



WA College of Agriculture
Cunderdin



August 2015

NEWSLETTER



Netball - 2nd (on percentage)



Football - 6th

COUNTRY WEEK 2015

Hockey - 1st



Basketball - 6th



Touch Football - 2nd

Mr Bernard Beatty Principal



It is great to be back in Cunderdin after our seven month break for a number of reasons, first and foremost is that after farming for seven months in Boyup Brook I have now run out of money, a number of farmers have commented as to why it took so long!! Importantly and back to my real job, there are a number of challenges for our College that I believe we are well positioned to have significant positive influence on the educational outcomes of our students if we can get them right over the next few years.

I have been engaged with Board members and staff with the new Business Plan 2016 to 2019 and looking at “**Cunderdin - a New Era**”. It is exciting times in that the College is in final negotiations to secure 1100ha of additional arable land. We are also well down the track to offering a sustainable Certificate III in Agriculture and are reviewing all aspects of our curriculum. While the College has been extremely successful for a long period of time, we are in a competitive market and must remain relevant to the needs of regional Western Australia and the industries we serve.

Thankyou to **Stephen Watt** who took on the role of Principal for first semester. **Stephen** did an excellent job and I am very grateful for the smooth transition he made for my return. **Stephen** is currently Acting Principal at Narrogin Agricultural College. Also thankyou to **Paul Jasper** who took up the role of Head of Department Curriculum. It was **Paul's** first time in a promotional position and he handled the role with professionalism and initiative in a commendable effort. We have also been fortunate to have **Kim Gray** and **Simon Longmire** coming into the role of Farm Manager and Assistant Farm Manager and I have been extremely impressed with both with their management of all aspects of the farm operation.

The North West tour was again a great success, there were some issues of student illness and mechanical issues but a credit to every staff member and students that none of this effected the Tour in a negative way. A big thankyou to **Darryl McCart** for organising the tour and to the staff that attended in **Garry** and **Janet Elliott, Mark Barnier, Sonia Clements, Julie Skinner** and **Shaun**

Byrnes all of whom put in a 100% effort for the students.

Congratulations to **Paul Jasper** who was a finalist for the **AFL School Ambassador of the Year**. All other finalists came from major high schools where their sole responsibility was to manage AFL football in their school, so for **Paul** to be a named a finalist where almost entirely his contribution was voluntary was a major achievement. Thankyou to **Mr Hooper** for writing the application.

We will be trialling a new format for our Parent Surveys later this term. While the survey will remain the same it will be electronic and more information will be sent out shortly. We have been doing the same survey for a number of years now and it has given us some valuable feedback in our planning processes so I encourage all parents to take 15 minutes to fill out the survey.

PARENTS - PLEASE NOTE: End of term is not the finish date for Year 12 students. If after the Year 12 rehearsal (Wednesday 23 September 2.00pm) students have completed and have a fully signed off Clearance Form they will be allowed to leave. **Those students who have not completed all of the required academic or practical work will return in Term 4.**

Please be aware if Year 12's are returning to complete certain areas they can only be at the College for that designated time e.g. Farm, they can only return on the Wednesday afternoon ready for classes on the Thursday and the same would go for the Trade area. Class area they would return on the Sunday night for classes Monday and Tuesday. There may be some negotiation for the Wednesday as to which areas students may be able to go to. Any students who need to complete work in all areas spend the week at the College as per normal timetable. The reason for this is that the College still has Year 11 students in normal classes and we cannot have students in areas with Year 11's. All returns must be negotiated with either the Residential Manager or Deputy Principal.

For Year 12 ATAR students, the first two weeks of Term Four are compulsory. Week 3 is optional as it is a Study Week and students are welcome to stay at the College during exams which finish on the 9 November.

WACE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2015

Monday	2 November	9.20am	Plant Production Systems Stage 3
Thursday	5 November	9.20am	English Stage 3
Friday	6 November	9.20am	Animal Production Systems Stage 3
Tuesday	10 November	9.20am	Mathematics 3AB

Mr Darryl McCart Residential Manager



North West Tour

Sunday 19 July saw Year 11 students return to the College to start packing vehicles for North West Tour. This year 56 students and 7 staff attended. The first three days of the tour was pretty wet but fined up by the time we reached Eighty Mile Beach. Unfortunately the wet weather saw the cancellation of the tour of Mt Whaleback mine in Newman. Students participated in a range of activities this year including the RFDS base in Meekatharra, Karinjini National Park, BHP Billiton loading facility to name a few. The feedback from students was positive and it appears they had a good time whilst away.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff involved for their help and for ensuring the smooth running of this tour **Mr Garry Elliott, Mrs Janet Elliott, Mr Mark Barnier, Mr Shaun Byrnes, Mrs Sonia Clements and Mrs Julie Skinner** who were always there to get things organised and sort out any problems that arose.



Leavers' Jackets

Year 12 student leavers' jackets have arrived. Thank you to the Student Council who organised the design of these. It involved quite a bit of work from design to the end product being delivered.

Medication

Can parents and students please take the time to read the policy regarding medication that is in the Parent Information Book as some students are returning to the College with excessive amounts of "over the counter medications".

Colds/Illness

Please do not return your child to the College if they are ill. We have had quite a lot of illness this term throughout the College and if students are unwell, they are better staying at home to recover.

Midland Photography

College photos were taken on 10 August. Anyone who did not order or wants more copies will be able to look at and order photos on Open Day. There will be a laptop displaying photos in the Residential display section on Open Day for parents to look at.

College Ball

The College Ball is being held at the Hyatt Regency this year in the Terrace Ballroom this Friday 28 August. Parents are welcome to attend pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm – 7.00pm and this is a great opportunity for parents to take photos. Students will be given a disk to view Ball photos for ordering. Parents will also be able to view and order photos on Open Day in the Residential display section.

Leave Applications

Version 3 of Reach Boarding appears to be working well now that we have had some time to get used to it. One point that needs clarification is that ***if you have a change in leave arrangements you cannot update the existing leave application if it has been approved by the College.*** If leave arrangements change, simply submit a new leave application and it will be updated by the College. There is no need to ring the College as the program is monitored over the weekend and we will see any new leave applications.

Mr Kim Gray Farm Manager



Well here we are in the middle of August and how things have turned around. After being so dry during May, June and most of July the sky finally opened up with 76mm of rain falling between 28th of July and 1st of August. With pasture almost non-existent and the crops struggling for moisture the rain has saved the day. Two weeks on after the rain, the pasture has really started to grow and the crops are recovering from the long dry spell with a rapid growth spurt.

Prior to the rain we had **Mr Laird** and students busy drafting off any dry sheep, shearing them and sending them off for sale. **Mr Byrnes** also had to reduce his herd of cattle with nine heifers being sold off to the Tammin feed lot and fortunately we were able to place six other heifers we intend breeding from at Harvey Ag College on agistment. We are very grateful to the Harvey College for helping us out.



Jayden Moore
checking a moth trap

Mr Laird has had the students out lamb marking and mulesing and even with the tough season he was able to achieve a lambing percentage of over 100 per cent. A good deal of hand feeding and shuffling of sheep around paddocks was required along with some agistment from neighbours managed to keep sheep in good health.



Mr Laird mulesing with Luke Sutherland, Hunter Onn & Jen Craft

Mr Dumbrell has been busy with the spraying program post seeding putting out post emergent herbicide and Flexi-N so a good number of students have had an opportunity to drive the spray rig and gain some valuable experience. **Mr Childs** headed off to the United Kingdom after seeding with his family for four weeks on a well deserved holiday and on the day he returned to work it started to rain, 76mm in fact! Welcome back!

Miss Davey has been pushing ahead with the introduction of the new Myora genetics into our Piggery with an associated increase of piglets per litter and hopefully an



Rodd Nichols in the farrowing shed

increase in growth rates. This will be quantified as more data is collected with students weighing new born piglets and continuing to weigh through different stages of growth. Some more outdoor pens have been built with the help of **Mrs Iles** and **Mr Jones** with their General farm students. Students have been having plenty of practice arc welding while building the new pens.

Mr Van Den Burg and students along with **Mr Jones** have processed sheep, cattle and pigs through the butcher shop with an increase in activity lately now that Year 11 students and staff are back from North West tour. **Mr Van Den Burg** has also been upgrading some of the equipment and facilities in the butcher shop to make it operate more efficiently.

Students have been busy in the farm workshop under the guidance of **Mr Ball** with various projects on the go, including a refurbishment of an old tank stand, construction of working at heights platform and the refurbishment of old gates for the new piggery pens.

The cropping section have recently signed up to **Agworld**, a digital record keeping program to enable paddock records be available online. Our agronomist **Mr Ty Henning** also uses this program and is able to send detailed recommendations through this package. Teaching staff will be able to use this information as a teaching aid in the classroom. The **Agworld** staff from Perth visited the College recently to give a presentation to staff and students on the capability of this technology. They were also kind enough to donate an Ipad to the College. **Landmark** have also donated two Ipads to use with this new technology and we are very grateful for their support of the College.



Mrs Laura McCart Business Manager



The College is currently in the process of changing over banks due to Westpac closing their branch in Cunderdin.

Our new bank details are as follows:

Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633-000
Acc No: 155427040
Ref: Student number

Thank you to parents for the prompt response to payment of accounts this year. Parents need to be aware of the College Fee Policy that states:

“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 the Business Manager. 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.

All Boarding away from Home allowance forms (BAHA) have been received and forwarded to Central Office for processing. Thanks to you all for your efforts to have your forms handed in a timely manner. I have deducted the amount from your statements even though we will not receive the payment until the end of Term 4.

If you require any clarification of your statements or any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me on 08 9635 2100.

University Information 2015

CY O'Connor Institute (Incorporating Charles Sturt University - Bachelor of Agricultural Business)	www.cyoc.wa.edu.au	Campuses at Northam, Muresk, Narrogin, Merredin and Moora.
Curtin University	www.curtin.edu.au	Twilight Campus Tours Wednesday 16th September, Wednesday 21st October & Wednesday 9th December
Edith Cowan University	www.ecu.edu.au	Future Student Information Evening Wednesday 23rd September Joondalup Campus 6.00pm Future Student Information Evening Wednesday 18th November Mt Lawley Campus Future Student Information Evening Tuesday 1st December Joondalup Campus
Murdoch University	www.murdoch.edu.au	
Muresk Institute	www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/trainingproviders/mureskinstitute	Summer School Program 18th - 29th January 2016
Notre Dame University	www.nd.edu.au	Open Day Fremantle Sunday 29th August 9.00am - 3.00pm Parent Information Evening Wednesday 9th September 6.00pm Admissions Information & Expo Evening Tuesday 15th September 5.30pm
University of Western Australia	www.uwa.edu.au	

Mr Stephen Prangnell Design & Technology



Wood Show

The annual WA Wood Show was on at the Claremont Show grounds over the 7th, 8th and 9th 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 contribution in helping students prepare their work for the show.

Year 12 Furniture

Mark Harris	Jarrah Coffee Table	1st place
Rodd Nichols	Jarrah Bed	3rd Place
Brayden Harris	Marri Dining Table	Commended



Devlin Chimbaira with Mr Jones laying bricks

Trade Tour

The Trade Tour was very successful this year. Students visited **Westrac** and **Hofmann Engineering**. On speaking to students who attended the tour, they were very impressed with both sites. 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 **Alan Sutton** and **Ben Elliott** for organizing the tour.



Tim Kempton & Bronwyn Roberts with their engineering projects



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 12's now have, at best, 3 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.



Ryan West in the Automotive workshop

Requests for extra time to complete projects will be considered if the student has made some effort to utilize the extra workshop time.

For Year 11 students, take a look at how some Year 12's 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 utilize 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.



Rohan Obst, Dylan Hart & Jordan Kelly in Engineering

Mrs Jane Beatty Class



Welcome back for Term 3. We have a lot of exciting events this term including the Ball, Farm Skills and also OLNA and Exams!

I would like to acknowledge and thank **Paul Jasper** for the fantastic job that he did whilst in the role of acting Head of Curriculum.

Connect

Thank you to **Paul Jasper** for organising and implementing Connect for our students and parents. If you haven't already done so, could you please complete any outstanding paper work and return to the College at your earliest convenience.

Connect enables students to have access to school work whilst they are away from the College. Student marks are available to the student and the parent and you are able to contact the teachers through Connect.

Please use this valuable tool to stay connected with your child's progress in the curriculum area.

University Applications

Applications for 2016 university admission opened on Monday 10 August and close on Wednesday 30 September. **Please see the TISC calendar for important dates <http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/guide/tisc-calendar-current.tisc>**

Applications are made online through TISC. If you would like your child to apply for university in 2016, they can make an appointment to see Mrs Beatty 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 \$27.00 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 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 Jane Beatty.

Information regarding University applications and cut off dates are available on the TISC website.

<http://www.tisc.edu.au/static/home.tisc>

Exam Week

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 Stage 3 students are also reminded that they have an exam week in Week 10 (the last week of term 3). 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.

Careers Information on Connect

I have created a Year 12 Careers Information class on Connect. I will be uploading information as it becomes available for students to look at.

If you have any questions regarding your child's progress in the class area please don't hesitate to contact me on 9635 2100 or jane.beatty2@education.wa.edu.au

Agriculture teacher and football coach Paul Jasper commended as an AFL School Ambassador of the Year 2015

Paul Jasper was nominated for one of the awards which have become the pinnacle for teachers of Australian Football.

Paul was nominated because of his strengths in initiative, inclusivity, engagement with other staff, improving outcomes and involvement with local clubs. He doubled the College training squad to 48 as a motivational tool; made the team more inclusive by rotating players; encouraged other staff members to help with coaching, transporting and supervising the team; successfully used team membership to motivate students in all areas of activity at the College and through his own involvement, encouraged students to join local teams outside the College.

Principal, Bernard Beatty, said "Paul's dedication to teaching and as a football coach were outstanding. He was an excellent role model, respected by those he coached and a worthy nominee."

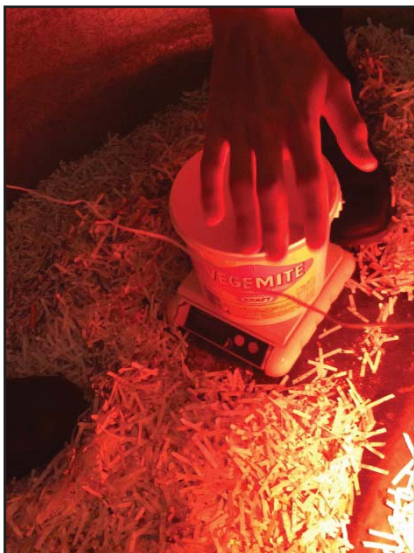


Animal Production Systems - Mrs Johnston & Miss Moore

The year 12 students within Animal Production Systems are fast approaching the end of the term and for some, the end of the academic year. The Trade students are working through numerous topics in preparation for their end of year tests. The Agricultural students are completing a Whole Farm Plan as well as looking into pig production and marketing. The ATAR students have completed their sheep trial and are now focused on Integrated Pest Management before we move onto Australian Agriculture and the Global Economy ready for their end of year internal exam.



All of the year 11 students are partaking in a chicken trial for Animal Production Systems this term. There are 45 day old chicks that are weighed weekly and students care for during the trial. They are on three feed types with varying levels of protein to establish whether this affects weight gain. The chickens are Hy-line females that will become laying hens at approximately 20 weeks of age. Thank-you to Cooper Wyatt, Rohan Obst, Owen Wigg and Jarrad Billing who have volunteered time so far to look after the chicks on the weekends.





What's coming up?

Thursday	27 August	CLOSED WEEKEND Parent Interviews 2.00pm - 4.00pm College closes at 2.00pm
Friday	28 August	College Ball
Sunday	30 August	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Wednesday	9 September	WANTFA Field Day Year 12 ATAR
Friday	11 September	College Open Day
Monday	14 September	Year 12 Clearance Forms distributed
Monday - Wednesday	21 - 23 September	Year 12 Exams
Wednesday	23 September	Last Exam for Year 12 General Course Graduation rehearsal 2.00pm
Thursday	24 September	Farm Skills & Led Steer - Perth Royal Show
Friday	25 September	END OF TERM THREE Board Meeting 10.00am College closes at 12.20pm
Sunday	11 October	Students return after 4.00pm Evening meal available if requested
Monday	12 October	Term Four commences 8.00am
Monday	19 October	ATAR Internal Study Day
Tuesday	20 October	ATAR Uni Visit
Monday - Wednesday	26 - 28 October	ATAR Optional Study Week
Friday	13 November	Year 12 Graduation
Wednesday - Friday	18 - 20 November	Year 11 Exams
Friday	20 November	Year 11's finish 4.00pm



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

The Principal, staff and
students invite you to the

2015 College Open Day

To be held on
Friday 11 September 2015
commencing at 10.00am

Lunch will be provided
12:00noon - 1:30pm

RSVP: cunderdin.ac@education.wa.edu.au

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