



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

Newsletter

August 2017



NORTH WEST TOUR 2017



Principal - Mr Bernard Beatty



After almost twelve months away, it is good to be back after a stint as Acting Director Agricultural Education. It is disappointing to see the season has not been kind and while Cunderdin has been affected we are considerably better off than many of our families. Our thoughts are with those families. Thankyou to **David De Meo** who has led the College while I have been away and I have really appreciated the enthusiasm and passion he has shown for the agricultural system and Cunderdin.

Countryweek

Mr Hooper and **Mr Jasper** again organised a fantastic Countryweek for our students and enjoyed some success with both the Hockey and Football making it through to Grand Finals. A large number of staff are involved in these events including **Mr Elliott, Mrs Skinner, Miss Davey, Mr Byrnes, Mrs Garrett, Mr Dougall** and Residential staff who provided after hours supervision for the students. Thankyou for your efforts.

North West Tour

Thank you to **Mr McCart** for organising the North West tour and **Mr Prangnell** for taking on the lead organiser while the tour was being conducted. Like Countryweek this event requires an enormous commitment by staff and a big thankyou to **Mr Dougall, Mr and Mrs Elliott, Mrs McCart, Mr A Jones, Mr Childs, Miss Sjollema** and **Mr Frantom**. It was again a hugely successful trip with some fantastic educational outcomes.

Parent Survey

The annual login and password to the Parent Survey has been emailed out to each family and is due back on the 24 August. The survey is one of the tools used in determining the strategic direction of the College and parent feedback on what is working well and what needs to be improved is invaluable. I would encourage all families to take the time to fill out the survey and giving constructive feedback.

Year 12 finish dates

Year 12s do not finish school officially until 24 October. In the last **College Chatter** we outlined the process and expectations for students leaving the College. Students in the General course can leave the College in the last week of term after their last test. All required work will need to be assessed at an acceptable standard and Clearance Forms must be signed by all required staff before leaving.

Parents and students need to be explicitly clear that the College will not tolerate any "muck up" activities and as a very minimum, a suspension will be imposed for even minor indiscretions.

This may have an impact on students who want to leave in the at the end of term as they may have to return Term 4 for tests or missed work or activities such as the Farm Skills competition. There is no logic to these activities and students should be totally focussed on the next phase of their life.

College Board Chair - Mrs Margaret Collins



On behalf of the College, the Board would like to thank **David De Meo** for his contribution to the College as acting Principal. He was committed to the College and the Board's business during his time with us and we wish him every success in the future. At the same time we welcome Principal **Bernard Beatty** back to the College.

We have some major functions coming up, final exams for Year 12 ATAR students as well as enrolment processes for the 2018 school year, and

the Board will be focussing on its effectiveness in contributing to the College as well as discussions about future directions of the College.

The Board welcomes feedback/suggestions as does the College's administration, so please make contact.

My email address is jamcollins@westnet.com.au

We look forward to seeing you at the Open Day on 8 September.

Design & Technology - Mr Stephen Prangnell



Wood Show

The annual WA Wood Show was on at the Claremont Show grounds over the 4th, 5th and 6th August. Student projects were entered into the "Out of the Woods" fine woodwork competition and were on display for the duration of the show.

A great deal of work went into the preparation of projects for the competition and the students are to be congratulated on their success. Thank you to **Mr Elliott** for his efforts in helping students prepare their work for the show.



Year 12 Furniture

Katie Larkman Marri Blanket Box 3rd place

Daniel Willmott Jarrah Dining Table Commended

The End

The finish of school is rapidly approaching for the Year 12 students. Most are now frantically working

on their major projects and completing competencies in each area. Year 12s now have at best four full cycles left at the College and any absences may impact quite severely on some student results.

Also the Engineering and Furnishing workshops have been open on a regular basis for the last two terms. Requests for extra time to complete projects will be considered if the student has made some effort to utilise the extra workshop time.

For Year 11 students, take a look at how some Year 12s are coping at the moment and ask yourself if you want to be in the same position as some of them next year.

Extra Workshop Time

We have several regulars turning up for afterhours workshop time. However there are quite a few students who have undertaken large projects who need to utilise this opportunity more often.

Automotives, Engineering and Furnishing are all open on a regular basis each week. Could parents please talk to their son/daughter to encourage them to use this time to their advantage.

Manager Corporate Services - Mrs Laura McCart



Welcome to Term 3 which seems to be just as busy as ever, especially since my return from North West Tour.

I would like to introduce **Mrs Felicity Burnett** who has taken the place of **Mrs Christine Fulwood** who is currently enjoying her retirement on the Gibb River Road. **Felicity** is in the office Monday to Friday.

Thanks to all those parents who have paid their final instalment and returned their Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) forms. There are still a number of parents who have not completed their AIC BAHA forms, I will be contacting you shortly.

Please be aware as per boarding agreement **"The third and final instalment of residential fees and College charges must be cleared prior to the commencement of Term Four"**.

This is applicable to all parents unless prior arrangements have been discussed with me. Statements have been posted to the families that still have an outstanding account. Please ensure that the balance is paid as soon as possible to alleviate any problems arising with students boarding in Term Four. Can parents please use their child's Student Number as a reference when making payment.



Please contact me if you require any clarification on 9635 2100.

Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart



North West Tour

The start of Term 3 saw 56 students and 9 staff head off on the North West Tour. Unfortunately I was unable to attend this year after rupturing my Achilles tendon. **Mr Prangnell** and **Mrs McCart** were thrown in the deep end as they had to fill my role at extremely short notice.

From student comments, it would appear that all students enjoyed the tour and had a great time. I would like to thank students for helping out and displaying good behaviour. Also thank you to the staff who attended, **Mr Prangnell, Mrs McCart, Miss Sjollem, Mr Childs, Mr Jones, Mrs Elliott, Mr Elliott, Mr Frantom** and **Mr Dougall** for giving up their time to ensure students could attend. I know how tiring the tour is so thank you again.

Grooming

A number of students are failing to follow College Guidelines in regards to long hair.

The Guidelines state:

“Hair must be clean and combed, and is not to be cut to less than a Number 2. Hair of greater length than collar length is to be tied back during meal and instruction time, and while on school excursions.”

If students can not follow this parents will be asked to arrange a haircut for their child.

Midland Photography

College photos were taken on 7 August. Anyone

who did not order or wants more copies will be able to contact Midland Photography direct to organise this. They can be contacted on 9274 4767.

College Ball

The College Ball is being held at the Hyatt Regency this year in the Terrace Ballroom on 1 September. Parents are welcome to attend pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm – 7.00pm. This is a great opportunity for parents to take photos.

Staff are not responsible for supervising students after the ball finishes.

A reminder that any student wishing to hire a suit that Ferrari Formal Wear will be at the College on Tuesday 22 August.

Leave Applications

Unfortunately a number of students who self-drive cars to and from the College are submitting leave that indicates a Monday morning return to the College. The vehicle policy clearly states that students who self-drive must return by 8.30pm Sunday night. Can parents please ensure that this is adhered to, as continued leave applications like this will only result in the student having to leave their vehicle at home.

Safes

We are currently in the process of installing personal safes into student rooms. When complete, all students will have access to a safe to store valuables.

University & Careers Information

Central Regional TAFE	www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au	
Curtin University	www.curtin.edu.au	
Edith Cowan University	www.ecu.edu.au	
Murdoch University	www.murdoch.edu.au	
Muresk Institute	www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute	
Notre Dame University	www.nd.edu.au	Open Day 20th August
University of Western Australia	www.uwa.edu.au	

Class - Mr Paul Jasper



Welcome back for Term 3, traditionally a busy term with many events to look forward to such as Dowerin Field Days, the College Ball, Perth Royal Show and of course tests and exams.

Please be mindful that there is a lot of tasks and end of semester testing to complete in the next eight weeks, so attendance is a very important factor in the successful completion of Year 12. Missing just one day or leaving early on a day can mean missing an important assessment or valuable course content. With exams and tests coming up, it is very important that you are present for all the content and revision time. Please make sure you approach your teachers and catch up on any missed work!



All Year 12 students are reminded that for the last two weeks of term we will be conducting end of semester tests, exit testing and surveys.

Year 12 ATAR students are also reminded that they have an exam week in Week 10; this is our own internal exam week. The WACE exam timetable has also been released and there is a schedule included in this newsletter as well as a copy being available on our website or the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website.

University Applications

Applications for 2018 university admission open from Mon 7 August 2017 at 8:00am. Applications are made online through TISC (www.tisc.edu.au).

If you would like your child to apply for university in 2018 they can make an appointment to see **Mr Jasper** who will help them with the online application process. Students must come to this appointment prepared with their student number, course preferences and preferred university. There is a fee of \$33.00 that will need to be paid by the student or parent after the application has been lodged. Please note that students who intend to defer for a year (take a gap year) also need to apply this year and then choose to defer when they are offered a place in a course.

There are also numerous alternative entry pathways, early offer and Principal Recommendation entry pathways available to students. These applications require the students to fill in a form and make a personal statement about their future ambitions and suitability for university study. They also require a reference from the Principal. It is advisable to start the process now if you are seeking this entry pathway.

If you have any questions regarding the process or about university courses and entry pathways please contact **Paul Jasper**.

Thinking about going to University?

There are several options for students who wish to apply for University. All of the major universities have several options for applying and also offer bridging, Uni Enabling courses or portfolio entry pathways. Please visit their websites for information.

- If you are doing ATAR you need to apply through TISC (Tertiary Institutions Service Centre) www.tisc.edu.au
- University of Western Australia www.study.uwa.edu.au
- Murdoch University www.murdoch.edu.au
- Edith Cowan University www.ecu.edu.au
- Curtin University www.curtin.edu.au
- University of New England (UNE) www.une.edu.au
- University representatives will also be present at our Open Day on 8 September in the Library.

Exam Timetables

Year 12 General Internal Tests 2017

WEEK 9 & 10

SEM 2

13/09/17 - 19/09/17

WEEK	DATE	SUBJECT	TIME ALLOCATION
Week 9	WEDNESDAY Day 3 13/09/17	Physical Education Studies	1 HOUR 9:00am-10:00am
Week 10	MONDAY Day 6 18/09/17	Plant Production Systems	1 HOUR 10:20am – 11:20am
		English	1 HOUR 1:05pm – 1:55pm
	TUESDAY Day 7 19/09/17	Animal Production Systems	1 HOUR 9:00am – 10:00am
		Mathematics	1 HOUR 11:20am – 12:20pm

Year 12 ATAR Exams 2017

WEEK 10

SEM 2

18/09/17 – 20/09/17

WEEK	DATE	SUBJECT	TIME ALLOCATION
Week 10	MONDAY Day 6 18/09/17	Plant Production Systems ATAR 12	3 HRS 10 MINS 1.05pm-4.15pm
	TUESDAY Day 7 19/09/17	Animal Production Systems ATAR 12	3 HRS 10 MINS 8am – 11.10am
		Mathematics Applications ATAR 12	2 HRS 45 MINS 1.05pm – 3.50pm
	WEDNESDAY Day 8 20/09/17 AM Exam only	English ATAR 12	3 HRS 10 MINS 8.00am – 11.10am

Year 12 WACE ATAR Exams 2017

01/11/17 – 08/11/17

Week	DATE	SUBJECT	TIME ALLOCATION
Week 1 (Week 4 of school)	WEDNESDAY 01/11/17	Plant Production Systems	3 HRS 10 MINS 2:00pm – 5:10pm
	THURSDAY 02/11/17	English	3 HRS 10 MINS 9:20am – 12:30pm
Week	DATE	SUBJECT	TIME ALLOCATION
Week 2 (Week 5 of school)	TUESDAY 07/11/17	Animal Production Systems	2 HRS 45 MINS 9:20am – 12:05pm
	Wednesday 08/11/17	Mathematics Applications	3 HRS 10 MINS 9:20am – 12:30pm

Farm - Mr Kim Gray



July has seen the College receive a total of 40.8mm of rainfall with the highest rainfall event being 8.4mm. It would seem that all grain sown has now at last germinated, but I think some of the canola and lupins will be too late to be very high yielding. The pasture paddocks have started to green up at last with new germinations of clover in amongst the grass and broadleaf weeds. A considerable amount of hand feeding is taking place to keep the livestock in good condition while giving the pasture paddocks a chance to get away.

Cropping

Some of the early germinated barley crops look to have the potential to yield in the 3t/ha region if the rain continues through August and September. Two paddocks of canola are looking ok and hope they might make the 1t/ha mark if all goes well and the wheat will need favourable conditions from here on to make 1.5 - 2t/ha.

Students have been out spraying for weeds and insects while applying fungicide and nitrogen. This is giving them a good look at what a patchy germination looks like and a chance to identify a wide range of pests and weeds.

Sheep

The sheep are looking in good condition despite the lack of green feed and lamb marking has been completed by the students with some excellent results. The average lambing percentage was 118% even though we did lose some lambs to foxes, eagles and the cold.

August will see the Year 11 students try their hand at crutching and all those students who have put their name for competitions in judging, shearing and wool handling will be busy travelling to these events. Training has commenced for the Farm Skills events just prior to the Royal Show.

Cattle

The cows have very nearly finished calving and are looking in good condition despite the tough season. The feedlot is up and running with students taking on the responsibility of calculating the daily feed ration, making the mix with the hammer mill and carrying out the weekly weigh-in.

Students continue to take advantage of the opportunity to work off site at the **Kylagh** feedlot in Tammin every Thursday and handle as many as 200 head in one day.

Pigs

The farrowing shed is full and production figures are rising with batches of sows very nearly full. There are several Year 12 students that are very close to completing a Cert III in Pork Production and 18 Year 11 students have expressed an interest in starting their Cert III in Pork Production once they have finished their Cert II in Agriculture.

Butcher shop

Students continue to process meat through the butcher shop to supply the kitchen as well as helping out with the workload at the piggery by making feed mixes to fill the silos. Fencing is another activity for students in between their butcher shop duties.

Farm Workshop

Refurbishment of two tractors has been the main focus for students in the workshop this month, in addition to modifying the calf catching cage to have it ready to mark the calves in August. The two refurbished tractors will replace the Chamberlain 4280 and the Ford 4110. The Chamberlain and the Ford will be offered for tender on Open Day, 8 September.

Other Farm Activities - Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams

Skid Steer & chainsaw course

In the last week of Term Two, Year 11 students who did not attend Countryweek completed instruction on Bobcat & Front end Loader operations and Chainsaw activities. Trainers from Northam TAFE came to the College and instructed students and staff. The students all enjoyed the courses and with the skid steer course they can be signed off once they have completed 10 hours. Students will be able to use the Skid Steer while



Other Farm Activities - Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams

they are on Farm to gain these hours while supervised by staff. On the Thursday of the course students went out into the paddocks and made short work of some downed trees. Students all were able to use a variety of chainsaws and some even used block splitters to chop some of the smaller pieces.

Seeding

Students were involved with a wide variety of seeding activities using both new & up-to-date technology and also some older disc seeding machines.

Many of the pasture paddocks were re-seeded with a combination of oats, clover and grazing canola. Students had a taste of how it was done in the olden days with bags of seed and superphos. Students bagged off seed and superphos and this was taken out to the paddock with the small College truck. Most of the seeded paddocks have now germinated and with the recent rains the pasture is growing well.



Mulch spreading

Recently the College was able to hire a muck spreader from the **Kylagh Feedlot** at Tammin to spread mulch and sediment from the College effluent dam. In paddock 52, there were several large areas of wind erosion following a crop of Triticale in 2016. Following a very windy July we decided to utilise the mulch to stabilise these very sandy areas. The mulch has been a huge success both for stabilizing light land and also fertilising.



Budworm Traps

Students from Year 12 installed Budworm (Heliothis) traps in a Canola paddock recently. Students will monitor moths entering the traps and we will be keeping a watchful eye on the trial. Pheromone lures have been placed in each trap which the insects are very attracted to. This

trial is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and Food and will identify the timing of moths hatching in the Eastern Wheat belt area.



Year 12 General Plant Production Systems Trial—Miss Clemens

The Year 12 General Plant Production students are conducting a trial on the effects of different rates of urea on the height and biomass of a wheat crop. Students applied different rates of urea to their trial plots in Week 1 of Term Three and are measuring the height and biomass each week.

In class, the students have researched the implications of the timing and importance of urea on crop production. Each week the students are taken out to their trial plot to do a weed density count, biomass rating and measure the average height of the plants across each plot. The students will gather their final report in Week 9 of Term Three.



Country Week - Mr Paul Jasper

This year the College sent 62 students with around 10 accompanying staff including teachers, coaches and residential staff to Country Week. The main focus of this year's Country Week was participation and trying something "new". With this in mind we sent down a Touch Rugby team for the second time in the history of the College.

Luckily for the College we have many rugby players on staff and their knowledge was invaluable this year at Autumn Carnival and now Country Week. Coach **Mrs Garrett** managed to get her team to place sixth overall in Division 3. This was a massive effort considering the teams that she managed to beat were from towns and in some cases small cities a lot larger than our College. Her Touch Rugby team was made up of students that would normally slot into the starting line up in footy, hockey, netball, basketball quite easily and was one of the most pleasing aspects of the spirit shown during the event. The team was helped all week by players from other sports but had a core of girls that put in each game, with **Alyssa Catilo** being given player of the week.



The basketball team was coached by **Mr Byrnes** and managed to place fifth in D division. They played well together and learnt invaluable lessons from an experienced coaching team, no doubt in my mind that next year's success will be directly linked to this year's foundation work. **Alex Linto** and **Charles Bulleid** played with spirit and class during the week.

The netball team was also extremely successful having only two losses which unfortunately saw them miss out on finals. **Miss Davey** put an extremely large amount of effort into coaching the girls and they were nearly rewarded with a finals appearance. This year the College decided to take one team down as we didn't want to stretch our

already injury-prone team too far during the long week. Had the cards fallen differently, I have no doubt the quality of the girls' ability would have been rewarded with a division trophy. For our followers, next year is looking very promising. Players that had a great week included **Georgia Dawes** and **Emily Hourigan** but all reports indicate it was a team effort



The footy team entered Division Two for the first time since 2014 and battled well all week only missing out on the chance to win the Grand Final by 11 points. The boys had trained hard all year and had played many games at their home clubs in preparation for the week. As was the case in all our sports, we had to come up against much larger colleges; these included two Bunbury teams and many larger schools. Myself and **Mr Elliott** attempted to coach the team however it must be said that there was many on-field leaders including **Hayden Richter** and **Riley Hill**, all playing well themselves with the inclusion of **Brayden Fairhead** and **Connor Anderson** also performing extremely well.



Many thanks to all those that helped with the preparation of Country Week including office and kitchen staff for preparation put in before the event and all those that gave up their time to help out the students and the College.

Coming up...

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	CLOSED WEEKEND College Ball
Saturday	2 September	College Board Meeting 8.00am Hyatt Regency Hotel
Sunday	3 September	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday	8 September	COLLEGE OPEN DAY
Wednesday	13 September	Year 12 Physical Education Studies Test (General students)
Monday - Tuesday	18 - 19 September	Year 12 Tests (General students)
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
Sunday	8 October	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Monday	9 October	Term Four commences 8.00am
Friday	10 November	YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY
Wednesday - Friday	22 - 24 November	Year 11 ATAR Exams & General students Tests
Friday	24 November	Year 11s finish
Monday - Friday	27 November - 1 December	Year 11 Work Experience

***Reminder: Please remember to complete your Parent Survey
by 11.59pm Thursday 24 August!***



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