College Makes Clean Sweep at Wagin

WA College of Agriculture “Inlet Views Stud” made a clean sweep of the competition awards at Wagin Woolorama when the stud won champion ewe and ram and grand champion ram in the Corriedale breed. Judge Rick Wise said the ram displayed a fine coat of wool and was a good all-round example of the breed.

It was an early start from Denmark for students who travelled up to Wagin with Ms. Bradfield and Mrs. Grant-Williams to settle in the cattle and sheep entries competing at Woolorama.

The students arrived ready for a busy two days of showing livestock and presented in a very neat and businesslike manner. They even gave assistance to other exhibitors in leading and handling their stock during the event, which was greatly appreciated and placed the College in a very positive light. (More p.10)
As we race towards the end of term it’s timely to reflect back on how busy we have been, the things we have accomplished and with a week or two to go to the things to come.

It is hard to believe that Term 1 is almost over and while there has been the occasional hiccup along the way all students have settled in well and feedback from staff is that they are doing well. It has been a busy term with a number of excursions and camps as well as Woolorama, the Harvey Carnival and still to come, the College Ball. Hopefully things will quieten down in Term 2 but experience suggests this may well be just wishful thinking! Our students do set an extremely busy pace in their time here.

Woolorama is our first big hit out in the show arena for the year and both students and stock are on a steep learning curve in the first few weeks of the term. Congratulations to all students who attended, while there were no major winners in the areas of judging and parading the experience gained by them will stand them in good stead for competitions later in the year.

While there will be a more detailed report later in the newsletter, congratulations to Eliza Bradfield and the cattle students for their very good results in the cattle section. It is the first time in a number of years that we have exhibited our own cattle and it is terrific to have that extra effort recognised.

Following closely on from Woolorama, the Albany Agricultural Society is currently running a gate to plate feedlot competition with cattle entries from all over the state including the Colleges and Mt Barker Community College. In conjunction with this open competition is a schools challenge held recently in Albany. Congratulations to the students from Denmark who won this competition that required amongst many things a written response to some of the sessions they attended.

Just last weekend students attended the Harvey Inter-Agricultural College Carnival which is a terrific opportunity for the Colleges to socialise and have some fun with students from other Colleges in a not too competitive environment. Thirty five students had a great time which will be reported in greater detail later in the newsletter.

Run simultaneously with Harvey was a Leeuwin sailing opportunity provided to a group of students setting sail on Friday for several hours off Fremantle. Students involved in this adventure had wonderful hands on time doing everything from setting sails to steering the “ship” and followed this up on Saturday with a trip to Hillary’s for some fun at the Adventure Park and a visit to the aquarium.

Running 2 activities a distance from the College as well as a residential program back in Denmark stretched us to the limit especially as our coach was out of action with mechanical problems. Well done to all staff for being flexible and creative to ensure these valuable activities went ahead.

The College Ball is run on the last weekend of term and is the student’s social highlight of the year and they have put a lot of work into ensuring it’s a success. This year the format has changed slightly with dinner and a light supper being served at the venue, which has also been changed to the Southern End Function Centre. Well done to Kelli Gillies and the Ball Committee for the work they have done, I’m sure it will be a memorable evening for all.

With winter approaching the College has added an orange and navy high-vis jumper to its uniform. The recommended jumper can be purchased from Trailblazers. The brand is a DNC half zip style 3928. A reminder that Trailblazers offer a 10% discount for students from the College.

**Correction:** In the last newsletter the College Graduation was listed as the 13th November. This unfortunately clashed with the Albany Show.

Graduation has been changed to the 20th November. Could all parents please note the change in their diaries.

I hope all parents have a wonderful Easter break, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to meeting up with you next term.

**Kevin Beal**
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**Congratulations to our newly elected College Captains**

- **Michaela Hendry**
- **Samuel le Breton**
Students continue to demonstrate high achievement in many areas.

Student wins prestigious Shire scholarship

Patrick Swallow was the recipient of the prestigious Shire of Denmark Agricultural College Scholarship 2015. The scholarship is open to all students living within the Denmark Shire or completing Year 10 at the Denmark High School or the WA College of Agriculture-Denmark. Applicants must have an intention to complete Year 11 & 12 at the College and is not entirely based on academic record.

Patrick, now a Year 11 student, put his keen interest in agriculture as one of the major reasons for applying for the scholarship and plans to continue his agricultural pursuits well into the future.

The generous scholarship of $1,000 is paid in two instalments during a student’s study year and is open to applicants usually in September each year.

Young leader awarded RAS tertiary scholarship

Roxanne Mostert, College Dux 2014, has been awarded a tertiary scholarship from the Royal Agricultural Society of WA. Roxanne is this year’s recipient of the Agricultural Youth Bendat Family Foundation Scholarship. Established by the RAS of WA and the Bendat Family Foundation, the scholarship will provide financial assistance for three years of Roxanne’s undergraduate degree.

The scholarship valued at some $12,000 is part of the RAS Rural Leaders program which also offers a second tertiary scholarship supported by Kott Gunning.

The President of the RAS, Dr. Rob Wilson, said the calibre of applicants for the scholarship was impressive and that the WA agricultural industry will ultimately benefit from the education, skills and passion that this next generation bring to a new and exciting period of industry growth and innovation.

Roxanne is planning to major in agricultural science at UWA and work as an animal nutritionist or farm consultant.

The former recipient of the AgLinkEd and Year 11 RAS Agricultural Education Scholarship was recently named Agricultural Student of the Year at the National 2014 Farmer of the Year Awards.
The WA College of Agriculture-Denmark was the proud winner of the Student Challenge of the inaugural “Gate 2 Plate Feedlot Challenge”.

Guests from the Albany Agricultural Society visited the College on Monday 30th March 2015 to award the Student Challenge trophy to students who participated in the feedlot trial. The Harvey Beef Gate to Plate Feedlot Challenge is a new commercially based cattle competition in WA which aims to reflect a true commercial situation of cattle entering the domestic grain fed market in WA. Cattle are entered in a group of three (two steers and a heifer) and the cattle must be owner bred. All cattle enter a feedlot on the same day where they are fed a grain based ration for 70-80 days. At the end of this period cattle are processed and carcases graded on the same day.

The challenge evaluates the ability of cattle to meet market requirements from the feedlot through to the processor and the end point consumer and points available in the competition are given for animal performance in areas which are important for feedlot and processor profitability, as well as carcass quality attributes, which are important to consumers and affect beef marketing options. Points are awarded in a way that promotes cattle which are profitable across the supply chain, enabling producers to assess how effectively their cattle are meeting market requirements and aid in developing an understanding of other sectors of the supply chain.

The learning experience gained from entering the competition has been wide ranging for students, especially the “real time” aspect of raising the beef in a commercial environment and sits well with the College’s Animal Production Systems curriculum.

Well done team

Above L-R Back Row: Shana Smith from the Albany Agricultural Society pictured with participating students Raymond Twist, Robyn Adams, Lillian Barton, Georgia Henderson (holding the trophy), Patrick Swallow, Rachel Lamont, Sasha McWilliams and Alison, also from the Society.
Front Row L-R: Rachel O’Dell and Lucy Dunholm.
The College has received approval from the Director General of Education and several other Ministers to deliver a Certificate III in Agriculture.

Certificate III in Agriculture

The College recently received notification from the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) that our application to have a Certificate III in Agriculture added to our delivery scope has been approved. The majority of our students now enter the College at Year 10 and receive three years of on-the-job workplace training in agriculture on the College farm. The Certificate III in Agriculture will give the College the opportunity to extend our Year 12 students’ skills and knowledge with higher level competencies.

OLNA Testing

For those parents who aren’t aware, in 2013 the Minister for Education Peter Collier MLC announced students need to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy (in addition to a number of other requirements) to achieve a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) from 2016. This followed feedback from employers and training providers about the low literacy and numeracy capabilities of some school leavers.

Students can meet this minimum standard either by demonstrating Band 8 or higher in the NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in Year 9 or by meeting the minimum standard of the reading, writing and numeracy components of a new OLNA.

This means that all of our current Year 10 and 11 students will need to meet the minimum standard in all of the following OLNA components: writing, reading and numeracy to achieve their WACE.

The first round of OLNA testing for those Year 10 and 11 students yet to meet the minimum standard has now been completed. As soon as the results are available to us we will forward the information on to students and parents.

It is important to note that students have up to six opportunities (two per year) from Year 10 to Year 12 to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy standard. The next round of testing this year will be in September.

Progress Reports

Student Progress Reports will be posted out to parents during the last week of Term One. While the Progress Reports do not provide information on predicted grades, they do provide feedback on a range of important work attributes that will give parents and students a very clear picture of how things are progressing at school. I encourage parents to sit down and work through the information on the Progress Report with their son or daughter, acknowledge the positives and, if necessary, discuss ways of improving any areas of unsatisfactory performance.

2015 Student Council

All the student councillor elections have now been completed and the following students have been elected to form the 2015 Student Council:

- Year 10 – Lily Bunton-King, Arjen Brandsma, Bradley Kammann and Sam Marsh
- Year 11 – Lucy Dunham, Sasha McWilliams, Emma Wynne and Patrick Swallow.
- Year 12 – Michaela Hendry, Georgia Henderson, Morgan Warren, Hamish Fraser and Samuel Le Breton.

Congratulations to all of the above students who have been chosen by their peers and the College staff to form this important leadership group. Special congratulations to Michaela Hendry and Samuel Le Breton who were elected as the College’s 2015 College Captains.

Work Experience

One of the great strengths about the VET program at Denmark is that every one of our students does at least one day of work experience every single week of the school year when they go to work on our College farm. It is one of the main reasons why our students typically leave the College “work ready” and are so attractive to employers. But the College also recognises the importance of our students, particularly those who are apprenticeship, traineeship or employment bound, experiencing a range of different work places during their training program. We also acknowledge that work experience placements, particularly for our Year 12 Trade and Vocational students, often lead to apprenticeship or job offers for the following year.

Previously the only block of work experience built into our program for these students has been the last week of Term 2, when they have the option of work experience or Country Week. We have now extended that with a compulsory week of work experience for all our Year 12 Trade and Vocational students in the second last week of Term 2. These students then have the option, as they have done in the past, of doing another week of work experience in the last week of term or participating in Country Week.

Further information will be sent to the parents of students in our Year 12 Trades and Vocational programs soon.

Kevin Osborne
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Week 8….this term has been so busy, from the mundane to the exciting we have experienced the full spectrum. The Ball, a wonderful social occasion for our students is looming large as I write this report. We are then four sleeps away from first term school holidays. What a great start to the year we have had.

Report to School Council 25th February 2015

Included in this edition are some of the points that I raised in my report to School Council. I am taking this opportunity to provide this information to all recipients of the newsletter.

Health and Nutrition

Science says that a healthy diet assists our bodies to fight off disease and chronic illness; habits laid down early assist us into old age. A well-balanced nutritional diet will assist our students to settle into their school day by aiding better concentration and promote all-round health and therefore hopefully attendance.

Boarding school nutrition is often associated with weight gain, weight loss, behavioural issues and skin problems. The reality is the students will still have access to ‘junk food’ and high levels of caffeine and sugar through their shopping expeditions into Denmark and Albany. However, I have commenced the conversation with the kitchen staff regarding the phasing out of food that provides little nutritional value, i.e. white flour based products, high sugar content, processed food and providing some nutritional information for the food we serve. In turn introducing more complex carbohydrates, proteins and vegetables.

We are also discussing portion size for all meals and have recommended kitchen staff serving the meals to alleviate ‘eyes bigger than belly’ syndrome and food waste. Foods that have high sugar content will not be off the menu but will be scaled back to a smaller portion size.

Residential Supervisors have also offered to assist on their weekend shift with food preparation alongside students, providing a rewarding activity and adding a life skill. We will be mindful of all occupational health and safety requirements.

Signs have also been placed in all toilets and hand washing areas encouraging hygiene practices that help to reduce the spread of illness in the College.

Prep – New arrangements

The following new prep arrangements will apply:

Year 10’s will receive supervised prep in the computer room;

Year 12 ATAR students that are listed in the diary will be allowed to use the library to work together;

Students can access the computer room from 4.00pm – 7.00pm if the matter is urgent;

Students are aware that if they need to access their documents on the shared drive they can and should put them on a thumb drive and they can do that straight after dinner in the library;

Laundry

A camera will be installed in the laundry to assist with protection of student property.

The motion activated, infrared camera has a 6000-image capacity; the camera will send images direct to the Residential Manager’s phone. We will be trialling this in second term.

Items that have no nametags will be packed away at the end of the day and placed in the storeroom in two large containers. Students will NOT have access to the unnamed property outside laundry hours. Students will be advised that a camera is to be installed.

Residential Camp

The residential camp was held at Peaceful Bay with students and staff camping under the stars and rain in their swags at Peaceful Bay Caravan Park. What a great spot to relax around the campfire for some impromptu singing. Students enjoyed swimming and fishing and some cricket in the camp ground. A great time was had by all and students returned relaxed albeit a little tired.

Bullying No Way!

The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was held on Friday, 20th March 2015. Many of our students were either in Perth or preparing to leave the College to attend the Harvey Sports Carnival. This conversation is an ongoing one with regard to our no tolerance stance on bullying.

Bullying No Way!

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This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying, No Way! And to strengthen our existing everyday message that bullying and violence at school and in fact, anywhere is not okay at any time.

The College has registered and is part of a growing nationwide movement to “Take a Stand Together” against bullying and violence.
External Activities—Perth Trip

Leeuwin, AqWA - The Aquarium of Western Australia and Great Escape Water Park and High Ropes Course

The 18 students participating had a great journey on the bus to arrive at their accommodation, home of the Salter Point Sea Scouts; a wonderful facility for the College to be able to use at a much reduced cost. With an 80 person sleeping capacity I am sure we will be back.

Students arrived at approximately 9.00 pm, unpacked, set up and then went outside and explored the park adjacent to the Canning River. Next morning they set off at 9.00 am to join the Leeuwin and set sail out into Fremantle Harbour which on that day was more like the 'doldrums' as there was little or no wind. In those calm conditions students learned how to set-the-sails and how to steer the ship. Students joined two other groups, totalling 60 students on board. The Leeuwin has an 80 person capacity.

Students climbed out on the bow sprit, and approximately 10 students sat on the webbing before returning to the deck. Students were harnessed (very uncomfortable so say's Jake). Lunch was on board the ship and after lunch students were given a tour of the Leeuwin and learned how to complete the flaking (laying ropes in preparation to set sail) on the deck. The ship headed back to Fremantle port where they disembarked.....all Ag sailors retained their breakfast and lunch!

Students then headed off to the Maritime Museum where the group split into two. One group toured the Oberon class submarine — HMAS Ovens, while the others had a look around the museum. Students then headed into Fremantle for dinner and visited the Fremantle Markets where they had Chinese food for dinner followed by a walk around. After a very busy day students and staff travelled back to the sea scouts hall.

On Saturday the group headed for Hillarys and the Great Escape Water Park and High Ropes Course. Much fun had by all. Mr Shrimpton and Mr Levinson couldn’t resist the water slides much to the delight of the students. The group then visited AqWA.

College Ball

What a great bunch of organisers we have in the Ball Committee. Visiting me regularly to make sure I am completing my tasks; leaving me no alternative other than to distract them with chup-a-chups to buy more time. Todd Banks has done well as the male voice in the group, providing a male perspective. Todd has been an excellent spokesperson for the students he represents.

Last weekend Deb Perkins gave up her Sunday afternoon to assist the committee with the preparation of the ball tickets. The College appreciates parental input and I thank Deb for her artistic talent with this year’s design and preparation. Parent helpers for ball preparation are always appreciated and it is a great way to see the residential activities in action.

Sally Dowinton will be our coach ‘decorator extraordinaire’ and we look forward to seeing her artistic vision for our ‘ride’ to the ball.

Note: There will be a full round up of the College Ball and photos in the next edition of the newsletter.

Residential Activities

There are a number of residential activities which students can get involved in throughout the year including sports both at association level and informally, music, dance or art, water-based activities such as scuba, skipper’s tickets, kayaking, sailing or fishing.

Getting involved in these activities is a great way for students to enjoy residential time and get to know each other better. Please discuss these options with your child to ensure they are ready to participate when the opportunities arise. Students are asked to nominate for activities on notice boards at the College and then information is forwarded to parents to notify them of times and associated costs. We look forward to seeing students get involved again in 2015!
Health and Wellbeing

The College continues to provide support to students requiring doctors and other health related appointments. Where possible these appointments are made outside of school hours to minimise disruption to the school program. For any follow up appointments with specialists the College asks parents and carers where possible to make these during school holidays. Great Southern Radiology has a practice open in Denmark which can complete X-rays and ultrasound procedures without the need to travel to Albany. Please contact the college if your child has any medical imaging needs before appointments are made in Albany to see if they can be accommodated at the local Denmark clinic.

As we enter the ‘sick season’ it is time to remind all students and families of the importance of good personal hygiene. When students are ill in residence the College will provide immediate care and will arrange necessary medical appointments. To minimise the spread of illness all students who are ill are required to remain in their rooms, eat after all other students and minimise contact with other students until recovered.

If students are unable to participate in the learning program for more than one day the college will contact families to discuss alternative care arrangements.

Student Self Care and Presentation

Personal grooming including regular washing and washing of clothes will support good student health. For the first part of Term 1 student presentation in uniform has been excellent. However, just lately some students are presenting in uniforms which do not meet College standards. Term holidays are a good time to assess your child’s clothing requirements in preparation for Term 2.

Reminders

Weekend Leave - Please ensure weekend leave forms are in by close of business Wednesday so that we can prepare for the weekend accordingly.

The College will contact you if there are any concerns regarding leave arrangements. Student safety is our utmost concern with regard to leave arrangements.

Commencement Term 2

For the commencement of Term 2 residence will be staffed from 4pm on Sunday 19th April and no other staff are on site that day.

To ensure their safety students are not able to be returned to residence until staff are on site.

Harvey Sports Carnival

The combined agricultural college’s sports carnival was held over the weekend of 20-22 March, the squad was female dominant, 25 girls, 10 boys.

I did not attend this year but believe we were very competitive in the fishing and in fact won this event.

The College came third overall.

Harvey Sports Carnival

Above: Students were involved in the T20 Blast interschool cricket competition in Albany where they won the event. Congratulations to Liam Want who also won the trophy for Best Player.
Residential Manager Report continued...

There are a number of residential activities which students can get involved in throughout the year.

Above and Left: Pre-sailing training on the high ropes prior to setting sail on the Leeuwin.

All aboard the good ship Leeuwin

Our group of Ag Sailors from L-R Back Row: Jacob Rojas, Gus Thomas, James Read, Niv Brown, Nick Bryden, Lloyd Dunham, Ethan Riemer and Fraser McKee. L-R Front Row: Daniel Giles, Jake Kondakov, Raymond Twist, Corey Metcalf, Arjen Brandsma, Isaac Pomery, Cameron Gillies, Charlie Cloud and Brady Kammann.
It was a very successful Wagin Woolorama with all students that attended enjoying the competition and having the chance to get a good look around the event. Students competed in shearing, wool handling, stock showing (sheep and beef) as well as many junior judging events held over the two days. Danielle Trappitt won the Junior Wool Judging and one of the College’s heifers performed well in the cattle judging awards.

Wagin is a very good show for students to experience show parading and judging routines and it helps better prepare them for the Perth Royal Show later in the year. It is still a big event to get organised what with release of students off farm, class and D&T, accommodation set up, food requirements, as well as supervision. I thank all those who assisted and helped to get it all done again this year.

Our next outing was the Albany Great Southern Gate to Plate competition held on March 17 and 18, with selected students taken to Lyon’s Willyinga lot feed for two days of industry talks and competitions. Harvey Beef generously donated $1,000 prize money for the winning school competing and Denmark was lucky enough to win Champion Agricultural College. Well done to the organisers for putting on the event and congratulating the students who attended and won the event.

Due to a student driving accident in the Esperance Senior High School farm earlier this year, the Department has placed restrictions on how Department vehicles can be driven by students. At Denmark we have observed a reduction in jobs being undertaken and completed within their time frames. It has however allowed us to fully train new drivers and bring existing drivers up to a higher level driving licence.

We are hoping that the restrictions will be reviewed shortly as we have a considerable fertiliser, re-seeding and stock feeding program to undertake in the next few weeks.

While the dry weather is still with us staff and students are busily removing fences and cleaning up rubbish after tree removal earlier this year.

We are re-fencing boundary lines, redoing gateways and putting in new water troughs for stock water and getting paddocks ready to re-do fences for the new dairy paddocks. Students are learning how to plan fences, construct, strainer end assemblies, run fence lines, put in posts and erect fencing. Other important jobs at this time of the year are feeding stock with hay, silage, grain and mixed rations. Students are taught the importance and the need to feed stock as well as what type of feed suits various stock types.

Our dairy cows have been calving and this area has been extremely busy. 8 new dairy cows were purchased to increase our dairy herd numbers through this high milk price period. Beef cattle are also calving with calves being weighed and measured for stud recording purposes. We are going off site on the 26 March to help mark a few calves and get some of the new Year 11 students trained in this competency. We go off site for over half the calf marking duties as with 130 students to be trained we need as many calves available as possible to not only give them an opportunity to learn the skill and practice these, but also get assessed.

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The College workshop continues to be busy with a few breakdowns lately and minor repairs being carried out. With the new fencing being done we are also constructing new gates and panels for various places around the farm during vehicle maintenance, with students learning workshop skills as a result.

The College slaughter-shop is also in full production mode. With the extra students we are working on feeding stock up to hopefully butcher the same amount at heavier weights. Students like this area because they can see how and why animals are raised, how to process them and produce various meats for the hungry hordes.

Term 1 reports are soon to be sent out to parents. Students on farm have yet to complete a full enterprise cycle so it will be difficult to give a detailed assessment at this point. If you have any questions regarding the farm assessments on the report please don’t hesitate to contact me at the College on 9848 0209.

Fred Knight
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The shearing shed became a mini lab. Adam Kondakov studies a frozen sperm sample.

Students are busy in diverse activities on farm from artificial insemination, planting crops to picking grapes for vintage.

Year 12's participated in the AI program. Bonni Adams scans a ewe during prep.

Katrina Park, Tyla Smith and Megan Allison look on as a ewe is inseminated.

Year 10 student Mackenzie Daw was a dab hand picking grapes.

Year 11 students Sydnee Benn & Charlotte Forbes fill their buckets with Pinot grapes.

Year 11 student McKenzie Nix lays line in prep for planting pumpkins.
Prime Lamb Feedlot

Prime lambs from the 2014 drop have been placed into the College purpose built feedlot adjacent to the old piggery building. Students assessed the remainder carry-over lambs and 47 entered the feedlot. These lambs have been weighed on a weekly basis and students have recorded the weights and gain. The Gallagher electronic scales and EID reader have made the task of weighing and recording an easy task for the year 11 Ag studies students.

Reg Crabb from Milne Feeds attended the College and spoke to year 11 students on lamb feed lots and the requirements to run a successful trial. The lambs have been booked for processing at WAMCO Katanning and it is hoped that students will be able go along to the Katanning works and see the lambs throughout the entire process.

Equine Class Hands On

Year 10 students literally applied their anatomy knowledge to their charges when they participated in a hands-on exercise during an Equine class.

Students armed with soft washable chalk, applied their knowledge of horse anatomy while being supervised and assessed by Equine teacher Miss Petrie.

The students find the practical aspects of this exercise worthwhile as it helps to retain the information. The horses also seem to enjoy the lesson and can always rely on a bit of extra attention as a result.

Wagin Highlights

Shearing

Adam Kondakov, Liam Higgins and Danielle Trappitt entered into the Novice shearing and all improved on their personal best scores from last year.

Wool Handling

Katrina Park, Danielle Trappitt and Lisa Patmore competed in the novice wool handling competition and both Katrina and Danielle went on to the finals.

Results

Merino Open Ram Judging: 2nd Lisa Patmore
Wool Judging Novice: 1st Dannielle Trappitt; 5th Siobhan Smith
Wool Handling Novice: 2nd Danielle Trappitt
Junior Agricultural College Handlers: 2nd Lisa Dowinton; 3rd Matthew Trappitt

In all events our students were keen to compete, although having to speak in the Merino Ram judging had many of them anxious, but nerves were overcome and they delivered some very good descriptions of the rams on show.

Junior Agricultural College handler’s competition was held over the whole of Friday in the B&S Sheep shed. The students were judged on their ability to handle and show their animals. All our students did an excellent job handling both our Corriedale sheep and animals on behalf of other exhibitors.

Judging Master Class

Colin and Rae Lewis again travelled down to the College to assist with the students entering the Merino Ram judging event. The master class assisted students in gaining a better understanding of the requirements for judging this class. The students that attended this master class have worked since the beginning of term to up skill for this event; attending training with Mrs Grant-Williams on a twice weekly basis. The students that are placed in this event will be asked to compete at the Perth Royal Show in October.
Woolorama

College students travelled to the Wagin Woolorama on the 6 and 7 March. Over 30 students were involved in the junior judging, wool handling and parading competitions at the show. Once again the conduct and attitude of our students was very pleasing. College staff received many positive comments from the general public about our students.

Congratulations to Lisa Patmore, Danielle Trappitt, Lisa Dowinton and Matthew Trappitt who achieved outstanding results in the junior judging and handling competitions.

Also congratulations to Robyn Adams and Rachel O’Dell for making the final of the cattle junior judging competition.

Well done to all students, and remember we don’t expect you to win, just participate. In particular I was very impressed with a number of Year 10 and 11 students who were involved in junior judging for the first time and had only limited training and practice prior to Woolorama. I feel sure they will do very well at similar events at the Perth Royal Show and Albany Show later this year.

The Western Australian Certificate of Education

I have been reminding Year 12 students of the Western Australian Certificate of Education requirements over recent weeks. The results students receive at the end of their secondary schooling are used to apply for a job, apprenticeship, traineeship or university or training place.

It is imperative that they aim to achieve A, B and C grades and also complete as many units of competency as possible in optional areas such as Metals and Engineering, Automotive, Conservation and Land Management, Forestry, Equine and Hospitality.

It is important now not at the end of the year. It is also very important that students complete all assessment tasks by the due date, otherwise penalties do apply. I urge all parents to note the College Assessment Policy outlined below.

Courses of Study

All Year 11 and 12 students are enrolled in upper school courses of study. Assessments of these courses involve percentage marks for assessments completed.

Assessments include tests/exams, assignments, research projects, in-class assessments and practical skills. The final percentage will determine a grade (A, B, C, D or E) which will be listed on the student’s Statement of Results.

Assessment Policy

The College’s policy on subject completion requires students to complete all tasks in the assessment program.

If a student does not complete an out of class assessment task by the due date and the student does not provide a reason which is acceptable to the College, the following penalties apply:

- 30% reduction in the mark (if not submitted or submitted one school day late)
- A mark of zero (if not submitted or submitted more than seven days late)

This can have serious implications on a student’s final mark and grade for a subject and his/her choice of achieving secondary graduation.

Note: When a student is likely to experience difficulty meeting a deadline they must discuss the matter with the teacher at the earliest opportunity before the due date.

For any missed in-class assessment task where the student does not provide a reason which is acceptable to the College, a mark of zero will be recorded.

If a student does not submit an assessment task or attend a scheduled in-class assessment task, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian by letter, email or telephone to discuss the risk of the student not completing the course unit and to negotiate a solution.

Teaching staff have found the policy has been a real motivating factor so far this year. Students obviously don’t want to lose marks for late submission. Please encourage your child to complete all assessment tasks by the due date. Our aim is for all our students to work and achieve to their personal academic potential.

I have asked all teaching staff to list assessment task due dates on the College website next term.

ATAR Camp

In late February 35 WA College of Agriculture students (14 from Denmark/17 from Cunderdin and 4 from Kelmscott, came together for an inaugural ATAR support camp.

The purpose of the trip was to promote university study as a real option in twelve months’ time, specifically the agricultural science course at UWA, the Agribusiness course at Curtin, the Animal Science
course at Murdoch and the Agricultural Technologies course at CY O’Connor Institute.

At UWA students were involved in 3 practical activities centred around the Microblitz Citizen Science project, conducted in the student laboratories. They rated the strawberry DNA extraction the highest. Students were also fortunate to have a presentation by Professor Graeme Martin about the Future Farm 2050 project, a raw look at how the expected population increase at the current rates, exceeds the amount of food available. He stressed that this generation of students will play an integral role in solving these types of issues and the importance of research to support this. Students also rated his talk as one of the best sessions of the trip.

At Curtin, students were toured around the lab facilities and talked to a scientist about her project on fungal disease in barley. They also saw the glasshouse trials and the site for the new Centre for Crop & Disease Management, which represents a big investment by the industry in attempting to reduce the economic impact of crop disease. Students also heard directly from the lecturer of Animal Nutrition, Sue Low, about the course at Curtin.

After a long day, the Kelmscott students left the main group which then travelled to Landsdale Farm School where they had a BBQ session with Alysia Keppert from the Agricultural Education branch and Lachlan Hunter, an ex-Cunderdin student (graduated 2012) who is now studying at UWA. This gave students a great insight in what it was like to study at a university and to handle relocation to Perth.

The next morning after a presentation by Daisy Bulloch from CY O’Connor Institute, students boarded the bus bound for Murdoch University. Here they toured the Animal Anatomy Museum - an interesting assortment of dissections and specimens, before having a lecture in meat science, then a practical activity involving a tasting panel (the same as used by Meat Standards Australia), finished off with a BBQ lunch at the university farm.

Murdoch has a 250 acre farm, making it the only CBD university in Australia with such a resource.

Understandably the trip was exhausting for Denmark students, made worse by temperatures in the high 30’s. Wherever we went though, there were comments made about the impeccable presentation and behaviour of all the students.

It was also a great opportunity for students from different campuses to come together and network. We are very appreciative and wish to acknowledge the sponsorship of accommodation by UWA, the provision of food and drinks by Murdoch and Curtin Universities and the organisation of the excursion by Alysia Keppert, This meant that the trip was able to run with no cost to parents.

More support, specifically aimed at the Animal and Plant Production courses will be coordinated by Alysia Keppert, Agricultural Education, over the year in preparation for the WACE exams in early November.

Steve Swallow
Steve.Swallow@education.wa.edu.au

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR A LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURE?

Are you looking for a unique experience for your son or daughter that will challenge them, equip them with key life skills and give them the adventure of a lifetime? Then look no further than the Leeuwin Youth Explorer Voyage. The seven day program aimed at 14-25 year olds is both exciting and rewarding, teaching participants all aspects of living and working aboard a traditional tall ship. They will experience steering and navigating the ship, setting sails in all weather conditions, sailing through the night beneath the Milky Way and seeing parts of West Australia’s stunning coastline.

It’s not just about learning to sail and meeting new friends though. They will also learn more about themselves, overcome challenges, conquer fears and become more tolerant towards others. The voyages aim to increase self-confidence and self-awareness as well as developing communication, teamwork and leadership skills which can be applied in all aspects of life.

Students in years 10, 11 and 12 can earn 5 WACE points towards their senior graduation and the voyage can count as the Adventurous Journey or Residential Project component of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Voyages run from September until June, with spaces still available 31 May and 13 June. For more information, please contact (08) 9430 4105 or email us at office@sailleeuwin.com.

From the Head of Studies continued...

Task due dates are important as the education program becomes much more difficult if you fall behind.
Contributions, Fees and Charges 2015

All families should have received a copy of the Contributions, Fees and Charges booklet for 2015. This booklet lists the maximum contributions and charges the College can request from parents/carers through the course of the year. If you have not received a copy of this booklet, an electronic version is available on our website. If you would like a paper copy of the booklet, please email the College. The next round of statements to all parents and carers will be enclosed in the end of term reports.

Student Allowances and Subsidies 2015

Included with your first statement in mid-February were application forms for the following student allowances and subsidies. If a particular allowance or subsidy applies to your situation, please complete the associated application form and return to the address indicated on the form.

Secondary Assistance Scheme
$235.00 & $115.00

The Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families with secondary schooling costs. To be eligible for the allowance the parent/carer must hold a Centrelink Family Health Care Card, Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or a Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Concession Card that represents a statement of low income for the family.

The allowance consists of two components:

- Agricultural Special Subsidy which applies to all students in residents who are not in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).
- AIC Subsidy which applies to all students who are currently in receipt of AIC from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).

If you are missing a copy of the above forms, please head to our website to download the subsidy forms: www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au Click on ‘Fees and Charges’ then on ‘Financial Assistance’.

Near New Uniforms for Sale

We have a number of near new (male) uniforms for sale. All clothes are in XL size. If you are interested they can be viewed at the College 2nd Hand Shop.

Call 0431010322 if interested in purchasing

Business & Finance

The Department of Education provides an allowance to assist eligible families and comprises two components.

- $115 Clothing Allowance which will be paid to the parent/carer unless indicated on the application form that you wish it to paid to the College.
- $235 Education Program Allowance which is paid directly to the College and will be deducted from contributions and charges.

Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) $2,105.00

The Department of Education makes available a student Boarding Away from Home Allowance each year to families with children attending primary and/or secondary school and boarding in residential accommodation.

The allowance consists of two components:

- Agricultural Special Subsidy which applies to all students in residents who are not in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).
- AIC Subsidy which applies to all students who are currently in receipt of AIC from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink).

If you are missing a copy of the above forms, please head to our website to download the subsidy forms: www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au Click on ‘Fees and Charges’ then on ‘Financial Assistance’.

Further Contact & Information

As always, please don't hesitate to contact the friendly admin team or myself with any questions or concerns regarding your account at the College.

E: denmark.ac.finance@education.wa.edu.au

Near New Uniforms for Sale

We have a number of near new (male) uniforms for sale.

A sweet gold bracelet.

We have been holding this in lost property since Enrolment Day.

If you think this may be yours, please contact Reception at the College on 9848 0200.

Thank you.

Craig Armstrong
demark.ac.finance@education.wa.edu.au

Bank Details: Bankwest Denmark
WA College Ag  BSB: 306-009  A/c: 011 0895
## Upcoming Events
- **April 20**: Term 2 Commences
- **April 25—27**: Anzac Day Holiday
- **May 21**: School Photos
- **May 30-31**: Home Weekend

## Term 2 Calendar

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