NEWSLETTER

JAKOVICH CUP

SURF CAMP

www.cunderdinag.wa.edu.au
Please accept my belated welcome back to Term Two which to my thinking is probably the most challenging term this year in terms of the length; 11 weeks, and the climate; shortening days, cold mornings, and anxious waits for rain. I am hopeful that the whole College community can look after each other to maintain a positive and productive attitude.

This term sees a number of activities including Countryweek, Jakovich Cup interschool football competition and our girls competing in the local netball competition. Congratulations to the girls who to date have remained undefeated in their netball. My sincere thanks to the staff who continue to volunteer to organise activities, coach teams and generally provide opportunities for our students beyond the normal school operation. The final week of this term will be complicated with students and staff spread between Countryweek, work experience (on and off-site) and on-site short courses. Information should have been received by parents on options and arrangements for this week and I would ask that parents reply promptly with requests for information to assist in the organisation. As a general rule, undertaking work experience at home is not appropriate and is unlikely to be approved.

A particular excitement this term is the commissioning of the new Ausplow airseeder rig with its accompanying cutting edge flexible rate technology. Staff and students have been involved recently in the setting up of the machine and are now starting some dry seeding given the rain has been a little shy. Hopefully by the time you are reading this newsletter, conditions will have improved and seeding will be in full swing. This new machinery provides students with the most up to date technology to ensure that they stay at the forefront of cereal production. In terms of excitement I am predicting some announcements soon about land purchases, as I understand that progress is being made in this area. It is highly unlikely that the land will be available for this year’s cropping program but ultimately the additional land will provide really valuable additional learning opportunities for our students as we are able to scale up some operations.

Staff changes
Recently we farewelled Alec Fissioli after 46 years at the College. My thanks to those staff, students and parents who attended his farewell function which I’m sure you would agree was well attended and well received by Alec. Alec’s contribution and dedication to the College over such a long period is unparalleled and he will be sorely missed. Many of our parents who attended Cunderdin would have fond memories of Alec.

Fortunately the position of Assistant Farm Manager has been filled permanently by our very own Simon Longmire who is highly enthusiastic about training and highly experienced in cereal cropping. I wish Simon every success in his new role.

Many parents would be aware that Kim Gray has taken on the role of Farm Manager whilst Brett Cox is on leave. Kim also comes with significant and very relevant farm experience and is already proving to be an attribute to the College and the farm operations. Also we welcome Jason Dumbrell to the farm in the cropping Technical Officer position. Jason comes with local and South Australian cropping experience and will find himself (assuming it rains) busy with our seeding operations.
This term we welcomed **Miss Zoe Wagner** to replace **David Hovell** (on long service leave). Zoe comes with a strong science background and is teaching Integrated Science and some Plant Production and is proving to be a valuable new staff member. David is enjoying this term on leave and is likely to retire at the end of that period. We wish him an enjoyable break.

**Keith Thompson** accepted a six month acting Head of Department Design and Technology at Narrogin Agricultural College and we wish him every success in this new challenge. Keith is being replaced by **Bob McManus** and **Graham Richards** who so far are doing a good job.

**High attendance**
My thanks and congratulations to those students with 100% attendance last term. Attending school is fundamental to success and I am really pleased that Cunderdin has such a high overall attendance rate of 97.6%. Student absences have largely been for legitimate reasons and I thank parents for their support in limiting unnecessary absences including early departure for leave when transport is not critical.

**Certificate III Agriculture**
I am really pleased to report that a number of Year 12 students have started on a Certificate III unit which will lead on to other Cert III units being offered. Certificate III is the natural progression from our Certificate II qualification that we aim for all students to achieve. It requires a greater degree of research, planning and organising, and more autonomous work habits.

Given many of our students come to us with highly advanced farming skills and understandings, my expectation is that they progress more quickly through Cert II and commence Cert III units. Part of this work will involve assessing students’ existing skills on entry in a process called Recognition of Prior Learning, and a review of all units on offer to ensure that no unreasonable impediments get in the way of their completion.

I think it unlikely that students will complete a full Cert III Agriculture this year given the late start, but I am confident that we are establishing a new process and a new philosophy where Cert III is increasingly seen as the end point rather than Cert II.

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**COLLEGE ANZAC SERVICE**

An ANZAC service was held at the College to remember those Australians involved in conflicts around the world.

Guest speaker Graham Cooper shared the history of his family’s involvement in the services and different wars and reminded us how lucky we are in Australia.

Jess Wells did a fantastic job as MC and Harry Martin read a poem to the assembly. Other College Councillors were involved in making sure the ceremony was dignified and appropriate.
Influenza Vaccinations
Students who took advantage of the clinic arranged for influenza injections attended the doctor’s surgery at the beginning of Term Two for their injection. It was pleasing to see how well behaved the students were. Thank you to Mrs Fulwood for organizing the clinic.

North West Tour
Tour numbers this year are approximately 54 students. An information pack will be sent out to parents of what students are required to bring, as well as an itinerary and other relevant information. Students will meet with myself this term for planning what they require for the tour. Return date and time for students attending North West Tour is Sunday 19 July between 3.00pm and 4.00pm so that vehicles can be packed.

Leave
I would like to thank parents for their patience with the new leave arrangements. The new Reach system has been operational since the beginning of Term Two and after a couple of initial teething problems, seems to be running well.

A couple of areas that parents need to be aware of when submitting leave are leave and return times. Please ensure that you select the correct times otherwise it will select the time that you submit the leave for approval, which can affect meals being available for students.

When a leave request is submitted and it indicates a return time after 5.30pm, this will not allow for a meal to be provided for the student. The only exception will be for students returning on the train from Kalgoorlie which arrives at 6.33pm on a Sunday night. Students returning on this train requiring an evening meal will need to request one in the comments box when leave is submitted.

Requests for early leave require an explanation in the comments box so that the correct records are maintained. If leave arrangements change at any time, parents only need to update the leave online. There is no need to ring staff at the College to advise of the changes, as it will be updated on the system as it is received.

When students have submitted leave, parents must approve the leave by 11.00am Wednesday morning so we can make appropriate arrangements. If any parents have questions regarding the new leave system, please contact me.

Medication
Students and parents are reminded that medication cannot be kept in a student's room and must be given to Residential staff so that it can be recorded and put in the medication cabinet in Linto dorm. With a number of students getting colds, parents are also reminded that students cannot bring cold and flu tablets to the College unless they are the non-drowsy type that do not contain pseudo ephedrine. This is an Education Department requirement.

Dining Room
The dining room was fitted out with new tables and chairs during the term break. Thank you to the P & C committee who kindly donated the funds for this upgrade. The next project for the dining room is the purchase of large screen televisions which we hope will be able to screen messages for staff and students as well as be able to be used for presentation purposes as well.

Special Dinner
Congratulations to the Student Council for organising a very successful special dinner on Monday 11 May. The theme for the night was “Beauty and the Geek”. It was great to see so many students get into the spirit of it and take the time to get dressed up; a bit of a worry the amount of male students that readily agreed to get into a dress, high heels and apply make up as you can see by the photographs. Students raised $221.75 on the night and the beneficiary of this will be the Brain Cancer Foundation.
**Mr Darryl McCart**  
**Residential Manager**

**College Ball**  
This year’s Ball will be held on Friday 28 August in the Terrace Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Students can purchase tickets from the front office at the College at a cost of $100 per ticket. Any student wishing to bring a partner from outside the College will be required to see me to get the required form to be filled out and signed by their partner.

**Suit Measurement**  
Ferrari Formal Wear will be at the College on Tuesday 18 August for any student wishing to hire a suit for the College Ball. Students hiring a suit will need to ensure that they have the suit ready for collection from the College on Monday 31 August.

**College Photos**  
Midland Photography will attend the College on Monday 10 August to take College Photos this year. An information/order package will be given to students prior to this date for parents wishing to order photographs.

**Laundry**  
Students are reminded to collect their laundry after school between 4.00pm - 5.30pm so that there is room in their laundry boxes for the next day. It is very difficult for laundry to be processed if there is no room to put it.

**Closed Weekends**  
A reminder to parents and students that an evening meal will be supplied when returning from a closed weekend or at the start of term provided students return before 5.30pm.

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**Mr Kim Gray**  
**Farm Manager**

**Staffing**  
Hello to all as I write this, my first newsletter in the role as Acting Farm Manager. Many thanks to all for making both my partner Meredith Lee-Curtis and myself feel most welcome at the College. I am especially grateful for the time I have been able to spend with Mr Brett Cox in learning the requirements of the Farm Manager’s job, prior to him heading off on his long service leave.

April saw the retirement of Mr Alec Fissioli after 46 years of wonderful service to the College, culminating with an evening celebration at the new College farm workshop. It was announced the workshop is to be called the Fissioli Farm Workshop, to which Mr Fissioli was visibly moved and later commented he felt greatly honoured. We all wish Mr Fissioli well in his retirement but hope he will call in occasionally, particularly when there are scones, jam and cream for morning tea.

Mr Simon Longmire has now moved up into the Assistant Farm Manager’s position and makes way for our new cropping Technical Officer Mr Jason Dumbrell who commenced work on the 11 May.

**General**  
Seeding has commenced with the new Ausplough Air Cart and new/second hand DBS seeding bar. There have been some teething problems in setting up the new seeding equipment but Mr Longmire, Mr Childs and students have managed to sort most of those issues. Lupins have been sown; although there may be the odd case of “strip worm” (gaps) in the first paddock due to some hydraulic issues. All is well now. Conditions have been quite dry and dusty so the weekend’s rain was gratefully received.
Mr Kim Gray
Farm Manager

Shearing has finished and wool has been shipped down ready for sale on 20 May. Mr Laird is planning to take a group of students down to watch the College wool sold along with some other activities while in Perth. During the month 160 merino wether lambs were sent off to market and averaged $117 per head, an excellent result. Preparations are being made for the Royal Show Led Steer competition with Mr Byrnes picking up three young animals recently. Two Red Polls from Yongerellen in Quairading and one Belted Galloway from the Greatly Belted Stud also of Quairading. The students will be preparing these animals over the coming months under the watchful eye of Mr Byrnes.

Students have been busy in the farm workshop recently with construction of a new horse shelter with another in the pipeline. Mr Ball has also had students constructing a mini Skip Bin for the Poultry section which will enable waste to be removed using the tractor forks. These projects have involved student input with design and construction.

The piggery section have been very busy as production levels increase and the Farrowing shed seems to be busy most weeks with piglets arriving on a regular basis. Plans are in place for new genetics to be introduced shortly with the addition of 10 Landrace gilts and 1 Large White boar. The new weaner/porker shed has had a few issues that are being sorted out, but the ability to wean piglets into a temperature controlled environment has meant much more flexible weaning times and faster growth rates. Unfortunately our Technical Officer Miss Madison Davey was struck down with appendicitis during the month and had to have some time off. Fortunately Mrs Kylie Iles was able to step into the piggery TO role and did a fantastic job with the students in keeping everything ticking along. Thank you Kylie.

Mr Vandenburgh and Mr Jones continue to pass on their knowledge of meat processing to the students and have been exploring new smallgood options to supply the College kitchen. Having sampled Mr Vandenburgh’s meat loaf and frankfurts, I’m suitably impressed.

With our sheep back from agistment, the cropping program in progress and lack of rain to get the feed growing, there is a lot of hand feeding taking place to keep the stock in good condition while waiting for some green feed to get away. Hopefully we may take possession of some more land later in the year which will help the paddock feed situation.

We have been encouraging Year 12 students to complete their Cert II work books and competencies as soon as possible, in order that they may be able to complete some units for Cert III before the end of the year. Mr Watt already has some students preparing to start a Cert III unit and Mr Longmire will be co-ordinating and assisting students who wish to complete Cert III units.

Mr Stephen Prangnell - Surf Camp 1

The Surf Camp was on the 15th to the 17th of May in Lancelin. When you want season breaking rain, get me to organise a surf camp!

It poured all day Saturday, however, the surf conditions were good. Sunday was a different story, the wind came in and basically blew us out of the water by 11.30am; it was a fun experience being in the water as the front came through. Everyone ended up hiding behind their boards on the beach.

Everyone caught waves although some people got caught by waves. I don’t think there was anyone who didn’t manage to stand up - albeit with differing degrees of success. Several students had a go out the back and were successful in catching some waves.

The students were fantastic and all enjoyed themselves immensely as did the staff. Thank you to Zoe Wagner for her help during the camp.

We have second camp this weekend hopefully the weather will be a little kinder.
Mr Stephen Prangnell  
Design & Technology

This period of the year is busy with most students commencing major projects. It’s time for the Year 12’s to start developing a sense of urgency with their work. Not enough students are utilising the workshop after hours to ensure they will be able to undertake some of the larger projects. It would be appreciated if parents could encourage their sons/daughters to make use of the extra time available to them. As mentioned previously, an estimation of total costs will be given and materials can be purchased through the College.

Staff Change
We have had a staff change in Design and Technology for the next two terms. Keith Thompson has picked up an Acting Head of Department at WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin. I wish him well in his new role. To fill his position we have two people taking over in part time roles with a shuffle of other staff as well. Bob McManus has returned for two days per week and Graeme Matthews will also pick up two days per week. The transition has been fairly smooth with minimal disruption to students.

Furnishing
Most Year 11’s are nearing completion of their small cabinet and should now be planning major projects. Valuable workshop time will be wasted on preparation if students don’t plan their projects in advance. Please remember that big is not necessarily better when it comes to choosing a project and if parents would like to discuss projects with staff please contact us.

General Construction
Students have had a busy time in General Construction and have been primarily working on the vehicle ramp for Automotives. There is plenty of bricklaying in progress with concrete work to come. Students are developing valuable skills which could be utilised at home or in the workplace.

Engineering
Year 12 students are either completing exercises or commencing their major projects. I would strongly encourage those students yet to commence their projects to utilise the after hours workshop sessions to complete their set tasks. Any parents wishing to discuss their child’s progress or projects are welcome to contact staff.

Year 11 students are developing fusion welding skills through oxy-acetylene welding exercises, plus completing bench work and machining activities.

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Automotives
Students are continuing to work through their competencies in Automotives. As skills develop they are encouraged to take on leadership and mentoring roles in the workshop. Most students are displaying a good work ethic and the Automotives teachers are pleased with progress at this stage of the year.
Staffing Term 2
Term Two has seen Mr David Hovell take his well-earned long service leave and then head into retirement. We wish Mr Hovell all the best with his retirement and thank him for his service to the College and the curriculum development that he has implemented in his time at the College.
With that brings a new teacher into our ranks, Miss Zoe Wagner has joined the Class area for the term teaching in the areas of Science and Plant Production Systems. She has a degree in molecular biology and is fitting well into her role within the College.

Connect
Previously the College had the system of allowing students to access homework, assignments and extracurricular work through the software platform of Moodle; previously all issues were supported by Mr Stephen Skinner. This Semester has seen the transition by our staff into a new platform supported by the Department of Education called Connect. This new program is a much more user friendly application and allows for integration with other platforms such as Reporting to Parents and will allow access for our parents once the “switch” is turned on by our Principal. This function will allow parents to view their child’s marks and have access to some of the resources used by the students. All students have access through the Department website and allows for 24/7 use. We believe this is a fantastic new teaching tool and inevitably there will be teething problems, so we thank you in advance for your support and patience.

Semester One Reports
The teachers are all busy writing the Semester One reports. For the Year 12’s, this report is particularly important as it is the last report received with a comment on it. Reports are an important document that may be asked for at a job interview, when applying for an apprenticeship or admission to TAFE or University.

Important notice regarding exams and tests
Please note that exams and tests are set for particular days/weeks and we do not reschedule unless for medical reasons. Important dates regarding testing and exams are given to the students well in advance and they are provided with an Examination Timetable at least two weeks before the exams. Examination week dates are also published in the newsletter, on the term planner and on our website. The external WACE Examinations for Year 12 are set by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and schools have no jurisdiction over these dates. The examination period for 2015 is 2 November – 27 November. The exact dates of individual exams is released on 24 July 2015 and will be available on the SCSA website.

Some important Year 11 & 12 Class area dates for the remainder of 2015:
• 24 July – 2014 WACE examination timetable released
• 21-23 September – Year 12 Semester 2 ATAR student exams and general testing week for all other courses
• 25 September – Year 12 Agricultural and Trade students may leave if they have completed all work and are signed off
• 12 October – Year 12 ATAR students return. Any students with work to finish return
• 19-20 October – Compulsory Year 12 ATAR Study Camp
• 2-25 November – WACE Examination Period
• 16-20 November – Year 11 ATAR students Semester 2 exams and testing week for all other courses.

Please keep checking the newsletters, term planners, website and daily student notices for any new dates that may come up.
The Stage Three students had an opportunity in recent weeks to backline and vaccinate cattle. They were taken down to the cattle yards where they had an opportunity to weigh the cattle to determine the required amount of backline needed per animal after which they administered a 5-in-1 vaccine. The Stage Three’s next topic is ‘Animal Health’ which they will be moving onto in the coming weeks following Semester One exams.

The Year 12 students have been looking at the marketing side of the livestock industry over the duration of the term and have been broken up into groups to create a marketable product based on the livestock they have selected to investigate. They will then market their created product to the class and display their work on Open Day.

The Year 12 trade students have moved onto circulatory systems this term and have recently been revising the heart. Students will be partaking in heart dissections next week as a part of the topic. They will then be moving onto farming systems and investigating the different enterprises at the College for the remainder of the term.

The Year 11 ATAR group have been working on ‘Animal Health’ and will be looking at some of the common livestock parasites that affect livestock under microscopes. They have been covering integrated pest management strategies as well as preventing parasite resistance. Earlier in the term the students had the opportunity to dissect the digestive system of a cow in order to gain more understanding of the functions of the ruminant digestive system. They will now be shifting their focus towards the Semester One Exams.

The Year 11 general class have also been covering ‘Animal Health’ they too will be looking at different parasite species under microscopes in class. They will then be moving on to their next topic ‘Economics and Markets’ which will continue for the remainder of the term.
Mr Paul Jasper - Glenn Jakovich Cup 2015

The Cunderdin Ag College has entered the Glenn Jakovich Cup for the third year with the outlook to make it one step further than last year when we just missed out for a spot in the Grand Final. This year we play the teams of Mount Lawley Senior High, Hampton Senior High, John Forrest College and Chisholm College.

This year we have a squad of 38 players and have, as of this week, all student playing two games.

The first game was played at Chisholm Catholic College and although the boys started slow we managed to kick 8 goals in the second half, winning 10 goals 6 to 8 goals 4. Better players on the day were Jake Putland, Trent Stevens, Hunter Onn, Brandon Ward and Mark Harris.

The second game was against John Forrest College and unfortunately we went down by 3 goals. The better players on the day were Damon Manuel, Jake Putland, Mark Harris, Brandon Ward and Hunter Onn.

This week we play Hampton Senior High. As you may be aware by now, we have all away games, this is a fact not missed by the senior staff at the College. Therefore next year we may to look to a different format to fill our football needs. Full games against Northam Senior High and a PSA school such as Guildford Grammar may be a good option.

The school commits 16 hours of travel to enter the competition and the boys only play a total of just under 4 hours of football. With a new model the players could have a total of 6 hours of travel and just under 4 hours of football, a much better option I believe.
## What’s coming up?

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### Special Examination Arrangements for the 2015 WACE examinations

Students that have a permanent or temporary disability and/or specific learning disability that could disadvantage them in demonstrating their knowledge, skills and understandings in standard assessments may apply to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to sit WACE examinations under special arrangements.

If you feel that you are a student in this situation and you have not already advised the College, please contact Mr Paul Jasper (Head of Curriculum) or Mr Travis Hooper (Deputy Principal) as soon as possible so the appropriate application paperwork can be completed.