

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE  
*Cunderdin*

# Newsletter

February 2018



**Welcome to  
2018!**



# Principal - Mr Michael White



I acknowledge the significant amount of work put into ensuring the College year started smoothly. An ambience of purpose and orderliness pervaded the College from the moment of my arrival. New and current students, families and staff have indicated to me they felt well informed and supported for the start of the year. I welcome all of you to the College and expect that the strong focus on excellence will continue throughout the year.

As a person new to the College, I have been extremely impressed with the attitude of students, parents and staff. Senior students have been open and warm during their interactions with me. Their willingness to share their knowledge and experience of the College has been very helpful in developing my understanding of what is a very complex school circumstance. With the concurrent operation of a commercial farm, residential college and school, focused on student excellence, there is a great deal going on. Student leadership has impressed me, with the Head Students discharging their responsibilities with good humour, maturity and purpose. Visiting dignitaries have been extremely enthusiastic when talking about the impressive behaviour of our student group and student leaders, a credit to the students, their families and College staff. The new students have shown the characteristics of the senior students and resilience and adaptability as they settle into a school arrangement foreign to many of them. In visiting the learning spaces of all students, I have been impressed with the focus of students, their appetite to learn and the demonstration of a sound balance between fun and endeavour. I look forward to following their progress throughout the year with some excitement.

I have found the parents to be extremely supportive of both their children and the College staff. High parental expectation of student behaviour makes our job so much easier. Parent expectation helps us set and achieve high standards across all domains of College activity. The ability for us to establish such a positive relationship with parents so we can work together in supporting the education and personal growth of students is empowering for all. I look forward to further developing my relationship with parents over the course of the year.

Staff have been extremely welcoming and demonstrated great passion for their area of

teaching, and a strong commitment to student success. Without doubt a key factor in the excellence demonstrated in a range of areas by students of the College. As I have got to know staff a little more, I have seen affirmation of my first impression. The high standard staff expect from students is very powerful and demonstrates the principle that students will perform to the standard we expect. The passion of staff for their subject is further demonstrated by their willingness to talk to me about their subject at any opportunity. It is a great pleasure to be working in such an enthusiastic and aspirational environment. Thank you for your welcoming demeanour and pursuit of excellence.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee continue to be a great help to the College. The breadth and depth of knowledge held by the committee is remarkable. We are extremely grateful for the time you give and expertise you share so liberally. It has been a pleasure to meet some committee members on a number of occasions; I look forward to developing a deeper relationship with all of the committee over time.

As I write I anticipate the Board training coming up, with pleasure. All Boards I have worked with have been great advocates for the schools they served, bring an amazing diversity of perspectives of the school and tremendous expertise. I fully expect the WACoA Cunderdin Board to have a rich and diverse world view and expertise. I look forward to meeting the Board and working with them to keep a focus on the College vision and consideration of our Business Plan to further promote our pursuit of excellence.



**Emma McLean and Lynayha Wells with Hon. Donna Faragher MLC and Hon. Jim Chown MLC in the shearing shed**

# Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell



A warm welcome is extended to all parents of 2018 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 required.*

## **Current program and contact staff:**

Certificate II in Automotive Vocational preparation

**Mr Troy Boromini**

**Mr Ben Elliott**

**Mr Brandon Skinner**

Certificate II in Engineering Pathways

**Mr Keith Thompson**

**Mr Ben Elliott**

**Mr Stephen Prangnell**

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 11 students 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. 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.

## **Surf Camp**

The Surf Camp is being held in Denmark and our accommodation will be at the WA College of Agriculture - 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.

## **Agricollegian 2017**

*Please note there was an error on page 7. The Visitors Choice Engineering was awarded to Shane Sutherland. We apologise to the Sutherland family for the error.*

# Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart



On behalf of the Administration team, we welcome all new students and families to the College and it is great to see all of our existing students back with enthusiasm for their last year of schooling.

The Administration Team below look forward to an enjoyable year ahead:

## **School Officers**

**Felicity Burnett:** Enrolments, archiving and front office

**Rebecca Marsh:** Front office and financial assistant

**Jane Rogers:** Publications, promotional officer

**Karen Argent:** HRMIS, Residential

**Lisa Jasper:** Front office, assets officer

**Julie Skinner:** Farm admin assistant, VET/RTO admin

## **Library Officer**

**Anita Sullivan:** Library, newsletter, website and Agricollegian organiser

## **Network Administrator**

**Steve Skinner:** IT Tech for whole of College

Thanks to all the parents who have made prompt payments of accounts to date this year.

## **Fees**

The boarding fees for 2018 are as follows:

**1st instalment: \$2,846.00 due by 1 February 2018**

**2nd instalment: \$2,845.00 due by 30 April 2018**

**3rd instalment: \$2,845 due by 16th July 2018**

**Total for the year of 2018 being \$8,536.00**

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

## **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 is to be cleared before the commencement of Term Three.

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 your 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.

## **Education Program Allowance: \$235 - plus \$115**

### **Clothing Allowance**

If you have a Centrelink Health Care card you may be eligible for this allowance. Please contact the College to claim this allowance. Applications close Friday 13 April 2018.

## **Methods of Payment**

**Electronically:** Name of Account: Western Australian College of Agriculture – Cunderdin

Bank: Bendigo

BSB Number: 633 000

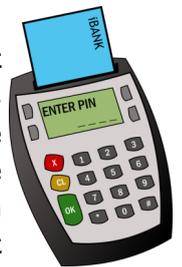
Account Number: 155 427 040

Details of transactions can be faxed to (9635 1334) or emailed to [Cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au) for reconciliation purposes.

## **Payment in person:**

### **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 account.

# Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart



## Influenza Vaccination

The College is in the process of organising a date for students to be vaccinated for the flu if they require one. It is **strongly** recommended that students attending the North West Tour be vaccinated. All information and necessary paperwork will be forwarded to parents when a date is finalised.

## Leave Applications

**A reminder that leave applications must be submitted by 8.00pm Wednesday via the Reach Boarding website.**

Students that are catching trains are requested to select which train they are catching and not select “public transport”. Parents are also reminded that we will not transport students to early trains unless it is for appointments, or if it is the end of term or a closed weekend.

If you are requesting early leave, please put an explanation in the notes section of the leave application. This will prevent leave being rejected and then saving parents time by not having to submit new leave.

There is a trend of students not returning by the time indicated on their leave. There will be a 30 minute grace period. After this time, a text message will be sent to the student requesting that they contact the Residential Manager.

## Residential Staff

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

## Student Council

I would like to thank all the Student Councillors for returning early to assist with the Year 11 Induction Program. These students gave up their last couple of days of holidays to help staff.

## North West Tour

This year has seen a tremendous early response from students and parents. If your child would like to attend and hasn't put their name down, please contact Administration to see if there are any places available.

## Grooming

A number of students have either commenced at or returned to the College with hair length or style that does not meet College Guidelines. Parents of students identified as needing a haircut will receive a letter from the College informing them of this.



**Adventure World -  
Year 11**



# Class - Mr Paul Jasper



It has been great to see so many new and eager faces in Year 11 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 one new staff member to our area. **Mr Justin Fox** has joined us as teacher of Plant and Animal Production Systems and Mathematics Essentials and has an extensive background in agriculture. **Mrs Jaime Garrett** has re-joined us as permanent relief until Easter, she is teaching within various learning areas and worked at the College last year in the role of English, Plant Production Systems and Physical Education Studies. **Miss Natasha Clemens** has taken a role in Perth at Churchlands Senior High and we thank her and wish her all the best for her teaching future career.

## Class Area Staff 2018:

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

**Mrs Leanne Childs** – Education Assistant

**Mr Justin Fox** – Plant Production Systems, Animal Production Systems and Essentials Mathematics

**Mr Chris Dougall** – Mathematics Applications and Essentials

**Mrs Jaime Garrett** – English and Plant Production Systems

**Ms Katherine Morrison** – English

**Miss Leanne 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 2018

**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 6 March, 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 2018

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 1. On Thursday 15 March there will be a travelling university road show that the ATAR students will participate in to give them an understanding of the universities available to them and the courses available.

## Special Examination Arrangements for the 2018 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 **ABC Heywire Winner – Jarrod Darlow**. Jarrod spent the first week of Term 1 in Canberra attending a Youth Forum with other winners from across the regions of Australia. Heywire puts young Australians at the centre of the conversations that shape their communities. The ABC has run the annual regional youth project in partnership with the Australian Government since 1998.



# Farm - Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams



All students have had a busy start to Term 1.

Year 12 students have returned and are busy gaining new skills, including boom spray operations and driving the boom spray truck. The spraying operations are running a bit behind due to weather conditions being too hot.

Students have been busy in the shearing shed with the TAFE instructors teaching shearing, wool handling and wool pressing. The shearing students have also started their wool clip after school and in the evenings. **Mr Wayne Laird** has taken students to two shearing excursions so far and our students have really gained additional skills with this shearing training.

Cattle students with **Mr Shaun Byrnes** have been handling stock and gaining a far better insight into cattle handling and feeding. We currently have animals in the feedlot to supply the butcher shop.

The piggery is back to full swing following the holidays. Students are learning the finer points of Artificial Insemination with **Miss Madison Davey** and students are involved with Certificate III in Pork Production.

Year 11 students have nearly completed their inductions for Farm. Inductions have included shearing and shearing shed operations, with students all having a go at shearing and wool handling. OH&S is a vital core unit for all students to be aware of and it is hoped that all students will take away these vital safety messages.



**Year 11 students gathering soil samples in Plant Production Systems**

All students have been through Tractor Inductions and for many of our students that come from farms, this is a very easy area to gain skills. We will have students involved with seeding using both the 4-wheel drive and the 2-wheel drive tractors with combines and air seeders. I know all the students are keen to get out there and turn over the dirt.

Students have also undertaken a wide variety of



**Aidan James, Mathew Eaton, Ashlee Topham and Erin Hourigan during tractor inductions**

other learning opportunities including butcher shop where they have assisted with slaughtering pigs, sheep & cattle. Students have learnt to make sausages, frankfurters and very importantly, to sharpen knives in a safe manner.

**Patrick Lawrance with Mr Troy Boromini in Automotives**



**Bonnie Telfer showing Hon. Donna Faragher MLC her Furnishings project**

## Coming up...

Thursday	1 March	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b> College Board Meeting 9.00am Year 11 & 12 Parent Luncheon 12.00pm Colleges closes 3.00pm
Monday	5 March	<b>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday - Saturday	9 - 10 March	Wagin Woolorama
Friday - Sunday	23 - 25 March	Autumn Carnival - WACOA Harvey
Thursday	29 March	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND - EASTER</b> College closes 4.00pm
Friday	30 March	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
Monday	2 April	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>
Tuesday	3 April	<b>EASTER TUESDAY</b> Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday	13 April	<b>End of Term One</b> ANZAC Ceremony College closes 12.20pm
Sunday	29 April	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Monday	30 April	<b>Term Two commences</b>
Monday - Wednesday	28 - 30 May	Year 12 ATAR Exams
Friday	1 June	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b> College Board Meeting 2.00pm College closes 4.00pm
Monday	4 June	<b>WA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday - Friday	6 - 8 June	Year 11 ATAR Exams
Sunday - Friday	24 - 29 June	Country Week
Friday	29 June	<b>End of Term Two</b>



WA College of Agriculture—Cunderdin  
257 Baxter Road  
PO Box 132  
CUNDERDIN WA 6407  
(08) 9635 2100  
cunderdin.AC@education.wa.edu.au

Visit our website at  
[www.cunderdinag.wa.edu.au](http://www.cunderdinag.wa.edu.au)

or Facebook page

