

College Newsletter

TERM THREE 2019 NEWSLETTER



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE
Cunderdin

AT A GLANCE

Open Day

See inside this newsletter for more photos from Open Day.



From the Board

Each year we hold an Open Board Meeting, to allow interested parties to come along and see what the Board is all about. This year our meeting is on Friday 25 October at 2pm.

The annual survey data will be presented, including selected Student Councillors presenting their report.

Please RSVP to wacoa.cunderdin@education.wa.edu.au if you are interested in attending.

Principal

Open Day

A big thank you goes to our students and staff for their work in ensuring our Open Day was such a success. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for our College, with a number of visitors commenting on their friendliness, enthusiasm and maturity. Thank you to the many families who attended and viewed the displays of student work. The passion and expertise of our staff was clear to see and I am very grateful for their efforts.

It was a real pleasure to meet so many past and future students, grandparents and relatives of current students and past staff members. In our 60th year of the College, the proud history and links to our broader rural community are clearly evident.

My congratulations go to the following students who were announced as Student Councillors for 2020:

Jei-Kwuan Brown

Darcy Dixon

Archie Duncan

Hayden Fiegert

Brady Garlick

Marion Lewis

Matthew McLean

Bailey O'Driscoll

Ella Read

Jessi Shannon



Principal (continued)

College Surveys 2019

It was pleasing to see the number of parents, students and staff who took the time to complete our annual surveys. This feedback is valuable for letting us know what is working well in the College and areas for improvement. A number of parents made reference in their surveys to a past incident of which staff were unaware. I encourage parents with serious concerns about incidents occurring at the College to please contact me, as I can assure you they will be dealt with.

This week our outgoing and incoming student councillors will meet with me to go through the student survey data and have a say in the future directions of our College. Selected councillors will then be presenting this information at our Open Board Meeting on Friday 25 October at 2pm.

Melbourne Declaration

One of our Year 12 students, Kurt Richards, was lucky enough to be selected to accompany our Minister of Education to Melbourne last week to take part in the National Youth Workshop for the Review of the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. The main themes discussed at the workshop were:

1. Empowering the student voice
2. A strengths based and inclusive declaration
3. Transitions in learning
4. Successful, happy and engaged learners

It was great to have Kurt representing our College and speaking up on the specific issues facing rural students.

End of Term

It is hard to believe we are at the end of Term 3 and what a busy term it has been! As many of our Year 12s leave this term, we wish them the very best for their future careers. The College has a strong history of near 100% employment, further training or university following graduation, and I have no doubt this trend will continue with our current cohort. To our Year 12 ATAR students, all the best as you prepare for your final exams.

With a number of senior staff on leave this term, I am grateful for the work of Dennis Shiminski, Phil Epps, Elysha Gillis, Paul Jasper, Steve Prangnell, Leanne Sjollema and Keith Thompson who have all taken on higher duties at various times this term to keep the College running smoothly.

I would like to wish all our students a relaxing holiday as they return home to their families. Travel safely and I look forward to welcoming our students back on Sunday 13 October from 4.00pm.

Mrs Sally Panizza
Principal



Class

Open Day

Congratulations to all staff and students on their efforts towards Open Day. The College looked fantastic and it was great to see work samples from all the students in the Curriculum Area. My thanks go to our class staff and the students who worked with them for the fantastic job they did of displaying all the wonderful work. A special thanks to the students who stayed behind and helped out with the clean-up at the end of the day. Your efforts did not go unnoticed and the staff very much appreciated your help through the whole event, especially packing up.

Year 12 Completion

Well done to all the Year 12 students who have successfully completed their compulsory years of schooling. There have been some fantastic achievements over the past two years at the College and it is always encouraging to witness students taking full advantage of the opportunities that they have while attending the WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin. We look forward to hearing about your future achievements and wish you all the very best.

Good luck to the Year 12 ATAR students who have sat their Mock Exams in Week 10 and will return next term to get their results back and prepare for WACE Examinations in November. I have attached a link from the Year 12 Handbook to this newsletter. This handbook contains important and essential information for all Year 12's and is accessible on the SCSA website <https://scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/year-12-information>

Please Note: Students enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course must sit the external examination in that course. If students do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course, the grades for the pair of units completed in that year will not contribute to the calculation of the achievement standard, but they will still count in the breadth-and-depth requirement. Students who do not sit the examination will not receive a course report.

Remember: it is the student's responsibility to read the information regarding examinations in the Year 12 Handbook which is available on the SCSA website. It is also the responsibility of the student to make sure they have all the required equipment for their examinations and that they bring a copy of their personalised examination timetable to the exams with them.

Year 11 transitioning to Year 12

The Year 11 students will be sitting their tests/exams in Week 4 of Term 4. They will have a new timetable from Week 5 next term as they will be beginning Year 12. Their timetable will be released in Term 4, the booklist will be available for purchasing as per normal over the holidays and the work that the students need to complete will not require the new books this year.

OLNA

Congratulations to all those students that have recently completed their OLNA tests requirements. The students that have yet to receive the results back will still be required to attend OLNA preparation time with Mrs Childs and Ms Mullins as per normal, until the results are in and the student has passed that particular component. The results will be released on 21 September to schools, the information will then be passed onto students and parents after this date.

NORTH WEST TOUR

For the first two weeks of Term 3, our Year 11 students enjoyed our annual trip to the North West of WA. They visited many places along the way, including RFDS in Meekatharra, Mt Whaleback mine, Karijini National Park, Eighty Mile Beach, Willie Creek Pearl Farm, Malcolm Douglas Crocodile Farm, Bumbaks Banana Plantation and Gascoyne Gold Tomato Processing Plant.



Thanks to the staff who attended, Mr Darryl McCart, Mrs Laura McCart, Mrs Julie Skinner, Mr Lindsay Jones, Mr Keith Thompson, Miss Leanne Sjollemma and Mrs Leanne Grant-Williams.



The following link has some great information for parents regarding OLNAs and their requirements.

<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/olna/students-parents-carers>

Mr Paul Jasper
Head of Curriculum

ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

As we approach the end of term, the Year 11 General and ATAR students are wrapping up their chicken investigation. This trial has seen them take responsibility for the daily care and welfare of their 40 Hyline Brown chicks as they investigate the impact of protein on rate of growth. These chicks will be going home to their new families at the end of next week.

The ATAR students have also been learning about Reproduction and Breeding in class. We have taken a hands-on approach to learning activities, examining the reproductive tracts of a variety of livestock species to learn about structure and function and how factors such as nutrition and hormones can influence fertility in our breeding herds. This builds on the opportunities the students have had to try their hand at pregnancy testing the cattle and pregnancy scanning the ewes earlier in the year. The Year 11s have really enjoyed taking their learning out of the classroom.

Miss Leanne Sjollema
Animal Production Teacher



PLANT PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

The Year 11 General Plant Production Systems students (General 2 and 3) conducted a fertiliser trial during their investigation topic this year. The two classes took half the class garden bed and divided it into three areas. The class was divided into three groups and allocated a third each. These thirds were then broken into 6 plots 1 meter squared in size. The students then planted a specified amount of Sceptre wheat in each plot in rows similar to how they would be laid out in a paddock. On two of the plots a specified amount of K-till granular fertilizer was added, then 2 other plots had a specified amount of liquid nitrogen (flexi-N) applied to them and the last 2 plots were left as controls. These were then monitored to investigate the fertilisers impact on speed of development and growth, tiller numbers, height and leaf formation.

The trial saw a significant difference in growth between the three treatments. Very early we could see that the fertiliser applied plots (especially the liquid) had a significantly faster growth rate and a darker shade of green to its vegetable matter. Other observations included, if liquid nitrogen is applied directly on the seed without a layer of soil between it, it can cause significant reduction in germination. The students also saw how seeds not planted deep enough can be eaten by birds and therefore cause a significant reduction in yield.

Although the trial is not yet complete the students have been able to see some very interesting first-hand information about something which is certainly a real world issue. Depending on the season, students should get the opportunity to compare the yield from the plots to investigate if there is any significant difference between the fertilizer plots and the controls.

Mr Justin Fox
Plant Production Teacher

Farm

Spring is in the air and sunny days are here again. Term 3 is always busy with shows, spraying, Open Day, crutching, the last push to finish off all the Certificates and much more.

At the end of our previous newsletter, we had just finished seeding and enjoyed the first proper rain event. How things have changed but stay the same. We did enjoy regular rain events and the crops grew like weeds. The students learned about spot form net blotch in barley, with plenty examples to look at. The new Marshall spreader has gone really well, spreading some urea using our variable rate maps. Then we went off to Mingenew Expo for the first time.



Eighteen students entered into the Junior Judging competitions at the Mingenew Expo. For many students, this was their first show and first time Junior judging. The Ag Society in Mingenew were very welcoming to our students and all judges and committee members commented on the outstanding behaviour of the students. They all looked very smart in their College uniforms and there were many positive comments, from spectators and prospective parents, on how our students conducted themselves during the day. Students entered into Merino selection, wool appraisal and cattle judging allowing all placed students to compete at the 2019 Perth Royal Show. Our students dominated the placings, with Oaklee Treasure winning fleece judging and Cameron Fernihough winning the sheep judging. Jei-Kwjuan Brown placed 2nd in cattle judging and our fencing team was 2nd. Cameron was

also awarded Runner Up Young Farmer for 2019. Thank you for Mrs Grant-Williams and Mr Binning for taking our students.

Fences were being replaced, repaired and new ones put up, we had cows calving, selling lambs, crutching jobs and spraying jobs to get done. Time flew and before we knew it, students were competing in Dowerin fencing and sheep judging competitions.



Hayden Iles, Murray Burt, Kurt Richards and Archie Duncan competed in the Waratah Fencing Competition at the Dowerin Field Day. They competed against Morawa, Harvey and Narrogin Ag Colleges. The boys put in a great effort, but some unfortunate wire breaks while tying off and a less than ideal tension on their ring lock strain saw them come second to Narrogin. The team showed great skill and ability through the competition, completing their fence with plenty of time to spare allowing them to ensure the area was neat and tidy when they were done. Their efforts are to be commended.

Then the students had a chance to show off their skills in Merino wool and hogget judging. Again our students were fantastic with Macey Hill taking out 1st place and Kristina Howard 2nd place in the Wool judging. Murray Burt took out 1st place in judging hoggets and Jei-Kwjuan Brown was 3rd. Congratulations all and thank you to the staff and students who made all this happen.



Corrigin Shearing competition was next and again Cunderdin was on top. In the shearing Hayden Iles took out 1st place, Murray Burt 2nd place and Kurt Richards 3rd place. In wool handling 1st place Murray Burt, 2nd place Kristina Howard and 4th place was taken out by Cameron Fernihough. Congratulations to all the students and Mr Laird.

Then Open Day was here. We had machinery getting moved and cleaned, cattle yards were being built, piggery cleaned spotless and cleaning up everywhere. There were ram sales, shearing competitions, knife sharpening workshops, guess the weight of the pig, mobile chook pen, cattle in yards, machinery on display, workshop projects on display, our new dash board popping up information from all the soil moisture and salinity probes as well as weather stations and even a spray drone. Yep, it was all happening and a big thank you to all Farm staff and students for making this another big success.

The self-propelled sprayer has been going everywhere and students have been getting a chance to improve their skills spraying the last fungicides, killing grassy weeds in the cover crops and spraying budworm in the lupin and serradella crops.

Next we need to get all the hay making gear ready and give the header a once over. And after that, just praying for finishing rain.... Until next time, all the best!

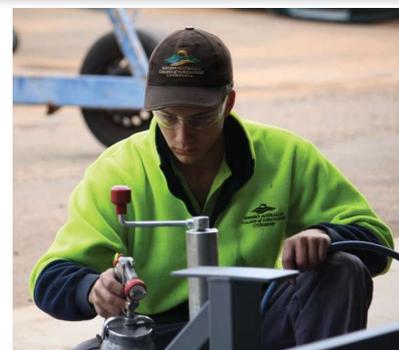
Mr Daniel de Beer
Farm Manager

Trades

Open Day

Once again, our Open Day display was a great success and we received many compliments regarding the standard of the work presented. This was due, in no small part, to the huge effort put in by the Trades staff and the students assigned to each of the areas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for their assistance. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded prizes on the day:

Hayden Iles – Visitors' Choice, Engineering
Tim McLean – Professional's Choice, Engineering
Tameka Baker – Visitors' Choice, Furnishing
Casey Roberts – Professional's Choice, Furnishing



Year 12

Many Year 12 students have been working frantically in their endeavours to complete the requirements for their certificates and/or get their personal projects finished. Well done to those students who have applied yourselves steadily throughout the year and kept up with your work. You have saved yourselves (and teaching staff) a lot of stress.

Year 12 personal project accounts are currently being finalised and we are hoping that they will be completed before the end of the term. Parents need to be aware that completion of accounts cannot occur if students are still working on projects. Accounts must be paid before projects can be released.

In order to enable completion of projects, a number of students have negotiated class changes to give themselves more time in the relevant workshops. Despite this opportunity, some students still have work left to do. If those students have demonstrated commitment by regular attendance in after-hours workshop sessions the College may allow them to return for a limited period next term to complete their work.

Year 11

Students are nearing the end of the Year 11 component of their courses and it is important that all due work is completed before the Year 12 changeover date. Results will be reviewed at the start of next term and students who are not up to date with both their practical and written work will be required to attend extra after-hours classes.

It is also important that students begin discussions with parents over the coming holiday break about their plans for personal projects. If students have a good idea of what they want to make at the start of next term, it will allow for a smoother and more efficient transition into Year 12. Selection of projects requires careful consideration, taking into account factors such as student ability, cost, time available and other College commitments. Decisions regarding project selection should also involve consultation with teaching staff before final choices are made.

Mr Keith Thompson
Acting Head of Trades



College Ball

This year's Ball was a memorable celebration and a highlight of the 2019 calendar. Commencing in Kings Park for photo opportunities for families, before boarding the party buses to the Novotel where we were greeted by Mrs Panizza at the ballroom entrance.

Students were seated at their tables while the Head Students, Joel and Macey gave the welcoming address. The buffet provided a satisfying selection.

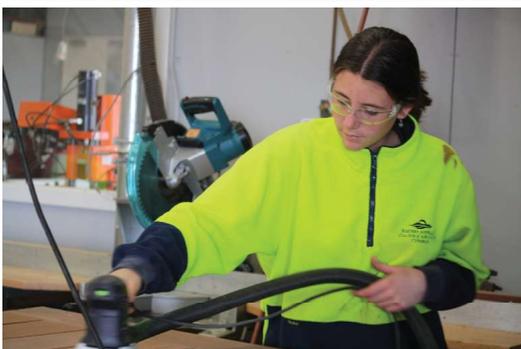
The DJ got everybody out of their seats and onto the dance floor. The high heels came off and it was on. Both ladies and lads made an effort for the night, looking good and showing off their best.

There was excitement and anticipation throughout the night, leading up to the end of the ball when the award recipients were announced. Difficult choice for the judges given how fabulous everyone looked.



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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Best Dancer | Lucas Grant |
| Best Dressed Year 12 Boy | Daniel Lewis |
| Best Dressed Year 12 Girl | Amy Lane |
| Belle of the Ball | Shevaun Macdonald |
| Beau of the Ball | Henry Aitchison |
| Year 12 Cutest Couple | Elsynda Bear & Murray Burt |
| Year 11 Cutest Couple | Courtney Hall & Brady Garlick |

Shevaun Macdonald



AT A GLANCE

Holidays and Return for Term 4

The College closes for the holidays at 4.00pm on Friday 27 September.

Students return after 4.00pm on Sunday 13 October.

DIARY DATES

Thursday	26 September	Perth Royal Show Farm Skills
Friday	27 September	END OF TERM THREE College closes at 4.00pm
Sunday	13 October	Students return after 4.00pm
Monday	14 October	Classes commence at 8.00am
Friday	25 October	College Board Meeting 2.00pm
Thursday	31 October	Plant Production Systems ATAR Exam
Friday	1 November	English ATAR Exam
Monday	4 November	Animal Production Systems ATAR Exam
Thursday	5 November	Mathematics Applications ATAR Exam
Monday	11 November	Year 11s start Year 12
Friday	15 November	VALEDICTORY
Friday - Sunday	15 - 17 November	CLOSED WEEKEND
Friday	6 December	Year 11s finish
Friday	20 December	College closes



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