

Newsletter

February 2017

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE *Cunderdin*



Year 11 Induction



















Principal - Mr David De Meo

Welcome to the 2017 school year and can I say it has been a most positive and rewarding start, kicking off with a really productive Year II parent/student Induction Day on Monday 30 January. The Year IIs have settled in really well as have the Year I2s.

It is a very busy term with a number of activities and excursions including Graham Wood cricket, Mursell Shield inter school tennis competition, Adventure World, Scuba Diving, Wagin Woolorama, Autumn Carnival, OLNA Reading, Writing and Numeracy, Denmark Surf Camp, Pingelly Shears as well as a number of incursions.

Staff

Welcome to the following staff in the Class area -Kate Morrison - English, Chris Dougall - Maths, Natasha Clemens - Maths and Plant Production Systems and Jaime Garrett – English, Physical Education Studies and Plant Production Systems. I am very pleased the new staff decided to come to Cunderdin and along with Leanne Sjollema -Animal Production Systems and Paul Jasper – Plant Production Systems, Physical Education Studies and Head of Curriculum - form an excellent team of teachers that will deliver a very high quality teaching and learning program to the students at the College. The Design & Technology area also has a new staff member that I would like to welcome to the College. Brandon Skinner is a past student who was here from 2009 to 2010. He joins us as our Building & Construction – Vocational Trainer & Assessor but is also skilled in Engineering.

College Board

On Thursday 2 March, our new and existing College Board members will undergo an Induction program that will be delivered by Kerryn Oliver. Below is a list of the current Board members that may be contacted for issues relating to the Board. I will advertise the new Year II Parent representatives at a later date.

ABC Heywire Competition

Chairperson Mrs Margaret Collins 0417 178 010 Principal Mr David De Meo 0419 928 926

Parent Representatives:

Mr Norm Jenzen	Year 12	0429 183 839
Mr Greg Smith	Year 12	0428 887 050
Mr Neville McDonald	Year 12	0428 766 027
Mr Paul Sutherland	Year 12	0427 621 030

Congratulations to **Kyle Reinke** and **Luke Stevens**. Both students were selected as regional winners of the ABC Heywire writing competition and travelled to Canberra in January 2017 to participate in a week long youth forum with other winners from around Australia. WACoA -Cunderdin was represented in Canberra for the 7th consecutive year in this competition. **Travis Fluck** and **Lawson Butler** represented the College in January 2016.

Closed Weekend

The College will be closed for all students from 1.00pm on Thursday 2 March until Monday 6 March when students return from 4.00pm onwards.

On Thursday morning, students will operate under the normal timetable until 11.20am. Year 12 students attending the luncheon will be permitted to ready themselves for the arrival of their parents and attend the luncheon.

The remaining students will be permitted to organise their gear in their rooms for the long weekend and then move to the Farm area for a BBQ lunch beginning at midday. Students will be permitted to begin leaving at 12.30 pm whether they are self-driving or being picked up.

Students will be under the supervision of staff not attending the luncheon.

I look forward to the coming year and invite all parents to contact the College should you have any questions or concerns regarding the education and care of your child / children.





Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart

Year II Induction

Year 11 Induction was held at the College once again this year on 30 January. The students had a mixture of guideline information, induction games as well as a swimming proficiency test. After being postponed due to wet weather, we finally headed off to Adventure World at Bibra Lake for the water slides and various rides that were on offer. Some of the rides left a few students looking a bit green around the gills. Due to a recent knee replacement I was unable to defend my title of "King of the Hill" on the speed slide, however I am confident that I will regain the title next year.

Year 12 Return

Thank you to the parents who ensured that their child returned to the College on time for an evening meal on I February. This made for a smooth transition back into residence. Both year groups appeared to get along well, as some knew one and other already.

Student Council

I would like to thank all the Student Councillors for returning early to assist with the Year II Induction program; these students gave up their free time to help staff and put the finishing touches to the leavers' jumper design.



Residential Staff

Residential staff members can be contacted between 3.00pm to 8.00am on week days and at anytime on the weekend on 0427 449 613. Please be advised that this number is not to be used for adjustment to leave arrangements.

North West Tour

If you would like your child to attend North West Tour and have not advised us please contact the Administration staff as seats are filling fast.

Closed weekends and School holidays

Parents are reminded that the College will provide meals on return of closed weekends and school holidays at 5.40pm. If you child is returning late and requires a meal can you please indicate this on the leave application, we will place a meal aside so that the residential staff can organise on your child's return.

Special Dinner

This term's special dinner was held on Monday night and the theme was "Dress up as something sporty". Below are some photos from the night.









Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell



A warm welcome is extended to all parents of 2017 students. Students are settling into their routines and we are starting to see some good work.

Major projects will be started soon and a Project Confirmation Slip and Commencement Account will be sent out for students starting new projects. Parents need to discuss the selection of projects with their son or daughter. Some projects are quite costly and we prefer parents don't get a surprise. Staff are available to talk to parents if assistance is

staff are available to talk to parents if assistance is required.

Current program and contact staff: Certificate II in Automotives **Mr Troy Boromini Mr Ben Elliott** Certificate II in Engineering Pathways **Mr Keith Thompson Mr Ben Elliott Mr Brandon Skinner** Certificate II in Construction Pathways **Mr Brandon Skinner** Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways **Mr Stephen Prangnell Mr Ben Elliott**

Workshops Open After Hours

The Design and Technology workshops are regularly open after hours during the week. This gives students the opportunity to utilise the workshops for their personal projects or to get assistance with work. If students are planning to make difficult projects or are having difficulty with their work they need to utilise this resource.

Furnishing

Year IIs are currently completing compulsory exercises and receiving instructions on the correct use of hand tools and machinery. Students are becoming familiar with equipment and are making good progress.

Year 12 students are completing compulsory exercises before continuing with their personal projects from last year.

General Construction

Year 11 and 12 students have been working in the shade developing their bricklaying skills. Once it cools down a bit, work will commence on the large vehicles ramp for Automotives. Then students will be able to put their skills to use on a variety of other projects around the College.

Engineering

Year 11 students are currently completing competencies related to OHS, quality procedures, planning tasks and working with others in the completion of their first task, a sheet metal toolbox. They will shortly move onto Task 2 which primarily involves the development of oxy welding skills. Future tasks for Year 11 students include the production of a folding shovel and manual metal arc welding procedures.

Year 12 students are in the process of completing a number of arc-welding and GMAW (mig welding) exercises before moving onto their personal projects. Any Year 12 student who has not yet started a personal project will need to decide on a suitable project that can be completed by the end of Term Three. It is important that these projects cover the required competencies and factors such as cost and student ability also need to be taken into consideration. It is therefore very important that the selection of projects is done in consultation with both staff and parents.

Automotives

Year 11 students are developing familiarity with workshop procedures and practising safe jacking using the hoists and safety stands in preparation for vehicle servicing.



Year 12 students are revising workshop practices from last year and are moving onto fuel systems and servicing vehicles.

Mr Boromini with Year 11 students in the workshop

Surf Camp

The Surf Camp is being held in Denmark and our accommodation will be at the WA College of Ag - Denmark with surfing taking place at Ocean Beach.

The camp will cater for beginners and experienced surfers. The Surf clinic will be run by South Coast Surfing Lessons and they will supply all surfing equipment including wet suits, surf boards and staff. If students wish to they may take their own surfboards wetsuits etc. At this stage the camp is full. Permission slips and invoices will be sent out shortly.

Class - Mr Paul Jasper

It has been great to see so many new and eager faces in Year II this year, welcome to the College! Also, a warm welcome back to the Year 12s – what an exciting and busy year we all have ahead of us.

We welcome two new staff members to our area. Miss Natasha Clemens has joined us as teacher of Plant Production Systems and Mathematics Essentials and has an extensive background in agriculture. Mr Chris Dougall is teaching Maths and has been successfully teaching in Wongan Hills for the past 20 odd years and our College is very lucky to have someone with his wealth of knowledge on staff. Mrs Jaime Garrett is teaching within various learning areas and has previously worked at the College. This year she will be teaching in the areas English, Plant Production Systems and Physical Education Studies. Ms Katherine Morrison is our dedicated English teacher and has just completed her degree and is therefore at the forefront of the English Curriculum which is now in its 3^{rd} year.

Class Area Staff 2017:

Mr Paul Jasper – Acting Head of Curriculum, Physical Education Studies and Plant Production Systems

Mrs Leanne Childs – Education Assistant

Miss Natasha Clemens – Plant Production Systems, Essentials Mathematics

Mr Chris Dougall – Mathematics Applications and Essentials

Mrs Jaime Garrett – English, Physical Education Studies and Plant Production Systems

Ms Katherine Morrison – English

Miss Leannne Sjollema – Animal Production Systems

We all look forward to a productive and successful year ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the teachers or myself if you have any questions regarding the Class Area or your child's class work.

OLNA 2017

The **OLNA** is an online literacy and numeracy assessment. It is designed to enable students to successfully meet the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requirement of demonstrating the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy. To successfully meet the literacy and



numeracy requirement from 2017, students must demonstrate the skills regarded as essential to meet the demands of everyday life and work in a knowledge-based economy. These skills are described in Level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework.

If your child has not passed OLNA they will be working closely with our Education Assistant **Leanne Childs** as well as our English and Maths teachers. It is essential that he/she is available for testing which will begin on the 7 March, which is the Tuesday after the long weekend. The writing component must be tested during this week with reading and numeracy to follow the next week.

ATAR Group 2017

A key area of focus for the Year 12 ATAR group this year is working together as a team to achieve our goals. Students have already started to study hard as they sit their first lot of tests for Term I. This year our Maths and English teachers have made themselves available one night a fortnight for prep, they will be providing specific help in their areas. I would encourage all students to utilise the teachers during this time. More information will follow in regards to exam preparation and tutoring opportunities.

Special Examination Arrangements for the 2017 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.

Student Success

Congratulations to students who were successful in the **ABC Heywire – Kyle Reinke** and **Luke Stevens.** They attended the Youth Summit in Canberra recently.

Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart



I would like to welcome everyone to another exciting year at the College.

Welcome back to the Administration Team below we look forward to an enjoyable year:

Christine Fulwood: School Officer, (enrolments, archiving and front office) **Julie Skinner**: School Officer, (farm admin

assistant, VET/RTO admin)

Rebecca Marsh: School Officer, (front office and financial assistant)

Karen Argent: School Officer, (HRMIS, Residential)

Anita Sullivan: Library Officer, (library, newsletter, website and Agricollegian organiser)

Steve Skinner: IT Tech for whole of College

To **Year 11 parents** who are new to the College, I would like to welcome you. I have had meetings with a few of you but am more than happy to answer or meet with you whenever you are at the College.

To **Year 12 parents,** welcome back to the last year of your child's schooling year.

Fees

The boarding fees for 2017 are as follows: Ist instalment: \$2,789.00 due by Ist February 2017 2nd instalment: \$2,790.00 due by 26th April 2017 3rd instalment: \$2,790.00 due by 18th July 2017 **Total for the year of 2017 being \$8,369.00**

Fees are clearly a charge for service and there is an expectation instalment deadlines be met unless there is a prior arrangement with the Business Manager.

Residential Fee

The first and second instalments of residential fees must be cleared by the end of Semester One for students to continue in residence in Semester Two.

The third instalment to be cleared before the commencement of Term Four.

Failure to clear all outstanding fees from Year 11 will result in residency being denied at the commencement of Year 12 unless prior repayment arrangements have been made with the Manager Corporate Services. **NB:** Students may attend the education program in Year 12 as a day student.

Subject Charges & Personal Items

This fee is to be paid as soon as possible from Enrolment Day. (As per itemised invoice) unless arrangement has been made with Manager Corporate Services.

Course Charges, Extra Cost Options & Other Optional Costs are to be paid if you child participates. An invoice will be forwarded for these items.

AIC (Assistance for Isolated Children)

If you have requested for your AIC payment to be directed straight to the College, please forward a copy of your Centrelink statement to the College enabling us to make the necessary credit to your account.

BAHA (Boarding Away from Home Allowance)

If you have not returned your Boarding Away from Home Allowance form or are unsure if you have, could you please contact me or return as soon as possible, this will allow me to deduct a further



\$2,105.00 from your account. Methods of Payment

Details for parents wishing to pay fees by electronic banking are as follows:

Name of Account: Western Australian College of Agriculture – Cunderdin

	0	-
Bank: Bendigo	BSB Number:	633 000

Account Number: 155 427 040 Details of transactions can be faxed to (9635 1334) or emailed to Cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au for reconciliation purposes.

Please ensure that you quote your child's Student number when making direct payment to avoid any monies received not being placed against correct

Manager Corporate Services (cont.) - Mrs Laura McCart

Payment in person at a bank

It is imperative that you use the Student Number as the reference when depositing in to the College account over the counter at a Bank. With this method of payment the only details that appear on the College statement is the name of the branch the transaction has taken place at and the Student Number. If it is necessary for the College to request a voucher trace for the details of the payee, a \$13.50 fee is incurred which is the parents' responsibility to pay. Details of transactions can also to be faxed to (9635 1334) or emailed to Cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au

EFTPOS facility

There is EFTPOS available at the front office for payments. This also allows us to take credit card payments over the phone. Credit Card Authority forms are available from the front office if you wish us to take automatic fees on a frequent basis or to pay in full.

Cheques

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

Payment Plans

Please contact Laura McCart if you wish to discuss any financial issues or to put in place a plan to finalise your students account before end of year.

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	Parent Information Evening Wednesday 8th March 6.30pm
University of Western Australia	www.uwa.edu.au	Open Day Sunday 13th August

Sports Report - Mr Paul Jasper

Welcome back parents and students to what will be a hectic year of sporting events for the College. Term One has many different sporting activities throughout and therefore a massive amount of paperwork to follow.

So far this term we have participated in the Mursell Tennis Shield, Graeme Wood Shield, Men's local Basketball, with SCUBA diving course underway for the Physical Education class and the all-important Autumn Carnival on the 31 March this term. We have had some fantastic results so far this year and they are as follows.

Mursell Shield Tennis:

We sent two boys teams and two girls teams into the local tennis club to play against Merredin SHS and St Joseph's. The school set up a ranking system with all players able to challenge for Number I spot on the rankings list.

Hayden Richter, Luke Catto, William Cook and Sam Chitty won the boys competition for the day. Aimee Tyson, Emily Hourigan, Ellie Vance and Acacia Shannon also won their division. These two teams now head to Perth later in the term to compete in the state finals. Mrs Sullivan and Mr Jasper witnessed a fantastic tennis display, big thanks to Mrs Sullivan for all your work on the day.



Graeme Wood Shield Cricket:

This year we have 16 players in the cricket squad. **Mr Gray** and **Mr Dougall** have been training the boys on the synthetic turf. From what I understand there have been no injuries to date...Our first game was due to be played a couple of weeks ago, however due to the floods in Northam the game was postponed. We played our first game last week and came away with a loss.

<u>Autumn Carnival</u>: The planning is well underway for this massive event, **Mr Hooper** and **Mrs Childs** are currently sorting out teams and a massive contingent of staff have committed to giving up their weekend to support the event and we thank them. Last year we took 50 odd students to Harvey for the weekend and we will look to take a similar number.

Sports include everything from indoor cricket to fishing. This event, like all school sports, is mostly about participation however I'm sure there will be some healthy rivalry and banter over the weekend.

Till next issue, all the best!

Farm - Mr Kim Gray

Here we are again at the start of another year and a very wet New Year it is, after receiving first 90mms of rainfall and then days later another 80mms, just to make sure that we were wet! Very little damage was suffered at the College apart from one creek crossing, small sections of fences and some road and track damage.



There has been an explosion of green right across the Farm and of course this has necessitated a lot of work with the boom spray to control weeds in our cropping paddocks.

Planning is well underway for the new season including 1,400 hectares of cropping and 1,100 hectares of pasture. Lime and Gypsum spreading will commence once paddocks are trafficable. There will be a slight increase in the number of sheep and also a modest increase in cattle numbers in 2017.

Year 11 students seem to be settling in well and are currently going through the induction process which includes time spent with **Mr Childs** and **Mr Dumbrell** learning the rules and regulations pertaining to driving vehicles on the property and completing a driving test. **Mr Laird** is also running all Year 11 students through shearing and wool handling skills. There is a major focus on all aspects of Occupational Health and Safety procedures.

Results from last year's harvest were of a mixed bag, with Barley and Oats performing well averaging around 3 Tonne to the hectare. Wheat and Canola were less impressive around the I Tonne per hectare. Frost being the major cause for this disappointment, however we are lucky in having multi-peril insurance which will cover some of our losses.

Some Year 12 students have travelled to the Pingelly Shears to compete in their first event for the year. Results were very good with **Danny Halligan** coming 1st in the Novice Event and **Phillip McDonald** being placed 2nd in the same event. All students attending were praised for their



endeavours to improve their skills. The State Novice Team was confirmed and includes two exstudents and two current students ; they are **Jayden Smith, Shannon McLean, Danny Halligan** and **Grace Davey**. They will be competing in the Shearing and Wool Handling competitions being held in Bendigo, Victoria on 28th October 2017. **Mr Laird** has been asked to accompany the students in the role of either Wool Judge or Team Manager.





Isaac Stokes (left), Grace Davey & Daniel Willmott (above)



Danny Halligan, Phillip McDonald, Jayden Smith & Shannon McLean (left)

Down at the piggery, students have been busy building feedstalls for the pregnant sows in preparation for the arrival of a new dome shelter to cover this area. This is all part of a plan to move towards batch farrowing which will see sows grouped together in groups of 5 or 6, and should enable more efficient management of the breeding sow herd.

In the cattle section, we are currently looking to purchase some young steers in preparation for feedlotting these animals along with our own steers to make up numbers.

We are all looking forward to an exciting new year which will be our second year of farming the additional land purchased in early 2016.

Farm Duty Roster – Term 1 2017

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

Dates	Year 12 Students	Year 11 Students
4 - 5 February	Jack Oorschot	
Cycle 1		

11 12 Echruch	Travis Schilling	John Waters	
11 - 12 February	Brayden Fairhead	Carla Woods	

18 - 19 February	Conner Anderson	Bradley Adams	
Cycle 2	Lachlan Begley	Eli Adams	

24 25 Eobruory	Jordan Booth	Remmi Anderson
24 - 25 February	Dylan Brown	Mitchell Applegate

4 - 5 March Cycle 3	CLOSED WEEKEND LABOUR DAY	
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11 12 March	Callen Buller	Riley Beilken
11 - 12 March	Madeline Burt	Charles Bulleid

18 - 19 March	Lachlan Butler	Jessica Cox
Cycle 4	Billy Bywaters	Joseph DalBusco

25 26 March	Alyssa Catilo	Georgia Dawes
25 - 26 March	Luke Catto	Jack Dixon

1 - 2 April	Samuel Chitty	Harrison Duperouzel
Cycle 5	Isabelle Clark	Rhys Eyre

7 9 April	Luke Coleman	Rhys Eyre	
7 - 8 April	William Cook	Georgia France	

Year 11 General Plant Production - Miss Natasha Clemens

Term one has kicked off to an excellent start with the Year IIs learning about plant environments. Students in Miss Clemens and Miss Garrett's Year 11 General class for Plant Production undertook a soil sampling practical around the College paddocks.

Students got their hands dirty while they gathered specific samples, measured the compaction of the soil, the PH of the soil and determined the texture and structure of the soil. Despite the poor weather, the students thoroughly enjoyed getting out of the classroom to analyse different soils around the College farm. Students have also been learning about the different macro and micro nutrients needed for plant production.

The General classes have looked at examples of different types of nutrient deficiencies as well as factors affecting soil fertility. For the rest of the term the students will be looking at plant structure and function and the requirements for different plant processes.



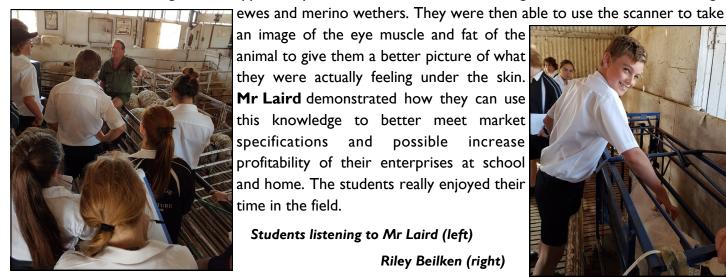


Animal Production Systems - Miss Leanne Sjollema

Animal Production System students worked hard this week combining their theory and practical knowledge of sheep management and fertility.

Year I2 ATAR students have been learning about reproductive management technologies and were able to experience pregnancy scanning, identify ewes as empty, single or twinning mothers and develop hypothetical nutrition plans accordingly.

Year 11 students were given the opportunity to learn about condition scoring with Mr Laird on the College



an image of the eye muscle and fat of the animal to give them a better picture of what they were actually feeling under the skin. Mr Laird demonstrated how they can use this knowledge to better meet market specifications possible increase and profitability of their enterprises at school and home. The students really enjoyed their time in the field.

Students listening to Mr Laird (left) Riley Beilken (right)



Coming up...

Thursday	2 March	CLOSED WEEKEND College closes 12.00pm Year 11 Sausage Sizzle 12.00pm Year 12 Parent Luncheon 12.00pm
Monday	6 March	Labour Day Public Holiday Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Tuesday	7 March	College commences 8.00am
Friday - Sunday	24 - 26 March	Surf Camp
Friday - Sunday	31 March - 2 April	Autumn Carnival @ Harvey
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 II Exams
Monday - Friday	26 - 30 June	Country Week
Friday	30 June	END OF TERM TWO



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or Facebook page

