Students have been exceptionally busy in the field this term. With lambing finished, students are busy tagging and vaccinating.

Hands on management of animals is an important aspect of College life and goes a long way to ensuring students achieve competencies in their area of study.

To facilitate this further, students will also travel off-site to undertake both lamb and calf marking, giving students an opportunity to fully understand operating under industry conditions.

Above Left to Right: Lydia Taylor, Sam Le Breton and Rachel Darwin had a busy day in the field marking lambs. Here, Lydia tags a lamb while Rachel administers a vaccine. 275 lambs have been marked from 197 Border Leister Merino Ewes.

Students busy in the field...

The College website is being modernised to make it more accessible. During this period of construction you may experience some delay in access to information.

We apologise in advance for any inconvenience and will do our utmost to keep you fully informed through email where necessary.
Winter has arrived in Denmark with some cold wet and wintry days interspersed with some magnificent sunny windless days that have really got the pasture growing. Our calves and lambs are really benefitting from this terrific growth and the season is well set up, it just needs to keep raining.

While the west and south coasts have had a pretty good start to the season I am aware that there are many parts of the wheatbelt that are still looking for that real break to the season or at least some follow up rain. Hopefully it will come soon!

Robotic Dairy

It’s finally happened, we are underway! Last week the builders were on site marking out the new dairy with construction scheduled to start on the 22nd June. The timeframe to completion is 28 weeks taking us into 2016. Hopefully it will be completed sooner but we are hopeful that it will be finished in time for the start of the school year and fit perfectly with calving in February. We are also hoping that we will have something substantial to show parents on Open Day on the 5th September.

The College is also engaged in a major re-fencing program that centres on the robotic dairy. Parents may not be aware that with a Voluntary Milking System (VMS) the dairy cows have 24 hour access to the dairy which requires laneways in and out and access to fresh pasture after milking. It is a terrific system that will take our cows and staff a little time to get used to but will ultimately free up a lot of time to concentrate on herd and pasture management. In the meantime, students and staff are refining and developing their fencing skills and the quality of fencing is of a high standard. With the amount of fencing undertaken students will be exiting with some very handy skills.

Tribute to Principal 1942-1952

Charles Buckingham was the first Headmaster of the College when it started in 1942. Charles was a teacher at Narrogin School of Agriculture and charged with the responsibility of taking students from Narrogin (which was to be closed during the war years to repatriate wounded soldiers) to Denmark and start a new school at the Research Station. The school was to be known as the Denmark School of Agriculture.

The College was approached by his three daughters (Wendy, Jeanette and Margaret) wishing to commemorate Charles’s years of service in some way and they decided on a bench seat with plaque surrounded by 3 Silver Birch trees. We had a small ceremony on the 22 May 2015 that was attended by the Buckingham “clan”, College prefects and a number of old boys totalling around 50.

Wendy spoke of her Dad, her memories and time in Denmark and one of the old boys, Mal Ferguson also spoke warmly of his former headmaster and time at the College. The ceremony was followed by afternoon tea where many more stories and good times were recounted.

Major Activities

The last week of term is one of the busiest for us with three major activities stretching us to the limit. Year 10’s are on Study Tour to the South West of the state. Mr Swallow has organised a wonderful tour taking in a mixture of agricultural enterprises and activities and combined them with some of the sights across the region. They are set for a great week.

Twenty three students are heading to Perth to participate in Country Week. This year we will have a boys and girls volleyball team and a girls basketball team competing. While these students will also have a great time it is unlikely that Countryweek will be run next year as it has been difficult to build the enthusiasm and commitment to the Countryweek program that is required. The College feels that without genuine commitment we would be better supporting our students by running an academic program throughout this week. I would be interested in gaining some feedback from parents.

The third activity for those not involved in the first two is work experience. The work experience program provides students with a wonderful opportunity to work in an area that interests them and make sure that it really is an area that they would like to commit to. A try before you buy if you like. It also gives employers a chance to have a look at potential employees and a significant number of our students have gained employment from work experience. It is a wonderful program put together by Mr Osborne and Ms Piercy in the office and this year is our biggest ever. Good luck to those students involved in work experience.

The next couple of weeks will go quickly and the end of term looms. I will be taking some leave, a week either side of the school holidays and using that time to visit my son in Canada and doing a bit of sightseeing as well. I am looking forward to the trip and return for the 2nd week of Term 3.
The plaque reads...

"Honouring Charles Buckingham, the foundation Principal of the Denmark School of Agriculture 1942—1952. He and his wonderful staff worked tirelessly to establish this school."

The bench is flanked by three newly planted Silver Birches which will provide a shady place for quiet contemplation in years to come.

Above: Mr. Buckingham’s eldest daughter Wendy Atherden gave an endearing account of her Father’s ten years of service to the school, followed by the unveiling of a memorial bench situated in the College grounds.

Centre: Photo of Mr. Charles Buckingham taken in 1947

Around the College...

Left: Leah-Rose Winter enjoying the attention of a new calf. Centre: Braydon Baynes and Cameron Geddes set the tractor GPS coordinates in preparation for weed spraying. Right: Tianie Berghuis, fresh from Metals & Engineering demonstrates a creative talent.
College staff are now compiling Semester 1 Reports. For our Year 12 students this is the last school-based report they will receive and may be influential in gaining employment or further training next year.

Training Update

A Competency Achievement Update will be sent out to the parents of our Year 12 students with their Semester 1 Reports. This update shows the number of competencies students have currently completed in the various industry qualifications they are enrolled in at the College and how many they still need to complete to achieve the qualification.

The main purpose of the update is to identify students who are at risk of not achieving qualifications while there is still perhaps time to do something about it.

Final Dates for Year 12 Students to Opt in or out of Stage 2 WACE Exams

The majority of our Year 12 students who will be sitting for WACE examinations this year are enrolled in Stage 3 course units. We do, however, have a small group of Year 12 students who are still undecided whether to sit for Stage 2 WACE examinations.

While we appreciate that it is not an easy decision for some students to make, the deadline to commit one way or the other is fast approaching.

Schools are only able to make changes to enrolments in Stage 2 course units for Year 12 students until Wednesday 1 July. After this date, schools will not be able to:

- opt Year 12 students out of sitting Stage 2 WACE examinations;
- enrol Year 12 students into Stage 2 course units;
- withdraw Year 12 students from Stage 2 course units.

Work Experience – Last Week of Term 2

All College students must be involved in one of three options in the last week of Term 2:

1. Country Week,
2. Study Tour or
3. A school-authorised Work Experience placement.

It is important parents/guardians realise that if students are not involved in any of these activities they will be marked absent from school for the week with an unacceptable reason.

If any parents are still struggling to find work experience placements for their son or daughter they should contact the school as soon as possible as we may be able to assist.

Term 3 Parent Interviews

A reminder to parents that Term 3 classes commence on Wednesday 22 July. The later start is to enable teaching staff to conduct parent or carer interviews on Tuesday 21 July from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. Information regarding how to book an interview with a particular teacher or trainer will be sent out to parents with the Semester 1 Reports.

Residential Students Access to Shared Drives.

For several years now the College has been trying to convince the Department of Education to allow our residential students after-hours access to the shared drives they use during the day so they can access their school work during their “prep” sessions each night.

The Department has previously denied our students this access primarily because of security concerns. However, they recently had a change of heart and we are now able to connect all students with WINDOWS laptops to their shared drives from their dormitory. We are still working on how to connect Apple users.

Kevin Osborne
Kevin.Osborne@education.wa.edu.au

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday 21 July 2015
between 12.30 - 3.30 pm.

Don’t miss this important opportunity to discuss your child’s progress.

Once again on-line bookings will be made available through the Schools Online Booking System or as it is also known, SOBS. This means parents/guardians can access the SOBS system at any time. There are no codes or pin numbers to remember and simple screens and prompts assist you with securing your interview booking.

You can book an interview with the teacher you wish to see and view the time slots teachers are available to book a time suitable and convenient to you.

An email will be sent out to parents/guardians as soon as the system is “live” and for you to proceed with securing your interview times.

Ecosystems Activity

Students and staff recently visited the Two Peoples Bay Ranger Station to participate in the trap and release program currently administrated by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The program existed some 30 years ago and has recently been restarted to investigate population changes in the area.

Students are currently studying population dynamics as part of their modules on Ecosystems.

New Student Council...Congratulations

Student Council 2015

Back Row Left to Right: Mr. Kevin Beal (Principal), Sam Marsh (Yr10), Morgan Warren (Yr12), Patrick Swallow (Yr11), Hamish Fraser (Yr12), Robyn Adams (Yr11), Arjen Brandsma (Yr10)

Front Row Left to Right: Sasha McWilliams (Yr11), Lily Bunton-King (Yr10), Brady Kammann (Yr10), Michaela Hendry (Yr12), Sam Le Breton Yr 12, Georgia Henderson (Yr12), Emma Wynne (Yr11)

Science at work...

Above: Sasha McWilliams and Sydnee Benn weigh in and record data on a Rattus fuscipes (Bush Rat) as part of the trap and release program.

Above: Sky Freeman swabs a keyboard to gain a sample as part of a Biology experiment to culture bacteria in a Petri dish. Students were charged with taking samples from around the school as part of a broader experiment where they will measure bacterial outcomes.
From the Farm Supervisor

The students are completing a lot of fencing at the moment and there is about 90 new hectares to be completed...

Students are completing a lot of fencing at the moment in the new show stock area and new dairy cattle yards.

There is about 90 new hectares to be completed with ring lock boundary fences and 3 line plain wire internal fences. These are all new fences to be set up in readiness for the new dairy in January/February next year.

As a result, students are learning many aspects of fencing such as:

- Planning a fence line
- Securing supplies
- Use of tools
- Erecting a fence
- Dismantling old fence lines

We are also putting up white sighter wires along all the laneways as we go, for when the equine students ride their horses around the College laneways.

We are still working hard preparing the College show animals with 8 dairy heifers being prepared and 10 led beef animals. Students are doing a lot of out of hours work to achieve the desired outcomes and many thanks to Eliza Bradfield for assisting students with their training.

Sheep have completed lambing and marking has commenced. We have also arranged to go off site for two days of lamb marking so students can gain a full understanding of operating under industry conditions. This also gives staff the opportunity to assess more students than we normally could.

There will also be two days calf marking off site to achieve the same results.

Fred Knight
Fred.Knight@education.wa.edu.au
Residential Manager Report

We are delighted to be able to accept an offer to take four students to hear the Dalai Lama speak on the importance of education...

Week 9......

What a splendid term we have had in Residence, keeping busy with many and varied activities for the students. As you receive this newsletter we will be making the final preparations for Country Week and looking forward to the end of term holidays - a well-earned rest for both students and staff.

Residential Activities

Students have completed the scuba course and their skipper’s ticket; TAFE music is well attended and enjoyed, as is the woodwork class on a Wednesday. Getting involved in these activities is a great way for students to enjoy residential time and to get to know each other better outside the College environment.

The College acknowledges and extends thanks to Mr Nigel Levinson for the many volunteer hours given over the years to organising and coordinating activities such as these. These activities benefit the students and the reputation of the College residential program. Without Nigel’s input and preparedness to make this commitment we could not be offering these activities at the rate that we do. Thank you Nigel.

The Importance of Education by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet

We are delighted to be able to accept an offer to take four students, Michaela Hendry, Sam Le Breton, Kyffin Hammond-Chate and Jai Marsden to an intimate talk by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on June 15. Hosted on campus by the UWA Student Guild, the Dalai Lama’s talk “The Importance of Education” will be a unique opportunity to hear His words of wisdom and be in His presence. We are sure this will be an enriching and enlightening experience for our students.

Rugby

Our first ‘friendly’ game was held on 10 June against Albany Christian College, ASHS and St Joseph’s. We will be hosting a ‘home game’ on the 17 June 2015 at the Denmark Senior High School pitch. Corey Metcalfe, Connor Marsden, Hugo Rabe, Matt Oversby, Jayden Scott, Dylan Birss and Ashley Baxter are the ‘run-on team’; Plus the four substitutes from the training squad selected to play with an interchange, made up of Liam Higgins, Liam Want, Jake Konidakov and Martin Leggerini. We will use any opportunity to engage students purposefully in education so the pitch will be line marked as part of a maths assignment.

I am learning all about Rugby lingo i.e. ruck, maul, line-out and positions; prop, hooker, scrum half, fly half, centre, wing and full back. I just need to convince them to play in Dockers colours and I will be a Rugby convert! Although I have ordered a very impressive looking Rugby shirt and socks.

We have two sponsors for the shirts and socks so a special thank you to Michael Collins - Talisman Motors and to Hendrik and Tharina Rabe from Country Tools in Denmark. Both have donated $100.00 each to reduce the cost of the shirts and socks and enjoy some sponsorship advertising. The balance for the shirts will be paid with the grant money from the Denmark Community Foundation. The College again acknowledges and extends a thank you to Mr Mark Shrimpton for his commitment to organising this code of football in the College and for committing to training and organising the team every week. Without people prepared to donate their time and skill-set at no cost to the parents/students we would again find it difficult to introduce this code of football as an extra-curricular activity.

Mark Shrimpton has instituted the concept of the three A’s for playing. A = Attendance, A = Attitude, A = Achievement. This simple acronym means students have to Attend regularly (80% minimum, have a positive, respectful attitude and Achieve in College to be eligible). We believe that being clear regarding our expectations will hopefully reinforce positive behaviour. Students are demonstrating an excellent attitude at training and in residence and we are encouraged by the progress so far. Well done Mark and students.

Australian Water Association
WATER INNOVATION CHALLENGE
Calling all bright sparks!

You may recall the College put forward a funding application to Water Corp for retro-fitting of the College with meters. Students have been very keen to reduce the consumption and waste of water used by the College.

We have now had feedback on our application and while we did not win we received a very positive response and I include it below.

“Over the last 2 months, the innovation challenge reached 120 innovators globally and we formally received 22 entries.

Your entry Denmark Agricultural College - AQWV 130/10 was one of the best ones we received and reached the fifth position. I understand this must be disappointing but the feedback received on your project was positive and addresses the important point of raising awareness on our reliance on water to a large audience.
Residential Manager Report cont...

The model is also strong because it can be replicated across other large user groups. Your entry also moved away from typical technologies and brought in a social dimension which was also positively received.

I am keen to highlight this project in one of our Water Journals to further raise awareness of what you are doing in WA. Let me know if this is something that could be of interest to you.

Dr. Jerome Moulin
Industry Innovation Programs Manager
Australian Water Association

Country Week

There will be 23 students and 5 staff attending Country Week this year. We are heading up to Perth on Sunday 28 June 2015 and staying at Karrinyup Waters Resort and return to the College on Friday 3 July 2015 via Albany Highway. I will provide a more comprehensive round-up in the next newsletter.

Excursion permissions and parent permissions will be sent out at the end of week 8/beginning of Week 9 for your approval.

Reminders

Weekend Leave - Please ensure weekend leave forms are in by close of business on Wednesday. Students will not be released to ex-students who live in Denmark or people that we do not regard as ‘responsible adults’. Last minute leave and day leave will only be approved via the Residential Manager and/or the Principal. The College will contact you if there are any concerns regarding leave arrangements. Student safety is our utmost concern with regard to leave arrangements.

Travel Arrangements

The College will organise the bus tickets for the end of Term 2. Some students will be on Study Tour and Country Week and very shortly staff will be asking students to communicate with their parents regarding what travel arrangements are required for end of Term 2.

Leaver’s Jackets

Students are looking resplendent in their jackets, though I am still not sure how long those white sleeves are going to stay white! The jackets arrived just in time for the cold weather. I will start organising the student Leaver’s Committee for next year’s jackets in Term 3. Having the jackets arrive at the commencement of Term 2, 2016 provides plenty of time to get value and wear for money.

NOTE: I still have jackets waiting for payment and pick up. Jackets this year are $89.00. Please contact Craig Armstrong, Business Manager for payment information.

Above: Wil Watson and Hamish Fraser model the new Leaver’s Jackets.

Pictured above L-R: Lisa Dowinton, Rachel Lamont (seated) and Lydia Taylor.

2015 Red Shield Appeal

Our students were involved in collecting money for the annual Red Shield Appeal. I am very pleased with the way the students mobilised and actively participated in this very important annual collection for people less fortunate and in need. We have our final figure of $2225.30, bringing The Salvation Army to a grand total much closer to their target figure. Congratulations to all the students and a big well done.

The Salvation Army Western Australia Division thanks the College for assisting them and is very grateful for the result. Students involved in the collection will be receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from The Salvation Army.

Kelli Gillies
Kelli.Gillies@education.wa.edu.au
A student progress report will be posted to parents/guardians at the end of term. These reports will follow the same format as the Term 1 reports, but with comments being provided by individual teachers, the Farm Supervisor and the Residential Manager.

We will also include an anticipated grade for each subject area, which is a reflection of a student’s performance over Semester One. Please remember that this grade can change significantly for some subjects with Semester Two work still to be completed.

I feel that some students may be falling behind in their work and not completing assessment tasks by the due date. I urge all students to use prep and class time effectively and seek help from their teachers when required. It is much better to be up-to-date than playing “catch up”.

Please contact either myself or teaching staff on 9848 0200 if you have any concerns with your son or daughters progress.

Student Attendance

Once again I am becoming concerned with a number of students who have been absent from the College and missed key parts of their learning programme.

To fill these gaps, both the teacher and students have to set time aside either during or outside class to work together. Unfortunately, despite the best of intentions, this does not always happen. It also takes the teacher contact away from other students in the group.

When I look through student’s reports and there are areas highlighted as needing improvement, I often reflect on how much condoned absences attribute to the situation.

To reach their potential at the College, students need to attend regularly. This means only a few days off per year, due to genuine illness.

Of even greater concern is the number of students who have been absent for in-class assessment tasks (exams, tests) over recent weeks.

The College’s Assessment Policy states that for any missed in-class assessment task (exams, tests), where the student does not provide a reason which is acceptable to the College (medical certificate) a mark of zero will be recorded. This is standard practice in all ATAR exams, University exams and in most Secondary Schools in Western Australia.

In the past the College has been reluctant to apply the above assessment policy, but after discussion with the College Council, administration staff and teaching staff, the policy will be strictly enforced in the future.

Alysia Keppert (Agricultural Education branch) will visit the College this Wednesday and Thursday to work with Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR students on exam preparation/techniques and study skills. Alysia has had extensive experience in the development of ATAR exams and agricultural curriculum.

Equine Event

Claire Petrie and a number of the College’s equine students will be participating in an equestrian event at Narrogin Agricultural College on June 27/28. Students will be involved in hacking, camp drafting and show jumping events. WACoA - Harvey and Catholic Agricultural College – Bindoon will also be involved.

Muresk Institute Open Day

Claire Petrie and I took a number of Year 11 and Year 12 students to the Muresk Institute Open Day on May 8/9. This was an excellent opportunity for students and the general public to discuss recent developments and courses available at the Muresk Institute.

Charles Sturt University and the C.Y. O'Connor Institute are working in partnership to deliver the Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management at Muresk Institute.

The University of Queensland is also delivering an Integrated Diploma Program in Agriculture at Muresk with a focus on new technologies. This is the first year the program has been offered in WA.

2015 Year 12 College graduates should consider the Charles Sturt/Muresk degree and the University of Queensland Diploma in Agriculture as options for study over the next few years.
As parents are probably aware, Year 11 and Year 12 students may choose either Country Week or Work Experience in the final week of Term 2 i.e. June 29 – July 3, 2015.

Year 10 students have the opportunity of being involved in a Study Tour which will take them to some major centres in the south west of the State.

The Year 10 Study Tour will change this year with an emphasis placed on the South West of WA rather than the Perth metropolitan area. The tour will include visits to a number of agricultural enterprises and related industries at Pemberton, Busselton, Margaret River, Harvey and Bunbury. Other non-agricultural educational visits are also planned for the tour. The major venues will include:

- Pemberton Tramway
- Busselton Jetty/Underwater Observatory
- Mammoth Cave (Self-guided cave tour)
- Oliobello Olive Farm
- Margaret River Maze
- Margaret River Chocolate Factory
- Simmo’s Ice-creamery
- White Rocks Dairy Farm
- Manjimup Timber Museum
- Harvey Beef
- Boyanup Cattle Sale
- Dolphin Discovery Centre/Eco-cruise
- Recreation will include a jetty walk in Busselton and movies at a cinema in Busselton.

Students and parents need to liaise with me on arrangements for leaving Study Tour for the Second Term holidays.

Options include:
1. Being picked up from the tour accommodation (Advent Camp-site, Dunsborough Road, Busselton) on the evening of the 2 July or the morning of the 3 July;
2. Being dropped off at the Bunbury Train Station; or
3. Travelling with the Study Tour bus and meeting parents at a predetermined location on Muir Highway.

Teaching staff feel this tour will be of significant education and benefit and complement what students have learned at the College. There will be a charge of $200 attached to the tour to cover the cost of transport, accommodation and admission fees.

The College will mail out this week final information and consent forms home to parents and guardians of those students attending. Please return the consent form as soon as possible.

I have outlined behaviour expectations to all Year 10 students both for the tour and the weeks leading up to the Study Tour. Teaching staff are only prepared to take those students who have shown positive behaviour during the term on a major excursion such as Study Tour.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Interviews will be conducted on Tuesday 21 July 2015 between 12.30 - 3.30 pm.

Don’t miss this important opportunity to discuss your child’s progress.

Once again on-line bookings will be made available through the Schools Online Booking System or as it is also known, SOBS.

This means parents/guardians can access the SOBS system at any time day or night. There are no codes or pin numbers to remember and a series of simple screens and prompts assist you with securing your interview booking.

You can book an interview with the teacher you wish to see and view the time slots teachers are available so that you can book a time both suitable and convenient to you.

An email will be sent out to all parents/guardians as soon as the system is “live” and for you to proceed with securing your interview times. http://sobs.com.au/
Payment of Residential Boarding Fees

Thank you to all parents and carers who have paid or set-up payment plans for their College fees. By the end of this term, both first and second instalments of the residential boarding fees should be paid in full unless a payment plan is currently in place.

The Department of Education has a firm policy in regards to the payment of residential boarding fees in that both first and second instalments must be paid by the end of Semester one in order for a student to continue in residence in Semester two. If not, students will become day students.

College accounts are being reviewed at the moment which will see parents and carers with outstanding amounts and no payment plan in place or a payment plan that is not up-to-date, receiving a letter advising them of such within the coming week.

Parents and carers in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) who have payments directed straight to the College are exempt from this policy.

If you have any concerns with your account at the College, please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time.

Boarding Away From Home Allowance $2,105

Applications are still open for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance. This is a subsidy towards residential boarding fees to the value of $2,105.

Parents and Carers who are yet to return a completed application form will have received a reminder recently.

The College encourages everyone who is eligible, to apply for this great subsidy.

Convenient Payment Options Available

Cheques & Money Orders:  
Posted to PO Box 350, Denmark WA 6333

Electronic Transfer:  
BSB: 306 009  
Account: 0110895  
Bank: Bankwest Denmark

Please use student name as a reference

Credit/Debit Card:  
Credit card payments can be made over the phone and in person 8am-4pm Monday to Friday

EFTPOS:  
EFTPOS payments can be made in person at the College between 8am-4pm Monday to Friday

Personal Payment Plan

If you would like to arrange a personal payment plan, please contact the Business Manager on:

Phone: (08) 9848 0200 or

Email:  
Craig.Armstrong@education.wa.edu.au

for further information.

Further Contact Information

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact the friendly administration team or myself with any questions or concerns regarding your account at the College on:

Phone: (08) 9848 0200 or

Email:  
demark.ac.finance@education.wa.edu.au

Annual Report

Read all about the College operations and achievements in the 2014 Annual Report located on the College website:  
www.denmarkag.wa.edu.au
**Upcoming Events**

- June 22-26 Work Experience
- June 29-July 3 Study Tour
- June 29-July 3 Countryweek
- July 21 Parent/Teacher Interviews
- July 22 Classes Commence
- August 1 Ag Advisory

**Term 2 & 3 Calendar**

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