



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

Newsletter

May 2018



Deputy Principal - Mr Travis Hooper



Year Eleven Short Courses

Our Year 11 students (as well as a few Year 12s) spent the end of Term One involved in the Annual Short courses program. Students worked towards Units of Competency in First Aid, Construction Safety and Chemical safety as well as Courses in Computer Assisted Drawing, Bush Firefighting and Firearm Awareness. These courses provide an excellent set of skills to our students and once again students were praised by outside staff for their behaviour.

Thank you to staff who either delivered or supervised these valuable courses.



Work Experience and Country Week Short Courses

Work experience and the short courses are on again this year, providing opportunities for students to gain valuable experience in different areas. Please make sure that all forms are returned promptly to ensure your son or daughter's place and a reminder that all Work Experience insurance forms need to be returned to the College by 11 June or else the work experience may be cancelled.

Work Experience - Farm

Students who are not involved in Country Week, Work Experience or Short courses from 25 - 29 June will take part in a week-long series of activities based around gaining Farm-based Units of competency.

As well as practical work on the Farm, staff will be available to assist students in completing Skills Journals and Unit Theory work to help students to finish off as many competencies as possible.

VET Qualifications

Staff are working very hard at present to finish off a business case to the Department of Education to add two new qualifications to the College. These courses will be ACM20217 Certificate II in Horse Care and AHC33316 Certificate III in Feedlot Operations. Many thanks to **Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams** and **Mr Shaun Byrnes** for their work on bringing this idea to fruition.

College Board - Mrs Margaret Collins

New principal for WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin

I am pleased to advise that a permanent Principal for the WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin, has now been selected, to commence at the start of Term 3.

Mrs Sally Panizza, who is the current Principal of Southern Cross DHS is the successful applicant. **Sally** has a strong background in curriculum, agriculture and student services and will be a dynamic leader for the College.

I would like to thank **Michael White** who has filled this position, and will continue to do so until the end of Term 2, whilst a new permanent Principal could be selected.

Michael and **Sally** will work closely together over the coming months so to ensure there is a smooth handover. The College Board welcomes **Sally** and looks forward to working with her.

Introducing our New Principal - Mrs Sally Panizza

I am very excited to be joining WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin in Term 3 this year. Taking on the role of Principal provides me with the unique opportunity to combine two of my passions: education and agriculture.

While a city girl originally, I came to the Wheatbelt for my first teaching posting, married a local farmer and never left! When my three children were young, I worked mostly on the farm, taking on the office work, helping out in the sheep yards and being on call for parts runs and paddock shifts. At the same time I was a relief teacher across the three schools in the Shire of Yilgarn.

Once my children commenced boarding, I returned to teaching at Southern Cross DHS, working as Literacy Coordinator, then Deputy Principal and currently as Principal. I have loved my time at Southern Cross DHS and it will be hard to leave our fantastic school and students, some of whom I have known their whole lives. However, Cunderdin may see a boost in enrolments from the Eastern Wheatbelt as the Southern Cross students are planning to come to Cunderdin for Year 11 and 12 now!

As a boarding parent myself, I am aware what a huge responsibility it is to care for your children 24/7. I believe in parents, staff and community working together to deliver success for all students, with clear communication vital to the smooth operation of the school.

I am planning to make my first visit to WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin on Friday 1 June, to attend the College Board Meeting and hopefully meet as many students, parents and staff as possible.

Thank you to those who have already warmly welcomed me to the Cunderdin community, I look forward to joining you next term.

Regards,
Sally Panizza



Year 12 General Depth Trial - Mr Justin Fox

The Year 12 General students have just planted their seeding depth trial last week. This trial requires students to set up 50 randomized plots, each planted with 10 replications of Mace wheat seeds planted at 0.5cm, 1cm, 2cm, 5cm and 10cm deep.

Over the next few months we will monitor the growth and tillering of each plot to analyse how the depth of seeding can change the quality of the plant and it's final produce.



Students will be collecting, recording and comparing the

data they collect throughout the trial period. They will then produce a report which they



will use to explain what they have done, what the data shows and create logical conclusions from this data.



Class - Mr Paul Jasper



EST

The Year 12 General Course students have sat their Externally Set Tasks. 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.

OLNA

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 14 May. I have met with all students individually that haven't passed and sent home a letter outlining the areas your student found difficult or conversely to congratulate those that have now passed their OLNA.

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 28 May and continue until Wednesday the 30 May. Year 11 exams will be on the following Wednesday 6 until 8 June.

The exam period is a particularly stressful time for students however with good preparation and confidence with one's knowledge, all participants that 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 2018 is **Monday, 29 October to Friday, 16 November.**

The 2018 written ATAR course examination timetables were published on Monday, 28 May 2018. You can find the timetable on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority website at https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/409221/2018-ATAR-course-written-examinations-timetable.pdf

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 66 students. The teams are Boys AFL in division B, Boys Basketball in division D, Mixed Hockey in division B, two Netball teams in division D and E.

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

Residential Manager - Mr Darryl McCart



Influenza Vaccinations

Students who took advantage of the clinic arranged for influenza injections attended the doctor's surgery over the past fortnight. Hopefully we will not see too many sick days with the flu season upon us.

North West Tour

Tour numbers this year are sixty 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. This has been delayed this year due to itinerary changes. Students will meet with myself this term for planning what they require for the tour.

The return date and time for students attending North West tour is Sunday 15 July between 3.00pm and 4.00pm so that vehicles can be packed.

Students going on the tour will require a leave application submitted for 16.07.18 – 27.07.18, please select North West Tour as the leave type. Students going on weekend leave at the conclusion of the tour must also have a leave application submitted.



Medication

Students and parents are reminded that medication cannot be kept in a students 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.

College Ball

This year's Ball will be held on Friday 31 August at the Novotel Langley Hotel. Students can purchase tickets from the front office at the College at a cost

of \$100.00 per ticket.

Any student wishing to bring a partner from outside the College will be required to see me to get the required form to be completed and signed by their partner.

Suit Measurement

Ferrari Formal Wear will be at the College on Tuesday 21 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 3 September.

College Photos

Midland Photography will attend the College on Monday 13 August to take College photos this year. 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 4.00pm – 5.30 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.

Damage

Unfortunately a minority of students are vandalising College property. This is totally unacceptable but despite constant reminders it is still happening.

The cost of repairs to the Education Department is high considering a tradesman gets paid to travel to and from the College plus materials and labour charge to complete the work. ***Any student identified as having vandalised College property will have the cost of repairs charged to them.***

Closed Weekend

College finish time on Friday 1 June is 4.00pm.

Students can return after 4.00pm on Monday 4 June. An evening meal will be provided for students returning before 5.30pm and those that have requested a late meal.



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 to the College by the due 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 from boarding at this College.

Country Week

Payments for Country Week are due by Friday 1 June. Please ensure the payment amount of \$450.00 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 from Home Allowance)

I have almost received all the BAHA forms from parents, this will enable you to receive \$1948.00 off your boarding fees.

If you receive AIC, you should have returned the BAHA AIC form to me with a copy of your letter

from Centrelink stating that you receive AIC by 24 November 2018.

If you received the BAHA Special Subsidy form, please return to the College by 31 July 2018.

Please be aware that you must complete a form to be eligible for the entitlement. Every parent is entitled to some form of BAHA.

If you need any clarification please contact me at the College so that I can assist you.

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

Methods of payment:

ELECTRONIC BANKING

Name of Account: WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB Number: 633 000
Account Number: 155 427 040
Reference: Your child's student number

EFTPOS FACILITY

There is EFTPOS available at the front office for payments.

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

CHEQUES

Cheques can be made out to WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin and posted to PO Box 132 Cunderdin WA 6407.

College ANZAC Service



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.

Trade Tour

It was pleasing to see there was more interest than usual for the Trade Tour this year and we have to run two. One group has been on 22 May and the next will be on 5 June.



Year 11 students visit **Westrac** and **Hofmann Engineering**. On speaking to students who have attended the tour, they were very impressed with both sites. The scale of work at both sites is exciting and it is valuable for our students to be exposed to these types of industry. It has also impressed upon them the importance of their studies and the value of Work Experience in gaining employment once they finish at the College. Thank you to **Keith Thompson** for organising the tour.

Furnishing

Most Year 11s 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.

General Construction

Students have had a busy time in General Construction and have been primarily working on their bricklaying skills. They have also been involved in work on the Piggery, building fences and laying concrete paths. Work is also commencing on the Cattle Yards with students involved in erecting the fences.

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.

Automotives

Students are continuing to work through their competencies as well as working on some projects in Automotives.

Work is continuing on the old Landcruiser with a Ford 5 Litre V8 conversion. The brakes have been done and work is continuing on the body work. An enthusiastic



group of students have been working during after hours workshop sessions.

Also a Supercharged V6 Commodore motor has been kindly donated by **Perry Jasper**. This engine is being mounted on an engine stand and is currently being disassembled and prepared for a rebuild.

Prime Lamb Trial - Miss Leanne Sjollema



These past few months has seen the Year 12 ATAR students learning about digestion of feeds and manipulation of rations through their annual Prime Lamb Trial. The students monitored weight gain, fat depth and eye muscle depth on Merino wethers to determine the effects of their three chosen rations on productivity over an eight week period. **Mr Laird** and **Mrs Iles** were instrumental to the success of this trial and wonderful about sharing their knowledge with this group of students.

As a follow up, we were fortunate enough to view several carcasses

from each of the feed groups and compare the quality of the final product, from weight and finish to overall yield from the carcass. This was a great hands on learning experience for the class as **Mr Jones** treated them to a lesson on meat eating quality and consumer preferences while he broke down the carcasses. These practical activities are designed to support the ATAR students knowledge and understanding as they move into their exams this week.



University Information 2018

Name	Website	Event Information
Curtin University	www.curtin.edu.au	Open Day Sunday 29th July 10.00am - 4.00pm
Edith Cowan University	www.ecu.edu.au	Open Days Joondalup Sunday 22nd July 10.00am - 3.00pm Mt Lawley Sunday 12th August 10.00am - 3.00pm South West Sunday 26th August 12.00pm - 3.00pm
Murdoch University	www.murdoch.edu.au	Open Day Saturday 28th July 10.00am - 4.00pm
Muresk Institute	www2.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute	
Notre Dame University	www.nd.edu.au	Open Day Fremantle Sunday 19th August
University of Western Australia	www.uwa.edu.au	Open Day Sunday 12th August 10.00am - 4.00pm

Farm - Mr Daniel De Beer



Term 2 started with blue skies and sunshine. The autumn is finishing with above average temperatures and well below average rainfall, which are not ideal conditions for pasture growth or seeding! But we soldiered on and have done half our Canola program, completed the Lupins and Oats programs and started on our Wheat and Barley. We will probably get most of the Wheat and Barley in the ground, but for now we pray for rain.

Among the gloom, we had students achieving their "Establishing a Crop" competencies with **Mr Childs** and the renovated John Shearer combine has finished seeding two pasture paddocks, giving more students the opportunity to achieve seeding competencies.

A group of high flying students went to Dog v Drone competition.

On Wednesday the 16 May, ten Year 12 students along with **Mr Dumbrell** and **Mr Longmire** attended the Drones v Dogs trials at **Muresk Institute**.

Prior to the actual trials event, students from the College had been given the opportunity to practise their drone flying skills on a large screened simulator, which **Muresk Institute** had driven around to various Colleges state wide. Following on from this **Layne Thornton** was the selected student to represent the College in the trials event at **Muresk Institute**.

On the day, **Layne** received professional drone pilot training and a crash course on how not to crash an expensive drone. He then competed against students from at least eight other schools by flying a drone around a specially marked out course. He flew very well but didn't come away with 1st prize, which was winning an actual drone for your respective school.

The other Cunderdin students who attended were able to cheer **Layne** on. They also listened to speakers who talked about the latest drone technology and career information. The speakers outlined opportunities within the agricultural sector, as well as tertiary education courses which **Muresk** were offering.

After this we were off to Adelaide!

This year the College entered 13 students in the National Merino Challenge held at the Adelaide Show grounds over the weekend of the 18 – 20 May. They were accompanied by **Mr Wayne Laird** Sheep Technical Officer and **Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams** Assistant Farm Manager.



The Challenge was held over two days and the students completed seven mini challenges. Students came from across Australia and competed in both tertiary and secondary sections. The Challenges included; ram selection, feed budgeting, wool typing and valuing, ewe profitability, condition scoring and conformation assessment. The primary focus this year was on profitability.

Students learnt valuable tools in stock assessment regarding wool cut and yield, which is very relevant to running a profitable merino enterprise. All the guest speakers were very motivated and spoke of their personal experiences relevant to the merino industry, technology and career pathways for students, both from tertiary and secondary backgrounds. In the final exercise one of our students was given a budget of \$30,000 to purchase a ram during the auction challenge. As he only spent \$7000 (a very careful bidding strategy) he was able to bid on a further 2 rams. This made the other more tentative students, with bidding orders to fill, stay on their toes. All in all the students have done themselves and the College proud. Thank you!



We are looking forward to Lamb marking, which will happen very shortly. Seeding will continue and hopefully, the next time we talk, the farm is transformed into a picture perfect shade of green.

Coming up...

Monday - Wednesday	28 - 30 May	Year 12 ATAR Exams
Friday	1 June	CLOSED WEEKEND College Board Meeting 2.00pm College closes 4.00pm
Monday	4 June	WA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday - Friday	6 - 8 June	Year 11 ATAR Exams
Sunday - Friday	24 - 29 June	Country Week
Friday	29 June	End of Term Two College closes 4.00pm
Sunday	15 July	North West Tour students return between 3.00pm and 4.00pm to pack vehicles
Monday - Friday	16 July - 27 July	Year 11 North West Tour & Work Experience
Monday	16 July	Year 12s return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Tuesday	17 July	Term Three commences
Monday	13 August	College Photo Day
Thursday	30 August	Yr 11s at Dowerin Field Day CLOSED WEEKEND College closes at 12.20pm
Friday	31 August	CLOSED WEEKEND College Ball
Sunday	2 September	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Friday	7 September	COLLEGE OPEN DAY
Monday - Wednesday	17 - 19 September	Year 12 Semester Two ATAR Exams
Friday	21 September	End of Term Three College Board Meeting 10.00am College closes 12.20pm
Sunday	7 October	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Monday	8 October	Term Four commences
Friday	9 November	VALEDICTORY
Monday - Wednesday	19 - 21 November	Year 11 Semester Two ATAR Exams & General Tests
Thursday	14 December	College closes 12.20pm



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

