – a good result. Like the cattle, most of the sheep have some very good pastures to graze on this year with some second and third year clover paddocks providing valuable feed on offer. The paddock of clover established this year is doing really well – by far the best establishment that I can recall. The early sown serradella is also doing well although we have a few lessons to learn about managing the weeds in it. These positive results all point to one main factor – good rainfall! The monthly totals from April have been: April – 54.2ml; May – 66ml; June – 27.4ml; July – 62.6ml and August to date 23.8ml, a total of 231ml growing season rainfall.

Cropping Information
Following on from the success of the livestock reports, I guess that there is no surprise to read that the cropping news is also very favourable thus far this year? Mr Childs and Mr Longmire have both worked hard to maximise the good growing season conditions to date and along with close advice from our agronomist Ty Henning see most crops looking as good as we’d expect. Of course there is always reflection about how things could be improved in the future but overall I’m happy as things are.

In Closing
I usually make mention in every newsletter the importance of students to make the most of every opportunity – for the Year Twelves it is not too far into the future that they will be bidding us farewell. Overall I am pleased with the progress they’re making on farm and encourage them to keep the lines of communication open to ensure they progress in a positive manner. As mentioned, Mrs Skinner and other farm staff are available to assist if required.
Residential - Mr Darryl McCart

North West Tour
North West Tour 2014 saw the largest group of students attending, in all 59 students and eight staff. Logistically this could have caused some issues but the willingness of students to help out and their excellent behaviour on the tour ensured that it all ran smoothly. There were some incidences of illness, colds and flu but we got through it. I am sure all students who attended enjoyed the tour but on occasion were glad to get off the coach especially on the days that saw us travelling over 800 Kms.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff involved for volunteering their time to attend, Mr Bernard Beatty, Mr Mark Barnier, Mrs Tanya Glover, Mr Shaun Byrnes, Mrs Julie Ball, Mrs Karen Rudland and Mr Keith Thompson who were always there to get things organised and sort out any problems that arose.

College Photos
College photos were taken on 25 August. Parents will be able to look at and order photos on Open Day. There will be a photo album in the Residential display section in the Student Services area for parents to look at.

College Ball
The College ball will be held this Friday night. Students will be given a disk to view ball photos for ordering, parents will also be able to view and order photos on Open Day in the Residential display section.

Graduation
This year’s Graduation will require students to be dressed in FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM. Can parents please start checking with their child that they have the necessary uniform for the day. Students will also be required to be neatly groomed as per College guidelines and this also includes hair being maintained to College guidelines.

Leave
Unfortunately we are seeing parents submitting leave forms for students to leave early on a Friday or return late on a Monday. While it is unavoidable at times due to professional appointments, it needs to be kept to a minimum as it affects the ability of your son/daughter to complete the work required for a successful outcome at the College.

Return Date Term Four
Parents and students are reminded that the return date for term four is SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 after 4.00pm, for a start at 8.00am Monday morning. An evening meal will be available if requested on leave forms.

REMINDER TO PARENTS & STUDENTS
Students need to replenish any stationery that they need for the rest of the year. There have been many requests in the past week for blue pens, red pens and other stationery during class. The College does not supply stationery. Please ensure that students return after the closed weekend with all stationery required.
LINLEY VALLEY PORK EXCURSION

On the 19 August, the Agriculture class took an excursion to Linley Valley Pork abattoir accompanied by four staff; Miss Bruce (Animal Production Systems Teacher), Mr Hooper (our Deputy Principal), Mrs Childs (Education Assistant) and Mr Vandenberg (our Butcher).

We left the College around 8.00am and it took around an hour to travel to arrive at the abattoir just outside of El Caballo.

We got off the bus to the cries of swine as they were unloaded of the trucks and slaughtered. We were separated into four groups, put on protective clothing and all ventured into the abattoirs many floors.

My group first entered a large gate which led us to the “holding pens” where the pigs stay until they are moved to be killed.

Our tour guide then took us into the killing floor where we learnt that the pigs aren’t shot with a captive bolt before having their throats slit but instead go into containers that go 20 foot underground and gassed with CO2 then they have their iroda cut. Then they are sent through a big bath nicknamed “the merry-go-round”; this removes all the hair and skin from the carcass.

Then the pig is hung by its feet on a conveyor belt where they proceed through two machines, the first a huge flamethrower used to burn the fine hairs off the body then through another bath like machine to wash off the soot.

We then ventured into a room where the pig is cleaned of all internal organs, ears, head and is then weighed, given a P2 scan which measures the fat and muscle depth and cut in two.

We entered into a cooler room where the carcasses used for the export markets are kept, only being female. We then proceed through many rooms where meat was cut and packed depending on where from the pig it came, one room had all internal organs except the kidneys, livers and lungs which were kept in a separate room.

After going through a fast pace butcher floor with hundreds of workers busily working to cut, debone and pack meat ready to be sold, we headed outside after washing our shoes, hands and throwing out our protective clothing. We finished the day with a quick Q & A with our tour guides. We had lunch on the bus and headed home for 3 hours of school still to be taught.

Bryson Elliott
Open Day
Muresk Institute
Saturday 13th September
10.00 am - 3.00 pm

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### What’s coming up?

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### Situation Vacant:
Position for a Year 12 student as a chaser bin driver and additional farm duties on a mixed enterprise family farm at Southern Cross. Commence date to be negotiated because of exams and graduation. Consideration may be given to the applicant pursuing a Cert III in Agriculture.
Ring Peter 0429401021

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