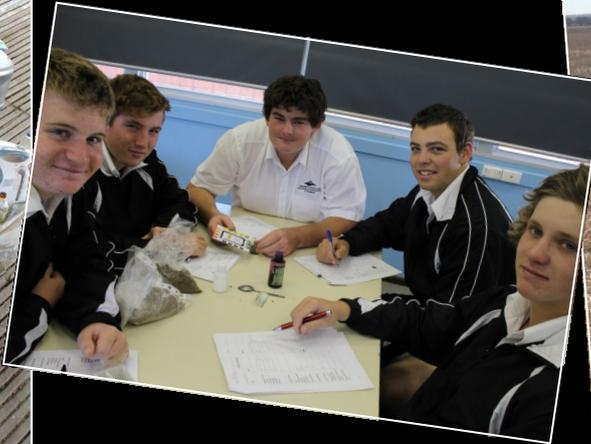


WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE  
*Cunderdin*

# Newsletter

June 2017



# Principal - Mr David De Meo



Term Two is well underway and our Year 12 ATAR students completed sitting their Semester 1 examinations before the long weekend while the Year 11 ATAR exams concluded on Friday 9 June. Like the students, parents and staff, I am keen to see the results of both year groups and discussing where to next with individual students.

On Thursday 8 June the College farewelled **Mrs Christine Fulwood**, who after 29 years of service at the College, will commence the next phase in her life - retirement. **Christine** has been the face of the College for many years and will be greatly missed. In my time,

**Christine** has always given a 110% in whatever she does and she leaves behind a position that will be hard for one person to fill. I wish her all the best for her retirement and I know that the College staff do likewise.



The three main areas within the College continue to function at a very high level and my thanks to the staff for their continuing efforts in delivering educational experiences of a high quality and relevance to the students. I am particularly pleased to hear examples of classroom staff and farm staff working together to deliver curriculum content in both theory and practical environments.

The seeding program is almost complete and should wind up this week and like many farmers we are eagerly awaiting the coming rains.

In the trades area the Year 12 student's models are beginning to take shape and to assist students in completing their models, the workshops will be open on weekends. Students should check with the staff as to when the workshops will be open.

## Student Absences

In my last newsletter I mentioned student absences and how essential it is that students spend as much time at the College as possible and the reason your son/daughter being here is to receive a quality education and ultimately achieve graduation at the end of Year 12. While the College will endeavour to support parent/guardian requests for legitimate leave reasons, it will not support leave requests for reasons such as the student is required to assist with farming activities during the school term or attending motor cross events that require 4-5 days out of school.

If your child is away for such a reason it will be recorded as an unacceptable absence in our attendance records and I have advised staff that if assessments occur during this period, the student will not have these assessments counted towards their final grade. I urge parents to consider requesting leave for such reasons and be aware of the consequences.

## College Board Meeting

The next College Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 18 August commencing at 10.00am.

## College Contacts

Should you have any questions about the College please feel free to phone or email the person responsible at the College and I am positive they will assist with your questions.

Name of person	Area of responsibility
David De Meo	Overall College operations
Travis Hooper	Operational issues
Darryl McCart	Residential
Laura McCart	Financial
Stephen Prangnell	Design & Technology (Trades)
Paul Jasper	Curriculum
Kim Gray	Farm / Agriculture

## Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell



### Year 12

The Year 12s seem to have realised that the end is near. All of a sudden they are working harder and producing more work. They have approximately six cycles left at the College.

It would be helpful if parents reinforced how little time students have left to encourage them to stay motivated. It also highlights that any absences from their classes can have a large impact on their results.

### Reports

All parents are encouraged to contact subject teachers if they would like to discuss their son or daughter's report.

Parents are welcome to visit the workshops and view student projects when visiting the College.

### Projects - Engineering and Furnishing

Students working in Furnishing and Engineering are

commencing or continuing work on major projects. So that there are no surprises, parents need to discuss their son or daughter's projects with them to ensure they are making something appropriate. Some form of contact is needed between parents and teachers. Be it a phone call or email letting us know that they are aware of their child's project. Some projects are very expensive and I would like parents to be aware of the costs associated with the projects selected by their son or daughter.

### Accounts – Engineering and Furnishing

Parents may be receiving interim material accounts in the near future. We ask that 50% of the estimated cost of the project be paid prior to commencement.

This in reality does not quite happen as we try to eliminate delays in students starting major projects and payments are made after commencing.

## Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart



I can't believe that it is already the end of Term 2.

It is with great sadness that I announce the retirement of one of our long standing office staff, **Mrs Christine Fulwood**. Christine has decided to retire after 29 years of service to the Department. Her knowledge, support and friendliness will surely be missed. We wish her all the best in her future travels.



**Mrs Tanya Glover** has resigned as her family has decided to stay in Tasmania. **Tanya** is also sadly missed. In her place we are fortunate to have the lovely **Ms Rebecca Marsh** who is now my right-hand person.

Meningococcal Immunisation Authorisation Forms need to be returned to the College by 26 June. **All forms need to be returned even if your child is not receiving the vaccination. This is a Health Department requirement.**

Just a few reminders for the end of Semester One: ***The 3<sup>rd</sup> instalment of boarding fees is due when your child returns to the College, unless prior arrangements have been made with me for a payment plan.***

There are still a number of parents who have not returned their Boarding Away from Home Allowance forms to me to be eligible for an amount of \$2,105.00 to be credited to your account.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any financial matters. Over the next few weeks I will be contacting parents to discuss different options.

I hope everyone has a pleasant two week break and returns full of enthusiasm for a good start to the new term.

# Class - Mr Paul Jasper



## Semester One Exams

Congratulations to both the Year 11 and 12 ATAR students who recently sat their Semester One exams. These exams are an important part of our assessment schedule and are also part of the preparation process for the final WACE examinations at the end of Year 12.

Please take the time to reflect on results and think about what can be done to improve results and best prepare for the next exams in Semester 2.

## Semester One Reports

You will soon receive your child's report for Semester One. Whilst reading your child's report please keep the following points in mind:

- A school semester grade is a progress grade and this indicates that the course runs over the whole year and a final grade will not be issued until the end of the year.
- A school semester grade is not fixed and there is room for improvement.
- A final grade is the grade that your child has received for that course as it is a semester-long course.

- Grade cut-off points may differ between courses.
- Grades are awarded according to course specific descriptors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any enquiries regarding your child's report.

## Country Week

Country Week is rapidly approaching and I would like to thank all staff and students that have given up time to prepare and participate in this event. It is a fantastic opportunity for the students to compete against other schools on a competitive level, but more importantly a chance to interact with their peers and participate in something that they may be unfamiliar with. It is quite common for a student to make comment that it is the best week of their schooling year. This year we are taking down five teams and just over 60 students. The teams are Boys AFL in division B, Boys Basketball in division D, Mixed Hockey in division B, Netball in division D and Mixed Touch Rugby in division C.

Any support shown by parents during the event is greatly appreciated and if you would like to keep up to date with fixtures and results you can find them on the School Sport WA website [www.schoolsportwa.com.au](http://www.schoolsportwa.com.au)

# Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart



## Leave Reminders

With the end of the term approaching, I would like to remind everyone about submitting leave. You can submit leave as far in advance as you would like, so please don't leave it until the last minute.

Students attending Country Week need to submit Country Week Leave for the duration of Country Week. Leave must also be submitted for the holidays.

Year 11 students attending North West Tour need to submit North West Tour Leave for the duration of the trip. If these students will be taking Weekend Leave when returning from North West Tour, this

also needs to be submitted.

**All Leave Applications must be submitted by Wednesday's before 8.00pm.**

## North West Tour

Students attending North West Tour are reminded that they are required to return to the College between 3.00pm - 4.00pm on Sunday 16 July to pack vehicles.

## Term Three Return

Year 12s are reminded that the return date for Term Three is Monday 17 July after 4.00pm. College commences at 8.00am on Tuesday 18 July.

## AWI competition in Melbourne

National Merino Challenge saw students converge at the Melbourne Show Grounds from across Australia. WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin sent a team of 11 students from Years 11 & 12 and were accompanied by **Mr Laird & Mrs Grant-Williams**. The students had competed successfully at Wagin Woolorama in 2017 in Merino judging. Students competed in seven challenges over the two days along with both secondary and University students.

All students learnt about condition scoring, ASBV's Ram selection, wool valuing, feed budgeting, careers in sheep and wool industries.

Life-time ewe management was explained, how and why it works with the aims of gaining more lambs & better conception rates. Students learnt that they could benchmark their own flocks against other flocks in their areas. It was demonstrated through a combination of activities that ewes are expected to be the power house in a sheep enterprise, produce wool, lambs and have a saleable carcass in a variety of environments and that meeting the ewe's requirements will assist in lifting production. This was all explained in a very simple format with students watching shearing, fleece weighing and weighing of ewes. Estimated production figures were shown to identify the high performing ewe and a flock culling program was identified for the lower performing ewes.

Students worked through a series of exercises to calculate how much feed the ewe needs taking into account of the food on offer, managing condition scoring and planning for how much she will need to meet optimum production. Management and planning was the focus of one exercise and the students: using management to make a more profitable flock

Australian Wool Innovation had many industry speakers and all were keen to share their passion for the Sheep and wool industry. Students made many valuable contacts to assist them in choosing a career path.

All students came away for the National Merino Challenge with a far greater understanding of both the sheep and wool industries.

Australian Wool Innovation is to be commended on the outstanding organisation at this year's Challenge. The rural sector can expect to have many keen and passionate future employees.

Students from WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin received sponsorship to assist with their trip from **West Coast Wools, WA Stud Merino Breeders Association & Australian Wool Innovation.**



*L-R: Grace Davey, Danny Halligan, Phillip McDonald, Daniel Willmott, Bonnie Telfer, Charles Bulleid, Georgia Dawes, Sonny King, Chloe King, Jake Garlick & Aimee Tyson.*

# Farm - Mr Kim Gray



Another month has passed with little rain received. 8.8mm for May after only 1.2mm for April with our biggest rain event being 2.6mm. We are assessing our reserves of hay and grain for livestock with the possibility of having to hand feed for at least another 12 weeks even if we receive decent rain in the next two weeks.

**Mr Laird** has been selling off any dry sheep and has received some good prices; Wether lambs \$138, Dry ewes \$140. Ewes have been lambing with high numbers of twins and even one lot of quads. Some of these sheep were being kept for students to practice shearing prior to competition, but with the lack of rain we have had to sell them off to preserve feed for the lambing ewes.

**Mr Byrnes** has moved most of his cattle across the Mortlock river to the Eastern side of the farm to take advantage of some self-sown barley. Students have been assisting in pulling down the portable cattle yards and relocating them nearer to the cattle's current location. There have been some excursions recently for students to the **Kylagh** feedlot in Tammin to experience cattle handling and feeding on a major scale. This has been a terrific opportunity for students and we thank **Mr Ivan Rogers** of **Kylagh** feedlot for allowing students to gain this experience.

The cropping program is complete except for the field peas. We have been hoping we would receive some rain to soften the red loam soil that we intend to sow them into. There is only a small number of Year 12 students still to have a go on the air seeder and they will have an opportunity when we sow the peas. Most of the Canola, Lupins, Barley and Wheat have germinated but there are large gaps in the non-wetting soil types. All crops are desperate for a drink.

A new dome shelter has been erected at the piggery to house two batches of pregnant sows and the two pens feature individual feed stalls for the sows to prevent "bullying" at feed time by the dominant sows. Students have put a considerable amount of effort into the construction of the feed stalls and pens for this new facility. **Miss Davey** has been busy

with students who have elected to undertake Certificate III in Pork Production and they are making substantial progress.

**Mr Ball** has taken three weeks and **Mr Jones** has taken seven weeks of long service leave so we have called on **Mr Longmire** to help on the farm with students and this has been greatly appreciated.

We are now keeping our fingers crossed for all of us in the Wheatbelt for some substantial rain to promote some growth in the crops and pastures.



**Seeding with a demo Seed Hawk 60ft bar with 6 x 10ft section controls. All calibrated, controlled and monitored from an iPad while standing next to it.**



**Juliet Hartzler,  
Grace Davey,  
Matt Shepherd,  
Lachlan Begley  
& Luke  
Coleman**

## University & Careers Information

Central Regional TAFE	<a href="http://www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au">www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au</a>	<b>'Uni Experience' at Muresk Institute</b> Thursday 13th - Friday 14th July
Curtin University	<a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a>	<b>Open day</b> Sunday 6th August 10.00am - 4.00pm
Edith Cowan University	<a href="http://www.ecu.edu.au">www.ecu.edu.au</a>	<b>Open Day</b> 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	<a href="http://www.murdoch.edu.au">www.murdoch.edu.au</a>	<b>Open Day</b> Sunday 30th July 9.00am - 3.00pm
Muresk Institute	<a href="http://www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute">www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute</a>	
Notre Dame University	<a href="http://www.nd.edu.au">www.nd.edu.au</a>	<b>Open Day</b> 20th August
University of Western Australia	<a href="http://www.uwa.edu.au">www.uwa.edu.au</a>	<b>Open Day</b> Sunday 13th August



## UNI EXPERIENCE



### Curious about university life?

- Experience life as a Uni student
- Explore career opportunities and pathways to get you there
- Talk to recent graduates
- Meet current university students
- Mix with other prospective students from all over WA
- Enjoy an experience you will never forget

Charles Sturt University together with Central Regional TAFE are delivering the Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management degree at Muresk Institute. Charles Sturt University has a graduate employment rate 10% above the national average.

The 'Uni Experience' at Muresk Institute, 90 km s from Perth, gives students the opportunity to learn about the agriculture and agribusiness industries, to interact with current university students as well as graduates. You will also find out about the university degree delivered onsite.

#### DURATION

Two day overnight stay  
Start 10am on day 1  
Finish after lunch day 2

**Date:** Thursday 13th to Friday 14th July 2017

#### COST

\$40 towards catering and accommodation

#### REGISTER

RSVP by 30th June 2017 online  
[uniexperience17.eventbrite.com.au](http://uniexperience17.eventbrite.com.au)  
or contact us directly



Scan to Register

Phone (08) 9622 6789  
Agribusiness@crtafe.wa.edu.au



CENTRALREGIONALTAFE.WA.EDU.AU  
RTO:52789

## Coming up...

Monday - Friday	26 - 30 June	Country Week Work Experience
Friday	30 June	<b>END OF TERM TWO</b> College closes 4.00pm
Sunday	16 July	Year 11 students attending North West Tour return between 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Monday - Friday	17 - 28 July	Year 11 North West Tour/Work Experience
Monday	17 July	Staff Professional Development Day Year 12 students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Tuesday	18 July	College commences 8.00am
Monday	7 August	College photos
Tuesday	22 August	Ferrari Formal Wear onsite for suit hire
Tuesday	29 August	Ferrari Formal Wear suit delivery
Wednesday	30 August	Dowerin Field Day fencing competition
Thursday	31 August	Dowerin Field Day Year 11s attend College closes 2.00pm Parent Interviews
Friday	1 September	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b> College Ball
Sunday	3 September	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8 September</b>	<b>COLLEGE OPEN DAY</b>
Monday - Wednesday	18 - 20 September	Year 12 Exams (ATAR students)
Thursday	21 September	Perth Royal Show RAS Farm Skills Competition
Friday	22 September	<b>END OF TERM THREE</b> College closes 4.00pm



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