

# College Newsletter

TERM TWO 2019 NEWSLETTER



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE  
Cunderdin



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Cunderdin

**The Principal, staff and  
students invite you to the**

## 2019 College Open Day

**Friday 6th September  
commencing at 10.00am**

**Lunch Available: 12.00pm—1.30pm**

**Cost: \$5.00**

*(Monies raised will go towards an  
outdoor kitchen for the students)*

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## Principal

### Harvard Trip

By the time you are reading this newsletter, I will already be in Boston ready to commence the Leadership: An Evolving Vision course as part of the WA Public School Principal Fellowship Program 2019-2020. The Fellowship program aims to position principals to play a major role in leading further change and improvement in our schools as well as across the system.

It provides us with the opportunity to:

- learn from the world's best educators
- work alongside innovative leaders and entrepreneurs
- share educational research and best practice
- develop a network of international connections
- advance our leadership skills to benefit our schools
- contribute to leadership and reform in our system.

I look forward to putting my new knowledge into action on my return to make our College the best it can possibly be.

### Reports

All Semester One reports were emailed home last Friday. Please contact the College if you have not received your child's report. I was really pleased with the number of positive reports I read, demonstrating that the hard work from our dedicated staff is really having an impact. It is great to see the number of Year 12 students who have made big improvements since their last report, showing maturity and commitment. Many of our Year 11 students have settled in quickly and they are taking advantage of the many opportunities the College has to offer. I urge you to read over the report with your child over the holidays, assist them in setting some goals for next semester and take advantage of the opportunity to discuss with staff and your child their progress when College interviews are scheduled.

### Long Service Leave Term 3

A number of our senior staff will be taking their well-deserved long service leave during Term 3. This has been carefully planned to ensure the smooth running of the College continues. I would like to congratulate

# Principal (continued)

the following people who will be acting at a higher level at some point during the term:

Leanne Sjollema (acting Head of Curriculum while Paul Jasper on leave)

Keith Thompson (acting Head of Trades while Steve Prangnell on leave)

Elysha Gillis (acting Head of Residence while Darryl McCart on leave)

Additionally we welcome Dennis Shiminski to the College (acting Manager of Corporate Services while Laura McCart is on leave) Dennis is a very experienced financial advisor, working at both the Wheatbelt and Central offices. We are very grateful to have his expertise and I am sure we will all make him most welcome.

## Stem and Internet of Things

Our College focus on STEM is developing, with Miss Smith, Mr Fox and Mr Longmire participating in the second STEM Enterprise schools workshop held in Perth. These sessions bring together teachers from across the state to develop STEM programs unique to their school over the course of the next 18 months. These staff and Mr Prangnell have been gathering information to help define the direction of STEM in our College. One resource which will feature prominently in the STEM program is data from sensors installed as part of “Internet of Things” initiative.

Additionally, we were lucky enough to have Lyn Beazley visit the College recently. Professor Beazley, who was WA Chief Scientist from 2006 – 2013, toured the College facilities and spoke to students about the value of a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) background when forging their careers in agricultural and associated industries. She told students that Australia needed 2,000 agricultural graduates every year and encouraged them to pursue the many opportunities and directions that agriculture offered in research, production, natural resource management and food services sectors. “The College offers a terrific opportunity for students to



learn the theory and practice of agriculture, the associated trade industries and more, from highly professional and dedicated staff in well equipped facilities and a supportive environment,” Professor Beazley said.

It has been exciting to see the Internet of Things grant resulting in the initial phase of installing the LoRaWAN network which includes, gateways, weather stations and soil saline/moisture probes. A team from Stratus Imaging has installed all the components necessary to complete the network. During the set up, they explained to students the design and how the probes work along with the requirements for installation. Groups of students went into the field to see the installations and helped with the installation of the soil moisture probes.

The first data is now available from the remote weather stations and these are working well. The remote stations are situated across the farm and we have live data from all areas. The soil moisture and salinity probes are online and will start reporting data as they bed into the soil profile. We are trialing frost sensors in four well known frost affected paddocks. As we will now be able to monitor frost events in real time, we hope to be able to identify the severity of the frost event and possible damage. By having this information on our cloud based server, this will deliver an alert to mobile phones if a frost event has occurred. These sensors are new to broad acre agriculture although they are used extensively in horticulture. When all probes are working, students will be able to use the data in class activities and this will be an integral aspect of the College’s STEM program. As we gain experience with this new emerging technology, we hope to investigate other remote monitoring options and showcase them to students as we implement them here at the College.

## Holidays

I would like to take this opportunity to wish staff, parents and our students a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. Family time in the holidays is especially important for boarders and I look forward to hearing about their holidays when we return next term.

Mrs Sally Panizza

Principal

# Class

## Curriculum

Congratulations to all students on the completion of Semester 1. The Year 12s are well on their way to completing all class based requirements and the 11s are now fully aware of the expectations placed on them in their specific courses. This semester has seen some great outcomes for the students both in the classroom and on the sporting field.

One of the biggest achievements for many of our students was the successful completion of OLNA. This 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. Congratulations to those who have completed 1, 2 or 3 over the last assessment period and good luck to those completing testing in Semester 2.

## Country Week

Country Week is underway and I would like to thank all staff and students who 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. We have entered teams in Boys AFL Division B, Boys Basketball Division C, Mixed Hockey Division B and 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 <https://www.schoolsportwa.com.au/interschool/country/country-week/country-week/>

## ATAR

This year the College is using Elevate Education <https://au.elevateeducation.com> as a tool to help improve student's study techniques and exam preparation. 100% of the students found the sessions in Term 2 helpful and they will be back in Week 3 of Term 3 to give our Year 11 and 12 ATAR students support in preparing for Semester 2 exams. The session on Wednesday 7 August is "Ace Your Exams". Charlie Watson [charlie@thetuitioncentre.com.au](mailto:charlie@thetuitioncentre.com.au) will also be running a 4-hour session on graphic calculators early in Term 3. All these sessions are aimed at improving the outcomes of our ATAR students in both Year 11 and 12.

## ATAR Semester Two Examinations

Year 12 exams will be held from Monday 23 September to Wednesday 25 September. Year 11 exams will be in Term 4 as well as the ATAR exams for Year 12s. The exam period is a particularly stressful time for students, however with good preparation and confidence in one's knowledge, all participants who sit their exams should feel as though they can achieve positive results.

## Year 12 General Tests

All Year 12 General students are reminded that for the last two weeks of Term 3, we will be conducting end of semester tests, exit testing and surveys. These tests will be the final component of the various different course requirements and as such, all students are reminded to be present during this time.

## P.A.R.T.Y. PROGRAM

A number of Year 11 and 12 students recently attended the P.A.R.T.Y. Program (Prevent Alcohol And Risk Related Trauma in Youth) at St John of God hospital in Midland. The day consisted of presentations by a trauma nurse, drug and alcohol staff, paramedics, paraplegics and two people who have suffered brain trauma.



As a part of the program, students were able to visit the Emergency Department, the Intensive Care Unit and the Physio rehab area so that they could see firsthand what is involved when someone suffers a trauma-related injury. It was at times confronting, but well presented and students were very attentive and engaged throughout the day.



We are hoping that this will be an ongoing activity each year.



# Class (continued)

## University Applications

Applications for 2020 university admissions open from Monday 5 August until 11.00pm Friday 27 September 2019. Applications are made online through TISC [www.tisc.edu.au](http://www.tisc.edu.au). If you would like your child to apply for university in 2020, they can make an appointment to see Mr Jasper who will help them with the online application process. Students must come to the 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 me.

## Thinking about going to University?

There are several options for students who wish to apply for tertiary study. 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 and consider attending their Open Days.

|                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| TISC                            | <a href="http://www.tisc.edu.au">www.tisc.edu.au</a>                                       | If you are doing ATAR, you need to apply here  |
| Curtin University               | <a href="http://www.curtin.edu.au">www.curtin.edu.au</a>                                   | Open Day<br>Sunday 21 July<br>10.00am – 4.00pm   |
| Edith Cowan University          | <a href="http://www.ecu.edu.au">www.ecu.edu.au</a>   | Open Days<br>Joondalup<br>Sunday 28 July<br>10.00am – 3.00pm<br>Mt Lawley<br>Sunday 11 August<br>10.00am – 3.00pm<br>Bunbury<br>Sunday 25 August<br>11.00am – 2.00pm |
| Notre Dame                      | <a href="http://www.nd.edu.au">www.nd.edu.au</a>   | Open Day<br>Sunday 11 August<br>10.00am – 3.00pm   |
| Murdoch                         | <a href="http://www.murdoch.edu.au">www.murdoch.edu.au</a>                                 | Open Day<br>Sunday 28 July<br>10.00am – 4.00pm   |
| Muresk Institute                | <a href="http://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute">www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/mureskinstitute</a> |  |
| University of Western Australia | <a href="http://www.uwa.edu.au">www.uwa.edu.au</a>   | Open Day<br>Sunday 4 August<br>9.00am – 3.00pm   |

## Mrs Annette Fox

All the staff at the College and especially in the Curriculum area, wish Annette & Justin Fox all the best with the impending arrival of their baby. We look forward to meeting the new addition. Thank you for your time at the College Annette, there are many students who can directly reference you as the reason for their success over the last two years.

Mr Paul Jasper  
Head of Curriculum

## MANAGER OF CORPORATE SERVICES

The holidays are upon us once again.

I wish to introduce Dennis Shiminski who will be sitting in my role as Manager of Corporate Services for Term 3 whilst I am at North West Tour and then Long Service Leave. Please make him feel welcome.



Just a few reminders for the end of Semester One.

- Payment for North West Tour should have been finalised for your child to be able to attend.
- The 3rd instalment and final payment of boarding fees are due by 23 July, unless prior arrangements have been made with me for a payment plan. Statements will be posted to parents on Friday 5th July.

## BAHA

We have forwarded Boarding Away from Home allowance forms to you last week.

If you receive AIC, can you please complete the BAHA AIC form with the Centrelink statement outlining payments for the year and return to the College for processing.

If you receive BAHA Special Subsidy can you please complete and return to the College as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss any financial matters.

Hope everyone has a pleasant two week break and returns full of enthusiasm for a good start to the new term.

Mrs Laura McCart  
Manager of Corporate Services

# Farm

## Cropping

When we left you last time, we were ready to start seeding our cover crops and quietly hoping for some rain. Well, we finished putting in 450ha of oats and serradella, but still no rain. We enjoyed the Easter break and were ready to start our cropping program. We started our dusty canola program during the last week of April and then the new self propelled sprayer arrived, a John Deere R4045 and instantly everyone's mood lifted. After sorting out a few hiccups in the liquid system on our air cart, we got stuck into it. The students all lined up to achieve their seeding competencies and were happy to wait their turn and get a run on the new SP sprayer instead. We were all excited, but in the back of our minds one thought was still hanging around, no rain yet.

## Sheep & Wool

The shearing and wool handling students had a chance to see all their hard work come to fruition at the wool sale in Fremantle. Thank you to all the students and Wayne Laird for all their hard work to help the College pay some bills. Then the first lambs were marked.

Students travelled to Sydney and stayed at Olympic Park from the 24 - 27 May for the National Merino Challenge sponsored by the Australian Wool Innovation. A series of learning activities was held over Saturday & Sunday.



Activities included ewe selection, ram selection, ewe productivity to include wool production, lambing percentages and overall profitability. The ewe profitability challenge was a huge eye opener for some of our students, as the drivers for production were clearly identified. Our students were able to be involved in a "mock auction" where we were able to purchase a ram and Archie Duncan used his skills in out bidding other Colleges, who also had a buying order. We were able to compete in "buy a sheep dog" and our bidder was very creative with his bids securing an untried, untested 1-year-old dog for \$50,000. Our students were well behaved and we received many positive comments on their behaviour, dress code and

interactions with members of the NMC committee. Students were able to speak with industry mentors and most came away with a lot of additional information and future career options relevant to the sheep and wool industry. The students all wore with pride their black College vests, which they self-funded to cover their purchase.

## Cattle

The cattle enterprise welcomed 6 new calves out of the previous year's breeding program. Mums and calves are looking happy and healthy, so as we are moving towards the growing season, they should grow like weeds.

## Linley Valley Excursion

A group of Year 12 students wanted to see where all their hard work, growing market ready baconers ended up. On 10 June 2019, thirty one Year 12 students and 3 staff attended a Linley Valley Abattoir tour, to view the pork production line. Linley Valley Pork has an authentic story to tell, which starts with nature and ends with flavour. Every day Linley Valley receives well rounded baconers from farmers across WA. They then process and supply the finest, freshest, quality pork to selected butchers and retailers across Western Australia. The College's 80 sow piggery supplies approximately one thousand 100kg baconers to Linley Valley each year, which shows the students that we are at industry standard with producing high quality meat. Fourteen Year 12 students are currently studying their Certificate III in Pork Production, which involves the students having a high understanding of feed conversion, animal health and welfare. This abattoir tour provided the students with the last piece in the puzzle for the required knowledge in saleable meat yields, carcass properties and market values. Pork Technical Officer, Madison Davey, said that she could explain the process line with diagrams and descriptions, but it was nothing compared to the students seeing it in real-time. This was such a valuable experience for students.

## Back to Cropping

Then back at the College, the seeder bar was still going up and down. Staff and students made great progress working in tough, dry conditions. And then, at the end of the first week in June, we finished our wheat program and our prayers were answered. We received 35mm in the next four days that has set up our whole cropping program for success. We finished seeding on the 18 June, after happily waiting for the soil to dry out a bit. Thank you to all the students and staff for a job well done. We are looking forward to a fantastic season ahead.

Mr Daniel de Beer  
Farm Manager

# Design & Technology

## Trade Training Centre Funding

Recently an application for additional funding was submitted to the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program. Fortunately, we have been awarded \$40,000 to purchase a safer and larger capacity press brake. This will enhance our Engineering program enabling students to bend metal more accurately and will have increased capacity for larger projects.

## Year 12

The Year 12s seem to have realised that the end is near. All of a sudden they are working harder and producing more work. They have approximately 6 cycles left at the College. It would be helpful if parents reinforced how little time students have left to encourage them to stay motivated. It also highlights that any absences from their classes can have a large impact on their results.

## Reports

All parents are encouraged to contact subject teachers if they would like to discuss their son or daughter's report. Parents are welcome to visit the workshops and view student projects when visiting the College.

## 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 Keith Thompson and Ben Elliott for organizing the tour.



## Projects - Engineering and Furnishing

Students working in Furnishing and Engineering are commencing or continuing work on major projects. So that there are no surprises parents need to discuss their son or daughter's projects with them to ensure they are making something appropriate. Some form of contact is needed between parents and teachers. Be it a phone call or email letting us know that they are aware of their child's project. Some projects are very expensive and I would like parents to be aware of the costs associated with the projects selected by their son or daughter.

## Accounts - Engineering and Furnishing

Parents may be receiving interim material accounts in the near future. We ask that 50% of the estimated cost of the project be paid prior to commencement.

Mr Stephen Prangnell  
Head of Design & Technology

# Deputy Principal

## Work Experience

Week 10 (July 1-5) saw eight College students out in the local community for work experience. Students had a taste of "real work" in areas ranging from automotive servicing to agronomy and essential services to education.



Local businesses Ag Implements, Baxter's Rural, Combined Tyres, DKT Agencies, Elders Farmways, Meckering PS, Mortlock Timbers, the Shire of Cunderdin and the Water Corporation all generously agreed to take part in work placements for 2019 and we hope to expand into the future. All companies were happy to take on College students and their support through the pre-placement process has been outstanding. A big thank you to Mrs Skinner who worked with the companies.

## Week Ten

Around 35 students have taken the opportunity in the last week of term to either catch up or get ahead with their work at the College. Students were able to work on individual projects in Class and on Trades as well as projects around the Farm to gain units of competencies. A big thanks to staff involved in the organisation of the week including Ms Sjollema, Miss Davey and Mr Longmire who worked to tailor learning plans for the week to maximise the outcomes for those students who chose to stay at the College.

# Deputy Principal (continued)

## Short Courses

Ertech spent the last week of term at the College assisting 20 of our students to achieve a number of Units of Competencies through our Short courses program. The students fortunate to take part in this event, received instruction in Front-end Loader operation, Skid Steer operation and using a chainsaw. Many of the students are looking forward to putting their new found skills into operation around the College. Thanks to Tim at Ertech and Mrs Grant-Williams for their help bringing this wonderful opportunity to our students.



## Additional Farm Certificates

Year 11 students with a strong interest in differing areas of farming will need to begin thinking about their options for Year 12 in 2020. In addition to the Certificate II in Shearing and Wool Handling, students will also have the option of completing Certificate III in Agriculture, Wool Handling and Pork Production.

Expressions of Interest will go out early in Term 3 for interested students and selection for each certificate will be based around criteria, such as demonstrated knowledge during farm placement, career prospects, previous farming experience, units of competencies finished and skills journals completed. We will also be looking at each student's work load and other commitments to ensure that each person gets the best out of each of their opportunities.

Mr Travis Hooper  
Deputy Principal

# Residential

## Compulsory Weekend

Students enjoyed a variety of amusement rides on the compulsory weekend on 25 - 26 May. This included a Bucking Bull, Zorb Balls, Inflatable Obstacle Courses, Mechanical Surfboard to name a few, the night ended with a Perth DJ supplying the music. Thank you to the parents and students who supported this event.



## Leisure Guidelines

We have been fortunate to have the Department set up a new set of Guidelines entitled "Students in residential settings, leisure activities". This is aimed at giving students a wider variety of activities to attend which have not previously been available to them due to the nature of the activity, such as Go Karting, Paintball, Archery, Fishing, Gliding etc. These guidelines are in draft form at the moment, but we have been given permission to trial them to see how they work out. A few students made the most of this by visiting Kart World in Belmont recently which was, by all reports, a great day.



## North West Tour

All parents who have a child attending North West Tour will have received information via Consent2Go. If you have any questions about the tour please contact me. If parents require their child to be dropped off on the way home please contact me. Our Route on Friday 2 August is Geraldton through Mingenew, Three Springs, turning left at Marchagee to Wubin, to Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills, Goomalling, Cunderdin. It will be your responsibility to be at a collection point on time as we will not leave students unattended in town centres. Please remember students attending North West Tour must return to the College between 3.00 - 5.00pm on Sunday 21 July.

Mr Darryl McCart  
Residential Manager

## AT A GLANCE

### College Photos

Midland Photography will be at the College on Monday 12 August to take student photographs. Envelopes were handed to students last Thursday night and need to be returned to the administration office by Monday 12 August along with payment. If your child didn't receive an envelope, please contact the office to arrange a replacement.

### Holidays and Return for Term 3

Just a reminder that the College closes for the holidays at 4.00pm on Friday 5 July.

Year 11 students attending North West Tour need to return between 3.00pm – 5.00pm on Sunday 21 July.

Year 11 students not attending North West Tour and Year 12 students return after 5.00pm on Sunday 21 July.

## DIARY DATES

|                    |                    |   |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sunday             | 21 July            | North West Tour students return between 3.00pm - 5.00pm<br>All other students return after 5.00pm                               |
| Monday             | 22 July            | Term Three commences  |
| Monday - Friday    | 22 July - 2 August | North West Tour   |
| Monday             | 2 August           | College Photos  |
| Wednesday          | 28 August          | Dowerin Fencing Competition   |
| Thursday           | 29 August          | Year 11s at Dowerin Field Day<br><b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b><br>College closes at 1.00pm<br>Year 11 Parent Interviews 1.00pm - 3.00pm |
| Friday             | 30 August          | <b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b><br>College Ball   |
| Sunday             | 1 September        | <b>CLOSED WEEKEND</b><br>Students return after 4.00pm<br>Evening meal available if requested in Reach                           |
| Friday             | 6 September        | <b>COLLEGE OPEN DAY</b>   |
| Monday - Wednesday | 23 - 25 September  | Year 12 Exams   |
| Thursday           | 26 September       | Perth Royal Show Farm Skills  |
| Friday             | 27 September       | College Board Meeting 2.00pm<br><b>END OF TERM THREE</b><br>College closes at 4.00pm  |



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