

# Newsletter

May 2017















### Principal - Mr David De Meo



Term I is well underway and our Year 12's have just completed sitting their EST's - Externally Set Tasks which will be used by the SCSA - Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority to moderate student work across the state with the aim of ensuring that the grades allocated in different schools are comparable. The Year 12 ATAR exams commence in Week 6 (29 - 31 May) while the Year IIs ATAR exams commence in Week 7 (7 - 9 June). On 24 May I have arranged for a company from Perth - Elevate Education to run a Study Sensei session with all students. The session will cover many aspects of study including personal routines, study timetables, time management, and note-taking plus students will have access to online help. The presenters are currently studying at university and they should relate well to our students.

The latest results from OLNA – Online Literacy & Numeracy testing have been returned and I would like to congratulate the students and staff who have been working diligently to achieve a pass in these tests. For those students who are yet to achieve the required standard you will be undertaking OLNA again in September. To the staff who have given up their weekday evenings to assist students in the library during prep time I thank you very much and I am sure the parents and students also appreciate your commitment and efforts.

The three main domains 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.

There are still a number of events to come this term including Country Week, Trade tours, Work Experience for Year 12s, National Merino Challenge in Melbourne and Rural Skills workshop for Year 12s 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. Mrs Grant-Williams and Mr Laird will accompany the students to Melbourne and I would like to thank them for their efforts – Mr Laird for up skilling our students and Mrs Grant-Williams for her organisational abilities and sponsorship successes.

The College has recently undergone an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) audit to enable us to continue offering and delivering certificate courses in the Agriculture and Design & Technology areas. On the whole we achieved compliance in many areas and the staff involved in the RTO management are now working hard to meet those areas identified. To all the staff involved in the delivery, development and assessment of the different units of competencies offered – thank you very much for your hard work and commitment to

ensuring the College meets the required standards. In particular I would like to thank **Mr Travis Hooper**, **Mrs Julie Skinner** and **Mr Simon Longmire** for their efforts in ensuring the audit went as smoothly as possible.

#### **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.

### **Student Absences**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/ guardians that it is essential that students spend as much time at the College as possible and the reason your son/ daughter is here is to achieve graduation at the end of Year 12. Research shows that the more a student is away from school, the greater the adverse effect on their achievement. While the College will endeavour to support parent/guardian requests for legitimate leave reasons, it will not support leave requests for reasons such as attending music festivals on weekends and returning Monday, leaving early as travel arrangements have not been made in a timely manner or the student is required to assist with farming activities during the school term. If your child is away for such a reason it will be recorded as an unacceptable absence in our attendance records.

### 2016 Annual Report

The College Annual Report is now available on the College website. The Annual Report includes a summary of our students' activities and achievements in 2016 and can also be downloaded from the Department of Education's Schools Online website.

### **College Board Meeting**

The next College Board meeting is scheduled for Friday 2 June commencing at 10.00am to coincide with the WA Day June long weekend which is a Closed Weekend. 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 (Class area)
Kim Gray	Farm / Agriculture

### **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 **Mr De Meo** and **Mrs Fulwood** for your assistance with the clinic.

### **STOPit**

STOPit is an online reporting tool that has gone live at the College. All students have been given the access code so that they can report online if there are any cases of bullying.

On the following pages is information for parents explaining how it works, if any parent has questions regarding STOPit please contact me.

### **North West Tour**

Tour numbers this year are approximately 58 students. An information pack will be sent out to parents of what students are required to bring as well as an itinerary and other relevant information. Students will meet with myself this term to plan what they require for the tour.

Return date and time for students attending North West tour is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July between 3pm and 4pm so that vehicles can be packed.

### Leave

Unfortunately I am seeing increasing numbers of students that have not submitted their leave by the cut-off time of Wednesday 8.00pm. Students have ample time to submit their leave so I would encourage parents to make it their child's responsibility to submit leave. This would cut out the confusion that is created when students think that their parents have submitted leave but haven't.

### **Medication**

With the approaching cold and flu season, a reminder that if students are returning to the College with cold & flu tablets they must be the non-drowsy type and not contain pseudo ephridrine. All medication must be handed to residential staff for recording purposes.

### Social

The Student Council have organised a social to be held at the College on 27 May. Students from the other ag colleges have been invited and will be attending.

Students from the other colleges will be joining us for dinner, staying overnight followed by breakfast and a tour around the College and farm. This will be a great opportunity for students from all colleges to socialise with one another.

### College Ball

This year's Ball will be held on Friday I September in the Terrace Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Any student wishing to bring a partner from outside the College will be required to see me to get the required form to be filled out and signed by their partner.

### Suit Measurement

Ferrari Formal Wear will be at the College on Tuesday 22 August for any student wishing to hire a suit for the College Ball. Students hiring a suit will need to ensure that they have the suit ready for collection from the College on Monday 4 September.

### **College Photos**

Midland Photography will attend the College on Monday 7 August to take College photos. An information/order package will be given to students prior to this date for parents wishing to order photographs.

### Laundry

Students are reminded to collect their laundry after school between  $4.00-5.30\,\mathrm{pm}$  so that there is room in their laundry boxes for the next day. It is very difficult for laundry to be processed if there is no room to put it.

### **Closed Weekends**

A reminder to parents and students that an evening meal will be supplied when returning from a closed weekend or at the start of term provided students return before 5.30pm or if requested if returning after this time.

The College receive a lot of requests from other government agencies, training organisations, community groups, employers to advertise events/news on their behalf. On our website under the Parents tab, there is a new page for Parent Information & Publications which is where these items of interest can be found. The link is <a href="https://www.cunderdinag.wa.edu.au/parent-information-publications">www.cunderdinag.wa.edu.au/parent-information-publications</a>

### STOPiT—Mr Darryl McCart

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to inform you that our school has enrolled with STOPit!

<u>STOPit</u> is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying and cyber abuse, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

**Report** can be used by students to report incidents to school contacts anonymously.

**Get Help** can be used to engage in anonymous two-way communication with school contacts.

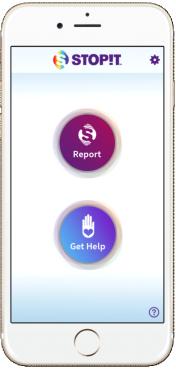
Both Report and Get Help empower students to stand up for themselves and for one another. Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create a safer, kinder school community, both online and off.

No student information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a student voluntarily includes it within the content of a report or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the <u>Student Privacy Pledge</u>, spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association, and endorsed by President Obama. You may review STOPit's <u>Privacy Policy</u> for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

I have inserted a page for parents FAQs please feel free to contact me if you require further information regarding Stop It.

Regards
Darryl McCart
Residential Manager





### Parent FAQs

What student information does the school or user need to provide to STOPit?	None! STOPit does not require any end user information whatsoever. I information provided by STOPit app users is also kept private and secure. Please read our Privacy Policy. To learn more about our commitment to keeping data provided by students safe, learn more about the Student Privacy Pledge, to which STOPit is a signatory.
What information does STOPit obtain when using the app?	STOPit may automatically collect certain information from a user of the STOPit app, such as IP address; details about the browser, operating system and/or device/hardware; general location, if available; your activities when using our app; and other logging information, including the date and time of your use of the STOPit app. Please read our Privacy Policy.
Is it really anonymous? Can the school find out who my child is through the STOPit app?	STOPit is truly anonymous. The school has no ability to identify the submitter of a report or message. At their discretion, an end user may choose to voluntarily provide identifying information in the content of their report or message. Please see our Privacy Policy – Making Reports with STOPit & How "Anonymous" Reporting Works for details.
Can STOPit be used by children under the age of 13?	The STOPit app (and its browser-based version) may be used by children under the age of 13. We urge parents to contact the school's administration to learn more about how the school uses STOPit and the data we provide them.
What information do you collect or share about my child, and what are my rights as a Parent?	We only disclose your child's information to third parties which are required as part of the services that STOPit provides, and as described in our Children's Privacy Policy. To learn more about our commitment to keeping data provided by students safe, learn more about the Student Privacy Pledge, to which STOPit is a signatory. As a parent, you have the right to review the personal information that we collect from your child who is under the age of 13. You may also request that we delete this information and refuse to allow any further collection or use of your child's information. If you would like to exercise any of these rights, or have any questions regarding your child's use of STOPit, we urge you to first contact officials at your child's school, which has provided them with access to STOPit, and we may direct you to them. You may also contact us, using the contact information below. We may ask you to provide additional details, including verification of your parental status, to protect your child's privacy. Please read our Children's Privacy Policy.
Who receives the reports my child submits via STOPit?	Reports and Messenger messages will be received by the contacts designated by the school. Please check with your school for more information.
Can I as a parents use the app to report incidents?	Parents access of the STOPit app varies from school to school. If your school makes STOPit available to parents, then yes, you may use STOPit to report incidents.

stopitsolutions.com.au | 02 9144 4890

### Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell



This period of the year is busy with most students commencing major projects. It's time for the Year 12s 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.

### **Furnishing**



Tristan Mitchell-Smith in Furnishing

Most Year IIs are nearing completion of their small cabinet and should now be planning major 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.



Monica Lee and Isabelle Clark working on major projects

through oxy-acetylene welding exercises, plus completing bench work and machining activities.



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 progress at this stage of the year.



### **General Construction**

Students have had a busy time in General Construction and have been primarily working on their bricklaying skills in preparation for constructing a retaining wall at the end of the Design and Technology building. 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



Thomas Hewett and Shona Fluck (above)

Billy Bywaters and Chloe King (below)



### Class - Mr Paul Jasper



#### **EST**

The Year 12 General Courses have sat their Externally Set Task this week. All students enrolled in a General Year 12 course and/or a Foundation Year 12 course are required to complete the externally set task (EST) developed by the Authority for that course. The EST is compulsory and forms part of the school-based assessment and is included as a separate assessment type with a weighting of 15% for the pair of units.

The ESTs are administered in schools during designated weeks in Term 2 under standard test conditions. The EST is a 50 minute test. The Authority informs schools during Term 3, in the previous year, of the Unit 3 syllabus content on which the task will be based. This notification enabled our College to plan and ensure that the identified content is taught prior to the administration of the EST. The ESTs will be marked by teachers in each school using a marking key provided by the Authority. There will be then a select number of students marks sent to SCSA for moderation.

#### **OLNA**

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. Students who have achieved Band 8 or higher in any of the three components of reading, writing and numeracy in their Year 9 NAPLAN are acknowledged as having demonstrated proficiency in using a range of ACSF Level 3 skills in that component and will not be required to sit the corresponding OLNA component.

For those students that didn't prequalify or hadn't passed and therefore sat the OLNA test in March, the results have been released by the authority on Monday the 15 May. I have met with all students individually that haven't passed and sent home a letter outlining the areas your student found difficult.

The WA College of Agriculture Cunderdin will be able to use this information along with school-based assessments and observations when identifying areas requiring support and planning intervention strategies for individual students prior to the September round of assessments.

#### **Semester One Examinations**

Year 12 Exams begin Monday the 29 May and continue until Wednesday the 31 May. Year 11 Exams will be on the following Wednesday 7 until Friday 9 June.

The exam period is a particularly stressful time for students, however with good preparation and

confidence with one's knowledge all participants who sit their exams should feel as though they can achieve positive results. These Exams are a great tool in preparing the students for their end of year WACE Exams and their future educational goals.



### **Semester One Reports**

The teachers are all busy writing the Semester One reports. For the Year 12s this report is particularly important as it is the last report received with a comment on it.

Reports are an important document that may be asked for at a job interview, when applying for an apprenticeship or admission to TAFE or University.

Important notice regarding exams and tests Please note that exams and tests are set for particular days/weeks and we do not reschedule unless for medical reasons.

Important dates regarding testing and exams are given to the students well in advance and they are provided with an examination timetable at least two weeks before the exams.

Examination week dates are also published in the newsletter, on the term planner and on our website.

The external WACE Examinations for Year 12 are set by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority and schools have no jurisdiction over these dates. The examination period for 2017 is I November – 22 November. The exact dates of individual exams is released on 17 July 2017 and will be available on the SCSA website. Individualised timetables will be released on the 8 September 2017.

### **Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart**



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

### **Payment Options:**

Cheques can be posted to PO Box 132, Cunderdin WA 6407

Electronic Transfer - bank details as follows:

Account Name: WA College of Agriculture

Cunderdin

Bank: **Bendigo** BSB: 633 000 155427040 Account Number:

If using this method please include your student's

"Student Number" as reference.

You can also call the College between 8.00am -4.00pm Monday to Friday, to make over the phone payments.

**Country Week** 

Payments for Country Week are due by Friday 26 May. Please ensure the payment amount of \$490.00 is made by the due date for your child to be able to participate.

If your child loses their Good Standing or changes their mind about attending Country Week, the money paid is non refundable (refunds will only be given in the case that a medical certificate is provided outlining the injuries preventing your child from attending).

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

Almost all the BAHA forms from parents have been received which will enable parents to receive \$2105 off your boarding fees.

If you receive AIC you should have returned the BAHA AIC form, to the College with a copy of your letter from Centrelink stating that you receive AIC by 24 November 2017.

If you received the BAHA Special Subsidy form, please return to the College by 31 July 2017.

If you need any clarification please contact the College during office hours.

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 the College.

### **Animal Production Systems - Miss Leanne Sjollema**

Year 11 Animal Production students have adopted 45, day-old Hyline Brown chicks and will be spending time this term raising them and being responsible for their daily care and welfare. These chicks are part of the Poultry Investigation the students have designed to test the effect of protein content on weight gain and they are closely monitoring their growth and development.

At the completion of this trial, the chickens will be available for purchase and

collection at the end of Week 9 for \$15 per bird. At this point they will be 7 weeks old, Georgia Dawes, Bonnie Telfer and will begin to lay about week 17-22. As they are Hylines they should be high



and Cara Shannon with the chicks

producing birds once they begin laying. If you are interested in purchasing any of chickens please contact Miss Leanne Sjollema by leanne.sjollema@education.wa.edu.au

### MURESK INSTITUTE OPEN DAY

The annual Open Day will be on 20 May 2017

The Open Day will feature a range of agricultural displays and demonstrations including Unmanned Arial vehicles (UAVs), working sheep dogs and low stress livestock handling and management.

Training providers, universities, employers and industry bodies will also be on hand to provide agricultural course and career information.

Other activities include farm tours, a petting zoo, a vintage car display and a farm machinery display.

Should you require further information please visit the website at dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute or Facebook page.

Alternatively, contact John Smoker, Manager Business Development 96901576 orjohn.smoker@dtwd.wa.gov.au



### **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	<b>Parent Information Session</b> Tuesday 6th June 5.00pm - 7.30pm Wednesday 7th June 5.00pm - 7.30pm <b>Open day</b> 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	<b>Open Day</b> Sunday 30th July 9.00am - 3.00pm
Muresk Institute	www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/ mureskinstitute	<b>Open Day</b> Saturday 20th May
Notre Dame University	www.nd.edu.au	<b>Open Day</b> 20th August
University of Western Australia	www.uwa.edu.au	<b>Open Day</b> Sunday 13th August

### Farm - Mr Kim Gray



Second term has seen a flurry of activity on the farm. Although still very dry, seeding is progressing. Clover and serradella have been sown, as have canola and lupins which are germinating. Two paddocks of barley have been sown into moist soil with more barley, wheat, peas and triticale to go. With rain expected in the next week all is looking good. **Mr Childs** has been rotating Year 12 students through the driver's seat of the seeder and **Mr Dumbrell** has been busy doing the same with Year 11 and 12 students in the spray rig.

Under the direction of **Mr Jones** and Mrs **Grant-Williams**, students have been busy spreading lime and gypsum using GPS guidance, while other students have been sowing oats and clover mix for sheep feed using the 28 run culti-trash. This has enabled many students to gain tractor hours and learn to steer the tractor rather than relying on GPS auto steer.

In the sheep section, the Poll Dorset stud ewes have finished lambing with good numbers of lambs although some lambs were unfortunately lost to wedge tailed eagles. The ewes carrying the prime lambs have very nearly finished lambing with the merino lambs due to commence lambing in the next 2-3 weeks. Lamb marking will commence very soon for the early drop lambs.

Mr Laird and Mrs Iles have recently taken a group of students to the wool stores and auction room to watch our wool clip being sold and then visited the AWTA (Australian Wool Testing Authority) to get an insight into the measurement process of the wool clip. The result was a much greater awareness by students of why the classing and preparation of the wool clip is so important in achieving the best possible return.

In the cattle enterprise, **Mr Byrnes** purchased 13 new steers of mixed breeds that will be joining 11 of our own steers in the feedlot for Third Term. Students will be taking this opportunity to have extra time handling cattle, weighing and recording growth rates as well as learning about the different feed rations required to optimise growth rates in a feedlot enterprise. Some of these animals will be processed through our butcher shop where scoring of the animal carcasses will be described for students benefit. Some students will be using this as part of their Cert III qualifications.

Some Cert III students have taken the opportunity

to design, plan and construct the new fences required for the feedlot as part of a Cert III competency.

In the piggery, the two-new sow feed stall yards have been covered with a dome shelter and students are busy constructing k-rail fences and gates in readiness for the first two batches of sows. This facility is anticipated to assist with improvements to sow production and higher piglet numbers by providing better nutrition and less stress for the shy feeders. Students on Farm Workshop and piggery, under the direction of **Mr Ball** and **Miss Davey**, have been very busy assisting with the construction of the pens.

Some wonderful news .... over this last weekend, four sows have produced 4 litters of 24, 15, 14 and 6 piglets! A total of 54 piglets have survived! This obviously meant that there was some 'reshuffling' of piglets to spread the load between the 4 mothers, as one sow did not have enough teats to go around! The new genetics are certainly throwing up some interesting numbers. With the aid of good record-keeping of genetics and feeding regimes, we are hoping to trace the anomalies in the numbers per sow to gain a better understanding of genetic traits of the individual animals and the impact of different feeding regimes.

Students working with **Mr Frantom** at the Butcher Shop have been finding time to make feed mixes to top up the silos at the piggery. This has been a significant help in the piggery operations, as it frees up more time to concentrate on the intensive management required for a successful piggery.

Year II students are progressing well on Farm with most gaining their yellow Drivers Licence which includes utes and tractors. Good understanding of requirements on the Livestock Enterprises is being shown as they gain more practical experience.

A number of Year 12 students have completed Cert II in Agriculture with some stragglers still needing to make the effort. A number of students have forged ahead with their Cert III in Agriculture with a few new students heading towards a Cert III in Pork Production. All students are urged to make use of Thursday night prep time down in the farm classroom to progress their farm related book work under the supervision of **Mr Byrnes** or **Miss Davey**.



Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 August 2017

Manjedal Activities Centre 163 Manjedal Rd, Karrakup

Cost \$180.00 pp includes accommodation & activities

The Country Women's Association of WA 93216041 or info@cwaofwa.asn.au



Another great community project supported by the Country Women's Association

## Coming up...

Monday - Wednesday	29 - 31 May	Year 12 Exams
Friday	2 June	CLOSED WEEKEND  College Board meeting 10.00am  College closes 4.00pm
Monday	5 June	WA Day Public Holiday Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday - Friday	7 - 9 June	Year 11 Exams
Monday - Friday	26 - 30 June	Country Week Work Experience
Friday	30 June	END OF TERM TWO Closes 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	I September	CLOSED WEEKEND  College Ball
Sunday	3 September	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday	8 September	COLLEGE OPEN DAY
Monday - Wednesday	18 - 20 September	Year 12 Exams (ATAR students)
Thursday	21 September	Perth Royal Show RAS Farm Skills Competition
Friday	22 September	END OF TERM THREE College closes 4.00pm



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

or Facebook page

