WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

Newsletter

April 2017

AUTUMN CARNIVAL

Principal - Mr David De Meo

Term One is at an end and our Year 12 students are one third of the way through their final year of compulsory education. The Year 11 students have settled in well and becoming accustomed to the diverse operations of the College. I have been very pleased to see more collaboration between staff from all areas of the College in ensuring that the students' classroom work is being connected to what is happening on the farm or in the trade areas.

Students who have not yet achieved OLNA have been given extra support by their teachers and trainers and I would like to thank those staff for making themselves available after hours for this to occur.

Along with the Year 12 Parent luncheon we have competed in the Graeme Wood Cricket Shield, Mursell Tennis Cup, Scuba Diving, Wagin Woolorama, Gate to Plate in Denmark (Beef Judging competition), Autumn Carnival in Harvey as well as the Year 11 students participating in the Short Courses – First Aid, Computer Assistance Drawing (CAD), Firearms Awareness, Fire fighting and Chemical Safety and Handling.
The Year 12s attended the B Street Smart road safety awareness program in Perth which is a highly acclaimed program and delivered some vital messages for all participants.
All students attended an evening session entitled "Talk to a mate" with Men's Rural Health representatives who spoke about:

* dealing with the range of issues faced by people living in rural communities
* adopting a safe and responsible attitude when making important decisions such driving and drinking
* bullying – what if you see someone being bullied, what if you are being bullied
* where to find help on a range of issues

All in all there has been significant educational outcomes for our students this term and I would like to acknowledge the many staff who have made these activities possible for our students.

2018 Interviews
Travis Hooper and myself have been conducting interviews over this term on Monday and Friday mornings. We have sent out two lots of offers and will continue to interview prospective students and their parents into Term Two.

If you have not made an application but wish to do so please check our website for the application.

Interim Reports
Interim Reports were posted last week so parents should have received them and a number of parents have arranged interviews for Friday 7th April from 1.00pm onwards.
If you have been unable to arrange an interview but would like to discuss your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate staff member, Travis Hooper or myself.

Term 2
As the holidays are now upon us, I would like to remind students and parents that the new term starts on Wednesday 26th April, with return on Tuesday 25th April with students returning from 4.00pm.
I wish all a very pleasant safe break and look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

WAGIN WOOLORAMA SUCCESS

Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart

Reach Boarding

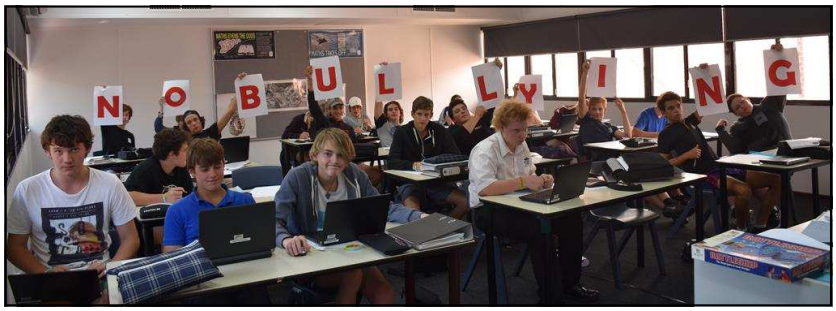
Thank you to parents who have taken the time to submit new leave when circumstances have changed for existing leave arrangements. I am encouraging students to submit their leave for parental approval, this way they know leave has been submitted and also takes the onus off parents to submit leave.

Please also be aware that Residential staff will contact parents if their child has not signed in within 30 minutes of their indicated return time.

Anti-Bullying Workshops

March 17 was the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence for which the school was registered. Students had a free dress day and promoted the anti-bullying message.

In the lead up to this day, workshops were held with the team from Regional Men's Health (Talk to a Mate) where a range of topics were covered including, bullying, peer pressure, driving to making the right choice. These workshops were well received by students and invoked a fair amount of discussion which was a real credit to the presenters. You can always tell when students are interested about the topic by their silence when it is being presented.



Excursions

Students have attended a number of excursions including trips to Perth CBD for shopping, movies and Bounce. Students are starting to put ideas forward for excursions and as long as they are achievable, every effort will be made to make sure they happen.

School Nurse

Nicole Harwood from the Primary Health Campus in Cunderdin holds clinics at the College every Thursday morning for students needing to discuss medical issues not requiring a visit to the doctor. In addition to this **Nicole** will also follow up on students who have attended the hospital.

Weekend Leave

Parents and students are reminded that students are required to return to the College by 8.30pm at the latest after weekend leave.

School Social

The Student Council have been busy organising a social to be held at the College on 27th May. At this stage the other four Agricultural Colleges have been invited to attend. Because of travel distances involved, Colleges have been invited to stay overnight and have dinner and breakfast with us.

Influenza Clinics

Students who have had a signed consent form returned by their parents for vaccination will attend clinics starting on the 1 May. There will be a number of clinics held until all students with permission have been vaccinated.

End of Term

School finishes at 12.20pm on Friday 7 April and commences at 8.00am 26 April. Students can return to the College after 4.00pm on Tuesday 25 April. An evening meal will be supplied on the 25 April for students returning before 5.25pm or if on the Kalgoorlie train if a meal is requested.

Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell

Extra Workshop Sessions

The Automotive, Engineering and Furnishing workshops are open twice a week after school. Several students have taken advantage of the extra time to complete exercises enabling them to start work sooner on their major projects. This has obvious advantages for students who utilise this time.

There are also some students who need to attend to gain extra assistance to ensure they meet the requirements for their courses.

Furnishing & Engineering Accounts

As students commence their major projects, the College is happy to purchase all materials on your behalf. This has proved to be time saving in terms of reducing delays in material arriving and being able to rectify ordering errors quickly.

Our process for sending out project accounts is outlined below. We are trying to ensure parents don't get a surprise when accounts arrive. Initially a "commencement account" and a "project confirmation slip" will be sent home. **Parents need to return the project confirmation slip as quickly as possible so that students may start their projects.** Then payment of the commencement account (50% estimate of the approximate total cost) is required. On completion of the project a detailed final account will be sent with the balance due before the project can be collected.

Surf Camp

The Surf Camp was held on the 24th to 26th March down at Denmark. Accommodation was at WA College of Ag in Denmark where we were well looked after. It was good for our students to be able to interact with the students from Denmark. Also students went on a tour of the robotic dairy and enjoyed seeing a different aspect of agriculture.

The surfing was fun and conditions were good even though the weather websites were predicting big swells they didn't eventuate and we enjoyed great conditions for learning to surf. Lessons were provided by South Coast Surfing Lessons and Mike gave the students his surfing wisdom. Most students got to their feet with varying degrees of success and **Josh Pink** would easily be the best surfer for the weekend. I think parents may receive some requests for a surf board soon.

Other activities included a visit to The Toffee Factory for an ice cream a quick look at Greens Pool and pizza at Boston Brewery. Without volunteers the camp couldn't go ahead. Thank you to **Shane Childs** and **Jaime Garrett** for their assistance over the weekend.

Class - Mr Paul Jasper

Combined University Visit

On Monday 16th March the ATAR students attended a seminar presented by representatives from the main universities in Perth. This was an informative session which looked at the different campuses and what they had to offer.

The presenters also gave the students a snippet of campus life and then the students looked at brochures and spoke to the representatives about particular courses that they were interested in.

The feedback from the students was very positive and I'm sure it has had been a great tool in focusing the students towards an end goal.

Interim Reports

By now you will have received your child's Interim Report. These reports are an indication of where we think your student will be at the end of the year if they continue at the current level of application.

If you have any questions regarding your child's Interim Report please do not hesitate to contact the subject teacher or myself for information. At any time we welcome any questions you may have regarding your son or daughter's progress.

Year 11 and 12 ATAR – Exam week

A friendly reminder that the first scheduled exams for the ATAR students will be held Term 2 - Week 6 for Year 12 and Week 7 for Year 11.

These exams are held at the College in the Recreation Centre and replicate the final WACE examinations in order to best prepare the students.

There are sample exams for Unit 1 and 2 and Unit 3 and 4 on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website www.scsa.wa.edu.au and there will also be exams available on Connect website for the students to practice.

Please note that we do not reschedule exams for students without a medical certificate.

Year 12 Externally Set Task

All students enrolled in a General Year 12 course are required to complete the externally set task (EST) developed by the Authority for that course. The EST is compulsory and forms part of the school - based assessment and is included as a separate assessment type with a weighting of 15% for the pair of units.

The ESTs are administered in schools during designated weeks in Term 2 under standard test conditions. The EST will take 50 minutes. The Authority informs schools during Term 3, in the previous year, of the Unit 3 syllabus content on which the task will be based. This notification will enable schools to ensure that the identified content is taught prior to the administration of the EST. The ESTs are marked by teachers in each school using a marking key provided by the Authority.

Connect

Connect

Connect is a tool that is used by schools to allow students to access subject content and review their marks as well as allow interaction between staff, parents and students. In the current teaching environment, all class work can be downloaded and submitted via this portal. All parties involved have 24/7 access to task information, submission times and interaction between all parties.

I would strongly encourage all parents to log on and have a look at what your child is doing in class and have a look at their marks.

You must make sure you send in the paperwork before you are able to access Connect. Please contact **Mr Stephen Skinner** or **Mr Paul Jasper** if you need the information to be resent to you.

Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart

I can not believe the end of term is upon us so quickly!!

Please remember all charges and the first boarding instalment should have been paid by now unless you are on a payment plan or have contact me to make alternate arrangements.

The second instalment for boarding fee of $2,790.00 is due by 24 April 2017.

Parents who are not on a payment plan or do not have their AIC directed straight to the College need to make the payment to us by the due date.

Methods of payment:

ELECTRONIC BANKING

Name of Account: WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB Number: 633 000
Account Number: 155 427 040
Reference: Your child's student number

EFTPOS FACILITY

There is EFTPOS available at the front office for payments.
This also allows us to take credit card payments over the phone.

CHEQUES

Cheques can be made out to WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin and posted to PO Box 132 Cunderdin WA 6407.

I ask anyone who is experiencing payment difficulties to keep in contact with me. We are more than happy to work with parents on payment plans that suit your own circumstances, so that we can keep educating your child at the College.

Boarding Away from Home Allowance forms are due to me as soon as possible. Early next term, I will be contacting those that have not forwarded the necessary paperwork to enable you to have $2,105.00 credited to your child's account.
Please call me on 9635 2100 if you require a new form or have any queries.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Mursell Shield Tennis Final

Congratulations to our teams who played in the country final at Mt Lawley last month. Our boys team of **Hayden Richter**, **Luke Catto**, **William Cook** and **Mitchell Lane** and girls team of **Aimee Tyson**, **Emily Hourigan**, **Ellie Vance** and **Acacia Shannon** played some great tennis during the day.
Our girls team came away Runners-Up on the day, a great effort. Thanks to **Mrs Childs** for taking the students to Perth for the day.

Board Business - Mrs Margaret Collins (College Board Chair)

On behalf of the College Board I welcome you all to the new school year and hope Term One has been successful for both you and your son/daughter.

The Board met on Thursday 2 March, prior to the Year 12 lunch, to induct the new members and refresh the returning members on the roles/responsibilities of the Board, the current College Business Plan and other relevant documents. **Mrs Kerryn Oliver**, the previous College Board Chair, facilitated the workshop which enabled all participants the chance to contribute to discussions.

I would like to welcome new Board members:
Martin House, **Roger Telfer**, **Donna Lane**, **Robyn Steel**, **Samantha Stone.**

And returning members:
Paul Sutherland, **Norm Jenzen**, **Greg Smith**, **Neville McDonald**, **Neil MackIntosh**, **Kathryn Hart.**

And the staff who also sit on the Board:
Laura McCart, **Darryl McCart**, **Travis Hooper**, **Simon Longmire** and Principal **David De Meo.**

And **Murray Williams** who represents the Farm Advisory Committee.

As well as thanking retiring members:
Yvonne Bopp, **Maryann Harris**, **Colleen O'Malley**, **Matthew Steber** for their contribution and commitment.

The Board is in place to provide support and advice to the Principal in relation to policy and performance matters. It does not get involved in the management of the school.

We would always welcome parental input/comments through the Principal, a Board member or myself.

University & Careers Information

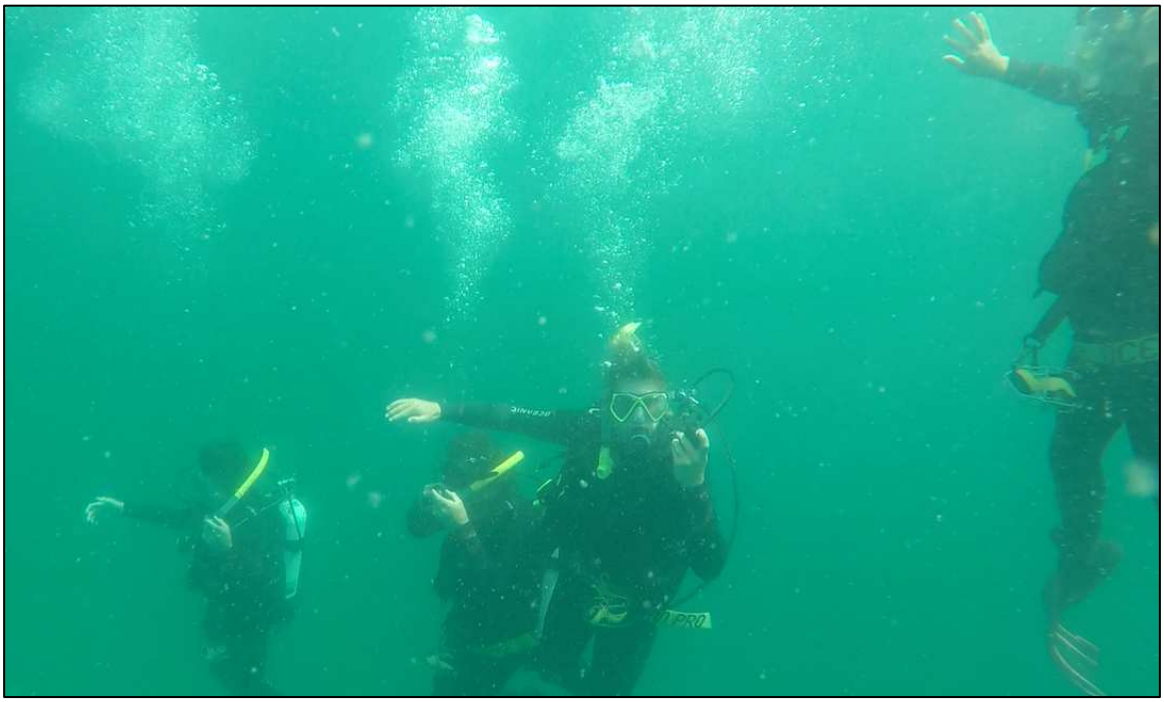
Central Regional TAFE	***www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au***	**'Uni Experience' at Muresk Institute** *Thursday 13th - Friday 14th July*
Curtin University	***www.curtin.edu.au***	**Parent Information Session** *Tuesday 6th June 5.00pm - 7.30pm* *Wednesday 7th June 5.00pm - 7.30pm* **Open day** *Sunday 6th August 10.00am - 4.00pm*
Edith Cowan University	***www.ecu.edu.au***	**Open Day** *Joondalup* *Sunday 23rd July 10.00am - 3.00pm* *Mt Lawley & WAPPA* *Sunday 13th August 10.00am - 3.00pm* *South West* *Sunday 27th August 12.00pm - 3.00pm*
Murdoch University	***www.murdoch.edu.au***	
Muresk Institute	***www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute***	
Notre Dame University	***www.nd.edu.au***	
University of Western Australia	***www.uwa.edu.au***	**Open Day** *Sunday 13th August*

SCUBA Diving - Mr Paul Jasper

This year the SCUBA course was done over two Wednesdays with the students beginning the day at 5:45am and not returning till around 8:00pm both evenings. Six students in **Mr Jasper's** Physical Education Studies class took the opportunity to gain skills in something that may be very foreign to them.

The first day began with theory and around 3-4 hours in the pool with an open water dive off the beach at Woodman Point. Fortunately the visibility wasn't as restricted as predicted and the students were able to experience their first dive in unprotected waters. Buoyancy was the main issue and one student had an issue with their ears, however all completed the day with no problems.

The next week began with three ocean dives at the wreck trail in Rockingham. This area is renowned for its silty floor and low visibility however as luck would have it, we jagged a week of fine weather which turned into some of the best visibility they had seen for some time.
They were able to float over a couple of sunken planes and a small barge that a few sneaky students swam through.



The students then sat their final exam all passing with flying colours, another quick stop on the way home to refuel our tanks and the students had completed their open water diving course. Congratulations to all the students, a big thankyou to **Mrs Childs** who came and helped supervise the course and we look forward to next year.

Farm - Mr Kim Gray

As first term draws to a close, 2017 is shaping up to be another possible good year. After considerable early rain, there is significant sub soil moisture and the potential for a long growing season is looking good.

Year 11 students have all finished their inductions and are now working through a series of short courses that will be completed early in second term. Already we are seeing some good signs of students eager to learn and willing to step forward and have a go at some new challenges.

Year 12 students are working their way through competencies and skills journals with only two terms left to complete their Certificates in Agriculture. After some extra effort put in by our Piggery manager, **Miss Madison Davey**, we should now be able to deliver a Certificate III in Pork production for those students willing to put the effort in. The Pork Industry are desperately short of qualified people and continue to bring overseas workers into the country on 457 temporary visas. It would be fantastic if we could have more of our College graduates heading off into the Pork Industry with the required qualifications.

Alyssa Catilo & Monica Lee feeding electrolytes to weaners

This year's shearing program should be completed before the end of term with a terrific job completed by both Year 11 and 12 students. I have been checking the let-out pens occasionally and the quality of shearing has been exceptional with the comments from the trainers commenting "the best they have seen". Well done everyone.
With prices for wool and meat being as high as they are, it's a great time to be in the sheep industry.

Students travelled to the Wagin Woolorama this month and competed in the Junior judging, shearing and wool handling. The results were excellent with students placing in all events except the wool handling where they were up against professionals and not only students from other colleges.
The Year 11 students featured prominently with a team of Year 11s taking out the prestigious Merino Ram Judging for under 21-year olds. This is the second year in succession Cunderdin students have taken out this award. The team consisted of **Jake Garlick**, **Georgia Dawes**, **Charles Bulleid** and **Sonny King**. The Year 12 team of **Phillip McDonald**, **Grace Davey**, **Danny Willmott** and **Aimee Tyson** came in third. Great effort everyone. Individual overall placings 1st **Bonnie Telfer**, 2nd **Jake Garlick**, 4th **Chloe King**, 5th **Daniel Willmott**.
In the meat sheep judging Year 11 student **Shanie Morey** placed first in a field of 65 competitors, well done!
In the Shearing AWI novice event **Phillip McDonald** was placed 4th, great work.
In the Junior Cattle Judging, **Codey Martin** placed 2nd with **Austin Smith** and **Cara Shannon** in the top ten of a field of 60 competitors.

Out on the farm, calves have been weaned and students have been involved in moving the cows across the Mortlock river to the other side of the farm, well away from their calves. It has been quite noisy around the around the College while weaning has been in progress.

Gypsum and Lime is being spread across various paddocks after some delays with the CAT loader broken down for a couple of weeks. Like everyone else out there a lot of summer weeds had to be sprayed following the large quantities of rain received.

Callen Buller, Lachlan Begley & Dylan Brown with the new dual cab truck

Jordan Booth welding cattle yards

There has been some fencing being carried out with old fences removed and new fences erected after re-alignment.

Second term will see lots of activity with seeding in full swing, plenty of upgrades happening at the Piggery and fences going up around the farm. Looking forward to having the students back refreshed after the break and keen to work hard.

Coming up...

Friday	7 April	**END OF TERM ONE** College closes 12.20pm Parent Interviews 1.00pm
Tuesday	25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday	26 April	College commences 8.00am
Monday - Wednesday	29 - 31 May	Year 12 Exams
Friday	2 June	**CLOSED WEEKEND** College Board meeting 2.00pm College closes 4.00pm
Monday	5 June	WA Day Public Holiday Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday - Friday	7 - 9 June	Year 11 Exams
Monday - Friday	26 - 30 June	Country Week
Friday	30 June	**END OF TERM TWO**

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