



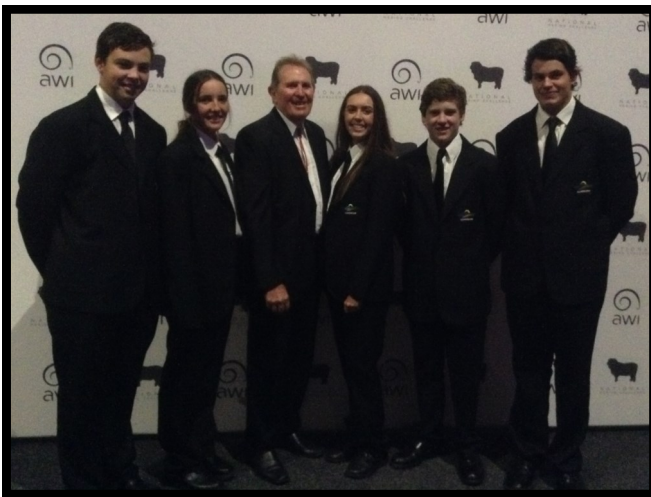
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE  
*Cunderdin*

# Newsletter

May 2016



## National Merino Challenge



# Principal—Mr Bernard Beatty



## National Merino Challenge

Congratulations to our National Merino Challenge team that flew out to Sydney to compete on the 14 and 15 May. It was an amazing experience for **Aimee Tyson, Reece Fisher, Danny Halligan, Phillip McDonald** and **Grace Davey**. A big thankyou to **Mr Gray** for his organisation of the event, not an easy task when flying students across Australia and **Mr Laird** for his coaching and attendance. The group can be very proud of their achievements.



**U/17 Cunderdin Hockey team in the Avon Association**

## Cropping Program

Congratulations to the Farm staff for their efforts in training and ensuring the cropping program has run smoothly this year. It has been an unprecedented break to the season and probably one we will not see again for a long time.

The effort staff have put in over the last month has been commendable in particular **Mr Shane Childs** and **Mr Jason Dumbrell** (Cropping Technical Officers) who have put in many additional hours to ensure our program is on track. Already most of the crop is out of the ground and doing well.

## Local Sport

Congratulations to all our students participating in sporting events across the Wheatbelt. We have a number of students playing for their home teams in football as well as playing for our local Cunderdin team.

Our U/17 Avon Hockey side is currently undefeated having scored more like cricket scores than hockey score lines in their wins.

Our girls have also performed well in the local Kellerberrin Netball competition having a number of wins, and a big thankyou to **Mrs Childs** for coaching and managing the side.

## Staff Changes

There have been a few staff changes this term with **Dr DeZoysa** on sick leave. We appreciate this has caused some disruption particularly to our Year 12 classes, however we have put in place a manageable alternative. Please contact me if you have any specific issues.

## Alcohol, Drug and Road Safety programs

We have had a number of visitors to the College including the RAC Drug and Alcohol awareness program and the Paraplegic Benefit Fund. Both these programs are aimed at keeping our students safe from drugs and alcohol as well as being safe on our roads.

## Parent Interviews

The Parent Interviews on the last day of term last year appeared to be very successful and well attended. If parents have any feedback on how we may improve the process, please let me know as we see this as a valuable experience for our students and parents.

## Still to come

While the term has not been as busy as the first, there are still a number of events to come including Country Week, Trade tours, Cunderdin 8 and Rural Skills workshop for Year 12's at Muresk.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work being put in to organising Country Week and many thanks go to **Mr Travis Hooper, Mr Paul Jasper** and **Mr Darryl McCart** for organising all aspects of this week.

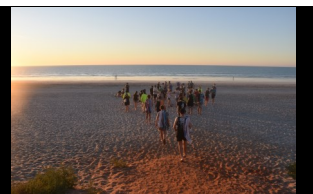
**From Dan Hirst—  
Executive Producer ,  
Heywire**

*"I would like to congratulate Cunderdin Ag College in general, and your students **Travis Fluck** and **Lawson Butler** in particular on being judged an individual winner of the ABC's Heywire regional youth storytelling competition in 2015.*

*Congratulation again and I look forward to seeing what your students come up with this year."*



# Residential Manager—Mr Darryl McCart



## Influenza Vaccinations

Students who took advantage of the clinic arranged for Influenza injections attended the doctors 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 her help with the organization with the clinic. Hopefully we will not have too many sick students when the flu season arrives.

## North West Tour

Student tour numbers have been finalised for this years tour. An information pack will be sent out to parents shortly. I am still finalising the itinerary as we are hoping to visit Derby this year to look at the Pivot irrigation systems that has been set up just out of the main town site.

## Grooming

There are a number of students that have been **repeatedly asked to get a hair cut** or brush and wash their hair on a regular basis.

The College guidelines clearly outline what is and is not acceptable. Parents of students not wishing to follow these guidelines will be contacted by myself in the future to discuss and rectify the situation.

## 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.

## Dormitories

Unfortunately our trial of allowing students access to other dormitories has come to an end due to the inappropriate behaviour of a handful of students. It is disappointing to see that these students have disadvantaged the majority of students by their actions.

This will be reviewed but is dependant on appropriate student behaviour.

## Garden Beds

The College has purchased stand alone garden beds for each dormitory. Students will be able to plant appropriate seedlings and seeds in these to cultivate and look after - vegetables would be nice!

The reasoning behind this is so that the main garden beds can remain free of wheat, barley and lupin crops which will make the gardeners job a bit easier.

## Staffing

At last, the government freeze on hiring staff has been lifted! Term One and the beginning of Term Two has been very challenging as we have not been able to replace sick staff or fill vacant positions unless we have used staff that are already employed by the Department. This has resulted in a few disruptions to the Residential program which I hope is now over.

I would like to thank the various staff at the College that have

stepped up and have filled the gaps in residence for me.

## Closed Weekend

The next closed weekend is 4 – 6 June. Please be advised that school finishes at **4.00pm Friday 3 June**. Students can return to the College after **4.00pm on Monday 6 June**. Train travel run times and appointments are the **only** excuses for students leaving before 4.00pm. Anything else will be marked as an unacceptable absence.



**Grace Davey, Lawson Butler, Shannon McLean & Phillip McDonald**



**Chloe King, Inaya Stone & Grace Davey**



# Design & Technology—Mr Stephen Prangnell



*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.*

## Exhaust system provided by MANTA

A 2000 WH Statesman V8 was purchased earlier this year. This has provided a useful motivational tool for students (and Staff) who love the sound. This has recently been enhanced with an exhaust system donated by **MANTA** from catalytic converter back with a 2 ½ inch exhaust through hot dogs.

If you have watched a David Attenborough documentary on Meer Cats, you can imagine every student's reaction every time it starts up. It is a little distracting but fun!

We would like to thank **Gregor, Daniel** and the boys at **MANTA** for the exhaust system.



**Danny Halligan** 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.



**Billy Wells**

## General Construction

Students have had a busy time in General Construction and have been primarily working on the vehicle ramp for Automotive. 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.



**Alyssa Catilo & Katie Larkman**

## 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 student progress at this stage of the year.



**Travis Schilling with Mr Alan Sutton**



**Year 12 students with Mr Alan Sutton**



# Class—Mrs Jane Beatty



## Semester I Examinations

**Yr 12**

Week 6

Mon 30/05 – Wed 01/06

**Yr 11**

Week 7

Wed 08/06 – Fri 10/06

Please see the exam timetable below for details.

**There is important information regarding exams in the Year 12 Handbook which is located on the SCSSA website: <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/year-12-information>**

Good luck to all the students sitting exams. Please make sure you come to your examinations with all the necessary equipment including spare batteries for your calculator!

**Please note that we do not reschedule examinations without a medical certificate.**

DATE	SUBJECT	TIME ALLOCATION
Yr 12 MONDAY Day 6 30/05/16	PLANT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS	3HRS 10 MINS 8-11.10am
TUESDAY Day 7 31/05/16	ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS	3 HRS 10 MINS 8am – 11.10am
	MATHS	2 HRS 45 MINS 1.05-3.50pm
WEDNESDAY Day 8 01/06/16	ENGLISH	3 HRS 10 MINS 8am – 11.10am
Yr 11 WEDNESDAY Day 3 08/06/16	ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS	3 HRS 10 MINS 8am-11.10am
THURSDAY Day 4 09/06/16	MATHS	2HRS 45MINS 8am – 10.45am
	PLANT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS	3HRS 10MINS 1.05 – 4.15PM
FRIDAY DAY 5 10/06/16	ENGLISH	3 HRS 10MINS 8am – 11.10am

# Farm—Mr Kim Gray



We have certainly had a magnificent start to the growing season in 2016. Some long serving staff members believe it is probably the best start they can remember.

As at 20 May, we have received 207mm for the year compared with 70mm this time last year. Consequently pastures have bolted away with good clover and serradella germinations in among the rye grass self-sown cereals and capeweed. Some pasture manipulation has already been carried out.

## Sheep

The sheep section has been capably managed by **Mrs Iles** while **Mr Laird** has been on leave in the United Kingdom recently and on his return, he has been surprised at the huge volume of feed available for his sheep.

Ewes have been lambing on to green pasture and have been able to produce large quantities of milk for their lambs so both lambs and mothers are looking in fantastic condition.

On 13 May, **Mr Laird** took a team of five students to Sydney to compete in the National Merino Challenge after they had been successful in winning the Merino Junior Judging competition at the Wagin Woolorama. The team consisted of **Grace Davey, Reece Fisher, Danny Halligan, Phillip McDonald** and **Aimee Tyson**.

*"The NMC was held over the weekend in Sydney with 140 students from across Australia. Western Australia was well represented with teams from the Cunderdin, Harvey and Narrogin*

*Colleges of Agriculture as well as students from Murdoch University's Animal Science course.*

*An initiative of AWI, the Challenge aims to offer basic skills surrounding sheep management and appraisal using both traditional and modern methods and also introduce students to the career opportunities within the sheep and wool industries.*

*Congratulations to Kristy Walter, Murdoch, for coming 2nd in the Production Class and 1st overall in the Tertiary division and to Lauren Rayner from Narrogin College of Agriculture for also coming 2nd in the Production class and 2nd overall in the Secondary school division.*

*Kristy was invited by the Stud Merino Breeders Association WA (SMBAWA) to be an Associate Judge in the Merino section at last year's Perth Royal Show after her outstanding performance at the Agvivo sheep handling workshop.*

*Cunderdin won the Junior Judging at the 2016 Woolorama and then became entitled to the SMBAWA prize of \$1500 to assist with sending a team over to the Challenge.*

*Bayer came on board to sponsor the vests that all of the WA College of Agriculture students wore during the challenge. As well as the Bayer logo, the vests also carried the SMBAWA and the colleges were also able to incorporate their logo.*

*The students who took part will take away some great experiences and knowledge from the event and well done to all of the people involved at the*

*colleges and Murdoch University, the parents and students who made it happen.*

*As you can see from the photos the students looked great and they will be able to get good use out of their vests in the future."*

**From the Stud Merino Breeders Association of Western Australia (Inc) on the National Merino Challenge**

Thanks to **Landmark** for sponsoring the Woolorama competition and also to **Mitch Crosby** and **Caris Jones** who were instrumental in helping the WA students.

On behalf of the Cunderdin students, I would like to thank **Stud Merino Breeders Association of WA, Australian Wool Innovation, West Coast Wools and De Graham Jacobs MLA (Member for Eyre)** for their financial support for students to compete in this national competition.

## Cattle

**Mr Byrnes** with his cattle section is equally excited with the huge amount of paddock feed out there so early in the season.

He has had students busily erecting electric wires around paddocks to take advantage of the high level of pasture growth in paddocks he hasn't had cattle in before, as well as replacing old fences.

The other project on the go is setting up the small feedlot trial for next term which involves Cert III students planning the fencing requirements and the installation of those new fences. This feedlot trial will be 20 head of cattle and involve intensive feeding and measurement of growth rates involving students

from class Animal Production studies. We are looking forward to the results and benefits to students in being able to track animals right through the production process to scoring the carcasses in the butcher shop.

### **Piggery**

**Ms Maddi Davey** in the Piggery has finally got all her sheds back in one piece after some lengthy material delivery delays which held up the completion of farrowing and finisher shed upgrades. This will certainly alleviate some of the management difficulties she has had to deal with in recent months.



**Kyle Van Beek**

The farrowing shed is full at present, which is the object of the exercise to keep production levels up and numbers heading off to market. Our goal is to reach 100 pigs at 100kgs live weight per month to market.

We are continuing to cull our older sows to make way for Myora blood line sows and will eventually have 70 Myora sows. In conjunction with **Ms Leanne Sjollema** from Animal Production in the class area, **Ms Maddi** has commenced a trial with weaner pigs using two different rations to explore ways to reduce any weight loss of piglets at weaning.

**Ms Maddi** will be travelling to the Gold Coast to



attend the Pan Pacific Pork Expo and also the APIAM Animal Health Conference. **Ms Maddi** is one of eight people around Australia nominated by Animal Health Professionals in the "Young Guns Award" to be presented on the Tuesday night. We wish her all the best and either way it is certainly a great honour to be nominated for this award.

### **Butcher shop**

**Mr Frantom** has been busy supplying a steady stream of meat products to the kitchen to keep the students well fed as well as giving students some valuable tuition in the meat processing trade. The new smoke oven has been installed and operating well, we are now in the process of upgrading the cryovac machine and hopefully that will arrive next week.

The Butcher shop is due for audit next week so **Mr Frantom** has been making sure all paperwork is in order and we are compliant to all regulations and I must say he has the butcher shop and surrounding area looking very neat and tidy and in excellent condition.

### **Farm Workshop**

**Mr Ball** has had a wide range of problems to solve during the seeding program, the most troublesome was the broken axle on the combine. It is a long story but suffice to say that after the initial contact between combine wheel and strainer post, the third attempt at repair with a high tensile axle has been successful and all is good. I will add the issue with the axle was not of **Mr Ball's** workmanship but with the quality of the steel in the axle supplied.

The new cricket bowling machine stand is rapidly taking shape as students are welding the frame

together and now need to fit wheels.

A project is also under way relocating some sheep yards to the newly acquired farm land East of the College home farm.

### **Cropping**

The cropping program is almost complete with three paddocks of wheat and one paddock of peas still to sow. It has been a fantastic start to the growing season as mentioned and all crops have been germinating well with warm and moist soil promoting early crop vigour.

Our program consists of 170ha Canola, 355ha Wheat, 440ha Barley, 250ha Lupins, 63ha Oats, 90ha Triticale, 40ha Peas and 200ha Clover/Serradella.

**Mr Childs** and **Mr Dumbrell** have had students operating the seeding and spraying equipment throughout the program and are very close now to having all the Year 12 students that wanted to, drive the seeding machinery.

At this point I'm only aware of two small sections of fencing that will need some repair, a good result.

### **Vocational Education and Training**

**Mr Longmire** and **Mrs Skinner** have been assisting students with progressing with their Cert II/ Cert III competencies with most Year 12's close to finishing their Cert II, if they haven't already finished. There are some however, who still have a long way to go and really need to apply themselves in order to catch up. Parents are encouraged to ask their son/daughter on their progress and to encourage them to ensure they are on track to complete their work.

**Mr Longmire** has told me that the Cert III students still have a lot of work to complete and are encouraged to make use of him or other farm staff if they need assistance with any of their work.

# Manager Corporate Services—Mrs Tanya Glover



Thank you to all parents who are up to date with payments or payment plans, unfortunately there are still a few that need to clarify their situation.

The Department's policy is as follows:

## **Residential Fees**

**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.**

**Please ensure that all payments have been made to the College by this date or you have made prior arrangements with me for a payment plan to ensure that we do not have to terminate any of your children.**

## **BAHA (Boarding Away from Home Allowance)**

I have almost received all the BAHA forms from parents, this will enable you to receive \$2,105 off your boarding fees. If you receive AIC you should of returned the BAHA AIC form, to me with a copy of your letter from Centrelink stating that you receive AIC by 29 July 2016.

If you received the BAHA Special Subsidy form, please return to the College by 29 July 2016. If you need any clarification please contact me at the College so that I can assist you.

Please be aware that you must complete a form to be eligible for the entitlement.

**Every parent is entitle to some form of BAHA.**

If anyone has any concerns regarding Fees and Charges please do not hesitate to contact me.

## University & Careers Information

CY O'Connor Institute	<a href="http://www.cyoc.wa.edu.au">www.cyoc.wa.edu.au</a>	Campuses at Northam, Muresk, Narrogin, Merredin & Moora (Incorporating Charles Sturt University Bach of Agri Business Management)
Curtin University	<a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a>	Year 12 Parent Information Session Tuesday 7 June 5.00pm-7.30pm <b>Open Day</b> <b>Sunday 31 July 10.00am-4.00pm</b>
Edith Cowan University	<a href="http://www.ecu.edu.au">www.ecu.edu.au</a>	Year 11 & 12 Parent Information Evening & Pizza Night Monday 20 June 6.00pm Future Student Information Evening-Joondalup Thursday 8 September 6.00pm Future Student Information Evening-Mt Lawley Tuesday 15 November 6.00pm
Murdoch University	<a href="http://www.murdoch.edu.au">www.murdoch.edu.au</a>	TEE Consultants WACE Preparation Series Monday 4 July <b>Open Day</b> <b>Sunday 24 July</b>
Muresk Institute	<a href="http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/trainingproviders/mureskinstitute">www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/trainingproviders/mureskinstitute</a>	<b>Open Day</b> <b>Saturday 28 May 9.00am-3.00pm</b> Winter School Program 4 -15 July 2016
Notre Dame University	<a href="http://www.nd.edu.au">www.nd.edu.au</a>	Course Information Evening-Fremantle Wednesday 1 June <b>Open Day-Fremantle</b> <b>Sunday 21 August</b>
University of Western Australia	<a href="http://www.uwa.edu.au">www.uwa.edu.au</a>	<b>Open Day</b> <b>Sunday 14 August</b> Parent Information Evening Wednesday 8 June 6.00pm



# University & Careers Information

**Rocket scientists**  
aren't the only ones  
who have robots.

EXPERIENCE THE NEW AGE OF AGRICULTURE AT MURESK INSTITUTE

## OPEN DAY, MAY 28



**Get your pick from the  
cream of the crop**

**Learn about the advantages of taking on a  
trainee and network with agriculture  
college students**

### Inclusions

- Information sessions covering traineeships and how they work
- Complimentary morning tea and lunch
- Speed careering – your own networking session with potential trainees

**Cost - Free**

Date: Tuesday 14 June 2016

Time: 8.45 am – 2.00 pm

Location: Muresk Institute, Muresk  
Road, Northam

### Registrations essential

To register call or email:

Marissa Dewan - Rural Skills Australia

T: 0409 884 574

E: marissad@ruralskills.com.au

**Note: Our Year 12 students will be attending  
this event.**

*Parents of Year 12 VET stream students are invited to attend a Training and Employment Information Session at Muresk Institute on Tuesday 14 June. Information will be provided on traineeships, Muresk courses and job opportunities in Agriculture. Parents can register to attend the information sessions about traineeships and Muresk courses and can also observe the students networking with businesses during the Speed Careering. There are options to attend individual sessions if it is not possible to attend the whole day which starts at 8.45am and finishes at 2pm. Morning tea and lunch are provided.*



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE

## THE AGRICULTURE

## ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

The WA College of Agriculture is pleased to offer two Agriculture Endeavour Scholarships. The Scholarships are open to all Year 11 students attending any of the WA Colleges of Agriculture, who are looking toward a career in the agriculture sector and directing their studies towards this goal.

The value of each scholarship is \$1000 (note that GST does not apply). This amount will provide financial assistance for agricultural studies and is to be used as a part payment for Year 12 College costs. It will be paid directly to the College on the students' behalf.

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY  
5.00PM FRIDAY 1ST JULY 2016***

The successful applicants will be announced before the end of Term Three in 2016. Winners will be required to take part in a presentation ceremony.

*For further information or to collect an application pack, please see Mrs Beatty.*

***The College would like to upgrade our combine to a tyne machine with knife points and small seed box to give students a greater exposure to seeding.***

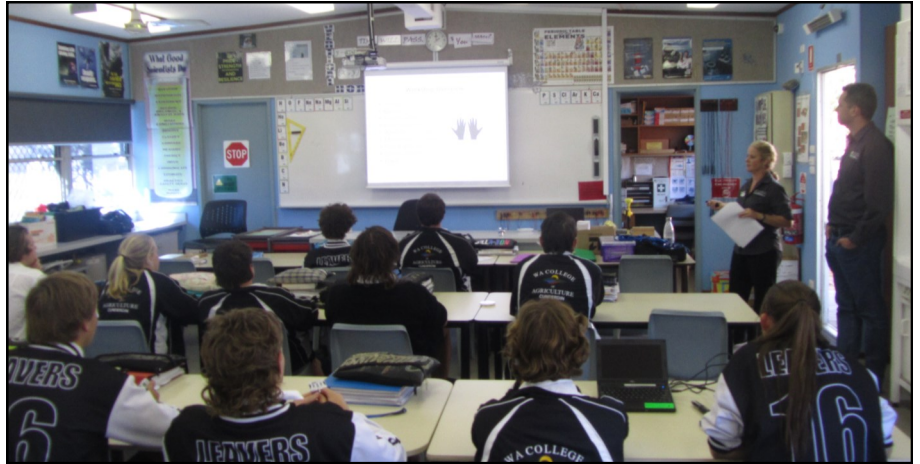
***If anyone has any suggestions, please contact  
Mr Bernard Beatty.***

**P & C AGM  
will be held on  
Friday 3rd June at 3.15pm.  
All parents welcome.**

# Plant Production Systems Sclerotinia Trial—Mr Paul Jasper

This year, as part of their production section within Plant Production Systems class, the Year 12 ATAR students will be taking part in the Canola Rot Watch program. It is piloted by a small number of schools (4 - 6) that have specialist agriculture programs. Schools are asked to grow a small plot of canola, monitor the local weather conditions and for the presence of Sclerotinia stem rot, and if disease is present, collect sclerotia samples to send into the Centre for Crop Disease and Management (CCDM).

Sclerotinia stem rot (SRR), also commonly known as white mould, is considered one of the most destructive fungal infections to canola crops and numerous other broad leaf plants. This disease is caused by a fungus called *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, that can survive in soils for many years. The fungus germinates during cool, wet weather that provides moisture for the infection (prominent in South-Western Australia).



A severe infection can cause significant damage to canola crops, by lodging and girdling the stems, ultimately reducing crop quality and yield. Currently, it is estimated that SSR results in a loss of \$10 million per annum and is considered the second most important fungal disease of any break crop.



To help the students begin the experiment, the College was visited by the **Gina Pearce** and **Dr Matt Denton-Giles** from Curtin University on Tuesday the 10 May. Their purpose was to provide instructions whilst also delivering the experimental kit.

The pilot is essentially a trial to tease out any potential difficulties with the project. It is hoped that in the future this program could then be rolled out more widely to regional WA schools. This would provide CCDM with a yearly supply of isolates and information about disease incidence to assist with forecasting disease outbreaks.





# Coming up...

Monday—Wednesday	30 May-1 June	Year 12 Exams
Friday	3 June	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b> College Board Meeting 2.00pm <b>P &amp; C AGM 3.15pm</b> College closes 4.00pm
Monday	6 June	WA Day Public Holiday Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday—Friday	8-11 June	Year 11 Exams
Tuesday	14 June	Year 12's Muresk Rural Skills Training & Employment Information Day
Monday—Friday	27 June-1 July	Country Week Work Experience
Friday	1 July	<b>END OF TERM TWO</b> Semester Two Reports issued
Monday—Friday	18-29 July	North West Tour Work Experience (Yr 11)
Sunday	17 July	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Monday	18 July	Term Three commences
Thursday	25 August	<b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b> College closes 2.00pm
Friday	26 August	College Ball
Sunday	28 August	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday	9 September	OPEN DAY
Friday	23 September	College Board 10.00am <b>END OF TERM THREE</b>



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